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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 24 7th May 2014

1. New Members:

It's terrific to be able to welcome another two new members.

- **Paul ("Aub") Dwyer** served as a Bombardier with HQ and 104 Batteries in Vietnam from March to December 1971. He has been admitted as an Ordinary Member. He lives in Bundaberg with his wife Jenny.
- **Graeme ("Shags") Dennis** served as a Gunner with 104 Battery in Vietnam from May to November 1971. He has been admitted as an Ordinary Member. He lives in Cootamundra with his wife Sue.

A big Association welcome to both these blokes and let's hope we get to meet them at the August reunion!!

2. "Thank You" to us:

Maj. Gen. Tim Ford, AO (Retd.) from the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company has sent us an official letter thanking us for our donation towards their ANZAC Centenary 18 Pounder Gun Project. A copy of his letter is attached.

We have also received an email of thanks and a fine Certificate of Appreciation from our own Scrubber Ahearn as follows:

Trevor,

Wracked my brains trying to work out how we get a copy of the appreciation certificate to you and whether you had anywhere to put it! In the short term please find attached a copy of the certificate. It prints up really well. Your support is greatly appreciated. 12 Fd Regt Vietnam is punching well above weight in the project-with not only you all but Gordon and Ross Alexander working to make it all happen.

Thanks heaps Regards Ian Ahearn

3. ANZAC message from our Patron, Ross Bland:

Who would have thought that our own noble patron Ross was such a good and sensitive poet (even though he calls himself "Bluebell" which is a bit sus).

To Salute The MEN of 12 Fd Regt RAA (VIETNAM) Association:

When you are Old and Lonely and you read this ditty through,
Remember you have good Mates who are old and lonely too!

BLUEBELL, 23 April 2014.

4. Long-Tan Cross:

One of our supporters reports that the area that surrounds the famous Long-tan Cross in Vietnam has been cleared for farming. He reports as follows:

*This is the current situation and condition of the 'Long Tan Cross'. Photos taken April 2014.
The whole area appears to be turned into farm-land and the surrounding area where the Long Tan Cross is located has been cleared.*

A photo is attached to this Bulletin.

5. Funeral of Dave Carlson:

Thank you to all those Sydney-siders and others from further away who represented our Association at the recent funeral of our mate, Dave Carlson. Our member Chris Coape-Smith was among those who were there and reports that it was very well-attended.

6. Coral Ceremony at Ingleburn:

Our Treasurer John Beer (who is also Treasurer of the Ingleburn RSL – busy boy!!) reminds us that their annual Coral/Balmoral ceremony this year will be held on 16th May at 1100hrs at the RSL, 70 Chester Rd., Ingleburn. John will be laying a wreath on behalf of members of the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association. Our members who have previously attended report that Ingleburn's ceremony is particularly good – sensitive and respectful. All our members and their families are invited to attend.

7. Coral Doco for TV (and a TV series?):

Cossie has passed on this report from Leonie Jones. It looks like her excellent doco on Coral might finally make it to air after all.

Hi Cossie

Wanted to let you know that we have signed a contract with Fox Factual for the Coral doco. Finally! Anyway, the negotiations have been bubbling away for a little while and now it's done... we have a five year deal which will see it broadcast in Australia and NZ and then who knows. We went with Fox in the end because they have a bigger audience share than 7, Two or SBS and are international. ABC were not interested in purchasing at all as they have a mini-series coming up soon.

We dealt with the GM of Fox Factual and he was very impressed with our interviews and it was this that sold it. Fox asked us for relevant dates for screening and we suggested ANZAC, May and August 18. We strongly recommended 18 August and looks like this will be it in 2014.

*Leonie Jones Lecturer, Film Production & Cinema Studies Bachelor of Creative Arts - Film, Television & Radio School of Arts and Communication | Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts | University of Southern Queensland
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Also, Graham Rylands reports that there may even be a TV mini-series made about it. (See attached copy of a newspaper article).

8. Reunion, August 2014:

Numbers are looking really healthy. This is going to be a terrific occasion! For the benefit of our newer members (and any of our older members who still haven't made up their minds) I attach a summary of the program and a Registration Form.

Auction Items: I'm pleased to advise that we have already received a few fantastic items of memorabilia to auction at the reunion. Thanks very much to those members who have dug deep for this. But we could always use more, so if you have anything at all that may be worth something to another member, we'd love to have it. As with previous reunions, a few weeks before the event we will circulate a complete list and description of all our auction items to allow for pre-auction bidding from those who can't be there.

9. Officer Reports:

Member Ben Dwyer has sent the attached gem which is a list of some of the comments made by naval officers regarding more junior officers under their command. Hillarious. Thanks Ben.

10. 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 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.