



The Germ Journal



Issue Number: 36
31 March 2010

Welcome to the March 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.: -

Please update your Contact Lists accordingly.

E-mail/address changes;

Ray and Fay Carlin have closed down their E-Mail address for the time being.

Any correspondence can be sent C/- Dick Gray

Address: 10 Asca Drive GREEN POINT NSW 2251

Bob and Kate Eddington have sold their house in Shark Bay and are moving south to be closer to the grand kids. As of the 1 April 2010.

Address: Lot 150 4th Avenue Peaceful Bay W.A. 6333

Phone: 08 98404088 Mobile: 0428930722 (unchanged but limited coverage, so either text or leave a message and Bob will contact you).

Email: bobeddington@wn.com.au (unchanged)

Adrian (Shorty) and Dot Galland

E-mail: adrian1949@dodo.com.au

Richard Golebiowski is now in the IT age.

E-Mail: golebiowski@internode.on.net

Rob and Rose Rayner

E-Mail: rraynerbb@dodo.com.au

If anyone requires a new Contact List just let me know?

12 Field Regiment RAA Association:

The Association AGM was held on 13th March 2010.

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

President;	Rob Costello (102 Bty)
Vice 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:

Tasmania; Neil Mangels (LAD & 102 Bty)

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 Germs have some spare time on their hands Mick Crawford would appreciate a call.

Reunions:

Darwin Reunion 2010 Update

Received from Bob Eddington and the Reunion Committee.

This will be the last communication prior to the Reunion.

Touchwood everything is coming together.

Timetable is as follows:

Friday 23rd - Welcome Function at the Freespirit Resort.

Saturday 24th - Free Day.

Sunday 25th - Dawn Service (either 8/12 Field Barracks or Darwin).
ANZAC March in Darwin starting at 9.30 form up at 8.30.
After March Function at The Trailer Boat Club from 10.30 until 2.30- 3.00.

Monday 26th - Free day.

Tuesday 27th - Free day and the Battery Dinner in the evening.

Wed 28th - Farewell Breakfast for those who wish to at Freespirit Resort.

TRANSPORT TO ALL FUNCTIONS IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ARRANGED.

Mick is trying to get the Territory Government to cover the cost of transport, but if he is unsuccessful then the cost per head will be extra (approx \$20 per head).

Several of the committee will be in Darwin from the 19th April to dot all the eyes and cross all the tees and to ensure that all will be in readiness for your arrival.

Registration will be in the foyer of the Resort, so please make sure you register as I do not want to be chasing people up to make sure they have arrived.

We have a total of 114 people coming so all in all it will be a great week.

We are also trying to arrange at least one fishing trip and contact the several Golf Clubs to see if we can have some golf as well. We will give you the details for these upon your arrival.

As I said in the last email/letter that there are some very nice restaurants and bars in and around Darwin plus lots of other activities within 1 to 1 1/2 hours of the Resort. We will have all the relevant info again upon arrival.

The approx cost per head for participation in all functions including transport to and from them all will be somewhere between \$140.00 - \$160.00 per head. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE DRINKS, AS I DON'T THINK I CAN ESTIMATE WHAT WILL BE SPENT ON THIS ITEM!!! BLOODY LOTS

Below is the list of everyone attending, if we have left anyone off please let me know:

Brian & Sue Armstrong
Peter & Kay Rees
Tim & Therese Bakker
Charlie & Jacqui Robinson
Laurie & Mary Bennett
John & Louise Ryan
Murray & Mary Bethune
Kevin & Denise Scrimshaw
Ross & Lenice Bryant
Bob & Liz Shippard
Phil & Mary Burns
Keith & Liz Smith
Joe & Isabel Candy
Lee & Rosemary Stockley
Ian & Joan Caporn
Ted & Helen Watson
Ray & Fay Carlin
Barry & Sue West
Ron & Jan Casey
Peter & Pauline Whitehead
Mike & Gail Clee
Max & Ross Clothier
Rob & Debbie Cocking
Frank & Paula Corcoran
Bruce & Lyn Cowan
Bob & Linda Dehle
Graeme & Sue Dennis
Dan & Gillian Donovan
Jim & Merrin Dunn
Dick Duane
Bob & Katie Eddington
Tony & Tina Ferraro
Graham & Judy Floyd
Brad & Mandy Frost
Tony & Lyn Galea
Phil & Rosemarie Garland
Dick & Jacqui Gray
Dick & Pam Gray
John Hannon
Gary Harrington
Frank Hegerty
Bill & Vicki Hogue
Gordon & Sue Johnson
Jeff & Joy Ketteringham
Ian & Gai Macauley
Rob & Judith Marshall
Peter & Judy Martin
Dave & Carol Mathers

