



The Germ Journal



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30 June 2009

Welcome to the June 2009 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter). Sorry about the delay in sending however, I have been somewhat busy over the past month.

This Edition of the Germ Journal, sent in hardcopy, has been sponsored by Peter Martin of St Arnaud Vic.

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;

Nick and Fran Wills

E-Mail: fn.wills@bigpond.com

Keith Towning

E-mail: kfptowning@bigpond.com

Myles Charter

E-mail: mc104@tpg.com.au

Phone: 03 97402528

John Elston

E-mail: jelston@tpg.com.au

Jill Granger

E-mail: gran1jil@police.nsw.gov.au

Russ Pullen

E-mail: rustyp@tadaust.org.au

Tim and Therese Bakker

1 Richard Rd, Scotland Island 2105
(PO Box 215, Church Point NSW 2105)

Ph: 02 99797781 Mobile: 0400015028

E-mail: bakker_tim@yahoo.com

John Sullivan
E-mail: sullivanjohn157@gmail.com

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

No Report this Quarter.

Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this Quarter.

National Artillery Museum at North Fort, North Head:

Volunteers are still needed at the Museum, so if any Germs 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;

Ken and Judy Burt's News: -

Frank and Paula,

A big hello from the Burts, we have a new grandson, Hayden Jack Burt, born in January. We went up to Ballina after his arrival, all are well and happy. We now have three grandsons and our beautiful Emily.

We have been extremely busy with our other generation, Judy's Mum and Dad, moving them from Cronulla to a new Nursing Home in Bowral. It is five minutes from our place and it has been a logistical ordeal with lots of emotions. All went well with the sale of their house and the purchase of their new home. They have settled in well and are very comfortable.

Judy went to a High School Reunion and ran into Linda Knight. We were saddened to hear that Terry had passed away five years ago from a melanoma. Terry and I were old school mates and surfing buddies, he actually bought my first car from me, a 1938 Oldsmobile. Terry went to Vietnam with the Battery as a driver for six months returning with the 8th intake people. He did work on number 5 gun on operations during his time there. We are in touch with Linda now and will be able to fill in a lot of lost years. Linda said the last 20 years of his life he worked at Dreamworld in Queensland and it was the best job he ever had. I have posted up some old photos of him to her.

We finally pulled the caravan out of the garage and drove down to Bright and Beechworth. We did some walking in the mountains, which we love to do. They had their Autumn Festival on and the colours were spectacular.

Hope all is well down your part of the world and you are getting some rain.

Bye for now. Regards.

Ken and Judy

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

I received this from Rosemary and Rob to share with you all;

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you are too busy to talk to them for a week.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after many years; and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Never ask for food.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Are the reason you have no food.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr and Mrs.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Call your parents Mum and Dad.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Bail you out of jail and then tell you what you did was wrong.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Would be sitting next to you saying, 'Mate...we stuffed up ...but wasn't that fun!'

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Cry with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long, they forget it is yours.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Could write a book with a shed full of direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that is what the crowd is doing.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will kick the backsides of whole crowds that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Would knock on your door.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, 'I'm home, do you want a beer!'

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Share a few experiences.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Share a lifetime of experiences no civilian could ever dream of.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, 'You had better drink the rest of that, you know we never waste it. Then they carry you home and put you safely to bed.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will knock the crap out of people who use your name in vain.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will forward this to their military mates.

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Well where do I start? I am back on the road doing a job in Townsville and the plus is I have managed to dodge another Melbourne winter.

Daughter Petrea is in England following the cricket. She plans to go to Ireland, Spain and Vancouver Canada on this 3-month sojourn. One thing about generation Y the certainly know how to travel.

Daughter Nadia has started work with the UK Engineering Firm Arup here in Melbourne. Arup's reputation stems from the Water Cube in Beijing purpose built for the Olympics. However, the job site is in Darwin and the project is the redevelopment of the Darwin Ports.

ANZAC Day this year was meant to be a quiet affair at our local however, the Black Saturday Bushfires put paid to that. As you know Nick and Judy Jans lived through that terrible day so a few Germs went to Marysville to march with Nick. Mick and Jan Crawford, John and Jan Thornton, Brian and Sandra O'Donohue, Sooty and Heather Thompson, Paula and I and a few of Nick's mates from the Duntroon Class of 64. The devastation caused by the fires in the hills and to see this once beautiful little town completely flattened was surreal. The march, or should I say a stroll down the road as ordered by Brigadier Nick, was well attended and I think it was something the local people needed to galvanise their spirits as the reconstruction project may take many years.

Nick and Judy opened their home up to us all post the March and it was pleasing to see that Nick's wine cellar had survived the fires as a couple of nice reds found their way to the table. To top it off it rained all day and we got wet marching but driving home I was glad I went.

On the topic of Marysville, Nadia's partner, Julian, comes from a farm in Cygnet, Tasmania. His Grandfather wanted to do something to help so a work gang was organised, he put his tractor on the Boat and went up to Dixons Creek near Marysville and spent two weeks digging postholes and mending fences. Apparently old Ben went through the fires in the 60s that nearly wiped out Cygnet and he spent all his time on a bulldozer making firebreaks so I think he must have some empathy for the folks of Marysville.

