

CHALKIE NEWSLETTER

Vol 4/2013

2013 REUNION

On 31 August, the Chalkies group met for their annual reunion at the Kedron-Wavell RSL. Despite difficulties created by the need to change dates because of the election, we had a roll-up of a good number of Chalkies along with wives and partners.

CHALKIE REUNION PHOTO



Back left:

Terry Edwinsmith, Frank Cordingley, Kev Horton, Colonel Ron Lange (guest speaker), Ian Ogston, Norm Hunter, Ian Minns, Ray Barrett.

Front:

Roger Howard, Kevin Smith, Jenny Peters (Geoff Peters' widow), Ian Colwell, Greg Ivey

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker in this year of Taurama, was Colonel Ron Lange, who was Commanding Officer of 1PIR during the Chalkie period and well-known to some of our group. Ron spoke of his perceptions of Army Education in his PNG experience and noted particularly how things had changed during the course of his several postings to PNG Command.



THE YEAR OF TAURAMA

Much of the rest of the Reunion was taken up with putting together the special character of the Taurama Chalkie experience. Topics covered were the physical location of Taurama, a day in the life of a Taurama Chalkie and the work that was done there by the Chalkies. These were recorded and are currently being prepared for publication on our website.

TAURAMA CHALKIES AT 2013 REUNION



Back: Terry Edwsmith, Kev Horton.

Front: Roger Howard, Ray Barrett, Norm Hunter.

(A special note here should be made that Ray and Roger travelled from Melbourne to join us for this gathering)

GEOFF PETERS

We were saddened to learn that one of our newly-contacted Chalkies, Geoff Peters, passed away just before our Reunion. Since making contact, Geoff had worked hard to prepare his New Guinea photos for publication on our website. He was able to finish this and we are much indebted to him for providing this extra material to help us tell the Chalkie story.

Frank Cordingley worked long hours 'cleaning up' the photos and these were presented to Geoff's wife, Jenny who was able to attend the Reunion. A toast was then drunk to his memory.

We thank Terry and Greg for their efforts in making this occasion possible.

Greg Ivey with Jenny Peters



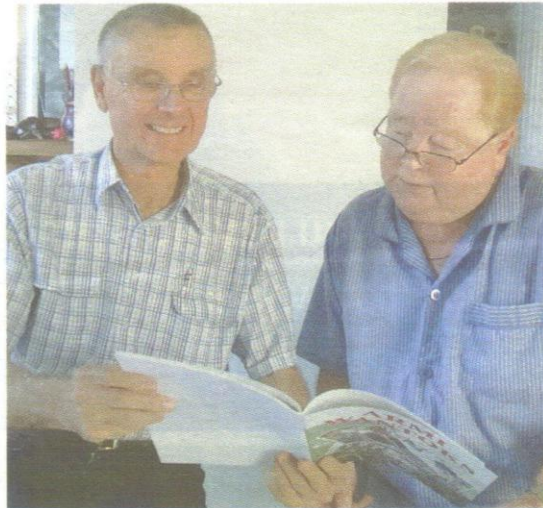
Terry's continuing efforts to contact all Chalkies led to the contact with Geoff. The last meeting Terry had with Geoff was reported in a local newspaper. (See below).

Brisbane
Saviers
Newspaper
10/7. Aug 2013

Senior Super Saver

RAAEC

FORMER serving soldiers in the RAAEC (Education) met to read the history of the corps service in Papua New Guinea during the Vietnam War period. This little known Australian Army Aid project involved approximately 300 conscript teachers over a 7 year period 1966-72 who instructed the Pacific Islands Regiment soldiers in both academic and military subjects. It was believed by many in the Army hierarchy that an educated force subservient to the government of the day would play an active and vital role in a country emerging from colonial rule, minimizing the chances of rebellion and military coup. To this end the project has been a success so far as 2013 sees 38 years of PNG Independence from Australia! The Australian soldiers now entering their retirement years are compiling a history of this unique scheme in both written and photographic form. Work-in-progress may be viewed at <http://www.nashospng.com/>



Seen here are Sgts (Retired) Terry Edwingsmith of Brisbane with Mooloolaba local, Geoff Peters who was based in Lae at Igam Barracks where he instructed the potential officer cadets during his period on National Service.

BACK TO PNG

Terry Edwinsmith would like any Chalkie who would like to travel to Port Moresby in late August/September or early October (thus avoiding school holidays) to contact him on tedwin-smith@bigpond.com.

GREG IVEY SPEAKS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Greg Ivey has been contacted by a producer from Radio Australia to participate in an interview that will be broadcast to Papua New Guinea. The interview will be in Tok Pisin and we certainly wish Greg all the best for this. Greg says he will be fine with his Tok Pisin with a little polishing up here and there.

The content of the interview will deal with the role of the Chalkies in PNG and also the service of the Pacific Islands Regiment during and after World War 2.

NEXT YEAR

At this stage, there is some preliminary discussion about making our next Reunion the 'Year of Moem'. Perhaps all of the Wewak Chalkies could begin assembling your thoughts on this. Further information will follow in the next twelve months.

Best wishes to you all,

Ian Ogston

