



Established in 1934 as:  
THE NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)  
Now officially renamed as

## THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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### NEWSLETTER No. 128

November 2005

ROUTINE ORDERS

IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN, SUBS ARE DUE.

WILL MAKE YOU FINANCIAL TO 31 DECEMBER 2006.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

LAST POST:

**Jim Fitzgerald.** Invercargill 29 August 2005  
**David Roberts.** Rotorua 7 October 2005  
**Len 'Spud' Murphy.** Papakura 21 October 2005



CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

**Gordon Stevenson** to 35 Acacia Bay Rd. Taupo.  
**Bryce Harrison** to 77 Winchester St. Levin. 5500  
**Paul O'Connor** to 7 The Rocks, Halswell, Christchurch  
**Ross Goldsworthy** to 21 Clearview Heights, Ranui, Waitakere City.

NEW MEMBERS:

**Vic Colson** joins from Huapai. **Vic** started his life with the guns in 22 Bty for 11 years then joined the RF for another 23 years serving, in the main, with 161 Bty Vietnam, the NZAAC and Recruiting in New Plymouth.

**Colin Jansen** joins from Northcote. **Colin** served with 22 Bty and 11 Bty for 11 years and is actively restoring Jeeps and has an interest in all types of military restoration. Worked with **Ross Goldsworthy** at Motat, he is currently restoring an L5. *Colin is going to meet his match when someone suggests the USS Missouri!!!!*

**Greg Allan** joins from Wellington, **Greg** served with 1 Loc Tp, The School and 1968 – 1969 served in Vietnam as a driver operator and also on No 2 gun. Since then he has been with the NZ Met Service 'counting clouds'.

**'Paddy' Paddison** joins from Foxton and is a very strong member of the Horowhenua Artillery Association. **Paddy** served with 3 Battery 2 Field Regt NZA, 31 Anti Tank Battery and 34 Mortar Battery sorting out Edward Hunsky from '40 – '45 finishing as a Captain.

**Eric Mengelberg**, joins from Australia. **Eric** served with 1 RNZIR from '72 – '73 and 161 Battery from '73 – '75. After his service with the Army **Eric** then went into the construction business at Marsden Point, Australia, Indonesia, Sarawak, China and finally PNG. During his time in Borneo **Eric** came across a battery of Japanese guns that had been in the jungle for 40 odd years since they had been overrun by Aussies.

**Willy Parker** joins from Australia. RF Cadets 1960 (Russell Class), 1 Bn Depot 1962, 1 RNZIR Malaya and Borneo and then 161 Battery Vietnam on No 3 and No 1 gun. After discharge in 1968 **Willy** worked in NZ for a while before heading across the ditch where he resides today.

**REFLECTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Until the 1998 Reunion I knew very little about the Association, then I received the Newsletter that reflected on that Reunion also there were some pictures on the website. People, Gunners, I had not seen for many years enjoying each other's company. I then realised the person missing out was myself so decided to attend the 1999 Reunion. This was a real eye-opener, people who I had had no contact with for so many years, Gen Hassett, Brig Burns and Smith, John Rout, Bill Beveridge, Joe Harvey, Jim Gilberd, Dave Roberts, Wally Ruffell, Frank Lupo, Gordon Weaver, all there but now sadly, gone. Many more were there and are still with us and I had the pleasure, privilege and honour of renewing my memories with these people so I decided I would attend every Reunion in the future because there was going to be a time when they had passed on and I would not be able to enjoy their company again. So it happened more have gone, but at least I have very pleasant memories of at least one last opportunity to share their company.

On Friday 25 November I took Ian (Eyetic) Johnstone to the Auckland Artillery Officer's Club luncheon and who turned up RO (Jerry) and Mrs Meyer. I have not seen Jerry since Dec 1957 when he told me I was posted to the School of Guns, had I not attended the luncheon maybe I would never have seen him again.

I think if you all just reflect on the past and consider when you last saw this one or that one you may come to the conclusion that you are missing out badly. Memories are great but just think of the sheer delight of the face to face sharing of tales tall and true, remember this, remember that. Think about it when we offer the next reunion.

**REUNION 2005**

Our Patron **Col Don Kenning MBE** was unable to attend with **Noeline** and sent us his very best wishes for a successful reunion

This year as you know the Reunion was held in Palmerston North as a change from Taupo. Our Base was the Palmerston North RSA who did a superb job of looking after our every need. The Alpha Motel and the Kingsgate Hotel were the main areas of accommodation and again did a superb job of providing all our requirements. 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment was responsible for the museums on Saturday afternoon, **RSM Solly Solomon** was on hand to see that we were well looked after. **Solly** is a member of our Association but he went that extra mile to assist us with all the help possible and here I make my personal thanks which are echoed by all members "**Thank you Solly you are a true Gunner RSM.**" The presence of nine people from the South Island was greatly appreciated some have not been seen for many years, great to see you all.

The reunion was attended by President Denis and Margaret Dwane, Ray and Laurie Andrews, Peter and Josephine Baker, Robert Barker, John and Terri Bellamy, Graham and Janine Birch, Graeme Black, John and Bev Blaker, Alan Boyd, Sel Bryant, Barry and Maureen Cook, Matt Crawley and Rita Moore, Ron and Caroline Cross, Don Donaldson, Barry and Judy Dreyer, 'Skin' and Jill Frances, Frank and Joan Gibbison, Bill and Emma Giles, Fred Goodall, Graeme Henderson, Frank and Pat Hopkinson, Jim Horn, Jack Kearney, Bob and Bette Kerslake, Ted and Nes Lile, Brian Meyer and Linda Novotny, George, Patti and Clive Miln, Spencer Morrison, Roger Newth, Des O'Connor, Paddy Paddison, Don and Lorraine Potter, TeUpo and Evelyn Rangitoheriri, Paddy Ryan, RSM 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment WO1 Solly and Aroha Solomon, Colin and Shirley Stanbridge, Tony Tustin and Patricia Murray, Sherwood Young.

Our Guests were **Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Barry and Barbara Vryenhoek**, CO 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment **Lt Col Martin Neale DC**, Padre **Tom Parker** from Linton and Organist **Clare Woodbury**.

Friday evening there was the normal mix and mingle where many stories tall and true were exchanged in the pleasant atmosphere of the Palmerston North RSA. We left the RSA with the floor covered with sand, bits a jungle, cartridge cases and many broken light bulbs from the 'stonks', 'murders', creeping barrages and plain old fashion gunfire that had many repeats, not to mention the little pats of bullshit here and there. There were the remains of a Morris Commercial and an 18 pounder as well!!!!

Saturday, AGM in the morning where the points of interest were:

1. The acceptance of the Horowhenua Artillery Association as an Associate Member. We are trying to get as many other Gunner organisations under our umbrella, NOT to command them but to establish links so we can re-establish the family we once had.
2. **Graham Birch** made a plea for gunner pictures, paintings or even cartoons. Pics of people doing Gunner things, FO parties, CP parties, AOP, anything that has a Gunner flavour. If you have anything like this please send them to **Graham**. If you don't want to give them up forever then please scan them and burn a disc and send that. Send it down the wire and you will wait a while for it to be completed and **Graham** will be up all night waiting for it to finish. There is one very important thing about pictures, please note on them what they are and who are the people in them.  
**e-mail** [gdbirch@ihug.co.nz](mailto:gdbirch@ihug.co.nz)  
**snail mail** Brigadier Graham Birch MBE, 467 Omokoroa Beach Rd, RD 2, Tauranga
3. **Fred Goodall**, of umpiring and CO 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment fame, spoke of how he was honoured to join the

Old Comrades and continue his association with the family he loved so much, The Gunners, and congratulated those who had amended the Rules to allow this to happen. *Fred, also remember that we too loved and respected you.*

4. **Sel Bryant** commented on the forming of the Association in 1934 and told us he joined in 1935. Being a Life Member **Sel** is not required to pay a sub, so he sends us a donation instead. *Not bad for a 94 year old.*
5. **Reunion 2006.** The unanimous decision was to return to Taupo, even if the Spa is not in great nick we always have a damn good time there. Bob Kerslake commented that one could pick up a bottle and easily find someone else and have a party, this was not possible at the Kingsgate.



