



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

**12 Field Regiment
(Vietnam) Association**

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President's Letter

Hello All,
Your committee and our Boys in Adelaide have at last finalised the preliminary planning for the Adelaide reunion in 2012. Attached and inclusive of this newsletter you will find the final application form for the attendance and suggested places to stay whilst there, including Motels and Caravan Parks. We have included a three tier pricing structure which we hope, you will not find too confusing.

Please return as soon as possible so we can ascertain how many will be in attendance. This will help with future planning.

Basically, the price structure allows members a **54%** discount the Association is providing. A Non-Member ***is not*** entitled to this subsidy. We have however, given non-members a chance to take advantage of the subsidy should they wish to join the Association at an initial cost of \$20.00. This will allow entry to the reunion at a discount price of \$30.00.

This initiative does in essence, allow the non-member free membership to the Association plus a \$10.00 discount to the reunion. The Membership form is provided at the base of the registration form. Please read the forms carefully. I am sure that you will understand them. Also, we have allowed payments for attendance to the reunion can be made in three instalments up until January, 2012. This will also ease the financial burden for those who are battling financially.

We are also nearing renewal of membership time which is due on the **1st August**. We request membership renewals and overdue subs be paid **NOW**. A renewal form is also attached to this newsletter.

Easy EFT transfers are available directed to our Treasurer. Unfortunately some members are now over two & three years overdue with their \$10.00 per annum payment. If you are one of those, we will unfortunately remove you from our mailing list as according to the rules of the Association from this date. We do not take this action lightly, however we feel that \$10.00 per annum is not too much of a burden for anyone to pay if, they are interested in continuing their membership.

E-mail addresses for some of our members over the past two or three years has been a problem. If you have changed your e-mail address please notify us immediately.

I have taken it upon myself to snail mail this newsletter to your last known residential address should we get a bounce from your last email address, as advised. If you receive this newsletter by snail mail and have email simply e-mail me at cossie0102@bigpond.com your letter will be marked "PLEASE SUPPLY E-MAIL ADDRESS" Postage is expensive and it doesn't take long for cents to become big dollars by mailing out communications.

I have decided that this year will be my last year as President and/or part of the Committee. I have given six years and I really think it is time for new blood to come in and have a go.

It is anticipated that after our next EGM that Committee meetings will be carried out Australia wide via Skype, Yahoo Messenger or telephone conference calls. This move will allow anybody in Australia who is a member and has the desire to stand for a position on the committee to take on that role without the tyranny of distance. We have in past years been restricted to people living in

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close proximity to Sydney taking on a Committee role. I feel sure that conference calls would be cheaper to run than having committee members travelling sometimes hundreds of kilometres to attend meetings. I believe, we have a large and more diverse number of people to take on these positions.

North Head.

I know that a lot of you have been concerned with what has happened at North Head, Sydney, including the museum exhibits. The news is a lot better than I first anticipated. A letter from Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retired) is included in this issue. It is really worth the read. One thing that struck me was the continuing work to be completed on the memorial walk plus the intention of keeping it open as well as other areas. These include the Gun emplacements, tunnels and areas to be viewed by visitors to the site.

It is noted that the Royal Australian Historical Company require 330 pavers for the walk to complete the project. All 12 Field Regiment Batteries have central pavers on site, so if you have not got your own personal paver on site, it is the time to do so, now. This is a project that I think is imperative to complete.

We have attached an application form for your own personalised paver to be placed on the site within your Battery's central header, if you haven't got one already.

Well that's my lot for this quarter. I will talk to you again in the spring newsletter. Please do not forget to renew your membership now.

Best Regards,
Cossie.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL EX-GUNNERS:

39 M2A2 105mm. Howitzer Guns available to RSLs and historical organisations.

Minister for Defence, Materiel Jason Clare today announced that 39 M2A2 Howitzer Guns will be made available to RSL clubs and historical organisations around the country.

"The M2A2 Howitzer Gun has provided outstanding service to Australia and making the guns available will help to preserve this important part of our military history," Mr Clare said. "The Howitzers have been a vital component of Australia's arsenal. They were critical in providing close artillery fire support to the Australian Army in Vietnam." 24 M2A2 Howitzers were used in Vietnam.

"During the six years they were in Vietnam, the Howitzers fired thousands of 105mm rounds," Mr Clare said. "In July 1967, the Howitzers provided invaluable artillery support to the biggest allied offensive in the Phuoc Tuy Province."

"With the help of the Howitzers the Australian, US and New Zealand troops helped clear an area that had previously been dominated by enemy forces for more than seven years."

The Howitzers were introduced into service in 1967 to replace the famous 25 pounder field gun.

The Howitzer can be towed by truck, lifted by helicopter or moved manually for short distances.

The gun has not deployed on operations since Vietnam but has remained in service.

Approved recipients will be expected to pay for demilitarisation and other costs, such as transport and site preparation. The total maximum cost is estimated to be approximately \$16,000.

The tender is expected to be released in July. Organisations wishing to receive notification when the tender is released can register their interest with the Defence Disposals Agency, via email:- disposals@defence.gov.au or telephone **(02) 9393 2914**.



M2A2 105mm. Howitzer, used in Vietnam 1967 - 1975.
First manufactured in the USA in 1938 & used in active service until 2007.

Nasho's Sixtieth Anniversary

Some members may be interested in the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the commencement of National Service (in its various formats) between 1951 and 1972. Over this period, 287,000 young men were called up for various lengths of service including non-active and active service. From 1965, Nashos served in Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, during which time 212 Nashos were killed in action and over 1,500 wounded. Of the 313 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association we have **176 (56%)** National Servicemen as Members.

Anyone interested in further information, you should contact the Townsville City Council on www.townsville.qld.gov.au/community/events/nashos/Pages/default.aspx or telephone **(07) 4727 9000** or if you are outside the area, call **1300 878 001**.

The proposed commemorative program is as shown below:-

DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thursday 8 September	4pm - 7pm	Meet and Greet Canapés and Entertainment provided, drinks available for purchase from the bar.	Townsville RSL
Friday 9 September	7pm - 12pm	Dinner Dance Buffet Dinner with Dessert and one complimentary drink on arrival. Entertainment provided by Townsville's 1RAR Army Band	Jupiter's Hotel/Casino
Saturday 10 September	6pm - 9pm	Public Concert Headlining artists Normie Rowe and Judy Stone will be performing alongside Townsville's own 1RAR Band Food and refreshments will be available for purchase from vendors onsite	Strand Park
Sunday 11 September	5am - 7am	National Servicemen Commemorative Service	Rowes Bay Park
Sunday 11 September	10am - 1pm	Community Event March from the city to Anzac Park, with a Community Farewell Barbeque following in the park till 1pm. Barbeque and refreshments will be provided.	Anzac Park

The details for the program for the NASHOs' Sixtieth Anniversary are currently being finalised. More details, including venues and event times, will be made available as they are confirmed. Ring or visit the website, as shown above, for updates and confirmation to the program.

Change of Address???

It appears some members are changing email addresses and not notifying us of the change as we are getting many bounce backs on the newsletter when we send it out on email.

If you are getting your newsletter via snail mail and you used to get it by email, **we must not have your current email address.**

If you have an email and you are still receiving your newsletter by mail could you please notify your Secretary, Ian Ryan by email at the following email address:-

ianryan@hotmail.com

Postage has gone up and it is wasteful to send them by post if you have email facilities.

It would be great if you have a relative or friend's e-mail address to forward urgent alerts, in the case of a death etc..

Ian Ryan
Secretary.

IMPORTANT:

New Membership

If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of our Association or perhaps have lapsed their membership, please encourage them to join.

Army Combat Badge (ACB) Update.

For those of you who have been waiting most patiently for information regarding your ACB application, you will be pleased to know I have finally received the badges.

There are 132 recipients. It is anticipated that the badges will be forwarded to you within the next few weeks. Those who have an e-mail address, have been notified.

Apart from the standard ACB, there is a miniature ACB for those who were Commissioned Officers and senior NCOs'.

Congratulations are in store to all who now deservedly wear the ACB.

Unfinancial Members.

If you know of anyone who maybe in arrears please encourage them to renew their membership. More importantly, should you know of anyone whom you believe should be a member, please encourage them to join, especially in light of the forth coming Adelaide reunion in April, 2012.

Suggested 2012 Reunion Accommodation Options.

Accommodation	Distance to Venue	Tariff
Adelaide Shores (Caravan Park) (Large, 5 star. Formerly West Beach Caravan Park) 1 Military Road, West Beach. www.adelaideshores.com.au phone: (08) 8355 7320	4 kms.	Cabins from \$104pn – \$129pn Powered Sites from \$36pn – \$44pn
Buffalo Motel (Neat, small motel) 766 Anzac Highway, Glenelg. www.buffalomotorinn.com.au phone: (08) 8294 6244	200 metres	Standard Queen \$110pn Marina view Queen \$140pn
Glenelg Pier Hotel (Large, flash, 4-star) 18 Holdfast Promenade, Glenelg. www.glenelgpier.com Phone: (08) 8350 3188	500 metres	From \$190 pn
Comfort Inn Haven Marina (Larger, 2-storey motel & conference venue which is our "home-base" for the Reunion) 6 Adelphi Terrace, Glenelg North. www.haveninn.com.au phone: (08) 8350 5199	On site	Standard Twin or Queen \$145pn Marina View Twin or Queen \$160pn Full B/fast \$16pp
Adelaide International Motel (Pleasant 2-storey motel about 1km. from Glenelg Beach) 521 Anzac Hwy., Glenelg North. www.internationalmotel.com phone: (08) 8294 2155	1 km.	Deluxe Queen-bed \$99pn