

Remembering our Fallen
Acknowledging our Service



W3 Company RNZIR 40th Anniversary Reunion

Treasuring our Memories
Valuing our Friendships

Christchurch New Zealand 19-21 November 2010

Welcome to the W3 Company RNZIR 40th Anniversary Reunion

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Reunion Outline Programme

Brief on Esk Valley for those on bus trip – Saturday morning

Brief for Formal Dining-in – Saturday night

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Agenda for Reunion General Meeting – Sunday morning

If assistance is required please call:

hotel reception on 0800 176 176, or

Bruce Young on 021 677 046

Please wear your neck tag for events on Friday night and Sunday

The Committee wishes you an enjoyable reunion gathering and safe return to your home location. Thank you for making the effort to gather and celebrate our 40th anniversary



**Earthquake Update: Over 3000 aftershocks to date - in the event of an aftershock
the drill is to remain calm, smile at those around you
and afterwards buy a local veteran a beer**

W3 Reunion Programme

Friday 19 November – POC Neil Ure

1600 – 2100 Hours – March in to Reunion

Registration table in Conference Centre 1st Floor manned by Neil Ure, Penny Ure and Jill Dunlea. Payment of registration fees, issue of neck tags and any fee receipts, issue of reunion programme. Non-registered attendees pay door charge as contribution toward bar snacks.

1800 – 2200 Hours – Meet & Greet Photos of Fallen present,

Cash bar courtesy Latimer Lodge, bar snacks including Dunlea's seafood donation. Memorabilia table with Vietnam book and DVDs, and photo montage – minder Debbie Mullins.

1900 Hours – Welcome by Chair reunion committee Bruce Young and officer commanding Evan Torrance.

Saturday 20 November – POC Bruce Young

0830 Hours – bus party departs for Dave Wright's place Esk Valley, written brief in programme.

Noon – bus party arrive Esk Valley.

1700 hours – bus party arrive back at Latimer.

1800 hours – assemble ante-room 1st Floor Conference Centre for pre-dinner drinks.

1815 hours – briefing by Mr Vice [see separate page in programme]

1830 hours – follow guests into dining room. Colours 2/1 RNZIR marched in once room settled. Photos of Fallen present.

Dining President – Coy 2ic Bill Blair, **Mr Vice** – Bruce Young

Guests - Lt Col and Mrs Hugh McAslan, WO1 and Mrs James Moohan, Colour subalterns.

1st Speaker - Evan Torrance, **2nd Speaker** – Col Baden Ewart Honorary Colonel 2/1 RNZIR. Colour marched out after toasts.

2130 hours approx - return to ante-room for further drinks and dance, band will play until approx 0100 hours. Cash bar courtesy Latimer Lodge.

Sunday 21 November – POC Ian Caldwell

1015 hours - assemble Papanui RSA carpark **55 Bellvue Ave Papanui** [behind shops, beside church], parade marshal CSM Doug Mackintosh.

1030 hours - memorial service, photos of Fallen present [separate programme for service].

1100 hours – cutting of Reunion cake [oldest and youngest present] and morning tea.

1130 hours – General Meeting: Chair Bruce Young, minutes Penny Ure. See separate agenda.

1230 hours – buffet lunch, non-registered attendees pay contribution toward meal.

1330 hours – presentation of attendance certificates – Evan Torrance, Bruce Young.

1400 hours – Orderly Room, presiding officer – Bob Upton, prosecutor Ian Caldwell.

Remainder Afternoon – free time and dispersal. Evening bar meal available from RSA at own cost.

Visit to Dave's Place – 20 November 2010

Esk Valley sometimes called Upper Otaio, is in Waimate county, on the road to Bluecliffs, and about five miles from St. Andrews on SHW1. The district has a public school, and a church, and is largely devoted to sheep farming.



The Esk Valley Public School was established about 1878, under the name of Upper Otaio, but the name was changed in 1900. The building, which is ornamented with climbing roses, was erected about 1878. It is of wood and iron, and has accommodation for sixty pupils. The land attached to the premises is two acres in extent, and there is a convenient playground, with shelter sheds, besides a comfortable five-roomed residence which stands in a well kept garden.

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Esk Valley, was built in 1879 by the late Mr. Charles Meyer, the original owner of Bluecliff station. It is a handsome stone building with seating accommodation for fifty persons. Mr. Meyer presented the church and five acres of land to the parish. The church has

some very fine stained glass windows, the gift of various donors. Part of the land is used as a cemetery. David is buried along side his Dad in the cemetery adjacent to the lovely little church, where in peace he has a magnificent view: east the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, west the towering Southern Alps.

January 30 1970 - Duke Henry's recollection: Rex Ryan and his cover scout, Dave Wright, were leading the clearing patrol through fairly open jungle canopy when they engaged a small group of VC very close to our harbour site. Rex initiated the contact and the enemy group bolted with the boys hot in pursuit. Rex had barreled a male teenager in the first exchange with his SLR, but the kid had kept going a couple of yards before dropping. The patrol charged into an area consisting of high grass and low scrub with a wide old APC/tank track of some sort running at right angles to their axis of advance. The youth was crumpled up on the deck at the edge of the clearing, either dead or dying and clearly out of the fight. Reaching the clearing, Rex had dropped to his knee to reload while Dave Wright continued to hammer the fleeing enemy that were moving to his left down an old armoured vehicle track. Within seconds, they took incoming from a determined and extremely courageous one-man hasty ambush. At a range of only a few feet, the lone ranger stay behind force opened up with his AK on full auto and Dave was smashed to the ground with several hits. George MacLeod and his M60 was the next recipient of VC lead and it got worse. By the time we got there, Wally had wounded a couple of his own boys with a well-intentioned, but poorly placed grenade. Danny Campbell had gallantly and correctly responded to Dave McLeod's problem and under considerable pressure from the VC trooper, cleared the M60's stoppage. He then proceeded to stitch the dink with a full belt of 7.62, effectively stopping this one-man army. Dave was down but still conscious, while poor old Dave McLeod had been ignored where he lay. Rex and I patched up Dave Wright as best we could. He was fairly comfortable considering the extent of his wounds and calmly related the contact to us in his normal and dry manner. An LZ was cleared and secured to CASEVAC the two casualties back to Vung Tau military hospital. Dave's injuries were fairly substantial, with entry and exit wounds in his pelvis and upper torso. McLeod had a couple of 7.62 x 39 MM rounds through one of his legs. Dave Wright and Dave McLeod were patched up and repatriated back home for better care and convalescence. Dave Wright's injuries required further specialist treatment in Australia and he wrote a letter to Rex and the boys from the Aussie hospital. Unfortunately, he died from complications [a kidney infection led to kidney failure] a few weeks later.





Peter Anderson: Each year the South Canterbury Ex Viet Nam Veterans and others parade at Dave Wrights grave and recite the ode, lay poppies and the Last Post and Reveille are sounded. Some years there may only be 4 or 5, other years 10 or 12 attend. ANZAC Day 2006 there were 18. from left to right: Smiley Haula (V2), Doc Welsh (161 & W3), Richard Bennett (W3), John Patmore (V4), Aussie Young (V5), Andy Anderson (W3), Rapa Whiu (V5), Max Hunter (161), Major Grant Day, 2 Cants and WO1 Kevin Collins, 2 Cants. Major Day's wife and two daughters also attended as did the three children of the bugler Les Glendinning, Timaru Municipal Band and ex 2 Cants member. Judy Stonehouse sister of the late Lt Ian Glendinning (V5) also attended. The photos are not top quality due to the bad light at 0725 and the persistent precipitation, (bloody drizzle).

A bugler is expected to be present around noon to play the last post

Return to Timaru for lunch, there are some good café/restaurants on the Bay Hill and the RSA is on Waiiti Road a quick walk from the Bay Hill.

Briefing for W3 Reunion Dining-In – 20 November 2010

Military formal dining-in tend to follow a traditional sequence with customs dating back to early British units with which New Zealanders have been associated, hence the need for this briefing.

The Dining-in starts with all diners assembling in the 'ante-room' [room outside the dining-room] 30 minutes before the meal starts. For tonight this means 1800 hours [6PM] for an 1830 hours [6.30PM] start. The bar is available for drinks and the appropriate drink pre-dinner is sherry although any beverages are OK [but please note that the meal will take 3-hours...]

In the dining room there is a top table where senior dignitaries and guests are seated, and several other tables joined to the top table for other diners. There is a dining president who controls the dinner and a junior person called Mr Vice who responds to requests from the dining president. For tonight the dining president is our Company 2ic Bill Blair, Mr Vice is Bruce Young the youngest member of W3 Coy. The dining president leads the dignitaries and guests into the dining room; Mr Vice is the last person to enter. Diners should locate their seat as identified on the seating plan and remain standing until formalities with the Colours are finished.

The Colours will be marched in by the colour subalterns [or ensigns] and placed behind the top table. The Colours remind diners of the long and distinguished history of the unit, a history veterans present tonight have contributed to. The Colours are only touched by designated people, normally the colour subalterns and a steward, and always with a gloved hand.

Grace will be said by Mr Vice and the Dining President will sit, followed by all other diners. Because we are dining in a civilian restaurant food orders for each course of the meal will be taken by staff from a fixed menu on the table. There will be three courses tonight. It is not customary for diners to move around the dining room during the meal although due to the age and infirmness of some present the dining president will allow comfort breaks as necessary.

Following the main course it is normal to pause eating for an address by a dignitary, tonight this will be our officer commanding Evan Torrance.

Following the final course port wine will be placed at the end of each table in preparation for the loyal toasts. The port wine should be passed along the table with each diner filling their port glass and then waiting to drink until the Dining President requests the toasts. The port may touch the table. If you prefer you can respond to each toast with water but you should ensure that you have wine or water in your glass for each toast. Tonight there will be two loyal toasts, the first to the Queen by Mr Vice, the 2nd to the Regiment by LtCol Hugh McAslan CO 2/1 RNZIR. It is usual to stand, raise your glass and repeat the toast before sipping from your glass. It is not customary to add to the toast or to attempt to smash your port glass in the fireplace in imitation of some dreadful Russian drama.

Diners will stand again on the Dining Presidents cue while the Colours are taken from the room by the colour subalterns. Once the colours have departed diners again sit and a second address will proceed, tonight this will be Col Baden Ewart Honorary Colonel 2/1 RNZIR [formerly NZ Component 1970]. Following Baden's address diners stand while the Dining President leads the dignitaries and guests from the dining room, other diners are free to follow.

In preparation for entering the dining room I suggest you check the seating plan and perhaps visit the toilet.

Agenda W3 Reunion General Meeting – 21 November 2010

Apologies for AGM

Cutler	Jim	1PI
Gorman	Ted	Coy HQ
Greenaway	Roger	2PI
Howell	Neville	2PI
Illingworth	Warren	3PI
King	Fred	Coy HQ
Mitchell	Bob	2PI
Moore	Doug	Pnr
Newson	Bob	3PI
Ryan	Rex	2PI
Toheriri	Jules	1PI
Wolff	Donald	2PI

Agenda

1. Next Reunion
2. Future of W3 website
3. W3 historical archive
4. Registration of veterans and families
5. General Business