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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 11 - 10th April 2013

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

1. ANZAC DAY – a message from Flood:

Wherever you may be this ANZAC DAY I hope you all have the pleasure of being with “Army Mates”. It is without doubt the one day of the year that we can all try to be young again! It is also the day we remember those we left behind in SVN and those who have since passed on. It can be a day tinged with sadness for some, but also a day where we can be proud of what we achieved together all those years ago. Enjoy the day and stay well.

2. Holsworthy V2 Rocket:

Our member Cossie has brought the following request to our attention. Apparently the Aus. Air Defence Artillery Assoc. is looking for information regarding the V2 rocket which was located at the gates to Holsworthy Barracks for a while in the 60's. They are particularly interested in getting a photograph of the rocket in place at the gates, and also in establishing the latest date that it was in situ. Can anyone help with a photo, or perhaps a recollection of it being in place later than '68?

From: [Australian Air Defence Artillery Association](#)

Date: 20/03/2013 1:14:21 AM

To: byovkoff@bigpond.net.au

Subject: New announcement: Australian War Memorial's German V2 rockets .Australian War Memorial's German V2 rockets.

We believe one of these rockets was situated near the gatehouse of the Holsworthy army barracks during the 1960's until about the mid 1970's.

We are seeking photographic evidence. We understand it was managed by the 111 Light Anti Aircraft Battery stationed at Holsworthy at that time.

Are there any members able to assist with photographs or additional knowledge of its life at Holsworthy

Any suggestions or advice would be greatly appreciated.

3. Cutlery set:

While we're on the subject of memories and memorabilia, our member Lee Stockley who looks after memorabilia for the RSL, is trying to complete their exhibition of Vietnam era mess equipment by adding a genuine cutlery set. If you have one you could donate, Lee and the RSL would greatly appreciate it.

“I am writing to ask if you could send an email to the boys asking if anyone has a set of Cutlery set we used in Vietnam (Knife Fork & Spoon) that they do not want. I am the curator of our Memorabilia Cabinet in the RSL and would like to complete our eating set. We have 2 Dixie large and small. HEXY Stove, Cups Canteen, but no Cutlery set from the Vietnam era.

I have tried to buy a set on EBay but they don't come up that often. One of the boys may have a set in a trunk they could donate or sell me.

Ubique Lee Stockley(Stockers)”

4. Interim Financials:

For the interest of members, our esteemed Treasurer John Beer has supplied a copy of the interim financial reports (attached) for the first six month of our financial year. Under John's expert guidance, we're still in good shape.

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5. The Vietnam Medal:

Our member Graham Rylands thought you might be interested in some possible changes being made to the awarding of the Vietnam Medal. It won't affect any of us, but it may be of general interest. Attached is a copy of the Terms of Interest.

6. New Publication – Defence Widows Support Group:

Our member Wawrick Brooker (Brookey) has asked that the attached press release about a new publication be brought to the attention of members on behalf of Mrs. Annette Sadler, widow of the late Lt Peter Sadler, survey section commander Det 131 DLB Vietnam 1966-67.

7. Opening of the Vietnam Memorial Walkway in Seymour:

Our member Neil Mangels attended this event and asked that the following short comment be forwarded to members:

What has been achieved with this Memorial by one of our members, John Phoenix and his other six "Band of Brothers" of the Mitchell RSL Sub-Branch, has to be seen to be believed. Every one's name who served in Vietnam is clearly listed, particularly those that had fallen. Our Regiment has a pride of place at the beginning of the walk with the M2A2. I have to acknowledge the effort and enthusiasm of our former President, "Cossie Costello" in supporting this worthwhile project.

I consider that I was privileged to have been there. Regards Neil.

8. Association Merchandise:

"Association high quality Chambray shirts in long sleeve/short sleeve & Association Polo shirts in latest styling/fabric at \$26 each plus postage are available for sale. These shirts would be great to wear for the Anzac Day reunions. Just advise Laurie Bird by phone or email & delivery will be prompt."

Please also note that the keeper of our merchandise, Laurie Bird wishes to advise members that after many on-going frustrations, he finally has a new Email address for all general correspondence and for orders of merchandise. It's lawrence.bird@bigpond.com. His phone number is unchanged - 02 4954 8248.

9. 1RAR Coral Reunion in Rockhampton:

Members are aware that our Association is participating in this reunion, and many of you are intending to attend. This year, the 1RAR Battle Group is particularly keen to promote the history of the Coral/Balmoral battles to the media and the general public, and are therefore hosting a horse racing day at the Rockhampton racecourse. As part of our involvement, 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association is supplying a trophy to the owners of the winning horse as well as plaques for the jockey and trainer, in a Handicap race for 3 year-olds.

The trophy and plaques we are presenting have been designed, built and DONATED to us by member John "Blue" Ericsson. **And fellas, what a terrific job Blue has done!!!** The trophy and plaques are absolutely first class and professional and we can all be very proud of the image of our Association that they will portray to the public. We all owe Blue a great vote of appreciation for his efforts on our behalf.

And also special thanks to member s Pete Geelen who generously supplied Blue with the rare artillery piece badge on the main trophy, and Rob "Cossie" Costello and Lawrie Bird for also supplying badges and logos.

A couple of photos of the finished product are attached for your interest.

10. Abuse in the Military:

Hopefully none of our members were ever victims of abuse during their time in the Army, but our member Dodger Noonan wanted everyone to be aware of the following information regarding deadlines in the Enquiry.

Subject: Defence abuse deadline is 31 May 13

*FORMER defence personnel who experienced sexual or other abuse while in service have until the end of May to come forward or miss out on possible reparations of up to \$50,000. Slater and Gordon military compensation lawyer **Brian Briggs** said the federal government had set May 31 as the cutoff date for accepting new allegations about abuse alleged to have occurred before April 11, 2011. "Anyone who misses next month's May 31 deadline may be ineligible for the Defence Abuse Reparation Scheme," he said in a statement.*

"Members of our defence force who have suffered abuse deserve to have their complaints dealt with. It would be an injustice for people to be left out simply by missing a claim deadline. Those affected by abuse must act now."

Following the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) "Skype scandal" in 2011, Defence Minister Stephen Smith commissioned law firm DLA Piper to examine a number of allegations of abuse in the defence force. The firm uncovered 775 plausible abuse allegations since the 1950s. The earliest related to events in 1951. In November, the government responded with the appointment of the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce to examine individual allegations, which if sufficiently substantiated could allow victims to claim up to \$50,000 in compensation.

Mr Briggs said the establishment of the reparations scheme was a watershed moment after years of inaction. "These measures may give members of the ADF the opportunity to access ex gratia payments, counselling and medical assistance to help them deal with the very serious trauma they have suffered," he said.

Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/national/deadline-for-reporting-defence-abuse/story-e6frku9-1226613466988#ixzz2PdCsTVfp>

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12. Special "Cheerio":

Until the next Welfare Report, we'd like to send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to the lovely Carol Dalton, wife of the not-so-lovely Dave Dalton (HQ Battery 1968). Carol has just endured a long and painful back operation in the hospital in Taree and came home to Tuncurry on Monday to start the recuperation process. After many years of debilitating pain, the operation was apparently a complete success and she received considerable help from Vet Affairs. Carol is one feisty lady, and with her positive attitude she should be back playing her beloved golf soon.

13. Annual “Battle of Coral” Ceremony at Ingleburn RSL:

A reminder from our Treasurer John Beer about the upcoming ceremony at Ingleburn RSL. The first of these planned annual ceremonies was held last year and was very well attended by our members. Those who were there were impressed with the organization, respectfulness and scope of the event, and most will be returning for this year’s remembrance.

The ceremony will be held on 16th May 2013 commencing at 1100hrs in the static display area of the Ingleburn RSL Club at 70 Chester Rd., Ingleburn. The guest speaker will be none other than our own Don Tait. All members are welcome whether or not they were actually at Coral, and all will find it a very rewarding experience,

14. Message for all Members who receive this Bulletin by Australia Post mail:

Fellas, once again we apologise that it is not possible for us to mail you all the different attachments that have been sent to our members with Email addresses. Some of these are many pages long and it is just not practical to copy, print and mail them all. If any of you are particularly interested in any of the Attachments to Emails referred to in our Information Bulletins, our Secretary Trev Bryant would be happy to send you a copy by mail. Just give him a ring.