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Vice President:

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 52

22nd October 2016

1. President's Report:

This Report will be presented by our (unfortunately) departing president to members at the AGM in Sydney next month:

*12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association
President's Report 2016*

Life Members and Members,

This is my last report as your President, as the Association rules decree that I must step down after completing the maximum tenure of Office.

In September of 2011 the Association was facing a minor crisis, in that the then President resigned from office unexpectedly. As I was the Vice President at the time, I assumed the position of Acting President to see us through to the Adelaide reunion and AGM in the April of 2012. It was at this AGM that I was elected as your President.

The Association has been well served by your Committee and Executive since that time. The positions of Treasurer and Secretary, in my opinion, are two of the most important appointments of any organization. We have been very fortunate to have had John Beer and Trevor Bryant in these roles throughout my tenure. Rick Cranna continues to fill the role of Welfare Officer with distinction and compassion; which we are all grateful for. It is very pleasing that they are all willing to continue serving the Association in their respective appointments into the future.

Your committee members continue to pursue the Association's ideals in a timely and considered manner; my personal thanks go to all those members who have served on the committee during this time. Some notable achievements for the Association over this period has been the re-write of the Association Rules, the appointment of a dedicated Welfare Officer, planning for re-unions and the publication and issuing of the Bulletin to all members on a regular basis. The streamlining of applications for membership and the recording of same, and the fact that we are still attracting members is testimony to what the Association is about.

I vacate the position of President confident that the procedures and protocols that have been put in place during my tenure will stand us in good stead well into the future.

*To all members and families,
Stay well,
Flood.*

2.

2 Annual General Meeting:

Another reminder to you that the next AGM of the Association will be held at Ingleburn RSL 70 Chester Rd., Ingleburn, at 1300hrs on Wednesday 9th November. Remember that a finger-food lunch will be served around noon.

Please, if you live within commuting distance of Ingleburn, make the effort to attend. We need everyone we can get to ensure a quorum (and to consume the sumptuous lunch that Beery is organizing...).

3. The Position of President:

At the time of writing this Info Bulletin, we still have not received any firm “willing” nominations for this crucial position. Three concerned members have offered themselves as a last resort – that is, they are not really keen but will take the job out of a sense of loyalty to the Association if no-one else nominates. We are certainly grateful for their offer and thank them sincerely, but it would be preferable to get someone who has chosen to take the job rather than doing it as a responsible member’s duty. Do you see the difference?

Also note that at this stage, we have only one nomination for the committee member vacancies, so we’re still looking for good candidates there too.

4. The Association Reunion – May 2017:

Yet another reminder of this up-coming event. Full details and Registration Forms will be sent out to all members shortly after the committee meets at Ingleburn on 9th November.

This reunion will be a wonderful chance for us all to catch up with mates we haven’t seen for a long time, and let’s face it – at our age, how many other opportunities are we likely to get.

As a further incentive, the Association will be using accumulated funds to heavily support this event, meaning that the cost to members and family for the four days of activities will be quite minimal.

Reunion Auction and Raffles: Some of the highlights of every reunion are the auction and the various raffles. We are looking for donations of items that could be auctioned or raffled, so if you have anything you could spare, please get back to the Secretary Trevor Bryant on 08 82707130 or by return email.

5. Leonie Jones’ Coral Documentary:

As previously advised, Leonie’s wonderful documentary is finally going to receive its well-deserved public screening. To watch it, you’ll need access to Fox Television’s History Channel, and it will be screened at 1930hrs on Remembrance day, 11th November.

6. Overdue Fees:

Over the last few months those members whose fees were due on 31st August 2016 have been sent reminder notices. Most have been very prompt and we thank them for renewing their membership. (Note, if you didn’t receive a Reminder from us, then you can assume your fees are up-to-date.)

However, as of the date of this Info Bulletin, there is still a handful of members who have not paid their fees which are now overdue. Chasing you up with Notices and phone calls requires a lot of effort and admin, so it would be appreciated if those members could pull their fingers out and get themselves back in the black. Thanks Fellas

3.

7. The Long Tan Ceremony in Vietnam:

Most of us would have read about all the things that went wrong during the attempt to recognize the 50th anniversary of the battle at the memorial located near the battle-field in Vietnam.

So..... what happened to cause such a fiasco? Cossie has sent us the attached memo written by Dave Sabben, former 12 Platoon Commander, D Coy 6RAR.

A copy of Dave's summary is attached for those interested.

8. The Death of Hanoi Hanna:

In case any of you missed this news, Graham Rylands has sent us this report from The Guardian:

“Silky-voiced propaganda broadcaster Hanoi Hannah, famous for urging American GIs to leave her country during [the Vietnam war](#), has died at the age of 87.

The radio presenter, whose real name was Trinh Thi Ngo, was among dozens of Vietnamese journalists drafted in by the Communist regime to inundate the country with anti-US rhetoric during the conflict that ended in 1975 with the fall of Saigon and America's defeat.

“GI, your government has abandoned you. They have ordered you to die,” she said in one of her on-air appeals in English during the war. “Don't trust them. They lied to you, GIs, you know you cannot win this war.”

Vietnam 40 years on: how a communist victory gave way to capitalist corruption

The long read: *After the military victory, Vietnam's socialist model began to collapse. Cut off by US-led trade embargos and denied reconstruction aid, it plunged into poverty. Now its economy is booming – but so is inequality and corruption*

In daily broadcasts on state-run Voice of [Vietnam](#) (VOV) from the northern capital of Hanoi, Hannah would list the names of American troops killed in combat, read US newspaper articles about anti-war protests and play Joan Baez and Bob Dylan songs.

She rarely spoke of Vietnamese losses or American successes in her broadcasts, which were carefully controlled by the Communist authorities.

Hannah died on Friday at her home in Ho Chi Minh City, according to VOV.

“Hanoi Hannah was clearly one of the most prominent broadcasters we had in the history of the Voice of Vietnam and the country in general,” said Nguyen Ngoc Thuy, a former journalist at VOV's English service.

“She will be remembered for her legendary voice in broadcasts targeting American servicemen. Her influence on Vietnam's success against the US was huge,” Thuy added.

4.

Hannah joined VOV from the outset of the war, recalling in her memoir a desire to make a difference to the war effort. "I thought it was time for me to do something to contribute to the revolution," according to an excerpt reported on VOV.

Hannah went on to work for Ho Chi Minh City Television after the war and was reclusive in her final years, rarely speaking to the press.

The Vietnam war, still called the American war in the country today, ended with the fall of the southern capital more than four decades ago at the hands of Communist forces. The city was renamed Ho Chi Minh City after the country's independence hero who died before the war's end.

At least 2.5 million soldiers from Vietnam's communist North and US-allied South died in the conflict, along with 3 million civilians, according to official figures.

On the American side, more than 58,000 soldiers lost their lives, while some estimates say more Vietnam veterans killed themselves after the war than died in fighting – although the figures are disputed.

Relations between the former wartime enemies have warmed in recent years, with many English-speaking Vietnamese youngsters eagerly embracing American culture. The US president, Barack Obama, visited the country in May, lifting the wartime-era arms embargo and celebrating close ties with its former foe."

Comment:

At least Hanna did what she did for the benefit of her own country, and in that way she could be called a "patriot".

The same can't be said for that other famous "voice" of the war, "Hanoi Jane". She did what she did deliberately intending to damage the war effort of her own country (the USA), and incidentally caused the barbarous death of several of her fellow Americans (pilots), and unknown others, who were just doing their jobs. She was a traitor rather than a patriot. News of her passing when it comes won't cause too much grief among the veteran community in the States or here.

9. Merchandise:

A reminder from our QM Cossie, that there are still many great bargains to be had amongst the Association merchandise he's selling. In particular, he's offering:

Tee Shirts (new item) for just \$20. Chambray shirts (limited sizes) for just \$15, plus a cap for \$3 with every shirt, Caps for \$6, and Ties just \$16. (All prices are plus postage.)

Here's a tip: If you're planning on coming to the AGM next month (and I hope you are), lodge an order with Cossie first, and he can deliver it to you at the meeting).

You can order any of these items by emailing Cossie at cossie0102@bigpond.com

Or by phoning him on 02 49303359.

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.