

A day in the life of a soldier

It is a long way from Hay to the jungle of southern Malaysia, but IGA supermarket owner, David Harrison made the 6000 kilometre trip recently to catch up with one of his employees who is deployed to the South-East Asian nation with the Australian Army.

There was an added bonus for David, a participant on Exercise Boss Lift, in that his employee is also his son, Nicholas.

David joined 15 other NSW-based employers to travel to Malaysia for a four-day visit to Rifle Company Butterworth Rotation 88.

The Reserve soldiers are currently members of Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB), a regular rotation of Australian military personnel that supports the Australian presence at Butterworth Air Base and exercises frequently with Defence Force

counterparts from Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESD), which is responsible for facilitating employer support for Australia's Defence Reservists, has ensured the Boss Lift program highlights the important role the Reserves play in the Australian Defence Force, through allowing employers to experience the essential roles played by their employees.

Most of the soldiers participating on RCB Rotation 88 are from 5th Brigade, which predominantly encompasses regional NSW.

Private Nicholas Harrison fills the role of rifleman in an infantry section.

While glad to see Nicholas, David was upfront about the effect the absence of a Reservist can have on a small

business such as his supermarket.

"It has been a bit of a strain in the business having Nicholas deployed over here in Malaysia for this length of time," David said.

"However, we were able to cover his vacancy very well through moving the times of other staff to cover certain times of the day.

"Being the size of business that we are, everyone does a bit of everything."

David said he was very impressed with how Exercise Boss Lift exposed the employers to the life of the Reservist while on deployment.

"I saw not only the culture of Malaysia but also the manner in which the Army Reservists train — not only what they train for but also how they train.

"It is certainly different seeing Nicholas in an overseas posting as opposed to an exercise back in Australia."

Nicholas too believes Exercise Boss Lift is a good initiative.

"I think it is good that the employers such as Dad have come over to see the type of environment in which we're training," he said.

"Seeing the weapons we use, how we operate in the jungle and interact with each other is difficult to explain to someone.

"Bringing Dad over here for a first-hand experience makes it easier for him to understand my Reserve role."

Nicholas sees himself taking back a range of skills to the supermar-



David Harrison and son Nicholas during Exercise Boss Lift in Malaysia.

ket, especially the concept of teamwork and people skills.

During the four days of Exercise Boss Lift, David got soaked in a tropical downpour during a platoon defence demonstration in the jungle, learned to shoot

on the range under the tutelage of his son, attended the Malaysian Army survival school, viewed the Malaysian Army war-dog display and witnessed the live fire demonstration of infantry weapons.

He even got to taste

python and monkey cooked jungle style, although it didn't make the grade as a new IGA line.

Exercise Boss Lift is primarily about bringing civilian employers of Reservists to operational or training areas to facil-

itate an awareness of what the Reservist does in that environment.

This awareness also includes the benefits of that training or experience and the transferable skills that the Reservist can take back into their every day jobs.

Boooroban registrations close today

Registrations and dinner bookings for the Boooroban time capsule on Easter Saturday are due today.

The organising committee is calling on those who have not yet responded to do so as soon as possible.

A highlight of the day will be the opening of the time capsule which was put down 25 years ago.

Items in the capsule will be on display in the Boooroban Hall during the day. The capsule will be resealed at 5.30pm for re-opening in 2035.

Other highlights of the day include the school reunion, with an official photograph to be taken of

all ex-students in attendance, a 20/20 cricket match and the launch of an historic walk.

The walk will be launched in the school grounds as part of the festivities and will be further developed over the next 12 months.

There will be a dinner in the hall in the evening with entertainment provided by Peter Denahy, well known singer, songwriter and multi instrumentalist.

It is a family night and children are most welcome to attend.

Registrations can be completed on-line at the website, Boooroban2710.comfypage.com.

Opening of Time Capsule

at Boooroban

SATURDAY APRIL 3, AT 11AM

School reunion
lunch, cricket match
& memorabilia
display

Capsule
will be
resealed at
5.30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

LIMITED TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

FOR DINNER WITH PETER DENAHY

COST: \$35 ADULT - \$10 CHILD

RSVP'S ASAP

REGISTER NOW!!

Kerry 02 6993 0698

or Mandy 02 6993 0694 or visit
boooroban2710.comfypage.com

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Fact 001

30% of Australians in intensive care with swine flu were healthy before getting the virus[†].

Swine flu vaccine. It's safe, effective and free*.

Contact your GP or health care provider today and get vaccinated.

For more information call 180 2007 or visit www.healthemergency.gov.au

[†]State and Territory Hospital Data, compiled by the Department of Health and Ageing. *GPs may charge a consultation fee.



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