

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the AGM on  
22 March 2018

## 86 TRANSPORT VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



Photograph of John Hoare leading the 86 contingent marching on Anzac Day 2017 as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion at Maroochydore, Queensland

## Our mission

When organising our first reunion in Adelaide in 1999 it was decided to form our unit association from members deployed to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon and 86 Transport Platoon RAASC in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972. The main purpose was to assist with future reunions.

Most of our members are TPI pensioners who are now aged between 67 and 89.

We hold a register to assist with future reunions and arrange for seed grants to start up the next reunion.

We notify members of funeral services for our deceased unit members.

## Our vision

To foster links between Australian Returned Servicemen who served in South Vietnam as part of Detachment 86 Transport Platoon and 86 Transport Platoon RAASC and our families or those whose service and contribution was linked to the unit.

## Our Highlights for 2017

There were 2 significant highlights for the year. These were the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion and changes to our rules to allow our partners to be part of the Association.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

The work done by the 2017 Reunion Committee was extraordinary and culminated in a wonderful reunion at Maroochydore from 20th to 26th April 2017. We extend our collective thanks to Ron and Anne Kratzmann, Cliff and Karen Glover and Don and Kay Grimley for doing such a great job and giving us the opportunity to renew such valuable friendships.

### Family/Associate membership

The 2016 Annual General Meeting on 31 May 2017 introduced Family/Associate membership to the Association to ensure that our partners are included in the 86 family. This initiative by the Committee has been a great success and as of 21 March 2018 we have 19 Family/Associate members.

## Looking Ahead

At its meeting on 4 May 2017, the Committee established the 2019 Reunion Committee with Peter Southwell as the Convenor. The other 2019 Reunion Committee members are Faye Southwell as Secretary, Sue Merrifield as Treasurer and Committee Members Barry Field, Mick Merrifield, Don Kalis, Wayne Lyons, Colin Locke and Margaret McDonald.

The official commencement of the reunion will begin with a meet and greet function for reunion participants at the Wagga RSL Club on 22 April 2019 and close with the Gala Dinner being held at the Wagga RSL Club on the evening of 26 April 2019.

Registrations to attend the reunion are now open and if you are attending you are asked to assist by completing the registration form and paying by 31 May 2018. Registrants completing the Registration Form with full payment to the 2019 Reunion Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 will go into a draw for an iPad which will be held at the Meet and Greet on 22 April 2019.

## STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

86 Transport Vietnam Association Incorporated is an incorporated association under the South Australian Associations Incorporation Act 1985. In 2017 Secretary/Treasurer Bill Hignett was the Association's nominated Public Officer under the Act.

### The Committee

The affairs of the Association are maintained and controlled exclusively by a Committee which in addition to any powers and authorities conferred by the constitution may exercise all such powers that are within the objects of the Association.

The Committee is comprised of a President, Secretary/Treasurer, Minute Secretary, and 2 Committee members, all of whom must be members of the Association.

The current Committee members are:

<b>President</b>	Bill Denny AM BM
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Bill Hignett OAM
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Graham Bulger
<b>Committee members</b>	Rudi Bos, Ian Milnes

The Committee held 5 meetings in 2017.

The main issues discussed at the Committee meetings were

- Establishing the 2019 Reunion Committee
- Supporting the 2017 Reunion Committee
- Developing a social media policy for our website and Facebook page
- Approving new memberships
- Completing and acquitting a grant application to DVA for the 2017 Reunion
- Reviewing the constitution and proposing rule changes for the 2016 AGM
- Improving the 86 website
- Reviewing the reunion reports from 2010 and publishing on the 86 website
- Moderating the 86 Facebook page.
- Dealing with a complaint

### General Meetings

The only general meeting held in 2017 was the 2016 Annual General Meeting held at TPI House SA at 9.30am on Wednesday 31 May 2017. At the Annual General Meeting significant discussion focussed on updating the Association's constitution.

### Communication

The Association uses 3 main methods of communication. We have website at 86transportvietnam.com which members and the public can access. We use a mailchimp program to communicate electronically with members and in 2017 three electronic newsletters were sent out to members. We also maintain a closed 86 Facebook page which is moderated by Bill Hignett and administered by Rob Bradbery to communicate and allow 86ers to communicate with one another.

#### History of 86 Transport ( Vietnam) website

- First website for the 86 group was for the Fremantle Reunion in 2008
- John Halls (WA) initially developed the first version.
- After the Fremantle Reunion John fell ill and Rob Bradbery took over the same website.

- Sam Hignett constructed a template website but it never became active.
- After the 2010 Geelong Reunion Rob Bradbery undertook a 6 month web design course at a Victorian University
- The initial version was the web page for the 2012 Nelson Bay reunion
- From there Rob developed the 86 Transport (Vietnam) website
- The current site is version 2

#### History of 86 Transport (Vietnam) FaceBook page

- John Halls initially created the Facebook page in 2010
- After John fell ill Rob Bradbery took over as administrator
- That was in 2011 before the 2012 Nelson Bay Reunion
- John is still credited as an administrator along with Rob Bradbery and Bill Hignett is the moderator.

#### History of 86 Transport (Vietnam) Electronic Newsletter

- Bill Hignett prepared the first Newsletter for the 2005 Reunion in Canberra. Was sent out to email addresses and attached as a Word document.
- The first fully electronic newsletter using the mail chimp program was developed by Bill Hignett in 2013 and used to call for registrations for the 2014 Reunion in Victor Harbor.
- This process has also been used for the 2017 and 2019 reunions and as a regular communication to 86ers and their families.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- I think our association has enjoyed very successful year.
- That success was carried, in large part, by the successful Reunion at Maroochydhore.
- I wish to record in my Report my thanks to the organising committee for their hard work.
- Our membership has grown significantly in the last 12 months and while there is more we can do in this area, I think the increase is a good sign.
- I comforted by our level of governance. Governance (or lack of) is proving a real danger to many not-for-profits around Australia and I am comforted that we are very well served in that arena.
- Committee meetings have been regular (5 in 2017 and already 2 in 2018) and are invariably well attended.
- Our website and Facebook page has been improved and I would like to record our thanks to Rob Bradbury for his hard work in this particular area.
- The information on our website is comprehensive and now includes all our Reunion Reports since 2010.
- For a relatively small organisation with one prime responsibility, I think we do extremely well.
- I would like to thank the members of the Committee who have worked hard to deliver this result. You attend meetings regularly and take all your responsibilities very seriously.
- A special thanks to Bill Hignett our very efficient Secretary/Treasurer. He works especially hard and, in truth, I believe we would be lost without him.

Bill Denny  
President  
19 March 2018

**86 Transport Vietnam Association Incorporated**  
**Financial Statement – 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017**

**Profit and Loss Statement**

Income

Merchandise Sales	\$ 660.00	
DVA Grant (2017 Reunion)	\$ 3,000.00	
Surplus 2017 Reunion	\$13,067.45	
		\$16,727.45

Expenditure

Purchase Merchandise	\$ 395.40	
Tribute Crosses	\$ 175.00	
DVA Grant to 2017 Reunion Committee	\$ 3,000.00	
Seed Funding 2019 Reunion Committee	\$ 5,000.00	
Internet Fees	\$ 131.25	
		\$ 8,701.65

<b>Cash operating Profit for this period</b>	<b>\$8,025.80</b>
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**Balance Sheet**

Funds

Brought Forward from 31/12/16	\$ 2,217.95	
Plus Cash operating Surplus	\$ 8,025.80	
		<b>\$10,243.75</b>

Represented by

NAB Community Fee Saver Account	\$ 243.75	
NAB 90 day Term Deposit Maturity Date 4/2/2018	\$10,000.00	
		<b>\$10,243.75</b>


Liabilities

Total Liabilities	\$ 00.00	
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<b>Net Assets and members' funds as of 31/12/2017</b>	<b>\$10,243.75</b>
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Notes:


1. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the South Australian Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and the Association's rules.
2. The Association is not registered for GST. Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised inclusive of GST.
3. The Association is a not for profit organisation and is of the view that it is not subject to income tax.
4. The accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association.
5. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Bill Hignett:   
 Secretary/Treasurer

Dated: 4/1/18

**Audit Certificate**

I have examined the books of account of the 86 Transport Vietnam Association Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2017 and report that the above is in accordance with those records.

Tony Johnston:   
 JP 22990

Dated: 16/1/18

## THE ROAD TO VIETNAM

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 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 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 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 US 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 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 Annual Report celebrates and acknowledges the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC to Vietnam on the 23rd 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.

**Postings to Detachment 86 Transport Platoon RAASC in 1967:**Arrived on 23 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 June 1967

Dewar	Terrance
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Arrived on 13 June 1967

Berg	Howard
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Arrived on 21 July 1967

Ballment	John
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Arrived on 12 September 1967

Halls	Robert	Schneider	John
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Arrived on 27 November 1967

Davis	Hugh	Ruggero	John
Matthews	Richard		

Arrived on 12 December 1967

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

Arrived on 18 December 1967

Yopp	Anthony
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Arrived on 28 December 1967

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