



# The Germ Journal



**Issue Number: 52**  
**30 June 2014**

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Welcome to the June 2014 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). It will save time and money if all I have to do is mail out electronically.

### New/Change of address, etc.: -

Welcome aboard to;

Glenn Wiseman, email address: [glenn@debtwise.com.au](mailto:glenn@debtwise.com.au)

Vicki Heenan, email address: [vicki.heenan@bigpond.com](mailto:vicki.heenan@bigpond.com)

Changes;

Nick and Judy Jans' updated email address: [nicholas.jans@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.jans@gmail.com).

Myles Charter's updated email address: [mc104@bigpond.com](mailto:mc104@bigpond.com)

Peter and Pauline Whitehead's updated email address: [peterwhitehead50@gmail.com](mailto:peterwhitehead50@gmail.com)

Ernie Bryon and Bob Braid seem to have changed their email addresses. So if anyone can help, please let me know?

## **12 Field Regiment RAA Association:**

### **Royal Australian Artillery Association:**

I received the following from the RAA Association of South Australia. There maybe some SA and/or interstate Germs that may be interested.

A short note to advise that the SA Gunner Dinner is planned for Friday 29 August at the Naval, Military & Air Force Club of SA in Adelaide. Any of your members who might be interested in attending are invited to contact me, and I will send them the details when arrangements have been made.

Cheers.

Geoff (raaassocsa@gmail.com).

## **Reunions:**

### **12 Field Regt. Reunion Sunshine Coast August 20 to 24, 2014.**

Further Information, contact Neil Mangels on [nma77081@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nma77081@bigpond.net.au) or phone on 03 6292 1409.

### **Expressions of interest in being custodian of the NSW 104 Battery Banner.**

I received the following from Phil Garland;

Hi Frank

After being custodian of the Banner since April 1998, due to lack of mobility, I am looking for a Sydney based member to take over the custodianship of the 104 Fld. Bty. Banner and take it to any function/parade when required.

The banner can be collected from my home by the interested member.

Phil (grepa@inet.net.au).

### **Items of Interest:**

Contributions from around the country follow;

#### Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

Hi Frank,

Rob marched in Canberra on Anzac Day this year. We had the privilege to see the four surviving Victoria Cross Recipients leading the march with our new GG and Prince William and Catherine were present.

We went to Tasmania for our first visit for 3 weeks in May. We started off with a few days in Hobart with visits to Bruny Island, the Tahune Forest Air Walk and the Salamanca Markets. After Port Arthur we went up the east coast to Bicheno and stayed a few days in Launceston before heading round the top to the west side. We managed to survive a walk up the Nut in Stanley, around the top and back down. In hindsight we should have caught the chair lift, but didn't appreciate how steep it was until we were half way up the path.

The cruise on the Gordon River at Strahan was great and then we went to Derwent Bridge to see The Wall (<http://www.thewalltasmania.com/>) which is amazing. If you go to Tasmania it is worth the drive to see the craftsmanship created by Greg Duncan. We enjoyed the food and wine as we travelled around and fortunately the weather was still nice, apart from the top of Mt Wellington, which seemed to be the coldest windiest place in Australia.

The weather is starting to cool down in Canberra and the snow has been falling in the mountains. Think it is time to hibernate until the end of the footy season.

Regards to all,

Rob and Rosemary

#### Ken and Judy Burt's News: -

Hi all,

All is well in Bowral, with winter upon us, good rains but not cold as yet.

We have had a busy 6 months with Judy's Dad Gordon who turned 100 on 6 the April. We had a big party at home with all family and friends and he enjoyed being the centre of attention.

He is in good health takes no medication, is always smiling and likes his red wine! He is the oldest old boy from Sydney Boys High and he was invited back to attend a special function for him at school.

