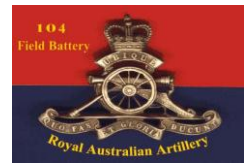




# The Germ Journal



**Issue Number: 39**  
**31 December 2010**

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Welcome to the December 2010 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

**Vale: Leo Phillip Adams**

I sadly have to report the passing of Leo Adams. Leo was a National Serviceman from WA and was a first tour Germ.

Leo served on the late Peter Tilbrook's Alpha Gun.

Rest in Peace, Leo Adams.

**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.: -

Brian Armour's new Email address;  
[brian.armour@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.armour@bigpond.com)

Bob and Linda Dehle's new Email address;  
[bobdehle69@bigpond.com](mailto:bobdehle69@bigpond.com)

Murray and Hellen Hall's new Email address;  
hnhall6041@gmail.com

Barb and John Herbert's new Email address;  
jobarherbert@bigpond.com

Gordon Johnson's Email address;  
[johno48@live.com](mailto:johno48@live.com)

Kay and Wayne Kendall's new Email and Postal address;  
[kayway70@bigpond.com](mailto:kayway70@bigpond.com)  
WT & KL Kendall  
PO Box 9204  
Deakin ACT 2600

Dave Mathers' Email address;  
[the\\_barron1@bigpond.com](mailto:the_barron1@bigpond.com)

Welcome aboard to Paul (Aub) Dwyer. His Email address;  
[padjen73@yahoo.com.au](mailto:padjen73@yahoo.com.au)

Kevin Scrimshaw's Phone numbers;  
Mob: 0400104056 Home: (02) 46256340.

I am having trouble with the following email addresses for Germs that have changed their address, are new to the circulation and/or I just have the wrong address because the emails are bouncing back.

Bruce Cowan, Rod Cocking, Peter Small, Mike Clee and Stuart McArthur.

It seems Nick Jans and Joe Candy have also changed Email addresses.

If any one can help me out it would be appreciated?

**12 Field Regiment RAA Association:**

No Report this Quarter.

**Royal Australian Artillery Association:**

John Sullivan has registered the Battery on the RAA Association website.

**National Artillery Museum at North Fort, North Head:**

I have reproduced a Letter sent to me by Ian Taylor in regard to North Fort. It is self explanatory.

Moves at North Head

Dear Gunners and Friends

I am writing to inform you all of recent activities concerning the Australian Army Artillery Museum (AAAM) and Army's presence at North Fort. As you are aware the North Head Sanctuary (NHS), which includes the former North Head Barracks and the North Fort area, is now "owned" by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT). The AAAM and the artillery collection at North Head are tenants on the site.

Over recent years the SHFT has developed a management plan for NHS in consultation with many others, including a range of submissions by the Army and the RAAHC. The Trust's management plan recognizes the historical links that the military have had at North Head through the School of Artillery, the various defence fortifications and tunnels, the national Artillery Museum, the Defence of Sydney Monument and the Memorial Walkway. The plan also acknowledges that a museum that tells the story of the defence of Sydney Harbour and the military history of the site may qualify for a long-term lease at North Head. The Trust's Management Plan for the NHS was adopted on 3 September.

The CEO SHFT has now written to the Head Army History Unit (AHU) outlining future conditions and requirements for the site. This includes from February 2011, when the Trust plans to open the refurbished Café at North Fort, a request for public access to all areas 7 days a week. SHFT has also requested that Defence enter into a 10 year commercial lease agreement.

The conditions advised by the CEO SHFT to the AHU are considered unacceptable to Army, who are particularly concerned at the security of the collection at North Fort and the associated personal and public liability created by uncontrolled public access. Army is therefore proposing to vacate the site in 2011 and to transfer the AAAM initially to a storage facility, probably at Bandiana, and eventually to a new army museum facility to be built at Puckapunyal. This would accord with present Army policy, which is to locate Corps museums adjacent to Corps Schools. This was previously considered when the School of Artillery moved to Puckapunyal in 1997 but for a variety of reasons linked to the history of site and the links to Sydney this did not occur, and until now the AAAM has been well maintained at North Fort with the support of the RAA Historical Company and the North Fort volunteers.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December the Head AHU, Roger Lee, briefed the AAAM staff, North Fort Volunteers and the RAAHC on the situation. The Army position has been advised to SHFT and negotiation has commenced.

