



The Germ Journal



**Issue Number: 35
31 December 2009**

Welcome to the December 2009 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

This Edition of the Germ Journal, sent in hardcopy, has been sponsored by Alan Price of Green Fields WA. Thank you Alan it is much appreciated.

Contact List Updates:

If any Germ has an E-mail address that is not recorded on the Contact List please let me know (corcorf@bigpond.net.au). It will save time and money if all I have to do is mail out electronically.

New/Change of address, etc.: -

Please update your Contact Lists accordingly.

E-mail/address changes;

Michael (Chook) Fowler
E-Mail: chook67@live.com

Ric and Toshiko Hampson
Address: 30/33-41 William St, Botany NSW 2019.
Postal Address: PO box 772 Botany NSW 1455.
Phone: Mobile 0412266952
E-mail: erham@aapt.net.au

Alan Price
Address: Unit 55
140 Teranca Rd.
Green Fields WA 6210
Home: 08 95504900

Welcome aboard to the following Germs;

Adrian (Shorty) and Dot Galland
Address: 80 Podinga Circuit Ormeau Qld 4208
Phone: 07 55466131 Mobile:
E-mail: adrian1949@dodo.com.au

John Hannon
e-mail: jhannon@bigpond.net.au

If anyone requires a new Contact List just let me know?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

No Report this Quarter.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:

From the Desk of the President, RAA Association (NSW)

Hello fellow Gunners and former members of 104 Battery,

I am comforted that I will at least get one opportunity to communicate with you through the means of your own Battery Newsletter in my first full year as President of the RAA Association in NSW, and please be rest assured that I have regretted not being able to make a contribution earlier, alas 2009 has been a very busy year.

The Association has once again had a successful year and all of our functions, ANZAC Day, Reserve Forces Day, the Gunner Dinner, The Golf Day and St Barbara's Day have been very well supported and I personally thank those members of your organisation that have been part of that support. Hopefully we may see a 104 Bty Golf team at the golf day next year!

I am impressed with what 104 Bty has done. I began my Gunner career as part of 10 Bty and it is with very fond memories that I still certainly see myself as "part of 10 Bty" notwithstanding my career has taken me well beyond those early days. But it confirms the importance and genuine need for internal battery communication and the ongoing continuance of a Battery's camaraderie with the hope that it will foster the existing or future unit as well as its former members. I complement 104 Battery for their efforts.

In passing I note that a question was raised re travelling on the Ghan. As a former traveller from Sydney to Alice I can assure you boredom will not be an issue, the time flew, the company was wonderful, service fantastic and the food to die for. We travelled Gold Class and the biggest danger would have been being trapped on the train for a fortnight because the way we were fed they'd have had to get an oxy torch to widen the door!! My only real advice is, ensure you get the second sitting for Dinner. I hope this helps.

I look forward to trying to have more input into your Journal in the new year and in the interim take this opportunity both personally and on behalf of the Association to wish all members of 104 Battery, their family and friends a merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year.

Ubique

Schon G Condon RFD KSJ
Lieutenant Colonel
President
RAA Assn (NSW) Inc.

National Artillery Museum at North Fort, North Head:

Volunteers are still needed at the Museum, so if any Gerns have some spare time on their hands Mick Crawford would appreciate a call.

Reunions:

ANZAC Day 2010

No Report this quarter.

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

Hi all,

We have had a busy year with hobbies, holidays and our 2 grand-daughters. Rob bowls several days a week and played Pennants in Division 4 this year. We had 2 trips away for inter-club competitions to Tuross Heads and Bundanoon, which were very enjoyable.

I went on a 19 day Quilting Tour to USA in October. I loved New York and went to see Jersey Boys on Broadway. The Amish country round Lancaster in Pennsylvania was lovely, with lots of green paddocks, horses and buggies and Amish quilting. Washington DC was great and I saw all the monuments and museums that we usually see on TV and in the movies. I was very impressed with the WW11 memorial, the US Marine Corp statue of the flag raising at Iwo Jima, the US Air Force Memorial, Korean War Memorial and the Pentagon Memorial built after 9/11/01. I also visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, which is flanked by the Vietnam Veterans Statue and the Statue of Women in Vietnam and went on the tour of Arlington Cemetery with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the graves of the Kennedys. My holiday ended with 4 days at Houston in Texas for the International Quilt Festival.