He is also the Oldest Living Wallaby, played for Randwick, N.S.W. and Australia in 1938. The Rugby Union have embraced him. The Rugby Union have invited him and the family to attend the Australia verses France game on 21st June as a V.I.P. At half time he is going to be presented to the crowd with two of his Great Grandsons, so a very special day. All of the media has been handled by the A.R.U (Editor; a photo of Judy's Dad and all the family is attached).

We are going to be Grandparents again in August number 5 so very excited! It will be a second son for Grant and Kylie in Ballina.

Craig our second son and his family moved from Loftus to Heathcote, a house 3 times bigger than what they had so we have been busy helping with gardening, etc. They are living close to his brother and next to Royal National Park so kids are having a ball.

We have now taken delivery of our new caravan, which has all the bells and whistles. We have just done a trip to Bright to work it all out and it will be ashamed to get it dirty and dusty. We have no bush trips planned this year but will be looking at the Bucket list next year.

Hope all is well with fellow Germs.

Regards.

Ken and Judy.

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

Not too much to report this quarter as the winter has set in with a vengeance here in Melbourne.

Jacko and Kath are overseas at the moment and Amber tells me when she last heard from them they were in Amsterdam.

Paula and I were in Tasmania early May for a few days to see Nadia, Julian and Jordy. Paula went back again early June and I am going mid-July. People keep asking when are we going to move to Tassie however, I don't think that will happen as it does not cost a fortune to fly with specials available. Also we don't particularly want to leave Petrea here on her own.

We are off to Townsville late July to escape this Melbourne winter and pick up some UVs and improve our vitamin D situation.

I organized a lunch for the Germs on Friday 13 just gone. Something must have gone haywire with the communications as only Neil Graham and I turned up. It did not matter we had a good chat over a few hours and well fed and watered by the end.

Cheers for now.

Paula and Frank

John Hannon's News: -

Just over seven years ago I went to the US for martial arts. While there I picked up strep throat that lead to cough syncope, where you cough until you pass out. From all of that I was left with Atrium Fibrillation, or the heart is out of rhythm but, it has not been a real problem for years, just have to watch my training.

A month or so ago I went into theatre for a cardioversion, an electric shock to get the heart back into rhythm and with the shock I bit a chunk out of my tongue. I had to have a second one two weeks ago, this time I bit so hard I broke a tooth. Just after that a visit to the dentist to get that fixed and a wisdom tooth out. I then developed strep throat and cough syncope again, so I am on new drugs and may have to get another shock.

Apart from that, I am fine!

Hanno

Wayne Kendall's News: -

I received the following note from Wayne.

G'day Frank,

I mentioned to you recently that I had come across an article of interest in my local RSL magazine, the Woden Valley Sub-Branch RSL "The Serviceman". The article is a report on Club Jervis Bay, formerly the

Huskisson RSL Sub-Branch and it included a photo of our 104 Bty first tour Battery Sergeant-Major Jim Bennett-Burleigh, or "Ben" as most of us knew him.

The Club was celebrating its 66<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Jim is shown cutting the birthday cake with another stalwart member, 92 year old John Ravenscroft who is the longest serving member of the club. Apparently Jim is the second longest serving member of that club, although the article fails to mention Jim's age. Does any of our members know how old Jim is? I understand that Jim is still living in Huskisson and doing ok (Editor; a photo is attached and Ben was born 11 June 1926, that makes him 88 and I thought he was 88 in 1968).

From my recollection of the earlier days of 104 Bty at Holsworthy, the term "Germ" was liberally used by the BSM when addressing the gunners of the Battery, especially those who may have incurred his wrath for whatever reason. I think that he never expressed the term in a derogatory sense and in time the term probably became one of endearment and identification. It has certainly stood the test of time, with members of the Battery proud to be associated and identified as a "Germ". Maybe some other members of the Battery may have other thoughts or ideas of its origins.

Cheers,

Wayne

#### Ian and Gai Macauley's News: -

At the invitation of Tony Ferraro, W.A. based Germs traveled to Harvey (about 1.5 hours south of Perth) for this years Anzac Day. We held a BBQ at Tony and Tina's dairy farm in Yarloop on Thursday night to kick off. Attendees were Ian and Joan Caporn, Phil and Mary Burns, Rob and Julie Perkin, Ian and Gai Macauley, John and Mavis Paskulich, Brad and Mandy Frost who traveled down from the Kimberley, Vicki Heenan and friends. It was a great night of catching up and Cappers excelled behind the BBQ.

After staying over night in Harvey we attended the Yarloop Dawn Service along with around 350 local people followed by a magnificent breakfast put on by the local Bushfire Volunteers. The Anzac Day March was held in Harvey and the parade was led by the 104 Banner ahead of a small but enthusiastic bunch of veterans. The march was followed by a service at the recreation centre. A local girl gave a very emotional rendition of Redgum's I was Only Nineteen. There was not a dry eye in the place.

Lunch at the Wokalup pub saw Dick and Jacqui Gray join us. The steaks were huge and the beers cold and the conversations continued until it was time to head back home. Frosty and Mandy continued on to Kentucky in the US. It was a fantastic 24 hours and thanks to the Ferraro's for inviting us down.

Ian and Gai

Photos are attached.

#### Charles and Jackie Robinson's News: -

News from the Robinson's in Lismore.

Anzac Day in Sydney was wet but we all still had a very good day. There was a mix up with the start time and somehow we missed the 104 Banner so our little group marched with another battery. One of our group had too many apple ciders but the police didn't mind when he stopped to give them his best wishes. He always stops and has a word with them and they always seem to appreciate it.

In March we went down to Port Macquarie for a few days. We like it down there, the CBD is flat and there is a good choice of byo restaurants. While there we checked out an up market over 55's life-style resort, quite nice but don't think we are ready for that yet. I was surprised at how expensive it was to buy in too.

On the way home we stopped in at Coffs Harbour and visited the Sextons who were staying in a unit right opposite the beach, great outlook. Had lunch at the surf club and would have liked to stay longer but we had a deadline to be back in Lismore.

The first week of July we are off to Europe for 4 weeks, visiting Germany, France and England. The majority of the time will be spent in France where I will get my fill of bread, wine and cheese. Can't wait.

Had ballooning in one of my legs, which went well, they cleared a blockage and put in another stent. Can't understand why they didn't do both legs at the same time but will find out when we visit the surgeon shortly. I would like to thank those members who contacted me to see how the ballooning went, most appreciated.

Cheers for now, hope you all enjoy the winter.

Just a thought, must be getting old when you start to think about replacing the 9kg bbq gas bottle with a 4kg one!!!!

Charles and Jackie

Bob and Liz Shipard's News: -

Frank, hope that your family are all well and that you and Paula are enjoying being grandparents.

We spent ten days in Lightning Ridge in May, weather was perfect in the high twenties for most of the time, quite an interesting little town. They have tour drive's that you follow coloured car door markers, which show off all the sights such as, Amigo's Castle, the cactus garden (over two thousand different species), glass bottle house, hot springs and the first opal mine (1897).

We also went out to The Garwin opal fields to see "the club in the scrub." You have to drive down the fairway on the golf course to get to the club, also the Sheeppyard RSL Memorial, which has a lake and a Vietnam Plaque placed out there.

We had lunch at the Glengarry Hilton with the local kookaburra sitting overhead and about three million flies.

We did a bit of fossicking (which the locals call noodling) came home with a few black opal pieces and blue bits.

Sitting here and writing this outside it is six degrees with a wind chill factor of minus 4, all the time thinking of our next trip, which commences on 12 July in seventeen days to Far North Queensland and the weather will far warmer than here at the moment.

Bob and Liz.

**General:**

Finally, I have said this before, I know we are all getting older and the creaks and groans are ever increasing. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who is not well, as a phone call out of the blue from an old friend could quite easily be the best medicine.

Thank you all for the interesting and informative contributions. Happy reading everybody.

Next Edition will be September 2014.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

*Frank Corcoran*