Denis, Barry Dreyer and I will conduct a recon early next year but I think at this stage it is a pretty good bet that we will pitch our tents at the Spa and leave it to our caterer as to where we hold the dinner. This in no way reflects on the Palmerston North Reunion which was a great success.

6. **Petty Officer (Mrs) Emma Giles** has knitted us a Gunner doll that will be centre place for the top table at all future dinners, plus **Matt Crawley** gave a small wooden gun carriage that will be used for the top table Artillery Port.

Saturday afternoon we were entertained at the 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion RNZIR museums for two hours. This was all made possible by **Solly Solomon**. There were many quite amusing comments about some of the photos on display, like "there's old so and so doesn't he look young!" *We were all young and beautiful once, but time has taken its toll!!!!*

Saturday evening the Dinner was held in the Palmerston North RSA dining room.

**Denis Dwane** Dining President, '**Skin**' **Frances** Mr Vice, **Padre Tom Parker** said Grace, RSM **Solomon** toasted The Queen, **Matt Crawley** Absent Friends, **Graeme Black** Our Ladies, **Sherwood Young** Our Heritage, **Ron Cross** The Regiment, and **Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Barry Vryenhoek** gave The Address based on the state of the army and soldiers today.

This was followed by the trick we had up our sleeve, a dedication to **Alan Boyd**, a sort of mini 'This is Your Life'. At a previous committee meeting **Denis** suggested that we make a dedication to a well known Gunner identity and **Alan** was the one chosen. This had never been tried before but it was a resounding success. Unbeknown to **Alan** when **Barry and Judy Dreyer** invited him to travel with them **Judy** insisted he sat in the front seat, this was so that he could be grilled by **Barry** whilst **Judy** took the notes in the back seat. Believe me they did a sterling job and it must have been no mean feat to do that from Auckland to Palmerston North. When this all came out **Alan** piped up "That's it I'm riding in the back on the way home!!" There were a number of letters read out from people who were unable to attend, memories of **Alan** from days gone by.

Congratulations must be made to **Denis, Barry and Judy** for a job very well done and I do that on behalf of **Alan**, who I have known personally since 1954 and also thank them.

Sunday the RSA had set up the Functions Room for our Church Service that was conducted by the Linton Padre, The Rev **Tom Parker** with the accompaniment of **Clare Woodbury** on the organ. **Tom** conducted a service and his address that was well suited to the congregation. **Barry Dreyer** read The Lesson and **Emma Giles** read the Roll of Honour. Again, my sincere congratulations to **Tom and Clare** for a lovely service.

After the service some made a mad dash to see the replay of the footy, while many others were able to chat over a cup of coffee with **Barry and Barbara Vryenhoek** and each other, then it was off to home locations.

#### **STRUCK OFF FOR NON PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Currently we have three more people in our sights who are about to be struck off for non payment of subs. It is sad that there are some who will accept their Newsletter with a gentle reminder that they are in arrears but will do nothing about, it not even a polite note to say that they are resigning. Then of course the reminder will become a little salty.

#### **FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS**

- ♥ **Rupert Robinson** (3<sup>rd</sup> Div) writes about his disappointment at not being able to attend the 2005 Reunion since he spent time at Linton prior to going to the Pacific. He was acting Sgt of the first guard on the site where the camp first started, a 'bell' tent with six troops, then Sgt in charge of the Tech Stores at the time of posting to 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.

- ♥ **Vic Colson** in joining, reminisces about life in 161 Bty at Bien Hoa, Vietnam. He was involved in obtaining building material for our base and being an ex chippy ended up erecting a number of buildings. *Vic and I did a run to the Saigon Docks to see if we could get a load of dunnage off a freighter, well wasn't it just our luck to find a huge freighter with a Capt who was very fond of Kiwis. He ordered all the other trucks out of the way and gave directions that our truck (a 'captured' US Deuce and half, 2 1/2, like the old GMC) was to be loaded with as much timber as would fit on it and we were to report to his stateroom. We were duly entertained while the truck was loaded which unfortunately made us too late to go back to Bien Hoa before curfew so we HAD to spend the night in Saigon but luckily we were able to get to a telephone and advised V Force HQ that we were safe and would return at daylight. Murray Connor was not impressed until he saw the truck loaded with beautiful timber which was used for a number of projects.*

Vic also remembers the time when the Mac Nabbs ordered the toilet to be cleared of flies with avgas and dieso. The medic duly poured the mix down the long drop but low and behold no matches so off he goes to the MIR for a box. Now you have to picture this, the dunny has no screen and a smoker has been called by nature. The medic is on his way back with matches when he looked up to see the smoker lighting up and in that split second of seeing the match on its way down the hole yells noooooooooo!!!! TOO LATE. WHOOMP. Big Jim and the twins were singed and buttocks blackened but the flies were kaput for a day or so.

- ♥ **Dennis Pederson** apologises for being unable to attend the Reunion, however, **Dennis** has sent us a large cheque to shout the 'salt of the earth'. *On behalf of all of us Dennis, thank you very much. If it was around the early 50s Dennis more than likely would have been sending me a 'Charge Sheet'!!!! so it shows either he or I have mellowed.*
- ♥ **Rita Moore, Matt Crawley's** friend writes that **Matt** will have to stand down as the Bay of Plenty rep as his eyesight is failing. **Matt** has been a power of help for the Assn over in the Bay and it is a sad thing that a person of his calibre has to stand down through ill health. *The one saving grace is that his eyesight is not that far gone that he can't line up my backside for his boot, like he used to do when I was an RF Cadet on his Radar Course.*
- ♥ **Dinga Bell** also apologises for not being well enough to make the reunion, he is awaiting a decision from his surgeon as to what he is going to do to his back.
- ♥ **Joe Fallon** phoned from Australia, again apologising for not being able to make the reunion due to 'rust'. As you can imagine he is not well but wishes everyone all the very best.
- ♥ **Wayne Salt**, writes about his life as the son on a well know Gunner.

Having been born in the Narrow Neck (Fort Cautley) military hospital in 1947 my exposure to the RNZA could not have started sooner. Until I was five I resided in a camp house near the petrol bowsers. My father **Henry Salt** MBE spent much of his off duty time building the family home in Milford. It was only later on that I realized not every child had field artillery and anti aircraft guns in their back yard!

After moving into the Milford house my main contact with Narrow Neck camp was those wonderful kiddies Christmas parties. All the ice cream, soft drink and movie cartoons you could possibly want, and of course a present from Santa Claus. If my brother Robert and I had been well behaved during the school holidays we were sometimes taken to work by Dad. I have memories of assisting Gunners spray painting vehicles in 'jungle green' and playing with the small plaster guns and tanks that had been made for table top exercises. Lunch time in the mess was especially exciting. The Fijian cooks would take a shine to the 'little fella' and fill me full of treacle pudding and custard. For some years we had a black cat. His name? Gunner Salt.

I guess I should mention that while it is not land based there is another artillery link. As a youngster my grandfather who lived at Stanley bay, took me to the vacant site of the old family home. A small piece of eroded land perched above the Naval Base at Devonport. I knew it was not unusual in the past for cannon balls to be found on the cliff tops or on the beach below. My grandfather located a solid cannon ball that had been dug up in the back yard, and with great excitement on my part it was placed in his Morris Minor and taken home.

Dad was transferred to Invercargill when I was in my last year of primary school. The drill hall was of course a lot smaller than Narrow Neck camp and its artillery pieces were the less impressive four inch mortars, but it did have a decommissioned Valentine tank to play on and a small bore rifle range that we were privileged to use on the week ends (under strict parental supervision).

It was around this time I developed an interest in collecting NZ regimental badges. With the exception of some officers' enamel badges I eventually assembled all regimental and corps badges worn by the NZ Army from World War One to the 1970's. I also had a particular interest in Commonwealth artillery badges. While other pupils were swapping toy cars or trading cards, I was swapping what ever I could get my hands on for badges. There was one evening when a very unhappy parent came to our door complaining that his son had swapped (or sold) a number of family badges without his consent. I had to hand them back!

At Southland Boys' High school I joined the army cadet corps, did an NCO course at Burnham and became a very proud corporal. Needless to say whenever a regular force member instructed us it was Henry Salt's son who was expected to know all the answers. Becoming bored with infantry drill I requested and was given a transfer to the artillery unit but had to return my stripes to become a Gunner. While training with the four inch mortars at the Drill hall we were allowed to fire dummy projectiles into the nearby show grounds. Loads of fun until one crew sent a

projectile into the grandstand and damaged a wooden seat. Shortly after that Dad was transferred to Ngaruawahia Military Camp prior to his retirement. A wonderful place for teenage boys to live in with the Waikato river to swim in and plenty of rabbits to snare.

In April 1966 Dad retired and I entered the work force as an advertising Copy Writer with the NZBC. In 1974 after the traditional working holiday in Australia I joined the Victoria Police and became a Fingerprint Expert.

My RNZA connection after that was restricted to lunch with Old Comrade members whenever I visited my parents in Takapuna. Mum and Dad now live close to my brother Robert in Gatton, Queensland. Never the less my RNZA connection has resulted in several visits to Melbourne from **Ghosty Wilson's** son Ian. Yes we often talk about our childhood. No toy artillery for us, we had the real thing to play on!

Regards Wayne Salt. *Thanks for that Wayne, much appreciated.*

- ♥ **Martin Neale**, CO 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regt, has kindly sent us the following information regarding the Citations that are available to 161 Bty personnel.

**New Zealand Army Orders for Dress NZ P23, Part 2, Chap 3, Sect 18**

Issue 3, May 04

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### Chapter 3 – Method of Wearing Dress Items

#### Section 18 – Miscellaneous Dress Distinctions

##### Vietnamese Gallantry Cross – 161 Bty and 2NZATV

1. A dress distinction in the form of a Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with palm may be worn by eligible personnel. Provision and maintenance of the distinction is at Unit Expense.
2. The following personnel are entitled to wear the distinction:
  - a. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Bty, RNZA and 2 NZATTV during those units periods of active service in Vietnam 1965-1972 and those personnel who served after qualifying in Australia with the Australian Army training Team Vietnam.
  - b. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Bty, RNZA. Personnel, unless qualified under the provision of the preceding paragraph, will cease to wear the distinction when posted from the strength of the unit.
3. The distinction is to be worn centrally above the right breast pocket. It may be worn on all versions of Dress No 1.

##### Meritorious Unit Commendation

4. The United States Meritorious Unit Commendation award may be worn by eligible personnel as detailed below.
5. The following personnel are entitled to wear the commendation:
  - a. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Bty, RNZA or who have served with the NZ Army assigned to the United States 173 Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, July 1965 - June 1966.
  - b. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Bty, RNZA. Personnel, unless qualified under the provision of paragraph 5a of this section, are to cease to wear the commendation when posted from the strength of that unit.
6. The commendation is to be worn in order after the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (see paragraph 3 of this section).

- ♥ **Barry Dreyer** sent me the following which I thought I should share with everyone.

### Vietman vets reunite 40 years on

18 July 2005

By JILL GALLOWAY

It was about handing over the mantle from the old gunners to the new, according to a United States woman who attended the reunion of Vietnam veterans. **Sharon Persinger** was at the 300-strong gathering with her Cherokee Native American husband, **Harry Persinger**. New Zealand's first combat troops to serve in the Vietnam War got together on the 40th anniversary of their controversial posting at Linton Military Camp on the weekend.

As well as the New Zealand artillery veterans, there were a handful of Australians and 10 American Indians from the 173rd Airborne Brigade who had served beside the New Zealanders.

Current army personnel, serving members of 161 Battery, were also involved.

The US veterans presented 161 Battery with a flag, a trooper dagger and large figure of a porcelain bald eagle to commemorate their partnership in Vietnam. **Mrs Persinger** said it was like the old guard meeting the young guard. "It's like a transfer of power; it's symbolic." "It's a brotherhood," she said. **Trudell Guerue**, a Sioux Indian, said this is his fifth time back in New Zealand and his son went to school here. He says he has strong ties to New Zealand, although the Kiwis had left the US team to join with Australians fighting in Vietnam by the time he got to South-east Asia. He was looking forward to the social events and time to catch up with other Vietnam vets.

