

2016 COFFS RE-UNION REPORT

Festivities got under way on Friday evening 30th Sept with the usual meet and greet at Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club (CEX) where the traditional back slapping and ribald remarks about grey hair and balding were the order of the day. There were banners galore which gave the Blue Room a festival atmosphere.



After an early breakfast next morning (Saturday) at the Club, we set off for Bellingen where we visited the old Norco Butter Factory, now given over to a restaurant and arts/crafts centre where the local alternative lifestyle folks sell their stuff. Shuttle buses ran back and forth to Bellingen township where we were able to stroll around the old style shops/pub etc and soak up the local laid back “Byron Bay” style of life.

On return to Coffs we spruced up and attended an Association Service at the cenotaph adjacent to CEX, where the guest speaker was David Doyle OAM, CEX President and Association member. The service was presided over by our own

Padre, Association member Rev. Dr Graham Whelan DD, PHD.



Then off to the Club for pre-dinner drinks and our Regimental Dinner.



Next morning we boarded a luxury coach and headed for Bowraville to visit the Frank Partridge VC Military Museum, a must see if visiting that part of the world.



On the way we stopped off at the Bowraville Racecourse to view a very interesting display of vintage military vehicles including a Vietnam era APC which roared around the infield to the delight of all present. Not sure how the course curator took to the impromptu ploughing however.

Also of interest was a WW2 Stuart Tank in working order.



WW2 Blitz Wagon



WW2 British SAS Desert Jeep

After the museum visit we were treated to lunch at Bowraville RSL where the locals took a fancy to our spectacular re-union shirts.



The Doyles, reluctant models!

It was then back to Coffs for the Buffet dinner where we said goodbye to some of the 88 attendees who were making an early start next morning.

Monday morning saw the final good byes at the farewell breakfast.

A big thank you to the Boys and Girls of the Northern NSW Branch who put the show together, **especially Lois Doyle** who carried most of the organisational burden.

Remember, this was the last of a memorable series of Coffs Re-unions dating back many years. 20th Locating Regiment has graciously agreed to host future events, starting with the next in 2018 to coincide with the Regiment's Birthday. Watch this space!

(Thank you to Terry Erbs and Allan Harrison for the pics)