



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

12 Field Regiment

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Don't forget to renew your MEMBERSHIP

Regular Feature

Where are they now?

See your old mates today and yesterday!

What were they doing?

What are they doing now?

Send pictures of yourself or someone you want to embarrass (nicely!) with text to:

jallen@datamasteranz.com

Advertise your Business in the Association's Newsletter.

Ring John Allen on 0407 672849 or email jallen@datamasteranz.com

President's Letter

Spring 2008

Gentlemen and Ladies

What a year we have had!!!!

The February Regimental Reunion and then the Coral Commemorations in May. I am sure that anyone who attended either of these functions could not gripe about the value given to our Gunners and Partners from our Association in the above events.

We now have to look at the challenging years before us. Some of our current executive are worn out from the varying duties required of them in our formative two years in organizing the various functions we have had and getting our Association to a good sound financial footing.

Remember, our Association was born with a bank balance of around \$3000.00. Our total assets now account to more than \$24,000.00. And we now boast a membership of 280 members.

Laurie Bird and I will not stand for re-election next year. As I stated at our A.G.M. in February last, we need people with commitment to stand for our Committee. Without a proactive Committee, we have no Association. Please think about it.

Membership Renewals

By now, you all should have your renewals for membership. Please be prompt in paying them. And a mere \$10.00 annual membership fee is a drop in the ocean especially for the value you have had in our first formative years.

Strategic Planning Survey

At the February AGM, there was very valuable discussion amongst the Members to consider expansion of the Association to include 8/12 Medium Regiment and possibly other 12 Field Regiment gunners who did not serve in Vietnam.

You should have received your survey form in conjunction with your membership renewals. Twenty three surveys have been returned to date and I encourage you to fill in the survey and return it to our Secretary, John Allen, as soon as possible. If we don't know what the majority of members want, we have no hope of trying to run the organization in a way that you as Members would wish.

2009 Annual General Meeting – Early Notice

Our next AG.M. will probably be on the weekend closest to the 14th of February 2009. Nomination forms for all positions on the Committee will be enclosed in our Summer Newsletter which will probably reach you all in early to mid January. I encourage all full members again to have a think about taking a role in the management of the Association, if only for one or two terms.

To paraphrase the late John F Kennedy, "Think not what your Association can do for you. Think what you can do for your Association"!!!!!!!

I intend to place on the Agenda for our next Committee Meeting that we have a small func-

tion in the Sydney area concurrent with the AG.M. I do know that a lot of you are re-united out at this time as we have had a few in the last two and a half years. The function I envisage would be small with no razzamataz and last one day and night only. It is critically important that as many people as possible attend to the A.G.M. to vote on some major issues (see Page 2) as well as another opportunity to get together. I will inform you of the outcome in our summer newsletter.

The Q Store

I would like to remind you of the wide range of products we have developed to promote the Association.

The advance sales of the DVDs of the 40th Anniversary commemorative celebrations in Canberra have been very disappointing. The DVDs have every event of the Artillery functions and three camera men put a lot of work into getting the footage and photos together unpaid, and wrapping them up into a really good production.

Have a look at the DVDs and other fantastic specials we have available on a wide range of merchandise which is filling Laurie's garage! Great Chrissy gifts! See Page 4!

Ubique

Rob (Cossie) Costello



Ian Reid
VENDOR ADVOCACY

Selling your home anywhere in Australia? Get the best value from your agent at no additional cost—Ring Ian Ryan on 0411 650 077 or email ianryan@hotmail.com

Revised Veterans Pensions

DVA pension recipients should be aware of increases across the board effective 20 September.

For further information, see the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au and see News/Events page, Pension Increases, Summary of Changes.

Alternatively, ring DVA on 1300 550457 (metro areas) or 1800 550457 for regional areas.

Send your NOW and THEN pics and a short story to: jallen@datamasteranz.co

If you have not done so, please send your survey as soon as possible to: jallen@datamasteranz.com

Where are they now?



In mid-October forty years ago, a bunch of gunners, predominantly 9th Intake Nashos and Vietnam volunteers for the February Tet Offensive, packed up their gear at Nui Dat and went home to an Australia which had changed almost as much as they had.

Some of those Nashos are pictured above. They include (L to R) Alan Goode (in shadow), Stan Carbines, Dick Duldig, Pete Storey, Tony Hardiman, Neil Ahern (rear), Charlie Bartkus, Chook Fowler

(rear), Dick Smith, Neil Lloyd-Jones, Unknown, Jack Arnold, unknown.

Others not in the photo include John Allen, Grahame Burton (8th Intake),

These veterans returned to Australia on a QANTAS flight which landed at Sydney at night at a location well away from the main terminal. Each was given transport warrants for onward travel if required and were quietly sent on their way. Welcome home boys!

Strategic Planning Survey!

Many thanks to the 58 full members who completed the strategic planning survey forms and returned them to the Secretary.

The return rate represents 20.5% of the total membership entitled to vote.

The sample gives the Management Committee an INDICATION of the wishes of the membership and, as a consequence, the Committee will be in a position to prepare any necessary draft resolutions to present to the Members at

the February 2009 AGM subject, of course, to the outcome of the ballot.

A snapshot of the survey results to date are shown hereunder.

However, these numbers should NOT be interpreted as a fait accompli as far as the AGM is concerned. A resolution to change the Rules of the Association requires a majority of 75% of Members attending and who are entitled to vote. No proxies are permitted for Special Resolutions.

