

TRIP TO SEYMOUR OCTOBER 2013

On a beautiful clear sunny highlands morning the travellers gathered at Moss Vale railway station at 0900 on Wednesday 9th October and awaited the arrival of the Rail Link XPT to Seymour. The journey south was most picturesque with the usual brown and parched country side unusually green, not quite the equal to the emerald green of Ireland, however, it was a majestic sight that was not wasted on the farmers within our group who looked on in amazement as acres upon acres of pasture and crops rolled by.



Train travel was chosen for the more spacious seating, the ability to get up for frequent walks, the buffet carriage and of course the all important toilet facilities. Many a tale was told as we passed through familiar country towns where members of our group either grew up, worked, farmed and/or engaged with the fairer sex.

As we crossed into Victoria it was obvious that the southern state had experienced considerably more rain than NSW, as all the dams were overflowing and the scenery became even more lush. We arrived at Seymour at 1730 and made our way to our very comfortable lodgings at the Best Western Motel. Most of us were lucky to be billeted in the newly renovated rooms that were very tasteful and modern. The Motel managers were very welcoming and even offered assistance upon our departure by delivering our bags to the railway station.



It was not long until we were out exploring the picturesque town of Seymour that was unfamiliar to all of us, even the New South Welshman who spent ten glorious weeks of recruit training at the nearby Puckapunyal Army Base when it doubled as RTB2 and Armoured corps training facility. Recruits did not get into town.

The group whole-heartedly embraced the Veteran's Week Health theme and covered a considerable distance by foot with the Vietnam Veteran's Commemorative Walk being the main focus, exploring our names on the wall, together with those of our mates. There is also a replica Long Tan Cross, a Luscombe Bowl replica, a Centurion Tank and I believe a Huey Helicopter is also planned.

Other walks in the area include the Australian Light Horse Memorial Park and the Goulburn River bank. We travelled by public bus to the Puckapunyal Army base where we visited the very extensive Tank Museum, however, I admit to have been a little

disappointed not to have seen the old 2RTB barracks and the infamous Tit Hill that had many a recruit experiencing tortuous runs. What did strike me was how the native vegetation had reclaimed the base.

We were most grateful for the Veterans' Health Week Grant that we used to promote healthy eating and complemented out physical activity.

Bob Bailey