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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 37 12/08/15

1. More Deaths in the Ranks:

By now, members will have received our latest Welfare Report detailing the sad deaths of our fellow gunners Mick Crawford, Alan Good and Leon Pullen.

Our members Arthur Burke and Graham Floyd have both forwarded us a copy of a tribute to Mick Crawford, written by his son Rob, who as a Lt. Colonel is Assistant Military Attache at the Australian Embassy in Washington. A copy of that tribute is attached for the interest of those many members who served with Mick.

2. Mesothelioma Resources and Information:

It is possible that some of our members may be suffering from this terrible disease caused by exposure to asbestos, which may have occurred either during their military careers or in their civilian occupations. The following information has been provided to us by Chad Maycumber from the Mesothelioma Prognosis Network, and may be useful if you have been diagnosed or are at all concerned that you might have been exposed at some stage.

Hi, my name is Chad Maycumber and I'm a member of the Public Outreach Department for the Mesothelioma Prognosis Network. We've created the most extensive prognosis support and information source online. While I was browsing through a number of Veterans sites I came across your website.

Countless veterans are currently suffering from life-threatening illnesses that are a result of exposure to asbestos, a material that was commonly used in hundreds of military applications, products, and ships because of its resistance to fire. I thought that you may be interested in posting our link to help educate veterans on the dangers of asbestos exposure by linking to our website from your page at <http://12fieldregiment.com/links.htm>.

Feel free to take a look at our website at your earliest convenience at www.mesotheliomaprognosis.com. If you are interested in including it as a resource or have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

3. Replacement of Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Medals:

President Flood has passed on some information concerning the federal government's current policy regarding the replacement of medals. The policy is summed up in a letter to the ACT TPI Association from Senator for the ACT Zed Sselja. A copy is attached for those of you who may no longer have their medals.

4. Long Tan Day at Cockatoo Rise Retreat – An Invitation to Attend:

“Hi everybody you might like to join us as we commemorate LONG TAN day for Vietnam veterans at COCKATOO RISE RETREAT. It will be held on AUGUST 18. ATTACHED IS THE INFO FOR YOUR MEMBERS. We will need to know who is coming for catering, again thanks for your support. Greg and Annie Cockatoo Rise.” Flyer attached.

5. Incredible Photo:

Greg Carter (Cockatoo Rise Retreat) has also sent us this stunning photo. What chance of this happening?



6. Recognition for Edmond Shea:

We've been advised that our member Edmond Shea (who you A Battery second tour blokes might remember as John Shea), has recently been awarded RSL Life Membership with Gold Badge, and was presented with the award at the Victoria RSL 100th State Conference by Vic state president David McLachlan and Michael Ronaldson Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Edmond is in his 9th year as president of the Apollo Bay RSL sub-Branch, and he extends a warm invitation to any members who might be travelling his way to call in at the sub-Branch for a drink. He'd be delighted to see you.

7. 104 Battery Lost Property:

President Flood has been contacted by Kevin Dwyer who lives in Thailand. Kevin is trying to track down the owner of a Vietnam war-era Zenith cigarette lighter that has come into his possession. The lighter is clearly marked with 104 Battery identification (see photos), and was obviously lost by some slack 104 gunner while on duty there (or more likely in one of the bars???)

Anyway, Kevin is keen to return it to the rightful owner after all these years, so if you were in 104 Battery in Vietnam and remember losing this precious possession, please let us know and we'll get it back from Thailand for you.

Dear Sir, I have in my possession the lighter shown in the attached photographs. This lighter was found some time ago in Vietnam and later given to me. I would be more than happy to return it to it's original owner but of course I have no way of finding him but I thought that you might be able to through your organisation, or failing that you could put it in your Museum if you have one. Please let me know if there is any interest. Kevin Dwyer



8. 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 temporary email address Lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or phone 02 49548248. (His normal email address is out of action at the moment, hence this temporary address.)

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.