

President:
Mr. Graham Floyd
39 Mitchell Street
Ouyen Vic 3490
Ph: (03) 50921045
Email: 12fdregtraa@gmail.com



Secretary (Acting):
Mr. Trevor Bryant
28 Ironbark Avenue
Flagstaff Hill SA 5159
Ph: (08) 82707130
Email: tandjbryant@bigpond.com

Vice President:
Mr. Neil Mangels
PO Box 91
Middleton TAS 7163
Ph: (03) 6292 1409
Email: nma77081@bigpond.net.au

PATRONS:
Lt Col Fr John Tinkler (RL)
Major Ross Bland (RL)

Treasurer:
Mr. John Beer
81 Fawcett Street
Glenfield NSW 2167
Ph: (02) 9605 8493
Email: jbe51622@bigpond.net.au

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

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

INFORMATION BULLETIN #6

1. Vale Major General Pearson:

Member Mick Grimes has sent us this succinct summary of the life of an extraordinary soldier.

Major General Cedric Maudsley Ingram ‘Sandy’ Pearson AO, DSO, OBE, MC (retired) was farewelled with full military honours at his funeral at Newington College in Sydney recently.

Born in Kurri Kurri, NSW, Major General Pearson graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1940 and went on to have an extensive and outstanding military career spanning some 36 years. He saw active service in World War II and in Vietnam.

The current Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley AC, DSC remembered Major General Pearson as an exceptional officer who was held in high esteem by all who knew him. The enormous respect shown by all who served with him marked him as an outstanding leader. He was mad on rugby and played and coached the inter-service teams. He was loved by all men who interacted with him, not just due to his rugged features and broken nose, he exuded an aura that shouted a leader of men.

Known for his dedication to duty, Major General Pearson was awarded the Military Cross for his efforts at Maprik Ridge during World War II where he demonstrated his ability to lead fearlessly by example and motivate his troops. On multiple occasions, Major General Pearson exposed himself to enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety to enable his platoons to advance up an almost vertical slope. Later, on his own initiative, Major General Pearson led an attack on the enemy, enabling the battalion to advance 2,000 yards.

Major General Pearson was also awarded the Companion of the Distinguished Service Order for his role as Commander of the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his leadership of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. In 1975 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

In his later years of service he was the Commandant of the Royal Military College Duntroon and Chief of Personnel at Army Headquarters.

After retiring from the Army in 1975, Major General Pearson continued to hold leadership roles, as Executive Director of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and as Director of Brickworks Limited.

Major General Pearson passed away at Narrabeen in New South Wales on 7 November 2012, aged 94. A beloved father and grandfather, he is survived by daughters Sandra and Elizabeth and son James.

2. Annual General Meeting – advance notice:

The Association’s next AGM will be held at 2:00pm on Wednesday 13th February, 2013 at the Georges River Golf Club in Sydney. Official Notice will be sent to all members around mid-December. Please note it in your diaries and keep the day free. We need as many of you as possible to attend.

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association is a Branch of RAA (NSW) Association Inc
The Association ABN is 90 248 586 329. However, the Association is not registered for GST and is Tax-exempt

3. Water Safety Vietnam:

A couple of Bulletins ago, we notified members that this charity would be holding a fund-raising dinner in Rye, Victoria on 9th November. Member Dan Cudmore attended along with a few other members of the Association including Lois Knox, and a group of ex 1 RAR blokes, and he reports that it was a terrific event. 220 people attended in total, and they raised \$12,000 – a great effort for a worthwhile charity.

4. Welfare Officer's Report No. 4:

For members without access to emails, this is a copy of the latest report.

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT - 13TH November 2012

Lady Members and Gentlemen,

I thought it might be appropriate to update you with some Welfare issues concerning our fellow members.

Johnnie Hahn. (102 Bty 1968)

That great little guy has his leg in plaster after snapping his Achillies tendon in late October. His wife Gwenda tells me that Johnnie still thinks he is "only 19" and was lifting up the back of a ute to change a tyre when the tendon snapped.

For the first time in her life, Gwenda now feels safe, as Johnnie, with his leg in plaster, has no chance of catching her!

Talking to both of them last week, I understand that the plaster will come off in about 10 days time.

I cannot imagine that little fitness fanatic staying still for two minutes, let alone two months!

Tom Carmody. (102 Bty 1968-69)

Tom, like Johnnie Hahn, is also living at Forster. Tom has had a few issues that he has been dealing with, but he tells me he is now recovering well and is really enjoying life on the NSW mid north-coast.

Tom can be contacted on 02-65549644 but as he is sharing a phone at his sister's place, calls should only be made in the early morning.

Russell Hogan. (102 Bty 1968-69)

I had a call from Peter Geelen the other day, to say that he caught up with Russell and Jenny Hogan in Adelaide recently.

Russell has finished his recent chemo treatment and Peter tells me that Hoges was in fine form as they sat chatting over a cup of coffee for a few hours.

I spoke to Russell recently myself, and he tells me he has a back brace on at the moment after lifting a lawn mower onto his vehicle the other day and has done some damage to his back. "Russell?!!!"

He tells me that he is having some great fun with his racehorse "Mortar Man" who is running in the Snake Gulley Cup at Gundagai this Friday.

Dan Donovan. (104 Bty 1971)

President Flood tells me that he had a message from John Hannon last week to say that Dan's wife had a stroke during an operation last week. Despite no movement in her right ankle, Hanno advises that she is now a lot better.

Flood asked Hanno to pass on the Association's best wishes for a speedy recovery and to let Dan know that the Association is thinking of them.

If anyone wishes to contact Dan, his current address is: PO Box 394 Wulguru, 4811.

Other news.

Blue Ericsson spoke to **Lois Knox** recently to say that she had just returned to her home in Victoria after spending 12 months in Western Australia.

It is just over four years since Knoxy passed away .

That gracious lady Lois, told Bluey that she feels a lot happier and refreshed after her trip to W.A.

Kind regards, **Rick Cranna, Welfare Officer**

5. Memorabilia:

Laurie Bird advises that he has "quality Chambray Shirts specifically designed for our Association members & ladies at reduced prices. These shirts are ideal to wear at our functions/meetings and the prices have been reduced for the Xmas period. Also the first 20 orders will be postage & handling costs free."

Mens L/Sleeve Shirt: sizes S – 3XL = \$26, sizes 4XL – 5 = \$28.

Ladies ¾ Sleeve Shirt: sizes 8 – 18 = \$25, sizes 20 – 24 = \$26

Mens S/Sleeve Shirt: sizes S – 3XL = \$25, sizes 4XL – 5 = \$26

Ladies S/Sleeve Shirt: Sizes 8 – 18 = \$25, sizes 20 – 24 = \$26.

Please give him a ring on (02) 4954 8248, or email him at birds_12@optusnet.com.au if you're interested.

6. Special Invitation:

Treasurer John Beer has asked that this invitation from the RAAA be passed on to all members:



To All Gunners - 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

The President and the members of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc extend an invitation to the members of 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association to join us on the occasion of St Barbara's Day Service, on 2nd December 2012.

The Service will be held at the Holy Trinity (Garrison) Church, located on the corner of Argyle and Lower Fort Streets, The Rocks, Sydney, commencing at 11.00am.

Our Patron, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO, has indicated that she will attend.

Following the service and morning tea at the Church a reservation has been made at the Phillip's Foote Restaurant. The associated menu and costs of the lunch can be found on the restaurant's website:

http://www.phillipsfoote.com.au/menu_weekend.htm



7. Burdekin Veterans Deep Creek Retreat:

Our member Dan Donovan who is President of the Burdekin Sub-branch of the VVAA, has asked us to remind all Association members of the availability of this retreat located on the edge of the Burdekin River about 1 hour out of Townsville, North Queensland. They welcome all veterans to this terrific camping and caravanning site which is administered by Burdekin VVAA specifically for the use of Vets and their families.

If your idea of fun is to spend some time relaxing in a wonderful setting among the crocodiles, you can get further details by phoning Dan on (07) 47800048 or Mobile 0428218816.