Bob & Trish Murray
Peter Nation & Bec Lohmeyer
Leo & Marilyn Nicholson
Malcolm & Sue Norwill
Mike & Zannette O'Reilly
Brian & Sandra O'Donahue
John & Mavis Paskulich
Bob & Julie Perkins
Dave & Sharyn Prizeman
Russ & Marilyn Pullen
Ed & Willie Redfern

SEE YOU ALL IN DARWIN

Regards Bob and Committee

Items of Interest:

Contributions from around the country follow;

Barry and Glenda Basham's News: -

Well here goes our contribution for the March Germ Journal:

Greetings, hope all is well with your world! In May, Glenda and I celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary, so we have decided to celebrate this special occasion by going on 'a drive', in June and July. To start with we will leave Albury and make our way to Cairns (taking a couple of weeks to get there) because that's where our son Justin now calls home. Once there we will see how we are handling the traveling as to where we will go next but it will be an adventure that we are both looking forward to. We have been planning on doing this for some time but something always gets in the way, fingers crossed this time.

In January our daughter Jaclyn moved from Forster to Albury to live, great to have her and her husband living close by now. Jaclyn continues to have trouble recovering from her car accident last June, in which among other injuries both her arms were broken, to date her left arm, which has been operated on 3 times, still gives her grief. It could have been much worse with the five of them in the car, at least with them living in Albury we can be a lot more helpful to her and her young family.

Glenda and I joined some fellow veteran's and their wives/partners on a coach to Phillip Island in November visiting the San Remo Vietnam Veterans' Museum, it's well put together and a credit to all concerned well worth a visit.

Cheers to all.

Barry and Glenda (Basho)

Rob and Rosemary Brooker's News: -

Hi Frank,

Rob and I have been busy at home preparing for a holiday to Canada and USA in the middle of the year. We start on the west side with a train ride on the Rocky Mountaineer through the Canadian Rockies and a 7 day Alaska Inside Passage Cruise. We then fly to the east side to Quebec and Ontario, visit Niagara Falls and travel down to Washington DC and New York. It should be great fun, apart from the long flights to and from Sydney. Hopefully we can keep up the pace.

Rob is still bowling several times a week and has been away to Temora and Cowra for competitions so far this year.

We went to Melbourne to see AC/DC in Feb, which was an awesome concert. While we were there, we had lunch with the Corcoran's, Denham's and Jackson's and caught up on all the news.

I have been watching The Biggest Loser, which is filmed at North Head in Manly. Rob said he thought they had done some renovations for the show, as it looks better than when we were there for the Reunion. If you would like a trip down memory lane, you could watch an episode on Channel 10. I am not sure when it finishes, possibly in the next month.

Hope Anzac Day is a good day for all. We are spending the day with family and friends in Canberra for the first time since 2004.

Regards,

Rosemary and Rob Brooker

Ray and Fay Carlin's News: -

I received the following from Ray on 27 January;

Hello, Salaam, Mehaba, Ni Hao, Bon Jour, and G'day,

As a lot of you know, Fay and I have sold our home and will build another at Gosford (Bateau Bay) in the near future.

As we are going on a caravan trip for four to five months we will not have a landline, but will be reachable (if it's urgent) on 0419126100.

We will advise when we have a permanent address and land line number.

In the meantime, take care and God Bless (Ince Allah).

Ray and Fay

I received the following from Ray on 4 March;

Ray and Fay have finally sold up and moved to the Central Coast where they spend a bit of time with fellow germs Dick Gray and Dave Prizeman and their wives.

We are all looking forward to our trip to Darwin for the reunion and living in our van is helping Fay and I acclimatize to caravan living.

Hopefully we will start building at Bateau Bay soon.

