

**President:**  
Mr. Graham Floyd  
39 Mitchell Street  
Ouyen Vic 3490  
Ph: (03) 50921045  
Email: 12fdregtraa@gmail.com



**PATRONS:**  
Lt Col Fr John Tinkler (RL)

**Secretary:**  
Mr. Trevor Bryant  
28 Ironbark Avenue  
Flagstaff Hill SA 5159  
Ph: (08) 82707130  
Email: trevjeanbryant@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**  
Mr. John Beer  
81 Fawcett Street  
Glenfield NSW 2167  
Ph: (02) 9605 8493  
Email: jbe51622@bigpond.net.au

## 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

### INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 44 02/04/2016

#### 1. Anzac Day Gatherings:

Member Mick Austin wishes to advise his HQ Battery mates of the following regarding Anzac day in Sydney.

*HQ Battery 12 Field Regiment are having an informal get together in Sydney on Anzac Day 2016. At this stage I am aware that Bloomy, Paul Kelly, Emmo, Orford, Dalton (Dave), Mal Hundt (if well enough), Geoff Thomas and of course myself, will be there. I sent out about 26 emails and would have loved to send more but that was as many addresses that I possess. All HQ Bty members are invited to meet at the march and I am looking forward to catching up with as many fellows as possible.*

No doubt there'll be heaps of other get-togethers on Anzac Day and I wish you all a memorable day. Unlike many of the hangers-on who see the day as a great excuse to party, we are the elite – the ones who have seen war, and who truly know what the day is really about. We can enjoy yourselves among our mates, without losing sight of the heroism and sacrifice that got this country to where it is today.....

#### 2. Association Reunion in 2017:

A reminder that the Association Committee is holding the next reunion in May 2017 at Maroochydoore on the Sunshine Coast in conjunction with the AAA's National Gunner Dinner – a similar concept to the very successful reunion in 2014. A rough guide to the program is as follows:

Tue 23 May - Meet & Greet  
Wed 24 May - Free Day/Planned activity  
Thu 25 May - Formal Dinner  
Fri 26 May - B-B-Q  
Sat 27 May - AAA Dinner/Free Day  
Sun 28 May - Breakfast/Farewell

More detail including costings etc. will be provided closer to the event, but in the meantime please pencil these dates in your calendars so you have plenty of notice.

***And a further reminder that when you book your ticket to the Gunner Dinner through the Australian Artillery Association, be sure to specify that you are with the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association group so that you can be seated with your fellow 12 Field Regiment mates.***

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

### 3. A New Book for Your Interest:

Member Chris Coape-Smith wants to let members know about a new book on Vietnam, written by his nephew's wife.

*My nephew's wife Ruth Clare, whose father served with 1 RAR at Coral (Douglas Robert Callum - deceased), has written a book about the father that returned from Vietnam as a National Serviceman. The book is called ENEMY. Regards Coapey*

Further information is available via the following Link.

<http://www.theage.com.au/good-weekend/casualties-of-war-20160301-gn831b.html>

### 4. The Vung Tau Orphanage – an Interesting Development:

A couple of weeks ago, the Association received the following e-mail from a member of the public who was trying to find out more info about the orphanage. He also had some very kind words to say about the blokes running the project and veterans generally – so much so that he wants to help!

It didn't take much detective work to find out that the "gentlemen" he met on the plane were none other than our own Rick Cranna, Rex Ward and Geoff Grimish.

This is Mr. Bowick's letter to the Association, followed by the reply from Rick Cranna.

*Dear Sir ,My name is David Bowick and my wife Rhonda and I have just recently returned from one month holiday in Vietnam .While flying over I chattered briefly with the two men seated behind us and their mate from up front of the plane(these men served in the National Service if I remember correctly ), they mentioned their involvement in an orphanage in Vung Tau and how their mate had just bought a number of bicycles for the kids .While in Saigon we went to Vung Tau in hope of finding this orphanage but we did not have adequate directions , and just spent the day in town . Throughout our holiday I found myself inspired by these men and was constantly looking at small ways the local villages and even towns could be improved environmentally or just with water conservation . I am not a world saver or even a grand thinker just one person inspired by men who have already given so much . Our flight was Vietnam Airlines flight number 772, 11:50am on 17 Feb 2016. If you know of these men or their orphanage I would like to try and help in some small way .I am a tradesman in commercial refrigeration and reasonably handy . My wife and I would like to donate whatever we can and help this and any other orphanage in Vietnam . Thank You for your time and I hope I am not treading on someone's toes , if so tell me . David Bowick*

