



The Germ Journal



Issue Number: 37
30 June 2010

Welcome to the June 2010 Edition of the Germ Journal (the Ex-104 Battery Member's Newsletter).

This Edition of the Germ Journal, sent in hardcopy, has been sponsored by Alan Price of Green Fields WA. Thank you Alan it is much appreciated.

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). It will save time and money if all I have to do is mail out electronically.

New/Change of address, etc.: -

I have attached an updated Contact List as we have picked up a few more Germs following the Darwin Reunion.

I am having trouble with the following email addresses for Germs that have changed their address, are new to the circulation, and/or I just have the wrong address because the emails are bouncing back.

Bruce Cowan, Paul Sambrook, Tim Triffett, Rod Cocking, Peter Small, Mike Clee, Gordon Johnson, and Dave Mathers.

If any one can help me out it would be appreciated?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

AGM was on 13th March 2010.

The 2010 FY 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Committee is comprised of the following:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| President | Rob Costello (102 Bty) |
| V/President | Ric Cranna (102 Bty) |
| Secretary | Ian Ryan (102 Bty) |
| Treasurer | John Beer (A Bty) |
| Committee | G Ryland (HQ Bty) |
| Committee | Kevin Scrimshaw (104 Bty) |
| Committee | Don Tait (102 Bty) |
| Committee | Stuart McKeown (102 Bty) |
| Committee | Ray Glover (102 Bty) |
| Committee | Geoff Weismantel (102 Bty) |
| Committee | Tony Marshall |

Only two Regional Representatives were offered for selection as per the Agenda. They are:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Tasmania | Neil Mangels (LAD & 102 Bty) |
| 2 | Western Australia | Stuart McKeown (102 Bty) |

If you are interested in acting as a Regional Representative to provide feedback on local issues, please contact Ian Ryan, Rob Costello or Kevin Scrimshaw.

Royal Australian Artillery Association:

No Report this Quarter.

National Artillery Museum at North Fort, North Head:

Volunteers are still needed at the Museum, so if any Germans have some spare time on their hands Mick Crawford would appreciate a call.

Reunions:

The Darwin Reunion was a great success and Bob and Kate Eddington have asked me to say thanks to all who went to Darwin and made all the hard work worthwhile.

Well done Bob, Kate and the Committee.

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

Rosie and Rob are currently touring Canada and will be back on the 12th of July. We look forward to an epistle for the next Germ Journal.

Ken and Judy Burt's News: -

We hope all is well your end and the Darwin Reunion was a great success.

Anzac day we spent at Bowral with Judy's dad. At 96 he marched and had a beer or two. He served in the army in WW11 in the Pacific Islands and he is the oldest living wallaby.

During last August we put the tent on the trusty Toyota and went bush for a month. West to Balranald, Mungo National Park and followed the darling river to Bindara cattle station. You can camp on the stations as it is their only income with the drought. Onto Menindie Lakes, dry, west to Broken Hill and north to Mutawintji National Park.

At White Cliffs we stayed in the underground Hotel, Judy had a break for a couple of days. On to Paroo National Park, Trilby Sheep Station and then stuck there for three days with rain as the roads were closed. Then onto Wilcannia, followed the long paddock to Willandra Station and east to Cowra where we stayed in the Vineyard Motel. At this stage we visited the Japanese Gardens a must see.

Christmas 2009 we had the family down, a very busy time. The two grandsons have started school and are playing footy on a Saturday they grow up fast.

We went to N Z in March with Judy's brother and wife for a family visit and went to both islands. In the north we went to the Coromandel Coast snapper fishing, it helps with local knowledge and we had a great time. We loved the mountains of the south island.

Well winter is here. I spend a lot of time cutting fire wood and we have had good June rains. Our Email kjburt1@bigpond.com Kind regards.

Ken and Judy

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

G'day Frank,

Well, here we are in Broome at last, the temperature has dropped severely and it's been raining. So much for working on my suntan.

We hit a steer on the way to Broome, no damage apart from a slightly elevated bull bar and the steer got up and ran off, tenderised but not slaughtered. Must remember to carry a set of sharp knives on the next trip.

Regards.

Ray and Fay

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Hello to all,

Darwin was a hoot. However, Paula has her own column below so I will leave it to her to elaborate.

We have had a pretty quiet time since Darwin as I came out of retirement once again and have been back on the tools. I was asked to assist review the Bank's exposure to the Healthcare industry, so that took me out of circulation for about seven weeks.

Alert readers will recall that Barry West and I have been working on an Honour Board for our old school at Woomera, to recognize the former students who have served in the post World War Two conflicts. I am pleased to announce that DVA funding has been secured, the Honour Board is being manufactured and the sign writer should be finished by the end of August. The unveiling is set for 11 November 2010 and I am hoping the Governor of SA, Kevin Scarce, who is also a former pupil, will unveil it.

Cheers.

Frank

Paula's Prattles:

Hello everyone. I hope you all enjoyed your ANZAC Celebrations.

Frank and I had a great time in Darwin. The accommodation was good but the weather was horrifying, left me feeling like a dying duck.

The people responsible for organizing all the functions did a wonderful job. Thank you all.

I met a lovely couple, Liz and Bob Shipard. Like me Liz did not know too many and we had a great time together. Hope you both enjoyed the rest of your holiday?

It is absolutely freezing here in Melbourne at the moment, maybe Darwin's weather was not so bad after all.

Cheers.

Paula

Dick Duane's News: -

Greetings Germs,

Well what can one say about the Ghan. Sensational, a cabin non share although the bunk appeared no larger than the holes we dug to sleep in on the F.S.Bs. A W.C. and shower around the corner non share. Now the good part, a kitchen with full size fridge. Good beer storage. A lounge room with 8 sizeable lounge

chairs not fixed to floor, a couple of side tables, 4 large windows (didn't have to move to see out both sides of train not at the same time). A T.V. that wasn't used. A dining room that sat 7 of us in comfort. First class service and food provided by Nikki and last but not least excellent company.

Adelaide (OUCH) \$7.50 for what they called a pint but would not have been any larger than a schooner. \$8.50 if you wanted an imperial pint. The Alice \$4.50. Katherine \$4.50. But no heavy beer served before 1200 hrs. No take aways before 1400hrs. Then Darwin. Great city. Great reunion. Good to see all who attended.

That's all folks. Stay healthy. Cheers.

Dick.

Adrian (Shorty) and Dot Galland's News: -

G'day Frank,

I flew down to Sydney to meet up with Myles Charter and three of his Nasho Mates for Anzac Day intending to march with 104, but somehow I got volunteered to hold one of the ropes on the 102 Banner and followed behind Don Tait and his group of Officers. At the end of the march, we ran into our BC, Mick Crawford and had a few words before heading off to the Rugby Club for a few ales with some of the old 104 reprobates. It was really good to catch up with the fellas but unfortunately time has dimmed the memory and it was hard to remember faces from 40 years ago, however a few names were bandied about that I was able to recall.

We moved on from the Rugby Club after a short stay and made our way to another pub, forget the name and proceeded to get legless! I vaguely remember ending up at the Cross and getting a tattoo on my back before making my way back to the Wynyard Hotel where Myles and one of his mates was snoring peacefully!

We spent the next 3 days doing the tourist thing, pub crawling, ferries to Manly and Watson's Bay, eating vast quantities of food followed by more drinking and general sightseeing. I think I aged 5 years during the trip, but it was worth it and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the company!

The wife, Dot and I head off to the UK for 21 days on the 15th of June. I am looking forward to that and hopefully will have some news in the next Germ re that trip.

We are off to Yeppoon in August for 5 days at the Iwasaki Resort with a few members of our local TPI Branch and Dot is currently organising an Alaska/Canada trip for April next year. (Our kids have finally worked out that we are having fun spending their inheritances)!!

Well that's it until next time, hope to have some interesting tales for the next issue.

Hope this finds all the guys and their families in the best of health.

Regards to one & all.

Shorty and Dot

Phil and Rosemarie Garland's News: -

Hi,

I am sorry that we missed the Darwin Reunion but I could not walk for 3 days leading up to departing for Darwin, then there was the Doctor. I am still recovering and under the Doc, but at least I can move. Rosemarie says Hi to all.

Regards.

Phil and Rosemarie

Alan and Kath Jackson's News: -

G'day Frank.

A quick word. I had lunch in town a couple of months ago with Rick Polley, Laurie Owen and Myles Charter, all looking well.

Missed Darwin as you know but spent Anzac Day in Tin Can Bay with Moto. Robyn's 60th was on the Friday night so it was nice to see them and catch up with their family who had come up from SA, Vic and NSW. Fleggy left his dogs and journeyed up. Phil and Glenn Johnston, Jim Dunn, Greg and Barb Petersen also there so a good time was had by all.

I'll catch up with you in July when you get this project finished.

Jacko

Phil and Glen Johnston's News: -

Hi Frank and Paula

The Johnston update is all fine, health is good, spirits are up and super should last another year or two.

Our eldest daughter is expecting our first grandchild in November and we expect to be making many trips to Singapore over the next couple of years.

Glen and I really enjoyed catching up with a few of the guys and wives and family for ANZAC Day and Moto's birthday at Tin Can Bay. It is comforting to know that they have not changed a bit from all those years ago, one would think maturity should kick-in soon. For the ones that could not make it, we had a drink for you two.

Glen and I are doing the Ghan trip from Adelaide to Darwin late July as some of the guys have already done and looking forward to it. From Darwin to Singers to see our daughter and then back to Cambodia to add another element to a farm our organization (Project Vietnam Inc.) has set up. Last March we carved out a 5 acre farm on raw land that was Khmer Rouge territory and planted corn, beans and some vegies and built a storage and drying shed. We have now bought a windmill and storage tank (near Siem Reap), which needs to be dismantled on this trip and trucked to our farm in Pailin near the Thai border.

March 2011, I will take a team back to re-assemble and have a bore drilled to enable constant water and so constant vegies and fruit trees to get a hold. We intend to have chickens, pigs and perhaps a goat or two next year also. The farm serves as a model and inspiration for a commune of 560 very poor people. The income from the sale of produce goes to a commune bank to enable commune projects, like extending electricity 1500 metres to another 60 people that would not otherwise get it. I give this snapshot in case there are any of you guys that may be tossing around for an interest and are not particularly interested in the normal activities of retirement. There are no particular skills required other than helping. If anyone would like to chat about it, you can ring me any time.

Cheers to all.

Glen and Phil

Pieter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi To All Germs, Germettes & Families,

The last few months have been pretty tough; we've had to drag ourselves across the Italian Riviera along with our splendid sixteen year old granddaughter, Lauren. We spent five nights in the Cinque Terre town of Manarola exploring the other 4 towns as well as Portofino, La Spezia and Porto Venere. For the uninitiated, Cinque Terre is a group of five traditional fishing villages that are literally built on the sides of cliffs, on the north western Italian coastline. Because its colourful buildings and unique architecture have remained unchanged for several centuries, it is now a national heritage park. There is a lot of climbing but the scenery

is spectacular, the people incredibly friendly (at least that's what we thought considering we had no idea what they were truly saying to us) and the food was out of this world. Our restaurant, which was literally a few steps from our apartment, had the best food we experienced the whole trip combined with perfect service and atmosphere provided by the spritely Spanish waiter our lovely granddaughter affectionately named Elfie (due to his pixie ears). We were also lucky enough for him to show us a picture of Kylie Minogue and himself when she visited the same restaurant.

After Cinque Terre we visited the eternal city of Rome, where we had limited time so opted for a hop on hop off bus tour, which was a great way to see the city in a hurry and get a running commentary. We stayed at the Daphne Inn which is a boutique hotel near Barbarini Square owned by an American lady and her Italian husband. So things are done slightly differently. When you arrive, the receptionist sits you down and spends quite some time helping you plan your site seeing agenda. They also provide you with a mobile phone, so you can ring them for even more information or assistance if required. Rather than receive your traditionally tiny Italian breakfast, a huge American style breakfast arrives in your room, so large that we also managed to make lunch to take with us on our travels. In Rome we ventured through the Borghese Gardens, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Pantheon, Colosseum, etc, etc. In just two days we covered a monumental amount of ground before heading off to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong you could say it was a change in scenery (well what you could see through the smog). Our room at the Marco Polo (recommended by Phil and Glen Johnson) overlooked the harbour with a stunning background of skyscrapers disappearing into the clouds (aka smog). It was a good choice as the service is fantastic. Although Hong Kong wasn't quite as appealing to us as Italy, it has a different kind of beauty, which is shown through the landscape of Mt Victoria and remaining traditional architecture. One thing that surprised us all was the overall cleanliness of the area. This was apparent as soon as we arrived (very early in the morning) where there were numerous people wearing facemasks and scrubbing everything visible. We also decided that because of our short stay we would use the hop on hop off bus system for a second time, which again proved to be a very informative way to see the city. Whilst sitting to our dinner we experienced the nightly light show which consists of the surrounding buildings being lit up with numerous lasers. This place is an incredible mix of very old and very new.

P.S. Most of the above was composed by our granddaughter, complete with those complimentary descriptions of herself!!!!

Overall it was a wonderful trip, enhanced even more for the experience with Lauren, who obviously enjoyed it immensely.

A couple of weeks ago Gay and I headed off to a chocolate making workshop in Sydney, which we received as a Christmas present. We were greeted by a joyous European gentleman who turned out to be a champion chocolate maker and great sport. It was a wonderfully entertaining afternoon, where we made a gigantic number of rich dark chocolates that will take us some time to eat. We were taught how to make the gnash with a choice of several flavours. Gay opted for orange and of course I chose rum. We learned how to mould various shapes, melt and mix milk and dark chocolate, etc. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable day with lots of goodies to bring home!!!

That's it for now as we are in need of a chockie fix.

Cheers,

Pieter and Gay

Russ and Merilyn Pullen's News: -

Hi Frank and Paula,

I have recently bought a laptop and it is not plagued by the endless dramas I had with my PC, which as it transpired was infected with Trojan Horse, so that sometimes I would receive mail, sometimes I could send it, sometimes-----anyhow I am now online a little more positively than before and look forward to seeing the Germ Journal a bit more regularly and of course, being a bit more active with contributions.

We, that is Zoomers, Bob Marshall, Bob Dehle and I have started discussing the issues relative to the 2013 Reunion, so things are underway. Any advice you may wish to provide would be valued and appreciated. Mind you my contribution is negligible as I am so far removed and I am pleased to say that Zoomers' [Ken Hayes] partner Chris is assuming Treas/Sec responsibilities.

I received this latter email from Russ:

Hi Frank and Paula,

Hope this finds you both in good health and enjoying life. It was a great reunion in Darwin. I'm sure all those who were there would agree and the boys in SA, Ken "Zoomers" Hayes and the two Bobs, Dehle and Marshall, have already got the ball well and truly rolling so it's another one to look forward to in 2013. The organising committee for this recent reunion deserves a "**well done those men**" for what was a most memorable do, don't you reckon Frank? It was also great to see the extra first tour blokes, I hadn't seen some of them since '69'!!

We're at home for a couple of months and then up to see our latest Grandkid at Yeppoon, probably put in a week or two chasing redclaw out at Fairbairne Dam.

Looking forward to the Germ Journal.

All the best.

Cooee.

Russ and Marilyn

Kevin and Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

It is hard to believe that it has been 2 months since the end of the reunion and now 2 years and 10 months to the next one.

Both Denise and I would like to thank and congratulate the committee and anyone else involved in the Darwin Reunion. We had a great time, but like always the best part is catching up with everyone.

This reunion though will always be that little bit extra special to me, thanks to Brian Armstrong. Not only do Brian and Sue Armstrong always support the reunions, and like myself I know the guys think this is special, Brian put me in contact with Ketto's, Pasko's and my FO Officer, Peter Robinson (Robbie). After nearly 40 years this was great, and I know that Ketto and Pasko feel the same.

The one thing though I was a little confused with and that is the next reunion. Apart from being in Adelaide can anyone give me any details on the committee?

Unfortunately the Reunion time always seems to pass too quickly. (And yes before the smart arses jump in, I do know that this is one of the symptoms of old age).

Scrimmy

Bob and Liz Shipard's News: -

Frank, just a few words.

Well I finely turned up at a 104 Bty Reunion, Darwin 2010. There wasn't too many first tour guys, nine in total, but seeing strange faces who had familiar names i.e. Ted Watson, Scrimmy, Ray Carlin, Dick Duane, Frank Corcoran, Dave Prizeman and who could forget Graham Floyd, also from the second Russ Pullen, Ian Capone and Tony (would not spend a penny) Ferrero, plus everyone else who was there. The reunion committee deserve every good word and praise that they were given, a job very well done. The Resort, Yacht Club and the Sgts Mess were all top class functions.

After leaving Darwin went to Airlie Beach for a holiday, fantastic part of Australia, even if it is Queensland.

Looking forward to see everyone at future Regt/Bty Reunions.

Bob and Liz

Sick Parade:

As you are aware Barry West is recovering from surgery following a cancer diagnosis. Keep up the well wishes, as Barry and Sue will need all the support we Germs can provide and it is very much appreciated.

I received an email from Ian Ryan (Secretary, 12 Field Regt. Association) in regard to Gunners who are on sick parade.

Hi All,

Just a quick update for those who are not aware, but we have a couple of "Sickies" amongst us.

- Don Tait has had an unwelcome visitor by the name of "Jimmy Dancer". He has had a bowel operation and is now at home resting. The prognosis is positive and appears that all has been cleared. It is one day at a time.
- Charlie Hankin had an eye operation on Monday which is causing some concern. He has been back and forth a few times to the specialist and appears to need another operation this coming Tuesday.

Please, if you know any of these guys, give them a call to let them know you are thinking of them.

I will keep you up to date on their progress.

Regards,

Ian Ryan.

General:

Neil Graham sent me the following article for distribution. It is self explanatory.

M2A2 DUMMY AMMUNITION CHARGE BAGS

Defence has identified that ADF members and APS employees may have been exposed to asbestos during their Defence training with 105mm M2A2 Dummy Drill Bags. Current and retired ADF members and APS employees who think that they may have been exposed and would like to have their asbestos-related medical status evaluated are encouraged to contact the 1800 Defence (1800 333 3623) and register with the Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme. More information can be located at:

(Defence Internet) <http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/asbestos/> or (Defence Intranet) <http://ohsc.defence.gov.au/Programs/Asbestos/default.htm>

Next Edition will be September 2010.

Up the Ol' Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran