

New Appointments for those still serving

Brigadier Peter Dunn is now Commander 1st Brigade Holsworthy.

Brigadier Tim Ford is now Director General Force Development - Land at HQ ADF in Canberra

Colonel Peter Kilpatrick is now Commander 1 Div Arty at Enoggera in Brisbane.

Colonel Warren Feakes now Director of Trials at Army Office in Canberra.

Captain Scobie Dobbs now Battery Captain of 13 Bty at Kallunger in Brisbane.

4 FIELD REGIMENT (SVN) ASSOCIATION**COMMITTEE**

Patron: Don Donkin

President: Peter Bruce (Self elected I might add)

Secretary: Treasurer:

Membership Secretary: Editor:

State Reps:

QLD: Mick Long NSW: Allan Betts

SA: Lindsay Walpole WA: John Johnson

NT: VIC: Graham Claughton

TAS: Steve Glover

Please feel free to put your name down for any job.

**4th FIELD REGIMENT (SOUTH VIETNAM)
ASSOCIATION****BULLETIN No 4 (APRIL 1993)**

All Correspondence to:

Telephone:
(03)282 4107(BH)
(03)866 6396(AH)

Fax:(03)282 5018

Captain P.J. Bruce, OAM
CA RAA, PM1
SCMA
PO Box 393D
GPO MELBOURNE 3001

As you can see by the above address I've moved on again since the last newsletter which, I might add, was some time ago. A common occurrence for most of us still serving but I can imagine some of you have lived in the same town or city or even house for quite a few years.

Just to explain some of those initials in the address at the top. In this job I'm the Career Adviser for the Royal Australian Artillery, (CA RAA). I work in Personnel Management Section 1 (PM1) at the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) at 360 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne. Basically I look after the careers - postings, promotions etc of serving ARA soldiers in the RAA in particular the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs. It's a good job with plenty of job satisfaction but can get a bit frustrating at times, especially in these times of downsizing within the Army. But, the RAA is standing up pretty well and will be around for a while yet I'd say.

I've written to our State Reps a couple of times and run a couple of ideas past them. My main concern is what direction we take in the future. Currently we have about 350 members on the mailing list but less than 100 of those have ever sent in their \$5.00 annual subs. I believe we may have to restrict the mailing list to those who are currently financial. This will require more than a one man show to control and our real need is for a permanent base for our operations. "PJ" Smith, Kerry Boyce and Andrew Murray may be able to set something up but anyone in the Sydney area who would like to help would be more than welcome. Basically what we need is a permanent mailing address (PO Box?) and someone to run the newsletters. A treasurer/secretary would be nice and access to a data base etc. We have to pay to get our printing done now as well as the purchase of envelopes and labels etc. If any one wants to get involved just give me a ring or get in touch with "PJ" direct.

Talking of membership and fees etc, one proposal put forward was life membership for say \$50.00. Some think this might not be enough and that \$100.00 or \$150.00 might be closer to the mark. Might be worth thinking about if we get a permanent base set up. Currently we have \$474.17 left in the kitty. This includes a promised donation to the Vietnam Memorial of \$300.00. Printing and postage of this will use up a bit more so if you haven't sent your subs in you

had better drop me a line. Later on you get to read a few letters from some of our members. If a few more wrote into us we could put out a regular newsletter. Two or three a year is probably all we need at this stage but without your input it's of little value.

Have had a couple of letters over the last 12 months or so. Barry Pearce said he write something out about 107 Btys time in SVN - still waiting Barry! Just for info Arthur Burke, ex CO of 4 Fd is working on the history of the Regiment in conjunction with the current CO LTCOL Don Murray. Kerry Cooke wrote to say thanks for the reunion and also suggested we get some stickers made up to stick on your car or where ever. Any comments?

Les Cooper wrote to me a while back too. Les was one of the originals of 4 Fd Regt - joining the Regt in May 1960 as a GNR and served in HQ Bty, 105 Bty and 108 Bty in SVN in 67. Les retired from the Army in 1980 and after a gap of some 11 years is keen to keep in touch with those he served with.

Les found out about the 4 Field Old Boys via "The Journal With No Name" a newsletter put out by John Wells in Melbourne for the 108 Bty Boys. John puts together a few articles now and then and quite a few of the 108 gang get together every now and again. You can get in touch with John via PO Box 407 Guys Hill, 3807, or telephone (059) 443157 (AH).

