



QURA



QURA MINI NEWSLETTER

20 March 2017

This is the first mini newsletter for 2017. We will follow up with more regular MINI NEWSLETTERS until the website is finally up and running.

Notes from the President QURA

We welcome you into the new year and trust you had a rested break.

Towards the end of the year we spent considerable time working to reestablish active contact with "lost" members of the Association. Our efforts were very successful in that we "found" 50 members again. We would always ask members to advise us if their contact email addresses change, so we might maintain contact.

We look forward to participating in the Regimental Open Day (17 June 2107) when we will mount a display of "The History of the Regiment" Charts, signs, flags, enlarged photographs etc will be constructed to make a display so visitors to the Open Day can gain some insight of the history of the Regiment.

The work on production of the updated "History of the Regiment" has commenced. Documents, photos and other memorabilia are being scanned. Items of historical interest are being collected and recorded. We are calling for members to contribute memoirs and reminiscences of service. We are also launching a **"SEND IN A HUNK OF HISTORY"** campaign for all to participate. We will be regularly sending by email a stimulus question to every member about some historical issue. We will ask each member to respond with a few lines immediately. Do not put it off for a later time but complete it NOW. It would take 5 minutes. When we get all the comments we will assemble them without change, and these will become a picture of the history of the Regiment at that time or about that issue. No names will be mentioned. All you have to do is type a few lines in response. When 200 members type a few lines then we get a "real picture" for the history.

As President I promise **I WILL ANNOY EVERYONE** to give up just a few minutes of their time every couple of months to type a couple of sentences. Surely that is not too much to ask.

At the end of last year the CO gave to me his end of year his Status Report. Due to the fact that we were not able to publish the document in time some of the information is a little dated. I have asked him for an update which will be published soon. My apologies to the CO.

We will have the website running soon. Until that happens we will be sending these mini newsletters by email.

Warmest regards from the Executive of the Queensland University Regiment Association

Trevor Luttrell

President



Congratulations to JOHN PEARN In November 2016 at a Buckingham palace reception to mark the Royal Life Saving Society's 125th anniversary Maj Gen John Pearn AO GCStJ RFD, whose work led to the fencing of backyard pools to prevent toddler drownings, received the Royal Life Saving Society's most prestigious award, the King Edward VII Cup, from the Her Majesty the Queen. This award was instituted by the Queen's great-grandfather, King Edward VII in 1907, as recognition for a professional lifetime's commitment to research and advocacy in the domains of rescue, resuscitation, lifesaving, injury prevention and safety promotion. There have only been nine recipients over the last 100 years or so. A great achievement.

More Soldiers' News

Promotions: Congratulations to the following officers being promoted to the rank of Brigadier - Michael Bond, Tim O'Brien, and David Thomae. We also congratulate Michael Bond on receiving the honour of the award of the Bar to his Conspicuous Service Cross at the beginning of 2017.

The oldest ARES soldier in Australia: GEOFF TALBOT: In an article in the latest copy of the Australian Reservist LTCOL Geoff Talbot, anaesthetist, was highlighted. He was in Iraq with the youngest Reservist. Geoff is 70 years old. After years of service, many of which overseas, he will remain for another one teaching and lecturing before retiring. Geoff served as an RMO in QUR.

Colin Ahern: Col has just travelled to Timor to assist with the Veterans Care Association which has been set up by Garry Stone to assist those Australian soldiers who have suffered with PTSD whilst serving in Timor. Garry was a Chaplain whilst serving in QUR and was our guest speaker at the AGM in 2016.

More Soldier's News;

Noel Williams: It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of LTCOL Noel Williams who served in the Reserves in the early eighties. At that time the Queensland Government was in final negotiations with unions for a new public service workplace agreement and it came to notice that this included a clause deleting paid leave for Reserve service. Graeme Roberts-Thomson (state Protocol Officer) and Terry Gygar MLA along with the Army Reserve Association interceded but to no avail.

Noel Williams was the CEO of the YMCA and also the Vice President of the Army Reserve Association. When it seemed that all efforts had failed Noel put the case to the YMCA President, Sir Frank Moore (a National Party mover and shaker) who went straight to the top, and paid leave for Reserve service for public servants in Queensland was saved."

Bruce Davis: Following major surgery for cancer to the mouth of Bruce late last year his health has improved. He is up and about. He was welcome at a recent an Executive meeting of QURA last week We wish him the best towards his full recoery in the future.

Brian Venz: After a long time recovering from bowel cancer Brian is also up and about and becoming increasingly involved in his local community.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the Annual Camp January 1954, the RAAF flying in Mustangs, supplied realism to the four day jungle exercise for QUR in Greenbank. Flying out of Amberley they photographed and flour bombed the QUR troops as they advanced.
- In a news clipping 1957 it was announced that LTCOL Tom Parslow who joined QUR when it was founded in 1948, was the first member of the Regiment to be appointed its Commanding Officer.
- In 1962, 30 personnnel from QUR provided logistical support to a scientific group from the University to the Carnarvon Gorge. The lessons learnt (driving, recovery, communications, resupply, workshop, planning, and cililian operations) were valuable training.
- In 1962 SGT Pat O'Keeffe was one of the Colour Sergeants in the Guard of Honour for Lady May Abel Smith, 5 May 1962.
- At Mt Byron on exercise in May 1966 at an orders group thefollowing officers attended: Ian Bunce, George Fryberg, Geoff Harley, Ian Cahill, Alan Gibbs. The orders group was in preparation for an attack.

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1997

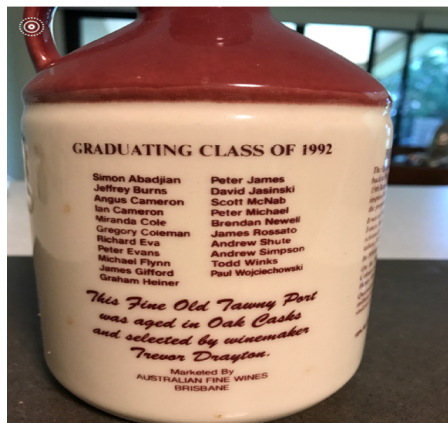
One of the aims of the Assisociation is to assist with preservation of history and the communication between ex members of QUR. Regularly ex members conduct their own reunions and we are fortunate enough to receive some of the memories of those reunions in the forms of photos or current bios. Recently David Fisher sent me a photo from the reunion of the "Class of 1997" (See left.) The reunion was celebrated by a dinner held at the United Service Club. He also sent a copy of the current biographies of each of the attendees. These will be invaluable for the "History of QUR" update. (See the image of the cover of the biography document - See RHS).



Left to right of the photo
LTCOL D Fisher, MAJ S Formby, Mr D Hammond, Dr B Close, MAJ C Milligan, Mr C Flynn, MAJ M McMahon, Dr D Holroyd, Dr J O'Gorman, LTCOL M Smith, Mr J Dyki, CAPT L Davis

CLASS OF 1992

Recently QURA has been contacted by Brendan Newell about a future reunion of the Class of 1992. QURA will be assisting Brendan with some history documents. It is understood that one of the members of that class still has an unopened bottle of their graduation port (see photo on RHS) and this will be enjoyed on the evening.



*Queensland University Regiment and
Regional Universities Regiment of Queensland
Class of 1997 20th Anniversary dinner
United Service Club
11 February 2017*



DO YOU HAVE A REUNION ANNIVERSARY COMING UP?

QURA can help you contact your old friends. Whether you conduct your reunion at a restaurant, a pub, or a coffee shop we would like to get some details for our history update. Please keep us in the loop!