



DELTA DEVILS O GROUP



Delta Company 3 RAR
Vietnam 2nd Tour 1971

Victorian Reunion 2013

Issue 7

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE VICTORIAN REUNION A GREAT SUCCESS



QUEENSLAND 2016

The next Reunion will be held in Maroochydore Qld in 2016,
We welcome Les (Joe)D'Alton as the new chairperson of the
Delta Devils Social Club organising committee.

Early expressions of interest in attending would be appreciated
as this is a big tourist location and accommodation will have to
be arranged early.

So Please Contact:

Les (Joe) D'Alton

Ph; (07) 5476 7482

Email: les.dalton@bigpond.com



The Old and the New POOF (Protector of the old Flag)
Joe Horner (WA) hands over the Flag to Clive Usher (Vic)
The Flag will be on display in the Usher's Bar in Rochester Victoria

THE A - Z OF THE VICTORIAN REUNION THINGS WE LOVED

- A. Andy's marshalling effortsenough said.
- B. Bomber's stunning victory. (Congrats Rocket on your win).
- C. Comradeship, Camaraderie, Celebration.
- D. Delta Devils, Delta Drunks, Delta Desperates.
- E. Eddie Sanelli falling asleep on the tram after the lunch.
- F. Flags for John & Paul. Father Tink.
- G. Greg and that damn camera.
- H. Horner and Heard our guest speakers.
- I. Island....Phillip that is, a wonderful day.
- J. Joe Horner..... Past POOF.
- K. Kathy's good day at the Pumphouse. Kisses.... Danny you devil.
- L. Ladies—great to catch up again.
- M. Murf of course, and meeting our mates, some for the first time in years.
- N. Nostalgia....” Years ago we used to drink a lot of beer and tell a few lies. Now we tell a lot of lies and drink a few beers”. (Stubby)
- O. On the buses....Organised Chaos.
- P. Phil's statue of “Ralf”.
- Q. Queensland—our next reunion in 3 years.
- R. Rocket's recollections at the Meet & Greet.
- S. SMIFF with 2 F's, part time hero. (Botty)
- T. Turt turned up for the march, first time in 43 years. Great to see you mate.
- U. Usher C. Present POOF
- V. Veteran: Old man, Soldier, Expert. (Roget's Thesaurus)
- W. Weather in Melbourne..... Incredible.
- X. X Factor.... Who ???
- Y. You all in Melbourne.... Fantastic.
- Z. ZZZZ the welcome sleep for the committee afterwards.



Father Tinkler

THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE PADRE

The Padre, as part of a fighting force, is for some difficult to reconcile. Yet, for the Padre to be accepted as an integral part of the Battalion, is one of the greatest privileges. To patrol and harbour up with a Company on combat duty is a privilege of acceptance and identification that is rare.

I walked, slept and ate with companies in the field. They all knew I wasn't a soldier—usually because I was carrying my pistol wrapped in my Pack so I wouldn't have to clean it! They knew I would be useless, maybe even a hindrance, in a major contact. Thank God the contacts I experience were only fleeting ones.

But as I walked, stumbled and sweated for five days between resupply when I would return to Nui Dat, I felt secure in the company of my choice. If I had fear, it was when I once returned to base as a passenger on a tank. Tankies have little regard for hitch-hikers desperately clinging to anything available and always ducking the vegetation. It was even worse locked in an APC, ignorant of direction or the reasons for the abrupt movement or halts.

The safest I felt in Vietnam was on patrol with a Company when I knew every soldier would do his duty and I, as a visitor, only had to follow in the footsteps of the one in front, I am not sure what the soldiers thought. Did my presence gift them a lift or were the few words at the end of the day a help and maybe a reminder of home and the ordinary things of life?

I tried to be as normal and ordinary as possible in what was for the time a very abnormal situation.

Why was I accepted? Was it because of the time we spent training together before going to Vietnam? Was it helped by my drinking beer out of a GP boot at the OR's Club? Or was it by the fact that I pleaded ignorance when the platoon from D Company "illegally" stopped at the pub when we were returning from an exercise in the Flinders Rangers?

