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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 17 25th October 2013

1. New Member:

We're pleased to welcome Ian Lofts as a new member of the Association. Ian served as a Gunner with 104 Battery and did service in Vietnam in 1971, so is qualified as an "Ordinary Member". He lives in Eleebana, NSW. Hopefully many of you will get to meet him at the reunion next year.

2. FACEBOOK Happy Hour for Arty:

Our esteemed and talented webmaster Graham Hampton, has notified us of an upcoming special event – a national Happy Hour for all Arty blokes. See attached for details.

Hi Trev,

The boys on Facebook – Arty Guys and other RAA Facebook pages have decided to have a Facebook Happy Hour on Saturday 13th December 2013.

Would you mind putting this in your next Bulletin for those amongst your 12 Fd Regt (Vietnam) Assn who frequent Facebook of which there are a few.

Thanks mate – see attached. Regards, Graham

3. Missing Mates:

President Flood has drawn our attention to an article in the Vic Vet affairs Spring edition seeking the whereabouts of Paul Atwill. Some of you may have information that will help.

Hi Trev,

The Spring edition of the Vic Vet affairs contained the following:

Seeking contact details or the whereabouts of PAUL FRANCIS ATWILL 5714013 who served in 102 Field Battery 12 Field Regiment Holsworthy NSW in 1966. Contact Bruce Harris 03 5335 9295.

I am sure that there are some "older & bolder" than we are who may be able to assist. Scrubber, Don, Grimmo & Darc come to mind. Stay well Graham (Flood) & Jude

4. Singapore Incident:

This is a real long shot, but.....

We've had a plea for help from Mr. Alistair Reid who needs information to assist him in a claim to DVA. It concerns an incident on an exercise in Malaysia in 1973. Elements of Australia's 106 Battery were involved and as a memory jogger, during that exercise a gunner from Alpha (?) gun had his jaw broken by a rogue recoil of the 105. The medic was later involved in an evening incident in the ambulance he was driving where he was trying to catch up with the main convoy to warn them that the last vehicle in the convoy had broken down. The ambulance's lights failed and a pedestrian (probably a civilian?) was hit. If you were in 106 and have any recollection of this incident, it may assist Alistair in his claim. Please contact Secretary Trev Bryant if you think you can help.

5. Another Grant from Ingleburn RSL:

I'm pleased to advise that again this year, the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association has been given a grant of funds by the Ingleburn sub-branch of the RSL. The amount of \$500 is the maximum amount they can give under current circumstances and we appreciate their fine generosity. We will use the money towards the costs of our reunion next year, so hopefully many members will directly benefit.

6. Message from President Flood about the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting:

Members are aware that these meetings will be held at Ingleburn RSL starting at noon on Tuesday 12th November. Judging by the responses from members who say they will definitely attend, we are still not guaranteed of having a quorum. A couple of committee members who attend our AGMs and SGMs come from interstate. They pay their own airfares, accommodation and taxi fares and receive no reimbursement from the Association. If the November meetings have to be rescheduled due to lack of a quorum on the day, they have wasted 2 days, and several hundred dollars, AND then have to do it all again to attend the adjourned meetings. This is obviously unfair on them, so it is essential that members living around the Sydney area make the effort to attend. We need you! If you haven't already done so, please let Trevor Bryant know by responding to this email or phoning 0882707130 if you feel you are able to attend. Lunch will be provided after conclusion of the meetings. See you there! Flood.

7. Defence Force Discounts:

VP Neil Mangels has sent this information regarding a discount scheme that applies to our members. Some of you may wish to take advantage of it.