See you in Darwin

Ray and Fay

Frank and Paula Corcoran's News: -

I have recovered from my tour of duty in Townsville and am now back into my routine here in Hampton. My office once again is the front window of the coffee shop in Hampton Street, where I can be found at 10AM most mornings reading the Fin.

Nadia and Julian are now officially engaged. Nadia has taken a job with a firm called SKM (Sinclair Knight Merz). They want her to establish a Geotechnical Engineering Team in Hobart, as they have won some major infrastructure projects in Tasmania. Good career development for her. She starts after Easter and they are now looking at houses in Hobart. Julian is looking to buy a 5 ton digger and bobcat so he can start working for himself, given there appears to be plenty of work available.

Petrea is still at St Vincent's Hospital and must be part of the furniture by now.

I had a week down at Cygnet Tasmania with Julian and his folks on the farm. Snowie (Julian's Dad) and I are presently looking at buying about 6 Portaloos to rent out down around there. The building regulations appear pretty slack as a lot of the construction sites and orchards don't have any facilities for the workers or fruit pickers. I got the idea from the auctions I go to where there were 10 second hand Portaloos from Coates Hire up for sale. We are presently checking out the demand but Snowie reckons the authorities are starting to clamp down on construction sites without facilities and will not let them start work until they are provided. Snowie has the equipment to move them around and the facilities to dispose of the waste. Any way if it comes off just call me "Kenny of Tassie".

I am now coordinating the JP Rosters at Moorabbin and Melbourne East Police Stations where we provide a documentation witness service. I don't know how I got lumbered with both, it just happened, all of a sudden I was it.

Paula and I had lunch with Jacko and Kath, Deadly and Maureen and Brumus and Rosie in February. Brumus and Rosie came down to Melbourne to see the AC/DC Concert and it was good to catch up, particularly for the girls as they don't see each other as much.

I went to a Gunners' Luncheon at the RACV Club earlier this month with Neil Graham and Nick Jans. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I caught up with a couple of Gunners I had not seen for a while.

Frank and Paula

Dick Duane's News: -

Giddy Frank and Fellow Germs,

No news this quarter. Can't wait to get to Darwin.

See you all then.

Dick.

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

G'day Frank,

Received the December copy of the Germ, thanks Mate.

Again it was good to read letters from some old fellas that I had served with over a period of years and recall some great times we had. I must admit that some escapades are a bit blurry now though.

After I took discharge in 1987, (from 131Div Loc Bty), I was at loose ends for a while. Opened up a video library in Sandgate Qld and ran it for 6 years. In 1994 I started work for Chubb Electronic Security in Brisbane and was plodding along there till I received a letter mid 2008 from DVA saying that a bloke I'd served with in 104 in 68-69 wished to make contact. Bugger me if it wasn't our favorite friendly cook, Myles Charter. One thing led to another and with Myles working hard on my behalf, I was awarded the TPI in March this year.

Since then, along with my wife Dot. (known by most as "Have-a-chat" or "Talk-a-lot").we have spent most of our spare time traveling. In April we cruised to Hawaii, with 10 stops on the way, and hired a convertible in Oahu and spent 5 days touring to all parts of the Island. Luckily we made up a sign to carry with us, which said, "Sorry, we're Australian Tourists" on one side and "We're lost" on the other. This certainly saved us a lot of grief. On the way back to Australia we stopped off for 3 days in Fiji.

In September we took off for a 21 day Motor home trip around NZ, spending 2 weeks on the South Island and 7 days on the North Island. Visited Waikouaiti, Papakura and Lake Taupo, where some guys will remember us visiting with the Battery in 1972 or 1973. I especially remember us playing 7's in the marquee at Lake Taupo, but most of the Battery's trip was a haze to me. Does anybody remember the plastic kegs of beer and drinking from milkshake containers while relaxing under the Pine trees at either Waikouaiti or Papakura? This time it was a little bit less raucous with Dot and her sister as company. The weather was just a little bit warmer this trip too.

Dot and I drove down to Vincentia to meet up with Dick Gray, Ray Carlin, Laurie Owen, Dave Prizeman and Myles Charter to pay a visit to Ben Burleigh. However, as was explained in the last issue of the Germ, the 7 P's were left wanting. I think a Nasho was in charge and we missed Ben. After 3 days of socializing, Dot and I headed off to Geelong in Vic to catch up with sons and grandkids, spending a week visiting before heading back to Brisby.

