

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. 46 23rd May 2016

1. More Fallout From Anzac Day:

For your interest, here are a few more stories about how members spent their Anzac Day.....

- Phillip Cormack sent this report on Anzac Day in Hornsby. Thanks Phil.
Hi Trevor, Some good info in the newsletter as usual and I found Andy's comments on meeting Ian Scott's widow and sister quite poignant and moving – it must have been hard for him to answer all the questions thrown at him but understandably so both from his and their perspective wanting to just know. Just a couple of things Trevor.
Not being a Vietnam vet I have never marched on Anzac day as I have always thought the march is for the returned men and women. However, for the past few years I have attended the dawn service at Hornsby with my daughter where she lives. A few years ago she discovered my grandfather's name on the Hornsby cenotaph. He was a Captain in the 3rd Btn in the first AIF and was killed near Villers-Bretonneux in August 1918.
At the service I was bailed up by a Vince Greck who spied my RAA badge. He was a former gunner in A Fld Bty where I finished my two years when 12 Fld went to VN in early 1968. We got talking and I ended up marching with the A Fld guys. I saw the 12 Fld banner, had a look at all the faces but didn't recognise anyone so stayed with the A Fld fellows – good bunch of blokes and I enjoyed the day. I also caught up with a few 1 Fld guys I know from the first intake.
- Laurie Bird had his Anzac Day observance in far off New Zealand. (Greetings to all our Kiwi vets!)
Whilst Cherie & I were on hols in New Zealand, our tour bus was able to spend an hour for an Anzac Day ceremony at Havelock which is located on the top eastern side of the South Island. This town has only several hundred people and we were made most welcome with drinks and eats and also invited to attend the ceremony in their small hall. Many of us on the tour were Aussies and UK residents so it was most welcome for us to pay our respects on this most important day. Many of the marchers from this town were Vietnam vets with a contingent of NZ air force personnel from a nearby base.
I was most impressed with the ceremony as both the Aussie, NZ and UK anthems were sang together with these countries national flags being raised. Laurie
- Brendan Nelson's speech at the Canberra Dawn Service.
Several members have contacted me to say how much they were impressed by Director of the Australian War Memorial Brendan Nelson's un-read seemingly off-the-cuff speech. Those of you who heard him speak at the Canberra ceremony for the 40th anniversary of Coral in 2008 already know what an impressive speaker he is.
If anyone is interested in hearing it, just follow this Link.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGgDoq9H0Oc&list=PLyv2sudQhZoONLJ7MQwkBgl-3rZm-9Jk7&index=11>

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

2. Reburial of Frank Smith:

Allan Floyd would like to make members aware of this moving ceremony to be held in Ouyen, Victoria. Obviously Floydie would love to see as many of us as possible attend to help welcome another one of us home.

Reburial of Francis Smith - Army Number 37003

Frank Smith, was one of eight children of parents, Stan and Poppy Smith. Stan was employed on the State Rivers Commission, and later at the Victoria Hotel in Ouyen. Lennie, Frank, Rex, Eddie, Ken and their sisters Joan, Valmai and Margaret, all attended school in Ouyen.

Frank was called up for National Service in 1957 and enlisted with 1 Royal Australian Regiment, during the Malayan emergency. He re-enlisted with 1 RAR after his 2 years National Service when he learned his unit was going to Vietnam.

Corporal Frank Smith died from a sniper's bullet on September 21st 1965, at Ben Cat, Bien Hoa Province. He was the second Australian killed in Vietnam.

He was awarded two medals posthumously by the head of the South Vietnamese psychological warfare unit, Major Gen. Huynh Van Cao – the Military Merit Medal, and the Cross of Gallantry. Cpl. Len Smith his brother, also 1RAR, was present at the ceremony.

Frank was buried at the Commonwealth Terendak Cemetery in Malaysia. His remains will be reinterred in the Ouyen Cemetery on Thursday 9th June 2016.- as one of 26 Australian service men being bought home for reburial.

The public are most welcome to attend the service and afterwards at the Ouyen Club to meet with family members.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE: Reburial Cpl Frank Smith, Ouyen Cemetery 9th June at 1100hrs.

3. Pepe/1RAR's Application for the Awarding of Unit Citations for Coral:

Some members have been asking where this application currently sits. Pepe's latest report on progress, dated 3rd May 2016, is as follows:

Hi, So you all know.... Here is an Abstract of the Battle of Coral-Balmoral. It tells you what is the scope of our submission, what is included & who is included. It is now with the Chief of Army for a decision 'they say by 30 Aug'. We await the decision.*

Thanks to those that have made some input and are supportive of our endeavour.

We must now wait until the CA has deliberated & we will let you know the result ASAP after we know.

Please pass this on to your networks. Thanks Pepe

(*A copy of the Abstract referred to by Pepe is attached to this Info Bulletin.)

4. Association Reunion 2017:

Another reminder to members that our next reunion will be held at Maroochydore in May 2017 in sync with the Royal Artillery Association's National Gunner Dinner.

