



G'day all Members, families and friends,

On behalf of the Association we hope you had an enjoyable time with your families over the Christmas and New Year period.

2018 marks the 20th year the Association has been in existence. We formed the Association in 1998 when a group us started organising the 1999 Reunion in Adelaide and we realised that if there were to be future reunions there needed to be some coordinating group to hold the information from previous reunions and assist with the data base and finances. We have now held 8 successful reunions and planning is well underway for our next reunion in Wagga Wagga in 2019.

2018 also marks the 50th anniversary of our logo. In May 1968 Ken Parker was posted to 86 Transport Platoon in South Vietnam and saw the tyre with the 86 Tac Sign inside it in our transport yard. Prior to being called up for National Service Ken was a talented artist who had won art prizes at the Royal Adelaide Show and had successfully designed a logo for the Lions Club.

He knew how important logos were to branding and symbolising the strength of an organisation and designed the 86 logo of the cobra on wheels to demonstrate the strength of 86 Transport Platoon in Vietnam. He worked on the design over 3 or 4 nights and enlisted the support of Rocky Anock to replace the 86 tac sign inside the tyre with the new logo he had designed. Here's a photo of the logo, with Graham Brown (Brownie) in November 1970.



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## 2019 Reunion in Wagga Wagga

The 2019 Reunion Committee comprises Peter Southwell as Convenor, Faye Southwell as Secretary, Sue Merrifield as Treasurer and Committee Members Barry Field, Mick Merrifield, Don Kalis, Wayne Lyons and Colin Locke who are planning the next reunion in Wagga Wagga around Anzac Day 2019. The 2019 Reunion Committee met in Wagga Wagga in October 2017 for their initial discussion and deliberations.

April 2019 will be a very busy time as Easter, NSW School holidays and Anzac Day all fall within the same week and with this in mind the Reunion Committee has booked the RSL Wagga for our Meet and Greet on **22 April 2019** and the Gala Dinner on **26 April 2019**. The RSL also has motel accommodation attached to its premises for your consideration. Contact them on: **(02) 6971 8888**.

The Wagga Beach Caravan Park has been reserved for our sole use until the end of 2018 and we suggest that you contact their office to book your sites or cabins if required. Wagga Wagga has an extensive selection of other types of accommodation and we recommend that you investigate the Wagga Wagga Visitors website to see your options. You can contact the Wagga Caravan Park on: **(02) 6931 0603** or on the web at: [www.wwbcp.com.au](http://www.wwbcp.com.au) The next meeting of the 2019 Reunion Committee is on 23 January 2018 and more information will be sent out after that meeting.

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## PowerPoint tribute to departed comrades

As part each reunion there is a tribute to our departed comrades. The tribute takes the form of a PowerPoint presentation on the 86ers who have passed away and hopefully includes a photo of each person when they were in Vietnam. Unfortunately we do not have photographs of everyone and we are seeking your support to try and obtain them.

[Click here](#) for the names of the deceased 86ers for whom we do not have photographs. If you can help out please email Bill Hignett at [hignetts@adam.com.au](mailto:hignetts@adam.com.au) with the photograph.

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## The Association

Have you thought about joining the Association? We now have Family/Associate Membership as well as Ordinary Membership. It does not cost a cent to join and all of the [details are on the 86 website](#).

At the moment we have 43 ordinary members and 11 Family/Associate Members. On the Association section of the website you will also find a lot of information on the Association and three recently posted reunion reports. We also have a Facebook page which is moderated and limited to 86ers and their families. If you are interested in accessing the page please use Facebook to seek access to it.

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## Email addresses

We are trying to communicate by email, the [86 website](#) and [86 Facebook page](#) with up to 367 former members who were posted to 86 Transport Platoon when it was in Vietnam. Unfortunately we do not have the resources or finances to use Australia Post. Our preferred communication is by this electronic newsletter to an email address. So far we only have 219 email addresses so we know we are not reaching everyone. If you are able to help out with an email address please contact me on [hignetts@adam.com.au](mailto:hignetts@adam.com.au)

Thanks,

Bill Hignett

**Secretary | 86 Transport Vietnam Association Inc**