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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 12 9th May 2013

To all members:

(President Flood and the lovely Judi are currently touring in northern Australia - Adelaide River about now - and are out of coms reach. Therefore any errors or omissions in this Bulletin are entirely the fault of the Secretary.)

1. Coral DVD on TV:

Leonie Jones has been in contact with us via Cossie to let us know that the Coral story DVD she has produced will probably be aired nationally by Channel 7 around Vietnam Vets Day in August this year. Unfortunately she will have to edit out about 10 minutes of content to allow for ad breaks within the hour, but at least this excellent production will finally get to the general public.

2. 104 Battery Reunion:

104 Battery's reunion in Adelaide over ANZAC went very well by all accounts. The activities included participation in the march in Adelaide, and a visit to the new 102 Coral Battery lines out at Edinburgh where they were treated with great hospitality. A short report from Flood is attached for interest.

3. History of Legacy:

Vice president Neil Mangels has come across an article in the Highlands Digest which includes references to the foundations of Legacy. The article is attached for those of you who would like to know more about the origins of this very fine organisation.

4. Photo Auction:

Our member Ben Dwyer has a magnificent mounted photograph of a 104 Battery M2A2 which he originally bought at one of our auctions a few years ago. It measures 24" x 18" (540x450). There is a photo of it attached to this bulletin. He has kindly donated it back to the Association for distribution to any member who wants it. We are auctioning it to raise funds for the Association, so if any of you think you'd like it, please get back to me with your bid by 31st May. I'll update members regularly with progress to keep the bids going. We thank Ben for his generosity.

5. Coral Ceremony at Ingleburn RSL:

Members with Email addresses have already received a copy of the invitation to attend this event scheduled for 16th May at 1100hrs. If any of our members without Email access are interested, please contact Trevor Bryant and he'll give you the details.

6. Welfare officer's report – 5TH May 2013 from Rick Cranna:

Lady Members and Gentleman Gunners

I trust everyone recovered well after Anzac Day and those that were able to attend the various marches and reunions around the country, had a most enjoyable day. This was certainly the case in Sydney, where a good number of our Regiment marched and had a few beers together.

It was especially special to be with **Lois Knox** and her daughter **Sarah** – we do miss our dear friend **Knoxy** (102 Bty '68-'69), who always attended the march in Sydney on Anzac Day.

Dave Thomas (102 Bty '68-'69) and his wife **Lyn** were also to meet with us in Sydney, but Thomo came down with a nasty virus and they were unable to make it at the last moment. I spoke with Thomo tonight and he tells me he is fully recovered again and all is well at Gum Scrub.

That little **Johnnie Hahn** (102 Bty '68), who has recovered from an Achilles tendon rupture, was also A.W.O.L because he was in Italy visiting the new Pope, but I did get word from him in Venice to say that he will probably need further surgery after all the walking he has been doing during his trip!!

I had a note from **Stuey McKeown** (102 Bty '68-'69) who tells me that he met up with **Kelvin Ferris** (Sgt.LAD 102 Bty '68-'69), **Peter Daff** (102 Bty '68-'69), **Terry O'Neill** (102 Bty '67-'68), and **Gordon Williams** (131 Div.Loc Bty '68-'69), who are all well and enjoyed the day at one of Perth's watering holes with some 106 Bty guys.

I have some sad news to report.

Pauline Hicks, wife of **Bruce Hicks** (102 Bty '68), sadly passed away late last month. Bruce told me that Pauline had mostly poor health but her passing was very sudden and unexpected.

Many would have met her at our re-union in Adelaide last year and if anyone would like to give Bruce a call, which I am sure he would appreciate, his number is (03)9749 8875.

Other sad news, is the passing of two ex A Bty guys recently.

Edward (Ted) Killer Murphy, who served with Bravo Troop, passed away in the Philippines on the 13th April 2013, where he has been living with his wife Sofie.

Garb Ellis, (HQ Bty '68-'69 and also, 105 Bty Malaya Emergency 1955-57, Malaysian 'A'Fd Bty 1965-67), passed away on 22nd April 2013.

May they rest in peace.

I received an update from **Ellen Carlson**, wife of **Dave Carlson** (102 Bty '68-'69) as follows:

"David had 3 rounds of chemotherapy for the last 3 months. He had CT scan and PET scan done the last 2 days and we just had a meeting with his haematologist who is very pleased with the results. Most of the lymph nodes have shrunk and he is very close to being considered as in remission. So that's the good news. But the tough part is yet to come.

I want David now to do the stem cell transplant. So in about 2 weeks' time, David will be in hospital for the treatment, and that means 5 days of strong chemotherapy and then infusion of his stem cells and hope for the best. David will be in hospital for at least 3 to 4 weeks minimum. So we are now at the starting block and hopefully David will get to the end of the long run without too many complications. It takes about 12 months for the recovery period.

So keep up with all your prayers. We need them!!!!



Ellen "

I spoke with Dave to-night and he sounded very bright and cheery but I am sure he will need our support when he enters Concord Hospital in 2 weeks time when he will start the chemo and stem cell infusion.

David's telephone number is (02) 9874 5510

Great news from **Bruce (My Dog) Morris**. (102 Bty '68-'69). After having part of his lower bowel removed recently, he has just received an all clear confirmation from his doctor and does not need any further treatment until next Feb or March 2014. Well done mate.

Also good news from **Dave Dalton** (HQ Bty '68-'69). His wife Carol, who had a major back operation in March, is recovering well and although not yet being able to swing a golf club, is hopeful that she can in the not too distant future.

That is all the welfare news I have at this time. I would appreciate hearing from anyone in our Regiment who knows of any fellow gunner who may not be 100%, so I can report it to everyone who is part of our Regiment.

I am sure that those who are not well or have lost loved ones would like their fellow gunners to know so that they can receive their support and comfort.

Kind regards,

Rick Cranna (Welfare Officer)

My email is: rgcranna@bigpond.com Mobile No: 0407 572048.

7. 2014 Reunion:

Plans are underway for our reunion in August next year at or near Caloundra. Members were given the heads-up about this event via an Information Bulletin last year. President Flood has formed a reunion sub-committee of Vice President Neil Mangels and Treasurer John Beer who have already got things in motion. We should be able to give you more details in the coming months.

8. Merchandise:

Another reminder that our QM Lawrie Bird has a terrific range of shirts, caps and other merchandise for sale. These can all be viewed on the Association website. You can order on-line at lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or by ringing him on (02) 4954 8248.