

Reconnaissance Platoon

After BRL, the year started slowly for the Platoon as a lot of PI exercises were cancelled. Our first exercise was a week at Cowley Beach, with Pioneer Platoon doing Watermanship, which was most enjoyable. Around this time, we also got back our Platoon members who toured Malaysia with B Coy, Bailey, Ashworth, Slam and Stoddart, and lost LCPLs Walker and Oldham to SASR.

We also lost CPL Bennett to C Coy shortly after Easter Stand-down. A section was entered into the Mil Skills Competition, where they were placed second. Soon after that the PI went on their first tactical exercise for the year at "TULLY", where they achieved excellent results in all tasks and received very favourable reports from all LCBS Staff who worked with them.

Not long after Tully, there were several members of the Mil Skill Section who were involved in the DOG Cup Training Sqd, which saw four members make the final selection. The rest of the Platoon in the meantime were doing things like rappelling off Castle Hill and the Ambassador Hotel and providing snipers and guides for the LFX. When the Platoon was finally reunited, there was an excellent reunion held at the Hotel Cleveland, where we farewelled our Boss LT Parker and drank several rounds to his bright future. We also lost

CPL Toohey, who went to Singleton as an instructor. "MAXI BEAGLE" was the first Major Exercise of the year, which saw the Platoon split into three Patrols and attached of various Companies for taskings. Taking into consideration some of the tasks and time limits given, all Patrols performed excellently and the CO and relative OCs were considerably impressed by their efforts.

Upon return from MAXI BEAGLE, we welcomed our new Boss to the Platoon and quickly began enlightening him on the workings of RECON. Prior to September Stand-down, the Platoon embarked on "EX CAPE CRUSADER" at Cape Cleveland. This Ex tested the leadership and initiative of Patrol 2ICs and the fishing abilities of all others. After September stand-down, the Battalion went on "EX DUSTY TOWERS", where the Platoon got plenty of practice walking and very little gonking. Once we returned, we were reunited with an old Platoon member who marched back in as next year's sniper supervisor, SGT Moore.

With only the Recon Course left to do for the year, we would like to wish SGT Brady and SGT King farewell and the best of luck with their new postings — they will be greatly missed by all and congratulations to any soldiers who march in after course. The Platoon looks forward to bigger and better things next year. F.O.F.E.B.A.