



# DEBRIEF

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Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

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## WINTER

## 2012

## Inaugural Tour of Duty - VetRide 2012

**The inaugural Tour of Duty—VetRide** commenced Monday 25th March 2012. Vetride crossed boundaries: Vietnam Vets, family members, supporters, ADF Cycling Club and various cycling clubs along the route. It gained significant PR coverage across four councils, was officially launched by a State Member of Parliament representing the Vic. Veterans Affairs Minister, it attracted grants from the Victorian Veterans Council and DVA, was supported by the VAN network.

*See story pg 12*



### DISCLAIMER

The material in "DEBRIEF" is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter. NO person should act on the basis of any matter contained in "DEBRIEF" without considering and, if necessary, taking appropriate professional advice upon their own particular circumstances. The VVAA, the authors and editors expressly disclaim all and any liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by any such person in reliance, whether whole or partial, upon the whole or part of the contents of "DEBRIEF".



## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORT



The first six months of this year have been busy. Many reviews have been completed with some still under way. Of note is the review of the new Act, the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) was completed. There were 108 recommendations of which 96 were accepted.

This was a good result.

A review of the BEST Grant is still underway, although round 14 this year's round will go ahead. These funds are to assist in covering out of pocket expenses incurred in doing pension and welfare work. It is imperative that persons carrying out this work keep accurate records in log books of hours worked, welfare, and activity statements for pension officers to substantiate the need for financial assistance. Both welfare and pension claims are important aspects of our business and without BEST would be a significant drain on operating costs.

During this year I have been involved with Graham Walker representing the VVFA and LtGen. Peter Cosgrove, Peter Fitzsimmons, author and Military historian. Lindsay Fox, businessman and other academics in deciding the content of Australia's \$3.3m contribution to the Vietnam Veterans Education Centre (VVEC) alongside the "Wall" in Washington. There are 4m visitors a year to the "Wall" which initially had the names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam but now also includes those who have made the sacrifice in conflicts since.

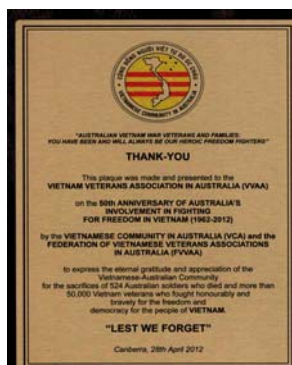
The VVEC is an underground structure with a walk down entrance just left of the "Wall". Australia has been allocated some space where an interactive display telling the story of our fallen troops will be on a rolling video loop that can be activated for a particular person or event. On days of anniversaries of particular events an emphasis will be on showing those veterans. Families of the veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam are being contacted to meet the families wishes. Visitors can activate the display of a particular person if that is their desire.

Many items, mementoes have been left at the "Wall" by visitors, the most notable being a motorbike. Some of these items will be displayed within the underground centre.

The VVAA is a valued member of the Forums held in DVA Canberra. These forums give us the ability to have input into many concerns on both DVA business and also with Defence as all forums have a representative from the ADF on them. This allows discussion on DVA and Defence issues especially around transition and medical discharge. Other issues revolve

around rehabilitation.

In April the National and ACT State Executives of VVAA were invited to attend a ceremony with the Vietnamese Community of Australia (VCA) at the National Vietnam Memorial. The function marked 50 years since Australia's commitment to South Vietnam. During the ceremony Peter and I were presented with a plaque and a scroll, pictured below, that has been forwarded to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Phillip Island for display.



*Above left* The plaque presented to Ron Coxon.

*Above Right.* The banner to commemorate the ceremony.

*Below.* Many of the children had these Tee shirts on with Thank you Australia.



I believe the VVAA is in a strong position now, as we have been for sometime. Keep up the good work and we look forward to the future.

Ron Coxon.

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## NATIONAL SECRETARIES REPORT



The National Council met in May 2012 first in general session and then as the National Congress which is the Annual General Meeting, numerous reports were received and considerable discussion on a multitude of subjects, if you are

particularly interested in the discussion, copies of the minutes are available from your sub branch however I accept the fact that most of our members rely on their elected executives to "get on with the business".

There was one change in the Executive, after years of service on the National Executive Mr John Smith from Queensland was replaced as National Vice President by Mr Max Ball from Western Australia, while it is good to have new blood and new ideas on the executive it is also difficult to remove a dedicated member from a role he obviously enjoyed. Thank you John for your service, I am sure you have much to contribute to the association in the future.

A new relationship is being established with the Vietnamese community in Australia and the national executive were invited to a commemorative service in Canberra on 28 April and to their annual conference in Sydney on 9 June 2012, while many of your members have difficulties relating to Vietnamese I believe there are benefits to both sides in maintaining a dialogue particularly in relation to recognition of our mutual war dead.

I believe the association has a solid administration and apart from a few minor areas that still need fine tuning we can be seen as an efficient organisation that has a focus on our core business of assisting and supporting veterans and their families, I am often amazed at the degree of dedication and commitment of some of our members to the welfare of others.

Ken Foster OAM JP

### Drill Instructor

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army Base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sir?" !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### The Missing

They lie in foreign fields and vast oceans deep  
We know not where they sleep  
They are the missing from many campaigns  
On hallowed cold silent walls we have etched their names  
Once precious sweet youth never to be seen again

From outback to urban sprawl, troubled hearts sob and cry  
Loved ones in anguish ask the question "Why?"  
Mothers cherish smiling youth captured in ageing frames  
Widows in restless sleep still dream of him coming home again  
Sons and daughters often hear strangers whisper his name  
In some dark houses are bedrooms never used and empty chairs  
And cluttered attics with sports gear, suits and old footwear

Regardless of time, whatever the war, the need for closure is there  
Why not an infant forest to help heal pain so bare?  
Such a deserving project if only Canberra would dare  
A final farewell for the next of kin and our nation to share  
A tree for each warrior to salute the price he gave  
So that our way of life for future generations might be saved  
Each wooden sentry marks a missing warrior's proud history

Imagine a forest; a living monument to their glory  
A busy chattering wildlife spreading seed for new life  
Mid a proud regiment of trees at peace not strife  
This would represent the missing from the bloody past  
Content now beneath the Southern Cross, their spirits home at last  
George Mansford ©March 2012

### National Merchandise. **Discontinued line.**



Leather 4 Ribbon Vietnam Veteran Slouch Hat Stubbie Holder  
\$10.each Only 10 left. M025



## QUEENSLAND

Welcome to 2012. This is my report for the VVAA Qld Branch activities conducted during 2011. Firstly may I say that overall it was a successful year. As usual we had our ups and downs but nothing that we could not handle. It is always best to start with the ups for the year so here we go.

At our AGM, which was conducted at the Kirra Sports Club, we were successful in getting a complete executive however as usual this did not last. The AGM was very well attended with 14 of the 17 Sub Branches represented. All of our meetings for 2011 were very well attended with the majority of Sub Branches being present in person or represented by a proxy. A decision was taken to change our State meetings to midweek from May 2012.

The next activity for 2011 and 2012 that the VVAA Qld Branch are involved with is the organising and running of the main Brisbane ANZAC Day Dawn Service in ANZAC Square Brisbane. This Dawn Service was gifted to us and we run it in conjunction with a committee from other ESO run in our own right and both were resounding successes thanks very much to the committee of interested ESO. This year we had approx. 15000 people in attendance.

Once again the VVAA Qld Branch ran a very successful Vietnam Veteran Day March and Service on 18<sup>th</sup> August in Brisbane. I had the opportunity of attending a couple of other Vietnam Veteran Day services and I am happy to report that they were very successful and I was quite impressed with the involvement of the youth. The attendees at our March and Service were down slightly but we believe that was because of the activities at Enoggera.

As you are aware 2012 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the announcement of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. To this end the VVAA Qld Branch has organised a couple of activities to commemorate this important occasion. The first of these will be a commemorative luncheon held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at the North's Leagues and Services Club, 1347 ANZAC Avenue, Kallangur commencing at 11.30 AM with all invited to attend. These activities are being supported by AATTV, VVFAQ, Qld RSL and Vietnamese. Entertainment will be supplied by Radio Saigon and some Vietnamese who will fill in during the breaks of Radio Saigon.

Our State raffle will be run again this year but it will be drawn at this luncheon. The major prize will be a seven day boat cruise for two people with P & O and we guarantee that the total value of all prizes will be in excess of \$3000.00. We have distributed a flyer in regard to these activities and so far I have been informed that they have been distributed wide and far. I believe they have gone as far as WA and Nth Qld.

The other event will be our March and Service which will be conducted as usual on Vietnam Veterans Day, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August, meeting at the Treasury Casino in the Live Wire Bar from 0930 AM until Noon then marching down Adelaide Street and conducting our service at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial in ANZAC Square.

The format will be slightly different to previous years in that we will be led by the AATTV, followed by Australian Troops, then New Zealand and finally the Vietnamese. Once again all are invited. The VVAA Qld Exec is also extending a very special invitation to our Sons and Daughters to come along to both of these activities and hopefully support their mums and dads on this very special occasion.

The AATTV has organised a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary program for the weekend 27<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> July and we have been invited to attend. The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Association Qld Branch has once again organised their Armed Forces Day for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June to be held in the Roma Street Parklands at the Australia Vietnam memorial plus also a dinner for Saturday 23<sup>RD</sup> June and we have been invited to attend these also. At this time the State Executive is exploring the possibility of establishing a formal affiliation with the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Association

We have lost our CQ Sub Branch. We wish them well but it would be remiss of me if I did not make special mention of Nick and Helen Quigley and Phil and Pauline Aplin. These people have been the back bone of this Sub Branch for many, many years, however as it now appears they want to have a spell but no one else is prepared to step in and take over. This problem is becoming more and more prevalent each year at just about all levels. Some of the members have indicated they wish to remain as members and this is being organised. As a result of this and after some approaches re membership the State executive has decided to set up a Central Sub branch to be administered by the State Executive and management committee so as to ensure that these people remain as members. This Sub branch will be officially named 'The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Qld Branch Inc. Central Sub Branch'.



To finish on a very bright note, we have been successful in selling Remembrance House for a suitable price and we have entered into a contract to purchase another property at Burpengary (*See photos above and on the next page*)



which will be utilized at a State Office complete with a Services/Ex – Service Family Support Centre with support from other ESO such as the APPVA and PVA plus overnight accommodation for members, their family and friends when visiting Brisbane, a fitting legacy to be gifted to the ESO community when we have to turn the lights out.



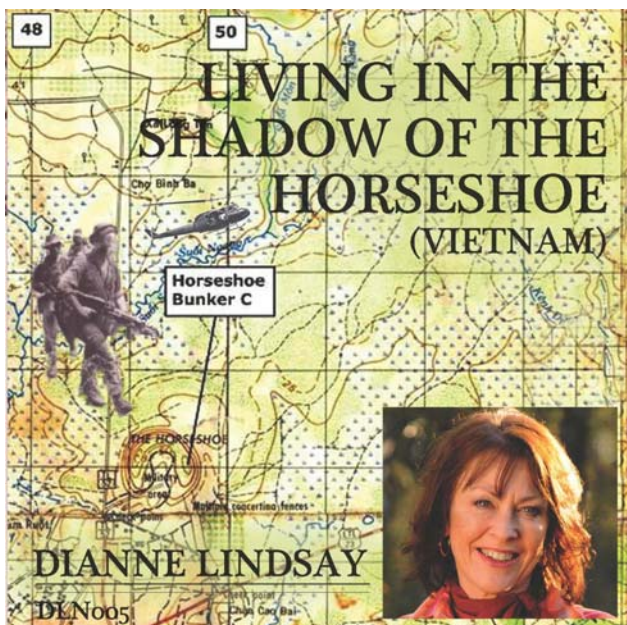
John Smith  
President

**Mission: To assist all veterans, their dependants and descendants in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.**

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## NEW CD RELEASE

DIANNE LINDSAY is a well-known and much-loved country music singer/songwriter. Her country music heritage is second to none - she is often billed as having 'the perfect country music pedigree'. Her parents are country music legends Reg Lindsay and Heather McKean and she is the niece of Slim Dusty and Joy McKean (McKean Sisters). Dianne is very much her own artist with her own stamp of traditional Australian country music.



She enjoys great support from her husband/musical partner and biggest fan, Peter Simpson, writing and co-writing songs together, musical arrangements and planning albums, Dianne is living her life-long dream.

Peter, a long-time serviceman with the RAAF Ground Defence Unit, is also a Vietnam Veteran. Both Dianne and Peter have the greatest respect for our Australian servicemen and women, past and present and for some time have been looking for a suitable song relating to the Vietnam War. They wanted something that would be true and meaningful, certainly not a protest song, but one that would have true meaning for Veterans, their wives and families. Whilst in the process of writing, Merv Maltman, a songwriter from Queensland sent them a song he had written called 'Living In The Shadow Of The Horseshoe' and both Dianne and Peter agreed the song had a lot of credibility, principally because it was written from the perspective of a Vietnam Veteran's wife and secondly, it mentioned a well-known Australian-manned Fire Support Base that most Australian veterans would be familiar with, 'The Horseshoe'.

It was decided to record the song as a single and to donate 50% of profits from the sale of the cd to the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia. Dianne says that she and Peter have often spoken of the bond between Vets and of how much in common Veterans have and feel that this is the same with Veteran's wives and their families and hope that the content of the song is not only enjoyable to all but hope that the song brings some awareness of the long-term suffering of Veterans, their wives and families.



Dianne and Peter would welcome any contact from Veterans or their families and can be contacted on 0401095306, by email [info@diannelindsay.com](mailto:info@diannelindsay.com) or through her website [www.diannelindsay.com](http://www.diannelindsay.com). The cd is available from the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia National Merchandise.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

This is my first report since taking the mantle of President of the NSW VVAA, I would like to thank Clive Mitchell-Taylor as Immediate Past President, for his help in the transition to the new position and for remaining available with his knowledge and expertise in State matters. We will be busy in the following months, having just had ANZAC, Day National Congress in Geelong and commemorations and Vietnam Veterans Day coming up in August.

I am happy to report that Vice President Len Schulz has arrangements for Vietnam Veterans Day service at the Cenotaph well in hand and has provided a list of invited dignitaries which apart from the Governor, Prime Minister, leader of the Opposition is much too long to put in this report. Suffice to say he has left no one out, I will be attending along with Len. Vice President Trevor Lawrence will be representing NSW VVAA at Muswellbrook, which is quite an occasion usually hosted by the Muswellbrook RSL and hundreds of Vietnamese Veterans are bussed in for the commemorations, our State Treasurer Tony Walker will be representing the Association in Bathurst this year. Secretary Pam Forsdike and husband Andy will be representing us at St Marys.

Congratulations to our two main School Education Teams from Macarthur and St Marys on the excellent job they do in educating our school children in the logistics and jobs done by all three services during the Vietnam War. The statistics from these teams are very impressive. The St Marys team made presentation to approximately 60 schools with a student audience of around 6,000, and provide guest speakers on ANZAC/Remembrance Day Services to a student audience of approximately 14,000.

The Macarthur team, as well as providing education service to schools, was approached by South-west Practitioners (doctors and nurses) to give a talk on living with a person with mental health issues. As it turned out most of the audiences had no idea of what services were available from the VVCS and what pension, advocacy and welfare services were available from the ESO's through the area. Further west, our Vice President and Treasurer are visiting schools in the Bathurst and Dubbo region with the Macarthur Team covering down to Wagga Wagga in concert with the local Sub-Branch. Hunter VVAA is covering the Northern NSW area, visiting schools on the Central Coast and as far north as Yamba. I would like to give a big thank you to the Education Teams for a job well done.

Speaking of Wagga Wagga, our sub-branch in southern NSW, they are doing a great job in promoting, maintaining and expanding their retreat at Murraguldrie. After speaking to many who have visited the place, all I get are rave reports on how good it is. Lots of "Grey Nomads" pass through the areas managed by our Sub-Branches and they are passing the word on about how good it is at the retreat.

I believe the hot water is now on, and with the amount of work put in by the Wagga crew, it will continue to improve. Congratulations to the vets and ladies of the Wagga Wagga Sub-Branch.

To all Sub-Branches, keep up the good work and keep the information coming in as we need focus on doing the core business of our association- welfare advocacy and pensions in support of veterans, looking after those who are unable to help themselves and assisting with the education of our children. Please keep an eye out for any good stories or tales, (even ones of stretched imagination) which would be suitable for the Association magazine DEBRIEF. Keep it clean though, because it's read by children as well as adults.

Dave McCann JP  
President



### **Bathurst & District Vietnam Veterans Association Inc**

### **Bathurst Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park**

### **CAMPING For BATHURST 1,000 RACE WEEK END**

The Park is located at the corner of Boundary Rd & Blayney Rd @ the rear of the Bathurst Golf Club.

Close to CBD and Mt Panorama.

The Park consists of 4.3 hectares of park land, with shady trees and gentle sloping and flat camping areas.

Some fire pits and concrete picnic tables and seats.

Town water taps located through out the park.

A TOILET BLOCK WITH HOT AND COLD SHOWERS.

A COMMUNAL PICNIC SHELTER AND CAMPFIRE SITE.

During Race weekend an inexpensive food van catering for breakfast, lunch and dinner, for campers.

Fire wood for campers fires, is also on sale at the administration area.

Friday, and in particular Saturday nights, a campers gathering is held around the campfire with live entertainment provided by local talented Vets.

Camping fees are **\$70.00 per vehicle** for the entire race weekend.

The Park is a 10 minute walk to the entrance to PIT STRAIGHT.

And 5 minute drive from the C B D.

Enquiries to Tony on 0263555504 or 0427541852.

**NO BOOKINGS TAKEN**

Tony Walker  
Sec / Treas.  
B&DVVA Inc



## TASMANIA

Over all Tasmania is steady as she goes with a number of issues in the process of being evaluated by the broader membership. The majority of these evolve around the future directions of the VVAA Tasmania Branch.

Membership is starting to gradually decline despite renewed efforts at encouraging some of the wayward back into the fold. For the most part though the standard reply is I am becoming too old now and stepping back from everything. That may well be so for all of us but I do try to remind everyone that there is a very positive and strong social benefit to involvement than most tend to recognise.

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of visiting our State Patron, the Honourable Michael Hodgman AM, QC, at Vaucluse House nursing home where he now resides. I have known Michael for many, many years. He has lived an eventful life with many high points, however I detected only one small hesitation as he related to me the choice he made when having to decide on promotion in the RAN as judge advocate, or a career in Federal and later, State politics.

I have always held Michael in the highest personal and professional regard, therefore it did affect me profoundly last August when I met him again after many years, and saw for myself the debilitating consequences of his lifetime as a heavy smoker.

His battle with emphysema is almost lost, and so it was a little more poignant for the both of us when I presented Michael with a special commemorative plaque recognising his patronage and generous contributions to the Tasmania Branch since its inception. That plaque now occupies pride of place on the wall of his room.

Michael, you are constantly in our thoughts as we wish you all the strength in your daily struggle.

The recently elected State President of the APPVA, Colonel Mike Romalis, has already demonstrated his enthusiastic support for the MoA signed between our two organisations in May 2010. It is extremely reassuring to know that when that inevitable Friday afternoon does come and the lights are switched off, come the following Monday they will be switched back on by others who share our unqualified commitment to all members of the veteran community.

On behalf of VVAA Tasmania I would like to extend our congratulations to Chris Munday on his recent election to the position of R.S.L. State President. I believe that Chris's election will herald in the start of a new era of RSL relations with the VVAA and look forward to working closely with him in the future.

National Congress this year saw a change in some faces, and a renewed emphasis given to addressing those matters which matter most to veterans particularly in the area of indexation.

It was disappointing to hear that sometime in the last week of May our Bush Retreat at Interlacken was again visited by thieves who this time targeted and emptied the wood storage container.

No mean feat and obviously one that had been well planned. Given the Tasmanian economy is well into recession, coupled with an already unusually cold winter, incidents of this nature are bound to increase as more and more Tasmanians struggle to cope with out of control government costs with next to no relief in sight for those who are suffering most.

It is perhaps appropriate at this juncture to remind and encourage all our pension and welfare officers in particular, to maintain a vigilant eye on our most vulnerable.

One issue that is causing major concern to our members is implementation of the infamous Carbon Tax, and the actual extent of its impact upon veterans across the broader spectrum. Its over all affect is generally being seen as another erosive element being thrust upon already severely stretched pension resources despite all the unconvincing reassurances from Canberra.

Even with the much touted one off payments that will be made in June, no one within the veteran, or any other fixed income community for that matter, seriously believes that they are going to be better off as the full impact of rapidly escalating State and Local Government costs begin to bite following its introduction, not to mention soaring energy costs, petrol prices that know only one direction despite a high Australian dollar, and the basic day to day costs of living.

Tasmania does indeed face some challenging times into the future.

Warwick Luttrell  
President

### THE MARCH

© C Martin Aug 2009

Pale, misty shadows form up with us,  
the forever young men from a long ago day.  
Hey! There's young Davo, I can see his grin clearly;  
as if he knew it would be this way.

Medals and mates, badges and ribands,  
painfully straightened we all step off once more.  
Young men hidden in old men's bodies,  
eyes made older bearing witness to war.

People clap hands over cries of 'Goodonya',  
Cheering the ghosts whose ranks we share.  
People calling, waving, crying,  
pride on their sleeves, flags in the air.

Padre's and Pollies preach from their pulpits,  
who here remembers what all of them say?  
While phantoms move softly among those who don't  
see them  
and lost warriors surround us; for this is their day.

#### Finding assistance:

Dept of Veteran Affairs  
Metropolitan area  
Callers from regional Australia  
Veterans & Veterans Families  
Counselling Service  
Lifeline  
Suicide Helpline  
Carers counselling Line

#### Phone numbers:

133 254  
1800 555 254  
1800 011 046  
131 114  
1300 651 251  
1800 007 332

#### Web sites

VVCS  
Beyond Blue

www.dva.gov.au  
www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs  
www.beyondblue.org.au

## NAVY BEREAVEMENT PIN



The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) has commissioned a bereavement pin to recognize the valued contribution of Navy personnel who lost their lives while in the service of the RAN, and the nation.

The Navy Bereavement Pin (NBP) is a 20mm gold lapel pin with a distinctive design incorporating the crest of the Royal Australian Navy encompassed by wreath 'supporters'.

The NBP was developed to meet an expressed wish by many families, who have lost a close family member while they served in the Navy, to have a tangible, yet discrete, memento of the service of their loved one. In this regard, the NBP is a symbol to help family members to commemorate the life and service of a relative who was lost while serving in the Navy.

To date, over two thousand Navy Bereavement Pins have been provided to descendants and family members of Navy personnel. Of note, Navy Bereavement Pins have been issued to family members of some of the earliest RAN war-time casualties which occurred in World War One, as well as the families of Navy personnel who have died in service more recently.

It is the Chief of Navy's wish that by prominently wearing the Navy Bereavement Pin, or having it as a special keepsake, the Pin will assist relatives to remember proudly a family member who lost their life while serving in the RAN.

### Eligibility

The criteria for a family member to receive the NBP are:

- the passing of the Sailor or Officer occurred while they were **still a member of the Royal Australian Navy**, and,
- the applicant, and any other persons included in the nomination, is/are related to that Sailor or Officer.

All family members of Royal Australian Navy personnel who died while serving in the Navy since Federation, during war or peace, on active service, or even off-duty, are eligible to receive the Navy Bereavement Pin. Eligibility extends beyond immediate family and may include members of an extended family.

### Nominations

If you are related to a person who passed away while serving in the RAN and wish to apply for the Navy Bereavement Pin, the application form and other information is included on the Royal Australian Navy website at:

Website: [http://www.navy.gov.au/Navy\\_Bereavement\\_Pin](http://www.navy.gov.au/Navy_Bereavement_Pin)

You should allow up to 5-6 weeks for your nomination form to be processed. Your Navy Bereavement Pin will be mailed to you. If there is insufficient information to verify your nomination, you will be contacted to provide additional detail. Relatives without internet access should call the Navy Bereavement Pin information line, (02) [6265 3383](tel:62653383), for an application form.



### 2012 FAMOUS BATTLES IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY – LONG TAN 1oz SILVER PROOF COIN (This is the last coin in the series)



The Long Tan coin was released in April this year. "The Perth Mint recently donated a number of commemorative silver coins to the VVAA, the two in the "Long Tan" format have been placed on display at the Museum at Phillip Island and the three in the "Kokoda" format have been presented to members on a random selection basis.

For more information go to the Perth Mint web site [www.perthmint.com.au](http://www.perthmint.com.au)





# Royal Australian Navy Bereavement Pin Nomination Form

Nominations for the Navy Bereavement Pin must be submitted on this form and signed by the applicant.

1. Your Name	
2. Mailing Address	5. Your relationship to deceased RAN Officer or Sailor
Address	6. Do you wish to apply for a Navy Bereavement Pin for another family member at your address?
City	
State	
Postcode	
3. Email Address	Name
4. Daytime Phone Number (Area code and number /mobile)	Relationship to deceased
	Name
	Relationship to deceased

Please include as much detail as possible.

7. Rank/Title of deceased RAN Officer or Sailor	8. Their Surname (Required)
9. Their Given Name/s (Required)	10. Service/PMKeyS Number
11. Ships served in	12. Posting in & posting out dates
13. Branch, Category or Specialisation	14. Their Date of Enlistment
15. Their Date of Birth	16. Their Date of Death

Signature	Date
-----------	------

When completed please sign, print and post to:

**Navy Bereavement Pin**  
**Navy People and Reputation**  
**R1-3-C034**  
**Russell Offices**  
**PO Box 7901**  
**Canberra BC ACT 2610**

or fax to: **02 6265 5050**

Please allow up to 5-6 weeks for your nomination form to be processed. Your Navy Bereavement Pin will be sent through the post.

If there is insufficient information to verify your nomination, you will be contacted to provide additional detail.

General enquiries about the Navy Bereavement Pin can be sent to the address or fax above, emailed to: [Navy.BereavementPin@defence.gov.au](mailto:Navy.BereavementPin@defence.gov.au) or made by phone on (02) 6265 3383.

The information on this form is collected for the purpose of facilitating your request for a Navy Bereavement Pin. It is not a requirement under law to provide this information; however, not providing the requested information may mean that your request for a Navy Bereavement Pin cannot be processed. The information on this form will only be used by the Royal Australian Navy to verify eligibility for a Navy Bereavement Pin and will not be disclosed to any other organisation.

<b>For Office Use Only</b>	
Sequence Number	
Date	Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> More information required for verification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant notified	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Verified	Dispatched

## VICTORIA

On behalf of the members of the Victorian State Branch, I had the pleasure of welcoming delegates, partners and friends to Geelong for the VVAA National Congress in May. It is fitting that the congress is being held in Geelong, the home of one of Victoria's oldest sub-branches that can trace its history back to the mid 70's. The congress meeting was held at Osborne House, a property of great historical significance to the Geelong district, and a building with strong historical links to the Australian Navy and Australian Army.

The Victorian branch conducted its AGM at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum in February, and a new state executive committee was elected; I am pleased to have been elected as State President again. The committee has the power to appoint executive members to assist the committee as required for major activities such as 50th anniversary commemorations, museum acquisitions (Huey A2-110) or to appoint sub-branches to conduct specific activities such as VetRide2012 and Congress 2012.

The state branch has continued to develop its DRAFT closure plan titled "Under Our Own Control", and the second iteration of the paper is now with sub-branches for comment. When complete, the paper will provide a roadmap for the branch to follow when change and contraction of the branch inevitably comes. The state council again acknowledged the finite nature of the branch and confirmed that the branch would not change its name or membership criteria in order to prop up the branch into the future. Within this context the executive committee has also formed a resolutions sub-committee to deal with change processes. It is interesting to note that Carry On, a Victorian charity focussed on assistance to the veteran community, is showing interest in our closure plan development.

It is interesting to note that the plan, albeit in its incomplete form, is already being applied to the closure of a sub-branch in the La Trobe Valley (a failed experiment where an existing sub-branch was split to create a new sub-branch some distance away in an attempt to better serve veterans scattered throughout the area), and the transfer of the majority of the RAAFVVA Sub-Branch from VVAA Victoria to the RAAF Association. The latter move is being taken in order to help revive the RAAF Association which is struggling for numbers. Additionally, the RAAFVVA Sub-Branch is unlike any of the other sub-branches in that it draws membership from across the state, rather than from one geographical location. The RAAFVVA Sub-Branch plans to retain membership of the state branch in the immediate future at least, via a smaller organisation.

The branch is involved in an exciting building project with the other major Victorian ESO's and the state government. Titled the "Cairo" project, a building will be constructed with a number of the apartments specifically earmarked for the needs of the handicapped and the needy. The state government has provided \$2 million for the purchase of a mix of single and two bedroom units within the building (approximately 4 or 5 units depending on configuration) that will be available specifically for younger veterans and families, on agreed lease arrangements. Members of the state branch; either through membership of the Victorian Veterans Council, or the state ESO Round Table Committee, will have significant input in raising appropriate management and lease arrangements governing the use of the units.

