

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



PATRON:  
Lt Col Fr John Tinkler (RL)

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

Vice President:  
Mr. Neil Mangels  
PO Box 91  
Middleton TAS 7163  
Ph: (03) 6292 1409  
Email: nma77081@bigpond.net.au

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. 32 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### 1. Notices of Up-coming Functions:

- Open Day at Woodside, in the Adelaide Hills. Member Pete Geelen has forwarded notice of this event to meet the 16<sup>th</sup> Air Land Regiment at an open day on 28<sup>th</sup> March – see Flyer attached.
- Member Peter Kimball wishes to advise members that A Fd Bty is having an AGM Reunion at Sawtell RSL on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of Sept 2015 (11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>). All welcome.  
For more info contact Peter Kimball 0754845131 Email [gunner116@bigpond.com](mailto:gunner116@bigpond.com)
- 102 Field Battery. Cossie wishes to remind all ex-102 blokes about the upcoming reunion in Sydney over Anzac.  
*I would like to bring to attention of all ex 102 Battery Gunners, wives, families and groupies (1968 / 69) Vietnam vintage that we are having a very rare 102 Battery reunion in Sydney this year. The Reunion events encompasses both Anzac eve and Anzac day and both formalities, (Meet-and-Greet) and (Anzac Day dinner) will be held at the North Sydney Harborview hotel.*  
*I point out to those of our proud Battery who have not yet registered for this very rare event to do so now so you don't miss out. We have at this time over 90 persons attending, and we would love to have all you 102 Gunners, partners, and kids join us in our day in the sun on Anzac Day 2015.*  
*The 102 Battery Diggers presence in this year's Sydney Anzac Day march could well exceed any before it, inclusive of the Welcome Home parade in 1987.*  
*Please help us make this happen for a bigger and better day on the Centenary of Anzac 2015. If you were a member of the Battery at any time within the given time frame above, contact me on 02 49 303 359 or Email: [cossie0102@bigpond.com](mailto:cossie0102@bigpond.com) for particulars to avoid disappointment. Regards to all, Cossie.*
- 131 Div Loc. Member Graham Rylands has passed on a notice about an event for ex-members of 131.  
*TO: 131 Locators Association Members and other interested parties*  
*WHAT: The Commemoration of the 131 Locators Association paver at the Seymour Vietnam Veterans Walk in Victoria*  
*WHEN: Monday 4th May 2015 – the 49th Anniversary of the first detachment arrivals, 'the Pioneers', in South Vietnam. The attached Flyer contains all the relevant information.*
- Opening of the new War Museum at Cockatoo Rise Retreat. Owners Greg and Annie Carter have extended an invitation to all our members to attend the opening of their new War Museum at Sarsfield, Victoria on 27<sup>th</sup> March. See copy of Flyer attached.
- Headquarter Battery. Brian "Stoney" Burke reminds all HQ Battery blokes of their informal reunion on Anzac Day in Sydney. The plan is to meet at the Coronation Hotel straight after the march.

**Members please note that it is planned to have one more Information Bulletin issued before Anzac Day, so if you have news of any other upcoming events that you would like notified to members, it's not too late. Send them to the Secretary.**

## **2. Opening of Interactive War Exhibit, Gosford NSW:**

Our member Clarence Ormsby (161 Battery, RNZA) wishes to advise members of the recent opening of the Interactive War Exhibit at Gosford – photo attached – and invites us all to attend if we're ever travelling up that way.

*Hi All, FYI when visiting Gosford in the near future, come visit the Central Coast Interactive War Exhibit, 24 Tatura Avenue, Gosford, Clarence*

## **3. Changes to ADF Gap Year Arrangements:**

Member Neil Mangels thought that some members may be interested in the new arrangements for ADF graduates to spend a Gap Year.

Subject: ADF Gap Year set to expand in 2016

*Assistant Minister for Defence Stuart Robert this week announced the highly successful ADF Gap Year program will return for 2016, with applications opening on 2 March 2015. Mr Robert, together with the Federal Member for Riverina, Michael McCormack, recently visited RAAF Base Wagga and the Army Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka where they watched current ADF Gap Year members undertake their initial training.*

*"I am delighted to announce the ADF Gap Year program will return in 2016 with more places being made available in the Army and Air Force as well as places being made available in the Navy for the first time," Mr Robert said.*

*"The expansion of the ADF Gap Year means more young Australians will be able to experience life in the ADF where they will gain important professional and life skills, all while being paid a salary and serving our great country."*

*The 2016 program will have up to 445 places available, up from 260 in 2015. Of those places approximately 250 will be available in the Army, 120 in the Air Force, and for the first time up to 75 will be available in the Navy.*

*"The ADF Gap Year has proven to be very popular, with almost 4,000 young Australians having applied to participate in the 2015 program," Mr Robert said.*

*The program provides a positive experience for young people who might be considering a career in the ADF but are uncertain about a long term commitment.*

*"It has also proven to be very popular with young women, who represent almost a quarter of all the current ADF Gap Year members."*

*After completing their recruit training at RAAF Base Wagga or the Army Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka participants will then undertake specific employment training before posting to units across the country.*

## **4. Merchandise:**

Our QM Laurie Bird reminds everyone that goods on offer include caps, ties, Chambray and polo shirts, and all-weather jackets. These items are available immediately unless you require a shirt or all-weather jacket in a size which is not normally stocked. In these cases, the clothing must be ordered for you from the factory and there would be a short delay in you getting them. Caps and ties are available immediately. These are all items that are particularly suitable for your reunions and other Anzac Day activities.

Prices are: Caps \$15, Ties \$27, Shirts \$27 and all-weather jackets \$55. He advises that the offer of free postage for all orders has been extended.

To order please contact Laurie Bird on his email address [birdlawrence@outlook.com](mailto:birdlawrence@outlook.com) or phone 02 49548248

## **5. Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) Fundraiser:**

President Flood wishes to make members aware of a fund-raising activity by this very worthwhile organisation. They are currently selling a music DVD by the Sunshine Coast Concert Band. See Flyer attached. There is an email address on the Flyer where you can obtain further information

### 3.

#### **6. 102 Coral Medium Battery, 8/12 Regiment:**

The modern incarnation of our old 102 Field Battery now based in Darwin, is seeking our assistance. Apparently they have historically kept a "BSMs Board" - a notice board which contained the names and years of tenure of all the past BSMs of the Battery. Presumably this would have been mounted in the Battery's Orderly Room?

Anyway, during their move back to Darwin, the board disappeared, so the current BSM is painstakingly trying to reconstruct it. He is asking whether any of our members may remember, or have records squirreled away somewhere, that would show the details of any one or more of the ex-BSMs. Full name and dates (years) of holding the position would be most helpful.

If you can provide any of this information, please let me, Trev Bryant, know and I'll pass it on to the BSM.

**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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