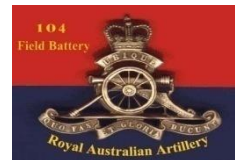




The Germ Journal



Issue Number: 62
31 DECEMBER 2016

Welcome to the Christmas 2016 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

Contact List Updates:

If any Germ has an E-mail address that is not recorded on the Contact List please let me know (corcorf@bigpond.net.au).

New/Change of address, etc.: -

Brian Armour has a new email address: changed from brianarmour@optusnet.com.au to brianarmour40@gmail.com

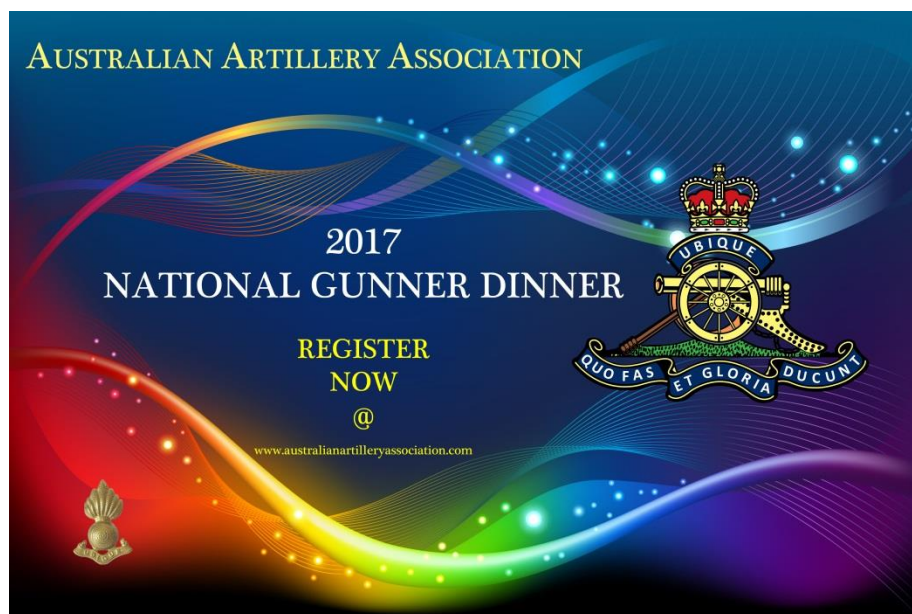
Looking for updated email address:

Mike Clee, Dave Bouchier, Rod George, Mal Pearce, John Smith (Smiley), Chris Davies, Bob Braid, Dave Prizeman, Paul Sambrook and Greg Mathews seem to have changed email addresses. If anyone can help with a current email address, please let me know?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

No Report this quarter.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:



The Australian Artillery Association's 2017 National Gunner Dinner will be held on Saturday 27th May 2017 at The Event Centre in Caloundra. A Happy Hour has also been arranged at the same venue on Friday 26th May 2017 from 1600 hrs to 2100 hrs. For further information and to register to attend please visit <http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com>.

104 Battery, 1 Regt. RAA:

Received from Capt. Robert Best outlining the recent activities of the Battery;

GERMS TOO GOOD TO KEEP IN AUSTRALIA

In early 2015 a large contingent of ADF personnel from 7th Combat Brigade deployed to Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan in a variety of roles. This was part of the ADF's contribution to the Global War on Terror. A very large contingent of members from 104th Battery deployed as part of this effort and as a result of this the 104th Battery found itself greatly undermanned. As such 'the Germs' were amalgamated with 'the Roadrunners' of 'A' Battery in May 2015.

The following members of 104th Battery deployed to the Middle East.

OPERATION HIGHROAD – Afghanistan

BC – MAJ Matt Barletta and BK – CAPT Rob Best

MAJ Barletta and CAPT Best deployed as mentors to the Afghan National Army Officer's Academy at Qargha just outside Kabul. In this role MAJ Barletta mentored an Afghan Company Commander and Battalion 2IC who were responsible for the training and development of Afghan Officer Cadets. CAPT Best oversaw the training and development of three platoons of Officer Cadets as they prepared to conduct operations against the Taliban.

GNR Kelli Gill also deployed as a Force Protection member to Qargha and provided security to the mentors whilst the Battery Clerk PTE Skye Buckley deployed as the Camp Clerk to support operations at the coalition camp.

OPERATION OKRA - Iraq

CAPT James Stammel (FO), LT Nick Woodhams (FSO), WO2 Mark Green (BSM), WO2 Matt Morante (BG), SGT Paul Sugget and BDR Rob McGovern (Gun Line).

These Gentlemen conducted were part of an effort to conduct infantry training for Iraqi Security Forces as they prepared to undertake operations against the Islamic State. This effort focused on marksmanship training, first aid and close quarter fighting.

RE-RAISING

In August 2016 104th Battery was delinked from 'A' Battery and again re-raised as an independent battery. The red and green stripes of 'the Germs' are again a common sight around the Barce Lines as the battery prepares to conduct a final exercise at the Townsville Field Training Area in November and then reset to be ready for some hard earned rest over Christmas.

Reunions:

Brian Armstrong has been emailing all members on the 2016 Reunion, so I do not propose to reiterate.

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

All quiet in Canberra at the moment. We have a funeral in Adelaide next week and then a 60th birthday party in Adelaide in another three weeks so we will have two quick visits to SA.

We caught up with Pieter and Gay Leembruggen in Canberra recently with a day at the National Museum of Australia to see the History of the World in 100 Objects Exhibition from the British Museum. It was great to

hear about their recent move to Wodonga. Frank, we hope your move to Tasmania goes smoothly and you enjoy being closer to the grandchildren.

We watched an interesting documentary on the History Channel about the Battle of Coral in 1968 which has been released recently. Think we both learnt a few things.

Not sure if we will have time for Christmas cards this year so will take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2017.

Cheers,

Rob and Rosemary

Ken and Judy Burt's News: -

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2017.

All is well with The Burt's and we are looking forward to having Christmas in Bowral this year with the family. They are all growing up with two Grandsons about to start High School next year. They will both be at the same school as they live near each other.

We have just returned from a trip to W.A for two months in our caravan. We travelled across to Mildura then to Port Augusta, Ceduna, Wave Rock back to Kalgoorlie, Leinster then to Geraldton. We then turned south to Perth and on the way we called into see Murray and Helen Hall and exchanged a few laughs.

After Perth then Freemantle, down to Margaret River and did the Winery's and relived my surfing days. We travelled onto Albany and saw the Anzac Memorial and what a credit to them all for creating such a beautiful experience in History. Then on around to Esperance and Cape Le Grand. We then tracked back, unfortunately in bad weather, back to Esperance, Norseman and back across The Nullarbor. We hit the Cyclone in South Australia, no power which was an experience, but we were self sufficient so all o.k.

We had a great trip and saw so much and met so many interesting people on our travels seeing the Wild Flowers, which were spectacular we live in a Great Country.

All back to normal now and are looking forward to Christmas.

Frank and Paula we wish you the best of luck in your new adventure to Tasmania, a beautiful place to live a place we visit often.

Regards.

Ken and Judy.

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

Well, the Grays have had a depressing year this year, first of all Dick suffered a heart attack and a few weeks after he got over it his wife Pam was operated on for a brain tumour. Luckily it was of a non-malignant type and she is recovering well with a good prognosis. Life is getting back to normal in the Gray household.

The Carlin's went to New Zealand for twelve days and spent four days in Auckland and the remainder near Waitangi on the Bay of Islands, a lovely spot.

Following that they travelled to Lake Crackenback with Dave and Sharyn Prizeman where they took part in archery, golf, fishing and exploring the Snow Fields resorts, which were all closed but the ski lifts were still running. At Crackenback they saw platypus, water rats, rabbits, deer, wombats and a variety of bird life. The weather was similar to Melbourne with rain, sleet, hail and snow all in the one hour several times a day. But there was lots of sunshine. There were fish in the lake but despite numerous attempts none were caught by us.

Dave and I launched my boat at Lake Jindabyne and we fished most of the day but caught zilch.

A trip to nearby Lake Eucumbene revealed trout being caught between 2 Kg and 4.5 Kg. The huts at Braemar Bay cost \$100 per night and sleep between 4-6 with a caravan park for those with vans. I'm getting fired up about a trip there, I've stayed there several times over the years and usually went there about long week end time in October to catch a few over four days.

Could be good for likeminded people.

Regards and a Merry Christmas to all Germs and Germettes past and present.

Ray and Fay

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hi all,

All rather exciting in the Corcoran household at the moment with this move to Tassie.

It is amazing how much stuff one collects over a 30 year period. St Vinnies have done very well out of the cleanup and the local council has plenty of landfill courtesy of us.

Our eldest daughter has purchased her own place in Richmond so we are happy that she is settled and don't feel like we are deserting her.

Nadia of course is really looking forward to us being close by. Free baby sitters I guess.

We have rented a unit adjacent to Constitution Dock in the heart of Hobart for 12 months to see if we like it and if so will buy in.

Mobile and email address will not change.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous and Healthy 2017.

Paula and Frank

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings fellow Germs.

Going to hospital on 6/12 for flexy cystoscopy check up. They insert a camera into the bladder and have look to see how the tumour is. I have had 2 ops to remove it and I hope this is the last. Then on 14/12 I go to RBWH for a neurology review. This is a follow up from the blackouts I had in July and September last year. These things only end when you get shoved in the pizza oven.

Message for Russ Pullen, remember carrying a snake in your water bottle to give to Bob Bredl? How about going to your P. O. get the Mackay phone book and Bobs phone 'number. Ring him and order him tongue in cheek to give a written story on his crock attack to Frank for the next Germ Journal. It must have been severe to have ended up in RBWH.no doubt airlifted from Mackay to Brisbane and return. He is bound to be on the net as he has a Business.

Season's Greetings to all and hopefully a Healthy 2017.0

Dick

Alan and Kath Jackson's News: -

Frank, took part in a pilgrimage up the Hume with Laurie Owen, Rick Polley, Terry O'Brien and Myles Charter to see Ben at Huskisson, since we couldn't make it to his ninetieth. Pulled in to see the

Leembruggens at Wodonga, both well and enjoying the change from Gosford. Funny trip with five old blokes leapfrogging from coffee shop to toilet block up the highway.

Ben was in good spirits and we had a good day with him. We had lunch with John and Barb Herbert the next day with not too much to drink! Funny few days.

Enjoy Tassie.

Jacko

Bob and Liz Shipard's News: -

Frank, I hope this finds you and your family in good health,

We spent two weeks at Mildura in Oct, went out to Lake Mungo. This would have to be the best National Park in NSW, The Great Wall, and some of the early farming settlers have left a very good time capsule there.

On returning home we have been helping one of the caravan parks repair the flood damage, moving cabins and caravans back into position and planting gardens and picnic furniture ready for the Christmas invasion of the Mexicans.

Well the silly season is nearly upon us remember, drink driving, long trips and some medication do not make for a good holiday.

We wish all Germs a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Bob & Liz

General:

Ian Macauley informed me that John (Pasko) Pasculich (2nd Tour 104) had a hip replacement at Hollywood Hospital in Perth on 18 Oct. We trust all went well and Pasko has recovered completely.

Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who is not well. As I have said previously, a phone call out of the blue and from an old friend could quite easily be the best medicine.

As you would have gathered by now that Paula and I are off to Tasmania. Unfortunately for the time being I have lost my connection to a photo copier. I have been happy to send hard copies to the 17 odd Germs who are not on the internet however, the cost of photocopying on top of postage makes it untenable. So if you are on the internet and in close proximity of any Germs who require a hardcopy please help them out. Also, if you are not on the internet can I suggest you get your 6 year old grandson or granddaughter to take you down to the local Library and teach you how to access the 12 Field Regt, Association website. The Germ is posted on the site promptly after issue.

Next Edition will be March 2017.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran