

**86 TRANSPORT VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC  
8<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL REUNION REPORT  
30 NOVEMBER 2017**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY MAROOCHYDORE 2017**



**Report from  
2017 Reunion Committee  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> National Reunion  
held at Maroochydore  
21<sup>st</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

**86 TRANSPORT VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC  
2017 REUNION – MAROOCHYDORE**

**Context of the 2017 Reunion:**

86 Transport Platoon was raised in Bandiana in 1960 under the command of Headquarters 1 Company RAASC. The first OC of the Platoon was Second Lieutenant Ron Kelly who held the post from 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1960 to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1961.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1965, Second Lieutenant John Hoare was the fifth person to hold the position of OC of 86 Transport Platoon. Except for one section which still remained in Bandiana, the remainder of the platoon had moved to Puckapunyal under the command of Headquarters 25 Company RAASC also based at Puckapunyal.

Towards the end of 1965 all of the RAASC Transport Platoons, including 86 Transport Platoon, were reorganised and upgraded to become 33 vehicle units with an establishment of 2 officers and 75 all ranks formed into a headquarters and 5 sections.

Just before the Christmas break in 1966, the Platoon received its warning orders for a tour of South Vietnam in April 1967. However, the numbers would be limited to a Detachment with an establishment of 1 officer and 29 all ranks comprising a headquarters and 2 sections. The remainder of the Platoon would stay in Puckapunyal and function as part of the Puckapunyal Transport Unit.

The Detachment attended the Canungra Battle Efficiency Course for the first 23 days of March 1967, then took pre-embarkation leave. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1967, the 30 Detachment members boarded a chartered aircraft at Mangalore and were airlifted to Darwin. The next day, they, along with elements of 8 Field Ambulance, boarded a RAAF Hercules C130 and flew to Vung Tau, South Vietnam.

The Commanders' Diaries for 5 Company RAASC record Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC arriving in Vung Tau at 1300 hours on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1967. The Detachment's deployment on active service in South Vietnam under the command of 5 Company RAASC commenced from this date.

After a relatively short time it was realised that the Detachment numbers of 30 decided by Canberra did not meet the real needs on the ground in Vietnam and an extra 27 drivers from other transport units in Australia were deployed to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon during the 1967 calendar year. In November and December 1967 most of the 22 new drivers had been posted from 24 Transport Platoon based at Canungra.

The number of vehicles allocated to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon also increased during 1967 from an original establishment of 1 x landrover and 13 x 5 ton dump trucks to 1 x landrover, 13 x 5 ton dump trucks, 15 x 5 ton cargo trucks, 3 x hired 15 ton semi-trailers and 2 x 32 seater Bedford buses by the end of 1967.

With the arrival of 26 Transport Company RAASC in Vietnam in December 1967, it was decided that Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC would be reformed into 86 Transport

Platoon RAASC under the command of 5 Company RAASC based in Vung Tau from 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1968. Of the 57 postings to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon in 1967, all except 7 completed their tour of duty in Vietnam as part of 86 Transport Platoon RAASC in 1968.

This reunion celebrates and acknowledges the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC to Vietnam on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1967 and all of the personnel posted to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC in 1967. When 1 ALSG closed on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 1972 and the last elements of 86 Transport Platoon in Vietnam embarked on the HMAS Sydney on the same day, a total of 468 men had served in either Detachment 86 Transport Platoon or 86 Transport Platoon in Vietnam.

As part of this recognition and acknowledgment of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have decided to publish, according to the records, all of the members posted to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC during the 1967 calendar year.

**Posting to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC in 1967:**

**Arrived on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1967:**

Allen,	Derek	McKerlie,	Don
Appleby,	Graham	Moncrieff,	Daryl
Baillie,	Sydney	Nicholson,	Robert
Bancroft,	David	Paterson,	Ken
Brain,	Malcolm	Polak,	Roy
Butcher,	Don	Pyers,	John
Conway,	John	Rea,	Neil
Dobson,	Bob	Robins,	Roy
Fettes,	Norman	Ross,	Ian
Grant,	Phil	Saunders,	Lyall
Harmer,	Donald	Smith,	Charles
Hendy,	Alan	Smith,	Don
Hewitt,	Peter	Stoward,	Phillip
Hoare,	John	Wilson,	Alan
Kidd,	John	Zanker,	Geoffrey

**Arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1967:**

Dewar, Terrance

**Arrived on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1967:**

Berg, Howard

**Arrived on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1967:**

Ballment, John

**Arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1967:**

Halls,	Robert	Schneider,	John
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Arrived on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1967:

Davis,	Hugh	Ruggero,	John
Matthews,	Richard		

Arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1967:

Fisher,	Aubrey	Kay,	Keith
Hack,	Roger	Logos,	Paul
Jackson,	Barry	Pontaks,	Heinz
Jeffery,	David	Smith,	Robert
Jones,	Russell		

Arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1967:

Yopp,	Anthony
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Arrived on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1967:

Best,	Graham	Monks,	Anthony
Bird,	Ross	Paynting,	Joseph
Johansen,	Eric	Pollard,	Michael
McLean,	Laurie	Uren,	David
Middleton,	Gary		

**2017 Committee Formation:**

At the 2014 Reunion at Victor Harbor, Bill Hignett on instructions from the National Committee of the 86 Transport Vietnam Association Inc, approached Cliff Glover, Ron Kratzmann and Don Grimley and asked them if they would be prepared to organise the 8<sup>th</sup> National Reunion in Queensland. After some discussion, the idea was to hold the Reunion in 2016 at Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast because of the suitability of this location to host such an event and also as this would maintain the two-year interval of previous reunions. An announcement was made at the Victor Harbor Gala Dinner that Queensland would be the next host state and 2016 was given as the date with the assumption that the required venues at Maroochydore would be available.

On return to Queensland the Reunion Committee made enquiries regarding venues and accommodation at Maroochydore and it became evident that there would be a problem with holding the Reunion in April 2016 as this would clash with the Surf Lifesaving National Titles and the venues that would be needed for accommodation and functions would not be available. It also became apparent to the Reunion Committee that 2017 would mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the deployment of Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC to Vietnam. After discussion with Bill Hignett who referred it to the National Committee, the Reunion Committee made the decision to change the date of the reunion to 2017 making this a three-year gap from Victor Harbor.

86 Transport Members were informed of this change by email and on the website and this prompted quite a bit of discussion and also some very negative feedback that created a great deal of stress for the Reunion Committee members. While the Reunion Committee understood that a two-year gap was the preferred option the availability of accommodation

and appropriate venues at Maroochydore was always the driving force. Without this there was no way that the Reunion Committee could plan and run a successful Reunion.

The Reunion Committee decided to refer the issue to the National Committee and we appreciated the following considered response sent out by electronic newsletter in March, 2015:

*After the announcement that the Queensland Reunion originally planned for 2016 had to be rescheduled to around Anzac Day, 2017, there were facebook posts and emails from seven people to the National Committee critical of this change. Following the receipt of these emails, the National Committee met on two occasions to discuss what action was deemed necessary. The National Committee also canvassed the views and opinions of a number of other people who had also attended previous reunions.*

### **Rescheduling the Next Reunion from 2016 to 2017.**

*The National Committee gave this matter considerable thought. We were conscious of the hard work done by the Reunion Sub-committee and what they had formulated to date.*

*The National Committee was also conscious that the Reunion Sub-committee had been asked by the National Committee to arrange the event as there were no volunteers or expressions of interest to organise the next reunion in Queensland.*

*As you would understand and appreciate, volunteering and agreeing to co-ordinate such a significant event can be daunting and the Committee felt that, in the first instance, the initiative and sincerity shown by the Reunion Sub-committee needed to be acknowledged and respected.*

*The National Committee raised many of the queries with the Reunion Sub-committee and sought a response from them. The Reunion Sub-committee informed us that they had thoroughly researched the prospect of conducting a 2016 reunion on the Sunshine Coast and the southern and northern beaches of Brisbane, but was unable to find a venue and accommodation to meet our requirements.*

*As has been the case with the previous seven Reunion Sub-committees and having considered their response, we have determined to trust their judgment and accept the need for the reunion to be rescheduled to 2017.*

*One factor that weighed heavily on our determination was the fact that 2017 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of 86 Transport Platoon Vietnam. As you might know the active service military history of our unit commenced when 30 men from the Platoon marched into the Vung Tau lines at 1330 hours on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1967, two days before ANZAC Day.*

*It is the National Committee's view that this date is highly significant and it would be irresponsible not to acknowledge it in an appropriate way. We know of no unit that*

*would ignore such an important anniversary. Observing important anniversaries is what commemoration and reunions are all about.*

*In sum, these two significant factors provide compelling reasons for conducting our reunion in 2017.*

The significance of 2017 as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of Detachment 86 Transport Platoon to Vietnam on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1967 eventually became the main focus and the Reunion planning was able to get underway. The Reunion Committee held its first meeting in January, 2015 with Committee Members as follows:

Cliff Glover (Convenor)

Karen Glover

Ron Kratzmann (Secretary)

Anne Kratzmann

Don Grimley (Treasurer)

Kay Grimley

A bank account was opened with Bank of Queensland and a seeding grant of \$5,000 from the 2014 Reunion Committee was placed in the account.

**Accommodation:**

Cotton Tree Holiday Park was chosen as the main accommodation venue because it had sufficient capacity for members with caravans plus a limited number of cabins. Members were provided with a 10% discount for both sites and cabins. Other accommodation options provided to members were Argyle on the Park, Rovera Appartments and The Dunes.

**Venue:**

The Maroochydore RSL was chosen as the venue for all Reunion functions and the Reunion Committee was able to negotiate a very good package deal for the Sign-on dinner, the Gunfire Breakfast and the Gala Dinner. The RSL were very supportive and agreed to waive the function room hire fees and to provide any audio-visual equipment free of charge. 86 members were also offered temporary RSL membership for the time of the reunion.

**Registration Cost:**

The Reunion Committee decided to keep the Reunion cost to \$250 in line with the previous two reunions. This cost covered all reunion functions and included a souvenir cap, stubbie cooler and car stickers for members and partners. The Reunion Committee also gave members the option of ordering and purchasing a souvenir polo shirt at the cost of \$30. This shirt was not a replacement of the chambray shirt organised by the Victor Harbor Reunion Committee and members were informed that the chambray shirt was still the preferred attire for the Anzac Day March.

**Registration Form (see appendix A):**

Every effort was made to contact all members and to provide them with access to a registration form. Rob Bradbery posted all reunion information on the 86 Website with a link to the registration form. Bill Hignett sent out bulk emails through mailchimp with all reunion information. Members were also encouraged to tell others to ensure that as many members as possible received details of the reunion.

## REUNION DETAILS

### **Sign-On Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April:**

Registration took place from 3.30 until 6pm at the Maroochydore RSL Club. The function room bar was open and canapes were served from 4pm. At 6.15pm the Reunion was officially opened by Bill Hignett and members welcomed. The highlight of the Sign-On night was a speech by John Hoare (see appendix B) who was the Officer Commanding Detachment 86 Transport Platoon in Vietnam from 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1967 to 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1968. At 6.30pm, members were then directed to the mezzanine area for a smorgasbord dinner.

### **Saturday & Sunday – Free Days:**

In response to feedback from members the Reunion Committee tried to keep the Reunion simple with the focus on allowing members plenty of opportunities to gather together. Therefore, there were no organised bus trips or excursions and members were provided with details of major tourist attractions on the Sunshine Coast. All major attractions provided good concessions for members:

**Australia Zoo** – 50% off ticket price for veterans & partners

**Underwater World** – vouchers provided for 2 for 1 purchase

**The Ginger Factory** – 20% off entrance price for factory tour

### **Turtle Tavern & BBQ:**

The Cotton Tree Holiday Park provided 2 sites free of charge to enable the Reunion Committee to erect a marquee to act as the Turtle Tavern and a place for members to congregate. This became the venue for the BBQ on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans provided a mobile BBQ and volunteers to cook sausages and chicken. Carlton United Breweries donated ten cartons of VB and both Coles and Woolworths donated vouchers which were used to purchase BBQ items.

### **Anzac Day:**

#### **Dawn Service:**

The cenotaph at Maroochydore is located at the Esplanade in Cotton Tree which was within walking distance of all accommodation venues. The Dawn Service took place at 4.28am.

#### **Gunfire Breakfast:**

Following the Dawn Service members gathered at the Maroochydore RSL for breakfast. Crosses representing each member of 86 Transport who has died were displayed on the stage area of the function room. A short commemorative service was held. Wayne Lyons offered prayers, the honour roll of past members was displayed on screen and the Last Post was played. The Reunion Committee acknowledges Bundaberg Rum for their generous donation of bottles of Rum for the Gunfire Breakfast.

#### **Anzac Day March:**

Members assembled outside Maroochydore RSL and marched to the Cenotaph for the 9am Anzac Day Service. A wreath was laid by Cliff Glover on behalf of 86 members.