*Dear David, Many thanks for your email which Trevor has passed on to me. (I was the guy with no hair sitting behind you on the plane!!)*

*We had a very good trip to Vietnam, firstly to the orphanage at Vung Tau and then to Hanoi where we worked with a group called the Hoc Mai Foundation where we worked with Vietnamese doctors and nurses helping to develop their English skills, whilst the Australian doctors in the Group, worked with the Vietnamese doctors helping in their skills.*

*I was wishing that I had given you more details of our Vung Tau visit as we could have met up with you there and taken you to visit the orphanage and Special School that My Houng runs there.*

*My Houng is an Australian lady whose mother is Vietnamese and she is really a wonderful lady who runs and has developed the orphanage and a Special School for underprivileged children at Long Hai which is about one hour out of Vung Tau.*

*You met Geoff Grimish(First Class!!!!?) and Rex Ward sitting next to me. WE met up with another of our ex-Vietnam colleagues, Robin Parkinson who flew in from Melbourne.*

*Another guy you did not meet is Ian Dimond who really is the Australian co-ordinator of the work we do over there. He is a great guy, lives in Victoria but spends probably six months of the year in Vung Tau assisting at the orphanage and the Special School.*

### 3.

*There are a number of projects on at the orphanage at the moment - one is to supply mattresses to the 90 children who live there and then develop an artificial playing field for the kids to play soccer etc on. Ian is very much being these projects. In June/July most years, we assist Ian and My Houng in teaching the young kids to swim which is a wonderful experience.*

*The orphanage itself has currently been shifted from the centre of town to the outskirts of Vung Tau and although the buildings look very grand, they are devoid of much furniture and mattresses for the wire beds or floor the kids sleep on.*

*I will try and enclose a few of the photos of the orphanage and the Special School I took during our last trip and I have included Ian Dimond and My Houng's email addresses if you wish to contact them.*

*I am sure that Ian will make contact with you concerning your kind offer to help in some way.*

*Again, it was lovely to meet you and you wife and again our thanks,*

*With kind regards, Rick Cranna*

And we take this opportunity to remind members that this orphanage project is on-going and always in dire need of extra funding.

### **5. Ah Tink..... You've Done it Again:**

We love it when we hear from the great man himself – the one and only Father John Tinkler – Association patron and all-round good bloke. He sent us this anecdote supposedly from his exploits in Vietnam but he won't confirm its authenticity..... Thanks Tink!!

*One day in the bush, I was visiting a unit and talking to the Adjutant. While I was doing so, the Brigadier turned up and asked to speak to the CO.*

*The Adjutant said, "He has just stepped out for a moment, sir."*

*The Brigadier said, "Don't you know who I am?"*

*"Yes, sir", replied the Adjutant.*

*"Well, I want to speak to the CO!!!" said the Brigadier.*

*So the Adjutant turned around and shouted this information to the CO.*

*The CO's voice came back loud and clear, "Well tell him I can only handle one shit at a time!"*

*I took off!*

### **6. Coral Remembrance Service – VVF South Australia:**

The SA branch of the VVF wishes to advise South Australians that this year's Coral and Balmoral Service will be held at the Warradale Club Rooms on 13<sup>th</sup> May and will be attended by the Governor Mr. Hieu Van Le. Meal served at 1200hrs, ceremony starts at 1400hrs. Medals should be worn.

### **7. Graveside Vigils Geelong and District VVA:**

Last issue, we included a report about the Camperdown and Cobden graveside vigils which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> February. That report focused on the ceremony for Chris Sawtell, one of the HQ Battery KIA's from Coral on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1968.

Member Mick Grimes has now sent us information concerning a similar ceremony for the other HQ Battery KIA, Ian Scott.

