



***17 Construction Squadron Workshop
Vietnam Association***



PRESIDENT

George Jones AM
Mobile: 0412 949 250
Email:

connemarainvestments@yahoo.com.au

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Garry (Snow) Whykes
33 Kanimbla Way
Morley WA 6062
Phone: 08 92761920
Mobile: 0411 810 077
email: 17wksp@gmail.com

WEB SITE

www.17construction.org.au

PATRON

George Jones AM

The Mayor
Dennis Wellington
PO Box 484
Albany WA
6331

15 January 2019

Dear Mayor Wellington

I am writing to you with a request from the members of ***17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association*** for the council to confer upon this association in perpetuity, the privilege, honour and distinction of the freedom of the City of Albany with the right of entry on ceremonial occasions in full panoply.

I believe that such a request is not unprecedented. Therefore I will give you a brief history of our unit's service in Vietnam and some details of our association.

Firstly, may I say that at our last reunion held in Maroochydore, Queensland, we chose Albany, WA, as our next reunion city because of its steep military history as well as the fact that many of our members had heard so much about Albany but most had never had the opportunity to visit.

Our unit, ***17 Construction Squadron Workshop***, arrived in South Vietnam on the 7th April 1966 and departed on the 25th November 1971. During that period 370 soldiers served with the unit. Most were tradesmen with the support of trade Engineers, Catering corps and Ordnance soldiers in support of the tradesmen. The unit was made up of Regular Soldiers and National Servicemen.

The task of the unit was to support ***17 Construction Squadron Engineers*** in their fields of road construction, the erection and maintenance of buildings, the operation of a quarry and later, in 1968, the operations of the Land Clearing Team. This unit was also instrumental in the reconstruction of Highway One, a major traffic rout in South Vietnam.

Our Association was formed in 1987, when a large contingency of our unit attended the “*Welcome Home Parade*” in Sydney. Thus began an association that has continued to grow ever since. Albany will be our twelfth reunion since our inception.

Our Albany reunion will be held over the week of 14th ‘til 18th October 2019 bringing into your fine city approximately one hundred and thirty veterans and partners, most will spend at least a week touring the sights of Albany. It is a significant effort and cost to bring so many people from all over Australia to Albany, however - there was no hesitation by any member, each and every one is excited about Albany.

At each of our reunions, we hold a relatively short parade and service where we parade our banner, lay a wreath and hold a commemorative service to honour our military service men and women. Generally this is held at a significantly military/memorial site. This year our parade and service will be take place at the ANZAC Peace park. Wednesday 16th October is the date scheduled for our Albany parade and service and we would consider it an absolute privilege to be granted “*Entry to the City of Albany*” as part of our activities. We will be inviting the local schools, Albany war veterans and the general public to attend.

It is with the utmost sincerity that I ask you to give our request consideration as such a privilege in a wonderful city with significant military history would make our members a very proud group indeed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the assistance that you and your Events Team have given me so for.

I look forward to your reply.

Thanking you in advance.

Arte et Mart

Garry (Snow) Whykes

Secretary/Treasurer