



# The Germ Journal



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Welcome to the June 2012 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.

### New/Change of address, etc.:-

John and Louise Ryan's email address  
[vardon96@hotmail.com](mailto:vardon96@hotmail.com)

Tim and Lorraine Triffett's email address  
[skinnytriff@hotmail.com](mailto:skinnytriff@hotmail.com)

Welcome aboard Ken Howard, email address  
[germ.104@bigpond.com](mailto:germ.104@bigpond.com)

Peter Martin has gone all IT, email address  
[marty104@bigpond.com.au](mailto:marty104@bigpond.com.au)

## 12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

Received from Graham Floyd.

Jude and I attended the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association Reunion in Adelaide from 24-27 April, which was a great success. The actual march on ANZAC Day was more of a route march than parade!!

It was great to see the following Germs: Blue Biglands, Brian Armstrong, Ken (Zoomers) Hayes, Bob Dehle and Bob Marshall. Les Partridge, RSM 68/69 was also on parade along with Ross Bland, OC LAD 68/69.

From Adelaide we have made our way to Townsville for a B Coy 4RAR/NZ 1971 reunion. We were joined by Shagger & Sue Dennis so that c/s 21 & 21A were on parade. We were able to tour Lavarack Barracks hosted by 2 RAR; the highlight though was a static display by 4 Regt of the new (for Oz) of the 155mm M777A2 howitzer. Fully digital for the passage of fire orders and with its own GPS system. The detachment commanders are now Bdrs; no more Gun Sgts!!(the Sgt's Mess would be quiet!). All the diggers we spoke to were back from Afghanistan and ever so glad to be home, as we were all those years ago.

From Townsville we are headed across to Darwin until the end of Aug. We should be back in Ouyen for the GF; go Swans.

Flood & Jude

## Royal Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this quarter.

## Reunions:

[104 Battery Reunion Adelaide 2013](#)

Our next reunion is now less than twelve months away, and we would like to encourage those who have not yet made a decision on attending, to do so soon. We want to see you all in Adelaide in April 2013.

I have only been to two reunions, Brisbane in 1991 and Darwin in 2010, and I am sorry I missed all the others in between. It is really great to get together and reflect on days gone by, but more importantly we will be able to help each other in so many ways as we get older, as well as sharing a common bond that is hard to describe, but is so real, born out of our time together so many years ago.

The activities planned for Adelaide in April 2013 are shaping to be similar to those at past reunions, with a few pleasant surprises. The main task for our committee has been to have lots of time together, sharing great food, wine and activities that will highlight what Adelaide has to offer, at a cost to you that is affordable.

My contact details have changed so please note the following:-

Mail	68A Rapid Drive McCRACKEN SA 5211
Home phone	(08)8121 7983
Mobile	0407 406 110
Email	<a href="mailto:bobdehle@gmail.com">bobdehle@gmail.com</a>

If your contact details have changed recently can you let me know, as we do not want to miss anyone? Emails and letters will be sent out in the next few days with more information on what is happening.

Please make a decision soon on attending our reunion next April, we want to extend Adelaide hospitality to you all and create some great memories.

Best wishes.

Bob Dehle

**Congratulations:**

Doctor Nicholas Andrew Jans OAM.

Nick received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his efforts in the Community. Well done and congratulations from all the Germs Nick.

**Items of Interest:**

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

We have returned to a freezing cold Canberra after a great 35 day holiday to South America in April-May.

We saw some amazing sights and great people. Highlights were the 4 days at Galapagos Islands, 3 days on the Amazon River, seeing the Iguazu Falls and meeting the Uros people on the floating islands at Lake Titicaca. However, the best day was at Machu Picchu. It is fabulous in 2D but even better in 3D. We were very fortunate to have warm, sunny weather and no mosquito bites or problems with altitude, but picked up the standard travel gastro and coughs and colds. I guess this was a consequence of the distances we traveled with 11 domestic flights and 3 train trips, which were tiring but much better than catching the local buses, as we would still be there to cover all the sights that we saw. We can't speak either Spanish or Portuguese, but fortunately most people in South America can speak a few languages including English, so they could understand us.

Hope everyone had an enjoyable Anzac Day this year. We were in Sacred Valley in Peru and we had an Afghanistan plus East Timor veteran Legal Officer traveling with us on our tour, so Rob suggested that he would be the appropriate person to make a speech. He did some research on his Apple iPad on the origins

of Anzac Day marches in Australia, which he discussed before reading the 3 verses of the Ode, so that was very emotional at our tour private lunch in a hacienda.

Currently, Rob is back into Lawn Bowls and I am trying to pick out a selection of photos for our holiday album from the 5000 photos that I took.

Regards to all,

Rob and Rosemary

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

The 104 Battery Banner had its first outing on ANZAC Day here in Melbourne. Mick Crawford came to march with us and has since emailed me to say what a great day he had. The other interstaters that made the trip included Phil and Glen Johnston, John and Barb Herbert and Greg Petersen. The locals included Myles Charter, Rick Polley, Neil and Chad Denham, Frankie Flegg, Alan and Kath Jackson and yours truly and Paula. We later adjourned to the Royce Hotel where all the tall stories are trotted out once again (the older we get the better we were). We also had a call from John Thornton as he had spotted the 12 Field Regt marching in Adelaide and was curious as to where we all were.

I had last weekend in Sydney to catch up with a few former work colleagues and friends. Unfortunately the time goes so quickly.

Paula and I are off to Townsville for a week mid July to escape this Melbourne winter. Melbourne's winters have been rather mild over the past couple of years but this year has been a shocker.

Well all the best for now.

Frank and Paula.

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings Fellow Germs,

Went to the Anzac Day March in Brisbane and caught up with Johnno, GV, Peter Whitehead and Hugh Polson. Nikko was AWOL this year and Jeff Haack didn't show up. I did not march as my legs and hips can't hack any thing faster than a slow stroll. So it is with regret that I will not be going to Adelaide next year and also Canberra in 2015 is out of the question.

Best wishes to you all.

Cheers.

Dick.

Gordon and Sue Johnson's News: -

G'Day Mate,

Not much happening up this way. Anzac Day was huge here in Brisbane and the spectator crowds are getting bigger and bigger, about 4 or 5 deep along the whole route in the city. Very good to see.

Myself, George Pissani, JF Ryan, Hugh Polson and Peter Whitehead were there for the germs. Hugh is or has sent you some photos.

Adelaide is sounding good.

Cheers to all.

Johnno and Sue

Barry and Sue West's News: -

Early April 2012

Hi all,

Well Susan and I have survived the first five days of our cruise with little trouble, with stops at Noumea (yesterday - Tuesday), and Mystery Island (today). Susan did manage to blot her copybook on day 1 by being labeled a terrorist and person of interest for trying to smuggle a blunt, round nosed pair of embroidery scissors on board in her luggage. My pointed nose scissors and leatherman's knife meantime, did not raise an eyebrow. Food on board is great, and in copious quantities, but drinks are a tad on the expensive side. Much of the onboard entertainment has been fun, with both live shows and things like trivia quizzes. Our team (Sue, I and another couple) won the trivia quiz today, and the "Liars Club" was a hoot, e.g. what is the definition of words like Farture, Tittup and Dikephobia?

We went ashore yesterday at Noumea and took a 3 hour tour. Been there seen it. Today's shore visit was to Mystery Island, a coral cay in the Vanuatu Group. We didn't bother going ashore here (not suitable for wheelchairs or walking sticks), so we looked at it from the stern of the boat with a cocktail or cider instead. Susan is now doing some sewing so I will finish here, but before I do, I'd better mention that Susan is getting a little concerned that I'm spending much of my walking time with my stick rather than using a wheelchair, more freedom and mobility for me!

Farture by the way is the smell made by turkey stuffing.

You can look up the other definitions yourself.

Mid April 2012

We are back from our cruise and had a fabulous time. Sure beats 18 months in and out of hospital. The entertainment on board was worth the cost of the cruise alone. We had shore days at Noumea, Lifou, Mystery Island and Isle of Pines (although we didn't go ashore at all of them as some were unsuitable for mobility impaired people like me) and the weather was generally pretty good, although a bit cloudy and overcast. Food was great, and far too much, but drinks were more than a tad expensive, so you don't drink much. On the mobility side of things, although we took a lightweight wheelchair, I made a conscious decision after day 1 that I was going to walk everywhere with my walking stick only and I did. Nice to be a little bit more mobile. Susan blotted her copybook again as she managed to flood the bathroom and wet the carpet in our cabin. I am now expecting P&O Cruises to tell me Susan is banned from future cruises. Really though, it made a great, stress free holiday, where somebody else does all the work and you just sit (or lie) back and eat, drink, shop and be entertained nearly 24 hours a day. For those who have never cruised, try a short one (6 – 10 days), we just have and value for money, it's hard to beat. Also met some really nice people on board. Hope we have made you all envious.

Bob and Co. from 106 Bty, sorry I missed the reunion this year, but I'm sure you all enjoyed yourselves in Canberra and the weather was good for you. Hope to hear all about it in the next 'Turtle Times'.

Cheers from the 'seasoned' travelers.

Baz and Susan

**General:**

Next Edition will be September 2012.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

*Frank Corcoran*