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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN #10 16th March 2013

To all members, from President Graham “Flood” Floyd:

1. Life Memberships:

I'm pleased to advise that two more of our very deserving members have been awarded the honor of “Life Membership” of the Association. Both John “Blue” Ericsson and John “Beery” Beer are long-term members who have given exceptional service to the Association and easily meet all the criteria set out in the Rules. Blue has regularly provided us with professional advice as a designer and manufacturer, and has been instrumental in creating much of the materiel that the Association has available. More recently he has driven the design of the Association's plaque on the new Walkway at Seymour, and has designed, built and donated a superb and classy trophy for the Association to present at the races forming part of the 1RAR Battle Group Coral reunion in May.

Beery has been our esteemed Treasurer for many years. He is a qualified Accountant and has brought a great deal of professionalism and integrity to the Treasurer's role. He is a tireless worker on behalf of the Association and we are very fortunate to have such a bloke in control of our finances.

I congratulate and thank both these gentlemen on behalf of all members.

2. Earn a Quid for Art – Message passed on from Neil Mangels:

(If any of you art-lovers want to take this up, please contact Secretary Trev Bryant who can give you some more information.)

Dear Veteran Sydneysider,

I thought you might be interested in helping the veteran cause and earning a few quid at the same time.

There is an international art exhibition on at Walsh Bay warves in early April. The exhibition will consist of 13 rooms. In each, an artist will develop a theme.

A particularly well known artist's room will have the theme of the misunderstanding and indifference of the society to war traumatised returning soldiers, sailors and airmen. He is looking for veterans to help him. They can be from any war or peacekeeping and from any service. Basically the veterans will be required to stand facing a wall for half an hour every now and then. The veterans do not have to wear uniform but can if they want to.

The exhibition is being staged by the prestigious Kaldor Public Arts organisation and thousands of people will visit. The details are attached. It looks like a worthwhile reminder to the community.

Anyone interested should contact Pollyanna at . pollyanna@kaldorartprojects.org.au or 0498 008 077 or 02 9361 5066 Regards, Tim National President

WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO PASS THIS ON TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

3. Feedback for RAEME:

We have received the following request from David Miller regarding the overhaul of the Regiment's M2A2s in 1971. If any of you second-tour blokes can help, I'm sure he would appreciate it.

Great Webpages! I have been requested to write an article for the RAEME Corps History Project (Book) and I have decided to write on the overhaul of the Regt's M2A2 Howitzers by 106 Fd Wksp Nui Dat in April/june 1971 (I was the PI Comd GE PI). It was interesting to read on the 104th Fd Bty website about the accuracy of the fire support for 4RAR/NZ by 104 being so good that the 1,000m first round restriction was waived. This fire would have been using the rebuilt guns as previously (April 71?) Lt Col Bruce Topfer informed HQ 1ATF that the state of the guns was so bad that firing "Danger Close" was becoming too risky. To receive such feedback is very welcoming to a "Spanner". I would be interested in any info members can provide on this matter. Best Regards to the Royal Regt. davidmiller99@bigpond.com

4. History of Luscombe Bowl:

Many members will have fond memories of the concerts at Luscombe Bowl in Nui Dat. Attached is an interesting history of the bowl which was put together as part of the Seymour Memorial Walkway project. (Members who receive this Bulletin by APO mail can contact the Secretary Trevor Bryant if they would like a copy of the 5-page history mailed to them.)

5. More about Grimo's AOM:

Attached is a copy of an article which appears in the latest edition of the A Field Battery Newsletter. We always knew he was a good bloke.....

6. Opening of the Seymour Vietnam Memorial Walkway:

Last weekend, many of our members had the privilege of attending the grand opening of this magnificent project. Rob Costello's report of the weekend's activities is attached for your interest. You can access this report and see a number of the photos taken by Cossie, Bruce "My Dog" Morris, and Paul Haw, by logging onto the Association website.

Below is a photo of the Association's plaque as it appears on the walkway, close to the M2A2.



7. WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT - 17TH March 2013.

Lady Members and Gentlemen Gunners. Since my last report earlier this year, there has been a tragedy in the family of our President **Graham and Judi Floyd** when an accident in an ultra-light plane, took the lives of Graham and Judi's nephew Scott Munro and his friend at Ouyen in north-western Victoria, early last month. Scott, a qualified butcher and grazier, was a much-loved father of two small children and his wife, and his death was a tremendous shock, not only to all his family but also to the whole community of Ouyen. I passed on our thoughts and sympathy on behalf of all our Regiment, to Graham and Judi who told me yesterday, that they are all still coming to terms with this terrible tragedy. We are thinking of you all, Floods.