The future of the Victorian Regional Veterans Centre Project (RVCP) in the face of brutal cuts to BEST funding is occupying a significant amount of time for the branch and the Victorian RSL as co-sponsors. Already, one centre, Ballarat, has closed due to lack of funding, one amalgamation-Geelong and Surf Coast-has occurred, and the whole project is currently under extreme scrutiny and review by a specially formed committee. It is certain that there will be significant and permanent changes to future operations: job losses, reductions in hours of paid work, more centre closures, reductions in centre opening times, and a much thinner spread of volunteers cannot be discounted.

Given that the RVCP has been held up as the model to be adopted elsewhere, Victoria has an expectation that where practicable, this model will be adopted elsewhere in order to secure future BEST funding. Victoria will take every opportunity to press this point with the Minister, and make representations to the National ESO Round Table in order to protect the proven and efficient system in Victoria. We will further press for complete visibility of the formula used for future fund allocations, visibility of funding recommendations made by the national ESO round table, and how those recommendations were arrived at.

VetRide 2012 was an unqualified success. The four day event was successfully completed without incident and received significant media coverage and exposure for the state branch and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. The event brought together Vietnam Veterans and supporters, riders from the Defence Forces Cycling Club, local councils, DVA VAN offices, sub-branches on the route, and state politicians. The event is certain to gain legs and future events will be conducted. Apart from the exposure for the national body, the state branch and the Vietnam Veterans,



community at large, the ride raised significant funds for the museum-in the order of \$22000- with one sub-branch

Diamond Valley (the DViets) the Greensborough RSL and their sponsored team combining to raise over \$11000. The event was also successful in attracting grants from DVA and the Victorian Veterans Council. The only disappointing aspect of VetRide 2012 was the almost total lack of support for the event -and its key aim of raising funds for the museum-by the other state branches.

The Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Alex Chernov AC, QC, and Mrs Chernov will be our guests of honour at the VV Day 2012 commemorations at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on 18 August. The Premier of Victoria and the State Minister for Veterans Affairs, both staunch supporters of our association are both expected to attend along with a long list of other VIP's. The Victorian AATTV Association is expected to play a prominent and meaningful part in the commemorations as well as our other 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities, including a civic reception. The Vietnamese Veterans and Vietnamese community have planned a range of activities to commemorate the anniversary, in which we will be heavily involved, culminating in a special Vietnamese Day at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on 18 November.

Much is happening at the museum. "Huey" A2-110 will shortly be delivered to the museum, along with an M2A2 field gun and an M113 APC. The Canberra bomber has been dismantled and is now undergoing restoration, a magnificent Wessex helicopter is now on display and additional high interest exhibits-hopefully including all or part of an F111 are being sought. An official handover ceremony for the "Huey" helicopter will be conducted on the 2012 Museum Day on 18 November, a group of VetRide participants will make a symbolic ride into the museum, dedication of additional plaques in the garden of remembrance is anticipated.

The most anticipated event in the history of the museum will also take place: the handover of the museum land from the Victorian State Branch to the Museum company structure, signalling the final payment of the \$180,000 land mortgage, a magnificent effort by all concerned, and in particular the Victorian based Vietnam Veteran community.

The state branch education team continues to be in high demand for its services, and has a full book of engagements at secondary schools this year. At the AGM, the E Team presented a cheque for \$7000 to the state branch, being donations received from schools by the team during 2011. This money is placed in the state education account which is used to provide William Hacking bursaries -William Hacking, a Victorian, was the first Australian soldier to die on active service in Vietnam. The branch was also successful in gaining a grant from the Victorian Veterans Council for education purposes: part of the grant goes to the E Team to

meet their costs for equipment, brochure printing and other running costs. In February, the E Team was prominent in the TET festival celebrations at Caulfield. The team installed a magnificent display including a Long Tan replica Cross with a small pool of reflection. The cross and pool immediately became a place of significance for the Vietnamese, who erected a large sign of gratitude to the Australian Forces behind the cross. The pool was used by the Vietnamese to float candles and place burning incense and to offer up prayers for the Australians killed in Vietnam. It was a truly amazing scene. In a post script to the TET celebrations, the cross was presented to the Vietnamese community.

The state branch continues to support the Seymour Commemorative walk, purchasing a flag pole and a large engraved pavement block inscribed with the VVAA Logo to be placed at the head of the veterans walk.

Consideration is being given to the branch becoming a Life Member of the Friends of the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance program. For a one off subscription fee, the branch will be listed on the Shrine website, and have access to a range of functions and benefits. Life membership has the potential to open up further opportunities for the Shrine and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum to cooperate on mounting displays at the Shrine, as well as raise the profile of the Vietnam Veteran community, and contribute in a practical way to the maintenance of the ANZAC spirit.

Our relationship with the Victorian RSL Branch continues to flourish: our presence in ANZAC House gives us insight to and involvement in RSL activities that would not be possible otherwise. A close working relationship with the RSL as co-sponsors of the RVCP and membership on a number of RSL fostered committees also strengthens the relationship. We enjoy similar relationships with other major ESOs and like associations in Victoria. Sadly, all attempts to involve the VVFA in contributing to the planning of Vietnam Veteran related activities, particularly Vietnam Veterans Day have failed, however VVFA representatives do attend on the day.

It is sad to report that we have had a significant number of veterans pass away in the past six months or so, a worrying but not unexpected trend when the health and ageing profile of our membership is considered. Further, sub-branches have to work harder in order to keep in touch with their membership as we see a growing trend of ageing veterans changing residence as they move to aged care facilities and hostel type accommodation, and failing to advise changes to their sub-branches. This trend brings with it a whole new set of welfare challenges such as increasing demand for home visits, and changes to the level and type of social activities provided for members.

These significant changes are occurring in an environment where sub-branches find themselves stretched to find volunteers to run the affairs of the sub-branches. Fortunately, public support for Victorian based Vietnam Veterans remains high, and fund

raising through our badge week continues to provide significant funds to meet increasing demands. As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations, we have adopted the following theme that will appear on all our official correspondence in 2012:

***“Vietnam Veterans: Fifty Years on, Still Going Strong”***

Bob Elworthy  
State President

## VetRide ‘Tour of Duty’ 2012

West Gippsland Sub-Branch has a small group recreational bike riders; and about a year ago, members of this group thought about adding a longer bike ride to their activities. It got “wheels”, so to speak, and VetRide came into being as one of the Victorian Branch selected events to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the deployment of Australian troops to Vietnam.



The planning required to support VetRide presented significant challenges: selection of a suitable and safe route, sustenance for riders and support staff, control and movement of 75 people (50 riders and 25 support staff-60 cycles), over 400 kilometres, through a number towns and in the midst of all sorts of moving vehicles, and needing clearance to do so

from local councils and police.

The aims developed for the event, were a focus on veteran’s health and fitness and comradeship, both directly for the riders and indirectly by the example set and the presentation of veterans in the setting of the wider community. Those riding were also given an identifiable reason to ride, with the National Vietnam Veterans Museum made the beneficiary of the fund-raising being undertaken by each rider.

The ride attracted a variety of participants, including a number of Vietnam veterans and their supporters; including the 12 year old son of a Vietnam Veteran and some younger current serving veterans from the Australian Defence Cycling Club.

VetRide took place as planned on 26-29 March 12, with perfect cycling weather over the four days. The ride started at Echuca and ended at Melton with the riders

experiencing a variety of roads, differing landscapes, scenery, terrains and some challenging hills.



Along the way they were well looked after by the various dedicated road crews and the enthusiastic and welcoming members of each of the Victorian sub-branches along the route. The menu included a spit roast, cooked breakfasts and lots of fresh fruit and drinks, often served in remote locations by many cheerful sub-branch volunteers. This was an outstanding aspect of the ride and a major contributor to the enjoyment of the event overall.



From all accounts, VetRide has been both a ground breaking and worthwhile venture for the VVAA and many requests made for inclusion, for the next ride.



VetRide 2012, a very successful event, enjoyed by the participants and volunteer alike: an event that that would not have been possible without the unqualified support of the branch, excellent support of DVA, their VAN personnel along the way and the Victorian Veterans Council.



Are you having a reunion?  
Are you wanting help to find someone?  
Contact the Debrief Committee for publishing the info in the Winter 2012 Debrief.

When the door to happiness closes, another opens,  
But often times we look so long at the closed door that we don't see the one, which has been opened for us.



## NORTHERN TERRITORY

Well, here we are in 2012 and in the past twelve months we have had a good year and what I believe, has been quite successful. Our Pension/Welfare people have been quite busy throughout the year and we have seen a big increase in the MCRA claims being handled and they are proving to be a real handful, but we battle on. We have once again applied for BEST funding but as of the 15th June have not heard anything, these problems were aired at the National Council and Congress in Geelong and I hope that we can get some sort of order and cooperation from DVA in the near future.

We have maintained the number of members and have generated interest in the Association from outside of Vietnam veterans. We have had several invitations to give talks at Primary and High Schools throughout the year and I thank those vets who have given their time and effort to the kids for their education.

Vietnam Veterans Day was a success with 47 veterans marching to the Cenotaph and approximately 280 people attending the service. We delivered 33 books to Darwin and the Rural Area schools. Following the service we had a get-together at Reg Hillier House and had a good turn-up and enjoyed some good company, food and drinks.

The AGM was held in February and our Management Committees only changed slightly. I have accepted the position as President NT State Council, with Darryl Binns Vice President and Sue McCallum serving a dual role as Secretary/Treasurer. I know that they will be very helpful when the pressure is on.

The NT Rural Sub Branch Committee is Colin Hill, President; Ross Cowles, Vice President; Peter Mansell, Secretary and Sue McCallum, Treasurer. Unfortunately our President Colin, has had to move back to his home town in Victoria so Ross has taken up the position as president and the committee will be nominating a new Vice President in late June as per our constitution.

ANZAC Day was huge this year and it was estimated that there were 7500 plus at the Dawn service and about 8000 cheering the marchers. I don't know if it was the participation of about 200 US Marines, but boy, they can march and also enjoy our Aussie beer and joining in playing two-up. About 50 Vietnam Veterans marched under our banner and we all had a good day remembering and paying our respects to our fallen Diggers.

On May 4th, we had a Long Tan Bursary presentation to Miss Helen Rodgers, daughter of a Vietnam veteran. Included dignitaries the Hon. Warren Snowdon, Commodore Nick Heyler RAN and Malcolm Uhe, Deputy Commissioner DVA. The presentation was held in a conference room DVA Palmerston. I and a couple of others thought that it was not treated with the respect it should be and that it was well below par.



Above & below.  
ANZAC Day in the Northern Territory.



Coral House continues being funded by the Territory and Federal Governments through the SAAP program. Due to funding changes in this program several years ago, Coral House is now a short term accommodation facility for homeless men. It is not very often that there is an empty bed there as the homeless situation does not seem to be getting any better up here.

I am looking forward to the future for our mob up here in the NT and I believe that with the members that we have and also future members, we will have a strong reliable group to look after our Association and watch over and care for our future Veterans.

Peter Mansell,  
President

### NEW MERCHANDISE ITEM

I Support Vietnam Veterans Silicone Wristband  
20cm round.  
\$2.50 each

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Well, another year has come around:

The AGM was held at Walkerville R.S.L. on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012. At the AGM, the State Branch presented Honorary Membership to the following dignitaries:

- Hue Van Le: Lt Governor South Australia and Chairman of the S.A. Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.
- Hon. Jack Snelling MP: Minister for Veterans Affairs S.A.
- Hon. Dr Duncan McFetridge MP: Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs S.A.

Hon. Francis Bedford MP: Member for Florey and a long time supporter of V.V.A.A. (S.A. Branch).

We also presented our new Patron, Brig Laurie Lewis AM (Rtd) with a VVAA Plaque.

Over the last few years the State has seen many ups and downs, especially with B.E.S.T. funding, which has kept us preoccupied dealing with our dispute with the Department of Veterans Affairs, relating to rounds 9, 10, & 11 of the B.E.S.T. Grants. With the intervention of the National President, he has (I hope) resolved our dispute and hopefully we will move on from here.

Our donation request in lieu of our B.E.S.T. Grant funding has been answered by our Membership in a very affirmative way and our hearty thanks go out to all those who gave. This gesture will ensure the survival of the State Branch until the next round of B.E.S.T. Grants in 2012.

Anzac Day went well with the V.V.A.A. undertaking the Gunfire Breakfast for the first time. A good experience, and although we did not make a big profit on the day, it helped us pay for all the equipment, including the new barbeque. We are now well prepared to undertake next year's Gunfire Breakfast with all guns blazing.

Progress is well under way to execute our 1<sup>st</sup> all State Badge Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012, with all Sub Branches taking part. To help on the day, we have requested and been approved to use a number of current serving personnel, in uniform, from the Edinburgh Base to help sell Badges.

As an additional fundraiser, the State Branch will be holding a Xmas in July Cabaret in the Memorial Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012. Music will be provided by Gunners 'n' Grunts and guest artists will include Johnny Mac and Sebastian Scott. We trust that this will be successful to the point where it can become an annual event.

Progress is under way with the development of the Veterans' Shed, together with the establishment of a new Sub Branch at Glenelg.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the V.V.A.A. (SA Branch) held a joint Memorial Service at the Torrens Parade Ground, with the Vietnamese Veterans

Association to commemorate the fall of Saigon. This was the first time that we held this type of service in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and we have agreed to make this an annual event.

Our Patron Brig Laurie Lewis AM (Rtd) made a fine speech, which was then followed by a barbeque on the Lawns.

S.A.'s main concern is the continuous erosion of Pensions with regards to our Fair and Equitable Campaign relating to the General Rate and above General rate. The High Court of Australia has ruled that the Veterans' Entitlement Act (VEA), under which all pension entitlements relating to Vietnam Veterans are administered, exclude the principles of equity, fairness and natural justice – why? Let us fix this problem for the benefit of all Veterans.

Lastly, VVAA SA would like to congratulate Graham (Dunny) Dunstan for receiving the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) on the Queens Birthday Honours list for his service to the Veteran Community.

Michael Benyk JP  
President

### ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the 173D Airborne Brigade National Memorial at Fort Benning, Georgia USA

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial is a magnificent memorial, and the only one in the US to have names of fallen Australian and New Zealand soldiers included alongside their US mates. In this way, the Memorial not only captures the spirit of ANZAC, but also the close relationship between the ANZACs and the US; shedding blood together in combat now for nearly a century. The names of the those Australians and New Zealanders killed in Vietnam while under the operational control of the 173D Airborne Brigade appear on one of the most prominent panels on this memorial.

### *The Bathtub Test*

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."



"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"



### Annual ANZAC Challenge

This years Annual ANZAC Challenge was held in freezing conditions on 27<sup>th</sup> April at Maher Oval in Wagaa Wagga, these two Local AFL team have now been competing for the ANZAC Challenge Trophy (a 25 pound Super field gun shell) for some 5 years and we are seeing an increase in public support. The ANZAC Challenge match was modelled after the Melbourne ANZAC AFL ANZAC day match as the Local Magpies and Bombers teams have the same colours



*Above. This year we had the linesman hold the flags as there was no flag pole but it probably worked out better as we had both the Australian and New Zealand flags*

Since the ANZAC Challenge match is part of the local AFL competition round it has the added prestige of winning the ANZAC Challenge Trophy and having their colour displayed with the trophy in the Wagga Rules Club display cabinet.

The format was changed this year to allow a greater number to be involved in the pre match formalities and a thanks must go the Hewitt Whyman for this, as you will see from the photo's that the linesman are holding both the Australian and New Zealand flags, Huey presented the reading with David Williams recited the Ode and Shane Logan the Bugler sounding the last post and the rouse followed by Brittany's rendition of the National Anthem



*Above. L-R Les White, Hewitt Whyman, Rob Turner, Brittany Bedford, Bill Shea, David Williams and Shane Logan*

We were fortunate to have Brittany Bedford to lead the singing of the National Anthem and we thank Brittany as her singing has added a new dimension to the ceremony.

## ACT

This is my first report as the newly elected Branch President. It will cover membership, our new committee, policy issues and activities.

Our membership numbers continue to be satisfactorily healthy with a slight increase over last year. This is notwithstanding losses through death and relocation. Our new members seek assistance with pensions as well as the benefits of belonging to a vibrant, achieving operation that is renowned for always putting the Veteran first. We have several members rejoining for much the same reasons. We now have members with interstate addresses including Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland.

At the AGM Pete Ryan stood aside as president after a decade in the job. He agreed to stay on as vice president. Robynne Mitchell soldiers on as treasurer and acting secretary. We are looking at several candidates to come on board especially as secretary. Members stepped forward at the AGM to provide a healthy working committee.

As a newly elected president and after my time as vice president, I see the ACT remaining in the van on policy issues. We will continue to vigorously prosecute those matters of importance to Veterans.

Our Branch remains at the forefront in committee work in the local ESO community. Pete Ryan has agreed to do the lion's share of this work while we bring some new people on board to help share the load. A valuable by product of this committee work is the high regard the ACT Branch is held by others in the local ESO community.

We are responding to members' wishes by putting together a series of outings and social events. While the crisp days of the local winter are upon us, they are no real deterrent to getting out in good company be it as a theatre party or a barbeque.

Planning for Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day is underway. This year the focus will be on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Team" arriving in Vietnam. Thus AATTV members will take many of the roles in the Service. We expect the Governor-General to again lead the list of invited dignitaries at the National Australian Vietnam Forces Memorial on 18August.

We look forward to Congress being fruitful and productive and controversy free.

Kevin Gill  
State President

### All you ever want to know about Vietnam

This site is very good for research

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

## HUEY A2-110 ON ITS WAY TO THE MUSEUM



A Bell Iroquois UH-1H ("Huey") helicopter, designation A2-110, will be transported to the museum from Queensland by Army transport. The Vietnam War has often been referred to as a helicopter war, and one of the most easily recognisable battle field sounds was that of the Iroquois "Huey" helicopter. The Iroquois helicopter, flown by pilots of the RAAF 9 Squadron, was the battle field workhorse; in its various forms, the helicopter was used to transport troops and supplies, provide battlefield gunship support and "Dust Off" battlefield medical emergency evacuation.



The helicopter being delivered to the museum saw operational service in Vietnam from 1969 onwards as a "Bushranger" gunship, and was severely damaged when it crash landed.

At one point, the helicopter was grounded for a period of time while ground crew dismantled part of the fuselage in the hunt for a snake that had taken up residence in the aircraft. A number of Victorian based RAAF Vietnam Veterans worked on the aircraft, including David Streatfeild (9 SQN RAAF 69-70, 71), a member of the DViets, who works in the Defence Department. David was appointed as our representative to undertake negotiations with Defence to obtain a "Huey", and he has been instrumental in acquiring A2-110 for the museum, negotiating a no-charge demilitarization of the helicopter and arranging transport.

## VETERANS WARNED OF POTENTIAL SCAMS

Veterans have been approached by scam artists claiming to represent the Australian Government, Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Mr Ian Campbell said today.

Mr Campbell said the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) had been made aware of several approaches to members of the veteran community asking for personal information in order to receive assistance under the Government's Household Assistance Package. In some cases these people posed as officers from DVA.

"These 'offers' are false and my Department is investigating these incidents," he said.

"There is no need for veterans to be asked for personal information, such as banking details, over the phone in order to receive their household assistance from the Government.

"Veterans across the country should be aware of the potential scams and be vigilant about providing their personal information over the phone.

- Be cautious about when and to whom you release your personal information.
- If you receive a phone call or letter asking for personal information such as your DVA client number or banking details, do not answer straight away. Contact your nearest DVA office on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia to confirm the source is legitimate.

"It is disappointing that our veterans are being targeted by cowardly scams and I encourage members of the veteran community to contact DVA if they have any concerns," Mr Campbell said.

Visit the Government's Scamwatch website – [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au) – or call the hotline on 1300 795 995 for useful information on how to protect your privacy.

## NEW NATIONAL MERCHANDISE ITEM

4 Ribbon Scarfe. 180cm x 16cm. \$27.50each





# VVAA NATIONAL MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

CODE	ITEM	Price	CODE	ITEM	Price
<b>BELT BUCKLES</b>			<i>Cloth Patches Cont...</i>		
BB001	RAN	29.00	CP005	Republic of Vietnam Service	7.00
BB002	ARMY	29.00	CP004	AVF with Kangaroo	7.00
BB003	RAAF	29.00	CP007	5 RAR Tiger Patch	7.00
BB005	Vietnam Veteran	29.00	CP009	1 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB006	RAR	29.00	CP010	2 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB007	RAE	29.00	CP012	4 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB008	RA Sigs	29.00	CP008	5 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB009	RAA	29.00	CP013	6 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB010	RAAC	29.00	CP014	7 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB011	RAEME	29.00	CP015	8 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB012	RAR Brass	29.00	CP016	9 RAR with Badge	7.00
BB013	RAASC	29.00	CP017	My Husband Served	6.00
BB014	SASR	29.00	CP018	RAR Badge	7.00
BB015	Vietnam Veteran	29.00	CP019	Rising Sun Badge	8.00
BB016	RAR Veteran	29.00	CP020	Slouch Hat/Australia	7.00
BB017	RAN	29.00	CP021	1 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB018	RAAF	29.00	CP022	2 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB019	RA INF	29.00	CP023	3 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB020	9 Sqn	29.00	CP024	4 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB023	RAAMC	29.00	CP025	5 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB025	Medic	29.00	CP026	6 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB026	Vietnam Veteran Four Ribbon	29.00	CP027	7 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB027	Vietnam Veteran 4 Ribbon (Map of Aust)	33.00	CP028	8 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB028	Navy (Colour Insignia)	29.00	CP029	9 RAR Coloured	10.00
BB029	35 Sqn	29.00	CP030	I wasn't there - but I care	8.00
BB030	RAR Black/Gold	29.00	CP031	2/4 RAR Colour Patch	10.00
BB031	RACT	29.00	CP032	5/7 RAR Colour Patch	10.00
<b>CAPS</b>			CP033	8/9 RAR Colour Patch	10.00
CAP01	Vietnam Veteran 4 Ribbon	17.50	CP034	In Memorium	10.00
CAP02	Green & Tan 4 Ribbon	17.50	CP035	4 Ribbon Strip	7.00
CAP03	Navy Cap with Ribbons	17.50	CP037	Navy Vietnam Veteran	12.00
CAP04	UC DAI LOI	17.50	CP038	1 RAR—173rd Airborne	10.00
CAP05	VVAA Logo Black	17.50	CP039	RAA	10.00
CAP07	Vietnam Veteran Supporter Black	17.50	CP040	1 Field Regt	10.00
CAP08	I Love My Vietnam Vet	17.50	CP041	4 Field Regt	10.00
CAP09	Cable Knit Beanie Viet Vet 4 Rib N/Blue	17.50	CP042	12 Field Regt	10.00
CAP10	Cable Knit Beanie Viet Vet 4 Ribbon Black	17.50	CP043	White Ensign	7.00
CAP11	Giggle Hat 4 Ribbon Green/Gold	17.50	CP044	Dysfunctional Veteran	12.00
CAP12	Giggle Hat 4 Ribbon Navy/White	17.50	CP046	Aust Flag Vietnam Veteran Australia	6.00
CAP13	Giggle Hat Navy Ribbons Navy Blue	17.50	CP047	Aust Flag Vietnam Veteran Supporter	6.00
CAP14	Cable Knit Beanie Navy Ribbons Navy blue	17.50	CP048	Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club	8.00
CAP15	Giggle Hat 4 Ribbon Black/Orange	17.50	CP049	RANHFV	7.00
CAP16	Giggle Hat Supporter Black/Orange	17.50	CP050	ICB	7.00
CAP18	My Dad served in Vietnam Green/Tan	17.50	CP051	Red Rooster	8.00
CAP19	My Dad served in Vietnam Black	17.50	CP052	Samalia Veteran Australia Flag	8.00
CAP22	My Grandad served in Vietnam Green/Tan	17.50	CP053	Timor Veteran Australia Flag	8.00
CAP23	My Grandad served in Vietnam Black	17.50	CP054	Iraq Veteran Australia Flag	8.00
CAP26	RAAF 4 Ribbon	17.50	CP055	Afghanistan Veteran Australia Flag	8.00
CAP27	Dysfunctional Veteran 4 Ribbon	17.50	CP056	RAEME	12.00
CAP28	Dysfunctional Veteran Plain	17.50	CPA01	VVAA Patch	7.00
CAP29	RANHFV	17.50	CPA02	VVAA Pocket Patch	9.00
CAP30	Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club	17.50	<b>JEWELLERY</b>		
CAP31	Rising Sun	17.50	M002	Four Ribbon Necklace	11.00
CAP32	Support our Troops	17.50	M023	Four Ribbon Wrist Band	7.00
<b>CLOTH PATCHES</b>			M032	Magnetic Bracelet	17.00
CP001	Vet with Aust Flag	7.00	M033	I Support Vietnam Veterans Wristband	2.50
CP002	Aust Vietnam Forces	7.00	C002	Ear Rings Sixpence Gold	22.00
CP003	Viet Cong Hunting Club	7.00	C003	Pendant Silver Sixpence	16.50
			C004	Pendant Gold Sixpence	16.50

CODE	ITEM	Price	CODE	ITEM	Price
<i>Jewellery Cont...</i>			<i>Lapel Badges Cont...</i>		
C006	Ear Rings Sixpence Silver	22.00	LP039	Vietnam Veterans Hunting Club	6.50
VM016	Vietnam Memorial Dual Time Sports Watch	148.50	LP046	Nurses	6.50
VM017	Vietnam “ Gold Dress Watch Black Face	77.00	LP047	NUI DAT	6.50
VM019	Vietnam “ Gold Dress Watch White Face	77.00	LP051	INFANTRY	6.50
<b>KEYRINGS</b>			LP052	PHAN RANG	6.50
KR001	Rising Sun	6.50	LP053	VUNG TAU	6.50
KR002	RAE	6.50	LP057	3 Ribbon Brooch	7.50
KR003	RAAF	6.50	LP058	BARIA	6.50
KR004	RAAC	6.50	LP060	My Granddad Served in Vietnam over Map	6.50
KR005	Aviation	6.50	LP061	G'Day	6.50
KR006	Navy	6.50	LP062	'it Happens	6.50
KR007	RAEME	6.50	LP063	Aust/Viet Flags	6.50
KR008	HMAS Hobart	6.50	LP067	Porky Pig	6.50
KR011	1 RAR	6.50	LP068	Crossed US/Aus Flags	6.50
KR012	2 RAR	6.50	LP069	Crossed NZ/Aus Flags	6.50
KR013	3 RAR	6.50	LP072	Red Rooster Lg	6.50
KR014	4 RAR	6.50	LP073	Vietnam Veteran Partner	6.50
KR015	5 RAR	6.50	LP081	Tonkin Gulf Tacht Club	7.00
KR016	6 RAR	6.50	LP082	RANHFV	7.00
KR017	7 RAR	6.50	LP085	Sea Dragon	6.50
KR018	8 RAR	6.50	LP088	My Brother Served in VN over Map	6.50
KR019	9 RAR	6.50	<b>LAPEL BADGES - SERVICE RELATED</b>		
KR020	RAA	6.50	LP074	Vietnam Veteran	6.50
KR022	Bullet	6.50	LP004	White Ensign	6.50
C005	Penny Key Ring	6.50	LP007	RAN Logo	6.50
<b>COMMEMORATIVE</b>			LP089	RAN Ensign 1911-2011	6.50
LT01	Long Tan 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Badge	5.50	LP090	RAN Centenary	6.50
LT02	Vietnam Helicopter Badge	5.50	LP010	Vietnam Star	6.50
LT03	Remember Vietnam Ribbon	2.00	LP016	RAAF Badge	6.50
LT04	Long Tan Cross Tri Ribbon	5.50	LP017	Slouch Hat Solid	6.50
LT05	The Gunners	5.50	LP038	RAR Badge (Skippy)	6.50
LT06	Tracker Dog	5.50	LP080	RAR Badge (Skippy) Lg	10.00
LT07	The Tanks & APC's	5.50	LP040	Slouch Hat Painted	6.50
LT08	Engineers	5.50	LP048	ICB Miniature	6.50
LT09	Vietnam War Series Case (For LT 1,2,5,6,7,8)	9.90	LP087	ICB Large	10.00
LT10	Vietnam Collection Medallion Set 09	60.00	LP056	Tri-Service Badge	6.50
LT11	Vietnam Collection Lapel Pin Set 09	25.00	LP065	Airborne	6.50
LT12	Vietnam Collection Medallion on Card 09	10.00	LP064	RAAF Security	6.50
LT13	Vietnam Collection Lapel Pin on Card 09	5.50	LP066	173 <sup>rd</sup> Airborne	6.50
VM014	Vietnam Veteran Memorial Plaque (Bronze finish)	27.50	LP008	Rising Sun Mini	6.50
M006	The History of the Rising Sun Set	89.00	LP076	Rising Sun Small	6.00
P003	Vietnam War Service Plaque	55.00	LP075	Rising Sun Large	10.00
LT14	2010 Lapel Pin on Card	6.50	LP078	Engineers	6.50
LT15	2010 Medallion	10.00	<b>LAPEL BADGES - AIRCRAFT</b>		
LT20	Vietnam 50 Years Commemoration Badge	10.00	LP054	UHI Solid	6.50
<b>LAPEL BADGES</b>			LP037	UHI Single	6.50
LP001	We Were Winning When I Left	6.50	LP030	2 UHI's	6.50
LP002	I've Been There	6.50	LP043	4 UHI's	6.50
LP003	Australian Vietnam Forces Black	6.50	LP044	C130 Large	6.00
LP006	God Duty Country	6.50	LP045	C130 Small	6.00
LP009	Australian Vietnam Forces Gold	6.50	<b>LAPEL BADGES - WEAPONS</b>		
LP023	Republic of Vietnam Service	6.50	LP011	M60	6.00
LP024	My Dad Served in Vietnam over Map	6.50	LP012	SKS Rifle	6.00
LP025	My Husband Served in Vietnam over Map	6.50	LP014	M26 Grenade	6.00
LP026	Vietnam Veteran over Map	6.50	LP018	Rocket Launcher	6.00
LP027	Served in Vietnam over Map	6.50	LP019	M14 Rifle	6.00
LP028	M55A1	6.50	LP020	M16	6.00
LP031	VIET NAM	6.50	LP021	SLR	6.00
LP032	My Man Served in Vietnam over Map	6.50	LP022	M79	6.00
LP036	I Love my Vietnam Veteran	6.50	LP029	M203	6.00



