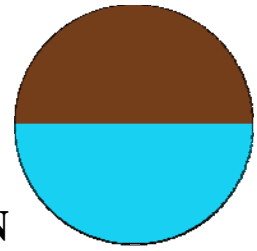




# THE PORTON POST

## NEWSLETTER OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION ASSOCIATION



### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of the new Association newsletter. It is my hope to produce this a couple of times a year in order to keep members up to date with what's happening in the Battalion. Of course we'll need some assistance so the position of Editor is vacant and if anyone is interested please give me a call.

### AGM

A strong turn out of members at the AGM which was held at Porton Barracks. It was good to return to the home of the Battalion and the presentation by LT COL Cox, CO 51 FNQR provided members with an update on the unit and what it has been doing. LT COL Cox also provided his thoughts on how the Association could support the Battalion and indicated his strong support.

### NEW COMMITTEE

The AGM elected new members to the committee. MAJ Kevin Waring was elected President, Trish Nemani Secretary and either Trevor Keeling or Craig Armstrong will be Treasurer. John Hardy remains the Tableland contact and Alan Woodnut has stepped up to be Innisfail contact as Bob Davis is off travelling. BJ Price has stepped up to the crease as the webmaster. Contact details for everyone will be posted on the web site. Many thanks to Duncan Walker and Les Beck for keeping the association alive for the last couple of years.

### MEET THE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

MAJ Kevin Waring enlisted in Atherton in February 1983 as a Private and has served in Atherton, Innisfail and Cairns. During his time as a soldier he saw the unit transform from an Independent Rifle Company to the

raising of it as Regional Surveillance Force Unit (RFSU). Commissioned as 2LT in 1992, he has been a platoon commander in A Coy, Recruiting and Enlistment officer in Admin Coy, Operations Officer in A Coy and is currently Officer Commanding Operational Support Company. Apart from the necessary stints at Training Group as a student, he has spent his entire career in the Battalion. In his civilian life he is a Business Banking Manager with Suncorp in Cairns and is married to Andrea. He has two children, Chelsea and Keelan.

MAJ Kevin Waring at Rocky Creek Memorial with Bn plaque.

### SECRETARY

SGT Trish Nemani enrolled in the Army in 1981 as a Pay Clerk with 1 CDO Regt until 1986. She then transferred to 1/19 RNSWR and was employed on full time service as the Bn Pay Sgt until 1990. In 1990 – 1991 Trish was involved in the AUSMIS Pay set up and trials based in Canberra. Trish then moved to Far North Qld, transferred across to the 51st Bn and is currently attached to Training Company. In her civilian life Trish is employed with the Department of Education as the Program Manager for District Youth Achievement Plans. She has two children (twins) with her partner Paul (Blu) Russell.

### WEB SITE

BJ Price from Bartle Frere has volunteered to establish a web site for the Association and has quickly done so. The site is [www.51fnqra.com](http://www.51fnqra.com) and is active at present. Please send him any photos and information

you may have to load on the gallery. We will develop this site over coming months so keep watching.

We have already had our first hit on the web site with a communication from Mrs Dianne Pring who is the daughter of Malcolm David Bingham who was in the 31st/51st FNQ Battalion during WWII. Mrs Pring and her family traveled to Cairns in early December and visited the barracks. A tour of the barracks and some information as the current status of the battalion was gratefully received.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

As we are into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, almost everyone has an email address. One of the biggest complaints at the AGM was "I never hear from you except when its time to pay my \$5". Well let's fix that, send us your email address. Not only will that help us stay in touch, it will also make life easier with the ultimate aim being to cut down on the manual posting process presently being used.

What we would also like to do is construct an electronic data base of all members details including their service history. This will allow us to preserve your details and allow the smooth transition of new committee members. The website a proforma application with the data we will be seeking. I know we have all provided this information before, but once we have saved it on the web site, we can save it forever.

In the meantime, please send your email address to [kwaring@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kwaring@bigpond.net.au) and

[webmaster@51fnqra.com](mailto:webmaster@51fnqra.com). A simple message with your full name in the subject line is all that is initially required.

### **SOCIAL CALANDER**

ANZAC Day – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. As usual the battalion will be represented at ANZAC Day events across Far North Queensland. Following the various parades all members and their families are invited to join current serving members of the Battalion at Porton Barracks commencing at 1200 hrs until mid afternoon.

Battalion Ball – Saturday 19 July, This year the Battalion is holding a Ball at the Cairns International – now SEBEL, at a cost of \$95.00 per head. A three course meal and drinks package is included and the SEBEL is also offering an accommodation package. When booking tell them you are from 51 FNQR.

Battle of Australia – September 2009. This year marks the Xth anniversary of the Battle for Australia and the Battalion will be involved with the Cairns RSL in services commemorating this. The Battalion also plans to launch the first stage of the commemorative walk on the same weekend and this would be an appropriate time to hold the AGM. Should be a great weekend, so mark your planners.

That's all for this edition, the next edition will be out sometime in mid 2009, in the meantime if you have any suggestions please fell free to drop me a line.