



The Germ Journal



**Issue Number: 61
30 September 2016**

Welcome to the September 2016 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

Wayne Saunders

Doug Power informed me of the passing of Wayne Saunders and has provided the following Eulogy:

Our little mate Wayne Saunders died on the 25th July 2016. Although we knew he was in trouble with cancer we were still shocked at how quickly he deteriorated over these last few months.

It is correct about him being in the motor industry all his working life. The family have had a dealership in Scone in the Hunter Valley for many years. They also run consecutively, the branches of the NRMA uninterrupted in Scone and Muswellbrook for a similar period.

The family are highly respected in Scone, particularly Wayne and his wife Helen they are a part of a very close community.

I was privileged to be a pallbearer at his funeral and could not believe the number of friends who gathered outside the packed church apart from the two hundred odd that crammed inside. I believe 600 people signed the visitor's book at the church, which will give you some idea of his standing in the community.

Wayne was a very active member of both the RSL and Legacy and from firsthand experience I know he took those responsibilities with lots of dedication, hard work and compassion.

He was only with us for a few months in Vietnam before a family tragedy sent him home. We lost contact with him for many years until we met some 30 years later.

We met every Anzac Day for at least the last 10 years and have enjoyed his company immensely. Glen Crozier, now deceased, Bob Raynor, Kenny Marsden, Stewart Leaf and myself spent many happy times at their Farm just outside Scone and those memories will live with us forever.

As most times with veterans, a strong and dedicated wife in Helen was invaluable. Helen's support during his sickness was amazing. I have no doubt he could not have done what he did without her wonderful support. Not only in sickness, but also in their business life.

We will miss his smiling face particularly when he knew it was time for a beer or two with his mates. He was a true character.

New/Change of address, etc.: -

Looking for updated email address:

Mike Clee, Dave Bouchier, Rod George, Mal Pearce, John Smith (Smiley), Chris Davies, Bob Braid and Greg Mathews seem to have changed email addresses. If anyone can help with a current email address, please let me know?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

No Report this quarter.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this quarter.

104 Battery, 1 Regt. RAA:

No Report this quarter.

Reunions:

I received this note from Peter Whitehead in regard to the next 104 Battery 2019 Reunion on the Gold Coast:

The organising committee for the 2019 Reunion on the Gold Coast would like to confirm the dates of the get together as being the 23rd of April thru to the 28th of April 2019. We are looking at accommodation venues in the Labrador/Biggera Waters area of the northern Gold Coast, which will give us a combination of Holiday Park and apartment stays, which are in close proximity not only to each other but also to the Broadwater, restaurants and retail shops.

Ron and I will contact members shortly to get a feel for the number who plan to attend and the type of accommodation they require so please ensure that we have your current contact details on record. If anyone needs to contact either Ron or myself here are our details

Peter Whitehead email peterwhitehead50@gmail.com.au mobile 0409318017
Ron Casey email cracajacs@ozonline.com.au mobile 0403326722

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

Hi all,

Hope everyone is well and has completed the Australian Census in August. We didn't have to do it this year as we left the country beforehand.

We have been on a 6 week holiday to the UK followed by a Rhine, Moselle River Cruise from Amsterdam to Basel. Our tour guide in the UK was a History Teacher before changing careers and he made our tour very interesting with so many facts and figures with appropriate music on the coach. In London we had a tour of Buckingham Palace while the Queen was on her summer break and also saw the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. Then we visited Stonehenge, Bath and headed off to Ireland. We visited the Waterford Factory, Blarney Castle and learnt to pour a Guinness in Dublin. We got soaked in the Lakes District in England, and as someone explained "Why do you think there are some many lakes?" We enjoyed the Beatles Museum in Liverpool and our visit to the Glenfiddich Distillery with 4 samples of whiskies. We loved the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh where we were blessed with perfect weather. In Europe we learnt about the Battle of Arnhem near Nijmegen, went to the Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in Rudesheim, enjoyed the noise and speed of Ferraris training at the Hockenheim Formula 1 Track at Mannheim and ate Black Forest Cake in the Black Forest. We realised that the Australian history we learnt at school is so recent compared with the stories of the middle ages and earlier, the castles, buildings and churches, all very different to ours.

However, it is lovely to be home again and preparing for the school holidays and visits from our grand-daughters. We tried to keep up with the scores for the football while we were away and as we write this, our beloved Canberra Raiders are playing on Saturday night against Melbourne Storm. Rob has only had two games of Lawn Bowls, as we have had a lot of rain since we returned home.

We have paid a deposit to go to Vietnam and Cambodia in Oct/Nov2017 for 22 days with Scenic Tours. Rob has looked at the itinerary and said it will be nothing like 1968. This will be my first trip to Asia, so should be interesting.

Regards to all,

Rob & Rosemary

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hi all,

Not too much to report. However, settlement on our house occurs mid-December and I have been waiting for the weather to warm up so I can get started on sorting out my sheds and get rid of all the accumulated gear I have amassed over the last 20 years.

At this stage Paula and I are looking to rent a place in Hobart for a while to see if we like it enough to move there permanently. As our grandchildren are in Tassie we want to be part of their lives and not be Granny and Pa who turn up from Melbourne once a quarter for a few days.

I caught up with Jacko and Deadly recently. Jacko had a hip replacement and he is coming along fine. He also told me that Frankie Flegg was quite emotional after the Dogs made the AFL Grand Final. No doubt he will be willing them on this Saturday as will the rest of Victoria. Can't have a Sydney side winning.

I will collate the next Germ early December as I will be pretty busy towards Christmas.

Cheers.

Paula and Frank

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs.

Had a check up at Redcliffe hospital on August 19, another operation on the 26 August and go for another check up in about 2 months time.

Back in May I bought a new bomb. Isuzu D Max twin cab and tray, turbo diesel. What a superb machine! Seats 5 people with 400 kg in the tray. Weighs 1800kg and sits on the road like a brick but, if I hit the gas boy does it go. So much metal in the construction it is a safe vehicle not like the town ace it replaced.

In today's Sunday Mail there was an article about Bob Bredl. He suffered serious injuries to his left forearm and right leg while in the middle of a feeding demonstration and was attacked by a 4.5 metre male crocodile. He has a 70ha farm at Bloomsbury north of Mackay. Some may remember he did a series of TV programs called Barefoot Bushman quite a few years ago. They were good shows.

That's it from me. Cheers all.

Dick.

Ian and Gai Macauley's News: -

On the 7th September WA Germs met at Phil and Mary Burns' place for a BBQ lunch. Great to catch up with everyone and Ross and Lenice Bryant were visiting from the East. Photos follow.



On 18th August we paraded the 104 Banner at a ceremony in North Beach WA for Vietnam Veterans' Day. Keith and Liz Smith, Ian and Joan Caporn with son Matt and Ian Macauley attended.



Bob and Liz Shipard's News: -

Hi Frank, hope this finds you and the Germ family in good health.

We went to Qld, it was intended to be for five weeks. We got as far as Maryborough, stayed there for seven days, then back to Kingaroy and stayed for six days. We went up to Bunya Mountain and walked most of their tracks for two days, very nice and I also know where to get my orchids now. Then down to Dalby for seven days, very good museum there.

We then got a call from my Doctor, I was required back in town for some procedures, six minor operations later I was declared cleared of skin cancer from the right side of my head(well hopefully). I must return every three weeks for more scans up until Dec17.

When we left for QLD the Hume Weir was sitting on 82%, we have had rain every day since the middle of July and the weir is now sitting on 99%. They opened the flood gates two weeks ago, we have a 7.8 metre flood currently with all four caravan parks evacuated, the council office and the rowing club under water, with the rest of town on flood watch. The snow melt will add another 15% to the dam at the end of October.

Currently we have had two days without rain but a forecast for seven days of rain commencing today (24/9/2016). The flood has to reach 3.7m more before it has any effect on our home. The good thing is I have not been able to mow the lawn since getting back and possibly will not have to water it for the next two months.

Best wishes

Bob and Liz.

General:

Peter Sharp addressed an Artillery Memorial Service at Mt Pleasant and I have attached a copy of that address.

Geoff Laurie informed me that the RAA Association of SA's 2016 Gunner Dinner is much later this year, i.e. Thurs 10 November at the Graduates Restaurant, Regency Park College of TAFE – details will follow later.

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.

Next Edition will be December 2016.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran

Anzac Day 2016 Canberra – Artillery Memorial Service

Peter Sharp

Mt Pleasant – a beautiful place, a most beautiful place. No surprise that from here looking down on a treeless plain, Canberra's designers were inspired to create a beautiful 20th Century city. For us, this is Gunner Hill - national monument to the Australian Artillery. We are indebted to Gunners who conceived of this place, and made it happen.

The Guns – Aside from anti-aircraft guns in Darwin, these guns, like most of the guns around the Australian coastline have never been fired at an enemy. That must be the definition of a 'Lucky Country'.

But you make your own luck. In this case the guns have fired in numerous countries outside Australia, towards ensuring that the guns in Australia did not have to fire. The guns have been big and small, slow and staccato, firing across the ground and into the air, transported by chinook and truck. Gunners have stood on hills like this, calling for fire, targeting for missiles; others have stood on hills like this with theodolites trying to make sense of the earth's shape; others have wandered into no man's land to plant microphones or dispatched drones in their place.

The Gunners – the Gunners of 104th Field Battery's two tours of Vietnam are here today. They are here from the length and breadth of Australia. Vietnam used to be yesterday. Now it's the midpoint between Gallipoli and Afghanistan.

115 years of Gunners helping to keep Australia lucky. 115 years of excitement and boredom, of hurry and wait, of duty and defiance, of fear and resolve, of fog and darkness, of mud and dust, of adventure and adversity, of good times and bad times, of fun times and sad times.

115 years of friends yesterday and today. 115 years of the gunner family, living and dead. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

25 April 2016