“2. New Defence Discount program - Exclusive to Defence Members and Their Families

1st October 2013, Canberra: Australian Partners of Defence launched a nationwide discount website to all serving and retired military personnel (including reservists and APS employees), and their families. These discounts are available through a membership program called APOD – Defence Discounts Online available at www.apod.com.au Products discounted include attractions, dining, accommodation, fashion, jewellery, alcohol and more come on each week. Check out their browse page <http://www.apod.com.au/browse-defence-discounts> for latest offers online, national, local and in the UK through an affiliate program called Rewards For Forces. To become a member for 2013, membership is free, simply go to <http://www.apod.com.au/membership> and sign up to have immediate access.

'Like' their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianPartnersofDefence> and follow to keep up to date with new discount offers as they come on board. **Please tell all your friends in Defence including ex serving members as they are all entitled to become members in their own right.** APOD is a private organisation run by partners of Defence, for the whole defence community, so any help you can offer to get this message distributed will benefit us all. APOD is not a charity nor is it supported in any way by the Commonwealth Government.

For any further information or should you have any queries about the program please contact hello@apod.com.au “

8. Visit to Vietnam – Report from member David Keall:

Hi Trevor. Just returned from Cambodia and Vietnam. Only a couple of days at Seim Reap but 16 days in Vietnam. Wish I had taken notice of Rick's previous newsletter as I'm sure he mentioned about Ken's good work. We spent a couple of days in Hoi An. Could have called in. Went to the Dat, a waste of time. Some one knocked off the painted 12fld HQ stone!. Any way good trip altogether. Visited Long Tan and got soaked. I guess my rain coat was not Monsoon proof. I can understand why the troops at the battle could not see far!

Yours in Comradeship. David Keall

Thanks for this report, David.

9. The NSW Bushfires:

I know we all share in our concerns for the families who have lost so much in these devastating fires. Life member Laurie Bird has penned the following comments which say it all:

NSW DISASTER RELIEF & RECOVERY FUND

There has been much coverage of the current NSW fires in all of our communication media identifying many communities affected by this disaster. With the aftermath & devastation caused as a result of many properties destroyed & many people & wildlife displaced there is an urgent need to provide assistance to these communities affected.

Many charities and businesses have arranged for donations to be collected in the form of clothing & emergency shelter but what is needed now is cash donations to assist individuals & communities in their recovery.

My intention in this regard is to ensure that our Association members are aware of various charities to donate to should they wish to do so. Also this communication will also assist in identifying any of our members affected.

Please don't send any donations to our Association fund in this regard as local charities have set up their relevant processes for these donations to be received promptly for use in the minimal of time.

To date many communities have banded together in support of fire victims & cash donations are flowing in to welfare agencies for those affected by NSW's worst bushfire in many decades.

The following contacts for the various charities to donate to should you desire to do so are:-

- RED CROSS via their website redcross.org.au OR phone 1800 811 700

- SALVATION ARMY via their website salvos.org.au OR phone 137258

- ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY on their National Hotline 131812

- WOOLWORTHS, COLES, BI-LO & PETBARN OUTLETS have all set up a process for individual donations & have committed to match dollar for dollar.

- RSPCA via their website is also accepting donations to help their inspections of areas affected to recovery & provide treatment to injured wildlife & domestic animals

I ask you to please give consideration in providing cash donations to the above charities for this worthy cause.

Should you be affected or are aware of any of our members affected by this disaster than please contact our Welfare Officer Rick Cranna or myself.

My contact is email lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or phone 02 49548248 & 0428661198

Best wishes to you all

Laurie Bird

10. Obit for Colin "Buck" Jones:

Laurie has also sent us this obituary for Colin Jones. RIP, Buck.....

"Col & I both served 2 years in Malayasia 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 & his wife's residence at Glenreagh NSW about 5 years ago and both Cherie & 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"

11. Merchandise: Another reminder from Quartermaster Laurie Bird that the Association still has embroidered polo and chambray shirts available at good prices. He reminds us that they would be ideal to wear at the Reunion next year. So, if you're in the market for some quality Association-badged clothing or other memorabilia, please go to the website, see what's available and lodge your order, or alternatively you can order on-line at lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or by ringing him on (02) 4954 8248.