Not everyone shared their problems with me but as an Officer without Command, many did and others appreciated that their mates had someone outside the command structure to talk to. I was a release valve, along with the booze-ups at the end of periods of stress. At other times I was a vehicle of focus such as at Memorial Services that allowed us all to stop and get life and our role in it back into some perspective.

We know that not everyone coped with the pressures of war and I spent some agonising times with troubled souls. It was at these times I wished for a magic wand or the power of command to make decisions to help the individual. But of course there is always a wider picture and individuals have to try and adapt.

Our time in Vietnam in 1971 was relatively quiet and the disasters were minimal. Some paid the ultimate price, others a high price, and all who were there share in those sacrifices. But we also know the job we had to do was done well and as a privileged visitor to the Battalion, I have always appreciated the acceptance of my presence and what I represented.



John G. Hamilton
Chaplain — 3 RAR
Second Tour South Vietnam

WINNERS OF THE REUNION RAFFLE



Billy Billington— First Prize
Accommodation at a Mantra Hotel



Sandra & Graeme Sheather—Second Prize
Set of two framed Prints, Signed by
Colonel Peter Scott.



Angela (McMaster)- Third Prize
A box set of Delta Devils Wine

The Other Heroes of the Vietnam War

As I watched and listened to the presentation about the heroes of the Vietnam War, it brought to mind the other heroes in this saga, the wives, children and the parents and siblings of those young men that went away to Vietnam never to return the same.

Some young wives packed their bags and walked away in bewilderment and self doubt wondering why they had failed in their marriage, there was no right or wrong! others hung in there for the kids, living with whatever personality that would surface that day or week, the days and weeks of silence, protecting the kids making excuses for the behaviour, then out of the blue a glimpse of the person whom they married or knew would appear and hope would spring forth that all was behind them and life would go back to normal, only to be brought back to earth with the cruel remarks and attitudes, the drinking or abuse that came with the black dog. There were the women and children who buried husbands; life cut short by war related sickness or simply those men who could not go on.

With no one to turn to and the reality that no-one would believe them anyway the families suffered in silence, the children grew and left home some with bitterness in their hearts, that would one day hopefully heal and return to the family, some with the unconditional love that only children can have for a parent stayed, there can be no judgement on either road chosen by these kids.

Then the answers started to come, the condition was given a name, re unions started to bring the men and wives together and finally they found out there were others that went through this, the recognition that comrades were also suffering came as a relief that they were not alone. The healing had started, but for many it came too late.

So when you talk of heroes of the Vietnam War, please spare a thought and mentally pin a medal on all those family members who have fought for you and are still in there, caring, nurturing, fighting, nagging and putting up with the c--p after all these years.

Floss (42 years service)

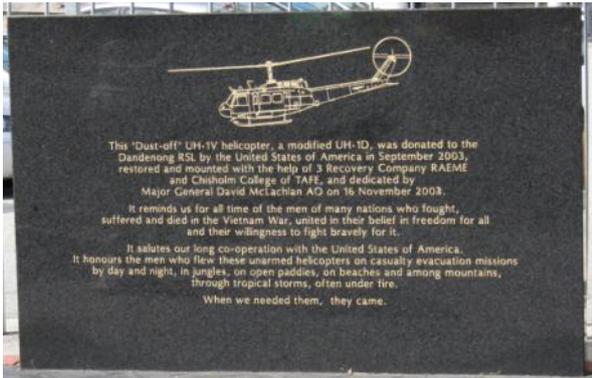
Thanks to all the families and friends who supported us at this Reunion

**ALL PHOTOS AND VIDEOS TAKEN DURING THE VICTORIAN REUNION
WILL BE COPIED TO DVD AND POSTED OUT TO THOSE THAT ATTENDED**



Outside Cowes RSL Phillip Island

REUNION VICTORIA 2013 PHOTO'S



Out the front of Dandenong RSL under the flags.



10 Platoon



11 Platoon



12 Platoon



CHQ



Inside RSL



Allan Lowe

Peter Anderson

Kevin Wilkins

Brian Mills

Ray Richards

Phil Lee

Harvey Richardson

Robert Gulley
(Junior)

Les (Joe) D'Alton

Lee Turton

Ralph Klem

Gilbert Clark (Beefy)

Don Maxwell

Jeff Castle

Trevor Richardson

Ken Rundell (Rocky)

Peter Barbour

Simon Watling

Noel Summers

Lindsay Johnson

Colin Chapman

Neville Sachse

David Horner

Joseph Horner

Russel Kendrick

John Williamson

Roy McMaster

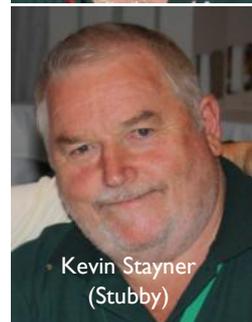
Jim Cooper
(Cowboy)

Graeme Searl (Doc)

Ian Robinson



Joe Horner's Melbourne Fan Club



RALF

Hi Devils,

One of our blokes has made a statue of **Ralph Klem**, it's the one on page 57 of *Yours Faithfully*. He needs to know if you would like to purchase a copy of him.

For Delta Devils he can do it for \$150 plus postage and handling of \$25.

Once we are in profit a fare share (About 25%) of it will be going to the next Reunion to offset cost in a hope of getting more people to attend and especially help those poor buggers in WA and FNQ who have attended at great expense over the years.

Just to break even he needs to sell at least 58 copies, not all from Devils, but he would like somewhere in the vicinity of about 20-30.

He will be selling them to the rest of the world at \$175 plus P/H each.

If you are interested please contact Phil Golden for Order form and Payment Details.

Unfortunately, he has to ask you to pay in advance as he has to pay the producer in advance





Last Chance to purchase Victorian Merchandise Orders in by 22 May 2013

Cap—Colour green with yellow trim.

Delta Devils logo on front with ICB on right with Sippy badge on left, D Coy in yellow on left side, Victorian Reunion 2013 in red on back & Old Faithful in yellow on right side.



Polo—Green, Yellow & White strip in collar, Delta Devil logo on right chest, Battalion emblem on left chest, Victorian Reunion 2013 in red & Old Faithful in yellow on right sleeve. With or without pocket.



Chambray Shirt—Colour blue, Delta Devil logo on right chest, Battalion emblem on left chest, Victorian Reunion 2013 in red & Old Faithful in yellow on right sleeve.



Delta Devils Merchandise Order Form

ORDERS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN UP TO 22nd MAY 2013
So get your order in ASAP

Personal Details

Name:

Address:

Town / City:

State: Postcode:

Phone Number: Mobile:

E-Mail Address:



Hat size Original Devil sew-on badge



Pocket size Original Devil with D Coy 3 RAR & Vietnam 1971 in yellow.

Selections:	Cost: \$
<p>Baseball Cap: One size fits all,</p>	<p>Quantity: <input type="text"/> \$15.00 Per Item <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Polo Shirt: Size: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL / 4XL No Pocket</p>	<p>Quantity: <input type="text"/> \$35.00 Per Item <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Polo Shirt: Size: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL / 4XL With Pocket</p>	<p>Quantity: <input type="text"/> \$38.00 Per Item <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Chambray Shirt: Size: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL / 4XL Sort Sleeve</p>	<p>Quantity: <input type="text"/> \$50.00 Per Item <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Hat Size Original Devil Sew-On Badge:</p>	<p>Quantity: <input type="text"/> \$5.00 Per Item <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Pocket Size Original Devil Sew-On Badge:</p>	<p>Quantity: <input type="text"/> \$8.00 Per Item <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Payment Type : Cash, Cheque, Money Order to Delta Devils Social Club or Direct Deposit : BSB 642170 , A/C 657261, Ref: Your Name</p>	
<p>Total Cost <input type="text"/></p>	

Your orders will be Posted through Austpost at your expense.
We can quote the added delivery costs. For details contact Clive Usher.....
Order form and payment to be posted or emailed to: Clive Usher
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Mb: 0418148623