We have re-designed our garden and done some major maintenance, replacing the rotten sleepers in the retaining walls with dry rock walls, extended the garden beds with updated dripper systems, new plants and paved the lawn areas. We are very pleased with the results and it will be easier to look after as we get older and the ACT continues with our permanent water restrictions.

We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2010.

Rob and Rosemary

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

G'day Frank,

In early November Dick Gray and his wife Pam, Dave Prizeman and his wife Sharon, Laurie Owens and Miles Charter from Melbourne, Shorty Galland and his wife Dot from Queensland, Fay and I drove to Culburra where we established ourselves in a caravan park with the intention of dropping in on Ben.

Well, someone who shall remain nameless, forgot to make contact with Ben and without that **prior preparation and planning**, when they went knocking on his door he was absent, taking a holiday on Hamilton Island, which resulted in a **p*** poor performance!**

As a result Laurie, Miles, Shorty and Dot returned home leaving the Carlins and the Grays to endure the wind and rain for three more days as part of their preparation for the Darwin Reunion next year. As a result we have come up with some ideas to make our vans more comfortable for the big trip to Darwin and then around the west coast after the reunion.

Luckily Ben returned home on the Friday, which let us catch up with him and his daughter Fiona. We were welcomed like long lost sons and given a tour of Bens "museum" and told about his ancestors, one of whom is a notable war correspondent from the wars in South Africa. Just Google Bennett-Burleigh and find out more.

At 84 years of age Ben is in good health and wishes all of his Germs a hearty "hello" and Merry Christmas and regrets that he wasn't home to meet everyone who made the trip to Vincentia.

He said that he was really chuffed when everyone went down there a couple of years ago for Anzac Day as he is sick and tired of drinking with sailors all the time.

Regards

Ray and Fay

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hi all,

Well another 3 months goes by and how quickly the time seems to pass as we get older.

You will recall that I came out of retirement to take on a job in Townsville back in June. The project is now complete, my portion of it any way and I am now back into retirement mode. At his stage the "Two and a Half Men" Triathlon Team is going back in September 2010 for a reunion and another crack at the Annual Townsville Corporate Triathlon.

I caught with Dan and Gillian Donovan in Townsville and we managed to get two more Germs onto the mailing list. A productive meeting I suggest.

Of course retirement mode means catching up on the things that have been let go over the past 6 months. I worked all one day in the garden and then had to roll out of bed the next day because I could not sit up. I have not been like that since my football days. They say I am supposed to be fit because I swim and play water polo but nothing kills my back and knees like gardening. Thank God there are no sandbags around.

Paula and I went to see "Jersey Boys" last Friday night and it was a great show. It's the story of the Four Seasons (i.e. 3 guys backing 1 guy that sounds like a nuclear powered eunuch). We should go to more of these performances but, I guess it's laziness on our part and/or we are just social flops after 8PM these days.

Christmas will be quiet in the Corcoran household this year as Nadia and Julian will be in Tasmania at their holiday house at Bicheno. We sometimes have singles from the local Club who have no where to go but this year every one is catered for. So, as it was only going to be Paula, me and Petrea, we decided we would have Christmas Lunch out this year. A new experience, which saves all the preparation work and of course, the cleaning up after everyone has gone home.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy 2010

Frank and Paula

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs and Gems,

Well where to start? All is well in my neck of the woods. Back to having a few smokes, damn must give em up.

Flying to Adelaide Saturday 17 April 2010. One night at Mercure Grosvenor. John (Smiley), would you be able to take me to see Blue? If that's not possible, I'll cab it.

Then Sunday 12:20 hours I hop on the Ghan for Darwin.

Now, no one is going to believe this. I had a phone call from the Travel Agent an hour ago. The people at the Ghan have offered me a free UPGRADE to Chairman's Carriage. Did I take the offer? Fook, YES, I already had a free upgrade to Gold Service. Now this is unbelievable.

Then Monday 13:45 hours, a 4 hour stopover at the Alice.

Then Tuesday 09:00 hours a 4 hour stopover at Katherine.

Then arrive Darwin 17:30 hours.

I'm booked into the Holiday Inn Esplanade for one night.

Wednesday morning I'm booked to visit a wild life park for 6 hours, then back to hotel and then cab it to Free Spirit Resort. All this for 1300 bucks. Let the fun begin.

Cheers to all.

See youse all in Darwin.

Dick

Dick enquired about a month ago for any hints or tips on long distance train travel.

Well Dick, I think Schon Condon summed it up pretty well in his contribution above and Russ Pullen has an alternative suggestion below. Good luck in the Chairman's Carriage, I trust he's not in there as well.

Frank C

Adrian (Shorty) and Dot Galland's News: -

Hi Frank,

A big thank you for adding me to the "Germ" mailing list.

It was really great to read the two copies you E-mailed to me, especially reading letters/stories from blokes and wives I have not had contact with for many years.

Unfortunately, like many of us, I am not able to put faces to names of many of the guys from 104 first tour, but some I will never forget!!

When I have some newsy stuff to submit to the Germ Journal, I will make the effort to put fingers to the keyboard and pass it on to you.

I would like to pass on my hellos to all from the past, if possible in the next Journal.

Shorty and Dot.

Dick and Pam Gray's News: -

Hi Germs,

Dick and Pam Gray are really looking forward to the reunion next year. We're seeing a slice of Oz along the way, traveling in convey with Ray and Fay Carlin.

Saw Ben Burleigh two weeks ago down at Vincentia and toured through his museum. He sends his regards to all. He was in very fine form after just getting back from Hamilton Island, where his granddaughter was married.

Regards,

Dick and Pam

Ric and Toshiko Hampson's News: -

I have heard from Ric and his new address is above. He would like to let all Germs he exchanges Christmas Cards with that they may be a little late this year due to the move.

Ric continues.

We start to effect the move in the week 9 December and will not be functioning fully until Christmas (if we're lucky).

A Merry Christmas and wishing all the best of health, wealth and Happiness to all.

Ric and Toshiko

John Hannon's News: -

I heard from John Hannon via Dan Donovan who I managed to catch up with in Townsville. Unfortunately I did not get to meet Hanno before my time finished in Townsville. Hanno e-mailed me some news on what he has been up to of late and reminiscence from his time in the Command Post. Hanno continues.

I have been a Chief Instructor in Choi Kwangdo for a number of years and in 2007 went to the US for a seminar where I picked up a Bronchial Virus and it caused me to cough so hard it stopped my heart, which left me with AF. I had to give up practicing and teaching martial arts earlier this year but just go to the gym to keep some kind of fitness. I have been asked to go back to training but am waiting for a few x-rays, etc, before I go back.

I still am riding my motorbike but my shoulders are giving me trouble. I'll have to win Lotto and buy a new one I think.

Still live in Beautiful down town Townsville, but would like to move to where it is cooler.

Hanoi HANNO, I have a cattle dog cross, nose is Blue Dog, feet have Red Dog markings and she is a tan colour, just like my old dog Rusty D Hannon. When on FSB Maureen I wrote a letter home while on Sig. shift at some ridiculous hour of the morning. I still had time left, so I wrote another and addressed it to Rusty D. Hannon, same address. The GPO saw the 2 envelopes and asked 'who is Rusty D'? 'Your brother?..no..sister?..no..father?..no..uncle?...no'..'then who then?' I said 'My dog' and he answered 'you don't write to your dog? do you?..'I said 'of course'.

A week later I got a letter from home with Rusty D. Hannon on the back of it and the GPO said 'your dog can't write? can it?' I said 'of course not, just tells my mum what to say' at which he left the CP shaking his head and muttering something that I could not understand.

Hanno

Chicka and Vicki Hayden's News: -

Greetings Germs & Germettes,

Merry Christmas to everyone, hope that you have a great festive season and that 2010 is filled with good health and happiness.

We're doing okay up here, the grandkids keep us busy but we feel pretty blessed that they want to "hang out with Gran & Pop".

Haven't seen rain for yonks! Health wise, having few problems but that's old age creeping up I guess.

We're looking forward to having the family together for Christmas. Our daughter Kelly will be working in Tajikistan this week where it is 6 degrees and snowing but next weekend she'll fly back to Bangkok, repack her bag and fly out here the next day. What must that do to the system?

Anyway folks that's about it for us.

Cheers.

Chick and Vicki

John and Barb Herbert's News: -

Paula and I have heard from Barb and John and things are going well on the South Coast of NSW. John is apparently on a health kick and is in training. Training for what? We don't know.

Barb and John send their very best to all Germs and Families for Christmas and the New Year.

Phil and Glen Johnston's News: -

Hi Frank

As well as most of the country the Johnstons are preparing for a very busy few weeks. With Christmas holidays our Eumundi market enterprise ratchets up a couple of gears. This is followed promptly by our daughter Bree being married at home here on Jan 30th with 115 guests. Fortunately the whole planning thing is done and Glen and I have only to be there, well maybe a bit more than that actually, that comes on page three of the list.

Come Feb., Glen is off to India to ease their national debt and I with a team of twelve volunteers go to Cambodia. We are growing a pilot crop on 2.4 ha up near the Thai boarder on ex-Khmer Rouge territory and would welcome any vets that would like to tag along, preferably with farming experience but not essential. A good thirst is acceptable.

Health is good and life is mostly fun. Both Glen and I hope all the germs and their families including yourself Frank and Paula have a safe and fun filled Christmas. Maybe we will see a few of you guys up here next Anzac time.

Phil and Glen

Pieter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi To All Germs, Germettes and Families,

We are gearing up for a 2 week holiday in Tasmania. We have never been there before, so we are really looking forward to it. But prior to that, I have a really unpleasant experience to go through. My right eye has gone a bit blurry and after Gay harassing me to have it looked at, I saw a specialist a few days ago. Apparently, there is a blocked vein at the back of my eye and some blood is leaking and blocking some of my vision.

This Tuesday, I am being injected in that eye with hormones to relieve the pressure, followed by another 2 injections, one in January and another in February. I am absolutely terrified. So if anyone would like to swap places with me, please contact me straight back. I'll gladly do a good deal!!!!

Nothing else to report, so a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

Stay happy and well.

Warmest wishes.

Pieter & Gay

Alan Price's News: -

Hi Frank,

Hope you don't get too excited over this long letter. Just letting you know a change of address, etc.

I moved in on the 2nd of September and then had a heart attack on the 11th of September. They carted me off to the Mount Hospital in Perth for surgery on the 15th and home on the 17th of September. I had 4 stents in the arteries, 2 left and 2 right.

I was placed on light duties for a month, no driving, etc. I had my first monthly check up, got a good report and back on full duties, doing dishes and walking about 3 Kms every day.

Looks like Old Nick missed me again.

Alan

Alan, it's good to hear from you so keep up the healthy life style. Please drop me a line from time to time so we can follow your progress.

Russ and Marilyn Pullen's News: -

Frank,

I can't provide any special tips for long distance train travel for Tricky from personal experience, but any combination of sex, drugs and rock 'n roll used to work in most situations, I seem to recall.

The journal is a great medium for keeping up with everyone.

We have been back up to Yeppoon to visit the bloomingly pregnant daughter Tania (and Carl of course) and Mother Hen Marilyn has clucked out to the max, setting up the nursery and buying every baby accessory ever known to humankind.

I have painted, stained, oiled and polished every type of baby containing apparatus, not to mention installing the "from 5 days to 5 year olds" car seat in the 2 door WRX!!!

We're home for a rest for a month before we go back up again and then we are heading down to Adelaide via Burke. Then up to Darwin from there.

All the best to everyone for Christmas, hope you all have a great New Year and looking forward to catching up with everyone in April.

Cooee,

Russ and Marilyn

Kevin and Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

Denise and Scrimmy wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.

General:

I have attached the following fact sheet that I received from Neil Graham. It is for information purposes and the wider the distribution the better as far as I am concerned.

- DEFENCE OHS FACT SHEET No. 18 – November 2009 – “RANGE FUEL”

Finally, I would like to thank all those Germs that have taken time to pen, email or telephone me their contributions to the Germ Journals over the past year. The circulation is growing all the time so keep up the good work.

Next Edition will be March 2010.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran