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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 20 17/01/14

1. President Flood's Message:

Welcome to all members, their families and friends to the 1st edition of the News Bulletin of 2014.
May everyone enjoy good health throughout the year.

It is worth remembering that this month in 1973 was significant for all our veterans. It was on the 11 Jan 1973 that the proclamation by the GG Sir Paul Hasluck, ended 11 years of Australian involvement in Vietnam, the longest duration of any war in Australia's history.

That involvement forged lifelong friendships from shared experiences. Those friendships are the reason we exist as 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association today.

This year the planned reunion to be held at Maroochydore from the 20 - 24 Aug is the opportunity to once again renew old friendships. Your Vice President Neil and Treasurer John, ably assisted by Sec Trev and QM Laurie, have put in the hard yards for the reunion to happen for the benefit of us all. I would urge all members to come along and enjoy the company of each other once again.

Your committee is dedicated to continuing the management of the Association's affairs with the best interest of all members in mind. The News Bulletin enables us all to keep in touch thanks to Trevor.

I look forward to meeting with you at Maroochydore in Aug.

Stay well. Flood

2. More about the Reunion:

- **Numbers.** So far we have 30 definite registrations which, although encouraging, is not enough to ensure a memorable event. For budget planning purposes, we are trying to lock in the majority of attendees by 31st January, so if you're still procrastinating, please make the effort to register. You are assured it will be a terrific experience, and we remind you that the Association is providing considerable subsidies to give excellent value for your costs. A list of members who have registered so far is attached. Please ensure your details are correct and let us know if we've missed anyone.
- **Accommodation.** Just a reminder that our organising committee has negotiated a special deal with Catalina Resort, an excellent facility located in the Cotton Tree part of Maroochydore, within an easy walk to the surf club where the functions will be held. If you stay there, you can get a discount of \$10 per night if you quote "12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association reunion" when you book. In addition, a further discount of \$15 off your bill is applicable if you stay 4 nights or more, and pay a \$200 non-refundable deposit at least 3 months before the event. For a 4 night stay in a \$135pn apartment, this equates to a total cost of \$485 instead of \$540. The facility is clean and modern. If you want to take up this offer, register your name with Neil Mangels or John Beer and they will let you know when and how to pay your deposit. Alternatively you can contact the Resort directly as follows:

CATALINA RESORT 47 Sixth Avenue, Cotton Tree. QLD 455 PO Box 222 Cotton Tree. QLD 4558
Email – reservations@catalinaresort.com.au Phone: (07) 5443 8666 Fax: (07) 55437942

- **Auction Items.** We continue to be on the lookout for quality items that can be auctioned at the reunion. The auction is a fun event and raises considerable funds for the Association – more than \$3000 at the last reunion. If you have any valuable or interesting material that could be auctioned, please consider donating it to the Association – it will be greatly appreciated. Please let Laurie know if you can help on lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or phone 0249548248.
- **Merchandise.** We have many quality Chambray Shirts in both Long Sleeve & Short Sleeve and also Short Sleeve Polo Shirts in most sizes specifically bought by the Association for Reunion/Meetings. These shirts would be ideal for our members to wear at our next Reunion in 2014. Imagine the public image presented by our members at our venues when we wear the shirts with the Assn badge embroidered and in the Arty colours. To the member partners & family these shirts would be an ideal present and remember ladies we also have appropriate shirts for you to wear. Just check out our website and provide your choice of shirt & size & provide your details to Laurie Bird either by email lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or phone 0249548248. All profits from these sales will assist in the Association subsidising our Reunions.

3. 102 Coral Battery Deployment:

Some members with links to 102 Battery may not have heard that the Battery is deploying back to Darwin. They are leaving their brand new, purpose-built facilities at Horseshoe Lines in Edinburgh, SA after only two years. Their first day of operation from Darwin is 20th January, 2014. I'm not the world's smartest fellow, so I am not able to comprehend why they are doing this after all the time and expense to get them down to Adelaide. It doesn't make any sense to my tiny gunner brain, so if there's any officer or ex-officer out there who can explain why in simple terms, I (and many other members) would appreciate it.

4. Artillery Quotes:

John Redman has sent us the attached interesting series of historical quotes about Artillery and its role, which I think you'll find interesting.

5. Welfare Report – an update from Rick:

Dear Members, just two items of Welfare note for your information:

(1) Max Franklin (Sgt. 102 Bty 1968-69)

I spoke to Max to-night as I was advised that he had not been well recently when he sailed on a P & O cruise just before Xmas. In fact, Max finished up in the ships hospital with gall bladder and chest problems. On his return to port (when the canoe got back to port, as Max described it!), he finished up in Green Slopes hospital in Brisbane for 8 days and had his gall bladder removed. Anyone who has had gall bladder problems in the past, will know just how painful that is, so Max, we sympathise with you and glad that the problem has been removed.

Speaking to him to-night, Max tells me that he is turning 80 to-morrow, and although he will be visiting a specialist to-morrow to get his chest checked out, he will possibly have a small ale or three with his family when he returns home.

So all the very best Max from all of us in 12th Field and get that chest problem fixed.

(2) Ron Miller (218552), who served with A Battery and then AATTV from Sept 70 to Sept 71 in Vietnam, has heard that **John Hall**, one of his mates who also served with him in A Battery, had passed away. Ron asked me to mention this in our next Bulletin, to see if anyone had any news or confirmation of this, as John was a good mate of Ron's and lost contact with him when they returned home. If anyone has any info re John Hall, they might like to contact Ron via his email at taildragger.70@southernphone.com.au Regards, Rick Cranna (Welfare Officer)