



**12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association**  
(A Branch of the NSW RAA Association)

**12 Field Regiment  
(Vietnam) Association**

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**President's Letter**

Good Morning All,  
I have been remiss in getting this newsletter out due that there has been little going on in the Association together with the fact that I was confined to hospital. Sadly, over the last month, we lost two valued members of the Regiment's two Vietnam tours. Details will follow later in the bulletin. As most of you know, the Museum at North Head has closed. The Sydney Harbour Trust increased the rent to an impossible level for it to survive. The work was voluntary and the many long hours of the dedicated men preserving the history of the old Fort seems to have gone forever. The memorial walk was coming on really well and it was a pleasure to walk and find the names of the men who served, many from previous conflicts who are no longer with us. Funding for this walk came from sponsors, ex-servicemen and families who paid for their personal paver to be placed on the walk. Now the Gates are shut, nobody can appreciate it and who knows the future of this prime real estate? The artefacts from the museum will be held stored at Bandiana, Victoria until a museum is to be built at the schools of Artillery and Armour at Puckapunyal, Victoria sometime in the future. It is said that the new museum will allow public access, even though it won't be within the confines of Army property. Some four years ago \$4,300.00 was donated to the Royal Australian Historical Company by some ex Gunners from 102<sup>nd</sup> "CORAL"

Field Battery for lighting and audio to be added to the Coral diorama at the Museum. That work had never been carried out. Colonel Don Tait (Rtd), the ex-BK 102 Battery in Vietnam has written to them to get a refund as the funds were given in good faith. Don has advised me that the funds will go to our Association. The Association AGM is now due and is planned to be held at Georges Hall Golf Course, 255 Henry Lawson Drive, Georges Hall, Sydney (adjacent to Bankstown Airport) at 12 noon, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter. I do appeal to members residing within a 200 kilometre radius of Sydney to attend and/or nominate for a position on the committee. We need some fresh blood. I have had a couple of requests to lodge in this newsletter. The first is from Larry Darcy ex-Bombardier 102 Battery 1968/69 and Gun Sergeant A Battery 1970/71. Larry is having a journal written about his time in the Army and has requested if anyone from 102 Battery has details of all the F.S.Bs' that they visited, the arrival and departure dates of those bases. I reckon, unless someone kept a diary, it would be near impossible to know. If anyone has any information, please contact Larry on 02 4257 4877 or 0411 314 825. The second is regarding a project carried out in Seymour, Victoria. The project is being supported by the whole community. It appears that the community is building a commemorative walk for all the Vietnam Veterans who

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served. They are writing a short history on the Vietnam War, also designing and manufacturing signage and maps for the inside of the buildings which will be part of their display. Inscribed pavers for sponsors and commemorating those who served being laid in the pathway around the outside of the building. They are trying to access photos of the battle of Coral. If any 102 Boys can help with this worthwhile cause please phone Caroline Burgess on 03 5792 1758. I am asking Leonie Jones the producer of the Coral movie "They'll come looking for you" to send a copy of it to her. Please help if you can. Planning is underway for our reunion in Adelaide on Anzac day 2012 and we have two guys seeking and pricing venues in order to get the best deal. They will travel to one of our committee meetings in Sydney this year so the whole committee can decide on the appropriate venues. Don't forget that a large part of this function will be subsidised by Association funds and they will have a budget to work to. **On a closing note, some 60 people are overdue with their dues.** Our Secretary will send out letters to those as a gentle. It is only \$10.00 a year. What can you buy for ten dollars these days? Best Regards to all the Association, Cossie.

### Vale:

Kevin ("Scrimmy") Ruel Scrimshaw 2192256 born 8/02/1946, 64, served 2 tours 28/05/68 - 9/05/69; 2/06/71 - 17/12/71 with 104 Battery as a Bombardier on the guns and again as an FO assistant with Charlie Company 4 RAR/NZ. Kevin was a regular soldier for 6 years. I am reliably told that Kevin topped his class beating Officers in his FO training course.

Kevin was on the committee member for a number of years as a representative of 104 Field Battery. His input and presence at our meetings was always appreciated and respected by all. Sadly Kevin passed away on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. His presence will be missed by all.

Kevin's funeral was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and was well attended by members of 104 Battery (both tours), an ex-A Battery member and a number of ex-102 Battery gunners.

Kevin is survived by his wife Denise, son Ian and his wife Margaret and their two children. The Association extends our sincere sympathy to Denise, his family and friends.

P.S. It was great to see so many 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam Association) ties being worn at the funeral.

Writing credits to Graham Floyd 104 Battery.

Rest in peace, Kevin (Scrimmy) Ruel Scrimshaw.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2011 former Warrant Officer Class One Arthur "the angry ant" Richard Cox 22093 passed away.

Arthur Cox was born 11.7.1928 in Mortdale N.S.W. and enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on the 5.4.1948. B.K. (Battery Captain) Don Tait described Arthur as "an old mate" who will be irreplaceable. He served in Vietnam from 3/3/1968 - 4/2/1969.

On behalf of the members of that 102 Battery tour of Vietnam, Don said that he is deeply saddened that "one of us" will no longer be able to parade. He retired as an RSM after serving 35 years in the Army and retired at the age of 55 on the 9.7. 1983. During his time in the Army, Arthur was awarded the Long Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Medal.