The RAA Regimental Committee and the RAAHC Board will need to closely monitor, and influence where possible, the development of this situation. A process to clarify the ownership of the wide range of items in the artillery collection at North Head has commenced between the AHU and the RAAHC. It is anticipated that those items that should appropriately be in the AAAM will be loaned by the RAAHC to the AAAM. Other items owned by the RAAHC would be distributed to where most appropriate. This would include consideration for some to remain at North Fort where agreed by the SHFT, and some being given to other Army, national, regional and local museums and organisations where they have a close historical

association with items or can best care for them.

I will keep you informed as the situation develops. The next step will be to see how SHFT (and the Government) responds to the Army proposal. Both the RAA Regimental Committee and the RAAHC Board will be considering options and plans over the next 3 months. We are looking for a solution that will be best for the RAAHC and Regiment in the long term and will best maintain our history and heritage. We encourage the constructive support of all Gunners and friends through this process, and encourage the continued support and assistance of our volunteers both during the next few months and as long-term supporters of the RAAHC and the Regiment.

Ubique,

Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)  
Representative Colonel Commandant and Chairman RAAHC

**Reunions:**

Adelaide 2013;

Received from Bob Dehle.

The venue we have chosen for the reunion is the Adelaide Shores Resort, which offers a wide range of accommodation from 4 1/2 star to powered caravan sites, and everything in between. Facilities at the resort include two 18 hole golf courses, heated pools, cafes, beach access, coastal bike and walking tracks, BBQ's, tennis courts and leisure centre.

The resort is located close to Glenelg with an abundance of local attractions and a great range of cafes and restaurants. Harbourn town Shopping Centre is nearby and buses run regularly from outside the resort to the city and suburbs.

My contact at the resort is putting together an information pack so will get this out early in the New Year. I had hoped to get it out in October but was away for most of September. Accommodation details and budget prices will be given in the pack.

Please lock in the dates for the reunion, with the formal activities from Tuesday 23rd April to Saturday 27th April 2013, so plan to arrive early and stay longer.

Please note I have changed my email address as I have gone wireless, which is great for travelling, to [bobdehle69@bigpond.com](mailto:bobdehle69@bigpond.com).

Zoomas and Christine, Bob and Jude, and Bob and Linda wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Bob Dehle

**Items of Interest:**

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy 2011.

This year we will be with our extended family in SA for the first time in a number of years. This will be a short visit as we have already been to Adelaide twice since mid August, firstly for younger sister's 50th birthday and then for my mother's 90th birthday. At the end of next year will be Rob's Mum's 90th birthday, so maybe we will both get to ninety as well.

At the moment we have no plans for 2011, apart from several Bowls trips for Rob in country NSW, providing it is not under water. In Canberra this year we have already had over 1100 ml of rain, with 615 mls being our average rainfall. The garden is looking like a jungle, but we don't expect this to last.

Our 2 granddaughters are growing fast, with the older one starting School and the younger going to Preschool. They don't stay babies for long.

Our kids are doing well, Cathryn has been at Uni this year commencing her studies for a Bachelor of Nursing Degree. Trudi is still working as an Anaesthetic Nurse in Canberra, while Steven is taking things quietly after a knee reconstruction on a fractured cruciate ligament.

Best wishes to all,

Rosemary and Rob

Ken and Judy Burt's News: -

Seasons Greetings to all,

Another Christmas is just around the corner. Our tree is up, shopping done, so we are all ready.

The family are coming down here to Bowral as usual, which we are looking forward to. It is a special time in our lives and we are blessed to have 4 generations still going. Our grandchildren are 6, 6-5, 4, and 2yrs old. It is a fun time with them at this stage as they are so excited. Our families are all doing well and all run there own business's. One is a builder up at Lennox Heads, our 2nd son has a boat a repair marina in the city under Anzac Cove Bridge and no. 3 has a plumbing business, so all are healthy and happy. We are blessed with 3 beautiful daughters in law and we all get on well together.

