



THE FIGHTING FOURTH

4RAR, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC)



Newsletter No 3

17 January 2023

PLANNING UPDATE FOR 4 RAR C COY 2ND TOUR REUNION MAY 2023

Location	Melbourne CBD, Victoria
Venue	Mercure Southbank Hotel – accommodation and functions
Reunion Dates	Confirmed as 8 May 2023 to 11 May 2023

Hello to all fellow Veterans and Partners,

Time is flying by and there is plenty to do to get all the arrangements sorted up front to ensure everything is in place for our 4 RAR C Company (2nd Tour) Reunion to be held commencing Monday 8 May and concluding Thursday 11 May 2023. I know that I don't need to remind anyone how quickly time passes and it is now only a couple of days before Registration Acceptances are due to be submitted on 20 January 2023.

Fortunately some early birds have already submitted their forms and that is greatly appreciated. There is definitely no penalty for making early submissions and it does help to get the overall reunion planning and arrangements advanced. Please support this reunion as hopefully it may provide a foundation for future 4 RAR C Coy 2nd Tour reunions.

1. Reunion Hotel selected is Mercure Southbank Hotel

Out of 14 Hotels requested to provide accommodation and Reunion facilities, Mercure Southbank Hotel located in close proximity to Melbourne CBD has been selected as the most suitable and is also a reasonably priced hotel. There are some cheaper hotels, however only 4 of those approached have the desired facilities to support a reunion.

Mercure Southbank Hotel price for 3 night stay (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night) is \$175 x3 = \$525 for 1 person that includes breakfast and an additional \$75 for breakfast for a partner for the same period (total \$600 for 2 persons). Overall Mercure Southbank offered the best deal for our reunion and was approximately \$40 to \$70 cheaper per night per room than any of their competitors. Note that there is always an option for 2 single Veterans to share a room to further reduce costs (just like we did with 4 per room 53 years ago).

For those flying in to Melbourne Airport, there is a shuttle bus that does regular trips to the Spencer St bus terminal and return. Mercure Southbank is close to Melbourne CBD and is located approximately 800 metres from the Spencer St bus terminal.

At present it is too early to make bookings and payment at Mercure Southbank for our reunion. Mercure are preparing documentation for our reunion Group Booking and will issue a code to be used for booking accommodation purposes.

To be used when we do make our accommodation bookings individually. Personally I will wait until early March prior to making my booking at Mercure Southbank.



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2. Phillip Island RSL and Vietnam War Memorial Visit

The visit to Phillip Island is taking shape.

Contact has been made with Phillip Island RSL and I am advised the PI RSL are looking forward to the 4 RAR C Coy Reunion attendance at their Bistro restaurant for lunch on Wednesday 10 May 2023. Lunch is available between 12 noon and 2 pm.

A request has been made to obtain their lunch Menu and pricing details which is confirmed in the email attached to this newsletter. When I looked at the PI RSL website, I noticed they were advertising for dish washers in their positions vacant section. I am not applying for one of those positions, however could consider a bar service vacancy in their Bistro. Yes, alcohol is available for those would like a drop or two with their lunch!

3. Schedule Activity Confirmation - no significant changes

Key items for the updated schedule of dates and activities are outlined below.

Dates for start and finish and logic:

- a) Proposed Meet and Greet
- b) Guest speaker – pre dinner event
- c) C Company Dinner - Mercure
- d) Visit to Phillip Island VV memorial
- e) Final Reunion Day

Proposed timing:

- Day 1: Monday, 8 May 2023 – 1600 to 1800 hours
Day 2 : Tuesday 9 May 2023 at Mercure 17.00 hrs
Day 2: Tuesday 9 May 2023 – 18.00 to 21.00 hours
Day 3: Wed, 10 May 2023 depart Mercure 0830
Day 4: Thursday, 11 May 2023 Closing meeting 1000

4. Roll Call – still looking for former comrades

If other names and/or contact details are known for existing listed and/or additional 4 RAR 2nd Tour members, please forward details to Dennis Kelly and Jim Flower. There are quite a number of comrades whose whereabouts are unknown and there are also an increasing number who have passed away over the years.

5. Bank Account Establishment and Reunion Registration Fee

Recent discussions with previous reunion organisers have indicated it would be wise to establish a temporary bank account to manage incoming and outgoing monies to pay for items such as name tags, bus booking deposits, Museum entry and miscellaneous sundry expenses. The account to be established with Westpac Banking will be named “4 RAR C Coy 2023 Reunion Account”. From previous reunion experience, normally an amount of \$40 per reunion attending person is adequate to cover the sundry expenses. A major advantage of setting up the account is it provides an indisputable record of deposits and outgoing money amounts and it also makes life a whole lot easier at the Meet and Greet and following functions. Any surplus funds from the \$40 registration fee will be returned to attendees or put into a free raffle winner take all at the conclusion of the 2023 Reunion. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter after the bank account has been established.



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6. Concluding Comments

The prime purpose remains making contact, meeting up again, helping each other, having a laugh, enjoying each other's company, and remembering comrades and their families who paid the ultimate price for our country.

"Lest we forget".

"Stay Safe", "Stay Healthy" and above all "Stay Loose"

Best regards

Dennis Kelly - 0407830516,

Jim Flower - 0409968154

The next Reunion Newsletter is planned for issue in early February 2023