



ROOSTER NEWS



4th Sep

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I note with interest Ninno's comment in his article: "Where is the OC and SSM?". Nobody knows, but I am glad CPL Ninness cares. The answer is that I sometimes wonder myself? Keeping both ends (Brisbane and Milikapiti) going has seen us spend more than a few hours in aircraft. I know that some people are looking forward to

spending a few hours in the back of a 'herc', because they know that is what will bring them home.

Speaking of coming home, 1 Tp will return home on **12 Sep**, which is a delay from the 9 Sep, due to availability of RAAF aircraft. I am sorry about that. Main Body will be returning to Brisbane sometime between **27 to 29 Sep** (depending on the RAAF). The Road Party will return home on **9 Oct**.

The work is going extremely well and as you will read, nears completion. Everyone from the Squadron deserves credit, whether they spent 1 or 130 days on the Island. And I know the whole effort could not have been successful without the support of the administrative and logistics staff in Brisbane. I thank everyone for his or her tireless efforts. We continue to have some very high profile visitors, so the message of what we do is getting out to a wider audience.

As we draw a very successful project to a close I'd like to give you a quick glimpse into the future. October will be 'the clean it and fix it' month, while November is a party month, with the big two being the Unit Ball on the 10th and the Parade on the 24th. The Parade will require some hard work, but the celebration of the unit 50th birthday demands a big event.

The Christmas Leave period is 25 Nov 00 to 28 Jan 01.

2001 will see 21 Const Sqn being involved in Exercise Tandem Thrust in Shoalwater Bay in May, and providing a supporting role only to 17 Const Sqn, who will complete a major AACAP task. The new OC will be Major Ian Cumming and the new SSM WO1 Ben White.

Yes the posting cycle is upon us! It comes with the normal round of shocks, anger, disappointment, promotions and happiness. The Squadron is in for a big rotation of people next year.

This will be the final Rooster News of 2000. But before I go, I want you all to know the OC's AACAP 2000 Hit List:

1. Air North for forgetting me and leaving me waving frantically at Milkapiti International Airport.
2. Plant Tp (All of Plant Tp) for trying to get me to sing at the Milikapiti Social Club with

the local band. Thanks to Lieutenant Dave Patterson for rescuing me from a social disaster.

3. Sydney Roosters supporters for simply being Sydney Roosters supporters.

Neil Greet

OC

From the Works Manager:

Well time rolls on. Work continues at a good pace as the temperature rises daily and understandably it is all starting to wear a little bit thin with most of us.

The planties are putting in the yards now as the finish line although a little dim in the distance is within sight. The haze of dust hanging over the community from all the plant movement is starting to settle and some of the end results are becoming very visual. The concrete mattress in the drains has received many and varied comments ranging from looks good, it's not aesthetically pleasing to its rather unattractive. The bottom line is that after much hard work it is in and finished and will do the job it is intended for. The remainder of the civil work is moving along well and with a continued effort the same, as that to date will see this work finished on time.

The satellite dish is up and working well. It was good to be able to watch the rugby league grand final live. This has already proved to be money well spent and will continue to do so. It was quite obvious that all had a good day in their own individual way on grand final day. The camp was extremely quiet on Monday night. General tip to all though, if you're not very sharp with technology, like me, don't play with the remote control.

Visitors have been the flavor since the last edition and they keep on coming. The feedback from these people has been good and it is quite clear that some did not really understand what we are doing here and the complexity of some of the issues that we face. You can take from me that those who didn't understand do now.

The cooks are under pressure at the moment as we are down to two after the recent departures. It should be noted that these two are doing a magnificent job and have even managed to teach the steward to poach eggs. Keep up the good work as it is well appreciated. My waistline remains in shape.

Supervisor transport has arrived on the island. This is an obvious sign that there is movement afoot. Next we see that the ASM is back in town. (Shorter smoko breaks in the workshops from now on.) This makes it even clearer that the planning for the move home is now starting to gain momentum. Everything is still on track here and I am sure the CONSTO will keep everyone up to date on this as I know he is paying close attention to it.

Training Team house is all but complete and the number of students remains fairly good. This to me is a sign that the members of the team have performed well and been able to maintain the interest of the trainees. Well done.

Renovations and new house construction draw to a close. The finish line is well in sight. This work is impressive and all involved with it should go home if nothing else proud of the standard achieved.

This will be my last Rooster News as I soon head home for some long service leave and discharge. I look forward to sleeping in and doing nothing for the day if I am so inclined. I just hope my wife will see it my way.

Keep up the good work for the remainder of this project and in the future.