This year has had us both in hospital for minor running repairs. We also had a new kitchen installed so Jude is happy. We managed a trip to New Zealand with our Kiwi sister-in-law and was shown around here turf. We also went up to the Corrimandel where I went big boys fishing with her brother and stayed in his Batch. It was a great holiday. Also had a holiday out west in our new van with 2 other couples. The countryside was so lush and green so different to last year. We hope to do a trip down the Birdsville track next year. My bucket list is getting shorter.

We went to the opening of the Bradman Museum on Sat.4th December. The drought has broken and Bowral is as it used to be, GREEN. I am cutting the lawns 3 times a week.

Wishing you and your families a Healthy and Happy 2011.

Kind regards.

Ken & Judy

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

Well, it's that time of year again, so we'll start by wishing all the Germs a Merry Christmas

The Carlins are still living in their caravan, having signed up with Beechwood Homes in January to have a home built.

When we departed to go north to Darwin for the reunion we were aware that the plans had to go through Council, which could take a few weeks. We were also aware that we would have to sign off on the approved plans, so we kept the builder informed when we became stationary on our travels e.g. at Darwin, Broome, Roeburn, Perth, Albany, Adelaide and Ringwood in Melbourne. Well, the plans didn't turn up until we got to Ringwood, two days before we returned to Sydney, after 4 months on the road. There were mistakes in the plans, they had put in 6' high windows instead of 6' wide windows. NOT HAPPY JAN !

To cut a long story short (and leave out all the swear words) they finally cut and filled the site about 5 weeks ago, laid a slab, put in storm water piping and have started on the frames in the last couple of days.

In the meantime, our Coromal popup caravan has been getting smaller and smaller and smaller..... but Fay and I are still happily married despite the trials and tribulations.

If anyone is looking for a good Coromal Corvair 511 pop top we will have one for sale about March or April.

OH, I forgot, if anyone is concerned about the impact of Islam on Australia (and the world), I recommend two books to you. Islam, the Sword of the Prophet (Can't remember the author as the book is now in storage) and They Must be Stopped by Brigette Gabriel.

I reckon every politician in Australia should be forced to read them.

Regards to all.

Ray and Fay

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hello to all and all the best for the Festive Season and we trust you have a Healthy and Wealthy 2011,

The School Honour Board I have been raving on about over the past few years was finally unveiled on November 11. Mission Accomplished.

Christmas at home this year with Nadia and Julian arriving from Tassie on Christmas Eve. Petrea lives locally and a mate from the Club who has nowhere to go will make for a quiet Christmas Luncheon.

I had 3 weeks back on the tools in November. Another managed investment scheme failed and I joined Freehills (Lawyers) in checking the Bank's Loan Book for any anomalies. I have seen them all Tee Tree Oil, Ostriches, Almonds, Jojoba Beans, Woodlots, Grapes, etc and they have all ended in tears for some one. Banks don't learn either, they lend to the managers of the scheme on the strength of future cash flow from the sale of the product and lend to the investor to invest in the project. In essence they have a double exposure to the one asset. Doesn't make sense to me but what would I know, I've only been in the finance industry 45 years.

Well that's our lot for the quarter.

Cheers.

Frank and Paula

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs.

Nothing to report this Quarter. I'll take this opportunity to wish everyone Best wishes for a Healthy 2011.

Cheers from Dick.

Brad and Mandy Frost's News: -

Brad and I are still at Old Liveringa Homestead in WA. We have to go home (Hervey Bay) sometime but we just love it here, we had lots of Vets call in after Darwin and stay for awhile, it was great. Mick Sticher and Robyn called in for a visit as well.

We may have to stay another year as Brad blew the car up coming home from golf (turned out being a dear game of golf) not sure if we will buy a new car or replace the motor. I might add we are 110kms from our nearest town, the Station we care take for will lend us a car for town trips.

Brad flew to Qld for a visit, to see our kids and grandkids. We have a new grandson he has not seen yet, he say's he wants to go home and see him before he is old enough to shave.