Well I am home for the weekend from Townsville so there is a bit of demand for the old man's time so I will leave it at that for now.

Cheers.

Frank and Paula

Graham and Judy Floyd's News: -

I received this from Judy and Graham to share with you all;

THE PERIMETER

The Perimeter, in the infantry and artillery is a circle of men. It is half a squad, platoon, company, section or battery. One half is on guard, staying vigilant, watching for the enemy, while the other half rests, sleeps and carries on with life as it is. They are more than just men; they are a brotherhood in uniform.

They share their plans, dreams and hopes with each other. In hard times, they share their sadness, fears and pain. They face the enemy together, some like brothers, others like fathers and sons, and always as true friends. They find a spirit in each other that binds them to one another in a bond that lasts forever.

As time passes, they will leave the service and each other. They will travel many different paths of life, some to prosper well and others not so well. Somewhere in life's travels, these men may find themselves lost in the world, confused, dazed, scared, unhappy and searching for something; something they are not even sure exists. They are not soldiers anymore, they are called veterans.

Somehow, in their search, they once again find others like themselves. They find brothers of the past, brothers of the Perimeter, that circle of safety, where someone else shares their pain, their confusion and their fear. That perimeter where that fear is eased, where there is less confusion. They share each other's pain in stories, in tears and in silence. Inside the Perimeter, eye contact can say it all. This Perimeter is a circle of life and a circle of death; it is a circle of wounded warriors, with wounds of both flesh and spirit. This perimeter is a circle of iron that has never broken. It is a circle of common duty that knows no colour, no creed and no religious ground. The circle will last forever, through the best of times and the worst of times.

The Perimeter is a place warriors will always seek – even for eternity. Just gaze out at our cemeteries. For out there, on the outer edge, ever so vigilant, are those on the Perimeter.

Rod and Sandra George's News: -

Frank,

Not a lot happening in my camp other than No 1 Grandchild has appeared (a boy, 6th April) what a life changing experience that has been and how much love and warmth you feel for the little one. It rattles back to when your son/daughter was borne BUT you have more time right now, which is a little bit spooky in itself. Anyway the little fella (Liam) is fine and so is his mum. His Dad, seems to be coping as well. We, the Grandparents are great, Sandra has become a habitual Baby Item Garage Sale person and the items and minuscule prices amaze.

Other than that, my Trap shooting results should be called Crap Shooting, nothing else. A pity because at target rifle shooting I held my own. If nothing else I am on the improve

and the 'A' graders should be really concerned. My little guy Cameron shoots the shit out of me but that's great, after all what are kids for?

Flying continues and the plane is going well, the cost of running it now I am retired, is of concern but manageable after all 'shit happens'.

Received my latest copy of JWNN, the 108 Battey mag, (Along with the rest of the 104 advanced party, I was with them from the 5th Feb until 104 arrived in May) the number of chaps that have slipped away from 'active duty' is a worry. It would have to be a similar percentage in 104 Battery.

Stay well guys, that or similar lists you do not want to que up to join.

Greetings to all,

Rod and Sandra. George

Chicka and Vicki Hayden's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs and Germettes.

We hope that everyone is in good health and enjoying life. Frank you picked a great time to visit Townsville to escape the winter chills.

Anzac Day for us was pretty quiet. Nick Wills and I marched in Childers. We were not able to go too far as we had been minding the grandsons for 2 weeks while their Mum and Dad were having a holiday in Thailand with our daughter Kelly, they arrived home the day before Anzac Day. Love them dearly but 2 weeks full on is enough with 5 and 7 year olds, there was no sleeping in or anything. Anyway we enjoyed having them and they were pretty good.

We were thinking of the folk at the Bendigo gathering, I'm sure that Frankie Flegg enjoyed catching up with his mates.

Our renovation projects are progressing well, the kitchen is next and last major job that we're planning at this stage. Maybe then we'll be able to get away in the van for a while.

Health wise we haven't been too bad, Vicki's back is giving her a lot of grief at the moment otherwise we're good.

That's about all the news from our corner for now. We look forward to reading about everyone else.

Cheers,

Chicka and Vicki

John and Barb Herbert's News : -

Greetings to all,

Hope everyone is healthy and happy. Wish I had an interesting or exciting story to tell about Anzac Day but it was a non-event. John had not been feeling well (thought it was a bad cold) he managed to March but collapsed during the Service. Took him home -not even a beer. He ended up in hospital the next day with pneumonia. Recovery was slow, the aging process has certainly kicked in. Just about 100% now.

I'm off to Sydney this weekend to see a show and indulge my love of champers. Going to the Gold Coast in August. Our daughter decided to take her son there for his 5th Birthday so we decided to go too. Can't miss events like that. Don't know where the time goes.

Cheers

Barb & John Herbert

Phil and Glen Johnston's News: -

Maaate, hope this finds you and Paula well and rest of the guys in top form,

Family news is all good with our second daughter (Bree) getting engaged to a great bloke and planning to marry at home here on Jan. 30, 2010. Health and fitness of both Glen and I is on a good level that strangely gets harder to maintain as the years pass. We are coming out of retirement to venture into retail again, but this time as a market stall vender with no leases and only two days a week of work at the Eumundi markets. It has proved a little harder to get a spot there but signs are good for a few weeks time. Tripping was reduced a little this year with the uncertainties around although we are still doing a ski and camper van trip on NZ's South Island in August.

I am putting together a set of MPC (military personnel currency, for they that were not there). If any of you guys still have a little and wish to share any or duplicates, please give me a call. Of the guys that I know there are a number that will still have it (as they never spent a thing) in the bottom of their pockets to this day.

On a more serious note, following my first trip back to Vietnam in '05, I joined a mob called Project Vietnam Inc. (PVI). Glen and I have since done a number of trips back there doing work with this NGO, with the building team, (they also have a medical team). All the work that I have done is at Medical stations or orphanages up around Hanoi. This year I led a team to Cambodia where we had built a two story building at an orphanage that was needed to house a computer room and library. The team that I took then completed the building with electricity, paint, tiles and furniture. Now to the point, we (PVI) are committing to a project for next year, which is to educate a team of 20 to 30 villagers in growing sustainable crops. We have 2.4 Hectares of secured plateau land with a water stream and is at first blush ideal for potatoes, peanuts, corn maybe cabbage etc. Excess to food requirements for the village will be sold /traded providing an income stream. The village is about 300 km from Phnom Penh towards the Thai border and has 117 families and 550 people, local provincial governors and officials are on side and we have an ex UN man on the ground to grandfather the project and monitor things. If any of you guys have

expertise in sustainable agriculture or small crop cultivation and feel this interests you, or you can pass on advice, please give me a call or email or check our website, www.projectvietnam.com

Cheers to all,

Phil and Glen

Pieter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi Frank,

I've attached a photo of our clan at the Anzac Day Luncheon.

Thanks go to Mr Flegg for organising a fantastic Anzac Weekend in Bendigo. The BBQ in his opulent entertaining area was most enjoyable, as was the top class restaurant he selected for our Anzac Day luncheon. There is no doubt that these Victorian Country Property Owners know how to do things in style. On top of all that he even organised the first rain in five years to ensure a wet March. Good on ya Fleggy.

On our way to Bendigo, we visited one of our favourite water ski spots from days gone by and were shocked to find that our beloved Lake Eppalock is almost completely out of water. It was quite eerie to see boat ramps disappearing into large bushed areas containing 4 wheel drive tracks on the bottom of the lake. It is hard to believe that we used to ski over all of this and that this lake used to have ninety miles of shoreline!!!

Nothing else to report from this neck of the woods. Our best regards to all Germs & their families.

Pieter and Gay

Russ and Merilyn Pullen's News: -

Hey Frank, how the hell are you?

Finally got back from a couple of months in Yeppoon, no fish, some wet arse and a new son-in-law. Our youngest daughter Tania who is about thirtyish and the blushing bride at long last. Too long between grandchildren Merilyn reckons! We had a wonderful Wedding at Rydges Capricorn Resort with the venue for the Ceremony in the purpose-built Chapel commanding a glorious view of Keppel Bay and the North Keppel Island. We were blessed with four of the best days weatherwise that we had experienced for at least six weeks. The Reception was also held in the resort grounds and it all went reasonably, no it actually was really great. The only hiccup was the groom didn't know how to navigate the 450m from his room to the Chapel and was 20 minutes late!!! It was certainly a wonderful occasion and will be a treasured memory.

Home for a few weeks for the usual medical appointments etc. Merilyn actually had a large skin cancer removed, which was initially operated on over three months ago but they had failed, regrettably, to get it all. The worst part is that it was on her right cheek and it

looks awful but she's otherwise OK. Next trip is down the NSW north coast for a month or two.

Thanks for chasing me up to get included on your mailing list. Take care Frank will catch up again soon.

Russ and Marilyn

Kevin and Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

It has been a fairly quiet time for Denise and myself, but sometimes that is just what you need.

ANZAC Day was special this year. For the first time in a long time I spent ANZAC Day with our son Ian. It was great; we went to the local Campbelltown Dawn Service and then lunch with the rest of the family. I must admit, I was very impressed with the numbers at the Service and also with the Service itself.

On Saturday the 9th May Grahame and Carol Collins and Denise and myself had a 40th Anniversary of the first tour's return from Vietnam Dinner. Carol's sister and brother-in-law also joined us.

Well as I said it has been a quiet time.

Scrimmy and Denise

Remember When:

This is a new section of the Germ Journal and it has been inspired by the tall stories that come out at our get togethers. Any Germs that have a like story for future Editions please feel free to contact me and you will be heard.

Sick Parade:

Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who is not well. As I have said previously, a phone call out of the blue and from an old friend could quite easily be the best medicine.

General:

Next Edition will be September 2009.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran

