

ACCOMMODATION FOR MELBOURNE 2012 (By Don Bryan)

I guess there is a crew going to Melbourne next year; I have already booked and saved a heap by using TPI magazine contacts with Choice hotels. May be helpful to know there are other events on at the same time and accommodation is going to be at a premium.

Thanks Don, WA PIGS intending to attend the Melbourne reunion take note!

THINGS TO DO IN VUNG TAU (by John Carey)

Planning your next overseas trip?

If you are looking for a trip at a very reasonable cost then think about attending the events below combined with some holidaying at a couple of the lovely resorts along the south coast of Vietnam.

(Suggestions would be Hoi An and Dalat) You can organize your own trip or go with a tour group, what ever suits.

Vung Tau is now a popular coastal resort easily accessed by a "new" Vung Tau Ferry, a hydra foil service every 2 hours from Saigon and flights to and accommodation at the resort towns can be booked over the net at surprisingly low costs.

ANZAC DAY/ WEEK COMMEMORATIONS VIET NAM

As well as the traditional services at Gallipoli, Australians take part in ANZAC Day services at some of the most significant sites in our wartime history around the world. One service that has not received a lot of press is the Dawn Service held at the Long Tan Cross memorial in Vietnam, the site of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966. Every year Australian veterans living in Vietnam organize return transport to the dawn service from Vung Tau to the rubber trees at Long Tan. Apart from the Long Tan Cross memorial there has been no development or beautification of the area and this adds to the remembrance at the site and the service.

After returning from the Long Tan service, in the afternoon many then attend a local establishment run by an Australian ex serviceman to have a few drinks, eats and watch the AFL Anzac match between Essendon and Collingwood and hopefully enjoy the Bombers having a win. There is also the opportunity for organized tours to our old base camp at Nui Dat and D445 camp locations in the Long Hai's, an area very familiar to all Vietnam Vets.

On the Saturday 21 April 2012 prior to Anzac day an AFL football match is also played on the Vung Tau oval, the same ground where servicemen competed in a very active competition during the Vietnam War.

Email: RCAR5886@bigpond.net.au

This is now the home ground of the Viet Nam Swans Football Club and players involved are all Australian expats who, every two months play against expat teams from other Asian countries. The event is named the Anzac Friendship Match and the 2012 match is between the Viet Nam Swans and the China Reds and followed by the official dinner at the lovely Petro Hotel behind the ground. All who come to the game are invited to attend. (bookings required)
Happy to provide more information if required after enjoying a similar self organized tour earlier this year.

Cheers John Carey (JC) (Trackers/ Fire Assault 1st Tour)

ANNUAL PIGS SWILL

On 13th of November we held our Xmas function with 44 in attendance (incl. members and ladies).

Steve Chamarette gave us a version of grace attributed to General Patton, but with words changed to reflect 7RAR, very moving. Allan and Betty West conducted the raffle, with some vigorous ticket selling by Mick O'Halloran. In attendance were: Pat O'Rourke, Don Cruden, Peter Wilson, Allan & Betty West, Bob & Barbara Curry, Dale & Debbie Marshall, Gary & Teresa Williams, Geoff Lawson, Geoff & Irene Brophy, Margaret Moylan, Val O'Brien (sister of the late Noel Crouch), Chris & Jan Wark, Vic Neimanis, Jock, Margaret, Momma-San and Jock's son, Steve & Joanne Chamarette, Clive & Rebecca Chapman, Charlie & Pam Matheson, Les & Deldre Kail, Mick & Joan O'Halloran, Mick & Nadia Painter, John Davies, Ian & Judy Lankester, Geoff Murray and Gordon Dickson.

Don gave thanks to Geoff Murray for newsletters during the year and also thanked Allan & Betty West for their raffle efforts. Luncheon thanks to Charlie Matheson for his effort in organizing another wonderful xmas function and his choice was the superb Armadale RSL function room. Once again John Davies has done a great job as photographer extraordinaire. Don reminded all that we should pay special attention to our younger 7RAR members wherever they are serving overseas. Our thoughts and prayers for their service, safety in combat, and a safe return to their families should always remind us that our Battalion continues to serve the Nation.

Don thanked all WA members for their support during the year and wished all a very happy and healthy New Year.

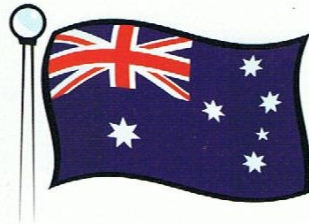
p.s. Don still has 16 car style flags and he wants to sell them fast - they will make an ideal Xmas gift otherwise he will be flogging them on ANZAC DAY SO BUY NOW NOW NOW.



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*7th Battalion the Royal
Australian Regiment
Association
(Incorporated in QLD)
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*Incorporating ex-members from 2/7th Australian Infantry
Battalion AIF and members of 7RAR (Mech)*