Major **Ian Garnett**, Battery Commander of 161 Battery, said he was delighted to receive the presentation on behalf his group and to take part in the reunion. "It's an honour for the serving members to see where a lot of their heritage and proud

traditions come from," he said. Some of the people that have gone before us still care a lot about the current soldiers, Major Garnett said. "It is about giving over the mantle from the old to the young. There are a lot of things that never change in an army, equipment does, but the ethos, the values, the proud traditions and history carry on," he said. Some of the veterans laughed as they went to lunch, saying they would only recognise army food if it was a big pot of mince, with the cook sweating into it.

As part of the reunion weekend, the veterans had a formal dinner at Palmerston North RSA. They also marched to the Cenotaph and laid wreaths in honour of those who lost their lives serving New Zealand.

♥ **Neville Davies**, an ex RF Cadet friend of mine sends me the following:

According to a news report, a certain private school in Washington was recently faced with a unique problem.

A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night.

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers, and then there are educators.

♥ **It is trivia time. Did you know?**

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.

(O.M.G.!)

A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

(In my next life, I want to be a pig.)

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.

(Creepy.)

(I'm still not over the pig.)

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.

(Do not try this at home. Maybe at work.)

The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body.

The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off.

("Honey, I'm home. What the...?!")

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

(30 minutes... lucky pig. Can you imagine??)

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.

(What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?)

Some lions mate over 50 times a day.

(I still want to be a pig in my next life...quality over quantity)

Butterflies taste with their feet.

(Something I always wanted to know.)

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

(HMMMMMMMM.....)

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.

(OK, so that would be a good thing.....)

A cat's urine glows under a black light.

(I wonder who was paid to figure that out?)

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

(I know some people like that.)

Starfish have no brains.

(I know some people like that too.)

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

(If you're ambidextrous, do you split the difference?)

Polar bears are left-handed.

(If they switch, they'll live a lot longer.)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.

(What about that pig??)



♥ **Barry Dreyer** sends us the following story about Vietnam. This is a 'must read'.

### THE TROUBLE WITH SAS

In the first few weeks of the 1st Australian Task Force deployment to Nui Dat in South Vietnam in June 1966, I was attached to the artillery tactical headquarters of the 1st Field Regiment, as it set up as part of the tactical headquarters of the Task Force. Towards the latter part of my attachment, the Australian Special Air Services had started patrolling in some depth from the Task Force base and on occasions had run into trouble, particularly when they were trying to extract by helicopter under pressure. The guns were rarely able to react because by the time we received any fire instructions the action was over.

The SAS solved this by telling us they would put arty tac on to the Squadron command net so we could receive the fire orders direct. There was only one catch: because of the secrecy of the operations, the SAS radio would be locked in a cupboard in the arty tac tent and would be opened by SAS, who would arrive to do this if they needed our support. This seemed rather secret squirrelish, but we really had no say over the matter. We duly forgot about the radio in the cupboard - we had much more important things in hand such as organising the defensive fire tasks for the Task Force base, working out air clearance procedures and establishing communications with the various strike aircraft agencies that were available to support us.

Some weeks later in mid-afternoon, a rather scruffy SAS soldier arrived in a cloud of dust, puffing and panting and with a key in his hand. This was our moment of glory. We pointed the regiment in the general direction of the SAS patrols - we knew the region they were in, as it had a blanket "no fire without permission" - and got a battery ready to adjust fire.

The troopery unlocked the cupboard, got out the radio and went through the turning on procedure. From what we were used to, it was a very small radio and no doubt a very sophisticated one. We waited with bated breath as he told us how badly the patrol was being mauled and how they couldn't get helicopters in. Finally the radio spluttered into life and out came a rapid stream of Morse code. Being modern gunners of course, none of us understood morse. Neither did the SAS trooper. He had been sent because he was a fleet-footed squadron clerk. The patrol never got its artillery support, and we never ever had a 'Morse only' radio locked in that cupboard again.