**Post March:**

Maroochydore RSL provided members with the option to attend a Maroochydore RSL members-only function after the Anzac Day March and most 86 members availed themselves of this opportunity.

Maroochydore Bowls Club put on Bare-foot Bowls at a cost of \$7 for 86 members and this was also well attended.

**Gala Dinner:**

Maroochydore RSL was again the venue for the Gala Dinner on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April. On arrival members were served drinks before moving into the function room at 7pm. Highlights of the Gala Dinner included:

- Live band – Standing Room Only – played great music until 11pm
- Beautiful three course dinner
- Souvenir place mats with an image of the 86 Transport compound provided at each place setting and for members to keep as a souvenir
- A number of raffle prizes

**Sponsorship:**

The Committee acknowledges the generous sponsorship of a number of businesses and these sponsors were acknowledged on the menu for the Gala Dinner.

**Bundaberg Rum** provided 24 bottles of Bundaberg rum. These were used for the Gunfire Breakfast and as raffle prizes on both the Sign-On Night and the Gala Dinner.

**Carlton United Brewery** provided 10 cases of VB cans for the BBQ

**Anaconda** provided two gift cards valued at \$25 which were used as raffle prizes

**Woolworths & Coles** donated shopping vouchers which were used to buy supplies for the BBQ

**Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans** provided a mobile BBQ and helped out with cooking for the BBQ

**Cliff Glover** provided a slouch hat as a raffle prize

**Dennis Lowder** provided two leather belts as a raffle prize

**Allan Nolan** provided an 86 plaque as a raffle prize

**Acknowledgements:**

The Committee would like to thank all who helped to make the reunion a success and in particular those who took on special tasks:

**Dennis Lowder, Bob Gillespie, Colin Clegg, Alan O'Grady** – selling raffle tickets

**Linda Clegg, Roslyn Gillespie, Russell Kingsbury** – Sign-on night

**Ray Wesson & Dennis Lowder** – BBQ cooking

**DVA Grant:**

The Minister of Veterans Affairs approved our \$3,000 grant application submitted by Bill Denny under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Service Program to fund the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of 86 Transport Platoon's deployment to Vietnam. The funding allowed us to hire a marquee, chairs, tables and lighting as well as providing 86 members with lanyards and name tags plus a commemorative cap. Details of the expenditure for this grant appear in the financial report



**86 Banners:**

The Queensland Committee had three new banners made that listed all of the 86 deployment details in Vietnam and East Timor. The new banners also display the current tac designs for 86 Transport Troop (see appendix C). One banner is being kept by the Queensland Committee. One banner was sent to the National Committee in South Australia. The third banner was sent to Peter Southwell, President of the 2019 Reunion Committee for use at the next reunion at Wagga Wagga and to be passed on to any following reunion committees.

**Surplus:**

The Queensland Committee are very pleased that the Maroochydore Reunion ended up in surplus. This surplus includes the initial start-up fund of \$5,000 provided by the National Committee.

The Queensland Committee also commends the work of Rob Bradbery with the 86 website and for the great communication that he provided to all members. The Queensland Committee hopes that there could be some consideration given to provide ongoing funding for Rob to maintain this website.



**Cliff Glover**  
**(Reunion Convenor)**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

Committee Members  
86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee

### **Report on the Financial Report**

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of 86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee, which comprises the Income and Expenditure Statement for the period ended 31 October 2017, DVA grant acquittal, and the Statement by the 2017 Reunion Committee assertion statement.

#### *Responsibility for the financial report*

The Committee members are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### *Assurance practitioner's responsibility*

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner who is not the Auditor of the Entity, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. ASRE 2400 requires me to comply with the requirements of the applicable code of professional conduct of an accounting body. A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

#### *Basis for Qualified Conclusion*

Cash donations and raffle ticket sales are a source of fundraising revenue for 86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee. The 86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of cash donations and raffle ticket sales prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to me regarding fundraising revenue from this source was limited, my review procedures with respect to cash donations and raffle ticket sales had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. I therefore am unable to conclude whether the recorded cash donations and raffle ticket sales of 86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee are complete.

#### *Independence*

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

*Qualified Conclusion*

Based on my review, which is not an audit, with the exception of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of 86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee does not does not present fairly, in all material respects, the 86 Transport 2017 Reunion Committee's financial performance for the period ending 31 October 2017 in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Roslyn Prout', is positioned above the typed name.

Roslyn Prout CPA

9 November 2017

24 Askew St, Tarragindi 4121

## Statement by 2017 Reunion Committee:

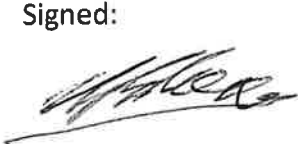
In our opinion –

- a) The accompanying financial report is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the 2017 Reunion Committee as at 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017.
- b) The accounts of the 2017 Reunion Committee have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the 2017 Reunion Committee has paid its debts as and when they became due.
- d) The DVA Grant of \$3,000.00 was spent in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Minister of Veterans Affairs under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Service Program. The money was used to fund the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of 86 Transport Platoon's Deployment to Vietnam on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1967. Specifically, the grant funding was used for the hire of a marquee, chairs, tables, lighting plus lanyards, name tags, place cards and a commemorative cap for all attending members. The grant of **\$3,000.00** offset the total cost of **\$6,579.80** of these specific expenses
- e) The surplus funds from the 2017 Reunion Account held in the Bank of Queensland under account name of 86 Transport Vietnam Association INC (a/c number: 22299031), have been transferred to the National Committee and placed in the Association's National Australia Bank Community Fee Saver account in the name of 86 Transport Vietnam Association INC (a/c number: 142531923). The surplus funds of the 2017 reunion amounted to **\$13,067.45**.

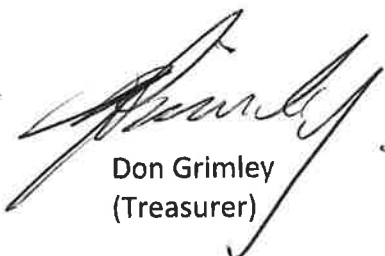
We confirm as follows:

- a) The names of each committee member of the association during the relevant financial reporting period were: Cliff Glover, Karen Glover, Ron Kratzmann, Anne Kratzmann, Don Grimley, and Kay Grimley
- b) The principal activities of the 2017 Reunion committee during the relevant reporting period were: organising the 2017 reunion at Maroochydore for Association members and their families around Anzac Day, 2017.

Signed:



Cliff Glover  
(Convenor)



Don Grimley  
(Treasurer)



Ron Kratzmann  
(Secretary)

**Financial Statement – 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017**

**Income and Expenditure Statement**

**INCOME:**

Funding from National Association:	\$ 5,000.00
Registrations:	\$54,340.00
Donations:	\$ 2,730.00
Polo Shirts:	\$ 3,150.00
Raffles & merchandise sales:	\$ 4,056.15
Banked: \$2,464.55	
Cash held: \$1,591.60	
Extra payment for Gunfire Breakfast:	\$ 175.00
Reversal of bank charge:	\$ 10.00
Bank interest:	\$ 98.56
DVA Grant	\$ 3,000.00

**Total Income: \$72,559.71**

**EXPENDITURE:**

**Maroochydore RSL Club:**

\$ 1,810.00 (chq 01)

\$ 1,810.00 (chq 05)

\$35,855.00 (chq 19)

\$39,475.00

**Merchandise:**

Stickers - \$434.50 (chq 02)

Name tags - \$272.80 (chq 10)

Place mats - \$1,182.87 (chq 03)

Shirts, caps, stubby coolers - \$10,121.10 (chq 09)

Total merchandise:

\$12,011.27

**Registration Refunds:**

G. Anderson - \$470 (chq 04)

P. Middleton - \$500 (chq 11)

K. Jackson - \$500 (chq 12)

P. Cowley - \$500 (chq 06)

Total Refunds:

\$ 1,970.00

**Miscellaneous Expenses:**

Instant Up Marquees - \$1,680.30 (chq 17)

Suncoast Flowers - \$135.00 (chq 15)

Kleer Ice Supplies - \$168.00 (chq 14)

Coleslaw - \$165.00 (chq 13)

Mat Russell (balloons) - \$398.00 (chq 18)

Cliff Glover (reimbursement) - \$662.09 (chq 16)

Ron Kratzmann (reimbursement) - \$591.60 (cash)

Cash float for raffles - \$500 (chq 20)

Band – "Standing Room Only" - \$1,000 (cash)

Bank Charge - \$10.00

Total Expenses:

\$ 5,309.99

**Banners:**

All About Print - \$660.00 (chq 21)

Postage - \$66.00 (chq 22)

Total for Banners:

\$ 726.00

**Total Expenditure: \$59,492.26**

**Net Surplus:\$13,067.45**

Transferred to NAB Account Number: 142531923

Account Name: 86 Transport Vietnam Association Inc (chq 24)

APPENDIX A

86 TRANSPORT VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 2017 MAROOCHYDORE REUNION REGISTRATION FORM			
<b>I am attending the reunion:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone No:</b>	
		<b>Email No:</b>	
<b>My spouse / partner will be attending with me:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	<b>My spouse / partner would prefer:</b>		
	Cap		
	Visor		
<b>Please indicate any dietary requirements:</b>	<b>Gluten free</b>	<b>Dairy free</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Total registration payment: number attending X \$250</b>			<b>\$</b>
<b>Men's optional Polo Shirt @ \$30:</b> <b>Chest sizing (centimetres):</b> S (106), M(111), L(119), XL(121), 2XL(126), 3XL(136), 4XL(141)		<b>Women's optional Polo Shirt @ \$30:</b> <b>Bust sizing (centimetres):</b> 8(90), 10(95), 12(100), 14(105), 16(110), 18(115), 20(120)	
<b>Men's Polo Shirt Order:</b> Number of shirts:	<b>Women's Polo Shirt Order:</b> Number of shirts:	<b>Total Cost of Shirts:</b>	
Size:	Size:	\$	
<b>Donation:</b> The Committee appreciates any donation towards the cost of the reunion:			\$
<b>I have made an electronic payment to cover:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Polo Shirts (if any)</li> <li>• Donation (if any)</li> </ul> <b>For the amount of:</b> \$	<b>Electronic Payment Details:</b> Bank of Qld A/c Name: <b>86 Transport Vietnam Association Inc 2017 Reunion</b> <b>BSB 124-028</b> A/c Number: 22299031 Reference: Your Surname		
<b>I have enclosed a cheque / money order to cover:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Polo Shirts (if any)</li> <li>• Donation (if any)</li> </ul> <b>For the amount of</b> \$	<b>Make cheque or money order payable to:</b>  <b>86 Transport Vietnam Association Inc 2017 Reunion</b>		
<b>Please return this form by post to:</b>  <b>Ron Kratzmann (secretary)</b> <b>86 Transport Vietnam Association Inc 2017 Reunion</b> <b>79 McCallum Street,</b> <b>Carseldine</b> <b>QLD 4034</b>			
<b>REGISTRATION DETAILS &amp; PAYMENT DUE BY 31ST MAY, 2016</b>			

## **Appendix B:**

### **86 TRANSPORT – THE BEGINNING IN VIETNAM**

*By John Hoare*

*John had a distinguished military career in the Australian Army including 3 postings overseas in Vietnam, Singapore and Germany. After graduating from Portsea in 1964 he was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and retired in 1985 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.*

*After 86 Transport Platoon was first raised in February 1960, John was its 5<sup>th</sup> appointment as Officer Commanding 86 Transport Platoon when he was posted to the Platoon as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in July 1965.*

*He was responsible for ensuring Detachment 86 Transport Platoon was ready for active service in Vietnam and travelled with the Platoon to Vietnam on 21 April 1967 just on 50 years ago today. He was the Officer Commanding Detachment 86 Transport Platoon in Vietnam from 22 April 1967 to 6 February 1968*

*This reunion celebrates and commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the detachment and platoon's deployment to Vietnam and the organising committee believed we should hear from John about that journey of 86 to Vietnam.*

**Good evening fellow 86ers.**

I am immensely proud to be here to commemorate this occasion with you all. As Officer-Commanding the first elements of 86 Transport Platoon to settle into Vietnam, this occasion is very special for me. I am also probably the last person to know the story of why the entire unit nearly didn't get to Vietnam in April 1967.

The 86<sup>th</sup> had trained and prepared to FF/DP1 standards from November 1965 and it felt a reward that we were quietly warned out at short notice in March 1966 for deployment to Vietnam. Then at the last minute, someone in Canberra decided they needed dump trucks in the unit to go so it should be 87 Transport Platoon, (as they were a "tipper unit"), which was not as well prepared to DP1 standard. So, 87 Transport Platoon was authorised to plunder anything they needed from 86 Transport Platoon.

Nearly all of my troops, all of our stores, vehicles and my armoury were transferred to 87 Transport Platoon and we received all their unserviceable equipment and deficiencies in exchange. They even took my Q-storeman! The 87<sup>th</sup> was restructured to a 77 man 33 vehicle platoon at the same time. I was told to re-raise 86 Transport Platoon also from a 56 to 77 man outfit. We received reinforcements, assembled unit stores, trained again and after three months on Ex Barra Winga, were warned out for deployment to Vietnam as the force transport increment for 7 RAR which was to be the third Australian Task Force battalion in Vietnam. We had trained with them so it was logical. Surprise!

But Canberra struck again and the arms units won the battle for extra manpower at the expense of the Services. 86 Transport Platoon was reduced to a detachment of 30 all ranks and received 2 x new 6x6 5 ton dumps to train



on. I was told I would be promoted and posted to raise another unit for deployment in 1968; my 2IC would command the detachment for Vietnam and that at the end of its tour it wouldn't be replaced. Twice the bridesmaid was too much! I complained that 86 Transport Platoon had been my unit for almost two years and insisted that I should go with the Detachment. The gods approved and on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1967 we went to Canungra for the mandatory jungle training.

Back to Puckapunyal where we finished packing stores before pre-embarkation leave, but I believed we were going when we finally took off from Mangalore Airport. We arrived at Vung Tau Airfield on 22 April 1967 and found 1ALSG to be a world of sand and canvassed accommodation. It took some getting used to! While 1 Company RAASC had done much to establish the Company location, much more work was needed to stop the ever-moving sand from burying tents and work areas every time the wind blew. (85 Transport Platoon had already replaced 87 Transport Platoon).

13 brand new 6x6 5 ton dumps were on the lines waiting for us and after about four days for the drivers to acclimatise to the hot conditions, they went to work, primarily moving aggregate from the US Army quarry 18 hours a day to wherever it was needed; sand to Nui Dat and laterite soil from there to Vung Tau. When 5 Company began directly supporting large Combat Operations and the shortage of transport became apparent, we were able to convince Operations that dumps do some tasks as well if not better than tray-tops, such as carrying petroleum bladders, defence stores etc.

At the end of 1967, Detachment 86 Transport Platoon began receiving semi-trailers, buses, tilt bed trailers and tankers. Then came the TET Offensive! Canberra's prior decision to cut the unit's size to a detachment lessening the planned transport support backfired badly and the unit was re-formed in January '68 to a full platoon (8 months)! A change of heart and common sense also saw the reformed unit retain the title 86 Transport Platoon.

The five years of good service in Vietnam earned the unit a permanent place on the Australian Army peacetime order of battle and it exists today as 86 Transport Troop RACT (Tipper). Even 87 Transport Platoon after being disbanded post-Vietnam, was re-raised in 2002 as 87 Transport Troop RACT and both Troops are under the command of 26 Transport Squadron (previously 26 Company RAASC located at Nui Dat).

It's great that associations such as ours and 87 Transport Platoon have emerged. We here tonight doubtless recognise the efforts of Bill Denny, Bill Hignett and the Adelaide crew for kicking off our association in grand style at the 1999 Adelaide Reunion; Bill Hignett for his continuing hand on the gearstick; and all those who have picked up the task of each regional reunion

since, right up to now with Cliff Glover, Ron Kratzman, Don Grimley and their Maroochydore support crew. It's been a great journey!

Before I close, my Wife Shirley and I thought that this is one of the best 'thought for the day' we had ever seen and I would like to share it with you.

*"Laugh when you can, apologise when you should and let go of what you can't change!*

*Kiss slowly, play hard, forgive quickly, take chances, give everything and have no regrets!*

*Life's too short to be anything but happy!"* Author unknown

I wish you all a great 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion!

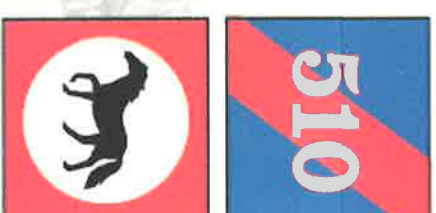
*(Delivered to the attendees of the 86 Transport Vietnam Association Reunion "Meet & Greet" Session at Maroochydore RSL on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017)*

# 86 TRANSPORT

RAASC-RACT



VIETNAM  
1967-72



EAST TIMOR  
1999-2000