

Class of 65 Newsletter **Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65**

Issue/Numéro 81



February/février 2015

Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based primarily on inputs from members of the Class of 65. It is not an official publication of the Royal Military College nor does it purport to represent the views or opinions of all members of the Class. Unfortunately, the Editorial staff lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version. Items are published in the official language in which they are received.

Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Once again, I must start off this issue with news of the passing of another classmate. This sad news is offset somewhat by the reintroduction of a couple of previously “lost” classmates who are welcomed back into the fold.

Jim Carruthers has provided some interesting statistics on the Class donations to the RMC Foundation.

He also provides news of a new appointment for one of our TEA winners.

We have re-printed a previous “heads up” on the upcoming Reunion and expect to be able to provide more specific details in the next Issue.

Marc Jetté reports on some recent books of interest.

This Issue contains the conclusion to **Gary Running's** Australian saga.

Finally, **Terry Colfer** reports on a recent snowbird get-together in the sunny climes of Florida.

6504 Jean Morin (1943-2014)

Gaetan Dextras passed along the following belated information regarding the death of classmate **6504 Jean Morin**.

J'ai le regret de vous annoncer le décès, le 31 décembre 2014, de notre très apprécié confrère 6504 Jean Morin (Cartier 3 en 60/61, Marine) suite à une longue maladie. Il a été malade pendant 8 années dont les derniers 30 mois en CHLSD. Une liturgie de la Parole sera célébrée à 17h le 18 janvier 2015 suivie d'un hommage à sa vie à la Coopérative funéraire des Laurentides à Prévost.





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6418 Stewart Bacon

I received the following from old classmate and good friend **Stew Bacon**, who I had not heard from since 1963.

“I often wonder what happened to you, Hugh Spence and some of our other colleagues from CMR. I do see **Bob Atkinson** and **Peter Dedicik**, as we all live in the Eastern Townships in and around, Knowlton, Quebec ... and over the years have run into several classmates through work.

Recently, Georges Wilson was attempting to get a few of us together but, alas, it proved to difficult to orchestrate this time around.

I did spend some time last night on the website and enjoying catching up on the news and whereabouts of some of our classmates.

I am now retired but still active as the chair of Purolator’s Board of Directors. This keeps me connected to the world of business and to many of my former colleagues at Canada Post where I worked for the last 15 years of my career.”



6425 Richard Phillips

We received the following update from **Richard Phillips**, another “lost” CMR Classmate.

“I eventually ended up in the COTC at UBC and doing three summers training: Phase 1 RCE; Phase 2 RCAC; and a third summer on “special duties”. Transferred to the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) in Vancouver around 1964-65—left in 1974 to teach up in northern BC for a time.

Followed by two years as a CUSO volunteer teacher in Papua New Guinea with my wife Sandra and our 2-year old son.

Recalled from sup list to be adjutant of the Canadian Scottish Regiment while teaching here in Victoria during the early 1980s.

Spent 15 years as an Industrial Training consultant for a Toronto firm—moving from province to province and a few US States plus a year in Indonesia (Kalimantan). Kept a foot on the ground here in BC while frequently moving the family from project to project.





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6343 Ian Wilson

And the following from another CMR Classmate of whom we had lost sight:

“Greetings from Abu Dhabi.

I am honoured to be included in these mailings though I left CMR after prep and first year to pursue my interests in history and research. But reading the names on the list back memories, most of them pleasant of shared experiences at St. Jean and of summer cruises to the Caribbean and off the West Coast.

One classmate whom I kept in touch with for a few years was William MacTavish who was in the room across from me in Cartier Squadron. He grew bored with college life and resigned to join the US Army. I seem to recall that the last address I had from him was with the 101st Airborne in Viet Nam. My final letters to him were eventually returned as “recipient unknown”. His name is not on the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington so I assume he came through. If any of our classmates have connections with the US Army, perhaps they may have some means of tracing him.



My home is back in Ottawa ... but my wife and I are currently residing in Abu Dhabi as I am advising the UAE government on the development of their National Archives. We have been here for about a year and will spend most of 2015 here, escaping the winter again. I regret that I will not be able to make it for the September

Donation Statistics

The following is a summary of the donations made by the Class of 65 to the RMC Foundation over the past two years. In both years the Class was the second largest donator after the Class of 66. Those two classes make up almost 24% of all donations to the Foundation.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Donations	\$1,774,594	\$1,792,724
Number of Donors	134	135
Average Donation	\$13,343	\$13,279
Total All Classes	\$18,020,020	\$18,995,372

As with most things the Class of 65 stands out as one of the strongest supporters of the College, not just in today's terms, but over the long, illustrious history of the Royal Military College of Canada.