The Sympathetic Ear

From the Editor....

The job of editor for the Rooster News seems to be something thrown around as quickly as a hot potato and after the new influx of officers (3 x Lieutenant) to Milikapiti, the job has fallen into my capable(???) hands. Mid Project Break has come and gone for all groups and the 'days to go' countdown is coming to an end. Well, for some it is almost here and not a moment too soon. Those returning to Brisbane on 12 Sept will be crossing their fingers for the plane to arrive but as with most dealings with the RAAF, you can never be certain that you will be leaving until you are in the plane and off the ground. Back to the Rooster News. This edition holds stories from all areas like normal and a few on the extra activities that have occurred since the last edition. These include the visit by the QLD Cricketers, the pool party and the Aussie Rules day. I hope this edition finds you all safe and well and enjoy the read.

LT WYER (1 TP COMD)

One Troop sends out a warm hello to all of the families and friends awaiting our arrival

back to Bris-Vegas. If we could send physical warmth back, it would be good, with midday temperatures peaking around 38-40° some days. The overall project is progressing well and our extra 3 days in "paradise" deflated our usually good temperaments quite quickly. BLOODY RAFFIES

Low and behold, Milikapiti has two new houses, one bright blue and one burnt orange - very catching!! To date the New House Crew has kept ahead of schedule but we must be causing Plant Troop some heartache with our site full of their machines. Sorry to all of the plantie spouses as reported in the last RRNews, it is all our fault. I mean our one planty specialist 'Raging Ray Casten' and his one machine, on occasion, would purely disrupt any major scope of works undertaken by a troop of 57 (I think, or is it more?)

To date all visitors have been very impressed by the achievements of 'The Crew' with the amount of guidance they have received (ie.nil because Parso is always at the office). The end date is nearly upon us with painting and a little landscaping to go and SPR Mathiske has so far survived intact. Well done Matty! An excellent achievement if you saw the First Aid Post attendance register from Tonga in 99. The resilience of the crew gains the biggest accolade from the author, no matter what needs to be done there'll be someone there to have a go. With a mixture of experience and youth we usually get it right the first time: -

SPR Pete (Big G) Gardiner - "Hey Sarge, which way does this insulation go in the roof?"

SGT Tony (Go Carlton) Johnston - "Are you guys having a go? Put the wool side up, that's the way it rolls out"

SPR Mark (Grimace) Rhimes -"You sure"

SGT Johnston - " Yep, deadset. Have a go you guys"

Where was Parso? Dunno, not there to ask obviously, did the same trick on AACAP 98! The end result was after putting the roof on we then had to pull it up to turn the insulation over!! BUGGER. Though we've had some minor hitches the houses should be finished about the 5th of September.

RENO 2

At this stage there is only one and not two Renovation Crews. Reno 2 was disbanded on the completion of their fourth house. I think it was because Stevo had a bet with CPL Geoff Woody and the double or nothing wager still stands on the proposed finish dates. I

believe Stevo worked his boys hard, he made them have smoko for over an hour and forty minutes (just for the record) one day. Reno 2 has now split between new house and Reno 1 with those on new house becoming the fencing, landscaping, drainage and rock-pitching gurus. Whilst the unlucky ones are with the other crew.

RENO 1

Reno 1 has had some sweeping changes to its hierarchy with Chris (mohair jumper) Rowe leaving and the mad Scot, Ryan (Jock) Macleod now holding the reins. Jock and his new crew are going great guns with their last house at about 50% when this article was written. The only thing the boys have to worry about is when he gets angry, who is going to be the interpreter? This produces a concern due to his Sean Connery (The Rock) accent. Maybe he needs a Miss Money Penny. Jock is the leader of Reno 1 and yes, he is held responsible for painting the brightest house on the island, a luscious fluro aqua (buy Oakley sunglasses for the thermonuclear protection). Part of his crew is the gay Reno blocklayer that helped on the new houses, when the walls were going up, Josh 'I don't need to go to bed' McNally. He has done well with his blocklaying to date with the construction of two retaining walls to houses 209 and 210, without LCPL Diesel Phair's guiding hand (and tongue for VB). The predominately plumbing qualified crew has done well with the other activities required to produce a good finished product. To all of renovators 1 and 2, you guys rock!