John Stephens – (Sgt. 102 Bty 1968-69) I checked up on Stevo last night as you may recall that I mentioned in my last report that Stevo had been hospitalised with a bout of pneumonia. Stevo sounded 'full of beans' on the phone and told me that he has now fully recovered and, although he was very ill at the time with some spots on his lungs, both he and his wife Val, are now 100% well in downtown Launceston. (His telephone number is (03) 6343 4876 and I am sure he would love to have a yarn with you.)

Actually, **Bill Farquharson (102 Bty 1968)** rang me when he read that Stevo had a bout of pneumonia and asked me to remind everyone that we can receive an injection that is supposed to give us some protection from pneumonia, so I am heading off to get my injection next week. Thanks for the reminder Bill.

Dave Carlson (102 Bty 1968-69) I keep in touch with Dave as much as I can just to let him know that we are all behind him as he bravely undertakes cancer treatment. Dave sounded really good on the phone yesterday and tells me that he does not need to undertake further chemo treatment at Concord Hospital for another month which he is very pleased about. He has great family support from his wife Ellen and some old school and church mates who keep in regular contact with him. Dave's telephone number is (02) 9874 5510 for anyone who would like to have a chat with him.

Bruce (My Dog) Morris (102 Bty 1968-69) Trevor Bryant sent me an email to say that Bruce (My Dog) Morris has had a scare with a malignant Polyp which was recently removed and is heading for the Shepparton Private Hospital on 9th April to have 8" of his bowel removed. I rang Bruce when I received Trevor's email to wish him all the best and see that he is OK. Bruce told me that he had a test from the National Bowel Cancer Screening program received in the mail, which showed a positive result. Another test confirmed the test was positive, so Bruce had a colonoscopy to have the malignant Polyp removed.

His doctor recommended that the offending bowel section be removed, hence his 9th April appointment. Bruce says that despite this scare he is very well, plays golf and lawn bowls three times a week and everything looks positive for a full recovery.

I have had words with our two Forster (N.S.W.) members **Johnnie Hahn (102 Bty 1968)** and **Tom Carmody (102 Bty 1968-69)** over the last couple of days. Tom has recently been undertaking some treatment at Wingham (NSW) and Johnnie tells me that he saw him at a surf club function at Forster last Thursday and he looks great. Johnnie tells me that Tom has thrown away his stick and couldn't convince Tom to have an ale.

This is just as well as, when I spoke with Tom last night, Tom told me that in true style, Johnnie had positioned himself behind the bar as barman and had consumed most of the beer himself leaving little for the patrons! Incidentally, Johnnie, who has been recovering from a torn tendon, has been experiencing back problems in his rehabilitation, like many ex Gunners. Johnnie's medico recommended that he obtain a book titled "Fix Your Own Back", by Robin McKenzie, which sets out some excellent back exercises for anyone with a back problem. Johnnie has secured a copy and says the exercises in the book have been a tremendous help to him.

Talking of "backs", spoke with **Vincey Dunn (102 Bty 1968-69)** who had a major back operation in December last year. Although still experiencing some soreness in his spine/pelvis area, regular physio is helping relieve the pain. He tells me that he will be taking his putter and pitching wedge with him when **Grimmo (102 Bty 1968-69)** and **Robin Parkinson (102 Bty 1968-69)** meet with him in the next few days for a game of golf somewhere on the beautiful Victorian Peninsular where Vince lives.

In closing, the following are the latest details of Pension rates that will increase on 20th March 2013, as announced by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon earlier this month.

Kind regards,

Rick Cranna Welfare Officer (Mobile: 0407 572048) (Email : rgcranna@bigpond.com)

PENSION INCREASE FOR VETERAN COMMUNITY

Veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will see an increase to their pensions and income support payments from 20 March 2013, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, announced today.

The payday on 21 March reflects the fortnight ending 18 March and will not include payments based on the new rates. The payday on 4 April will include payments at the new rate.

The table below highlights the key changes to fortnightly rates.

Pension	Old Rate (per fortnight)	New Rate (per fortnight)	Indexation increase component	Clean Energy Supplement component
Service Pension—single	\$772.60	\$808.40	\$22.30	\$13.50
Service Pension—couples	\$1,164.80 couple \$582.40 each	\$1,218.80 couple \$609.40 each	\$33.60 \$16.80	\$20.40 \$10.20
War Widow Pension	\$783.60	\$820.70	\$23.40	\$13.70
Income Support Supplement	\$234.40	\$241.50	\$7.10	Nil
Special Rate (TPI) Pension	\$1,182.00	\$1,238.20	\$35.50	\$20.70
Intermediate Rate Disability Pension	\$802.30	\$840.40	\$24.10	\$14.00
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	\$652.70	\$683.70	\$19.60	\$11.40
100 per cent General Rate of Disability	\$420.00	\$440.00	\$12.60	\$7.40