



12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association
(A Branch of the NSW RAA Association)

**12 Field Regiment
(Vietnam) Association**

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**Don't forget to
renew your
MEMBERSHIP**

**\$10.00 Annual
\$100.00 Perpetual**

President's Letter

Good morning Gentlemen and Ladies,

Our A.G.M. and EGM were held at the Bankstown Sport & Recreation Club in Sydney on 13 March. Unfortunately, the E.G.M could not proceed due to the lack of a quorum. Fifteen were required; only fourteen turned up!!!! It is extremely disappointing that members in Sydney and in close proximity to Sydney could not find the time to attend this important meeting.

At the AGM, a new Committee was elected. Essentially, the Committee remains the same, with newcomers Ian Ryan (Secretary), and Ray Glover and Geoff Weismantel on the Committee. I thank the outgoing team for their efforts in the past year.

The coming year offers the new Committee and our members plenty of challenges. One of those challenges is outlined below.

You may remember some time ago we asked for a vote to invite the current serving and retired members of 8/12 Medium Regiment to be full members of our Association and a proposal for a name change to rid our Association of the (Vietnam) part of our name. The proposed

name change would be 8/12 Medium and 12 Field Regiment Association.

While this matter has been discussed at length previously, I would like to refer the matter to the Committee and Members for further discussion.

The advantages and disadvantages of the above item will be discussed at our first Committee meeting and a decision on the matter will be finally decided by way of a secret ballot at that meeting. Members' feelings on this matter should be directed to our Secretary in order that the Committee can evaluate everyone's opinion.

Over the years, we have accumulated a reasonably healthy bank account. We must not rest on a false sense of security as the larger majority of our members are perpetual members. This means they are financial for another six years or more before they are due to pay any fees again. We would hope that the perpetual and yearly members would sling a donation to the Association (if asked) at any time if we were battling.

On other matters, we intend to hold a Regimental reunion in the Adelaide Hills in a little village called Hahndorf, South Australia in 2011. It is time

Autumn 2010

that we looked after our Veterans in Central and Western Australia and that is why South Australia was chosen as the venue to save them the expense of travelling to the eastern states. We will minimise Members' expenses as much as possible. We will have more news about the event as we move closer to it. I ask all put this meeting on your calendar.

The Association's biggest blunder over the years has been to order too much memorabilia stock. We have over \$1900.00 worth of stock on hand.

We have a MAY ONLY SPECIAL of 12 crocks of Coral Port, bottled by Drayton's wines in the Hunter Valley. The crocks are engraved with gold leaf lettering depicting the Artillery badge, a short history of the battle as well as a listing of the diggers lost in that battle. We are willing to part with these collector's items at \$20.00 each, plus postage. The port is of superior quality so get in quick to order one! Orders can be placed by contacting our Treasurer, John Beer, by phone on 02 9605 8493 or email jbe51622@bigpond.net.au

Well that's my lot for now. I hope 102 and 104 Batteries had a great reunion on the Anzac Day weekend.

Cossie.

The Issues for and against Name change & Incorporating 8/12 Regiment

Further to the President's letter, Members will be aware that the March EGM proposing a name change failed for want of a quorum. It was considered appropriate that points of view AGAINST and FOR the name change be put to the Members for further consideration. Send your comments to ianryan@hotmail.com or 2 Pine Crescent, RINGWOOD VIC 3134.

AGAINST NAME CHANGE

The proposed change of name and the invitation to current and past serving members of 8/12 has major implications to our current membership. Those being as follows.

- 1 The Association will lose its autonomy by name as a Vietnam Veteran's orientated group which many of us see as precious.
- 2 The Association already allows members of 8/12 Medium Regiment to join us as in our current rules I.E.

MEMBERSHIP: Part II/ 4 *All Gunners who have served in 12 Field Regiment R.A.A. or have served in any derivation of 12 Field Regiment are eligible to become FULL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.*

As outlined above, it is counter productive to go through with a name change and incorporate new rules when our present rules allow for them to join us now if that is their desire.

- 3 Many of our members feel that the (Vietnam) inclusion in our name gives us our own identity which should be preserved at all costs.
- 4 Our Association was formed primarily to engender and further camaraderie of all Veterans of 12 Field Regiment Vietnam and attached units.
- 5 How many 20 year old soldiers and ex soldiers from 8/12 would want to join up with a group of 60 to 70 year old men from a defunct Regiment???? Very few I would think.

I personally think that our Association should fade away after our last member has departed this life. I see no advantages in a name change to our present membership, which is designed to give our Association a longer life but, in reality, is removing our past by the removal of "12 Field" and "(Vietnam)" from our name and therefore possibly passing on our funding to people 40 to 50 years our junior.

