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## 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

### INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 27 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014

#### 1. Reunion News:

The much-awaited Association reunion in Maroochydore is now over and what a great occasion it was! We all met for the meet-and-greet on the Wednesday evening at the terrific Maroochydore Surf Club. We were given a top storey room with huge wall-length windows looking directly over the beach. It's a shame that it rained all night and we couldn't see the view!! Nevertheless it was a terrific night enjoyed by all.

The next evening was the official dinner presided over by our MC Neil Mangels, assisted by auctioneer Rick Cranna and barrel-girl Max Franklin. As with the previous night, the venue was perfect and the food was sensational. The well-supported auction raised a massive \$3300 for Association funds. All those generous members who contributed auction items should feel very proud.

*As usual, cameraman-extraordinaire Bruce "My Dog" Morris captured it all on his camera. A couple of examples of his work are attached, but if you'd like to see more and/or perhaps order copies of photos specific to you, please contact Bruce direct on [bcmorris@iprimus.com.au](mailto:bcmorris@iprimus.com.au) or ring (03) 58211412*

The last event was the massive and delicious breakfast on Sunday morning before we all went our own ways. Thanks to all those members involved in the organization, particularly John Beer and Neil Mangels – a real triumph fellas!

#### 2. The National Gunners Dinner:

Many members who attended our reunion also went along to this official dinner at Caloundra as organized and hosted by the Australian Artillery Association. It was a fantastic night, preceded by an entertaining afternoon concert conducted by the 1st Field Regiment Concert Band, who also wowed us later that evening at the dinner. There was an informative presentation about the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's project to restore a WWI era 18-pounder gun, limber and horse team. We all got a chance to look over the actual gun and I'm sure I saw a few of our blokes with far-away looks in their eyes pretending to fire it!

The gun will become a major symbol of the contributions made by gunners in all wars, and will be a significant feature in next year's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANZAC commemorations.

Once again the food was brilliant, and the decorations and concert-band entertainment were professional and outstanding. If you'd like to view some of the photos taken on the night, visit <http://australianartilleryassociation.com/> Click on: "About Us" navigation bar - Menu Options - select "Photo Gallery" - Title "2014 National Gunner Dinner"

### **3. Hoi An Report:**

Member Kenny Marsden has sent us this report on what he is doing to assist the kids at an orphanage there.

Just a little update on my goings on in Hoian Vietnam. I mentioned last report 7/3/14 the Orphanage was building a new shower block for which we bought them one electric hot water system, (they had one).

Currently they wash under a cold tap, not even a shower.

Speaking with them last week, all complete hot water flowing.

To go with their hot water we bought them some toiletries, Shampoo, bath soap Toothpaste and washing powder (Omo) they are responsible for their own washing.

Also the sister of my adopted family had their roof totally destroyed by the cyclone last year making the house un-inhabitable, the father lived under plaster sheeting to protect their belongings while the mother and three daughters lived with grandparents along with about twenty plus other family members.

Anyway I gave them some money to do the repairs and insulate the roof, because some rooms in the house do not have windows, so you can imagine how hot and stuffy it would get.

This too has been completed and the family is back together again where they should be.

My objective next trip is to supply one extra uniform to each child going to school and their text books for the year. They have one uniform, but during the wet season they find it very difficult to get it dry and clean for each day.

Also they have lost one of their teachers who were supplying extra tuitions to the slower children or just some extra help. They did have two but had to let one go because of lack of finances.

The Orphanage gets approx. \$30 per month per child from the Government, this is enough to feed them, the rest are reliant on donations.

A little bit goes a long way spent correctly.

Cheers to all, Ken.

Ken hasn't asked for donations but obviously he can do with some financial assistance, so if any of you feel you'd like to help with a dollar or two, you could contact him on [kennylmarsden@gmail.com](mailto:kennylmarsden@gmail.com)

### **4. Merchandise:**

This report is from our esteemed QM, Laurie Bird.

The Association has recently been able to resource high quality weather jackets which were very well sought after in our recent reunion auction. We had only a very limited number of these jackets on hand at the time and as a result of this auction and your enthusiasm with these items we are now able to resource any future orders from our members.

These jackets are inner lined and outer protected to withstand cold and wet conditions and importantly are in the Artillery colours with our Association badge embroidered proudly on the front left hand side. They come in most sizes and as we are able to obtain these jackets at very competitive prices the Association is able to market these to our members for the low cost of \$55 plus postage. Photos are attached to this Info Bulletin.

To order please contact Laurie Bird on his email address of [lawrence.bird@bigpond.com](mailto:lawrence.bird@bigpond.com) or phone 02 49548248

### **5. 2014 AGM – Advance Notice:**

Please note your diaries that the AGM for this year will be held at 1400hrs on 1 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Ingleburn RSL. Official Notices will be distributed later this month.

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