The Townsville Reunion was a great success with just under 100 members and their families attending various activities throughout the week. 4 Fd Regt and in particular 108 Bty looked after us very well. Highlight for some was the trip to high Range and the chance to fire the Btys new Hamel Guns. At the end of the day it was back to the "The Den" for a couple of quite drinks with all members of the Bty. Maybe some of those who went to Townsville might like to write an article for the next newsletter of their impressions of the week. I'm not sure how the group photo will reproduce but I've still got ten copies left if anyone is interested at \$8.00 each plus postage (call it \$10.00).

The Canberra Memorial Opening Weekend was also a weekend to remember. Highlights for me were - "Gunner drinks" at the Canberra Club on Friday night with over 500 in attendance; the Dawn Service outside the War Memorial on Saturday Morning; the parade and the lead up to the parade, and finally the concert on Sunday. The weather turned a bit nasty for the Sunday which did deter some, but for those who braved the elements - what a great afternoon. Sunday night at the RSL club was also memorable if only to see Dave Larter try and carry a tray of schooners back to the table - on his head! Nice one Dave. John and Annette Connellon put on a barbie at their place as well, and the slide show was something else. I had to drive back to Melbourne on the Monday but we only managed to make it as far as Albury. Brian and Sandi Swift opened their house to all and sundry and had over 20 people sleeping on all sorts of arrangements for the weekend. A great weekend.

As I mentioned earlier the main reason for this newsletter is as a communication link between us all. Most of the WW2 Associations have a regular newsletter as a way of staying in touch over the years. The other reason is networking. You may be able to help one of your old

Corrections and additions to the mailing list:

Add George Barnard
PO Box 30
WANDIN 3039

Jeff Dunkley
6 Endeavour Dve
BALLINGEN 2454

Graham (Blue) Forsyth
9 Wilson Ct
IPSWICH 4035

Gordon Pound
PO Box 268
STOCKDALE 7260

Amend Dave Larter
12 Eildon Pl
DUFFEY 2611 (Pronounced "Doo Fay" according to Dave)

Dave McPherson
21 Ulster Ave
BELLMERE via CABOOLTURE 4510

Chris Reid
Lot 104 Oak St
Crestwood Estate
BRIGHT VIEW via LOWOOD 4311

Brian Roach
3 Kenna St
ORANGE 2800

Eric Winn
PO Box 159
WAMBERAL 2260

ANZAC DAY 1993

SYDNEY

Andrew Murray and Kerry Boyce have the Banner and before the march will meet in Bent St. After the march The RAA Association of NSW host the Gunner function.

Venue: Sydney Hilton, enter from Pitt St and follow the signs to Juliana's.

Time: Noon to 6.00 pm

Drinks: Prices compatible with Club prices

Guests: Most welcome

Enquires: Laurie Hindmarsh (Bus) 427 0377 or (Home) 449 1169

MELBOURNE

After the Dawn Service, why not start the day with a Gunfire breakfast at the Artillery Depot in Chappell Street, St Kilda. The bar will be open from 0630 and it will cost you about \$5.00 for breakfast.

106 Bty (First trip) are getting together after the march at the boat sheds by the Yarra near Princes Bridge. They usually get there about 1230.

BRISBANE

The RAA Association (QLD) are meeting at The Irish Club after the march and then back to the SGTs Mess at 1 Fd Regt.

Details are pretty sketchy I know but maybe in the future we will all be a bit more organized.

mates from SVN days out if you know what he's up to. I was talking to Brian Swift about this one day and by close of play he had faxed me over a thousand words. His letter follows.

Well, Peter's been asking people for years to contribute something to this very worthwhile newsletter and I, like most others, have been too idle to do so. However, after the Memorial weekend in October I think we're all a little more inspired than before and hopefully some will put pen to paper to let us all know what they've been up to in the now many years since our time "over there".

Because I stayed in the Army until 1989 I managed to keep in touch with many of the unit and to make contact with many others who served in other units. My last 18 years service with the Army Newspaper also helped me to travel a lot and to see many people. Since getting out I have realised how quickly contact is lost with all but a few close fiends and it is now clear to me how many of you must feel having left the Army so long ago. There are many of us still kicking and I'm sure some who have led very interesting lives worth telling others about. Perhaps you could sit down one day and put pen to paper and share with us all some of your life experience over the past 20 plus years.

At Peter's request, I'll start the ball rolling with a brief rundown of my life since return to Australia. I am in fact writing this on the 22nd anniversary of 4 Fd Regt's second tour return, 11 March 1993. It is also the 24th anniversary of Peter Bruce's time in the Army.

A few months after coming home I was posted as a reo to 108 Bty in Singapore where I remained to rejoin 106 Bty. There I stayed for almost three years while Sandi and I had our first two sons. I have been back to Singapore and Malaysia about 15-18 times since then and back to Vietnam a few times also. One day I hope to complete a book of writings and photographs of my return trips. If anyone is thinking of going back for a look, I can recommend it is an interesting experience.

Soon after returning from Singapore I left the Artillery and went to Army Public Relations to be trained as a journalist. This proved a great career move as my rise in rank was rapid and frequent. First I was demoted from Bombardier to Corporal, then promoted Sergeant then back to Corporal, Sergeant, Warrant Officer and then considered too dangerous to

leave in the ranks and finally became Army PR's first (and only) PSO - Prescribed Service Officer.

That was on January 1 1988 - I often joke that I was the Army Newspaper's bi-centennial project. Making me a Captain overnight didn't change me much but I only lasted 18 months before leaving the green machine. Many hassled me over deserting the ranks but I note that most of the critics (not you Pete) are now commissioned themselves. As I said, during those years with Army Newspaper I travelled a lot and went to places like Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, PNG, New Zealand, the Antarctic, Vietnam and just about every square mile of Australia.

It all came to a crashing halt in 1979 when I broke my neck playing Rugby for the Army in Sydney. I was paralysed for some time and was off work for almost two years with trips into and out of hospital. Stupidly, I came good and went back to playing Rugby in Canberra at the age of 35 but only lasted two more years before fracturing my neck but was only paralysed for a short time and off work a few months. 1987 was a great year when many of us met in Sydney for the Welcome Home Parade. Enough has been written about that weekend but I don't think any of us will ever get over the emotion of it all. I left the Army in 1989 - not through any discontent but I was offered a very good job working behind the scenes in politics. It wasn't long before I realised that leaving the Army was a sad but a good move but I was in the wrong job. I won't go into detail but I'm sure you'll all guess what it was like working with politicians (eh Hutch?). With six kids and a wife, I left the job and went back to do contract work with the Army for a short time. I then worked for the Bureau of Statistics as the Deputy Director of Public Relations until I was offered a job with the Australian Federal Police where I am the Director in charge of media, marketing and publications.

Another brush with disaster came in 1990 when I had an accident while surfing at Wollongong where I again badly injured my neck, suffered some (temporary) brain damage and was very ill. I died twice on the beach and once in the ambulance but they managed (to the disgust of some) to bring me around but I was critically ill for some time. Many say I haven't yet recovered but others say they don't notice a difference - I'm not sure how to take that. My work with the Federal Police is challenging but satisfying and I've run into many veterans in this job.

The best thing I've experienced since leaving the Army is the Memorial Weekend in Canberra last year. I'm sorry I didn't have much of a chance to spend time with people but I had a few jobs to do over that weekend and enjoyed it nevertheless. In fact by organising the re-union for all Artillery units I had a lot of my satisfaction in the months leading up to the event. I received literally hundreds of calls from Gunners all over and had the opportunity for some lengthy yarns on the 'phone. The weekend itself was great. I think at one stage Sandi and I had around 20 people staying at our house and in the yard. In fact on Monday I met three blokes who were staying there and I didn't even know. The Memorial continues to draw large crowds and I've never been past there since when there's been no-one looking at it.

In closing I will remind you all that there is a book for sale with hundreds of photographs in it and many Artillery shots that I took. The book can be obtained by writing to Richard Crothers and Associates, PO Box 59, Higgins ACT 2615. It costs \$39.00 plus \$7.50 postage etc.

Let's back Peter's efforts with this newsletter and send something in.

Regards,
Brian Swift, (ex Bombardier Clerk 4 Fd Regt 2nd tour)

VALE

Lindsay Wood passed away earlier this year in West Australia.
Harry Dainton and a few others attended the funeral.

I'm sure most of you will have heard of Legacy and the work they do for widows of veterans. Currently most of the widows are of WW2 veterans but it may not be too long before a lot more are from post WW2 and more so from Vietnam. If you can afford a bit time for a very worthy cause, give your local Legacy branch a ring. If anyone wants a bit more information or an introduction to Melbourne Legacy give me a ring any time.