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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 43 26/02/16

1. Anzac Day in Bright:

Cossie invites all ex-102 Battery and other 12 Field Regiment blokes who are interested, to join with him and others for Anzac Day in Bright, Victoria. He's sent the following details and would obviously love to see as many of you as possible attend.

Trev, in our next Association newsletter could you please advise that a few 102 Battery Veterans, wives and partners will be spending the Anzac period with Pommie Fisher and family in their hometown of Bright, Victoria. A few of us decided to have an Anzac day away from the city lights for a change, and give a provincial Australian towns populace the advantage of saluting their own local Veterans, together with the Mates they served with and throwing a bit of extra cash to a country towns economy.

It so happens that the "Bright" Autumn festival falls within the Anzac weekend. "If you have not witnessed the trees in Bright in the Autumn, you haven't seen a thing.

We invite anyone around the area from the Regiment to join us on the Anzac weekend, some of us will be staying a couple of days either side of Anzac day, so please join us, even if you can't make it on Anzac Day, we will be there a couple of days either side of the day, and would love to see you and join us for a drink or two. Anyway Mate, those electing to stay at Bright area, so far, over the Anzac period are, Greg and Lorraine Ayson, David Thomas and Lyn, Larry Darcy and Tanya, Doug Arnold and Julie, Cossie and Kathryn, Ian Warren and partner and Alan Floyd will join us on the day after Anzac Day.

This is not a planned reunion and nothing is planned. It is just a change of venue in a more relaxed atmosphere. Anyone who wishes to join us are very welcome. Regards, Cossie.

2. 1 RAR Battle Group Reunion for 2016:

This year's event will be held on 11th and 12th May at the Twin Towns Club in Coolangatta. As usual, us ex-12 Field Regiment are invited. For those members of the Association interested in attending and who don't receive any information direct from Pepe (1 RAR), I attach a copy of the Reunion Notice and the Registration Form.

3. Missing mates:

Kevin Browning (Survey Sergeant ex- 131 Divloc and HQ Batteries -'71 tour) is trying to contact a fellow Sergeant who was also on the '71 tour with HQ Battery. His name is Mick Allwright.

If any of you can help Kevin by providing contact details for Mick, please ring Kevin on 0411966785 or email him at kb@artilleryguns.org.au

4. Commemorations Recognising our KIAs in Vietnam:

Last issue, members were advised that Victoria was holding a series of 98 separate but simultaneous commemoration services (vigils) all around the state. Between them, these services were intended to recognise the sacrifice of all those diggers killed in Vietnam. We noted that the service to be held in Camperdown was specifically aimed at remembrance for Ian Scott, killed when the blokes of HQ Battery were overrun at Coral on 13th May 1968. Our member Vic Alsbury, who was also there that night, was one of the artillery vets who attended and he has sent this report:

Graveside vigil for Vietnam Gunner Ian Scott at Camperdown Vic.

*Today we honoured the Service and Sacrifice of **Gunner Ian Scott** 3791583 who was born on 18 September 1946 and was a casualty at FSB Coral on 13 May 1968 with HQ. Bty. 12 Fld. Rgt.*

As part of the commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Gunner Scott's commemoration was among 98 held simultaneously across Victoria.

An estimated 250 to 300 people attended at the Camperdown Cemetery and 12 Field Regiment was well represented as were Vietnam Veterans. Many people travelled quite a distance to attend as did Andy Forsdike MM from NSW. Paul Kelly from NSW makes many regular visits to Ian's grave, with Ian's sister Pat Scott and along with Ian's widow Marlene they were comforted by the attendance and tributes.

Our gratitude to all who organised the day, VVAA Victoria, Geelong and districts and to MC Darby Drennan and all the many people who helped organise the day and gave their time freely, not forgetting the talented bugler.

Country hospitality was at its best with Saturday night BBQ, Sunday, morning tea and dinner at Pat Scotts, with accommodation for some distance travellers provided by Pat and her friends.

Buses to and from the vigil were provided with the Cobden graveside vigil joining us for a light lunch at the golf club, approximately 300 altogether.

Our thanks to the wonderful people of Camperdown especially Pat Scott and all who contributed to this memorable event.

*Our thoughts are also of **Gunner Christopher Sawtell** HQ Bty 12 Fld. Rgt. who was a casualty at FSB Coral. **Lest We Forget***

5. Anzac Day: Revised march route for Sydney:

For those planning to march in Sydney please note that George St is closed for the light rail installation. Attached is the new march route. (Thanks Pepe Prendergast for sending us this info.)

6. Anzac Day Get-togethers:

There will probably be only one more edition of this Info Bulletin before Anzac Day, so if you have any unit reunions, meet-ups at the RSL, pub crawls or just catch-ups etc. planned, and you want to let your mates know via this Bulletin, please get the information to me within the next few weeks.

7. Merchandise:

QM Laurie Bird is still selling all-weather Jackets and they remain 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).

Any of these would be ideal for you to wear with pride at your upcoming Anzac Day functions.

To order please contact Laurie Bird on birdlawrence@outlook.com or phone him on 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.