CODE	ITEM	Price	CODE	ITEM	Price
<i>Lapel Badges—Weapon Cont...</i>			<i>Stickers Cont....</i>		
LP041	80MM Mortar	6.00	ST034	Vietnam Veteran Oval (4 Ribbon) Small	5.50
LP042	Pineapple Grenade	6.00	ST035	RAAF Vietnam Veteran 4 Ribbon	5.50
LP049	Claymore Mine	6.00	ST036	Wallaby Airlines	5.50
LP050	Crossed SLR's	6.00	ST037	Proud ARMY Veteran	5.50
LP079	M113 - APC	6.00	ST038	Proud NAVY Veteran	5.50
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			ST041	RAEME	4.00
LA003	Lanyard 4 Ribbon	5.50	ST042	Support our Afghanistan Troops	5.50
M028	Four Ribbon Scarfe	25.00	ST043	DYSFUNCTIONAL Veteran	5.50
FA002	4 Ribbon Caravan Flag	15.00	ST044	If you can read this... thank a teacher.....	5.50
M003	Vietnam Veteran 4 Ribbon Bar Runner	33.00	ST045	RAN – Vietnam Logistic Support	5.50
M004	Four Ribbon Viet Vet Stubbie Holder	8.50	STA01	VVAA Coloured Logo Lg	7.70
M007	Viet Vet Supporter Stubbie Holder	8.50	STA02	VVAA Sticker Coloured	5.50
M022	Vietnam Remembered Stubbie Holder	8.50	STA05	VVAA Sticker Envelope (36 to a sheet)	1.00
M024	Wallaby Airlines Stubbie Holder	8.50	STA06	Honour The Dead.... with Assn Badge	5.50
M025	Stubbie Holder Leather 4 Ribbon	10.00	<b>BOMBER JACKET</b>		
M005	Plastic Pocket Medal Holder	8.00	SH75	Bomber Jacket Black or Navy (with Association Logo, 4 Ribbon Viet Vet or Navy Veteran with Ribbons)	66.00
M011	Bullet Letter Opener	18.00	<b>POLO SHIRT Vietnam (Green/Gold)</b>		
NP001	Number Plate Surrounds White (Australian Vietnam Veteran)	14.25 Set	SH10	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran S	40.00
NP002	Number Plate Surrounds Black (Australian Vietnam Veteran)	14.25 Set	SH11	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran M	40.00
NP003	Num/Plate Surrounds Four Ribbon	22.00 Set	SH12	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran L	40.00
NP005	Num/Plate Surrounds (Proud Aust Veteran)	14.25 Set	SH13	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran XL	40.00
NP006	N/Plate Surround VVAA Black Standard (Honour the Dead..... )	4.50 Ea	SH14	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran XXL	40.00
NP007	N/Plate Surround VVAA Premium Black (Honour the Dead..... )	4.50 Ea	SH15	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 3XL	40.00
PEN02	Bullet Pen	22.00	SH16	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 4XL	40.00
PEN05	Bullet Pen Refills Black	3.50	<b>POLO SHIRT Vietnam (Navy/White)</b>		
PEN03	Camouflage Pen Desert	2.50	SH55	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran S	40.00
PEN04	Camouflage Pen Desert	2.50	SH56	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran M	40.00
PEN06	Vietnam Remembered Pen	2.50	SH57	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran L	40.00
<b>STICKERS</b>			SH58	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran XL	40.00
ST001	Two Ribbon Car Sticker	5.50	SH59	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran XXL	40.00
ST002	3 Ribbon Car Vietnam Vet & proud of it)	5.50	SH60	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 3XL	40.00
ST003	Car Sticker Vietnam Veteran	2.00	SH61	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 4XL	40.00
ST006	4 Ribbon Envelope (90 stickers per sheet)	5.50	<b>POLO SHIRT Vietnam (Black/Orange)</b>		
ST007	Warning Premises Guarded	5.50	SH76	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran S	40.00
ST008	Vet on The Loose	5.50	SH77	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran M	40.00
ST010	Aust War Veteran	5.50	SH78	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran L	40.00
ST011	Infantry Combat Badge	5.50	SH79	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran XL	40.00
ST012	Aust Flag (If you don't love it – Leave)	5.50	SH80	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 2XL	40.00
ST013	3 Ribbon Sticker Long	5.50	SH81	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 3XL	40.00
ST014	RAN	5.50	SH82	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 4XL	40.00
ST015	RAAF	5.50	SH84	Polo Shirt Vietnam Veteran 5XL	40.00
ST016	Vietnam Veteran	5.50	<b>POLO SHIRT Viet Remembered 4 Ribbon</b> (Black shirt with Gold print)		
ST017	Vietnam Vet Oval (Four Ribbon) Large	6.00	SH85	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered4 Ribbon S	40.00
ST018	4 Ribbon Large	6.00	SH86	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered4 Ribbon M	40.00
ST019	Army	5.50	SH87	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon L	40.00
ST020	RAR	5.50	SH88	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon XL	40.00
ST021	Australian/Vietnam Flags	5.50	SH89	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon 2XL	40.00
ST023	4 Ribbon Mini	4.40	SH90	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon 3XL	40.00
ST024	Navy Ensign	5.50	SH91	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon 4XL	40.00
ST025	Agent Orange Health Club	5.50	SH92	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon 5XL	40.00
ST027	Support our Troops	5.50	SH93	Pocket Patch	1.50
ST028	4 Ribbon Viet Vet & Proud	5.50	<b>POLO SHIRT Vietnam Remembered Plain</b> (Black shirt with Gold print)		
ST029	Proud—Daughter of a Vietnam Veteran	4.95	SH94	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain S	40.00
ST030	Proud—Son of a Vietnam Veteran	4.95	SH95	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain M	40.00
ST031	Four Ribbon Sticker Long	5.50	SH96	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain L	40.00
ST032	National Service 5 Ribbon	5.50	SH97	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain XL	40.00
ST033	4 Ribbon Strip	2.50			

CODE	ITEM	Price
<b>POLO SHIRT Vietnam Remembered Plain</b>		
	(Black shirt with Gold print) <b>Cont...</b>	
SH98	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain 2XL	40.00
SH99	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain 3XL	40.00
SH100	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain 4XL	40.00
SH101	Polo Shirt Vietnam Remembered Plain 5XL	40.00

<b>T SHIRT Vietnam Remembered</b>		
	(Khaki Green T Shirt with Huey on front)	
SH110	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered S	25.00
SH111	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered M	25.00
SH112	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered L	25.00
SH113	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered XL	25.00
SH114	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered 2XL	25.00
SH115	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered 3XL	25.00
SH116	T Shirt Vietnam Remembered 5XL	25.00

<b>VEST Veteran 4 Ribbon</b>		
	(Reversible Black/Black)	
SH48	Vest 4 Ribbon Veteran S	44.00
SH49	Vest " M	44.00
SH50	Vest " L	44.00
SH51	Vest " XL	44.00
SH52	Vest " 2XL	44.00
SH53	Vest " 3XL	44.00
SH54	Vest " 5XL	44.00

<b>VEST Vietnam Remembered 4 Ribbon</b>		
	<b>Veteran</b> (Reversible Black/Black)	
SH103	Vest Vietnam Remembered Veteran S	47.00
SH104	Vest " " M	47.00
SH105	Vest " " L	47.00
SH106	Vest " " XL	47.00
SH107	Vest " " 2XL	47.00
SH108	Vest " " 3XL	47.00
SH109	Vest " " 5XL	47.00

<b>VEST Navy Veteran with ribbons (Reversible)</b>		
	<b>(Navy/Navy)</b>	
SH68	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran S	44.00
SH69	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran M	44.00
SH70	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran L	44.00
SH71	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran XL	44.00
SH72	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran 2XL	44.00
SH73	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran 3XL	44.00
SH74	Vest (Reversible) Navy Veteran 5XL	44.00

<b>VEST Supporter (Reversible) (Black/Black)</b>		
SH41	Vest (Reversible) Supporter S	44.00
SH42	Vest " M	44.00
SH43	Vest " L	44.00
SH44	Vest " XL	44.00
SH45	Vest " 2XL	44.00
SH46	Vest " 3XL	44.00
SH47	Vest " 5XL	44.00

<b>VVAA SHIRTS</b>		
	(Chambray in Short/Long sleeve available)	
SH08	Shirt Small	32.00
SH01	Shirt Med	32.00
SH02	Shirt Large	32.00
SH03	Shirt XL	32.00
SH04	Shirt 2XL	32.00
SH05	Shirt 3XL	32.00
SH07	Shirt 4XL	32.00
SH09	Shirt 5XL	32.00

CODE	ITEM	Price
<b>VVAA ITEMS</b>		
VA001	Ring Sterling Silver	POA
VA002	Ring 9ct Gold	POA
VA003	Ring 18ct Gold	POA
VA009	Jarrah Plaque	49.00
VA012	VVAA Pocket Diary (Week to a turn)	POA
VA013	VVAA A5 Diary (Day to a page)	POA
CBA01	VVAA Car Badge	27.50
CAD02	Card VVAA Blank Inside	1.00
FA001	Association Flag	30.00
PA001	Plaque	35.00
PEN01	Biro	10.00
TIE01	Tie VVAA Maroon	27.50
TIE03	Tie VVAA Black	27.50
LPA02	VVAA Lapel Pins (Sub branches only)	6.00
MA01	Wooden Bottle Opener VVAA	30.00

**MAPS**

MAP01	Australians Remembered Map	16.50
MAP02	Australians Remembered Map Laminated	49.45

**TIE CLIPS & CD's**

TC001	Tie Clip Vietnam Veteran	7.50
TCA01	VVAA Tie Clip	8.50
CD001	CD Digger	30.00
CD004	TWO YEARS TOO LONG	15.00
CD005	Living in The Shadow of the Wire	10.00

**Wooden Models**

WM02	UHI Std	60.00
WM04	Blackhawk Lg	90.00
WM05	Chinook Std	60.00
WM08	C130 Hercules	85.00
WM10	SLR Rifle	80.00
WM11	M16 Vietnam Memorial Model	Special Price 90.00
WM14	M60 Machine Gun	Special Price 90.00



**NEW ITEMS**  
**Left. Rising Sun Cap**  
**Right. Support our**  
**Troops Cap \$17.50ea**

**DISCONTINUED LINES****VEST Supporter (Reversible) (Navy/Navy) \$20ea**

S - 1 Left, M - 2 Left, XL-1 Left, 2XL-2 Left, 5XL-2 Left

**JUMPER Supporter (Navy Polar Fleece) \$20ea**

S - 3 Left, M - 4 Left, 2XL - 1 Left, 3XL - 1 Left, 5XL - 1 Left

**JUMPER Veteran (Polar Fleece Black) \$20ea**

S - 3 Left, M - 4 Left

**CAPS**

CAP06	Vietnam Veteran Supporter Navy Blue	2 Left	10.00
CAP17	Giggle Hat Supporter Navy Blue	9 Left	10.00
CAP20	My Dad Served in Vietnam Navy	10 Left	10.00
CAP21	My Dad Served in Vietnam Cream	9 Left	10.00
CAP24	My Granddad served in Vietnam Navy	7 Left	10.00
CAP25	My Granddad Served in Vietnam Cream	7 Left	10.00

**Numberplate Surrounds**

NP006	N/Plate Surround VVAA Black Standard	4.50 Ea
	(Honour the Dead.....)	
NP007	N/Plate Surround VVAA Premium Black	4.50 Ea
	(Honour the Dead.....)	

**Please Note: These discontinued items were available at time of Debrief going to print.**



## VIETNAM VETERANS FRIENDLY RETREATS

### Queensland

**Standown Park:** 91 Radke Road, Kia Ora (halfway between Gympie and Tin Can Bay). Power, water, pets, open fire, showers, toilets, disable facilities, coin laundry, secure off the highway, restful surrounds. No cabins/onsite vans. Discount for veterans.

Contact owners Rod (ex 9RAR) and Pam Elkington (07) 5486 5144 or 0417 718 127

**Cockscomb Veterans Camp:** Located only 23km from Rockhampton, camp kitchen, showers, toilets, no power, \$ 5 donation.

Contact Allan Evans (07) 4934 4941 for directions

**Pandanus Park:** Follow the three red stripes from Mareeba, no facilities, take all and remove your rubbish. This is an isolated retreat in Cape York

**Sapphire Gemfields:** Located behind the post office at the RSL, power, toilets, showers, water, and barbecue. The Club bar is open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. \$5.00 per night Contact Peter Johnson (ex 6RAR) 0439 797 175

**Alaric Homestead Veterans Retreat at Quilpie:** The Homestead is fully furnished and managed by a Veteran Duty Officer. Very low nominal fee charged per day. Caravans and camper trailers can be parked at a low daily fee. Booking essential for the Homestead (not necessary for caravans/campers) Contact the Duty Officer (07) 4656 4740. Email: alaricretreat@activ8.net.au C/O PO Quilpie Qld 4480

**Rocky Creek War Memorial Park:** This camp spot is located at Tolga. The Atherton Shire Council maintains it. There is a 72-hour limit and a gold coin donation. There are toilets, barbecue, and non-potable water. It is a memorial site to all soldiers, who trained on the tablelands before being sent overseas. There is a caretaker on site.

