



# The Germ Journal



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Welcome to the September 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 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](mailto: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;

Ray and Fay Carlin  
E-Mail: [kaidaitcharay@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kaidaitcharay@optusnet.com.au)

Gary "Blue" Harrington  
E-mail: [garyh57@bigpond.com](mailto:garyh57@bigpond.com)  
Home: 03 95616158 Mobile: 0488013030

Alan "Jacko" Jackson  
E-mail: [ajacko5@bigpond.com](mailto:ajacko5@bigpond.com)  
Phone: 03 98072423  
Address: 1/26 Gwynne St. Mt. Waverley Vic. 3149

Ross Kannar  
Address: 12 Serena Court Birkdale QLD 4159  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ckannar@bigpond.com](mailto:ckannar@bigpond.com) or [ckannar@boystown.com.au](mailto:ckannar@boystown.com.au)

Tim and Lorraine Triffett  
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Greg and Barb Petersen  
E-mail: [gregandbarb5@bigpond.com](mailto:gregandbarb5@bigpond.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:**

From Bob Eddington

### ANZAC Day 2010

Every thing is going well with the arrangements for the reunion next year.

To date we have 43 booked in the resort cabins at Freespirit Resort and 6 in the caravan park section with 3 using private accommodation in Darwin. It is a good turnout and there are some who have yet to book. We will attach the lists of those who have booked and those who are yet to commit. If anyone knows of anybody who has indicated they would be going to Darwin and do not appear on any of the lists tell them to contact me a.s.a.p as I have got 3 cabins at the resort booked as spares.

As I have said before the availability of accommodation is limited in Darwin and we have been able to secure a good price from the Resort for the reunion...

Kate and I, along with Cappers and Joan travelled to Darwin last month and stayed at the Free Spirit Resort while catching up with Mick Clee and his wife Gail. The resort is great and it was everything we expected it to be and after having a meeting with the Manager we were happy with the arrangements that Mick was able to negotiate with them. It was a worthwhile trip as we were able to get a good idea of what is available in Darwin in the way of venues for the functions we will be having during the reunion. A big thanks goes to Mick as he has done a lot of groundwork for us and he was able to show us the options that could be suitable for the functions.

First will be the welcome function to be held on the Friday evening (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010) There are two options that would be great and after we have received confirmation on the availability of either one, we will inform you of where we will be holding the welcome function.

Second function will be ANZAC Day.

There is a dawn service in Darwin and there are several service clubs who provide breakfast after the service and Mick will be talking to one of them before we get to Darwin and will be able to let us know what and where.

The main March starts at 9.30 and only lasts about 20 – 30min maximum and it looks like we could be the biggest contingent in the march. Straight after the march we will be going to the Trailer Boat Club overlooking the harbour for the After March Function. This will be in the form of finger food and buy your own drinks over the bar. Before you go check the bar prices are very reasonable so it won't cost an arm and a leg. Then, when ready, we return to Free Spirit for some R&R if needed or more drinks for the stayers.

The third function is the Battery Dinner which will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and at the moment it looks good for the Senior NCOs / Senior Sailors Mess at Larakia Barracks which is again a great venue for this function but it is subject to Mick negotiating with the Mess Committee but after we had a look at it and speaking with the President of the Committee we are confident that we will be able to use their facilities.

**ALL THE ABOVE FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES ARE AWAY FROM THE RESORT BUT WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FINALISING TRANSPORT TO AND FROM ALL OF THEM**

Final function is the farewell breakfast at the resort on the morning after the dinner and we will be having it at the resort pool area on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at a time to be decided.

We also had a look at some of the attractions around Darwin and most are only an hour to an hour and a half from Darwin, as well there are many attractions in Darwin itself. Some great restaurants, bars and things to do.

We are looking at a couple of extra activities to help make the reunion more enjoyable for all but as yet we haven't nailed these down so we will inform you at a later date if these are going to happen.

Ketto has got the memorabilia for the reunion under control and it is looking good.

**IF YOU HAVE BOOKED AT FREE SPIRIT AND YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE LIST BELOW THEN PLEASE CONTACT ME URGENTLY AS YOU MAY NOT HAVE USED THE CORRECT BOOKING CODE I.E. "ANZAC 2010"**

Regards Bob  
Tel: 08 99481995 M. 0428930722  
Email: bobeddington@wn.com.au

Confirmed Attendances:

**CABINS:**

Brian & Sue Armstrong  
Laurie & Mary Bennett  
Murray & Mary Bethune  
Ross & Lenice Bryant  
Phil & Mary Burns  
Joe & Isabel Candy  
Ian & Joan Caporn  
Ron & Jan Casey  
Mike & Gail Clee

**CARAVANS:**

Ray & Fay Carlin  
Graham & Judy Floyd  
Dick & Pam Gray  
Charles & Vickie Hayden  
Brian & Sandra O'Donahue  
Russ Pullen

Max & Ross Clothier  
Rob & Debbie Cocking  
Frank & Paula Corcoran  
Bob & Linda Dehle  
Graeme & Sue Dennis  
Dan & Gillian Donovan  
Dick Duane  
Bob & Katie Eddington  
Tony & Tina Ferraro  
Tony & Lyn Galea  
Phil & Rosemarie Garland  
Neil & Maureen Graham  
Dick & Jacqui Gray  
Gary Harrington  
Bill & Vicki Hogue  
Gordon & Sue Johnson  
Jeff & Joy Ketteringham  
Ian & ? Macauley  
Rob & Judith Marshall  
Dave & Carol Mathers  
Bob & Trish Murray  
Peter Nation & Bec Lohmeyer  
Leo & Marilyn Nicholson  
Malcolm & Sue Norwill  
Mike & Zannette O'Reilly  
John & Mavis Paskulich  
Bob & ? Perkins  
Dave & Sharyn Prizeman  
Ed & Willie Redfern  
Peter Kay Rees  
Charlie & Jackie Robinson  
John & Louise Ryan  
Kevin & Denise Scrimshaw  
Keith & Liz Smith  
Lee Rosemary Stockley  
Ted & Helen Watson  
Peter & Pauline Whitehead

PRIVATE ACCOMM:

Jim & Merrin Dunn  
Peter & ? Martin  
Barry & Sue West

**Items of Interest:**

Contributions from around the country follow;

Barry and Glenda Basham's News: -

Greetings to all!

We're back, we have just had 9 weeks at Forster (on the Central Coast), our daughter and her family were involved in a car accident, unfortunately our Jac was the only one seriously hurt, our three granddaughters and their dad all got out o.k. Just some minor bruising.

Jac received numerous injuries, two broken arms meant that she needed a lot of help, lot of road trauma and bruising, we left them all a great deal improved when we said our goodbyes.

While in Forster I caught up with the local Vets, attended the service marking Vietnam Veteran's Day and the dinner that was held that night, all very enjoyable. The boys up there are a really friendly lot and would make anyone welcome who would like to call into their shed and say G'day!

Glenda and I have a busy couple of months coming up, a wedding in West Wyalong, Vietnam Veterans' Reunion in Wagga and a trip to San Remo to visit the museum there.

We are both keeping reasonable health and we hope this finds you all the same way.

Cheers for now!

Barry (Basho) and Glenda

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

Well, Dicky Gray and I have been road testing our caravan and pop up campers and getting ready for the reunion in Darwin next year.

So far we have visited caravan parks at Jimmys Beach on Nelson Bay where we set up in monsoonal rain storms a couple of months ago and again at Forster last week where we endured lovely warm weather during the days but nearly got blown off the face of the earth last Saturday night. The wind was gusting to about 60 knots and actually ripped the guide that the annex rear section slips into off the side of the caravan. Luckily I had a pop rivet gun handy and repaired it on the spot.

All in all I think we used all our survival skills to get through these trips.

Dave Prizeman, Laurie Owen and Dick and I are thinking of taking a trip down to Huskisson to visit "Father" in October or November, with a bit of luck we might avoid bushfires and floods down there.

As a bit of an interest I've taken up pistol shooting again with the Holsworthy Pistol Club and can still hit the target (who needs splintex?) ...and...I've started an 8-week (one day a week) welding course at TAFE. The course is a Veteran Outreach Course and has been fun. So far I've managed to burn a finger, burn small holes in my jeans, and have sparks of molten metal go down my shirt and into my hair at the back of my head. The blisters should heal soon.

On the positive side I've managed to make a bracket for a large set of mud flaps for the Darwin trip.

Apart from that Fay and I are both well and wish our fellow "Germs" all the very best

I nearly forgot to mention that on the TAFE Course I met former 104 Battery Captain Ian Taylor who was an FO and GPO with the battery in 68-69. He is making decorative

twisted wrought iron flowerpot stands for his wife and doing well too as he has not burnt himself!

Regards

Ray and Fay Carlin

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Well I have taken a week off from the job I am doing in Townsville. I went up there thinking I would be in and out of the place in a few weeks. Famous last words at this stage I am hoping to finish by the end of November.

Paula came up for a week so we did the Magnetic Island thing and down to Bowen where the movie Australia was filmed. Did not see Nicole or Hugh though.

On Vietnam Veterans' Day I attended the service that they had down on The Strand. A mate of mine that I went to school with and also a Vet asked me to go. It was a good and well attended service, as there seems to be a number of Vietnam Vets in the area.

One thing about Townsville there seems to be something going on all the time, Car Races, Air Show, Cowboys Rugby League, Corporate Triathlon and Fury Soccer.

On the subject of a Triathlon a work colleague and I decided to enter in the Townsville's Corporate Triathlon that took place on Sunday 20/9. The idea was that I would do the Swim leg and he would do the Bike. However, we could not find runner in his 60's to complete the trio, so we found a 24-year-old colleague who was happy to join us. We called ourselves "Two and a Half Men" and set ourselves a goal of finishing in under an hour. We did it in 57 minutes and we were quite chuffed at that.

Paula has gone to Kangaroo Island with the 5 girls she went overseas with back in 1969. They lived in the back of a chartreuse Kombi Van for 3 years and travelled all over UK and Europe. I hope Kangaroo Island is ready for them but I think they have slowed down since then. There is no way I could get Paula to live in a caravan these days.

Well that's about it for now.

Cheers.

Frank and Paula

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings to All Fellow Germs.

No news from my neck o the woods. I had a phone call (left a message) from Ross (Joe) Kannar (Foxtrot 68/9) to say that he had left Warwick and settled in Brisbane.

Bob Eddington can you please note the name is DUANE. Not Duanne.

Hope everyone is well. That's it from me.

Stay sober till Darwin.

Dick

Rod and Sandra George's News: -

Hi All,

A little news from our sector, No. 1 Grandchild 'Liam' now 5 months old and more fun each day. I know I was a bit slow on the uptake for this type of milestone, but what great fun it is.

Sandra and I are taking a break in HAWAII for 8 days in the later stage of October, so all additional interest is focused on that. Health (for both of us is good) so we just have to look out for wayward trucks and Buses.

Flying is still as much fun (it actually lasts longer than Sex, I've timed it) and no blue pills are needed.

The little guy, (Cameron) and his wife (Emma) are talking about Babies, so who knows, maybe more ankle biters could appear.

Cheers to all, hoping you are all well.

Rod and Sandra George

Chicka and Vicki Hayden's News: -

Greetings all,

Like most of Australia, we're hoping for some rain soon - because boy is it dry and the tanks are getting lower.

Vicki & I have just celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary along with Fran & Nick Wills who married a couple of weeks after us. We were a part of each other's wedding party - heavens where have the years gone.

Renovations are continuing on the house, we've just started on the kitchen and when that's finished we might be able to pull the van off the blocks and get away for a while.

Health wise Vicki & I haven't been too bad but our son Mick & his wife & kids all had a scare with the swine flu. They'd come in contact with people who had swine flu and because they all have histories of asthma they were put onto the Tami flu. It sounded worse than it was - just like any other dose of the flu. Anyway all are well now, thank God.

Our daughter Kelly has been home for a week during the winter months - just to get away from the heat of Thailand and to be able to experience the cold weather for a change.

She's been busy travelling with her work with the UN in Mongolia, Turkey & Tajikistan but hopes to be back home for Christmas.

That's about all of our news for now - hope that this note finds everyone well.

Chick and Vicki

It appears Chicka has been reminiscing I refer you to "Remember When" below.

### Pieter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi to All Germs & their closest Fans,

It's good to know from this informative Journal that I'm not the only whacko who has returned to work and it seems to be a growing trend amongst us Germs, albeit in a part time capacity. Anyway, now that I am getting to know what I'm doing at work in a somewhat different vocation, I've managed to reduce my paid working life to three and a half days a week, which is absolutely fantastic because Gay and I are starting to get a few long week-ends away.

Some weeks back we went to Port Macquarie – wonderful spot, perfect weather, great walking track around the oceanfront watching dolphins, followed by an unbelievably good meal & wine at Cassergrain Winery. Same again the next day at Rydges, overlooking the water.

A weekend in Sydney's outskirts around the Richmond area was also interesting, although Gay's back gave way half way through and we had to rush back to our family doctor for a pain killing injection. She was in a lot of pain and out of action for a few days, but has fully recovered since.

We also went to a 1950's show in Sydney, which was an absolute hoot. They had some fabulous old cars from the 50's (customlines, chevy bel-airs, convertible FJ Holden towing a tiny caravan, etc), lots of people in their 50's gear with puffed up skirts, those crazy hairdos, brightly coloured shoes and Janet Seidel singing some of her great songs on stage, Jive dancing, etc., etc. Another wonderful weekend away.

Last weekend was in Newcastle, with more good weather, long walks around Lake Macquarie and a bit more exploration of some very good restaurants. There is an abundance of excellent homes in some parts around the lake to look at too. There has obviously been a lot of wealth develop here since the doom & gloom predicted when BHP left town a few years back.

Well, that's it from us – we've got to get on the web and organise next weekend away.

Cheers,

Pieter & Gay



Kevin and Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

As always, when you get to our age time does seem to fly. This time last year Denise and I were just returning from our 2 months overseas trip. Since then it has mainly been babysitting or working around the house and garden. The one thing though about time flying is that it isn't that long now until the Reunion.

I received an email the other day from a Colin Howard and this is what he said,

***“My name is Colin Howard and I came over to 104 Battery in December 1968, I was sent with another three guys from 105 Battery as a reo with the idea of joining 105 when they arrived in country in Feb 1969.***

***I remember very little of my time in 104 battery, cannot recall which gun I was on or any names of people I served with, my main recollection is that I was sent out to FSB Diggers Rest as soon as I arrived and remember the Christmas Lunch which was rudely interrupted by a fire mission after only one of my ice cold VB's.***

***I found the inserted photo with me in it which prompted me to contact you guys, I have been a lifetime subscriber to the 105 Battery Assn for many years now but I would like to know anyone from 104 who remembers a smart arse four eyed reo who dropped in on them in December 1969”***

The photo that he sent was Bravo Gun and also included Grahame Collins and myself. I am trying to email him back but every time it rejects the email address. I will keep trying though.

From both Denise and I we can't wait to catch up with everyone at the Reunion. Take care, stay safe and in good health.

Scrimmy

**Remember When:**

**104 FD/MEDIUM BATTERY**

**WHO??**

1. Came back to Camp 500 after a big night to find his bed missing. It was on the water tower.
2. Sent a card to Ben Burleigh from surfers after going AWOL on Ex Barra – Winga. It said, “wish that you were here”
3. Which Gun Sgt was lucky enough to witness his 5.5 deploying itself in front of his gun tractor?
4. Which Gun Sgt had his ammo bay collapse while sitting on his “Grand Poobah Chair” at FSB Concord?

5. Name the 3 poor souls in the poem "The Happening" (68 -69) Note - Leo had RTA by this time.
6. Which grogan thought white smoke would be a change to the coloured stuff he normally used. WP blows up more than the bugs in the toilet pit.
7. Who were the gun crew to fire the first round of 104 Med Bty – Jacko could help here.
8. 20 Gunners from the 3<sup>rd</sup> intake arrived at 104 Med Bty on a fine winters day in 1966. They had used Pattern 37 webbing during recruit training and I had the task of issuing the "new green webbing" to them on arrival. They were all put into a hut on one side of the parade ground, the 20 regs were in a hut on the other side of the parade ground – about 40 metres apart. Adjacent to their hut was the Main Q then BHQ overlooking the Parade Ground, then the Rec room alongside the regs hut. After dinner that night the nashos were all in their hut sorting out their gear and trying to make heads or tails of this "new webbing". There was a crash on the hut door and it was flung open by Jacko sporting a Sgt's brazzard – "SHUN, stand by your beds." Moto walks in with the BSM's cap and cane and a set of 2 Lt slides on his shirt to inspect the men. He proceeds to work his way down the hut giving every one of them a serve and at the end of the hut announced that they were all to be on the parade ground at 2000 hours with their webbing correctly fitted. The rest of us were under the hut listening to this and we all went back to the warm Rec hut to witness events. At 2000 hours the poor buggers come out with webbing hanging off at all angles waiting to be inspected. Winter in Holsworthy can be very cold and after 30 minutes or so the first brave soles spat the dummy and went back to their hut and gradually the others did the same. The next day at Morning Parade we were lined up outside the end of our hut facing across the parade ground at the new arrivals, Jacko and Moto in the front rank were seen and it dawned on the lads that they had been set up. We ended up great mates in the end.

#### **Sick Parade:**

Neil "Deadly" Denham is not well at the moment. He is due back in hospital on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October for the third time in recent months. I know every one wishes him well and if you want to send him a message try the following contacts; -

Address: 8 Penn Place. Dingley Village Vic. 3172

Phone: 03 95514429

E-mail: [maureen.denham@bigpond.com](mailto:maureen.denham@bigpond.com).

#### **General:**

Next Edition will be Christmas 2009.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

*Frank Corcoran*