Rob Costello
President

FOR NAME CHANGE

I can understand a reticence of some Members to change the name of our Association, particularly when the word (Vietnam) was proposed to be deleted.

As the incoming Secretary at the last AGM, I admit to some surprise that the proposed name was agreed by the previous Committee, most of whom opposed the name change at the discussion which took place at the AGM and who are now on the current Committee.

I do recall suggesting at the AGM discussions that a possible name change might be **12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) incorporating 8th/12th Regiment Artillery Association**. This would clearly preserve the link with Vietnam but also look to the future of the Association after we old Buggers are dead and buried!!

In my opinion, it is unusual for the Gentlemen of the Artillery to NOT want to preserve the tradition and history of their Units, but to simply fold the last tent when the last Member passes away is folly. Where is the legacy of our comradeship and service to country?

Many of you may remember the Strategic Planning Survey which was sent out to address this very issue. I now have custodianship of the files, including the

original copies of the surveys. Out of 65 responses, 58 Full Members were in favour of extending membership to 8/12 Regiment. In many cases, Members commented that this was a very important issue, not only because of our advancing age, but also because 8/12 is the custodian of the Coral Honour Title. Without the affiliation of a serving Regiment such as 8/12, who is going to preserve and protect the Honour Title? However, there is no motivation for past and present members of 8/12 Regiment to join our Association if we refuse to acknowledge them in the **NAME** of the Association.

I am also very concerned that, since the previous Committee offered Honorary Vice President status to the Commanding Officer of 8/12 Regiment (since accepted by Lt Col Sweeney), we are morally obliged to honour this offer. And are we not all honourable men? I strongly recommend you support the **FOR NAME CHANGE** view as suggested above.

Ian Ryan
Secretary

ANZAC Day in Sydney 2010 for 102 Battery at Circular Quay



ANZAC Day in Darwin 2010 for 104 Battery at Sergeants Mess, Larrakeyah Bks



VALE

We are unaware of any Member who has passed away over the last few months.

If you are aware of anyone's passing, please let a Committee Member know.

It is Association policy to send a wreath to a Member's funeral provided we have adequate notice.

New Members

We have received applications from the following:

Glen Wiseman
HQ/104 Bty
Cardiff NSW

Rodney George
104 Bty
Bonnet Bay NSW

Peter Olsen
HQ Bty
Canterbury VIC

These applications will be put to the Committee for approval shortly.

Army Combat Badge Applications Pending

The following names have been submitted to HOR, School of Artillery, Puckapunyal for the ACB.

2786543	Rex Child	102Bty
2412432	Stephen Grainger	RHQ
1202750	Bradley Frost	104/HQ
26396	Ray Café	
2792504	John Beer	A Bty
2786826	David Thomas	102Bty
218816	Dan Donovan	104Bty
2786530	David Carlson	
3411740	William Free	102Bty

According to our records, the Association has applied for 74 ACBs on behalf of Members and non-Members. Only three were not approved (Esler Edmonds and Ormsby) because they were with 161 Bty.

However, provided our records are complete, there are many other Gunners who are entitled to apply for the ACB.

Equally, if you have applied for an ACB through this Association and have not received your ACB, please contact the Secretary, Ian Ryan, on

ianryan@hotmail.com

or

2 Pine Crescent, RINGWOOD VIC 3134 .



APPLY NOW!

Non-Financial Members—Are You MIA?

Our **OVERDUE** Membership renewals are now down to a manageable 23, but we would like to be sure that the following members are aware that their subs are due.

John Burns	102	QLD
Valmai Burns	Social	QLD
Patricia Lemon	Social	QLD
John Hannon	104	QLD
Phil Johnston	104	QLD
Geoff Barnes	HQ	QLD
Trevor Graham	HQ	QLD
Tim Perrin	HQ	QLD
Antonio Ferraro	104	WA
Peter Daff	102	WA
Jennifer Hogan	Social	NSW
Peter Small	104	NSW
Wayne Balfe	104	NSW
Clarrie Ormsby	161	NSW
Greg Hockam	HQ	NSW
Mal Hundt	HQ	NSW

Ian Esler	161	NSW
Alan Knight	HQ	NSW
James Laing	HQ	NSW
John Feint	102	ACT
Barry West	104	ACT
Mark Dougall	HQ	VIC
Geoff Hartley	HQ	SA

If current Members have contact with these Members, would you please make sure they are OK and encourage them to renew their membership. If they do not wish to continue their connection with the Association, would you ask them to send me a short resignation so that I can update our files.

Ian Ryan
2 Pine Crescent
RINGWOOD VIC 3134
ianryan@hotmail.com