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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

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

INFORMATION BULLETIN #5 **28th October 2012**

1. Generosity of Ingleburn RSL:

A while ago we made an application for a grant of funds from the Ingleburn RLS Sub-branch, to assist in our on-going expenses and in anticipation of the costs of our next reunion. They have now given us a grant of \$500, which is the maximum individual grant that they give to anyone. We greatly appreciate this generosity and thank them for it.

2. 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association Reunion in 2014:

Some weeks ago we sent a preliminary notice to all members with email addresses. For the information of our members who receive our communication by APO mail, a copy of the Preliminary Notice is included in your envelope with this Bulletin. Don't forget to mark this in your diaries for 2014.

3. Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walkway.

On Monday 8th October, we sent an email to members notifying them of the Walkway being commissioned by the Mitchell Sub-branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia to be built at Seymour in Victoria. This is a major project to recognise the sacrifices of all Vietnam vets and we asked members to contribute funds so that the Association could donate to the project and therefore receive recognition on the Walkway, close to the M2A2 exhibit. I'm pleased to advise that thanks to the generosity of members, the required \$1000 was easily raised and has been forwarded to Mitchell Sub-branch. The Association will receive a panel of 32 pavers on the Walkway showing our logo and a simple message honouring the contribution of all who served with the Regiment.

(Note: I apologise to members without email addresses that we couldn't send all this stuff out by mail. Although it's now too late to make a donation, if you want to know more of the background, contact Trev Bryant and he will mail you the info for your interest.)

We have been notified of the Official Opening of the Walkway to be held as part of the Seymour Military Heritage Weekend on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March, 2013. An Information flyer is attached to emailed versions of this Bulletin for your interest. We are all invited, so if you would like to participate and be one of the first to see the new Walkway, put a note in your diary!

4. Special Note to members who are ex-104:

We have been contacted by Lt Col (Rtrd.) Roger Greene who is a Compensation Advocate trying to assist an ex-member of 104 Battery. He is anxious to get in touch with any ex-104 blokes who may have left Vung Tau aboard the "Melbourne" in early December 1971. If you think you can help, please phone him on 0411 431 189.

5. Rail Discounts:

Patron Ross Bland has been busy negotiating with Great Southern Rail in an attempt to get cheaper rail fares, especially for the benefit of our members travelling to reunions. Nothing has been finalised yet for our next reunion in 2014, but in the meantime they have offered some really good deals in the short term for TPI's and partners. These include Adelaide to Darwin or vice-versa on the Ghan Gold Service for \$250, or Adelaide to The Alice or vice-versa for \$128. Also Perth to Sydney or vice-versa on the Indian Pacific for \$840, or Adelaide to Perth or Sydney or vice versa for \$480. Travel has to be booked by 24th December 2012, and be taken in the season from 1 October to 31 March.

If you're interested, you should ring the Great Southern Rail Travel Centre on 13 21 47. Thanks Ross for getting this concession sorted out.

6. RAA Historical Company update:

Scrubber has sent us a photo of the new purpose-built display cabinet to house the Coral Diorama at the Artillery School at Puckapunyal. Here's a copy of his message.

"Attached is a photo of the Coral Diorama which has been moved to the School and is now mounted on a purpose built support. Lights will be fitted to the display to enable it to be properly viewed. Costs of construction for the support were funded from funds held by RAAHC for the Association. Lights will be funded from the same source."

He also advises that the new edition of the RAAHC's Newsletter "Airburst" is now available on their website.

7. Welfare Officer's Report #3:

This has already been sent to members with email addresses and is now included in the envelope to APO address members with this Bulletin for their information.

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.