Following is a copy of the Order of Service for interest.

Thank you, Mick.

## 4.

Today we Honour the Service and Sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the Defence of Freedom during the Vietnam War



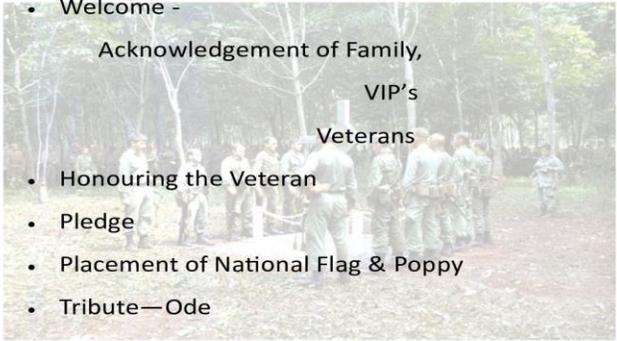
**Full Name:** Ian James SCOTT  
**Date of Birth:** 18 Sep 1946  
**Date of Casualty:** 13 May 1968  
**Home of Record:** Camperdown  
**State/Territory:** Victoria  
**Branch of Service:** Army  
**Rank:** GNR  
**Service No:** 3791583  
**Unit:** 12 Fld Rgt

Honour the Dead, but fight like Hell for the Living

### Order of Service

Camperdown

- Introduction
- Welcome -  
Acknowledgement of Family,  
VIP's  
Veterans
- Honouring the Veteran
- Pledge
- Placement of National Flag & Poppy
- Tribute—Ode
- Last Post
- Lest We Forget
- Rouse
- Laying of Floral Tributes
- Conclusion



Honour the Dead, but fight like Hell for the Living

## 8. Heart Health – Interesting Report from Dan Cudmore:

We received a few good comments regarding the article on heart health that we circulated a couple of weeks ago.

Member Dan Cudmore has sent us the following report about his own experiences with the DVA's Health and Well-being Program. Thanks, Dan!

### DVA HEART HEALTH PROGRAM

#### A worthwhile venture

Some nine months ago I received an information brochure in the mail with regard to the above program. It talked about getting involved at a local gym or with a group operating in my area. As I'm not one for group therapy or indoor calisthenics I left the brochure on my desk for around three months. Then I re-read it and realized that it also allowed for me to do an individual program and communicate by phone and internet. By October last year I had an application approved, got sent a huge bloody folder of how this was all going to work and a contact number.

My mentor/coordinator was Christine, a charming lady subcontracted by DVA to look after all we ageing vets. Anyway, Christine guided me through the first pages of the manual and would call up every fortnight to see that I hadn't dropped dead from the strain and that I was eating all the right sorts of food. [Now there's a challenge!] In the first weeks I had to go off to my local doctor and get assessed, things like cholesterol, blood analysis, BMI, waist measurement and all that and I couldn't even fudge the figures. After that I had to come up with a goal, or if really ambitious, several goals. As it turned out, that was easy, as my partner Lin and I had decided to go and do the Kokoda Trail in July of this year, so there was our goal. Get bloody fit to trek 96 km in steaming humidity up and down the Owen Stanley ranges.

Now for the interesting part of this diatribe; several mornings a week I go for a jog up the foreshore to Port Melbourne and back. Along the way I keep running into this guy by the name of "Charlie". He runs a *Step into Life* franchise and always seems to have a bunch of fit and happy students churning up the park turf doing some weird exercise. So a few months ago I

said to Lin, “you should go and join one of Charlie’s classes” never mind that I should be doing the same! So off Lin went and actually loved the experience and the professional approach of young Charlie. [And NO, this story isn’t going where you think it is!]

