

**President:**  
Mr. Graham Floyd  
39 Mitchell Street  
Ouyen Vic 3490  
Ph: (03) 50921045  
Email: 12fdregtraa@gmail.com



**PATRONS:**  
Lt Col Fr John Tinkler (RL)  
Major Ross Bland (RL)

**Secretary:**  
Mr. Trevor Bryant  
28 Ironbark Avenue  
Flagstaff Hill SA 5159  
Ph: (08) 82707130  
Email: tandjbryant@bigpond.com

**Vice President:**  
Mr. Neil Mangels  
PO Box 91  
Middleton TAS 7163  
Ph: (03) 6292 1409  
Email: nma77081@bigpond.net.au

**Treasurer:**  
Mr. John Beer  
81 Fawcett Street  
Glenfield NSW 2167  
Ph: (02) 9605 8493  
Email: jbe51622@bigpond.net.au

## **12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 14 (15<sup>th</sup> September 2013)**

### **1. New Members:**

We're pleased to welcome Tom "Sarge" Cheeseman as a new member. Sarge was a member of 102 Battery from 1974 to '77 during the time that Ian Scrubber Ahearn was BC. After 1977, he was posted to IRTB for a few years. He lives in Deniliquin, NSW.

### **2. 2014 Reunion:**

Attached is a reminder from Vice President Neil Mangels about the upcoming Reunion. Please get serious about this and take the time to register your attendance. It's a terrific program and has taken Neil and Beery a lot of time and effort. PLEASE NOTE: The auction which we traditionally conduct at the reunion dinner is a major fund-raiser for your Association. We are still keenly seeking valuable items to auction. If you can provide anything that we can use it would be greatly appreciated.

### **3. For the Ladies – a Nude Calendar!**

Veteran supporters Greg and Annie Carter who run a War Veterans' Retreat called Cockatoo Rise near Bairnsdale, Victoria, have produced a nude calendar of vets for sale to raise funds for the Retreat. Scary stuff! Anyway, if you'd like one of these fun calendars in time for Christmas, the brochure is attached.

### **4. Association Financial Performance:**

Once again our esteemed Treasurer John Beer has put together a succinct and informative set of Financial Reports for our last financial year which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Copies are attached for your information. You'll see that we continue to be in good financial shape.

### **5. Annual General Meeting:**

This is advance notice that the next AGM will be held at the Ingleburn RSL Club at noon on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Lunch will be provided. Formal notice and the agenda will be sent to you within the next few weeks, but please note your diaries now because as usual, we will need your attendance to ensure we reach a quorum.

### **6. Vietnam KIA Honour Roll Website:**

Neil Mangels has drawn our attention to the following website which provides excellent and respectful information regarding our KIAs. [www.piriemadigans.com.au/dogtags](http://www.piriemadigans.com.au/dogtags)

### **7. Good news from the Knox Family:**

Those of you who knew the late Geoff Knox will be delighted to hear that his son Thom and daughter-in-law Bron have just welcomed baby Harry Ilston Knox into the world, much to the delight of grandmother Lois. Little Harry was premmie and has albinism so will be in intensive care for some time. Congratulations from us to the whole Knox family.

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association is a Branch of RAA (NSW) Association Inc  
The Association ABN is 90 248 586 329. However, the Association is not registered for GST and is Tax-exempt

## 8. Vale Steve Blake:

Our last Welfare Report noted that Steve Blake, ex- HQ Battery in Vietnam was very ill. Sadly Steve didn't make it, and we now report his passing. Steve wasn't a member of the Association so we don't have many details, but if you'd like to know more, you could ring Rob Woodford on 0418 762 519.

## 9. Secretary is back:

Well I'm back in action after 6 weeks away on R and R. My wife and I had been invited to Aspen in the USA to be surprise guests at a surprise birthday party for Denny Nevala, and then to go on and stay a few days at their beautiful home on the shore of a lake in Mattawan, Michigan.. Denny was part of the CP of the USA 2/35<sup>th</sup> Battery of 155mm mobiles who were based at the Dat and served with our batteries on many FSBs. I first met him at Coral when the Aussies played the Yanks at Rugby/Gridiron along the track that separated our positions. The party with Denny and his wife Mimi, and their family was a great success as was our visit to their home. They treated us like royalty and could not have been better hosts. My wife and I had a wonderful time and our experience is yet another example of the special bond that exists between us Vietnam vets of all persuasions. Thank you Denny and Mimi.

## 10. The Role of Nashos:

Member Tony King has submitted the following article regarding National Serviceman in 102 Battery. I'm sure Tony would agree that his comments also apply to Nashos in the other fine Batteries of 12 Field Regiment. I'm not sure what Tony was drinking at the time he wrote this, but as a Nasho myself, I thank him for it.

*From: Tony King, alias "KINGY" - not to mention the many other names I have been called in the past, but what the hell it was all fun. You have my permission to post this in the 12 FD Regt INFO BULLETIN if you so choose - Natos deserve to be acknowledged.*

*To all past and present members of the magnificent 102 Fd Bty, ie "The Coral Bty", regardless of when or where you served. With much pleasure I look forward to the regular bulletins' sent out that keeps us up to date with the front line troops as well as information on the welfare of many of the old salts of the Bty. This contact information is welcomed, as I can probably say "WE ALL" get a lift out of the information and go back in our own minds and remember the "good old times" regardless of the good and the bad. For me there are no bad memories, lots of faces and laughs about things, people, times and experiences which the Bty went through over the many years I served with it. Reading books of the past activities of the Bty and the dedicated personnel and, I include the the many thanks we owe each and every person, and a very special "**BIG**" thanks to all the "National Service" personnel who without their numbers **and dedication** the REGS would never have coped - **AGAIN - A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE NATIONAL SERVICE GUYS**. I would also like to thank **all** members of the Bty with whom I served, be it Malaya, Malaysia, Borneo, Vietnam, UK, as well as several other small countries and Australia, and with a special memory and thanks to those who went through the much harder Vietnam days. While I have the chance now, I would like to clearly state that besides being proud of being a member of 102 Fd Bty during those many years, I very strongly believe that the expotise, and spirit of all individuals both "Regulars" and "National Service" were without question, the same. The integration did strengthen the resolve and spirit of the Unit at all times, and in particular when in dire straights at the Battle for Fire Support Base Coral, the dedication in getting the job done was was the same as NORMAL "one in, all in". Inclosing I would like to acknowledge a very important point of view, right from the start of "National Srevice" I, along with many many other Regs, we knew that without National Service people we would have many difficulties in providing adequate service for the jobs at hand, and most important, without National Service assistance we could not operate effectively in the field, that would have ment high casualties. In short "Natoes" saved lives. In short it also means that we Regs owe each and every Nato a heart felt BIG THANK YOU - meaning "you all are as good as any REG" - God Bless you and look after you and your families while living life to the fullest.*

## 8. Merchandise:

A timely reminder from Quartermaster Lawrie Bird that the Association still has embroidered polo and chambray shirts available at good prices. He reminds us that they would be ideal to wear at the Reunion next year. So, if you're in the market for some quality Association-badged clothing or other memorabilia, please go to the website, see what's available and lodge your order, or alternatively you can order on-line at lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or by ringing him on (02) 4954 8248.