

2nd ANZ Vindi Reunion Nambucca Heads 2002

As the sun slowly slipped over the horizon on Sunday night there was a big sigh as the biggest ever meeting of Vindi boys in the Southern Hemisphere was over. For me it was one of life's luxuries to have been part of history, meeting un-met email friends and bathing in the camaraderie of such a close knit family of Vindi boys and partners. The laughter and joviality of the proceedings was tremendous. Many, many thanks go to the affable "Top Hatted" Bosun Rob Lynde who worked his butt off for this occasion as the camp organizer, as all would have well noticed. Queensland's inimitable, indomitable Fred Joughin as MC did a wonderful job of keeping all in order and entertaining the troops in his usual manner. Thanks mates we could not have done without you.

As was planned we all met up at the Nambucca Bowls Club on the Friday evening to register and receive name tags for easy identification. A few jars or three and eats was the order of the day and catch up with old and new friends. The place was packed to the rafters with Vindi boys and bowlers, to park one had to just about go back to the Foreshore Caravan Park, which was a mile or so down the road. The evening culminating in a huge door prize draw of many gifts set the scene.

Saturday was to be a full on day of morning competitions of Cribbage, Darts, Horseshoe Quoits, a Nautical Hat Parade for the ladies and an afternoon of entertainment with the musical group Kut Loose. And full on it was in the tents erected by the Army with seating and tables for 140, strategically sited on the bank of the crystal clear Nambucca River within the "Foreshore Caravan Park" hosted by Jan and Arthur Brown ex MN. We sang, they sung, we were told jokes and told some very tall tales, which I won't repeat. We laughed with tears running down our eyes, we talked and we laughed some more and we had a blooming good time. It was a beautiful clear day with blue sky and with a gentle breeze across the water, which increased as the day grew longer.

The evening saw us washed, polished and resplendent in Vindi garb for the formal dinner, held in the magnificent staged auditorium of the Nambucca Bowls Club. The stunning tables artfully decorated in Vindi and naval themes by Terry Hales seating all the lads, partners and distinguished guests. After a wonderful meal and several glasses of Yalumba wine the evening fun started with the speeches and the reading of the kind wishes for our reunion from many Vindicatrix Association from around the World. Gordon Solomon MN (Red Ensign Magazine) stated in full sincerity that it was the best-structured reunion he had ever been to and did that go down well. "Kut Loose" were again on hand to serenade us, not to mention the Rock n Roll, Maceranium, Hoker Cokey and a good old Chicken Dance mixed in with Waltzes on the very popular dance floor. One of the highlights was an Elvis Presley impersonation (the King Lives) by one of our multi talented band members. Karaoke was a big hit as well with many Vindi lads taking part.

At midnight the close of our dinner we all (100 players and stayers left) joined hands on the large dance floor as is the fashion to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' with twinkling of tears in every ones eyes,. it was all very moving.

A free morning on Sunday for folks to do as they wished, walk, play golf or going to Church etc. Convening again at the tents for a BBQ lunch prepared and cooked by the Lions Club (the steak melted in the mouth). More merriment in the guise of Nautical Trivia for the ladies and a Household quiz for the lads. More story telling jokes and prize giving saw the afternoon quickly pass.

Meeting email friends of some time was a special occasion for me and I think for many others as well. The camaraderie of all who attended was somethin^g really great, history' was made over the weekend with the biggest ever meeting of Vindi boys in the Southern Hemisphere. The closing words of "We may well equal this weekend, but we will never better it" epitomize our ²^d ANZ Vindicatrix Reunion.

I'm sorry its over, now just a memory. The venue and weather could not have been better and am sure many will return to Nambucca Heads in future holidays to re-savour what was once a wonderful memorable weekend in a beautiful setting that could not be faulted.

A note of regret of time running out and not seeing and hearing the NSW skiffle band and the host of poets on hand to let loose their cultured magic.

To note some of the memorable characters that spring to mind not already mentioned sorry if I have left someone out and not in meritorious order is: Bubbly (She Knows you Know) Thora Squib, Colourful Vic Rother, Talented singers Mike Taylor, David Partridge and Rob Davis, Entertainers Tom Billingsly and Bill Robinson, Joker Allan Burrows, Orator Tony Iles, Cyclists extraordinary Bill & Julia Young. The Hat winner Shirley Davis, Scottish musicians Doug Duxbury and Elizabeth Findlay, Speakers Terry Hales, Brian Hunt, Gordon Solomon, Prayer reader Gordon Cohen, Crib Champion Ernie Houston, Traveler Jim Lloyd UK, Bus Driver Jack Seeker and Organiser Extraordinaire Pam Lynde.

Bill Davis