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## **12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association**

### **INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 23 April 2014**

#### **1. A Message from President Flood:**

“This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF departure from Australia. It is also 46 years since the Regiment’s first tour of SVN and 43 years since the second tour. We differed from the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF in the sense that we were aware of our destination, how long we could expect to be away, and generally well trained for the task ahead of us. We were a mixture of regular and national service with ages ranging from 19 to 40+. We were also from that era where the word ANZAC had special meaning. It was in SVN that we also became an ANZAC regiment with 161 Field Battery RNZA forming the 3<sup>rd</sup> battery with 102 and 104 in 1968-1969 and A an 104 in 1971. Each year on the 25<sup>th</sup> April we can once again be ANZACs and remember what we all experienced all those years ago. There are sad memories, good memories, experiences we cannot forget however hard we may try. What I do know though, is that if someone needs a shoulder to lean on to help ease the burden, it is on ANZAC day, that, that shoulder is always there. We will always remain an ANZAC, so wherever you are this ANZAC day I sincerely hope that you are not alone. To you all, enjoy the day with “old army mates” and remember that we all share a bond that cannot be broken. Jude and I look forward to seeing you at Maroochydore in August. (it was in Aug 1914 that the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF was formed!) Stay well.”

#### **2. Defence Force Welfare Association – Media Statement:**

Member Dodger Noonan has forwarded this message and attachment for the interest of those members who receive DFRBF pensions.

Attached is a copy of a Media Statement issued today by the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) who, together with its partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO), welcomes today’s news that the Government will finally introduce legislation next week in line with its pre-election promise to more fairly index DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions, at least for those aged 55 and over.

This legislation is considered as a first step only towards remedying other long-standing inequities. Fair indexation must be eventually also delivered to the under 55 DFRB/DFRDB recipients, and to those who fall under the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme. They remain seriously disadvantaged, as do the DVA Disability pensioners whose pensions must be restored to relative parity with the age pension. Parity was taken away from them in 2009.

**Alf Jaugietis** Executive Director, Defence Force Welfare Association



### 3. Vale Ken Wilkinson:

With great sadness, Welfare Officer Rick Cranna advises us of the passing of our member Ken Wilkinson (HQ Battery, second tour, Vietnam February to October 1971). On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March, Ken was involved in a fatal crash doing something he loved – flying solo in his gyrocopter. He is survived by his wife Mary to whom Rick has sent our association's Sympathy Card extending our sincere condolences. More than 500 people attended Ken's funeral.

### 4. That V2 Rocket Again!:

We've received another request for assistance with the fate of the V2 from Holsworthy, in particular its transport trailer and inner workings. If you can help Stan, please contact him direct on [mistro@netbay.com.au](mailto:mistro@netbay.com.au)

Dear Mr. Bryant, I had been informed by AADAA you should have members that were stationed at Holsworthy in the 1960's early 70's period. I am searching for accounts and particularly photographic evidence of the German V2 rocket that was mounted near the guard house. I would be keen to hear if any members were involved in handling the rocket.

I suspect it may have been painted by servicemen and its road trailer sold off during the 1960's. It would seem it was painted some time after receiving it and again before being sent to RAAF Point Cook. Point Cook museum inform me they received it in 1972.

I am particularly interested to know about the removal of its internal workings and its Vidalwagen road trailer and their fate. If you could post my query to members I would be eternally grateful! Kind Regards Stan Druzynski

### 5. RSL Discount Accommodation:

President Flood has passed on this info (attached) regarding discounts for stays at RSL Hotels during April. It may be useful for some members expecting to travel to ANZAC ceremonies.

### 6. New Arrangements For Concession Card Holders re the new costs for APO Postage Stamps:

President Flood also reminds us that members who receive government concessions may be insulated from the newly increased rates for postage stamps. See the following message. Attached to this Bulletin is an official registration form for your use if required.

*"The information below was passed on to me this morning & I have been to the website & downloaded an application form & am now on my way to the Post Office to lodge it. If you have a pensioner concession card you should do the same. "Was at the P.O. today and was informed that postage is increasing to 70c on Monday. After having a moan to the assistant he asked if I was a pensioner. A new deal was introduced yesterday. If you have a pension card you can fill in a form, available from the post office and on line, for a MyPost Concession Account. You will receive 5 free stamps through the mail together with a card that will enable you to purchase stamps for 60c, thus avoiding the increase. The stamps do not have a denomination on them and can be used within Australia. There is a limit of 50 stamps per year.*

If you care to look it up the website is [auspost.com.au/mypost](http://auspost.com.au/mypost).

Regards, Allan Britt, Honorary Secretary, Ballina Ex-Army Association Inc.

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#### **7. ANZAC Day Ceremonies:**

Following my special email sent last week to all members with email addresses, I remind you that I can help publicise your battery's pre- and post-march get-togethers to other members of the Association. Just get the info to me before the 14<sup>th</sup> April.

And a reminder that these Info Bulletins are for the benefit of members, so if you have any items of interest, or requests for help or information etc. about ANZAC Day or anything else, send them to me and I'll include them in future Bulletins.

#### **8. Reunion:**

The numbers of registrations is still sitting at just over 50. Please get your registration lodged with us ASAP and don't wait for the last minute. For your convenience, a Registration Form is attached.

Attached is a list of those who have registered so far and the amounts paid. (We can also add our two patrons Ross Bland and Father Tinkler.) If your name is on the list, you can easily see how much of your cost is still payable. Alternatively, if you have already registered but you can't see your name on the list, please contact Beery ASAP.

#### **9. Merchandise:**

Our QM Laurie Bird reminds us that we have many quality Chambray Shirts in both Long & Short Sleeve, and also Short Sleeve Polo Shirts in most sizes, specifically bought by the Association for reunions/meetings. 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](mailto:lawrence.bird@bigpond.com) or phone 0249548248. All profits from these sales will assist in the Association subsidising our Reunions.

Laurie also advises that he has ordered caps and ties for the August reunion and expects delivery soon. If you would like one at \$12 for the cap and \$26 for the tie, order them from Laurie and he will throw in free delivery.