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

### **INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 36 1/07/2015**

#### **1. Vale Dick Creek:**

Most members would have already received notification of the death of Dick Creek (CP Sgt, 102 Battery Vietnam 68-69, Battle of Coral.) The following members who knew Dick have sent messages recognizing his passing: Trev Bryant, Chris Coape-Smith, Vince Dunn, John Hannon, Graham Floyd, Tony Townsend, Stan Carbines.

Tony Townsend (Charlie Gun, 102) also sent us this terrific anecdote about Dick:  
*I have memories of Sgt. Creek leading an emu bob at Holdsworth. He said, "Gunner Townsend, you missed a smoke butt", and I replied, "Don't smoke Sarge." A bit later Sgt. Creek said "You just missed a piece of soap. Don't tell me you don't wash." Touché*

Dick's funeral was attended by a number of members. Thank you to those who represented the Association. This report is from Chris Coape-Smith:

*In reference to Dick Creek's Funeral - About twelve of us attended and he had many friends and family in the congregation. It was obvious, that he did well in retirement, and organised the Bowling Club and the Church which he completed the planning of the rebuilding .*

We have also received this message of thanks from Dick's son Warren:

*Hi Trev, I would like to thank on behalf of my family, those from the battery that attended dad's funeral. It was great to see some of the guys there and can only wish these things happened in happier circumstances, such as the ANZAC reunion.*

*If you can pass this on to the guys it would be appreciated.  
Thanking you, Warren Creek*

#### **2. Changes to GST on Vehicles for Disabled Vets:**

Neil Mangels has provided the attached good news information for members who are entitled to purchase cars free of GST:

*G'Day All, Just a reminder to those who are entitled to purchase a car GST free. You do not have to keep the car for two (2) years or 40,000kms if your medical or your needs change. See Attached.*

## 2.

### 3. Vietnam KIAs in Terendak Cemetary:

Laurie Bird has forwarded this item about a request from the War Graves Commission. If any of our members can help, that would be terrific.

*19 Jun 2015 — Posted on the DVA Aus Face book*

*Last month the Australian Government announced it would offer the families of Australian servicemen who are buried at Terendak Military Cemetery, Malaysia the opportunity to repatriate their remains. The Office of Australian War Graves is now consulting with each of the families on their wishes for their loved one, but have been unable to make contact with some families.*

*The servicemen's families we would like to reach out to are:*

- *Gunner Thomas Checkley, 131st Divisional Locating Battery*
- *Private Norman Allen, 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment*
- *Signalman Kenneth Charles Johnson, 208 Commonwealth Signal Squadron*

*In addition there are servicemen's family members buried at Terendak whose families DVA, would like to make contact with:*

- *James Herbert Ridley, 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, whose late wife Kathleen Patricia Ridley is interred in Terendak*
- *Brett Leonard Thompson, Royal Australian Signals, whose late daughter Tracey Lee-Ann Thompson is interred in Terendak.*

*If you are a family member of or have further information about how to contact any of these families, please email Barry Hampson, the Office of Australian War Graves at [wargraves@dva.gov.au](mailto:wargraves@dva.gov.au) Lest We Forget.*

### 4. 1 RAR Battle Group Coral Reunion:

Member Tom Carmody, who was one of just 5 arty blokes who attended 1 RAR's 2015 Coral reunion, has phoned to give members the heads up regarding future 1 RAR Coral reunions. The 2016 reunion is planned for Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May at Twin Towns on the Gold Coast. He says 1 RAR is also planning a "big reunion" for 2017 in Townsville, but he's not sure at this early stage what is being done for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. Thanks for taking the time to let us know Tom.

Needless to say, as soon as we hear any details re 2018, we'll pass it on to members.

### 5. History of Conscription – Tim Fisher:

Neil Mangels has forwarded this note and attached report from Tim Fisher regarding the story behind National Service for the Vietnam War. (See Tim's report attached.)

*Subject: National Service Call Up!*

*Hi, Great work you do, my sincere thanks.*

*Have a read of the attached and if you want to, send out to the boys. Thanks, Tim Fisher*

### 6. Gunners Fund – Appeal for Funds and Membership:

We have received a note from Maj John Bayatola, Second in Command of the School of Artillery, asking us to advise members of the existence of the Gunners Fund. This Fund is used to assist artillerymen in different ways, and the organisers are trying to raise additional funds. They are appealing for support from the gunner and ex-gunner community. The best way for any of us wanting to help would be to join the organization and pay their membership fees, which appears to be their main source of income.

For anyone interested, details are provided in the attached Gunners Fund flyer.

### **7. Parcels for Diggers O/S:**

Laurie Bird has passed on to us details of how members and friends can send parcels and letters to Aussie troops currently serving overseas. The initiative has been put together by Allen Petersen. If you would like to be involved, the details are attached.

### **8. Gallipoli Film Festival in Adelaide:**

Pete Geelen wants to pass this film festival information as sent to him by Geoff Laurie to our Adelaide members.

*Attached are the details relating to the Gallipoli movie afternoon being arranged by the Army Museum of SA. I invite you to bring your family and friends to this very entertaining afternoon, and in doing so, to support the Museum in its efforts to maintain the South Australian military history. Please note the arrangements to book and pay for tickets on-line. Regards, Geoff Laurie*

### **9. Secretary's Leave:**

Just letting members know that I will be away on leave o/s from 13<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August, and won't have access to emails. If you want to contact the committee with anything urgent, please refer it to Treasurer John Beer on [jbe51622@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbe51622@bigpond.net.au) If it's not urgent, send it to me as normal and I'll attend to it after get back.

### **10. Welfare Report:**

Welfare Officer Rick has completed his latest Report. This will be distributed to members shortly after this Bulletin is sent.

### **11. Merchandise:**

QM Laurie Bird again wants members to be aware that he has ordered more all-weather Jackets and they are still at the very competitive price of \$55 including postage.. Also don't forget the usual shirts (\$27), caps (\$15) and ties (\$27) etc. that are still available, as well as the CD featuring the 102 Battery theme song The Toucan Battery Blues, and a tribute song to the Centenary of Anzac called Lone Pine Lament (\$10). To order please contact Laurie Bird on his email address [birdlawrence@outlook.com](mailto:birdlawrence@outlook.com) or phone 02 49548248

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