

“Vindi” Reunion 2004

The call went out, some months ago,
For “Vindi” boys to gather,
“We’ll swing the lamp still yet again,
And have a real good “Blather”.

They came from far off Britain,
And Aussie’s sun drenched shore,
This year, fair Napier was the host,
In A-O-TE-A-ROA.

Rumour has it ,some arrived,
In a Pacific dug-out canoe,
The ‘Chief Mates’ umbrella was mentioned,
Along with, a camel or two.

The venue, held at the ‘Cosi’ club,
Within easy reach by car,
Friday night, was “ kick off time “,
To mingle, and have a “Jar”.

All hands “signed on”, for the three day trip,
Every man, from the “School of hard knocks”,
Soon “steam guys” and “Jumbo’s” were flying,
Gallons of sea water, “wrung out of socks”.

Over two hundred, sat down to enjoy,
Old shipmates, and times long ago,
When the “Vindi” embraced them as raw, young, fresh lads,
To train in the rain, sun, or snow.

U.K. accents were strong and precise,
Tales of, hurricane, capsized and wreck,
If your mind slipped back, a number of years,
You’d think t’was the “Vindi’s” mess deck.

Our visitors toured the vineyards,
And Napier’s memorable harbour,
The spectacular view on top of Bluff Hill,
Made the lump in the throat, that much harder.

Quite a few ‘shanties’ and ‘ditties’ were heard,
From around our “Nautical” table,
Shaw Savill, Baron Line and Ben boats, as such,
With fathoms of ‘rusty old cable’.

On Sunday it was the children’s turn,
To put on their cultural show,
A nice touch for the visitors,
Something different, to cherish and grow.

I never heard of one complaint,
All went, according to plan,
The Organisers..... Should take a bow,
For smoothness, flair, and e'lan.

Before the Discharge-Books were all stamped,
One last Address had to be made,
Summoning all "Vindi" boys, to "man the boats",
Next year in Adelaide.

by Jim Morrison.