

# PIPES AND DRUMS SHAMROCK GARDENS

As the year draws to a close it comes time once again to reflect on achievements attained throughout the year and add another page to the chapter of our careers. As a Platoon we only competed once this year as representatives of the Second Fourth Battalion, which proved successful, even though rehearsals were limited to three days. At present the Platoon is rapidly preparing for the trip to Singleton to compete in the RAR competition at the end of November. With productive rehearsal time we should be very competitive this year and just maybe this time we will at last be able to eclipse 3 RAR.

The noise factor within the band room has been sporadic this year owing to notable absences of members swanning overseas, Jimmy and Jacko in New Zealand started the trend by claiming that they had to work all the time that they were attached to Bravo Company. We find this statement to be clouded somewhat after their stories were related a number of times. The unlucky combination of Jock and Donno had to endure the hospitality of the Americans on Exercise "Pacific Bond". Some stories of hard times were reflected in the weight loss of both members, but they endorse recommendations on the merriment to be found in New Orleans. Drums, Brains and Tim are off to Singapore for what can only be termed a demanding engagement, especially if they prepare something Australian for the "International Night" to be conducted whilst there. The end of the year will see Stan and Halley off to Butterworth, which should have some outstanding effects on both of them.

The sad part of the year will see us lose two of our strong performers, Jacko and Jimmy. Both have elected discharge to seek and secure alternative careers, we wish you both well in your endeavours and a fond farewell and thank you to Helen and Lynette. Always remember that we could use your expertise and experience and you are both welcome at any time to come and perform with us.

Some of the happier times we enjoyed throughout the year include the visit by the Queensland Police Pipe Band as part of the entertainment for the Townsville Show, and to increase Platoon profits enormously within eight days. The Musical Spectacular was a success largely to the contribution of the Pipes and Drums, our thanks to 5/7 RAR for finding time to come north and assist us during what should have been Birthday Week. The Irish flavour within the Platoon and the unit came to the fore this year with an enjoyable and long St Patrick's Day followed by a trip to Mt Isa to perform for the Irish Rugby team and a short visit to the Irish Club - four or five times.

Next year will see us down on our posted strength so if you have the resolve to attempt a difficult task without much time for individual consideration, come and join us and help to maintain the tradition of Pipes and Drums in Infantry Battalions.

For all the members of the Battalion who are leaving accept our best wishes, for those who are staying we will see you next year on the parade ground or sports field.