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New Appointment for Dr. Nikolas Gardner

The Class of 65 congratulates Dr. Nikolas Gardner on his recent appointment as Chair of War Studies at the Royal Military College. Dr. Gardner was the 2010 recipient of the Class of 1965 Professorship in Leadership.

Mark your calendar!/Inscrire à votre agenda!

2015 Reunion – 50th Anniversary of graduation RMC Ex-Cadet Weekend, Kingston, September 24-27

Stand by for further news on planned activities, hotels, costs, suggested apparel, Old Brigade matters, *etc.*

The “program” will be similar to that of our 45th reunion in 2010 at which we had a record attendance of over 90 classmates and nearly 170 including “better halves” for the major Class events.

If you’ve never been to an RMC reunion weekend and would like a sort of “retro-preview” of this one, suggest you read Mike Braham’s excellent article in the Class Newsletter, Edition 30, October 2010. [Go to Class website www.rmc65.ca/, find *Class Newsletter, Archives* and click on that edition.]

Remember, if you entered CMR, RR or RMC in the early 60s, and ultimately expected to finish in 1965, then you are a member of the Class whether you graduated or not.

This is a really big one, fellas; hope to see you there.

Quick questions? hjm.spence@rogers.com

Réunion de 2015 – 50^e anniversaire de la promotion Weekend de rencontre, Kingston, 24-27 septembre

Tenir à d’autres nouvelles qui s’en viennent sur nos plans, hôtels, coûts, habillement suggéré, événements de la Vieille Brigade, *etc.*

Le “programme” va ressembler à celui de notre 45^e réunion en 2010, où la participation a été formidable: plus de 90 membres de la Classe et presque 170 en total, les conjointes incluses.

Jamais assisté à une réunion de notre Classe? Pour se faire une idée de l’atmosphère et des expériences, voir le compte-rendu écrit par Mike Braham à la fin de notre dernière rencontre en 2010. [Visiter le site www.rmc65.ca/, *Bulletin de la Classe, Archives 2010* – édition n° 30.]

Noter: tous ceux qui sont entrés au CMR, RR ou RMC au début des années 60, en prévision d’obtenir finalement leur diplôme en 1965, sont membres de la Classe, diplômé ou non.

Réunion 2015 -- C’est vraiment un grand, les gars; j’espère vous y voir.

Des questions préliminaires?
hjm.spence@rogers.com



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Book Reviews by 6380 Marc Jetté

Marc has provided the two brief reviews of books that he thinks might be of interest.

The Shock Doctrine - (The Rise of Disaster Capitalism) - by Naomi Kline. Kline is a Canadian author and social activist known for her political analysis and criticism of corporate globalization and corporate capitalism and government cronyism. This is a New York Times Best Seller. Comment by John le Carré – “Impassioned, hugely informative, wonderfully controversial, and scary as hell”. Explodes the myth that the global free market triumphed democratically. Shows how the disaster capitalism theory developed by the University of Chicago’s Economics Department led to “shock and awe” and “shock therapy” “strategies being used in a number of countries including Chile, Iraq, Argentina, USA ,etc . A great read for those interested in politics, leadership, economics, history, diplomacy, corporate executives, and the military.

It’s Your Ship – by Captain Michael Abrashoff, USN. This is another Wall Street and New York Times Best Seller. He is a graduate of Annapolis. Now a motivational speaker and writer on leadership and management. Puts into practice a leadership process replacing command and control with commitment and cohesion. It is an entertaining, easily read, book using real life experiences and anecdotes aboard the USS *Benfold*. A good read for naval officers and business managers. You probably lived similar situations yourselves

RMC '65ers Lunch @ Tommy Bahama's, Sarasota, FL by 6523 Terry Colfer

The Holmans, Hilliards and Colfers had an enjoyable meal at Tommy Bahama's Restaurant in Sarasota today during which time they managed to resolve most of the geopolitical challenges currently facing the planet. The Diamonds were supposed to be present but unfortunately Gord was on 'sick parade'.

A number of the class wintering in the Tampa, Sarasota, Venice, Ft Meyers area are planning a get together on 25 Feb.