Progress Results

Issue 1	87% Yes
Issue 2	72% Yes
Issue 3	48% No (9% undecided/no issue)

The analysis of the Comments section will be reported at a later date. While most Members did not complete this section, those who did made some very interesting comments. Decisions on implementing any of these suggestions could be taken by the Committee.

Army Combat Badges – Latest Recipients

It has taken longer than we all expected, but, at last, the second batch of approved applications have been received.

All ACBs were forwarded to the Association and then on-forwarded to the recipients.

The names of the recipients are listed to the right.

If you qualify for an Army Combat Badge, request an application form from the Secretary, John Allen, by emailing him at jallen@datamasteranz.com or ringing 9975 5537 AH or 0407 672849.

What do I need to apply?

All members of 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association who served in Vietnam are entitled to apply for an ACB.

To prove your entitlement, you need to supply notarised copies of your Discharge Certificate or, if you cannot find it, your Record of Service obtainable from Central Army Records Office.

Complete the application form and send the documents to The Secretary, PO Box 312, Belrose NSW 2085.

CONGRATULATIONS!

W. Alston, J F Corcoran, R G Cranna, J Dellaca, R Duane, R L Dunk, A Ferraro, D Fisher, D Herd, D Keall, P Leonard, A Marshall, P Nation, J Mottershead, L Partridge, J Phoenix, D Prizeman, C Robinson, K Smith, L Stone, P Storey, J Thornton, I Warron, R Brady, W Daley, G Reed, S Sullivan, N J Ahern, R Brooker, D Arnold, R Hedges, B Cartwright N Cooke

NEW MEMBERS

Adrian Galland
104 Battery
80 Podinga Circuit
ORMEAU QLD 4208
adrian.galland@chubb.com.au

Mick Grimes
102 Battery
P O Box 328
NEUTRAL BAY
NSW 2089

Les Stone
Unit 7, 48 Heaps Street
Avenell Heights 4670
miaty50@optusnet.com.au

John Free
2 Laidley Place
Helensvale 4212
johnwfree@yahoo.com

WELCOME

104 Battery



It already seems a long time ago, but I hope you all had an enjoyable ANZAC Day. About 8 Gunners and some partners from 104 Battery marched with other units at Springwood in the Blue Mountains and spent some time in the local bistros or pubs before the traditional Beating the Retreat by the Lithgow Pipes and Drums, (who also play for the march along with the Police Brass Band) which is a real attraction for many of the attendees and local spectators.

If we could guarantee to have at least 12 Gunners from 104 Battery to attend next year, we could march

under our own banner. For those in the region, please give this some consideration. I will raise the issue again in the Summer Newsletter as a reminder.

I have noted that 58 members have returned the Strategic Planning Survey, and I have noted John Allen's quick analysis of the responses.

Some of the issues raised are points that I raised at the reunion in 2007, and in fact were issues that were discussed when the 12 Field Regiment Association was last attempted in about 2001, at which time I was president.

While I do not wish to influence any future respondents' opinions, I personally believe that the Association membership should be open to anyone who served in the Regiment, whether it be in SVN or not.

My personal view is that we

should open up membership to the 8/12 Medium Regiment members, otherwise our membership will be progressively restricted in numbers. I understand why some members want to preserve the exclusivity of 12 Field Regiment Vietnam servicemen only, but the cruel fact remains that, if that situation continued, the regimental association would disappear.

I can only add that there are ways of preserving the identity of the Vietnam veterans and the current entity of 12 Field, ie 8/12 Medium Regiment with little modification of our current incorporation.

I don't necessarily agree with Vietnam Veterans Day being moved to a different date. It could potentially cause some friction and division within the ranks of the veterans generally. I encourage all Members to send their views on these matters to John Allen asap.

John Sullivan

Units of
12 Field Regiment
RAA

Your unit or sub-unit can establish your own sub-committee under the auspices of
12 Field Regiment
(Vietnam) Association

Contact any member of the Executive Committee for further information.

Q Store Specials

40th Anniversary Commemoration in Canberra

Orders for the 3 pack DVD of the May functions will be available shortly.

Keep the Faith!

Update on Geoff Knox

We reproduce Lois' email updating us of Knoxy's condition with her consent.

Just to keep you updated.... Knoxy is not so good and is in the Peninsula palliative care unit to get over yet another bowel obstruction. This time only 6 minutes from home....which is good for both of us. He does not have a direct phone nos.....so any if you wish to send him any news please do so electronically and I will pass on. He really is existing on clear fluids now.....this may change as life moves and changes in most mysterious ways.....his spirits are up again helped along with steroids !!!!!!! We were both a bit gloomy yesterday when things got out of hand. Dale Quigley is here and that brightens him up.....he continues to keep the nursing staff and medics on their toes!!!!!!Quite shameless really!!!!!! Will continue to keep you updated.... Love and respect Lois



A very drinkable Shiraz Cabernet and a Semillon Chardonnay make up this 12 Field Regiment-labelled twin pack Reduced from \$30.00 to just

\$25.00



Top value! This 750ml Drayton's port in a permanent gold print crock will certainly impress your friends. Great gift. Reduced from \$39.00 to just

\$30.00



12 Field Regiment Plaque

\$30.00

12 Field Regiment cap

\$10.00



102 Battery Coral Plaque

\$30.00

All orders are Plus Postage. Please ring Laurie for total costs.