Anyway, take care.

Regards

Brad and Mandy.

Ric and Toshiko Hampson's News: -

Via Rosemary Brooker;

I have been talking to Ric Hampson. He asked me to pass on a message to you for the Germ Journal as he has been having computer problems since they moved to Botany (in Sydney) 12 months ago. They are now on their 3rd computer and still sorting out issues. However their email address is still the same [erham@aapt.net.au](mailto:erham@aapt.net.au) .

Ric wanted to say hello to all the guys from the Battery and hopes that everyone is healthy and well. He apologises for not sending Christmas Cards but other matters have intervened. Toshiko and Ric leave on Saturday 18th with some of the family to travel to USA and then to the Caribbean for Christmas. When he returns in January he will commence radiation treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital. The doctors have found that his surgery in 2009 was not a complete success, so he will start the next stage of treatment, but he is optimistic that all will be well and he will be planning for his next overseas trip to Europe for a River Cruise in 12 months time.

Finally, Ric and Toshiko wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Hannon's News: -

I was at the reraising of 106Bty and 109Bty in Townsville with Dan and Gill Donovan. The RSM informed me that 104 Battery was also reraised as an observation Bty.

Hanno

Chicka and Vicki Hayden's News: -

Greetings all,

Here we are with Christmas fast approaching once again and we're wondering where did the year go. Yes, I know, it's probably old age.

Anyway I hope that all Germs & Germettes are in good health and if you haven't been then we hope that you're on the mend.

Sorry that I've been off the radar for the past few months but I've been a bit crook myself, with a few trips in and out of hospital, but I'm ok now and 2011 is going to be even better.

The family are well and busy, which in turn makes life for us pretty busy helping out with the grandsons.

Our daughter Kelly is home from Thailand for Christmas and will return on Jan 2nd. We're looking forward to having a nice family get together.

Our plans for 2011 is to get away on a few more breaks so fingers crossed.

Hope that 2011 brings everyone all that they hope for.

We enjoy getting the Journal throughout the year, it's great to read what everyone else is up to.

Cheers,

Chicka & Vicki

Gordon and Sue Johnson's News: -

A Merry Christmas to everyone and all the best for 2011.

Cheers,

Johno and Sue

Phil and Glen Johnston's News: -

Merry Christmas to all.

Glen and I have had our present already in the form of our first grandchild. A girl named Matilda Rose and like all grandchildren she is the best one in the world. We will be spending Christmas with her on Nikoi Island Indonesia and very much looking forward to that.

There have been no major hiccups of late and life goes thankfully on. I look forward to seeing many of you all in the New Year and those I don't are not forgotten.

Cheers,

Phil & Glen.

Wayne and Kay Kendall's News: -

We have sold the house and are on the move. We decided that it was about time to downsize, so sold the house a couple of weeks ago and plan to move into an apartment in early 2011. At this stage, still staying in Canberra, although may opt for a move to a warmer climate if the opportunity arises.

Wayne and Kay

Pieter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi Germs & Germettes,

We've just spent a day at the Art Gallery of NSW to see The First Emperor exhibition, which has a small selection of Terracotta Warriors and their horses from China. If any Germs are interested, it's really worth a look. It is hard to imagine the amazing amount of work that went into making them, hundreds of them and each with individual faces and builds. Also the weaponry was astonishing, they had crossbows a few hundred years BC.

We had a short holiday in Palm Cove (near Cairns) during late winter and it was fantastic. One of the highlights of the trip was "Breakfast With The Beasts", where they cook you a huge breakfast in an enclosure at Cairns Safari, surrounded by a large pride of lions. The rangers give an informative and humorous talk whilst you eat. It is very interesting and lots of fun. They then feed the rest of the animals at regular intervals with more talks. It's a great day out amongst monkeys, cheetahs, hippos, etc.

We are intending to spend a few days in Canberra over Christmas and hopefully catch up with Brumus and Rosemary for a few drinks.

That's it for now. Our best Christmas Wishes and Seasons Greetings go to all, Germs, Germettes and Families.