Arthur is survived by his widow Margaret and family. Letters of condolence should be sent to his widow at 66 Edenlea Drive, Meadowbrook, Qld, 4131. His funeral was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

Writing credits to Arthur Burke OAM Colonel (Retired)

Rest in Peace Arthur (the Angry Ant) Richard Cox

\*\*\*\*\*

### Three Interesting Stories.

**The three living Victoria Cross recipients have gathered for the unveiling of the new Hall of Valour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.**

Keith Payne, Mark Donaldson and Ben Roberts-Smith are in Canberra and were quick to downplay their supreme acts of courage to Neil Mitchell from Radio Melbourne's 3AW this morning.

The hour long uninterrupted interview is well worth listening to. Log into [www.3aw.com.au](http://www.3aw.com.au).

We have received a request for assistance with a book which is being written about the 521 lost in Vietnam.

### **The 521 Fallen Australians - Vietnam Research by Barry Hampson**

There are 521 Australian Service personnel recorded on the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll as having lost their lives as a result of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam Conflict, arguably in Australia's most contentious conflict.

Each of these 521 Australians has a story that needs to be recorded, *before it is too late*, their lives before they entered the military, their military service and how they lost (*their sacrifice*) their lives. Coupled with their story, is the story of how their death effected and continues to affect their families, friends and the mates they served with, which also needs to be recorded.

I have started researching each of "**The 521**" to produce a book honouring and documenting their lives, how each touched those around them, how they lost their life and the affect that their loss on their family, friends and the mates they served with.

***My reason for writing this book is because I want to ensure that current and future generations remember them, remember the sacrifice they made and how their loss effected and continue to affect their families, friends and the mates they served with.***

Additionally, as part of my research for my book I am trying to visit the final resting places of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam Conflict; to place a flag and poppy at their final resting place as a mark of respect.

**To assist me in this endeavour I would like to talk to and interview anyone who served with any of the 521 Australians; this includes members of their families and friends.** Please contact me directly via [bazz662@bigpond.com](mailto:bazz662@bigpond.com) or via the contact page on my webpage [www.barryhampson.com](http://www.barryhampson.com) or my mobile **0424 750 943**. ***Anyone interviewed will be asked to elect whether they are happy to be quoted as a source of information in the book or remain totally anonymous.***

A bit about myself, I have a military background having enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1980, as a Private, serving 23 plus year and working my way through the ranks. When I enlisted in the Army the majority of my Corporals, Sergeants, etc were Vietnam Veterans. Additionally, my father is a Vietnam Veteran having served with 1st Battalion Group in 1965-66; as such I hold those who have served in Vietnam with the utmost respect. For myself, I have served overseas in the Middle East and East Timor.

I am a member of the following historical associations:

**Professional Historians Association** ([www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au)).

The association represents qualified historians who are professionally employed or commissioned to undertake historical work.

**Australian Historical Association** ([www.theaha.org.au](http://www.theaha.org.au)).

The association was founded in 1973 and it is a national organisation of historians, academic, professional and others working in all fields of history.

**Oral History Association of Australia** ([www.ohaa.net.au](http://www.ohaa.net.au)).

The association was founded in 1978. Its objectives are to promote the practice and methods of oral history, to educate in the use of oral history methods, to encourage discussions on all aspects of history and to foster the preservation of oral history records.

If required, I am happy to provide additional information to anyone who requires it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**\*\*\*\* Notice of Annual General Meeting \*\*\*\***  
**Saturday, 25th March, 2011 at 1200 hours**  
**Georges Hall Golf Club, 255 Lawson Drive, Georges Hall, NSW**  
**(Adjacent to Bankstown Airport)**

**Please note copies of the minutes and treasurers reports will be forwarded shortly.**

**It is important to take an interest in your Association. We are looking for some fresh blood and ideas, so please consider the many Executive and Committee positions which will be available for nomination.**

**Nomination and proxy forms will also be available shortly . These will need to be returned to the Secretary either by snail mail or scanned and e-mailed by 17/03/2011.**

[ianryan@hotmail.com](mailto:ianryan@hotmail.com)

2 Pine Crescent, Ringwood, VIC., 3134.

# Alert!!!!!!!!!!

## Change of Address???

It appears some members are changing email addresses and not notifying us of the change as we are getting many bounces on the newsletter when we send it out on email.

If you are getting your newsletter via snail mail and you used to get it by email, **we must not have your current email address.**

*If you have an email* and you are still receiving your newsletter by mail could you please notify your Secretary, Ian Ryan by email at the following email address:-

[ianryan@hotmail.com](mailto:ianryan@hotmail.com)

Postage has gone up and it is wasteful to send them by post if you have email facilities.

I would like to have a relative or friend's e-mail to forward urgent alerts.

Ian Ryan  
Secretary

### **IMPORTANT:**

### **Non-Financial**

### **Members**

### **Are You an MIA?**

### **Also**

**If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of our Association or perhaps have lapsed their membership, please encourage them to join.**

## **Army Combat Badge .**

There may be some Gunners who are not the list on Page 3 but are entitled to apply for the ACB, so please contact me immediately.

Equally, if you have applied for an ACB through this Association and have not received your ACB, ***please contact*** the Secretary, Ian Ryan, on

*ianryan@hotmail.com*

Postal address:-

**2 Pine Crescent, RINGWOOD, VIC., 3134.**

Or Phone:- **(03) 9018 8991**

**0411 650 077**

## **APPLY NOW!**



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