1trooponverandah.jpg (109469 bytes)

1 Tp assembled in front of the Burnt Orange new house

The Head Shed

Ex Longlooks completion saw the loss of CAPT Lumley (bloody pom) and left the administration jobs to SGT Johnston until the arrival of our new troopy, LT Lisa Wyer. SGT Johnston is disappointed at not having to attend the daily conferences now, not! LT Wyer left herself wide open to our tradie humour when after orders in the morning the comment was made

LT Wyer - "Have you anymore for me"

TROOP - "Yes, Where do flies go at night? Etc

Welcome to the troop MA'AM

We have seen a few people move back to Brisbane but an unexpected departure was SPR Luke 'Loose" Scaddan when he posted to 1CER and was called forward so he can

gang up with 1RAR on his deployment to Timor. Good luck Timor, Loose is on his way. The troop purchased a parting gift and he was duly farewelled from the RRI on Melville.

Good luck to those that are staying for Rear Details and extra good luck for those who are going on the 11th. Good work to all the 1 Tp members, an excellent group effort. 13 days and a wakey YES!!! See you all soon in Brissie.

SNOZ AKA CPL Parsons

The Final Curtain

Two Weeks to Go

Well, here I am with just under two weeks to go until I leave the rest of the training team (Tip of the spear, Cream of the crop, Best to be sure) and depart Melville Island with 1 Tp. The seedy reality that confronts we members of the training team (Tip of the spear, Cream of the crop, Best to be sure) has not changed a great deal. Our house is in the final stages with completion due by September 2004. Our trainee members vary greatly, especially on days when concreting is on, something about it being too hard, poor little possums. Our weekend off in Darwin was everything we've come to expect and more with the city's female population still regretting not taking advantage of me in my many states of intoxication. And no, I didn't throw up on the plane. Well, that just about sums up the training team (Tip of the spear, Cream of the crop, Best to be sure) for the last month or so. As this will be my last article for the Rooster News I would like to thank all of my dedicated readers and wish you all the best for AACAP 2001.

See you Later

The Brown Hornet



kidstoys.jpg (100395 bytes)

A training team work of art. A playground for the preschool

PLT / TPT TP COMD REPORT

Once again pen is put to paper to report on the goings on in PLT/TPT TP. Since the last news a lot has happened. A rotation of pers from 21 CONST REGT (Apples is a bit lonely now), and the arrival of pers from 22 CONST REGT (or is it 22 CONST SQN now?). Some soldiers from within the troop have returned to Brisbane due to courses, family and other important issues. The works are progressing well if slowly. We are starting to finish some tasks most notably the pipe laying which should be finished by 1 Sep 00. The revetment mattresses have been completed (weird people the contractors) and the roads are generally at or just past 50%. It is intended to start handing completed works back from the first week in September, with all work on the assigned tasks complete by 23 Sep. The troop will then move into pack up and clean up mode. Most of the guys in the troop will then be returning on the road move. We expect to lose the lads from 17 Const Sqn and 22 Const Regt/Sqn around the 29/30 Sep if everything goes to plan.

Support is still being given to the Tradies although they can not seem to work out how much concrete they need (3 ½ cubes try 6). (It was only 4 cubes— ED) With the coming

departure of the tradies the camp will be a bit quieter and smaller. The guys will be looking forward to this as they are after a bit of extra space to stretch out in. With SPR Tim (Pie-guts) Langbien moving out there will probably be less blokes watching films with him at night and I am sure that some members of the detachment will shed a quiet tear or two. Anyway I hope that all down south are well and I can safely say that everyone is looking forward to coming home.

Captain Richard Peace

From the Victorian Detachment,

Greetings and salutations. Welcome to another day in the Garden of Eden, where the forbidden fruit comes in a brown bottle with a green label. We're from the 39th Engineer Specialist Troop (Yes a chocko troop) part of 22 Const Regt (22 FSB) which is supposedly 21 Consts 'sister' Regt. If so 22 is the sister with the stretch marks, wrinkles and facial hair. 39 EST is located in Newborough approx 150km East of Melbourne. So far the 8 of us have managed to enjoy many tasks during our brief stay. To our list of skills we've added; the art of concreting, Symphonies of formwork, the magic of Batching Ballet and the Enchanting Opera of Culverts (all great classics). As well as a plethora of smaller jobs too numerous to mention.

We all hold similar views on the professionalism and high standard of work ethics of our fellow Island castaways, appreciate their company and look forward to working with you on future tasks.