The rough program at this stage has the reunion spanning Wednesday 24th May (Meet-and-greet in the evening) through to breakfast on Sunday 28th May, with the Gunner Dinner held at Caloundra on Saturday night 27th May. The Association's formal reunion dinner will probably be on the evening of Thursday 28th, with excursions and activities planned for daytime hours on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th.

PLEASE enter these dates into your next year's calendar. We are giving you plenty of notice!!

3.

5. Coral/Balmoral Services:

Once again I have received enthusiastic feedback about the excellence of the recent commemoration service held at Ingleburn RSL. This particular event sets the benchmark for Coral/Balmoral services everywhere.

No doubt many of our members attended similar services across the country. I was personally privileged, along with Pete Geelen, to attend a service at Adelaide's VVF headquarters. The service attracted all the notables, including the state governor, the big brass from the Australian Defence Forces and many polities.

A special thanks to our Association member Larry Davenport (HQ Battery, FSB Coral) who was superb as the emcee and co-organiser.

6. Election of Committee Members:

It is likely that this year's AGM will again be held in November. At that meeting, all committee positions will be up for re-election in accordance with the Rules.

The formal Notice of AGM will be sent to you well prior to the meeting, and all qualified members will receive the opportunity to nominate themselves or other qualified members for the vacant positions.

Most importantly, the office of President will be vacated when President Flood steps down. In accordance with the Rules he is not eligible for re-election, so your current committee is asking all members to give careful consideration to identifying an appropriate nominee for the position of President. It is obviously an important role with a major bearing on the future of the Association, so it is crucial that we get the right person.

7. The Position of QM and Bearer of the Banner:

For many years, Life Member Laurie Bird has tirelessly held this position. His circumstances have changed and Laurie is now reluctantly stepping down from the role. He has done a magnificent job and his boots will be hard to fill. Fortunately for the Association, Rob "Cossie" Costello has volunteered to take over Laurie's duties and we can't think of anyone more qualified to do so.

The committee of the Association wanted to record a big thank you to Laurie, but the following kind words penned by Cossie covers it admirably. All the committee has to say is "Ditto". Thanks Laurie.

Gentlemen, On attending the annual Coral / Balmoral Ingleburn RSL commemoration today, I learned that our ex Treasurer, Quartermaster and right hand man, Laurie Bird had resigned his positions due to family and other commitments.

I would like to say from the outset that Laurie has been committed to our great Association from the day of its birth and really has served it selflessly for the past 10 years. He has done a great job through all the growing pains suffered from a newly formed Association to one 10 years, now established.

Laurie's Association dedication has been a credit to him and he also served on the Canberra Coral / Balmoral 2008 40th Anniversary committee. Laurie almost, single-handedly, organised the combined function for all other corps other than Infantry and Artillery, and did an admirable job under great duress at times through petty jealousies of opposing corps and even some from the same corps. "It took an Artillery man to do it, and Laurie did it well."

I would like to pass on to Laurie my personal thanks for his assistance to me alone, during my time on the executive. He was a rock. I always knew as the founding president of our Association that I always had Laurie by my side. We didn't always agree but we always sorted things out and he was always there.

In closing, I offer my services to the executive in taking up Laurie's role as QM and Regimental Banner Holder.

Regards to all, Cossie.

8. Welfare Update from Welfare Officer Rick Cranna:

Some of our members from 104 Battery's second tour might remember Phil Burns.

It is very sad to report the passing of his and Mary's son. I received the following details from Keith Smith and Ian Macauley, 104 Battery mates of Phil and Mary.

"Phil Burns was in 104 Battery, 2nd tour and his brother John was first tour 104.

Phil and Mary were at the 104 reunion in Canberra and continuing to Qld on holiday when they received the news that their youngest son, Stephen, had passed away due to an epileptic seizure. They returned to WA where they live.

A funeral was held on Monday 16th May and was attended by over two hundred people, with WA based personnel well represented. "

If anyone would like to write to Phil and Mary their address is 1872 Mandurah Rd, Port Kennedy WA 6172."

Very sad news and on behalf of the Regiment, we send our condolences to Phil and Mary.

Regards, Rick Cranna- Welfare Officer.

9. Membership Fees – Advance Notice:

Just a reminder that when our financial year ends on 31st August this year, many members who were previously "Perpetual Members" under the old Rules, will become due for payment of fees. This follows the adoption of new Rules as approved at the SGM in 2012, which removed the "perpetual" category of membership.

Subsequent to that, the committee agreed to allow all previously Perpetual Members to be treated as having a 10-year term. For most of us, this 10 year term is expiring this year.

Those members affected by this will receive plenty of notification before 31st August, together with details of how to make payment. Note that membership fees are still only \$15 per year and there are no plans to change this.

10. Merchandise:

The Association is still selling all-weather jackets and they remain at the very competitive price of \$55 including postage. With winter coming on, these warm, wind-proof and water resistant jackets would be a great asset. 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 Cossie on email at cossie0102@bigpond.com or ring him on (02) 4930 3359.



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.