



12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association
(A Branch of the NSW RAA Association)

**12 Field Regiment
(Vietnam) Association**

President's Letter

Spring—Summer 2011

In This Issue:

- **Presidents Letter**
- **Adelaide Re-union
April, 2012**
Page 1
- **12 Field Regiment
Hero receives USA
award after 40 years**
Page 2
- **Notification of the
132 ACB recipients**
Page 3
- **ACB Update**
- **Membership Dues**
- **Adelaide Re-union
Update April, 2012**
- **Public Apology**
Page 4

Gentlemen and Ladies,

This is one letter as your Vice-President that I never expected that I would have to write. For those of you who are unaware, our president Robert "Cossie" Costello, due to ill health, has resigned. It is now up to the rest of the Committee and you the members, to ensure that Cossie's efforts for the Adelaide re-union in 2012 are not in vain.

On behalf of you all, I wish Cossie well and I can assure all members that Cossie's contribution will be suitably acknowledged at a later date.

We all owe Trevor Bryant and Peter Geelen a huge thank you for the effort they have put in at the Adelaide end. The venues have been arranged, deposits have been paid, the program arranged; now what is required is for all of us to arrive, if we are able.

The closing date for registrations and payments has been previously been notified as the 1st January, 2012. If we can please, ask all members to notify our Secretary, Ian Ryan or alternatively, the Treasurer, John Beer of your attendance prior to the payment date would be of great assistance in the fine tuning" for the re-union.

Ian will be notifying all members of the AGM agenda etc to be held during the re-union week.

I am looking forward to catching up with some "old and bolds" in Adelaide. I hope you are too.

Ubique,

Graham Floyd

Adelaide Reunion April, 2012.

URGENT, URGENT, URGENT!!!!

As many of you will now be already aware, we have forwarded information and applications for the upcoming Reunion in Adelaide, ANZAC Day week 2012. Just in case, I have re-attached the itinerary and application.

As we need to know ASAP for catering and costs, how many will attend, it is imperative you forward your reply as to whether you ARE or NOT coming. If you are coming, please forward your application PLUS the relevant fees to the Secretary or Treasurer before the 1st January, 2012. Applications will NOT be acknowledged nor processed after this date!

You maybe aware of someone who may wish to join us, we have extra copies for you to fill out and pass on. Just let me know.

***Don't forget your
MEMBERSHIP
Multiples of \$10.00
Annually or better still
\$100.00 Perpetual
(10 years)
Direct Credit:- NAB
BSB 082 225
A/C. No. 83 654 6425
Please ensure you
include your name.***

An Aussie Hero Bayne Kelly's long wait for US medal worth it



Pride ... Bayne Kelly and his medals / Pic: Adam Ward Source: The Daily Telegraph

Bayne "Gus" Kelly was a 21-year-old conscript fighting in the Vietnam War when he became a hero during a bloody battle that left four Australians dead and six badly wounded.

But he was a 62-year-old husband and father of three before the US Medal for Valour he earned on that day was finally pinned on his chest this week.

An artillery observer attached to the 3rd Battalion, Gunner Kelly fought for nine hours against a determined enemy after his unit walked into an enemy bunker system in June 1971.

"It was a serious battle," Mr Kelly said.

The young man from Bellevue Hill in Sydney saved several badly wounded colleagues and, under intense enemy fire, tried to extract the crew of a downed Australian resupply helicopter - unaware that all of them were dead. "A shot-down chopper loaded with 200,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition is not a pretty sight," he said.

Mr Kelly, from the Townsville based "A" Field Battery, saw his commanding officer Lieutenant Ian Mathers shot dead right beside him.

The Battle of Long Khanh of a US-led push called Operation Overlord that involved joint US-Australian battalion-sized elements.

A decade after the battle, Mr Kelly received a letter from the US Army telling him that he had been awarded the high-level US Army Commendation Medal for Valour. It would take 13 months for the Australian Army to extract the medal from a drawer in Canberra and post it to him and until 2008 before he was allowed to wear the foreign honour alongside his Australian awards.

At a low-key ceremony at the US Consulate in Sydney this week, US Ambassador Jeff Bleich finally pinned the medal on Mr Kelly's chest in front of his wife Margaret, their three sons and other family and friends including comrades from 1971.

"I am very pleased to finally receive it and it closes a chapter in my life," Mr Kelly said.

"I have no regrets, it was an incredibly interesting time and I was lucky to survive, marry a good woman, raise a family and run a successful business."

He was also impressed with the US government and how it managed the process.

Unfortunately Mr Kelly has no experience of the Australian system, because he was not even awarded a Mentioned In Dispatches (MID) let alone a gallantry award by his own government for his heroics on the battlefield.

Bayne "Gus" Daniel Kelly was a member of "A" Battery, 12 Field Regiment in Viet Nam, 5/02/1971 — 28/10/1971.

Reprinted:- Ian McPhedran, "The Daily Telegraph" May 12, 2011.

Congratulations - 132 members, for recognition & receiving of their Army Combat Badge

Ahearn	Mr I. F.	Ian	235307
Aitchison	Mr D. J.	Dave	2192112
Alsbury	Mr V. J. J.	Victor	3791899
Angelopoulos	Mr S.	(Sotiris) Sid	2787024
Armstrong	Mr W. B.	Brian	335167
Ayson	Mr G. J.	Greg	3791286
Backhouse	Mr K. J.	Kenneth	2786964
Bailey	Mr D. M.	Derek	43849
Barry	Mr V. B..	Val	3791286
Basham	Mr B. E.	Barry	3793325
Bird	The Late	John William	3411210
Black	Mr I. S.	(Ian) Blackie	5715051
Bloom	Mr A. W.	Alan	3411798
Bowden	Mr F. W.	Fred	4718527
Bright	Mr G. A.	Gordon	2793719
Browne	Mr T. C.	Thomas	111615
Burford	Mr B. R.	Brian	4411028
Burke	Mr B. P.	Brian	2787274
Burls	Mr P. E.	Peter	3791681
Burns	Mr J. L.	John	18110
Bushby	Mr R. W.	Robert	53222
Carmody	Mr T. J.	Tom	2787280
Cleland	Mr M.D.	Matt	2785230
Clothier	Mr M. R.	Max	6709718
Coape-Smith	Mr C. J.	Chris	342904
Cooper	Mr J. F.	John	215033
Crawford M.B.E.	Mr M. C.	Michael	235147
Creek	Mr R. J.	(Richard) Dick	213560
Cudmore	Mr D. H.	Dan	2786575
Daff	Mr P.	Peter	55236
Dalton	Mr D. J.	David	2785753
Darragh	Mr R. C.	Raymond	2784739
Davis	Mr R. J.	Raymond	67028
Delzoppo	Mr D. M.	Douglas	3789745
Dimond	Mr I. D.	Ian	3790587
Donald	Mr L. G.	Lachlan	2786247
Dotter	Mr R. E.	Roy	2412286
Dougall	Mr M. S.	Mark	351939
Downes	The Late	John W.	213822
Draper	Mr C. W.	Colin	2793439
Duldig	Mr R. A.	Richard	4719277
Dwyer	The Late	Jeff R.	2786600
Earle	Mr T. L.	Terry	4718352
Easton	Mr J. F.	(James) Snowy	1731589
Ericsson	Mr J. E.	(John) Bluey	2784358
Feint	Mr J. F.	John	2412563
Fisher	Mr L. D.	Lawrence	1201522
Fletcher	Mr S. W.	Stephen	5714678
Floyd	Mr A. R.	Alan	3791392
Floyd	Mr G. J.	Graham	39488
Foster	Mr K.S.	Keith	3790603
George	Mr R. P.	Rodney	2786632
Glover	Mr R. J.	Raymond	2412439
Gordon	Mr C.	Colin	16975
Gorrick	Mr D. G.	Dennis	2786662
Graham	Mr N. D.	Neil	47041
Gray	Mr. I. M.	(Ian) Dick	55851
Greening	Mr A. J.	Alan	213723
Hampson	Mr E. B.	Eric (Rick)	1410518
Hannon	Mr J. P.	John	111766
Haw	Mr P. R.	Paul	3791287
Hayden	Mr C. J.	Charles	216466
Herbert	Mr L. R.	Les	5714514
Herrmann	Mr J. F.	John	2412512
Hicks	Mr R. B.	(Raymond) Bruce	3789896
Hockam	Mr G. J.	Greg	2786681

Hodge	Mr G. J.	Graham	5715271
Hogan	Mr R. E. D.	Russell	217062
Hood	Mr O. A.	Owen	4411044
Hundt	Mr M. A. P.	Malcolm	216841
Inman	Mr P. E.	Phillip	2785399
Ivers	Mr. M. G.	Michael	2787778
Jans	Mr N. A.	(Nicholas) Nick	17095
Johnson	Mr W. F.	(William) Bill	2788767
Johnston	Mr P. J.	Phillip	3791951
Kendall	Mr W. T.	Wayne	18717
Knight	Mr A. G.	Alan	215459
Lackey	Mr P. J.	Peter	2786937
Laing	Mr J. A.	(James) Jim	2784993
Leaf	Mr R. S.	(Robert) Stewart	3791263
Lee	Mr W. F.	(William) Bill	3797992
Lewis	Mr S. C.	Stephen	4719441
Lloyd - Jones	Mr N. J.	Neil	3791342
MacAuley	Mr I. E.	Ian	56059
Mathers	Mr D. B.	David	3799451
Mauger	Mr G. S.	Geoffrey	2784748
McArthur	Mr S. R.	Stuart	2784061
McGrath	Mr I.	Ian	36289
McKeown	Mr S. T.	Stuart	5715120
Moore	Mr K. A.	Kenneth	2786738
Morris	Mr B. C.	Bruce	39053
Murry	Mr R. G.	Robert	1737708
Olejniczak	Mr V. P.	Victor	39611
Olsen	Mr P. C.	Peter	3790076
O'Neill	Mr T. J.	Terence	5715140
Orford	Mr R. G.	Rodney	2412492
Parkinson	Mr R. D.	Robin	3793007
Paskulich	Mr J. C.	John	5717455
Perkin	Mr R. E.	(Robert) Bob	5717067
Perrin	Mr T. W.	Timothy	214293
Petersen	Mr G. L.	Greg	1733653
Power	Mr D. J.	Doug	3790464
Pullen	Mr R. J.	Russell (Russ)	415536
Ragg	Mr A. G.	Tony	216887
Rayner	Mr R. K.	Robert	2787070
Redding	Mr R. G.	Ronald	3797537
Reid (Dec.)	Mr G. T. S.	Graham	1733039
Robertson	Mr R. J.	Rodney	53268
Ruygrok	Mr R. H.	(Russell) Joseph	216834
Ryan	Mr I. D.	Ian	3792122
Ryland	Mr G. D.	Graham	2786794
Saunders	Mr W. W.	Wayne	2786982
Sawtell (KIA)	Mr C. J.	Christopher J.	216970
Scott (KIA)	Mr I. J.	Ian J.	3791583
Stark	Mr M. J.	Mervyn	1200643
Stein	Mr J. A.	Jeffrey	3790175
Stelling	Mr R. J.	Robert	2788159
Stephens (M.M.)	Mr L. J.	John	215284
Stevens	Mr B. G.	Bryan	235403
Thomas	Mr G. A.	Geoffrey	4411120
Towning (M.I.D.)	Mr. K. F.	Keith	52417
Townsend	Mr A. W.	Tony	5715175
Weismantel	Mr G. P.	Geoffrey	217707
Weston	Mr N. J.	Norman	1736796
Whitehead	Mr P. R.	Peter	1737676
Wilkinson	Mr K. F.	Kenneth	2794360
Williams	Mr G. B.	Gordon	2783891
Williams	Mr V. R.	Victor	2788202
Wilson	Mr A.	Alan	3800466
Winterbotham	Mr D. R.	Doug	1737048
Wiseman	Mr G. R.	Glenn	219865
Wood (Dec.)	Mr P.	Peter	26348

Alert!!!!!!!!!!

Change of Address???

It appears some members are changing email addresses and not notifying us of the change as we are getting many bounce backs on the newsletter when we send it out on email.

If you are getting your newsletter via snail mail and you used to get it by email, **we must not have your current email address.**

If you have an email and you are still receiving your newsletter by mail could you please notify your Secretary, Ian Ryan by email at the following email address:-

ianryan@hotmail.com

Postage has gone up and it is wasteful to send them by post if you have email facilities.

It would be great if you have a relative or friend's e-mail address to forward urgent alerts, in the case of a death etc..

Ian Ryan
Secretary.

IMPORTANT:

New Membership

If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of our Association or perhaps have lapsed their membership, please encourage them to join.

Army Combat Badge (ACB) Update.

According to our records **ALL** 289 members, who were entitled to the ACB, are now in receipt of the Army Combat Badge (ACB). Should you believe you are entitled to or be aware of any member, past unit member etc., who spent 30 days or more with a combat unit in Viet Nam and does not have the ACB, please contact the Secretary immediately. It is also important for us to know if you have not received your ACB in the mail, as it was posted more than a month ago. There are a couple "return to sender" packages.

URGENT!!!! Membership renewals are due NOW!!!!

There are a number of members who are in arrears of more than 12 months. Those who are more than 3 years in arrears will be "*ex-communicated*". It would be a pity as you will not be able to attend the forthcoming Re-union in Adelaide during the week of ANZAC Day, 2012.

If you know of anyone who maybe in arrears, please encourage them to renew their membership now. More importantly, should you know of anyone whom you believe should be a member, please encourage them to join.

Adelaide Reunion Update - April, 2012.

The following 22 members, some with partners, have already indicated or forwarded their application (and some) with payment for the up-coming 2012 reunion in Adelaide.

If your name is **not** on the list and you have forwarded your application and payment or indicated you are coming, then contact me immediately as I have just moved home and I may have lost mail or misplaced your acknowledgment.

Please remember payment **MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1st January, 2012.**

The Committee is somewhat disappointed at the response to date. If we do not get sufficient numbers by the 1st January, 2012 we will have **NO** other choice but to cancel the re-union. This would be extremely disappointing due to the extraordinary efforts Trevor Bryant, Peter Geelen and others have done. Please support!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Neil & Merrill Ahern | Vince & Michele Dunn |
| Greg & Lorraine Ayson | Graham & Judi Floyd |
| Alex & Janie Baker | Peter & Pat Geelen |
| Charlie Bartkus & Barbara Robson | Charlie & Beverley Hankin |
| John Beer | Neil Mangels |
| Laurie & Cherie Bird | Robert McEvoy |
| Trevor & Jean Bryant | Les & Pat Partridge |
| Tom Browne & In Youhan | Ian Ryan/Marilyn Fraser |
| Robert & Kathy Costello | Graham & Rosalind Ryland |
| Peter & Karen Croke | Dave & Lynette Thomas |
| Larry Darcy | Norm Weston & Renalyn Aranzado |

Public Apology!

Your Secretary had gone AWOL over the last three months due to problems with my internet server, business commitments & finally, recently moved home. My apologies if I have not been able to follow up on as many matters as possible.

Please note my new address: **Unit 1, 319 Porter Street, Templestowe, 3106.**