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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:
From President Graham "Flood" Floyd**

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 4 6th October 2012

1. End of Financial Year:

As you probably know, our Financial Year ended on 31st August. With his usual efficiency, our Treasurer John Beer had prepared all our end-of-year financials within a few days and they are currently being audited. Although we could hold our Annual General Meeting any time from now on as long as it is completed by 28th February 2013, the committee has decided to wait until next year and hold the meeting late in January or early in February, mainly because we only had last year's just 5 months ago. Notices will be sent out in plenty of time.

2. DVA Assistance:

Cossie has sent us the following information which may be of interest to many of you.

"Maybe in your next update to our 12 Field Assoc Veterans you could let them all know of something that many of them don't know about in regards to DVA assistance regarding home care. All Gold and some white card Veterans are entitled to \$250.00 per year for assistance for household areas where it is deemed a safety risk for our Veterans. They are offering non slip safety mats and Garden recoiling hose reels for our blokes amongst other things.. They have occupational Therapists' come to your house and advise the DVA of our special needs. A little persuasion from the Veteran to the therapist as to his current needs would more than likely result in the area of help they the Veteran require. No more than \$250.00 per year though.

All that our blokes need to do is hop on the phone to the DVA home front phone number 1800 80 1945 and ask for a occupational therapists opinion on areas that they need help. The therapists are obliged by the DVA to survey the home site within 7 days and give the DVA opinions as to areas of help that the Veteran and Wife require. The job is done and completed within a couple of days after the therapist has visited your home for assessment.

(I know one member) has a new hose reel, hose and all fittings (20 Meters) installed, as well as two non-slip mats. All items are of great quality. It is time that our Association let many of our Veterans know of the benefits to them from the Government, that they would not know of otherwise. I have an Aboriginal Veteran mate who did not know of the great savings for Veterans in the purchase of a New Car until 2 weeks ago. He has bought 2 new cars since he was granted the Gold card and paid full tote odds for both of them. I hope you can help.

Best Regards, Cossie."

3. Memorial Roll:

Members who do not have access to emails may not have heard the sad news of the passing of Rodney “Robbie” Robertson who was the sergeant in charge of 102 Battery’s Echo gun at Coral, and who was wounded during the attack of the third night, so I include this notice from our Welfare Officer for your information.

Vale Rodney (Robbie) Robertson.

It is with sadness that I advise members of our Association, of Robbie Robertson passing.

Robbie died on 8th September 2012 at his home at Duncraig WA after a long battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his wife Flo, daughter Anne and son Paul.

Robbie’s funeral service will be held this Wednesday, 12 Sep 2012 at Pinneroo West, WA at 10pm.

Robbie will always be remembered with fondness as a bright and energetic sergeant by those who knew him and those who served with him. **R.I.P Robbie.**

Rick Cranna, Welfare Officer

4. Water Safety Vietnam:

We have been asked by Pam O’Reilly (a friend of our member Lois Knox) to make members aware of a fund-raising dinner being held at Rye (Vic) RSL Club in November to raise money for the work of this charity. Members living in the area may consider getting up a table and attending. A full explanation brochure is attached. (For members without email, if you ring Trev Bryant he will give you the details over the phone.)

5. Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company:

Our member Ian “Scrubber” Ahearn has reminded us of the excellent work done by this organization to preserve Australia’s rich artillery history. They now publish a regular free newsletter called “Airburst” and are encouraging all interested parties to subscribe. It’s excellent quality and full of relevant up-to-date information on arty stuff. If you’re interested in finding out more about the RAAHC or subscribing to the free newsletter, you can visit their website at www.artilleryhistory.or.au

6. Advance Notice:

Our member Charlie Bartkus wants to give all members the heads up about a big Coral Reunion being planned by the 1 RAR Battle Group to be held in Rockhampton from 23rd to 26th May 2013. The program looks good and he certainly recommends it to all members who were at Coral or Balmoral and any others who are interested. If you want to know more, please contact Trev Bryant who will send you a copy of the program.

7. Army Combat Badge:

Just a reminder to all members who are eligible and have not yet applied for their Combat Badge: you can apply through the Association. Just let Trev Bryant know and he will lodge a group/Association application on your behalf.

8. Memorabilia:

You’re all reminded that Laurie Bird is holding a good range of memorabilia for purchase by members, including short and long-sleeve chambray shirts, and polo shirts etc. Give him a ring on (02) 4954 8248, or email him at birds_12@optusnet.com.au if you’re interested.