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Drought, Fire and Flood or Wild Boars, Cassowarys and Cyclones (Part 2) by 6567 Gary Running

Up until this point we hadn't seen a drop of rain since arriving in Australia. Day 12 of our motorcycle trip was going to change all that. The days plan was to head south out of Grafton and then swing south west and cross



Ebor Falls, Cathedral National Park

back over the Great Dividing Range this time from east to west through Clouds Creek State Forest and then on Waterfall Way past Ebor Falls through Cathedral Rock National Park to Armidale. I mentioned earlier one of the objectives of the trip was to find twisty turnys to ride on. Well we did this day, but we also found rain, and roads under construction, so the enjoyment level wasn't quite what it might otherwise have been. Still fun, especially the side trip to Ebor Falls, and we certainly didn't have to worry about forest fires any more. We arrived mid afternoon and after getting out of damp motorcycle gear went to the local museum/art galley. Very well done,

if ever you are in Armidale, don't miss it. Armidale is a university town, with many heritage listed buildings. It is also proud of the fact that it is Australia's highest city.

Leaving town the next day we took the New England Hwy south as far as Willow tree, before heading cross country to Merriwa where we stayed the night. We were now back to the very top end of the Hunter Valley. Pretty hard to go to far wrong if you order the house red with your supper.

The next morning we followed back roads generally west and south towards Mudgee. The first hour and a half riding was again through a very pleasant landscape. However as we approached Mudgee from the north east, we came across not 1 but 2 of the largest open pit coal mines I have ever seen. Mystery solved about the origin of the "coal to Newcastle train" we saw in Singleton a week or so previously. After lunch in Mudgee (the town where Henry Lawson grew up, for the possible interest of any English majors out there), we again followed back roads, this time to Kandos. Kandos is a pleasant small town on the western slope of the Blue Mountains. Late afternoon we walked around the town and then had a coffee at the local train station/coffee shop. The train schedule is quite unique. One return trip from and back to Sydney each year in December. However the December 2013 trip had to be cancelled, because of forest fires.

The next day was our last day on the bike. Back across the Blue Mountains from west to east taking the Bells Line of Road from Lithgow to Windsor. Another great motorcycle road, but because of the relative closeness to Sydney, it is becoming very busy. We arrived back at Tony and Rachel's place in the early afternoon, and this time, after returning to their place after a long motorcycle trip, unlike the previous year, I didn't drop the bike on their drive way, when getting off.

So much for fun and games, for a while anyway. We spent virtually all of March (along with Simeon's help on the weekends) helping Rachel refurbish a rental apartment she owns, that was badly in need of upgrading. By the time we were finished in early April, Moninna and I were ready to get out of the city and back into the country side. Continuing with our Great Dividing Range theme we flew up to Cairns, rented a car and drove north to the Daintree.



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Drought, Fire and Flood or Wild Boars, Cassowarys and Cyclones (Part 2) (continued) by 6567 Gary Running

The Daintree is a wonderful world heritage tropical rain forest located north of the Daintree River in northern Queensland and it encompasses a portion of the northern most part of the Great Dividing Range. The mountainous terrain and the tropical rain forest extend right down to beautiful sandy beaches at the edge of the Coral Sea. We had rented a small cabin for a week of living in the rain forest. Early April is still considered to be part of the rainy season, so bookings were easy to come by and there were very few tourists. As noted earlier to get to the Daintree, you have to cross the Daintree River, and there is no bridge across the river. The river is crossed by a cable ferry which operates during the daylight hours.



Confluence of Daintree River and Coral Sea

We had no firm plans for the week other than to relax and perhaps to do a bit of rain forest hiking and see first hand a bit of an ecosystem we had never been in before. Also, although we are by no means serious birders we do have an Australian bird list that we keep, and are always on the lookout to add to it. We had read about the southern cassowary, a large flightless bird. In fact the cassowary is the third largest bird in the world, behind only the ostrich, and the emu in size. Adults can grow up to 6' tall, and top 100lb. It has a blue coloured body with a large casque (horn like crest) on its head. They are an endangered bird, and a very important part of the rainforest ecosystem, so seeing a cassowary in the wild would be neat.

Early in our visit we went on a 3 to 4 kilometre hike through part of the rainforest on a flagged circular trail through a protected part of the park. We have in the past done a fair bit of hiking in the north shore mountains behind North Vancouver and although the flora and fauna are very different, the topography is similar. Very steep slopes with many smaller creek valleys with orientations different to the main general slope down towards salt water. It's very easy to get turned around and critical to stay on the trail, and always a good idea to have a map and compass plus basic survival kit with you. I found the tropical rain forest far more challenging than the north shore temperate rain forest, I guess in part because of the oppressive heat and humidity of the tropical rain forest. During a part of our hike Moninna had got a bit ahead of me because I had to back track a bit to retrieve my sun glasses



Daintree Rain Forest

which I had lost in an altercation with a large thorn bush. In any event I was on a small rise looking down into a small creek valley with Moninna just disappearing from sight and approaching the actual creek. Unknown to her, a wild boar (there is a huge population of feral pigs in Australia) was also approaching the creek from the opposite direction. They met at the creek, each extremely surprised to see the other. They both reversed direction and went quickly back from whence they came.

Over the next couple of days, on two separate occasions, we were fortunate enough to see solitary cassowarys going about their business. I mentioned earlier how the cassowarys form an important part of the rain forest



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Drought, Fire and Flood or Wild Boars, Cassowarys and Cyclones (Part 2) (concluded) by 6567 Gary Running

ecosystem. This is in part because a large portion of their diet is fruit, and in the time it takes for the fruit to travel thru their digestive track they have traveled far from the original tree, and thus the seeds are widely distributed.

When we first arrived at Cairns we noted that a cyclone (Ita) was developing well off shore over the Solomon Islands. Over the next few days we watched with growing interest as it grew in size and intensity and headed westward. As time passed it grew into a severe Category 5 cyclone. It was expected that it was most likely to make land fall some where between Cape Tribulation and Cape Melville. Cape Tribulation is where the paved road ends in the Daintree, and was only about 20 km north of where our cabin was. Cape Melville was well to the north of that. Cape Tribulation as you naval types and/or history buffs will know, was named by Capt Cook shortly after he hit a coral reef just off shore. He was apparently lucky to the extent that a piece of the coral broke off and remain imbedded in the hull, reducing the rate of water ingress. Cook and his crew continued northward until they found an appropriate spot to come ashore to effect repairs on the hull. The location they came ashore is known today as Cooktown. It is approximately mid way between Cape Tribulation and Cape Melville.



As the cyclone came closer some of the residents and visitors decided to head south.

As we had the cabin booked for another three days, and our flight from Cairns wasn't until then, and we had no where else in particular to go to, and it was by no means certain where the Cyclone would end up, we decided to stay put. We watched with interest as those that stayed prepared themselves for the cyclone's arrival. As it turned out Cyclone Ita decreased in intensity from a category 5 to a category 4 just before it came ashore at Cape Flattery (between Cape Melville and Cooktown). After landfall it down graded further to a category 2.

Cape Tribulation 3 Hours Prior to Cyclone Ita

It went inland a few 10s of kilometers before turning south a tracking southward just to the west of Cairns. Cooktown sustained substantial damage. The Daintree experienced very high winds for a while and huge amounts of rain. The road between us and Cape Tribulation was impassible for a day or so. However the most significant event for the Daintree was the closure of the Daintree ferry for 4 days due to extremely high (record level) water levels. As it turned out, the cables that the ferry tracked back and forth on, acted like a giant net and snagged a lot of the trees the were uprooted by the flooding and were floating down the Daintree River towards the Coral Sea. For a few days, until the water levels dropped a bit and the ferry got operational again, some supplies became scarce. The Daintree is not very populous in the off season and even less so during an emergency so everyone knows everyone else in short order. We became known as "the Canadians who stayed" or simply "the Canadians".

We ended up staying for an extra three days until the road got repaired, the ferry became operational again and we could rebook flights back to Sydney. All in all in all, a very educational experience, a chance to meet new and interesting people, an opportunity not to be missed.



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Closing Notes

The sharp eyed among you will notice a small change to the header on the pages of the newsletter. After only 80 Editions, my critic-in chief pointed out that “editions” refer to the reprinting of books and that Issues (ou Numéro en Francais) is more appropriate for a newsletter. From now on you will receive Issues! Enough on that issue.

I have also reverted to a single column (except for some specific cases where two columns are useful), primarily because it is easier for a computer putz like me to manage.

Join us next month for an amusing description of **Richard Archer's** introduction to the excitement of the game of cricket, and while you are at it learn the basic rules of the game.

Ciao for now. Keep those articles coming.