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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 21 14/02/14

1. New Member:

We are delighted to welcome a new Ordinary Member to the Association. Graham "Butch" Toms lives in Queensland with his wife Jan. He was in Vietnam from May '68 to March '69 and first served with the RAASC before becoming the Regimental Butcher with 12 Field Regiment from Nov '67 to May '69. He also served as Driver for Q-ration store, Ice (the water kind!!!) Supplier, HQ Battery canteen manager/barman, projectionist, ration store clerk, chopper load-outs to forward echelons etc. It is pleasing to see a steady flow of applications for membership. There are at least another two in the pipeline. The Association is healthy!!

2. Australian Artillery Association National Gunners Dinner:

We have received the following update about the dinner from Kim McGrath, president of the AAA.

*I write to provide you with an update on the proposed Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner. **It is with pleasure that I advise you the dinner will proceed as planned.***

As previously stated, the event will be held on Saturday 23rd August 2014 at The Event Centre located at 20 Minchinton Street, Caloundra QLD 4551. In brief the event will consist of the following:

- a. 3 hour dedicated military concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra commencing at 1:30pm for 2:00pm to 5:00pm*
- b. The Australian Artillery Association 2014 National Gunner Dinner which consists of a 3 course dinner inclusive of a 3 hour drinks package followed by Port. Included in the dinner will be a quartet or quintet providing light background dinner music. The dinner will commence at 6:30pm for 7:00 pm and will conclude at 12:00 midnight.*

Full details of the dinner inclusive of the above information can be found on our website at URL: www.australianartilleryassociation.com then follow the link to the webpage dedicated to the dinner. To date we have a total of 320 registered attendees from all states and territories of Australia in addition to attendees registering from Scotland, Thailand, New Zealand and the USA. We are hopeful of achieving between 400 & 500 in attendance on the day.

Once again we cordially extend an invitation to all members of your Association.

Also in attendance will be Lieutenant General Ash Power, AO, CSC the current Chief of Joint Operations and Major General Tim Ford AO (Retd) Chairman Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company.

Should you have any questions in relation to the Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner please do not hesitate to contact me via return email or on mobile: 0417 422 427.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would disseminate this information to your membership.

Our own Association reunion was planned so that any of our members who wanted to go to the Gunners' Dinner could attend it while they are at our reunion. We have made the Saturday of the Gunners' Dinner a Rest Day for this purpose. A number of our members who are attending our reunion have also registered for the Gunners' Dinner, and a table is being arranged so that we can sit together if desired. To make travel easier, our organisers are also arranging taxi transport from our reunion venue at Maroochydore to the location of the Gunners' Dinner at Caloundra and back.

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3. Route Maps:

President Flood has found this fantastic website for finding your way around and wants to share it.

EXTREMELY USEFUL.....CHECK IT OUT !!

W O N D E R F U L ROUTE MAPS....TO ANYWHERE, EVERYWHERE. AMAZING! USEFUL.

Hats off to whoever made this. This website is amazing. Select start and destination points, it will show you the way, by all modes of transport.

*The Route with map, to any destination in the world by Air/Bus/Train
Just click on link below and proceed further*

<http://www.rome2rio.com/>

4. Nude Calendar:

This item just won't go away! Greg and Annie Carter, who produced the 2014 Vietnam Veterans Nude Calendar, have some left over which they are offering at \$5, including postage. So if you're kinky enough to want to see a bunch of old fart soldiers with their "medals" swinging in the breeze, contact me (Trev Bryant) and I will send you one of their Order Forms.

5. \$50 With no Owner:

Treasurer Beery has received a transfer of \$50 to the Association account without any indication as to who sent it. He assumes that it is someone's deposit for the reunion, but it may not be. If you transferred that amount on or about 30th January 2014, please contact Beery and give him your details. (Beery's an Accountant, and they get very anxious and angry when money isn't accounted for and allocated to the right box!)

6. National Vietnam Veterans Museum:

Their Vice-president Andrew Kilsby has sent the following information:

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.vietnamvetsmuseum.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.

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7. 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association Reunion August 2014:

Definite registrations for the reunion are now 43 members and spouses. We would welcome a lot more, so to help us with planning, please lodge your registration soon.

8. Coral Reunion 2014:

The 1RAR Association has given us advance notice of the 2014 Coral reunion. Our members who attended this reunion at Rockhampton last year had a ball. The 2014 event should also be good. It will be held in Adelaide on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May 2014. Don't forget that these annual Coral reunions are for all blokes who were at the battle, and any other vets who might be interested. It is NOT a specific 1RAR event. All members of our Association would be most welcome (Just ask the members who were at Rocky.) If you would like to find out more, go to the following link. <http://coralreunion.blogspot.com/>

9. Coral – a Timely Reminder:

(I apologise in advance for including two separate articles about Coral in this Bulletin. Your committee has always tried to avoid being too "Coral-centric". We recognise that many of our members who were not at Coral, experienced action and acquitted themselves bravely in a multitude of other clashes and it would not be balanced for us to concentrate too much on Coral. Please forgive us this time as both these items needed to be said.)

Many articles, books and memoirs have been written, and lectures given, about what happened at FSB Coral that night. Plenty of emphasis is rightly given to the roles of the mortar platoon and the gunners of 102 Battery. However, from time to time, these "recollections" do not always recognise the huge role played by our own HQ Battery. Remember that the gunners of HQ Battery took the full brunt of the NVA sweep through our lines, and of the two 12 Field Regiment gunners who were killed-in-action within the FSB perimeter, both were in HQ Battery, as was the gunner most seriously wounded – shot 5 times during the course of the night.

It was all a long time ago, but it is important to the memory of our KIAs and the blokes who fought beside them, that we strive to give HQ Battery the recognition that they thoroughly deserve. So next time you and your mates get together to relive those times, don't overlook the other heroes – the gunners of HQ Battery.

Andy Forsdike was an NCO with HQ Battery at the time and has written a harrowing personal account of what he and the gunners around him experienced that night. If you would like a copy, please contact Andy directly on 0412 420 483, or at aforsdike@bigpond.com.

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