Pieter and Gay

Greg and Barb Petersen's News: -

As we are all saying another year has gone, but just where did it go?

We started this year with a cruise, which took in Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, and Fremantle then up to Cambodia, Singapore, Cambodia and finally Bangkok. One of us unfortunately suffers from a little seasickness, but I won't mention who.

April we headed to Tin Can Bay for Anzac Day celebrations where we were warmly welcomed by Motto and Robyn. After Anzac Day we enjoyed the company of Fleggie who came to stay with us for a few days before returning home.

Greg had a trip to Bendigo and Melbourne in August where he caught up with the Neil, Jacko, Frank, Fleggie, Sooty and Rick. Really enjoyed this trip and catch up with the boys.

The rest of the time I guess has been taken up with family. We mind our grandson Mitchell two days per week. That will change in 2011 because he is off to school so another chapter begins. Our little granddaughter Ruby turns one on the 18th December. She is a delight and like all grandchildren brings much happiness to our lives.

We wish one and all a very safe and happy festive season.

Merry Christmas.

Greg and Barbara

#### Kevin and Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

Well it is that time of year again. Denise and I would like to thank everyone for their support and wishes. It sure does make things easier knowing there is an extended family out there that cares.

Reports to date have been good with the chemo seemingly doing its job on the secondary. Two more sessions to go to finish this lot, the last will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. A decision will then be made on what is the next step.

Unfortunately Ian has to work over Christmas and New Year (except the main days), but he is taking a couple of weeks off mid January. We have booked an 8 seater Van so we can all take some trips in the one vehicle. Denise and I are looking forward to spending some quality time with Ian, Margaret and the grand kids.

From the Scrimshaw Family, have a very Happy Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year and hope Santa is good.

Scrimmy.

#### Bob and Liz Shipard's News: -

In November Liz and I went to Perth for seven days, beautiful weather and freeways that are actually free (unheard of in NSW).

Will be travelling to the Grampians during Jan, also into the high country for a couple of weeks.

Silly season is upon us so please take care on the roads as my workmates do not require the extra work loads that this time of the year always brings.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all Germs and their families.  
Bob and Liz.

#### John and Bronwyn Sullivan's News: -

Bronwyn and I are really enjoying our life in the country, it's a complete change from the rat-race of the city. We now try to avoid visiting Sydney if it is possible. Semi-retirement is very enjoyable, I have started a small



handyman business and I don't think I have ever been so busy, although I have the luxury of taking a day off now and then if I feel like it.

Bronwyn is working five days a week in Goulburn and really enjoying being back in the work force after twelve months off during which time she became the President of the local CWA Branch (and did a lot of cooking).

We would like to wish all the Germs a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, may 2011 be good to all of you. I would especially like to send my best wishes to those Germs who have been any less than 100% fit and happy this last year. There are some of our number who are not well, I hope you make a complete and speedy recovery.

John and Bronwyn

Ian and Carolyn Taylor's News: -

Hi Germs and Germettes,

The year has certainly flown by and has been quite eventful for the Taylor household and family. Most of it you don't want to hear.

Earlier this year I had a TURP (rebore) – no cancer involved, but it took a few months to get over and I withdrew from anything that involved more than a couple of hours. Had 3 trips to hospital and a resupply of blood before it settled down. I think I became what some might call “a miserable bleeder” (Some may still think I am).

As you may have heard on the grapevine, the RAA Historical Company is being revamped to reflect its National Aims, rather than being North Fort and Australian Army Artillery Museum Centric. A change in Army History Unit Policy and procedures has brought about the need to re-launch the RAAHC in a revised role. The RAAHC will still support the Museum via the website [www.northfort.org.au](http://www.northfort.org.au) for the time being. Those who are interested should watch the website for changes, which reflect the new regime. I will continue to be the Webmaster for the time being.

Apart from that, Carolyn and I have bought a house in Willoughby, about 3km as the crow flies from where we are now as we are upsizing to accommodate family on what is currently a five-year plan. We settle on that 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010 and main move is 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. We have sold the Townhouse at Reynolds St. Cremorne and will settle that in early January 2011. By the time you read this we should be well on the way, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Apart from the stress of throwing out, or packing into storage, 21 years of accumulated stuff and the questionable knees and hips, I am in reasonable shape.

We hope you and your family and friends have a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Cheers.

Ian and Carolyn.

Barry and Sue West's News: -

Rellies, friends and colleagues, lend me your ears (with apologies to Will Shakespeare),

A few of you have asked for another update, so with my fingers locked to the keyboard, here goes. The last review I had was in mid September (and which briefly reported on) and the next one is not due until the end of November. Apparently the Haematologist needs to allow some time for the various drugs to do their thing, and hence give a better indication on how the treatment is working (or not working I presume?). Anyway, in the meantime, I continue to bombard my system with Thalidomide, steroids and various antibiotics. As I mentioned in my previous email (which most of you would have seen) I changed my pain relief drugs and that has had a marked effect on my general wellbeing, eating, etc for the better. My previous pain relief drug was a derivative of Oxycodone and if anyone watched Four Corners on the ABC a

few weeks ago, you would have seen that Oxychodone has a number of very unpleasant side effects, as well as being used by drug addicts as a cheap and more readily available form of Morphine. I'm happy not to be on it anymore, as I can vouch for its unpleasant side effects at least. I also still make regular trips to the hospital on a monthly basis for a "Zameta" infusion. What that is, is a chemo infusion (which I will have to have every month till my time is up), which can best be described as putting araldite into my bones to strengthen them - seeing as the cancer I have eats away the inside of my bones, weakening them (hence why I had part of my right humerus removed and replaced with a chromium prosthesis way back in June.

As mentioned, since mid September my general wellbeing and consequently my mobility has improved markedly. I can now walk short distances without the need for a walking stick, although I still use a wheelchair if there is any distance to travel, as I get some pain in my back as a result of the nerve damage at the base of the spine resulting from the tumour I have there. Susan has become very adept at getting the chair in and out of the boot of the car, and pushing me around. I dare not be critical (I actually don't have anything to be critical of), because I'm sure she would leave me at the top of a hill without the brakes on (only joking of course). Really though, she has been very good and patient as my prime carer. Exercises for my right arm continue as well, to improve its mobility (hence I can now use both hands on the keyboard etc, instead of just my left hand as in earlier emails).

Anyway, over the past six weeks or so, with my increased mobility and improved wellbeing, I have had a number of "outings" with Susan, close friends and some of my Vietnam vet mates to various clubs, the Australian War Memorial and even a picnic down the lake (Wednesday). It has been great to be able to get out of the house and do things other than go to the hospital for some treatment or other. Having said that, on the 5th October I went to the hospital for one of my Zameta infusions, not getting home till after 5.00pm, only to be greeted by relatives and friends to celebrate my 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday. That was a real surprise and fortunately, I was well enough to enjoy everyone's company that night. Then on the 9th October Susan and I celebrated our 39th Wedding Anniversary with some friends at an Asian Restaurant, together with a bottle of Moet. So you can see, my general health is currently improving (slowly, but it's getting there). So while I'm able, I am out to make the most of it. After all, you never know when your time is up and Susan and I still have things to do and places to see.

So, what else have I been doing? I have never been a crossword fan, but I have discovered crosswords and they at least keep the ol'grey matter working. Also I have been reading everything from the history of the Australian Light Horse to adventures in the French Foreign Legion and now Jeremy Clarkson (of "Top Gear" fame). Between the reading, we have revamped our front garden, with me supervising and Susan and the boys doing the work (I should have done that 20 years ago) and now the next major job is to tidy up the back shed (I have reams of paperwork from when I finished work that I will now not need anymore, so I guess I can dump it all for recycling). Also, with the improved use of my right arm, I can now get into the office and try and get that into some sort of order at long last. It's amazing what six months of relative neglect can leave you with. We also have many hundreds of photographs that need to be scanned and stored digitally, so I guess I've got plenty to keep me busy for a while.

My next major review with the Haematologist is on 29th November, so I will give you all a "heads up" after then.

Cheers for now.

Barry & Susan

**General:**

Next Edition will be March 2011.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

*Frank Corcoran*