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## 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

### INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 19 8/12/13

**A message from the president:** "The President and Committee wish all members a safe and joyous Christmas with family and friends, and may the New Year bring you good health and well-being".

#### 1. New Member:

We're pleased to welcome another new member to the Association. Sam Sammartino served as a Bombardier with 104 Battery in Vietnam from January to August '69. He lives in Samford Village, Queensland with wife Karyn. On behalf of all members, welcome to the Association Sam, and we hope to see you at a reunion soon.

#### 2. Reunion:

Thanks to all the members who have now registered for this great event at Maroochydore in August. We've had a good response to our pleas in the last issue. For those looking for accommodation, My Dog has set up a good deal as per this notice from Neil Mangels:

**Sunshine Coast Reunion 2014 August 20<sup>th</sup> –August 24<sup>th</sup>.**

*I had a telephone call from "My Dog" (102 Bty) to tell me that the Catalina Resort at Maroochy, will give a group discount of 10 or more bookings as a group. His contact was "Gavin" on (07) 5443 8666 Resort Bookings.*

*What's available is 2 bedroom apartments, water views, in Block 1 (newest) of 2, for \$195 a night. Block 2 is \$ 175 a night. Sooo if you can get back to me (Neil) with your details, and providing we have more than 10 (apartments) –I will negotiate the best discount on offer to pass directly onto you. The first apartment is My Dog's, so ring me on (03) 6292 1409 (Tassie) so we can get the ball rolling.*

*And don't forget to register with our Treasurer, John Beer, on the attachment provided, by the 31st Jan 14. so that we can plan to have great time. Regards Neil Mangels, Co-ordinator.*

And while we're on the subject of the reunion, I'm pleased to advise that, for the first time, BOTH our esteemed Patrons, Ross Bland and Fr. John Tinkler (yes!! The legendary Tinks) will be attending! Fantastic.

#### 3. The Rules Online:

Just confirming that members can access the latest Association Rules at any time from our website (thanks to our net guru Graham Hampton). On our Home Page, click on Membership Form and you can access the Rules from the link appearing under "Membership Application Form"

#### 4. Vietnam War Museum:

President Flood has sent us the following information regarding the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

*On behalf of Friends of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum and our president, Mr Bob Elworthy, I would like to cordially invite you to become a **Friend of the NVVM**. Our Friends program was launched on Saturday 16 November at the Museum's Veterans and Families Day. We hope it will grow to become one of the Museum's greatest assets, supporting the growth, conservation and exhibition of the Museum's magnificent heritage collection for future generations and preserve the legacy of those veterans who served in the Vietnam War 1962-1975.*

*Whether you are existing staff or volunteer at the Museum, a veteran of the war regardless of nationality, associated with a veteran in some way, are already supporting the Museum or are simply interested to help out with a Friend's subscription, we hope you will consider joining us and also bringing in other like-minded friends and colleagues to also enjoy the benefits and fellowship of being a 'Friend of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.*

*Application Forms and a description of benefits can be found on our website – <https://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org/get-involved/friends-museum>*

*We hope to see your application form soon and would appreciate it if you could forward this email on to your appropriate contacts, no matter where they are. Thanks and best regards, Andrew*

#### 5. Cossie and the gaspers:

For those who haven't heard yet, Cossie has actually given up smoking!! Now that you're back after falling off your chair laughing, I'm serious! He has. He sends to following report which was prepared a couple of weeks ago:

*Trev, I thought that I would share a little humour with you that you may be able to share with the blokes in the next correspondence to them,*

*Seven weeks ago tomorrow (but who is counting) I gave up the lungers, cigarettes or whatever you would call those filthy things. To say the least, I am doing it tough as I have smoked for around 52 years and really liked them most of the time.*

*I decided that I would set myself a goal and give myself a reward for giving up, that I can look on in the future as the ultimate reward, so I decided that I would buy an MG car to love and caress, as I did the cigarettes. Needless to say, everyone that I have talked to since has learnt that I had given them away and for how long, right down to the hour that I stopped, it seems that they all have been a big crutch to me in my aim in their encouragement to keep going.*

*Tonight I phoned an old Charlie Gun member, Denis (Pommie) Fisher and told him the news that tomorrow is the seven week anniversary of my project. Pommie was indeed proud of my achievements and told me so, and gave me wonderful encouragement in my aim to own an MG and he gave me many valid reasons to keep going, (God, I love Charlie Gunners.)*

*Sadly, Pommie knows a few of my other little life's weaknesses and said to me, "Jesus mate, Imagine if you gave up the beer"!!!! You could be driving a Bentley or Rolls Royce". That done it, I will return to have a smoke tomorrow and have a drink or two!!!! NO I WILL NOT HAVE A SMOKE!!!!!!!!!!!! EVER AGAIN!!!! But I could have a drink, The Rolls is the next project in some many years time!!!!* Regards, Cossie

#### 6. An update from Beery on the annual Ingleburn RSL's Coral/Balmoral service:

Hi Trev. Just a note to let the association know that Ian (Scrubber) Ahearn will be delivering the Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch's Coral/Balmoral Commemorative Address next May 2014. Beery.

#### 7. Message from the QM:

*"We have many quality Chambray Shirts in both Long Sleeve & Short Sleeve and also Short Sleeve Polo Shirts in most sizes specifically bought by the Association for Reunion/Meetings. These shirts would be ideal for our members to wear at our next Reunion in 2014. Imagine the public image presented by our members at our venues when we wear the shirts with the Assn badge embroidered and in the Arty colours. To the member partners & family these shirts would be an ideal present and remember Ladies we also have appropriate shirts for you to wear. Just check out our website and provide your choice of shirt & size & provide your details to Laurie Bird either by email [lawrence.bird@bigpond.com](mailto:lawrence.bird@bigpond.com) or phone 0249548248. All profits from these sales will assist in the Association subsidising our Reunions.*

*A very Merry Xmas & a healthy, prosperous New Year to you all!"*

## 8. Ceremonies in Albany – October/November 2014:

The following Minute from the Association's Committee meeting last month may be of interest to members.

*“Blue Ericsson and Don Tait gave a detailed description of the activities that are scheduled to take place in Albany, Western Australia, in October and November 2014 to commemorate the departure of Australian forces to WWI. The activities will be very extensive and will involve all of Australia, especially through the participation of the RAN and the creation of a professional film of the event. It was agreed that the potential for participation by our members was limited. Blue advised that he will be attending as his son lives in Albany and therefore he would have accommodation available. It was moved by Blue and seconded by Lawrie Bird **“that, subject to it being possible within the official program, the Association provide a suitable wreath for placement on the monument at the main remembrance ceremony, and that wreath be dedicated to the artillerymen who served in that conflict “**. The motion was carried unanimously on show of hands”*

## 9. Welfare Officers Report - 8<sup>th</sup> December 20:

### Lady Members and Gentlemen Gunners.

This will be my final report this year and a great opportunity to wish all a very Happy Xmas from the Welfare Department!

I have had some telephone calls with **Ross Alexander (HQ Bty 1968)** over the past few weeks about Prostate Cancer and the importance of guys our age, having our prostate regularly checked.

Ross has recently had a prostate operation and is currently completing a six-week course of daily radiation.

Ross tells me that although the radiation makes him very tired, he is fine.

However, Ross mentioned to me, that I should remind all our guys, of the importance of having our prostate regularly checked, both PSA (blood) and digital, at least on a twelve month basis and where there may be a history of this disease, perhaps on a six-monthly basis.

Ross was having regular tests, but a sudden rise in his PSA level, signaled a problem and resulted in an early detection.

With no knowledge on anything medical, I looked up prostate cancer in the internet, and it shows other symptoms as well. These include:

- needing to urinate more frequently, often during the night
- needing to rush to the toilet
- difficulty in starting to urinate (hesitancy)
- straining or taking a long time while urinating
- a weak flow while urinating and feeling that your bladder is not completely empty once you have urinated.

Thanks Ross for your suggestion to mention this disease, which I know, has visited a number of our Regiment guys. Good luck to you too mate, as you complete your treatment.

I spoke to **Russell Hogan (102 Bty 1968-69)** today, who I know has been bravely battling with prostate worries.

Russell never ever complains about anything and is always concerned about the welfare of his fellow gunners, but I know he is suffering and I know how well all those who know him, respect him.

He tells me he is enjoying training a couple of good race horses (Mortar Man and Benny's Jet) and is having quite a bit of success with both nags.

Russell recently disturbed two robbers who were endeavoring to remove some of Russell's gear from his shed. Whilst the police were dealing with one of the robbers who was trying to get away, Russell cornered the other would-be thief and managed to rearrange the thief's face before almost flattening a pain-clothed policeman who was coming to arrest the thief. Fortunately, Russell did not hang one on the police officer and both robbers were arrested.

Russell is off for more oncology treatments on Tuesday, so “good luck Punchy Hoges”.

I called in to see **David Carlson (102 Bty 1968-69)** at his home in Sydney yesterday. Unfortunately, David is required to have more chemotherapy again as a recent scan and biopsy showed some disappointing results and he has been experiencing kidney pain. David told me that he would be having a blood transfusion on Tuesday to increase his blood levels to cater for the additional chemo.

We all know what a fighter David is and I know he knows, that we are all thinking of him as he deals with this. He did ask that we pray for him and I know that many of us are.

Our very best wishes go with you mate.

I had a lovely conversation today with **Lois Knox** , wife of our dearly departed **Geoff (Knoxy) Knox (102 Bty 1968-69)**. Lois tells me that she has sold her home at Frankston South (Melbourne) and has bought a house at Wangaratta in country Victoria..

Her son Thom and daughter-in-law Bron, who have recently had a baby son Harry, live in Wangaratta whilst her other son Ben lives at Harrierville, not too far down the road.

Little Harry has been have some real difficulties since he was born in September this year, but Lois tells me, that he is now starting to put on some weight from 1.69kgs when he was born to 3.22kgs he weighs now. Good work Bron, Knoxy would be proud of you all.

Lois's new address, after she moves on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, will be:

No.4 Cambridge Drive, Wangaratta, Vic. 3677 and her mobile phone number is: 0488677797.

**Vale : Denis Clive Willmot (Willie) (102Bty March/April 1968)**

Shorty Williams advised that Willie passed away in November. He was a driver during his service in Vietnam in 1968.

I received a message passed on by Vice President Neil Mangels advising that if any veteran is unsure as to whether a medical service is chargeable to DVA, they should ring [1300550457](tel:1300550457) for advice. Thanks Neil.

I understand also, that there are new rules for accessing treatment under the White Card after 10<sup>th</sup> December and holders of a White Card should have received advice from DVA advising of these new rules.

No doubt, the DVA web site should have all this info.

That is it from me for the time being. I trust everyone has a great Xmas and New Year.

Let me know if there is anything I can do, or pass on to our members from a Welfare point of view.

Kind regards, **Rick Cranna Welfare Officer. (mobile: 0407572048)**

**9. Holiday Message:**

And so it is Christmas once again. Celebrate and enjoy. And remember that it's blokes like us, over more than 200 years, who have kept our society free so everyone can take pleasure in simple things.

For those of us lucky enough to have grand-children, spoil them rotten, and spend TIME with them. We're running out of it.....



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