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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 33 12th April, 2015

1. RIP Bill Farquharson:

Late last month I advised members of Bill's tragic passing. Since then, we have received moving tributes to Bill from members Tom Browne, Don Tait, David Keall, Neil Graham and Clarence Ormsby. Thank you to those gentlemen.

Cossie has sent us this report about Bill's funeral and again thanks to those members who attended on our behalf.

Trevor, I just wish to advise that Larry Darcy, Dave Thomas and I attended the late 102 Battery member, Bill Farquharson's funeral on Friday. I gave a short tribute to Bill at the funeral on behalf of all members of our Battery and the Association and we all passed on our condolences to his family. Regards, Cossie.

2. The Crater:

Several members have reminded us that the independent doco film "The Crater" about Coral/Balmoral will be screened on the ABC on 23rd April. Note the following comments from the Producer:

I'm the producer of a documentary about the 1968 Battles of Coral and Balmoral, a few of the soldiers who fought in them and the psychological scars they have been wearing ever since. As well as interviews with a number of vets from Balmoral, the film includes powerful battle re-enactments.

THE CRATER: a Vietnam war story goes to air on ABC1 on Thursday 23 April at 9.30pm. As well, we are having an Event cinema screening at the Riverside theatre, Parramatta on Monday 13 April, followed by a Q&A session with the film's director David Bradbury. *(A veteran documentary filmmaker over 38 years, David's films always tackle the burning issues of the day, He's been twice nominated for an Academy Award for his films Frontline (about Vietnam-war news cameraman Neil Davis) and Chile: Hasta Cuando about Pinochet's regime)*

Could we ask for your help in promoting the film to as wide a group of Vietnam vets as possible?
Best wishes Jenny

3. Credit Card Fraud:

Our member Kel Ferris has provided us with a timely warning about how vulnerable our credit cards are.

Hi Trevor, This may be of interest to our fellow members. I had an incident after staying at a 4 star Hotel in Berlin last year, fortunately I received an email from my Bank to authorise the purchase of an iPad, I cancelled the card and had a replacement issued. Best regards and Cheers, Kelvin G Ferris... Ex RAEME Sgt 102 Field Battery 1967-69

Detailed scenarios of how the schemes work are included as an Attachment to this Bulletin for your interest. Maybe it will change your behavior regarding your credit card?

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

4. 50th Anniversary of Vietnam-era National Service:

Our member Phil Cormak wishes to advise members of this upcoming event in Canberra.

Good afternoon Trevor, I have just received this attached information from my former employer RSL (Westpac) many of whose members are Nashos and many of them former gunners from 12 and 4 Field Regiments. I don't know whether you are aware of this event but thought that you may care to pass it on to our fellow gunners. I don't know whether it would be appropriate or politic for the nasho gunners of 12 Field to march under their banner but if it meets protocol, then I think it would be a good thing to do. Either way I will be attending but if it is decided that the 12 Field gunners would march under the 12 Field banner, then I would like to be with them. I look forward to your thoughts on the matter. Best wishes, Phillip

Attached is a copy of the Notice of the event, followed by the official invitation, followed by the appropriate form for responding.

At this stage, due to the fact that we represent a large number of regular soldiers as well as National Servicemen, there is no plan by this Association to provide a group response or to promote a banner to march under.

5. New Pension Rates:

Welfare Officer Rick Cranna has asked that details of these new rates be circulated to members.

New pension rates

These rates are updated on 20 March and 20 September each year and include the Clean Energy Supplement.

	Old rate (fortnightly - effective 20 September 2014)	New rate (fortnightly - effective 20 March 2015)	Increase (fortnightly)
Service pension			
Single person	\$854.30	\$860.20	\$5.90
Couples (each)	\$644.00	\$648.40	\$4.40
Single person - transitional	\$720.90	\$725.80	\$4.90
Couples (each) - transitional	\$581.40	\$585.40	\$4.00
War widows			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$868.00	\$874.10	\$6.10
Income support supplement	\$256.00	\$257.80	\$1.80
Disability pension			
TPI (Special Rate)	\$1311.30	\$1320.50	\$9.20
Intermediate rate	\$890.10	\$896.40	\$6.30
EDA	\$724.20	\$729.30	\$5.10
100 per cent	\$466.10	\$469.40	\$3.30
10 per cent	\$53.54	\$53.87	\$0.33
MRCA			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$868.00	\$874.10	\$6.10
Special rate disability pension (SRDP)	\$1311.30	\$1320.50	\$9.20

6. Membership Fees:

It's taken a long while, but we are finally getting around to contacting members who have inadvertently gone into arrears with their membership fees. It has always been our responsibility to remind members when their fees are due, but we have not been very diligent about it in the last few years.

As a result, we now have a campaign underway to try and bring everyone back into a current financial position. If you are in arrears with your fees, by now you would have received a polite reminder with details of what and how to make payment. If you have received one of our notes, it would be appreciated if you would act on it as soon as convenient.

Many thanks, and please accept our apologies that you have not been notified before this.

[Special Note: Treasurer Beery reports that someone has transferred a payment of \$45 to our Bank Account with only the word "Deposit" in the reference field. The payment was made on 1st April 2015, and is probably someone's payment of back fees. Please let us know if it was your payment so we can credit the right member. Thanks.]

7. Ingleburn RSL Coral/Balmoral Service:

Those members who regularly attend this excellent commemoration service, and those who think they might get there this year, will be interested in this information from Beery regarding their special guest.

Greetings. All The Ingleburn Sub Branch has been advised that His Excellency General, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) the Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Linda Hurley will be attending the Sub Branch's Coral/Balmoral Commemorative Service being held on the 16th May 2015.

Hoping you can make it to this service. Regards Beery

8. Merchandise:

Our QM Laurie Bird reminds everyone that goods on offer include caps, ties, Chambray and polo shirts, and all-weather jackets. These items are available immediately unless you require a shirt or all-weather jacket in a size which is not normally stocked. In these cases, the clothing must be ordered for you from the factory and there would be a short delay in you getting them. Caps and ties are available immediately. These are all items that are particularly suitable for your reunions and other Anzac Day activities.

Prices are: Caps \$15, Ties \$27, Shirts \$27 and all-weather jackets \$55. He advises that the offer of free postage for all orders has been extended.

To order please contact Laurie Bird on his email address birdlawrence@outlook.com or phone 02 49548248

The Association acknowledges the ongoing support of the Ingleburn sub-Branch of the RSL in the publication of these Bulletins, and thanks them for their assistance.