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## **12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association**

### **INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 57 1/03/2017**

#### **1. Sad Departure of Another Gunner:**

Peter Geelen has forwarded this news from Flood about another gunner death. No doubt there are several of our members who were second tour Germs who remember Peter Davison.

*Peter (Gonk) Davison was an FO party member with B Coy 4RAR/NZ towards the latter part of the 71 tour. Brian Armstrong was the FO Capt and I was the Ack. It is sad that CS 22 and 22A have lost another member in less than 12 mths. Mooka Boxshall last year and now Gonk. Flood*

RIP. Lest we Forget.

#### **2. Perko's Funeral:**

Vice President Flood attended Robert (Bob) Perkin's funeral and sent us this report.

*The funeral service for Bob was held at the Westside Chapel, Fremantle Cemetery on the 22 Feb 2017 with over 400 people in attendance. The number of people in attendance showed how much Bob was loved and respected.*

*Assn members Flood, Peter Martin, Brian Armstrong, Ian Gray, Hugh Ritchie, John Paskulich and Ian MacCauley, with apologies from Ian Caporn and Murray Bethune, were also joined by Keith Smith, Tim Bakker and Bob Eddington with an apology from Tony Ferraro. We all served with Bob in SVN in 1971.*

*Julie, Chris and Mike were very moved by the Guard of Honour provided by these Veterans in escorting the Cortège into the Chapel and also for Bob's final journey inside the Chapel.*

*Lest we Forget  
Graham (Flood) & Jude*

#### **3. 102 Battery "Toucan" Nick Name:**

Most members would know that 102 Field Battery was affectionately called the Toucan Battery, and its logo was a toucan bird.

Member John Stephens (Gun Sergeant 102 Battery 1968-69) has sent us a reminder that, back in Malaya 1963-66, the Battery was known by the Brits as the Koalas. This was because "they were protected animals, couldn't be shot at, and couldn't leave the country."

Bit harsh, don't you think?.....

#### 4. Coral Awareness – 1RAR’s On-line Petition:

Those members who are not on the 1RAR Association mailing list, may not have seen this information from Jack Parr regarding their petition lobbying for more recognition of the Coral/Balmoral battles. If any of you want to participate, the link information is included below.

Hello All,  
STAND TO!!!, [dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au)

*The Battle of Coral Balmoral Awareness Program and ON-Line Petition HAS NOW STARTED IN EARNEST.*

*The Appeal Document has been sent to Minister Tehan*

*The On-line petition through Change.org has been activated. Please follow the link below and register your vote/signatures.*

*Note that is essential that you forward the link to everyone on your mailing lists with a request for them to do likewise.*

*WE want as many signatures as we can get. Numbers count. We need everyone’s vote.*

*Send also to as many politicians of all types that you can find. We need everyone mobilized to spread the word.*

*Links*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YKuGKNObfE>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/577768285737827/>

<https://www.change.org/p/mr-dan-tehan-mp-help-support-the-forgotten-heroes-of-the-vietnam-war>

*Jack Parr PS: I have attached the emails of Senators and Members for your use.*

#### 5. Dave Brook – Once a Gunner Always a Gunner:

Our member Dave Brook (BK,102 Battery 1968) takes artillery matters seriously. Take a look at this curtain in his front window!!

Dave tells me it’s actually a shower curtain, would you believe? It was bought on line for him from England by his daughter, but it serves well as a front room curtain – just right for your average, discerning artillery officer in his retirement.



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## 6. NAGAs All Round?

This crew of seasoned golfers was spotted recently at a golf course in rural Victoria.

I have no idea which of them is the gun golfer and who's the NAGA, but a little bird has told me that Floydie is a great golfer, especially so before his knee problems, and he once used to play off a single-figure handicap.....



**Jeff Stein, Rob Parkinson, Rick Cranna, Alan Floyd and Geoff Grimish**

**Behind the camera is photographer extraordinaire Bruce My Dog Morris from Shepparton, who I'm told organized the event.**

## 7. Reunion Update:

Boys, boys, boys..... what's happening????

I'm so disappointed with the response to the excellent program that been set up for this reunion.

None of us organisers can fathom why there're only 22 actual members (total of 40 attendees including spouses) willing to attend out of a total membership of nearly 300. 7%!! Is this really the best we can do?

Again I attach the reunion information flyer and a Registration Form in the somewhat forlorn hope that there are heaps of you out there just poised ready to send your registrations in, and we are going to end up with a good, healthy roll up .....

To those members and their spouses who have already made the commitment to attend, thank you, and we guarantee that you will have a great time anyway, despite the disappointing numbers.

**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.**

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