Bottom line; remember my mentor Christine? she tells me, “hey, I have a budget for you guys, we might be able to get the DVA/Government/tax payers to pay for some of your *Step Into Life* sessions if you decided to join Lin” SO... feeling guilty that I wasn’t supporting Lin in her efforts to get fit, I broached the subject with Charlie. Who of course, then explained how if I added some strength work and a bit of extra flexibility, my running would improve monumentally, my eyesight would be bionic, my footy team would win the Grand Final [he didn’t realize I’m a St Kilda supporter!] and my sex life would be just incredible. So I joined for a three month program. The DVA has paid all my costs; and none of the rest has happened. Actually, I think Charlie is partly right, I seem to have better aerobic fitness and stamina now, I ran the 16 km Run for the Kids on Sunday and got around the course five minutes under my own target time and felt like I was running on EPO, even at the finish.

So, if you have the time, the desire and the patience, check out the program and give it a go, it’s a good initiative. It lasts for twelve months and the people running it are professional without being overly demanding. **For more information see:**

<http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/wellbeing/heart-health-programme>

**L/Bombardier Dan Cudmore; 102 Battery 12 Field Regiment and F.O. ‘A’ Company 1 RAR 1968/9**

## **9. Welfare Report – An Update from Welfare Officer, Rick Cranna:**

### **Welfare Report – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Since my Welfare Report last week, I have received two emails concerning our members, which I would like to add to Trevor’s latest Members Information Bulletin.

I do appreciate receiving these emails about the health of our members, so thank you.

I know everyone is very interested in all our well-being and it gives an opportunity for those of us who served together, to give our mates support in their time of difficulty.

I received a note from **Brian Armstrong (Cptn, 104 Bty 1971)** concerning his FO Sig, **Peter Boxshall** who operated with Brian during 104 Bty’s second Vietnam tour in 1971.

Brian received a note from Peter’s wife Sheila, (via Chris Burgess) which I would like to copy to you.

*“I am sorry to let you know that Pete has been diagnosed with lung cancer.*

*He has a squamous cell stage 4, which is in his lungs nodes and some spots in his bones. Surgery is not an option. We do not know how long he has at present, as he is not symptomatic yet we see the Specialist again in 2 months time.*

*We found out this news quite by accident as he had a toe removed in December that should have taken ONE week to heal. However he ended up in St Vincent’s, Toowoomba, then to St Andrews, Toowoomba where they fought to save two other toes that became infected.*

*All of this was caused by lack of blood getting to the feet and the doctor decided he needed stents in the legs to carry the blood through to his feet, so they x-rayed him to see if he was fit enough to have the anesthetic. That’s when the cancer showed up...they then did further scan, followed by biopsies followed by a PET CT scan and this is the result.*

*I have the blue nurses coming in every day to dress the foot and we are having excellent results there, it is looking much better, but as for the cancer, this appears to be a lost battle even before the fight begins...*

*Thought I should let you know Chris. Regards Sheila”*

Sheila, all 12 Field’s thoughts are with you and Pete.

6.

I received a note from Mick Grimes (102 Bty/ALSG 1968) which I will copy to you:

*“Just got Trev’s latest report asking for anyone who is being bowled over to let you know. After two complete knee and hip replacements and both legs being stripped for varicose veins, I am to say the least, over hospitals. To get my legs and veins fixed once and for all I was scheduled to have ultrasound guided sclerotherapy and/or endovenous laser ablation done on both legs to reduce return vein size which will eradicate swollen feet. In doing so it revealed a problem far worse in both legs. I have been diagnosed with bilateral popliteal vein decompression in both legs with both getting zero black blood return when my legs are fully extended. This as you know this can lead to blood clots, DVT, ulceration etc. So I am booked into the SAN on 23 Mar 16 with a release 24 Mar. The surgeon is using the latest technique, with a 10cm incision behind the knees, then separates the veins from the muscle and stitches the muscle up so it cannot drop back in. 3 to 4 weeks after this operation I have to go back to do the ultrasound guided sclerotherapy and/or endovenous laser ablation, which I went down for initially. I am a bit over operations, but I just cannot muck around with this, but I am determined to get this all fixed so I have a good pair of pins, not so good looking but operational.”*

Good luck with all this Mick – sounds pretty complicated, but we hope it all works for you and you can get back onto the football field before the season ends!

That’s all for the moment,

Regards, Rick Cranna, Welfare Officer. (0407 572048. [rgeranna@bigpond.com](mailto:rgeranna@bigpond.com))

## 10. 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](mailto: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.**