Dot and I are off to the UK for 3 weeks in June next year and will be doing the UK/Wales/Scotland/Ireland tour by coach. I am really looking forward to that.

For Anzac day 2010, I will be joining Myles in Sydney and we will be catching up with ???. I'm just hoping we don't get into too much trouble as I won't have Dot there to keep an eye on us and to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Have just about worn out the ends off my fingers, so will sign off for now. Hoping this letter finds all the fellas and their families in the best of health, or as good as could be at our ages anyway.

Dot and I have an open door policy for anybody calling in if they are in our neck of the woods. Plenty of coldies for those who needed it and plenty of spare room.

Just one last thing.....Chicka, how's the darts going?

All the best.

Shorty and Dot

Pieter and Gay Leembruggen's News: -

Hi To All Germs, Germettes & Families,

Well, we did our first Tassie trip this Christmas and it was fantastic – perfect weather, easy to get around and a great place to see. We hired a car at the airport and spent two weeks checking out Launceston, Hobart and the eastern seaboard including beautiful Freycinet National Park. In our travels, we visited a lavender farm, wondered through a few historic homes, did Port Arthur, climbed a mountain for a bird's-eye view of Wineglass Bay and enjoyed some wonderful food and wine. One of the highlights was an organised tour from Hobart to Bruny Island, where we were put on a boat powered by three, two hundred horsepower motors and rocketed down the coast to the tip of the very blustery Southern Ocean. It is a spectacular trip where you get to see some of the highest sea cliffs in the Southern Hemisphere, along with various seabirds and a huge cluster of very smelly seals. This is the link if you'd like a better look <http://www.brunycruises.com.au/>. Don't miss it if you are heading down that way.

As I have now been able to organise my working life to just three days a week, we are managing to get away for an occasional four day weekend. A month ago we visited Bowral again and caught up with Ken and Judy Burt for a very enjoyable lunch at their beautiful semi-rural home. Whilst there, we had the privilege of meeting a spritely, well dressed gentleman in his nineties who is Australia's oldest surviving Soccerroo and who also happens to be Judy's father – a lovely interesting guy.

A couple of weeks back we spent the weekend in the Blue Mountains and visited the Jenolan Caves. It was our first time in these caves and they are very impressive. It's a huge complex with lots of different caves, so we'll have to go back to see some of the others.

As we won't get to see you guys this Anzac Day, we wish you all a fantastic day.

Best regards,

Pieter and Gay Leembruggen

Greg Mathews' News: -

Greg informs me that he is spending time in Saigon almost once a month on Business he has established there.

Should any Vets be visiting or revisiting and he can be of some help with information then he is happy to pass it on.

Greg's details follow;

Greg Matthews

Phone: 0407454783

E-mail: gwmatt@yahoo.com.au

Rob and Rose Rayner's News: -

Rose and Rob have been touring Tasmania. They started out on the 12 February and planned to take a month having a good look around.

I trust they had a great time.

Charles and Jackie Robinson's News: -

We have had a week in North Queensland celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary and among other places we spent a few days in Townsville. At the end of each day we would end up at the yacht club for a couple of beers, paying \$4.40 for a schooner, which got me thinking. I wonder how much a schooner was back in 1970 at Lowths or the Seaview Hotel. When we got home I checked my 1971 tax return and my group certificate advised I earned \$1587.00 for the year, so I wonder how much a beer was in those days. Anybody out there with a better memory or records? I would be interested.

See you all in Darwin

Charles and Jackie

Kevin and Denise Scrimshaw's News: -

It has been a fairly quiet time for Denise and myself, but sometimes that is just what you need. Like many of you we are counting the days until Darwin and can hardly wait to catch up with everyone.

On Saturday we went to the 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association EGM / AGM, but unfortunately there were not enough for a quorum for the EGM but luckily just enough for a quorum for the AGM. Rob Costello is now the new president and the new secretary is a guy called Ian Ryan (102 Bty). I remain on the committee, as 104 Bty's only representative.

For those who are driving to the reunion please take it easy and take care. Denise and I are looking forward to a great time with everyone.

We also would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Easter.

Scrimmy.

General:

Next Edition will be June 2010.

Up the Ol'Red Rooster.

Frank Corcoran