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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 63 5th September 2017

1. Financial Year 2016-2017 Treasurer's Report:

Our financial year ended on 31st August. As usual, our very efficient and capable Treasurer John Beer has prepared a comprehensive set of accounts. As soon as they are signed off by our Auditors, I will send you all a copy.

You'll see that the Association is well-off for funds and in a healthy financial position. Unfortunately though, as for all organisations managed by Vietnam veterans, we are struggling to find members willing to put in the time and effort, and take the responsibility to manage the association. Our recent plea for members to nominate for the key roles of Treasurer and Secretary have not resulted in any names, so the current committee really has no choice but to explore the possibility that the Association may have to be wound up. More about this later.

2. National Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Coral/Balmoral:

Warning Order!

Most of us Coral blokes, especially the ones who were at the DVA Canberra function for the 40th anniversary in 2008, have been wondering for some time whether a similar government-sponsored even will be held next year for the 50th anniversary.

Ian Ahearn has been the arty representative on a committee established at federal level up to explore this idea and has sent us this heads-up.

Thanks Trevor,

I think you should send out a warning order that there will be a National Commemoration in Canberra on 13 May 2018 and that it will involve (at the minimum) a memorial service and a government reception. Pencil it in.

I will keep you in the loop and your kind offer to liaise is gratefully accepted.

Regards, Ian

3. RAAA National Gunner Dinner for 2019:

The RAAA has already announced arrangements for their 2019 Dinner which will be held on Saturday 24th August. Those who attended this year's event had a great time.

So, mark it in your diaries. You can't complain that you didn't get enough notice.....

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4. HQ Battery's Anzac Day in Sydney:

Terry Lee sent us this photo of a fine group of youngish men getting together on Anzac Day.



5. Funeral of Vic Page:

Terry Lee also sent us this report on the funeral of Vic Page. Thanks Terry. Lest We Forget.

Trevor, I attended Vic Pages funeral in July on the Atherton Tablelands and on Vietnam Veterans Day I travelled to Cairns for the laying of his ashes. Del (Vic's wife) who is an extraordinary woman asked me to put something together to cover both the funeral and the laying of his ashes and to see if we could get some space in the newsletter. In regard to Del, she was engaged to Vic when he was cut to pieces at Coral and received him back after his rehab time of 2.5 years. Vic released her from the proposed marriage but she refused to walk away. She stayed with him and cared for him until his death in July this year. A remarkable woman indeed. Also there is a story to be told about Vic himself who was grievously wounded and survived to 70 years of age against many odds.

Anyhow, I have put together a simple account of both services and would appreciate very much if you could include same in a future newsletter if there is to be one. I am aware these are precarious times for the Association.

Terry Lee (HQ BTY 68)

3.

Vic Page (HQ BTY 68)

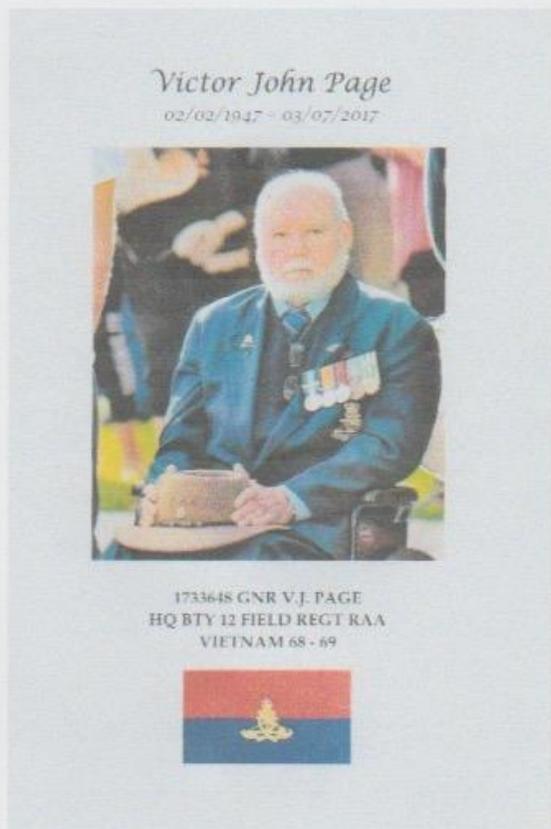
FUNERAL

On 10 July 2017 I attended Vic Page's funeral at Atherton North Queensland. Vic was a well known and respected member of the Atherton Tablelands community and as expected a very large number (300+) people attended the funeral. Many HQ BTY 68 members were also in attendance and had travelled long distances to pay their last respects to Vic. Gary Soper HQ BTY 68 and President of the Ravenshoe RSL Sub -Branch conducted the military tribute and service for Vic. This was very fitting as Gary and Vic were very close mates and it was a very moving service. Well done Gary. Drinks to salute Vic were taken at the picturesque village of Yungaburra.

LAYING OF THE ASHES

On 18 August 2017 I returned to Cairns for the laying of Vic's ashes at Forestview Cemetery in Cairns. A group of about 20 people were in attendance. Vic's wife Del had chosen Vietnam Veterans Day to lay his ashes alongside the ashes of other family members. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day in Cairns when our brother at arms was finally put to rest.

Terry Lee (HQ BTY 68)



6. Jesus Blessed us with his Presence:

Do any of you blokes from 102 Field Battery in Vietnam remember that Jesus stayed with us for a while? Jesus the monkey, that is. If you want the full story, ask Blackie next time you're talking to him. Anyway, while Mark Jamieson was researching his book about 102, he followed up as much info as he could about Jesus (Did he actually read the Bible?), and finally located this great photograph from Dan Cudmore who had it stored in his garage.

Thanks for sending it Mark and also to you Dan for preserving it for all those years.



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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