*Graeme, I might add that I am using a voice dictation system to write the story. It keeps writing "a Stalin" when I say "Australian"; mind you, it writes "bald one" when I say "Baldwin", so it's pretty observant all-round. The joys of IT, I am afraid I am still at the one finger seek and stab level.*

**Roger Newth** shares the following with us. I think I will have to find out something good to let the men off the hook, I am always being kind the ladies!!!!!!!

### Feminine Logic

Many years ago in a small village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to a village moneylender. The moneylender, who was an awful, mean man, fancied the farmer's beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter. Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal. So the cunning moneylender suggested that they let providence decide the matter. He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to pick one pebble from the bag.

- 1) If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven.
- 2) If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven.
- 3) But if she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.

They were standing on a pebble-strewn path in the farmer's field. As they talked, the moneylender bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked them up, the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag. Now, imagine that you were standing in the field, what would you have done if you were the girl? If you had to advise her, what would you have told her? Careful analysis would produce three possibilities:

1. The girl should refuse to take a pebble.
2. The girl should show that there were two black pebbles in the bag and expose the moneylender as a cheat.
3. The girl should pick a black pebble and sacrifice herself in order to save her father from his debt and imprisonment.

Take a moment to ponder over the story. The above story is used with the hope that it will make us appreciate the difference between lateral and logical thinking. The girl's dilemma cannot be solved with traditional logical thinking. Think of the consequences if she chooses the above logical answers. What would you recommend to the Girl to do?

Well, here is what she did -- the girl put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately became lost among all the other pebbles. "Oh, how clumsy of me," she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked."

Since the remaining pebble is black, it must be assumed that she had picked the white one. And since the moneylender dared not admit his dishonesty, the girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one.

♥ **Bryan O'Connor** writes wishing all members the very best and like some other more senior, in age I mean, sends us a bold donation. *Bryan on behalf of the members thank you so much for your generosity.*

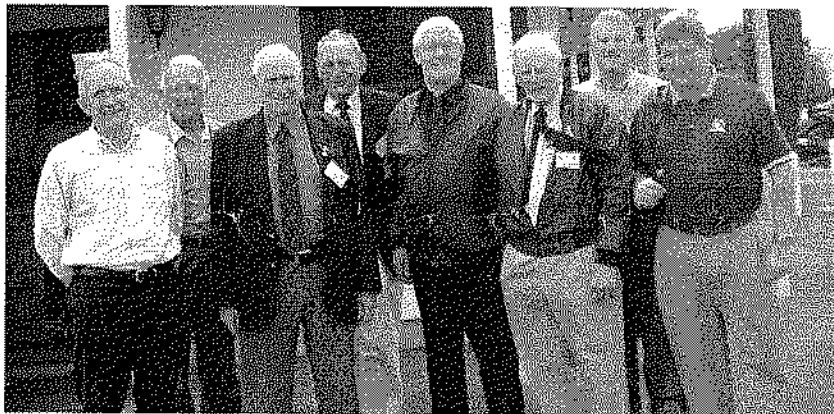
♥ **Dei Delaney** also sends us a donation and his best wishes. *You guys really amaze me with your generosity, it does show, however that our Association is in Great Spirit having members like that.*

- ♥ **Lindsay Skinner** and wife **Lyn** are at last sort of on the mend after hip reconstruction. Note it is not called replacement when you bust what a very busy surgeon has just bunged into you. Lindsay probably wore his hip out climbing hills around Waiouru, or should I say wrong hills. *Story goes that one foggy day he, with some others, went up Three Kings to do some survey observations. It was suggested that they were on the wrong point but Lindsay politely told the others that he knew Waiouru like the back of his hand and that they were on the correct point. So up goes the beacon banderole set, theodolite, telurometer and whatall and then sit back waiting for the fog to clear. Well wouldn't you know it when the fog cleared – wrong point!! Never mind Lindsay I am one of the few to drop that bloody great beam of the beacon banderole set on my 'swede'. The medic at the MIR laughed as much as my survey party when he saw the caked blood in the hair and on the face of a very embarrassed WO1.*
- ♥ **Reidar Pederson** also sends his kindest regards to all his old mates and wishes us the best for the Reunion.
- ♥ **Huia Ockwell** writes about a wonderful seminar he attended recently regarding the Historic Coastal Defences of Dunedin and New Zealand 1870 – 1945. A great range of speakers covering fortification sites, the 6-in and 7-in RMLs, the 6-in Armstrong Disappearing Guns at Tairaroa Head and Central Battery St Kilda, WW2 fortifications and radar. Windsor Jones and Joe Evans from Waiouru Army Museum were part of the panel of experts. But of special note is the contribution made by our **Col Comdt Graham Birch** on the WW2 coastal defences and in fact all coastal defences. It was a great three days of very informative information.
- ♥ **Harry Honnor** sorry he cannot attend the Reunion in November but is looking forward to the Vietnam Vets Reunion in Palmerston North 2006. **Harry** is keeping his powder dry despite occasional celebrations. *Come and live next to me and we will dig a tunnel into my cellar, it wont require lighting as you will glow on the way home.*
- ♥ **Pat Shirley** is unable to attend this year's reunion but wishes all members the very best.
- ♥ **Ron Turner** is being a Preacher Man for **Grant Box's** daughter's wedding and both send their best wishes for the reunion and look forward to being there next year. *Ron, Sherwood and I missed your input into the joke session – you know - 24 hours a day!!!!!!! He is worse than Malcolm Nabbs for puns and shaggy dog stories.*
- ❖ **Mayne Manson** is responsible for this:

HOW TO START YOUR DAY WITH A POSITIVE OUTLOOK

1. Open a new file in your PC.
2. Name it "work."
3. Send it to the RECYCLE BIN
4. Empty the RECYCLE BIN
5. Your PC will ask you, "Are you sure you want to delete "work" permanently?"
6. Answer calmly, "Yes," and press the mouse button firmly....
7. **Feel better?**

Following are a few of the Reunion pics, there are many more but I have not yet received them



Barry Dreyer, Graham Birch, Alan Boyd, Ray Andrews, Graeme Black, Paddy Paddison, Sherwood Young, Dennis Dwane



HQ 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment





Paddy Ryan

Sherwood Young

Barry Dreyer



Ted and Nes Lile



Skin Frances

Peter Baker

Clive Miln



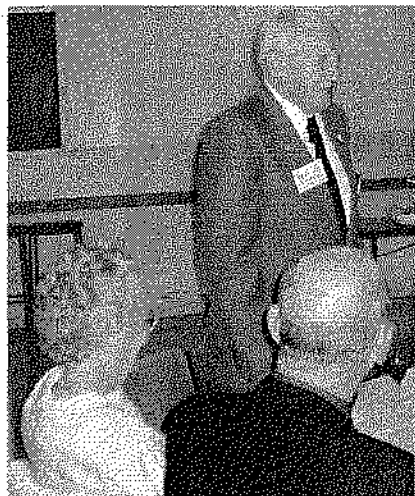
Denis Dwane



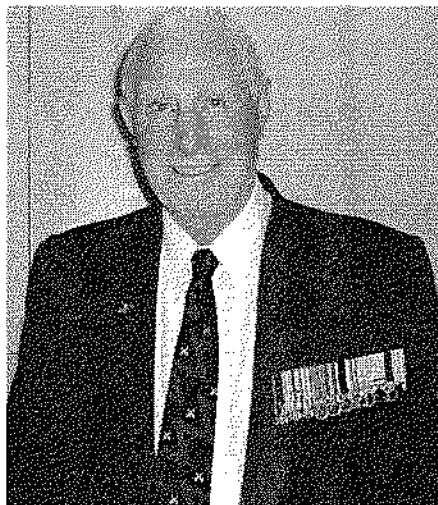
Graeme with the edited toast to the ladies



Tony Tustin and Roger Newth



Rita Moore and Matt Crawley



'This is Your Life' Alan Boyd



Graham Birch   Barbara Vryenhoek   Brigadier Barry Vryenhoek   Denis Dwane   Margaret Dwane

*That's all for now keep your tube clean and powder dry.*

*The President, Major Denis Dwane MBE, and  
Committee wish you all a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and prosperous New Year*

*God Bless you all.*