CPL Harris and the Milikapiti Bitza Crew (aka Dads Army)

drain.jpg (73269 bytes)

Road A with drain and curbing

From Workshops

1. Welcome back for another report from sunny Melville Island
2. As the noise of the rumbling engine coming from the Herc over the skies above Melville, we know that it was time for the members of SQLG Chris (TD) Dare, Kirk Bradshaw, Ben (Johno) Johnson, Nick (Shawry) Shaw, to depart. Leaving with them was Cpl Kevin 'I've got a swan trip' Bishop. The departure of Cfn (hit it with a sledgehammer if it don't fit) Dare had a good point since the stock of towing eyes for fridge trailers are now zero.
3. The new arrivals to the Island are;
 - a. Cpl Dodd, taking over control of GE
 - b. Cfn Finch, heads up the elec section, and
Cfn Weller, steps into Kev's "I've

got a swan trip" boots taking the reins of Vehicle section.

d. Cfn's Andrew Cameron and Tim Reeves replaced the SQLG members.

4. Vehicle section have had their work cut out for them, doing vehicle inspections due to the shift in goal posts or the inability of drivers to reverse without hitting something.

5. GE section are already hard at work with Thio slaving away in the weld bay, while Doddy is working with his fellow 'fitters' repairing a squadron's worth of less than well maintained miscellaneous equipment, eg. Chainsaws, gen-sets etc.

6. Our fearless leader has been busy, fitting golf into his strenuous day's activities with all the other seniors (Tea Room) for a relaxing day....I mean conference.

7. The wrecky mech has been ever so busy with a total of 3 jobs in the 3 months he has been on the island. He has managed to break both of his skidpans and snap a rope. At present he is still running the RRI and doing a good job.

8. The elec fitters, well what can you write about them when you are sitting in the dark as the power has gone out again. Cfn Piter (I'm the boss) Finch has opened up a can of whoop arse on Cfn Richard (Bubba, I'm still on holidays) Kelly trying to rectify all the electrical problems around the camp.

9. While all the other workshop members are getting dirt tans, poor old Cpl Shane Goodman has been working countless hours, both day and night, stuck in his office ordering parts. All the while he is trying to keep the workers out on the floor working and away from his air-conditioned office.

10 Well that's about all from the riveting updates from this lovely little fantasy

island, known to us as Melville. From the members who have been and to those who are presently stuck here, we hope not to return in the near future.

ART ET MARTE

Yes, Cpl M.A.Ninness the intrepid reporter is back from war torn East Timor and is now serving with the HQ element at project Milikapiti. Even though I didn't start this project from the start I am privileged to have the opportunity to help complete a fine task such

as this.

Since arriving work has been non-stop in the HQ element, the medic Pte Balan has been run off his feet literally from his local admirers (not all female either). Yes he has had a couple of occasions to practice his trade of handing out Panadol.

Now that the cookies have lost their illustrious leader Rocky they are now aimlessly cooking cuisine to the diggers delight. Andy (Pandy) the cook had also organized a pool party with the help of Arnie (Balls) the plantie. Unfortunately we did not get to see Andy in his traditional island attire consisting of a lovely couple of coconuts and a grass skirt.

The OC and the SSM are coming and going, are they here or there? they could be anywhere, does anyone know? does anyone care? Yes I care!!!!

Some other people care about the SSM as they kindly decorated his rover in the national colors of red, white and blue (the Sydney Roosters).

The HQ element has also gained a new work experience member (Lt J.Smith in PDs) who has taken over the position as TP Comd under the guidance of the CONSTO. Even though Lt Smith is more attune to playing real football (soccer), the CONSTO has taken him under his wing to teach him Aussie Rules. We hope they don't reach the standard of the Blues.

Apparently Spr Adams the detachment clerk is finding the work a little stressful as she has constantly bad hair days or maybe the air con is just frizzing her hair up. Rumor has it that Spr Adams has a few admirers as she is always faxing and receiving faxes from them.

Well last but not least the hub of the project the **Q's**. On the 11/8/00 the reinforcements were called forward to finish off the job at the most critical time. The team of storemen to undertake this task consists of Sgt Col Vine, Spr Slape and yours truly. The work has been that busy that all three of us have not had time to leave our air-conditioned container. One of the most important jobs thrown my way was to conduct the games at the Sqn Pool Party. Well the tradies won most of the six packs, who was the judge? Oh !!!!! that was me. Now speaking of the pool party, well maybe we shouldn't. No, it was a fun afternoon and everyone had a good laugh.

It is time to sign off from this gripping correspondence as it is time to see the sites of this island paradise. I hope this letter finds everyone at home safe and happy (not long to go now).J J J J J J J

partyrover.jpg (83358 bytes)

The newly decorated SSM's Rover on the morning of the Broncos vs Rooster grand final day

When asking for inclusions in this edition I asked all of the sections to ask for additional articles. These are some of the results - ED

Comments from the Planties

We are finally getting to the last stages of work on Alcatraz. The work has been extremely monotonous and we are now finalising most jobs with touch ups. Some of the work has turned out quite well and with road A (the major road stretch) out of the way, it is surprising to see that some road stretches are progressing quite quickly.

Last weekend was the NRL grandfinal. The boozier was opened at 1200 and the boys pumped down a few drinks before kickoff. The whole day was a great success and some heads were certainly pounding Monday morning.

This weekend will be similar the AFL grand final. There is a pre final match between 21 and the locals. The boys have been training hard and hope to have the fitness to run over them.

Anyway, hopefully all jobs will finish on time and we can soon be with our loved ones.

SPR Travis Garth

My time in the island for the last couple of weeks has been good. I have rotated from road A to B and then to C, so I have been everywhere. I'm working at the carpark now, finding and fixing telecom cables and waterlines so they should call me a tradie soon. The job is going well so that is the main thing. Next week we will be fixing all the roads we have trashed so we can come home in 5 weeks. See you all soon

SPR Simon Snow

It was another successful sports day for 21 Const Sqn. The day consisted of a cricket clinic for the locals in the morning and a game in the afternoon, which integrated the whole squadron. The clinic was scheduled to start at 0900 but it ended up starting at 1000. At 0900 there was one person but by the end the clinic we had about 45 people. We were very fortunate to have help from Andrew Symmons, who has represented Australia, Joe Dores and Scott Preswithch. Of which all three play for the Queensland Bulls. They provided much knowledge that was shown to be very useful later in the day, with the locals putting up a good performance.

The game kicked off at 1400 and consisted of two teams that were both a combination of 21 Const Sqn members and locals. Team 1 was bowled cheaply before the end of their 20 overs on a pitch professionally rolled by plant troop and their SP 56 Roller. Team 1 could then not stop the runs put on by Team 2 with the final result leaving Team 2 coming home to an 11 run win. In the end, the day was enjoyed by all who participated.

Bubba

Sunday 27 Aug 00, the day we decide to have a no holes barred pool party. With Spr Ben Miller, barman for the day, totally unprepared for the 10 hour onslaught (we're talking engineers here). It kicked off with the NRL Grand Final where to the delight of the SSM and a few others, the Broncos somehow managed to beat the roosters. By the end of the game having sat down for a few hours having shouted ourselves hoarse, a few of us were eager to participate in some physical pool challenges devised by Pte "Andy"

Payne, LCpl "Coota" Arnold and Cpl "Neeno" Ninness. A notable mention was the "Walrus Slide", where a team of three would assemble themselves at the top of the water slide in a acrobatic formation and attempt to slide down whilst maintaining their form. With some formations akin to something read in the Karma Sutra, the tradies ran out with the points, in fact they won every pool challenge. With the judging panel consisting of Cpl Ninness suitably attired in a lifesaving uniform with cheek parting speedos and a vocal crowd, the rest of the participants may have felt a little hard done by with what was thought to be inconsistent judging.

As the afternoon wore on, most people were lazing about in and around the pool with the planties performing their amazing beached whale impressions. A BBQ for dinner, cooked by members from each troop gave the cooks a well-deserved break, capped off a great afternoon. Most people kept partying on after dinner and there were certainly a few sore heads the next morning. All in all it was a great day to let your hair down, relieve some stress and pretend we weren't on the island at all.



aacappool.jpg (89905 bytes)

One of the games in progress at the pool party

The day started with the squadron making its way down to Milikapiti oval at 0845. The game kicked off at sometime after 0900 with Sgt Tony Johnston leading his players onto

the field. The boys played a tough match in very hot weather on a very hard ground and some have the grazes to prove it. There were some awards that resulted from the day's play. They were as follows:

Best on Ground - Nigel Lavis

Coaches awards to Spr Adrian Riddle and Spr Clint Maloy

Best Point – Spr Spike Milligan **Best hit** – Spr Clint Maloy on Sgt Tony Johnston,

Best Tackle – Chuck Norris on his opponent

Best Front Rower – Spr Jock Macleod for his ability to incorporate rugby into aussie rules **Best Goal** – Spr Tyson Schneider,

Best soccer player – Cpl Neeno Ninness

Best reefing by the coach – Capt Jason Dennis

A special mention should also go to Mr Fitness, Spr Adrian Riddle for his comments to the sideline 'Take me off Morky'. It was a good effort by the entire team with the extra effort they put in with the training leading up to the game. It was a very well fought match with the locals ending up being victorious. - ED

soccer.jpg (89209 bytes)

Capt Peace and an equal opponent during the Aussie Rules game against the locals

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