

Book now for our November reunion visiting SME and SOER



It's time to gather the clan and let the Rats loose for our next gathering. We're planning a huge get-together centred around Holsworthy NSW, including an official visit to the new School of Military Engineering (SME) and an official visit to the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER).

The big 2017 event is taking place over the period 21-24 November, so mark the dates in your diary.

Apart from those who live close enough to Holsworthy to drive there each day, the preference is for us all to stay in the Holiday Inn Warwick Farm. If we're all in the one hotel it is really convenient for bus transport to and from the base, plus it's great fun to all be together over breakfast and to enjoy a few ales in the afternoon. Adjoining the Holiday Inn is a great suburban pub, The Warwick Tavern which has a variety of bars and restaurants.

The Holiday Inn has recently been renovated and we've negotiated a good room rate. If you do prefer to stay somewhere else close by, that's no problem but choose a place which is nearby Holiday Inn and en-route to Holsworthy



The Holiday Inn Warwick Farm

or you may need to make your own way to the Holiday Inn for bus pick-ups.

The room rate for the Holiday Inn is \$179 per night including a full buffet breakfast each day for one or two guests in the room. Details on how to book the hotel are on page 16.

Also on page 16 is the booking form for the reunion.

If you are joining us on the reunion, please complete and send us the booking form as soon as possible so that we know how many people we need to allow for, and most importantly so that we can arrange entry to the bases for you. Se-

curity arrangements have tightened over the last year. Please be aware that if you turn up at the bases without us previously organising access for you, the staff at the gates won't let you in. Providing us with your email address is also important as there will be various communications required between us before the event.

We will have a reunion dinner on the Thursday night, and this is the only cost item (\$85) for us all on the booking form. All Tunnel Rats who served with 3 Field Troop or 1, 2 or 3 Troop of 1 Field Squadron are welcome on the reun-



SOER Sappers and 'beaucoup boom boom'

ion, as of course are all former SSM's and OC's of 1 Field Squadron. As our activities are centred around visits to Army base camps we've made this a blokes only reunion.

The itinerary for the four days will be as follows;

Tuesday 21 November

1600h Registration and welcome drinks at the Holiday Inn (drinks at our own cost). Groups of mates will likely drift off for dinner at various venues, but keep yourself in good shape for a big day tomorrow.

Wednesday 22 November

We will be picked up by bus at the Holiday Inn for our full day visit to the School of Military Engineering at Holsworthy, including:

- *A tour of the base highlights including the accommodation and facilities the Sappers enjoy today.

- *Demonstrations by the Sappers of their skills and their extraordinary equipment.

- *A tour of the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering, a world class museum superbly presenting the rich



The Chapel at SME

history of the Corps in conflicts from the Boer War to today.

- *A remembrance ceremony at the RAE Vietnam Memorial at SME to honour our 35 Tunnel Rats killed in action in Vietnam.

- *Plus a get-together with current serving Sappers to chat about being Sappers half a century apart!

Then we'll be dropped off back at the Holiday Inn, perhaps to enjoy a few beers before groups of mates drift off to dinner at various venues.

Thursday 23 November

We will be picked up by bus at the Holiday Inn for our full day visit to the Special Operations Engineer Regiment at Holsworthy (SOER), including:

- *A tour of the base highlights plus demonstrations by SOER Sappers of their skills and their amazing equipment, much of it highly classified.

- *We will meet some of their amazing EDD dogs (bomb sniffing dogs) and their equally amazing handlers.

- *A visit to the range where we'll experience some of the exotic SOER weaponry

- *And (hopefully) a visit to the incredible Special Operations Training Centre, a place few people know even exists.

- *Plus a get-together with the SOER Sappers to swap stories and get to know these exceptional soldiers.

Then we'll be dropped off back at the Holiday Inn to get ready for our big dinner.

Thursday - Reunion Dinner

At 1830h we will have our reunion dinner in the 'Estate' function room at the Holiday

Inn. The dinner cost is \$85 for three courses including non-alcoholic drinks. Any beers, wines or mixed drinks will be at our own cost from a cash bar in the function room. Dress is jacket and tie with medals (miniatures or full size).

At the main dinner we'll have allocated tables and seating. We realise that you want to sit with your Troop mates, so on the booking form you have the opportunity to specify where you want to sit in terms of your Troop and your year of service (we'll do the best we can to meet your request).

Friday 24 November

Time to head home, though

How to book your room at Holiday Inn Warwick Farm

Email: reservations@holidayinnwarwickfarm.com.au

Mention your booking is part of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Reunion. State whether you want a Single Room or a Twin Share Room. Mention you are staying 3 nights, checking in 21 Nov - checking out 24 Nov (unless you are staying an extra night for the Sapper's lazy lunch and checking out on 25 Nov). The hotel will email you back with the costs and method of payment.

IMPORTANT: Book your room before 31st August because after that date the room rates will increase

there will be a long lazy Sappers lunch at the Warwick Tavern for those who wish to extend. You may want to book an extra night at the Holiday Inn if you are partaking in the long lazy lunch.

What you need to do

1: Fill in the booking form below and post it to us now.

2: Book your room at the Holiday Inn Warwick Farm by following the instructions in the panel above (save by booking before 31st August as the room rate will increase after that date).

3: Contact your troop mates and get them to come along to the reunion as well.

BOOKING FORM FOR TUNNEL RATS REUNION, HOLSWORTHY NSW – NOV 21-24 2017

First name:	Family name:
Address:	
Email Address:	
Mobile number:	Phone number:
Preferred name or nickname: (If you leave this blank your first name will appear on your Reunion card)	
Vietnam Unit/s served with – please tick and fill in date details below	
<input type="radio"/> 3 Field Troop -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
<input type="radio"/> 1 Troop 1 Fld Sqn -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
<input type="radio"/> 2 Troop 1 Fld Sqn -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
<input type="radio"/> 3 Troop 1 Fld Sqn -	From (month/year) Till (month/year)
At the Reunion Dinner I want to sit at the following table (tick Troop and tick year):	
<input type="radio"/> 3 Fld Tp <input type="radio"/> 1 Tp 1 Fld Sqn <input type="radio"/> 2 Tp 1 Fld Sqn <input type="radio"/> 3 Tp 1 Fld Sqn	
<input type="radio"/> 1965/66 <input type="radio"/> 1966/67 <input type="radio"/> 1967/68 <input type="radio"/> 1968/69 <input type="radio"/> 1969/1970 <input type="radio"/> 1970/71 <input type="radio"/> 1971/72	
<input type="radio"/> I am paying now for the Reunion Dinner at \$85	
PAYMENT DETAILS	
Tick method of payment:	
<input type="radio"/> Cheque or Postal Order (make payable to "Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association) Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142	
<input type="radio"/> Credit card (your card statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics) Tick which type of card you wish to use: <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Master Card Card Number: Name on card: Expiry date: Post to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142 Or email to: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com	
<input type="radio"/> Direct Bank Deposit (email us confirmation when you have made the deposit) Name of bank: Commonwealth Bank Account name: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association BSB number: 063165 Account number: 10494523	