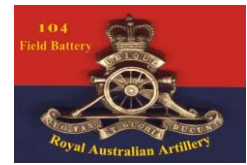




The Germ Journal



**Issue Number: 50
31 December 2013**

Welcome to the December 2013 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

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.

**Vale: Colin Frank Jones
24 May 1940 – 22 October 2012**

I received this note from Graham Floyd.

The Last Post records Col passing away on the 22/10/2012.

We all remember Col for his love of poetry and his outstanding contributions to the book Mission in Vietnam (The tour in Vietnam of 4RAR/NZ and 104 Field Battery June 1968-May1969).

Laurie Bird provided the following.

“Col and I both served 2 years in Malaysia 1965-1967. He also served 1 year in Vietnam in 104 Bty in 1968. Col was also my “Best Man” for my wedding to Cherie in 1971. His passion was writing poetry, which I with many others considered to be professional. I last visited Col at his and his wife’s residence at Glenreagh NSW about 5 years ago and both Cherie and myself spent many days with him at that time. He was very much the loner type as a result of his hard life’s experiences when his family immigrated to Australia when he was young. I too was shocked to hear that he had died and I suspect that his wife Karen has died from ill health as she had experienced bad health. I hope that I am wrong but when I rang his contact numbers both phones had been disconnected. He was living at Tallawadjah Creek Road Glenreagh NSW 2450 which is a short distance west of Coffs Harbour”.

Rest in Peace, Col Jones.

Lest We Forget.

New/Change of address, etc.:-

Welcome aboard to

- Bob Mackenzie, address P.O. Box 91 Mulwala NSW 2647
- Sam and Karen Sammartino, email address samkar@iprimus.com.au
- Bob Braid (Gun Sgt. 2nd Tour), email address grumpygramp@westnet.com
- Gary (Blue) Harrington’s new email address is: blue12104@gmail.com
- RAA Association of SA’s new email address is: raaassocsa@gmail.com

I am still looking for an updated email addresses for Ron Casey. Also Ernie Bryon seems to have changed his address. So if anyone can help, please let me know?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

Refer Reunions below.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this quarter.

Reunions:

12 Field Regt. Reunion Sunshine Coast August 20 to 24, 2014.

You can register and pay your deposit of \$50 per person online, or by sending it to Treasurer Beery, by 31st January 2014 please.

Further Information, contact Neil Mangels on nma77081@bigpond.net.au or phone on 03 6292 1409.

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Ken and Judy Burt's News: -

Hi All,

We have had another busy year with the family, still looking after Jude's dad who will be 100 years old next April, also my mum now 92 years old. We also had to move her into an aged care facility, so we have the grandchildren and the oldies, with us in the middle. Life is still pretty good!

We have done another outback trip in June where we went to Lightning Ridge and across to Innamincka. We left the van at Innamincka and went across Walkers Crossing to Birdsville. We came back and picked the van up and went down to Cameron's Corner, Tibooburra, back to Broken Hill and home. It was a great trip and experience.

We have also just done the Milford Track in New Zealand, which was also a fantastic experience. We have done other walks in New Zealand, it is a great place to walk as they have no SNAKES.

Our eldest son Grant bought a new house in Lennox Heads and our middle son Craig has just bought a new house in Heathcote, so mum and dad have been renovators and gardeners helping to sell the old house and spruce up the new ones. Just as well we are fit enough!!!!

We are both well and looking forward to Christmas with all the family.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2014.

Kindest Regards.

Ken and Judy.

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

Hi Frank,

Well, Fay and I went off to sunny Queensland with Dave and Sharyn Prizeman for six weeks last June and four days into the trip Sharyn got a bit of a cold and subsequently Dave, Fay and I all ended up with a real bad dose (of the flu that is). Sharyn recovered in about four days but the rest of us suffered all through the trip. I recovered a couple of weeks after returning home but Fay didn't, she went off to the docs again for a second course of antibiotics and was referred to an Ear Nose and Throat specialist. Well, the upturn of that was Fay went into hospital for an operation on her sinuses to remove mould growing there. Apparently it's a common thing with older people.

Whilst Fay was suffering all that I went in for another gastroscopy or is it an endoscopy? It was up the end anyway and then the next week I had my hemorrhoids lasered. I've had them since 1969 after eating all those ration packs I suspect, which resulted in my trying to push 40mm (Bofors shell size) stools through a

7.62mm clacker. Anyway after a week or so of real uncomfot and three or four more of less uncomfot all systems are working fine again.

On the down side I've suffered from prostatitis caused by an enlarged prostate pushing on the bladder since about 1990, which has caused problems in the waterworks. After having some recent tests I've been booked in to have it "shaved" to take pressure off the bladder. Four mates (all old diggers) have had theirs done and swear by it. They reckon they don't make so many trips to the loo at night and don't have that full bladder feeling anymore.

Men really don't worry about themselves as much as women, "she'll be right" just aint good enough.

On the upside Fay and I are going to Jordan, Greece and Turkey next May with maybe a few stops on some Greek islands, so we're looking forward to that.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the Germs and Germettes. As they say in downtown Glasgow and elsewhere in the Celtic world "Slainte Mhor" Good Health. Here's tae us and whas like us, damn few, and some are deed !!!

Ray and Fay.

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hi all,

Alert readers will recall that Nadia presented Paula and me with our first grandchild in September. Jordan is now at 10 weeks and Paula has travelled to Tassie to see him four times and I have been three times. We are heading back again on the 27th for 10 days.

I had lunch on Friday the 13th with Rick Polley, Myles Charter, Allan Jackson, Terry O'Brien and Bob MacKenzie. I had not seen Bob since Vietnam however, Myles recently caught up with Bob and he has now joined our mailing list for the Germ.

I heard on the rumour mill that Frankie Flegg is giving the Greyhound Training away. Frank recently had a toe amputated and we wish him a speedy recovery. No doubt he will find something else to occupy his time.

We take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy 2014.

Paula and Frank

Mick and Jan Crawford's News: -

Jan and I send our best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

Mick

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs,

Back to the Rats. Remember the deep tyre ruts left by the yanks ammo trucks that ran around the gun platform and after heavy rain they filled and could take a rat trap to the top of the handle. Whose idea was it for the losers of the rat races to see how long they could swim underwater?

My niece sold the FJ.14500.to someone in WA.

Best Wishes for the Festive Season and a healthy 2014 to all.

Cheers.

Dick.

Graham and Jude Floyd's News: -

Hi Frank,

Another year draws to a close, where does the time go? The reunion in Adelaide over the ANZAC was great and everyone had a good time, some might say too good! It is always a pleasure to catch up with old mates and what was really a thrill for me was to see so many 1st tour guys there. As the years go by we really do start to appreciate old memories and old friends. Speaking of old friends, Andy Forsdike, HQ Bty 68-69 lives a few houses from Ben Burleigh. Andy sees him most days and informs me that Ben is "hale and hearty" still, attends the Lions Club and is still driving. I asked Andy to pass on my fond regards and to tell Ben that I still keep my "head and eyes fore and aft" when required.

Jude and I are still Grey Nomads for 5/6 mths of the year. It is something we intend to keep on doing while we can. 2015 will see us on the east coast as far up as Bundaberg. We will be in Maroochydore in August for the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Assn Reunion. Sam Sammartino and Joe Kannar were two very welcome newcomers to the Assn this year. It is always very satisfying to see more 104 guys joining.

All the very best to you, Paula and family for Xmas and the NY and all those other Germs out there.

Flood and Jude

John and Barbara Herbert's News: -

Greetings to all,

Hope everyone is healthy and happy. Silly season is upon us and life is hectic, kids grow up and leave and along come the grandkids.

Off to our granddaughter's Christmas Concert today and grandson's presentation assembly on Friday.

We bought a converted 21 seater bus (now a campervan). She's old but a beauty. We went away for the month of August and loved it. Very relaxing, no packing or unpacking, and met very interesting people along the way. We were very surprised we didn't meet any vets. Have done a few other small trips and have even taken the grandkids away. Our neighbors are going to use it for a couple of weeks and then our daughter.

Next trip for us is to Phillip Island Vic with the Jervis Bay Vietnam Group.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John and Barb

Gordon and Sue Johnson's News: -

Hi Frank,

I have a nice little story for our magazine.

On Melbourne Cup day 31 years ago our son Michael was born in Liverpool Hospital. Dr Geoffrey Edelstein was our doctor and delivered Mick, he had a practice near the Holsworthy Army Camp. A lot of the "regs" would remember him being there in the mid 70s to early 80's with his Ferrari's and Helicopter. 2 years ago Mick's son Sidney was born on Melbourne Cup day, this year 2013 his daughter Evie was born at 1530 on Melbourne Cup day. How's that for nice little story.

We hope all you Germs are very well and looking forward to catching up again.

Cheers.

Johno and Sue.

Phil and Glen Johnston's News: -

Hi to all,

We are now a very busy household for Christmas. Both our daughters, husbands and three grandchildren have taken-up in various parts of the home and are intent on making merry.

2013 has been good on balance with lots of tripping etc. with and to family. The ageing process has been relentless but am sadly no wiser. Fortunately I don't really need the wisdom as I have a wife for that chore.

2014 will start with a bang, babysitting in Singers for a month while Skye is in Russia and then a month in Cambodia doing our aid work. We now have a camper van so intend to drop in on a few of the 104 families and catch-up on some of the ales that were promised way-back-when. Intending to be in Melbourne for Anzac Day also.

Would like to thank all the contributors to this journal as it gives great pleasure to hear what personal and family activities folk are up to. Particular thanks to Frank, the guy that does all the leg work into keeping in contact with us all. A very Merry Christmas to the 104 family and may the New Year reward you all with health, happiness and humour.

Phil and Glen

Peter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi to all Germs, Germettes and Families,

It's taken us 12 months to decide, but our new kitchen is complete, we've squared off a couple of archways and Gay has been at the walls with a paint brush, so the place is looking quite spiffy.

Our big trip this year was back to New York in September. From there we travelled into Toronto, Canada, where we did a day/evening trip to Niagara Falls, experiencing the Maiden of The Mist boat that practically takes you under the falls, followed by dinner overlooking the falls and later where coloured lights are turned onto the falls after dark – quite spectacular. Toronto is going through a building boom, where hundreds of multi storey condos are being erected overlooking Lake Ontario. We then travelled by train to Montreal, staying at a wonderful hotel surrounded by cobblestone streets in Old Port. A highlight of the trip was a day at the fabulous Montreal Botanic Gardens where they have numerous "mosaics" made from plants and flowers to form various animals, people, etc. If you'd like a look at these incredible works, click on this link <http://www.amusingplanet.com/2013/07/mosaiculture-exhibition-2013-at.html> I reckon you'll be quite amazed.

Our next stop was Quebec City, once a brutal battlefield regarded as the entry to the Americas. It is a walled city, very French and charming, with lots of history. It's hard to imagine the terrible battles fought there, where you now walk through peaceful lawns, gardens and playgrounds, peppered with old artillery pieces, overlooking the mighty St Lawrence River. This is where English troops dragged their gear up the almost vertical climb to Quebec City and conducted a ferocious surprise attack, beating the French in their fortified garrisons to take control of the Americas. We walked down the 400 steps that mark this site and could barely stand at the end of it, so those pommy troops must have been pretty fit lads. It is said that this battle was so significant that had the French held their ground, today's international language would probably be French instead of English.

We then went on to Boston and Newport, Rhode Island (where we won the Americas Cup). Another highlight was visiting the Newport Mansions – holiday homes of the rich and famous in the late 1800's. You really have to see them to believe the unimaginable opulence. Most of these summer cottages are much larger than the North Head School of Arty, with many rooms built under the control of architects in Paris, then dismantled, shipped and reassembled in Newport - incredible. From there we returned to New York for some shopping at Macys and back home again.

We are just about to head off to Tassie with Christmas day in Launceston and then the North West Coast for a couple of lazy weeks.

Well, that's it from us. We hope you all have a Fantastic Christmas and New Year.

With our warmest wishes

Pieter and Gay

Ian Macauley's News: -

In WA, a reminder that the 104 lunch will be held on ANZAC Day. The regulars already know of this long standing event, but if you were not aware and would like to be included, please email me so I can keep you informed re venue, times, etc.

I have just returned from the Western Front where I have been researching three great uncles who were all in the Somme. One is still where he fell, one returned blinded and one lived to fight another war. I was able to visit each site of their action by trench thanks to some incredible software of the battlefield guide. If you are doing the same and want details of the best B&B and who to hire, research material etc. email me and I will give you details.

Regards

Ian {Blue} Macauley
macauleyian@gmail.com

Charles and Jackie Robinson's News: -

Seasons greetings to all members,

Am writing this sitting in our hotel room on the 49th floor looking out over the city and bay. We are in Melbourne for a few days getting our big city fix and riding the escalators of Myers and David Jones, must say the people of Melbourne certainly dress a bit more upmarket than in Lismore.

The New Year will be a wedding in Sydney. Look forward to that even though it is an early start to the day (since retirement I get out of bed at 7.55, go for a walk at 8 then breakfast at 9. I will just have to have an early night to compensate.

We enjoy reading the news from other members as to what they have been up to even if they may think it is just the usual. Sorry there aren't more contributions from time to time. Frank does a good job putting the news letter together so let's keep it going.

Any way a happy Xmas to everyone and at time of writing Australia is well on the way to winning the Ashes.

Cheers to all.

Charles and Jackie from Modanville

P.S. Some members from the 1st Tour may know Barney White. Have just heard he passed away yesterday (15th Dec.) at the Ballina RSL services home.

Bob and Liz Shipard's News: -

Frank, hope this finds you and your family in good health.

Liz and our family are all doing well and preparing for the festive season. We enjoyed three weeks in the Flinders Ranges, enjoyed the scenery and the old building ruins especially Kanyaka, homestead. We then went to Clare, spent a day in Burra, went out to Waterloo to see Tom Kruse's (last mail man on the Birdsville track) place but only saw the company that he set up, which is now run by one of his sons. Also went and had a look at Auburn another well preserved town from the copper mining period. South Australia has more to see than I realized, we will be going back to see the Northern Flinders up as far as Lyndhurst or Marree.

We will be heading to Sydney to spend Christmas with the kids and hopefully bring home two grandkids to spend their holidays with us.

We wish you and your family and all Germs a happy and safe Christmas.

Bob and Liz.

General:

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Germs who have contributed to the Germ Journal over the year, as without their continued interest the Germ Journal would not exist.

Next Edition will be March 2014.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran