

President:
Mr. Graham Floyd
39 Mitchell Street
Ouyen Vic 3490
Ph: (03) 50921045
Email: 12fdregtraa@gmail.com



PATRONS:
Lt Col Fr John Tinkler (RL)
Major Ross Bland (RL)

Secretary:
Mr. Trevor Bryant
28 Ironbark Avenue
Flagstaff Hill SA 5159
Ph: (08) 82707130
Email: trevjeanbryant@gmail.com

Vice President:
Mr. Neil Mangels
PO Box 91
Middleton TAS 7163
Ph: (03) 6292 1409
Email: nma77081@bigpond.net.au

Treasurer:
Mr. John Beer
81 Fawcett Street
Glenfield NSW 2167
Ph: (02) 9605 8493
Email: jbe51622@bigpond.net.au

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 22 10th March 2014

1. New Members:

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Association.

- Leo Nicholson: Nicho served in Vietnam from 4th May to 15th December 1971. He spent most of his time with 104 Battery on its second tour. He reached the rank of Sergeant, and spent 20 years in army. He and his wife live in Queensland and they will both be attending this year's reunion.
- Lawrie Bennett: Lawrie also lives in Queensland. He was a Gunner with 104 Battery and served in Vietnam from 4th May to 17th December 1971. He and his wife Mary will also be attending our reunion.

2. A Laugh!!

Stan Carbines sent us this story which says it all about officers and NCOs.

The difference between Officers and NCOs

A young Army officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible, permanent injury was that both of his ears were amputated. Since his remaining hearing was sufficient, he remained in the Army.

Many years later he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, very sensitive about his appearance. One day the General was interviewing three servicemen who were candidates for his headquarters staff.

**The first was a Captain, a tactical helicopter pilot, and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the General asked him, 'Do you notice anything different about me?'
The young officer answered, 'Why, yes, Sir, I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears.'**

The general was displeased with his lack of tact and threw him out.

The second interview was with a Navy Lieutenant, and he was even better. The General then asked him the same question, 'Do you notice anything different about me?'

He replied sheepishly, 'Well, sir, you have no ears.' The General threw him out also.

The third interview was with an old Sergeant Major, an Infantryman and staff-trained NCO. He was smart, articulate, fit, looked sharp, and seemed to know more than the two officers combined.

The General liked this guy, and went ahead with the same question, 'Do you notice anything different about me?' To his surprise the Sergeant Major said, 'Yes, sir, you wear contact lenses.'

**The General was very impressed and thought, 'What an incredibly observant NCO, and he didn't mention my ears.'
He asked, 'Sergeant Major, how do you know I wear contacts?'
'Well, sir,' the soldier replied, 'it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no effing ears.'**

3. Report from Ken Marsden:

Our member Ken Marsden sent us this report while he was in Hoi-an, Vietnam last month. Like so many of our fellow vets who want to give something back to people who lost so much in the war, Ken does a great job of helping the locals, for which we thank him. He has not asked for donations, but if you would like to help with a few bucks anyway, you can reach him on kennylmarsden@gmail.com

*Giday, I would like to report from Hoi-an Vietnam. Yesterday I had Problem
Departure delayed 2 hours, what a worry!*

Arrived safely, a bit late, a bit tired today but having a Jameson and ice (cold)

Then going to bed. For tomorrow I have another day of doing nothing.

*I travel to Hoi-an twice a year, I have a family which I support plus an
Orphanage which I help, and a young girl from a primitive mountain village
I have enrolled in an English speaking College to enhance her chances
of getting a decent Job, a bit Irish, having to speak a foreign language
in your own country to get a decent job.*

Just having a look around and a little bit goes a long way spent correctly.

*This trip I bought over approx. 60 towels donated by manufacturer for a
local orphanage, (towels) a bloody luxury, previously a rough piece of rag
was used to dry after bathing.*

Beautiful people, have nothing, but as happy as shit,(we think we have it bad).

Cheers to all, Ken

4. Missing Members:

Our member John Mottershead (Sergeant 104 Battery) seems to have gone AWOL. His phone number on our Register is disconnected and emails sent to him just bounce back. It's possible he has moved house and has forgotten to tell us. Do any of you 104 Battery blokes out there know his whereabouts please?

5. RSL Clubs – Not what they used to be:

John Redman has sent us a copy of an article from “The Business Insider Australia” which deals with the current nature of RSL Clubs and how they seem to have lost their focus, to the detriment of the diggers for whom they were founded. Written by a former army officer it makes un-settling reading, and John thought that all vets should be made aware of the situation. A copy of the article is attached.

6. The Reunion:

Treasurer Beery advises that he now has commitments and registrations from 51 members and partners. It's looking good. The reunion runs from the 20th to the 24th of August at Maroochydore and spans the Saturday of the Australian Artillery Association Gunners Dinner in Caloundra. Allowance has been made in our reunion program for attendees who would also like to go to the national Gunners Dinner. Please get behind your Association and come along to meet up with your mates. It's not too late to register. Just contact Neil Mangels or John Beer whose details appear on the above letterhead.

We are still desperate for **Auction Items**. A big thank-you to those members who have already pledged an item, but we need more. The reunion auction is one of our main fundraisers and if you have anything of monetary or keepsake (especially military) value we would love to have it.

7. Australian Artillery Association National Gunners' Dinner:

This event looks like being a great success. We have received an update on progress from Fred Gebbett at the AAA. His report is attached.

8. PTSD Among Vietnam War Veterans:

John Redman (Ex-103 battery) has sent us a paper written by a Vietnam vet called Wayne J Scott. The paper has been circulated by the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service. It is a long and comprehensive document covering all aspects of how PTSD affects Vietnam vets in particular. It will be of interest to members who are suffering from this syndrome and those who support them. A copy is attached.

9. Merchandise:

Our QM Lawrie Bird reminds us that we have many quality Chambray Shirts in both Long & Short Sleeve, and also Short Sleeve Polo Shirts in most sizes, specifically bought by the Association for reunions/meetings. And remember ladies we also have appropriate shirts for you to wear. Just check out our website and provide your choice of shirt & size & provide your details to Laurie Bird either by email lawrence.bird@bigpond.com or phone 0249548248. All profits from these sales will assist in the Association subsidising our Reunions. Laurie also advises that he has ordered caps and ties for the August reunion and expects delivery soon. If you would like one at \$12 for the cap and \$26 for the tie, order them from Laurie and he will throw in free delivery.