**Zac's Place:** Located on 715 Ross River Road, Kirwan, Townsville, run by VVAA Qld Branch. There is accommodation for up to 11 people with all facilities. Tariff is \$25.00 Accommodation, Breakfast and Light Lunch. Contact manager Mrs Margaret Standfast

Ph. (07) 4773 6980 or A/H (07) 4723 7022

**Homestead Caravan Park:**, located along the Landsborough Highway at Barcaldine Queensland Every day in the late afternoon during winter your hosts Ben and Thanh prepare the campfire with damper and billy tea proved prepared the old bush way. Entertainment nightly. They always have something special on for Vietnam Veterans Day 18<sup>th</sup> August. Cabins available.

For Reservations ph. Ben or Thanh on (07) 4651 1308

### South Australia

#### Bublacowie Military Museum:

Located between Stansbury and Giles Point Yorktown. Three Veteran Museums - \$5.00 admission, \$2.00 children Accommodation enquiries: Contact owner Chris Soar (ex vet of Malaya) (08) 8853 4379 or 0419 853 294

**Camp Andrew Russell:** in South Australia is located 35km Sth East of Loxton along the Murray Bridge Road, turn left (or right if coming from Adelaide) onto the Lameroo Road, taking the right fork along the road. The entrance is marked with a cream tractor tyre, just past a road sign. You will need a key for access and thus need to contact John Hough mobile 0409 098 093

### New South Wales

**Ramon Deed Veterans Retreat:** This retreat was named after Ramon John Deed, of 1FId Sqn, Vietnam. The retreat is located at Dareton, 17Km from Mildura & 16Km from Wentworth and is open to all Veterans, serving & ex-service personnel & their families. There is power & water. Unpowered (\$10.00 per night) powered (\$20 per night) Phone: Barry & Di Langan (03) 5027 4447

Email rdveteransretreat@bigpond.com

**Murraguldrrie Veterans Retreat:** It is situated on the edge of the Murraguldrrie State Forest about forty minute drive from Wagga Wagga, and approximately seven kilometres from the Hume Highway turn off point to Tumbarumba on the Tumbarumba Road.

To arrange access or booking enquiries contact:

Gordon Irvine" (02) 6971 2488—0428 381 292 M

Les White: (02) 6922 6097—0428 226 097 M

Bob May: (02) 6931 2634—0417 490 127 M

Email vvsouthwestnsw@gmail.com

### Tasmania

**Tasmania Veterans Retreat:** Offers fully equipped-House accommodation in the remote Central Highlands area, 20 minutes from Bothwell. \$30.00 per double + \$5.00 per extra person. Bookings made through the State RSLA Headquarters, Hobart.(03) 6224 0881. Open to all APPVA members.

### Western Australia

**Camp Hart:** Camp Hart is a combination of private and crown land vested with the Shire of Kulin. It is situated 3.5 hours south east of Perth, 14kms east of Kulin, Camp Hart is a memorial park located next to Lake Jilakin and in the shadow of Jilakin Rock. It offers shade, ablution block, sheltered barbecue and bush kitchen. Donations are welcome. Open to all ADF Veterans. All inquiries are to be made to Roger Lingard (08) 9527 8000 or 0419 944 627.

**Bruce Rock:** situated 254 Km from Perth in the wheat belt. Vets always welcome but each year in November they conduct a Vietnam Veterans activity. Most stay at the Bruce Rock Caravan Park Ph. (08) 9061 1070

### Northern Territory

**Roper Retreat:** Same as for Pandanus Park, take only Photos. Leave no footprints, Located 31 Klm along the Northern Territory Highway turn north at Elsey Station sign. 3 Klm along you pass the Manager's House and just 5km you reach the Roper. PH Tony 0401 100 514 or Jimbob 0419 414 209

**Coral House:** Located 107 Bagot Rd, Ludmilla run by VVAA NT, shared kitchen facilities, laundry and bathroom, linen, TV in common room three shared bedrooms providing seven beds. Contact manager Jack Hamilton on Ph. 8948 0050.

For any further information on any of these retreats please visit our website [www.vvaa.org.au](http://www.vvaa.org.au)  
If any of you Grey nomads know or hear of any other veteran friendly retreats please let us know by notifying

John P Smith Email president@vvaqueensland.asn.au or Ken Foster, Email VVAA.sec@bigpond.com

## Ravenshoe RSL Military Muster

The muster is held in the grounds of the Ravenshoe Pony Club and the aim is to commemorate the occupation of the Ravenshoe-Millstream areas during World War II by the 7th and 9th Australian Divisions. Remains of their camp sites are clearly visible and we are able to help with placing where the different Units were camped.



The weekend is planned for exhibitors and those coming to look to have an enjoyable time and to take the opportunity to visit a very interesting part of Qld reached from Innisfail via the Palmerston Highway and Cairns via the Kuranda Range or Gillies Highway. Ravenshoe is 3000ft above sea level and is Farming, Dairying and Timber country with many local attractions.

The muster is part of Ravenshoe's annual fortnight-long Torimba Cultural Festival - which also officially



opens on October 6th.

WW11 troop train rides in the steam train "Capella" from Ravenshoe to Tumoulin – a journey of approximately one and a half hours - will be available to jolt memories of yesteryear.

Members of The Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle

There are various accommodation options available, including camping with your vehicle at the Ravenshoe Pony Club; The Koolmoon Motel, Tully Falls Hotel, Club Hotel Motel, the Tall Timbers Roadhouse, Kennedy Highway, and local B and B's.

Regards, Geoff Solly



## ANZAC DAY SERVICE

### held in USA at Harvard Business School

While away studying, Amanda Cox (daughter of Rob our National Treasurer) and thirty of her classmates held their own ANZAC Day Remembrance Service in the grounds of the Harvard Business School



*Pictured left to right are:*

*Ahmet Yildirim - Turkey, Roger Bayley - NSW, Cameron Coleman - Qld, Fiona Michel - NZ, Peter Brulisauer - NSW, Amanda Cox - WA, Justin Taylor - WA, Simon Ridgway - SA, Reynard Smith - Vic*

The sacred bells of Danilov Monastery in Moscow were saved from destruction by Ambassador Charles R Crane. One hung in the Cupola of Baker Library, the iconic image of Harvard Business School from 1931 until 2007. The original bells were returned to their Historic Home in Moscow.

This bell is a half-size replica of the Centennial bell, serving as an enduring symbol of the Harvard Business School community and a tribute to the friendship and cultural understanding between Harvard University and The Monastery of Saint Daniel.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### 6 RAR ASSOCIATION PERTH REUNION 14 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2012

Details and registration form are on the 6 RAR Association website, [www.6rarassociation.com](http://www.6rarassociation.com)

Arthur Willemse

Secretary

6 RAR Association

Email [secretary@6rarassociation.com](mailto:secretary@6rarassociation.com)

PO Box 225, Red Hill Qld 4059

#### Reunion

B Coy 2 RAR/NZ ANZAC Battalion

South Vietnam 1967-1968. Reunion 2012.

23rd—26th April 2012

Nanango Qld

Contact:

Peter Gurney

0419 649 774

Email [siren33@bigpond.com](mailto:siren33@bigpond.com)

### THE 9<sup>th</sup> BATTALION REUNION 2012

9<sup>th</sup> Nov-12th Nov

**Active service Republic of South Vietnam Nov 1968 to DEC 1969: 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of raising of the battalion.**

Look at 9 RAR website for details or contact National Reunion Co ordinate Trevor Murdoch

PO BOX 253 Narrabeen NSW 2101

Email [tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au](mailto:tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au)

Web site : [www.9rar.org.au/](http://www.9rar.org.au/)

#### Looking for next-of-kin

The men listed below have been posthumously approved for the award of the Commendation for Gallantry for their service during World War II and to date their award has not been claimed. If you are related to any of these men, or know of someone who may be related.

PTE Alexander John BELL      PTE Victor Lawrence GALE

SGT Joseph Kenneth BELL      SIG Howard Frederick HARVEY

PTE Joseph BELL      MAJ Alan MULL

GNR Thomas Stephen CUMMING

GNR Arthur REEVE

SGT Clifford Edmund DANAHER

Contact the Directorate of Honours & Awards' telephone enquiry line on 1800 111 321.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Intake JRTE HMAS Leeuwin 1961

#### First ever reunion

Approximate date is yet to be confirmed, assume Feb/March 2014.

To be held in the Shellharbour area NSW about 110km south of Sydney.

To register your interest and for further details c

Contact Dave Turner [davkat@bigpond.net.au](mailto:davkat@bigpond.net.au) or 02 9520 2810

### REUNION

HQ 1 ATF ASSOCIATION

D&E PLATOON.

MERIMBULA NSW

8-12 NOVEMBER 2012.

Register:

HQIATF Association

John Verhelst

P O Box Gladesville NSW 1675

[john@jhconsult.com.au](mailto:john@jhconsult.com.au) Ph: 0437 212121

### PASSING OF THE FIRST RSM-A, WO1 WALLY THOMPSON, OAM

1. IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT ARMY MUST ADVISE OF THE DEATH OF WO1 WALLY THOMPSON OAM, ARMY'S FIRST RSM -A. WALLY PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY AT BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL AT APPROXIMATELY 1300 H TODAY, HURSDAY 19 APRIL 2012.

#### 2. WALLY'S SERVICE HISTORY:

2A. 1950 - 54 - CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES AND CONSCRIPTED UNDER THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME.

2B. 1954 - ENLISTED IN THE ARA POSTED TO 2 RAR, SERVING WITH THE BATTALION ON OPERATIONS IN MALAYA.

2C. 1961 - 63 - POSTED TO THE BRITISH ARMY JUNGLE WARFARE SCHOOL.

2D. 1963 - 64 - 1 RAR

2E. 1964 - 65 - AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM - VIETNAM

2F. 1965 - 67 - SUR

2G. 1967 - HQ 10 TF (CSM HQ COY)

2H. 1968 - 1 RAR (CSM C COY). SECOND TOUR OF DUTY IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF CORAL. WOUNDED AND RETURNED HOME.

2I. 1969 - 70 - INFANTRY CENTRE, CSM BATTLE WING.

2J. 1970 - 73 - 4 RAR (PROMOTED WO1) RSM. THIRD TOUR OF DUTY IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

2K. 1973 - 74 - JTC RSM.

2L. 1975 - 79 - RSM SCHOOL OF INFANTRY.

2M. 1979 - 81 - RSM TRAINING COMMAND.

2N. 1981 - 82 - HQ 1TF

2O. 1983 - APPOINTED FIRST RSM-A

2P. 1987 - RETIRED AFTER 37 YEARS SERVICE TO ARMY AND OUR NATION.

3. 'THE SUCCESS OF AN ARMY IN BATTLE RELIES UPON THE QUALITY OF ITS SOLDIERS'. WALLY THOMPSON WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL.

4. THE THOUGHTS OF OVER 45000 SERVING SOLDIERS AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FORMER SOLDIERS ARE WITH WALLY'S

## BOOK REVIEW

### “BENEATH HILL 60” By Will Davies

You may have seen the Australian produced movie “Beneath Hill 60” which was filmed near the Army training area at Hervey’s Range near Townsville. The movie concentrated on the tunnelling operations at Hill 60 and another hill known as The Caterpillar by soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company, made up of men who were miners and engineers in civilian life, prior to the outbreak of WW1.

The book “Beneath Hill 60” by author Will Davies, who was a bestselling author of “Somme Mud” and “In the Footsteps of Private Lynch”, tells the complete and inspiring story behind the major motion picture.

As is often the case, the book is much more extensive and much more wide ranging than the movie. It details the formation of the battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling unit, and their devastatingly brutal story of the continuing battle underground during the First World War.

Will Davies has researched the history of underground warfare in great detail, and complements this research with his already vast knowledge of trench warfare, gleaned from other books written by him, describing the horrors of the war on the Western front.

This is the untold frightening and horrific story of the battles underground, where men suffocated in the blue-grey clay, drowned in the liquid chalk, choked on the poisonous air, or died violently in the darkness and foetid air, in either hand-to-hand fighting, or in booby trapped explosions, planted by their opposite number enemy, German tunnellers.

The book portrays the problems of inexperience during the early beginnings of the tunnelling battalion, as they learned their trade in minor assignments, digging their way under no man’s land to beneath the German trenches. The last chapters describe in graphic detail, the expertise of these soldiers, as they build up to the detonation of the largest man made explosion in history up to that time, when on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917, 19 massive mines, containing up to 40 tons of explosives each placed below German fortifications on Messines Ridge near Ypres, via 19 tunnels, exploded as if the world was splitting apart, killing ten thousand enemy, and providing a catalyst for a massive above ground assault by combined allied forces.

The book is a quick easy read, due to the fact that it is hard to put down. Graphic use of the English language by Will Davies creates an atmosphere of excitement, fear and anticipation, and I found myself looking for any possible spare time to return to reading “Beneath Hill 60”. It is a story that I could easily read another two or three times, over the next few years.

The book is listed under the category of Military History ISBN 978-1-86471-126-4.

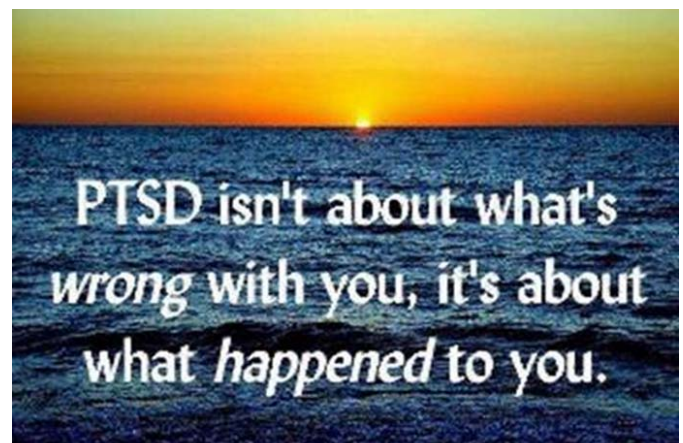
Enjoy it – “Bookworm”

### Barrack Life

Wake up, tis reveille, the bugle said  
Soldiers half asleep stumbled from bed  
The corporal yelled “time for the roll to be called”  
“Answer your names” the sergeant bawled  
“Keep up” was the yell on the morning three mile run  
Then quick shower, rooms cleaned and beds to be done  
A hurried breakfast; no time for mail to be read  
“Stand by your beds for inspection” the sar-major said  
The Captain ranted that the Barracks were a disgrace  
More orders followed by counter orders at rapid pace  
“On parade, you lazy lot” the RSM bellowed  
Constant marching and repetitive drill followed  
At lunch the duty officer asked for any complaints on food  
The diners remained mute; no soldier was in suicide mood

Mid afternoon the CO held court to determine sin  
The RSM ordered “March the guilty bastards in”  
As the day ended the CO was unhappy and made it clear  
The lieutenant broke the news with “no leave tonight, I fear”  
At sunset a bugle sang as the flag was lowered from the mast  
God help any wretch passing by who didn’t stand fast  
Soon after came a sharp bugle call for defaulters to report  
With heavy pack drill; tough discipline they would be taught  
In the huts much polishing of boots and uniforms to iron  
The corporals checked that all detail for tomorrow were fine  
Finally the day ended with “Lights out” and soldiers slept  
Dreaming of another life plus special secrets they kept  
Such was the routine in a day of barrack life  
No wonder young soldiers longed for battle and strife

George Mansford © March 2012





# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FOR THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

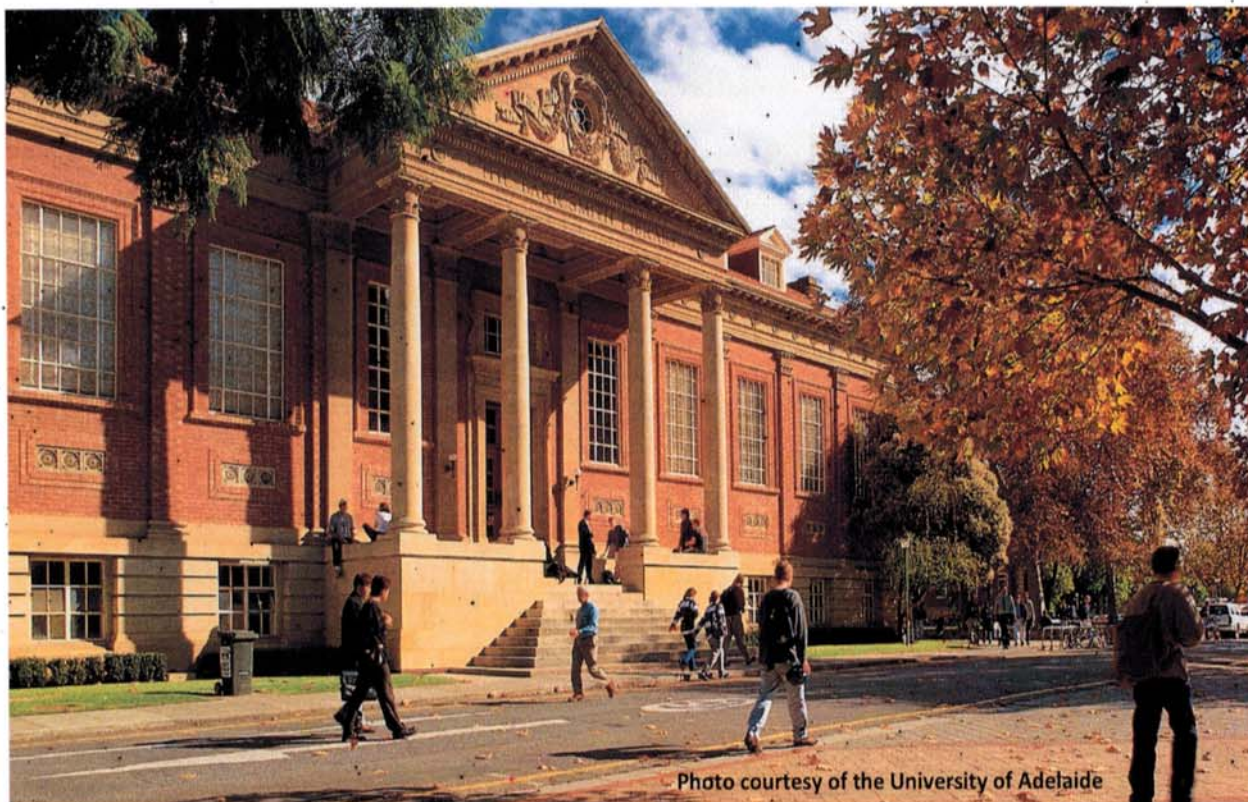


Photo courtesy of the University of Adelaide

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust is a not-for-profit organisation. AVCAT administer scholarships to help children and grandchildren of the Australian ex-service community with the costs of full-time tertiary education. The most deserving candidates are selected on merit and who, without our help, would be unable to start or complete studies without financial difficulty.

For more information or to apply, contact  
**AVCAT**  
T 02 9213 7999 or 1800 620 361 (voicemail)  
E [avcat@dva.gov.au](mailto:avcat@dva.gov.au) [www.avcat.org.au](http://www.avcat.org.au)

"YOUR  
SCHOLARSHIP WAS  
INVALUABLE HELP,  
IT ALLOWED ME TO  
CONCENTRATE  
FULLY ON  
BECOMING THE  
BEST DOCTOR I  
COULD BE"

### APPLICATIONS OPEN AUGUST 18



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'  
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST



**SPEECH BY HARRY SMITH AT THE  
VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA  
(VCA) 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
IN SYDNEY 9 JUNE 2012.**

Former Delta Company 6RAR Company Commander Major Harry Smith 1966-67, now retired Lt Colonel SG MC, was asked by the VCA to speak to their National Conference about the Australian involvement in Vietnam and especially, his recollections of the now-iconic Battle of Long Tan and his time in the Army. This is an edited version of his speech. Australia supported the South Korean and Malayan Governments in fighting Communist aggression. A small team of 30 Army Advisers was sent to Vietnam in 1962, 50 years ago this year. In 1965 the Australian Army Training Team (AATTV) was increased to 100 officers and warrant officers attached to various units of the ARVN. Also in 1965, a Battalion Group comprising 1500 men of 1RAR and supporting troops, plus a NZ Artillery Battery, was sited at Bien Hoa under command US 173 AB Brigade. In 1966 Australia decided to increase its contribution to a Task Force of two battalions and support troops and this was then located away from US control at Nui Dat near Baria in Phuoc Tuy Province. In later years, a third battalion was added. There were RAAF Caribou, Iroquois and Canberra bomber squadrons. In all, some 55,000 Australians saw service in South Vietnam between 1962 and 1972 in what was our longest war. 521 were killed and another 3000 were wounded.

As to my Army career, I had four years in School Cadets, then conscripted into National Service, after which I joined the ARA as a Private soldier, being promoted to Corporal and then to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant after OCS December 1952. I was a platoon commander in 2RAR in Malaya 1955-57 and saw some action there. In 1966, I and my men, mostly conscripted National Servicemen of the First 2-year Intake, were very happy to go to South Vietnam to support the ARVN. To us it was an adventure which would aid the GRVN in fighting the Communist enemy. While we expected a few of us might be killed, we were not made fully aware of the nature of the enemy forces in the Province and we had the mindset we only faced the local Provincial Battalion D445 formed at Long Tan village in 1965. We had absolutely no comprehension that 108 of us would run into some 2500 enemy troops of a well-armed reinforced regular PLF/NVA 275 Regiment at Long Tan and would lose 17 killed and 23 wounded on that fateful day of 18 August 1966. Overall, my Company lost 24 killed and 47 wounded during our one year tour in Vietnam.

We were not fully briefed about the enemy threat. I do not recall being informed that two ARVN battalions were decimated at Cam Mai in 1965, about 30km to the north, nor that a US Army Company was almost wiped out at Bin Gia, 20km to the north, in April 1966. The Company was cut off from the battalion by jungle and inexperienced US Army artillery

controllers could not bring down effective fire. The enemy, D800 Battalion, used well proven VC tactics of getting inside the gunfire, "holding the enemy by the belt", while encircling and overrunning them. Only 23 of the 134 US soldiers were found alive, with most wounded having had their throats cut by the enemy who came in during the night to retrieve their own casualties. We were also not briefed that 173 AB Bde had taken 90 casualties in the operation to clear Long Phouc in May 1966. Had we been fully informed of all these actions, I am sure we would all have been more aware of the enemy's capabilities, rather than having a mindset of just local guerilla troops in our Province, similar perhaps to the Malayan Emergency.

There was not much action in June and July, although 6RAR B and C Companies saw action against D445 east of the Base on Operation "Hobart", losing 3 killed in a brief fight with two companies of D445, killing 13 enemy. In August, there were rumours of larger enemy forces approaching the Base, but active patrolling did not reveal any threat and daily routine of digging trenches and improving the base continued. My Company patrolled out to the eastern edge of the Long Tan rubber on 14 and 15 August, and saw nothing. Alpha Company patrolled north of the rubber and had minor contacts. Both companies must have passed close to the large enemy force. We were not informed that HQ 1ATF had been told by the AATTV Adviser at Baria, Commando Captain Mike Wells, that ARVN agents reported the enemy 5th Division of two Regiments, 274 and 275, was moving south towards Nui Dat.

Also, we were not told that the secret 547 Signals Troop at HQ ATF had informed the Commander that it had tracked 275 Regiment HQ radio moving in at 1000m a day and stopping east of the Long Tan rubber on 14 August, near where we patrolled on the 15th.

I gather the ATF Commander dismissed all these reports as not being reliable, and stated "*it would be preposterous to think the enemy would dare attack our Base*". My own CO is also on record in the AWM Official History as stating "*they would not be so stupid*". Famous last words. The 547 Signals intelligence picture was secreted within HQ ATF and even the two battalion COs were not informed, let alone patrolling companies. Troop movements were dismissed as being ARVN or own troops. The 275 Radio was dismissed as just a HQ group.

Early on the morning of 17 August, enemy mortared the Nui Dat Base, firing near 100 rounds of 82mm mortar, 75mm RCLs and 70mm ex-Japanese Mountain gun, wounding 22 men in the central base area. The Commander was shown 82mm mortar fins and unexploded 70mm rounds but refused to admit they were from other than local D445 weapons, which did not have 82mm mortars. As there was no attack, life returned to normal and the main item of interest, despite the shelling, was the Col Joye-Little Pattie concert on the 18<sup>th</sup>. B Company 6RAR, scheduled for leave on the 18<sup>th</sup>, was sent out to west of the Long Tan rubber at dawn on the 17<sup>th</sup> to investigate radar reports

of where the mortars might have fired from. They had no rations and ordered a late breakfast, assuming the enemy had long gone. But when they found vacated mortar and RCL positions along with blood-stained equipment from the artillery CB fire, they were ordered to search the area, to be relieved on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Early on the 18<sup>th</sup> my CO called me up and gave me brief orders to assemble my Company and go out, prepared for an extended patrol, relieve B Company, and search for what was said to be some 40-50 local D445 enemy that had mortared the Base. We loaded up, tested weapons, and moved out, crossing through the long grass east of the Base until we arrived with B Company about noon, a hot march. We could hear the amplified music of the Concert in the air, and this did not please some of my men who would rather have been at the Concert, but we had a job to do. Having served with 2 Commando, I had trained my Company along Special Forces lines and they were fit, dedicated, and confident of doing what was expected of them - to locate and kill the expected 40-50 enemy, if we found them.

I discussed the facts with Major Ford, OC B Company, who had already sent 48 men back for leave at dawn. So much for a perception of any enemy threat by him, the CO, or the Task Force HQ. He left to return to base with his 31 men while we briefed and moved out east. My Company was widely dispersed, covering 400m wide and 400m deep, and moved into the young rubber with some ground foliage cautiously, alert. I had 105 men and 3 NZ Artillery FO Party. I wanted to get through the rubber into the jungle for a more secure night base area, with less mosquitoes. We had gone about 400m when my right forward platoon, 11, fired at an enemy patrol coming up from the south, chatting away, oblivious to us. One was killed but dragged away east through the trees. 11 Platoon followed up, just as we heard the "pop, pop, pop" of light mortars firing from the south. The rounds landed close nearby and I moved the rest of Company about 350m to the NE out of the impact area, stopping behind a low rise in the ground, which was to become our defensive area.

11 Platoon Commander reported he had found two grenades and blood stains in a hut and was moving on. Soon after there was the sound of heavy firing and he reported he was being attacked by probably an enemy company with machine guns, causing several killed and others wounded. He was unable to withdraw and called in artillery fire via the NZ FO while he directed the fire and that of his platoon. 20 minutes later the Platoon Sergeant reported his OC had been killed; enemy attacks were increasing, and he was continuing with artillery fire.

I estimated the enemy was probably in the order of at least two Companies, and I called for reinforcements by helicopter, denied, unaware there was no normal Ready Reaction company at Base. I also asked OC B Company to return, and I called for ammunition resupply by helicopter drop through the trees,

as I thought the battle might well continue into the night, unaware that RAAF helicopters were not then permitted to fly into danger areas. I was told A Company, just in from patrol, would be sent out in APCs, soon. I also called for USAF air strike across the front of 11 Platoon, just as the heavy afternoon monsoonal rain set in, turning the ground into red mud. I had to take the pressure off 11 Platoon and sent 10 Platoon off around the left flank to try to get through to 11. But it ran into more enemy moving in from the north, killed many, but took wounded and could not advance. I called 10 Platoon back and ordered 12 Platoon to try to get around to the right flank but to leave one section to secure the CAP and HQ area until 10 Platoon got back in. 12 Platoon went off with just 20 men, ran into enemy trying to get behind 11 Platoon and killed many, putting them to flight, but were then attacked by others.

Two RAAF helicopters that had been with the Concert Party defied orders and flew out in atrocious weather conditions, but arrived overhead Company HQ, not then under fire, and dropped the ammunition - in metal banded boxes which took time to open. The USAF strike arrived overhead but could not identify us due the cloud, rain and cordite smoke, so I requested the gunfire back again, and the aircraft were told by HQ to drop their ordnance on the enemy rear areas.

11 Platoon was able to withdraw to 12 and both platoons came back to CHQ, sadly 15 missing, where I organised them into a defensive layout around 10 platoon which was on our SE flank. The CSM distributed ammunition and we awaited the inevitable enemy attack. They had lost contact in the rain and smoke and were not sure where and what we were, but soon arrived and started successive suicidal battalion attacks. I called for the whole regiment of artillery in support, but was told negative. My FO said one battery was facing north for 5RAR, not in contact, another was in general support, so we could only have the six NZ guns. I told the HQ in no uncertain terms that I wanted every gun they had, and soon after we had 18 105s and six US 155s firing, and they fired 3500 rounds that afternoon, with my men firing 10,300 SA rounds. The artillery caused the enemy horrendous casualties and the many that got through the bombardment in gaps for air support or moving the barrage were mown down by my forward sections. Not one penetrated our perimeter, which says something about the tenacity, dedication and courage of my gallant men, albeit inexperienced in battle.

At about 1730hrs I asked where the APCs were, to be told they had not left! I was not aware the Task Force Commander would not release them as he was concerned of an attack by the other regiment said earlier to be in the north. B Company had also been stopped from returning. I said my piece to HQ and my words of frustration were "that if they had not left they would not be out here by a dark and might as well not come". That had the desired effect and the APC Reaction Force was released at 1745hrs, having been delayed over an hour.

By now, about 1815 hours, just after the ammunition resupply, which took an hour to get there, the enemy assaults intensified. I told the FO to “Drop 50” and bring the gunfire in closer to prevent the enemy getting inside the bombardment. He said Arty HQ denied the request as “*they considered it unsafe*”. Unbelievable! I grabbed the radio and told HQ to tell the guns to b... well fire where we wanted it, or they will lose the lot of us. They fired, causing even more enemy to be blown away. We heard on the radio that the APCs had got over the river to the south and had run into enemy about 1100metres out.

We were to later learn they had to send two APCs back for CO6RAR, defied his orders to stop, encountering one company of D445, and with a gallant dismounted assault by 11 of 2 Platoon A Company men from the far right APC, plus the APC .50 cal fire, the enemy fled east. Moving on, the APCs struck another enemy company, said Main Force, moving west to east, going home, and hastened them along. The APCs moved north, unopposed, and when about 300m south of us, the CO and his HQ finally arrived with them and they all turned east and chased the last of the enemy seen withdrawing, then turned back NW and joined us on our SE flank at 1910hours, the battle over. My 10 platoon commander narrates how two APCs had earlier got ahead of the Troop and were seen just south of his platoon, then went back, with the enemy to his front getting up and leaving, part of a total withdrawal which began about 1850hrs when the enemy probably realised their plan of attacking Nui Dat had been thwarted; the APCs were moving in, and B Company was returning. B Company arrived at about 1850hrs, well before the APCs. Unable to overrun us, sustaining very heavy casualties, the enemy decided to withdraw, leaving behind 245 bodies and 3 wounded, with another 48 bodies found two days later in a shallow grave on their withdrawal route.

We returned to Base on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and that was the start of another Battle – recognition for my men. I was ordered to submit urgent recommendations for awards for my men and to have the Forms typed ready for the CO’s signature the next afternoon, as Canberra wished to placate the public outcry at the loss of some many young men with medals. I submitted some 17 Forms. A day later I was requested to nominate 13 men for GRVN awards to be presented on 2 September by the Commanding General GRVN. As we formed up on the parade we were told “*Canberra has refused to accept the offer of foreign awards*”. We were then given dolls and cigar boxes, what a debacle, especially for an embarrassed GRVN President. In 1967 the policy was reversed and over 1000 medals were accepted in subsequent years, mainly for AATTV, but not made retrospective to 1966. In December 1966, after four months delay, the so-called Immediate Gallantry awards for Long Tan were announced, the List headed by a DSO for COMATF for “his personal direction of the Battle”. The Media said “his bravery”. Our D Company awards were reduced to nine, and half were of lesser status. I

said my piece, to be told it was all done higher up and was secret for another 30 years – until 1996.

Having qualified as a Parachute Jump Instructor, Diving Instructor and Small Craft Instructor when, with 2 Commando I was posted to OC of 1 RNSWR (Commando) Sydney. Finding only half the men on the roll were attending parades, I obtained Army HQ approval to downgrade the unit to a Commando Company, same as in Melbourne. My two years there was hectic but very enjoyable, working with very good reserve soldiers. I qualified in Freefall and with the RAN, Underwater Demolitions. I was posted to Staff College and then HQ W Comd, then overseas for a 13 month tour related to becoming the first CO of the Army Parachute Training School, taking parachuting over from the RAAF. I jumped in the UK, Canada and with US Special Forces at Fort Bragg. Probably the most exhilarating jumps were into cloud from 25,000 feet above the Salisbury plain in the UK. Landing in snow in Canada was softer than normal Drop Zones, and I avoided the tall pine trees around Fort Bragg.

On return from the UK I commanded the Parachute School until early 1976, but a serious injury on my 499<sup>th</sup> jump ended my Army career and my ambition to command the SAS Regiment. Since then I have enjoyed sailing and boating, logging over 150,000 nautical miles along the coasts of NSW and Queensland and into the Gulf in a variety of boats. I am still sailing, at age 79.

In late 1996, with several loyal colleagues, we set about obtaining a review of Long Tan awards which were then barred from reconsideration by the belated 1998 End of War List Review. We obtained approval for the Vietnamese medals in 2004, and were granted a Review by PM Howard in late 2007. At that Review I was to learn the quota for Awards in Vietnam had been reduced by over half by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in July 1966 due to the lesser intensity of operations to date compared with Korea and what was considered an excessive number of recommendations flowing from 1RAR Group and AATTV. My Company of 105 Australians was not entitled to one medal or MID but the quota was meant to be apportioned across the total force, although units demanded their number. The 2008 Review only upgraded myself and my two surviving platoon commanders to the awards we had been recommended in 1966, but with different medals, from the new 1991 Awards system. The new ALP Government approved the rejected GRVN Unit Citation and referred the unresolved awards for some 12 men to their new Honours Tribunal. This tribunal failed to recognise individuals other than an upgrade for a RAAF helicopter pilot, but it did award my Company an (unrequested) UCG. Appeals to the PM and Ombudsman fell on deaf ears but at this time, the Honours Tribunal is to now reconsider the men, including two of A Company and one APC, in Part 2 of the Valour Inquiry later this year.

Back to Vietnam, it is very sad that South Vietnam was overrun by the Communist forces in



I am aware that the ARVN could have continued to repel the invaders if the USA had not withdrawn financial support. It is very sad to learn that 2 million GRVN people died in the wars and that 100,000 South Vietnamese died in the jungles or on the oceans trying to escape re-education camps. Thankfully, many managed to get to, and be welcomed by Australia. I would hope that one day the Vietnamese people still in Vietnam will be able to obtain democracy and freedom from communist rule. USA lost 58,000 soldiers killed in Vietnam. Australia lost 500. I think it is fair to say both nations went to the aid of the GRVN but public opinion about continuing casualties forced their withdrawal, similar to the Russian situation in Afghanistan in the early 90s, losing 15,000 men. But the GRVN would have survived if the aid and wherewithal to fight the war against the North had continued longer after the US withdrawal.

I have enjoyed being a keynote speaker here today. Thank you, and I wish you all happiness and prosperity in our lovely land.

## NEW MERCHANDISE ITEMS



### Above. Magnetic Bracelet

Standard 20.5cm x 2cm . \$17  
Large 22.5cm xcm \$17.50



Above. LT20  
"50 Years On" Cross"  
\$10each

## New Stickers

Right. DYSFUNCTIONAL VETERAN...leave me alone. \$5.50ea



Above. f you can read this, Thank a teacher.... \$5.50ea  
Below. R.A.N. Vietnam Logistic Support \$5.50ea



## DVA GOES ONLINE

Clients of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in Tasmania are the first to use a new service which gives veterans online access to DVA services.

MyAccount offers Tasmanian veterans a more immediate way of conducting business with DVA, giving access to services anytime and anywhere. All you need is a registration number, a computer and an internet connection.

If you are an eligible DVA client, you can use MyAccount to:

- update your contact details
- view payments and card information
- view the status of your claims
- apply for additional entitlements
- book transport to medical appointments
- lodge claims for travelling expenses
- request replacement cards, and
- view and request forms.

More services will available in the future.

With the introduction of MyAccount, DVA is responding to the changing needs of the veteran community, and Tasmanian veterans responded enthusiastically to the MyAccount pilot program run in February this year.

MyAccount will not replace traditional means of communicating with DVA. You can still contact DVA by phone, fax, email, mail and face-to-face. Tasmanians are among the first to use MyAccount which will be progressively rolled out across Australia in coming months.

Visit [myaccount.dva.gov.au](http://myaccount.dva.gov.au)

<https://myaccount.dva.gov.au> for more information and phone 1800 173 858 during business hours Monday to Friday to register.

## Essential Medical Equipment Payment

An Essential Medical Equipment Payment – an annual payment of \$140 to support those with higher than average energy costs because they rely on essential medical equipment at home. Persons holding a Commonwealth Government concession card or a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold or White Card; and who use certain essential medical equipment, or have certain medical conditions that require the use of additional heating and/or cooling in their home, may be entitled to claim the Essential Medical Equipment Payment

It is not an automatic payment (it affects those on CPAP devices plus other devices) and must be claimed for. You can find full details on the website [www.dva.gov.au/householdassistance](http://www.dva.gov.au/householdassistance) scroll down to Essential Medical Equipment Payment and click on 'Read more' for more details.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2011 was another indifferent year for the V.V.A.A. W.A. state branch, with membership remaining constant, with a number of new members and others returning, after some absence.

While there was some improvement in the attendance at general meetings during the year, there is need for greater member support within the state branch. The willing few continue to do the work and keep the W.A. branch operating.

The current year, 2012, has got off to a slow start, with a very disappointing attendance at the AGM, as result there are still vacancies to be filled on the executive, in particular the position of state secretary. We have had 2 new faces, nominate and come on the executive, as committee members, welcome Bill and Eric.

We continue to get a number of welfare assistance calls, with all being handled in a professional way and with satisfactory outcomes.

I am awaiting further information regarding the Meentheena Station Veterans Retreat, in the Pilbarra region of W.A. A planned opening will take place in the next few months, I believe the date will coincide with the Marble Bar Races.

The W.A. Branch still has a number of calls, from schools each year, to attend, Anzac Day services. We are currently assisting 2 year twelve students, who have chosen to do projects on the Vietnam war. One of the students is doing a very professional and in depth approach to her project and will be doing a monologue presentation at her school when completed. I look forward to her invitation to attend that presentation, later in the year.

Currently we are working with the Friends of Anzac Cottage, in preparing an Interpretation Plan for the Cottage, the plan goes before the City of Vincent in the near future, for acceptance. While we have applied for Centenary of Anzac funding, we believe that this plan will give us greater scope and time to proceed with an extensive work plan, to prepare Anzac Cottage for its centenary celebration in 2016.

Included in the plan, is the purchase of some suitable furnishings for the Cottage. Also it is intended to rebuild the outside Dunny, the wash house and create an overall impression of how the yard would have looked in early days, while the Porter family were living in the Cottage.

Once the City of Vincent, gives the Interpretation plan the go ahead, we will then be applying for funding, to allow the project to come to fruition.

The Interpretation Plan, compiled by Anne Chappel, the grand daughter of Private Porter is comprehensive and will be a formidable task to undertake. Anne, is to be complimented on her efforts in putting the plan together.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2012, we have to remain positive to undertake the tasks required to keep the W.A. Branch improving and create an atmosphere that members will want to participate in.

Richard Williams.  
State President.

### **Memorial to Royal Australian Engineer units in and from W.A in World War Two.**

On Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2012, a memorial to commemorate the Royal Australian Engineer units that served in Western Australia, from 1939 to 1945, was dedicated at Karrakatta, the home of 13 Field Squadron RAE, a direct descendent of one of those units.



*Above. Sgt Norm Quartermaine, a member of 13 Field Coy 1939/45, unveiling the Memorial to RAE Units W.A. WW 2.*

In December 1941, W.A. was defended by a single infantry brigade [13 Inf Bde] and supporting units. With the Japanese moving south, reinforcements were sent from the eastern states, by December 1942, elements of three divisions [2 Inf Bde, 4 Inf Bde and 1 Armd Div], this represented over 20% of the Army's divisions at the time, were positioned between Geraldton and Fremantle, to defend W.A. Included in the 50,000 troops, then in W.A. were some 4,000 sappers of the Royal Australian Engineers [RAE]. In addition, sappers from W.A. were serving in RAE units overseas. They formed part of the 68 RAE units that either came from W.A. or served in W.A. during World War Two.

In 1939 and 1940, many of the militia sappers joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF and formed 2/2 Fd Pk Coy Which was to fight with the 6 Inf Div in the Western Desert, Greece and New Guinea. They also formed 2/ Fd Pk Coy which was to fight with 8 Inf Div in Malaya and Singapore. As well as their casualties in battle,



2/6 Fd/ Pk Coy also lost many men as POW's, with less than 50% of the unit returning to W.A. in 1945.

W.A sappers also formed sections in 2/2 Forestry Coy, to operate sawmills in the UK and New Guinea, 2/3 Railway Const Coy, to build railways in the Middle East and operate mechanical equipment in New Guinea and 2/3 Fd Coy to work with 6 Inf Div.

As the infantry brigades arrived in W.A. they were placed in field locations, with assistance from their engineer field companies, to establish water and power supplies, build kitchens, ablutions, make roads and provide expert supervision to the infantry working parties. When their brigades were settled, the field companies turned to the longer term projects like road and bridge construction.



*Above. 1912. 35 Fortress Company RAE Fremantle Defences*

Base engineer units, such as 22 Army Fd Coy and 7 Army Tps Coy were initially employed constructing the field defences on Rottnest Island and around Fremantle and Swanbourne. They later established roads, camps and water supplies on Garden Island, to allow the fortress engineers to establish their new gun emplacements. They also built large radio masts at Cannington, to allow the secret wireless intercept units to listen in on Japanese radio traffic. With the planned transfer of 1 Arm'd Div to W.A., attention was needed to the bridges along the routes to be used to transport tanks. Some 35 new and reconstructed bridges were built by the engineers along the inland roads between Bunbury and Geraldton.

While most of the field units occupied bush camps north towards Geraldton, the base units took over many buildings, for accommodation and stores. For example, HQ 3 Aust Corps took over the Perth ladies College at Mt Lawler, while the 3 Aust Corps Sigs took over 27 houses, churches, clubs and buildings at Bayswater.

All these premises had to be converted for army use, maintained and then restored before they were handed back to their owners, all this work was done by the base engineers.

As the Japanese were stopped and driven back in New Guinea, the army in W.A. could be reduced and units were sent to the east coast to be reorganised or sent direct to the N.T. and New Guinea. The road projects were handed over to the various Roads Boards, the bores deactivated or handed over to local farmers and the engineer units departed.

Overall some 48 units of the Royal Australian Engineers were raised in W.A. during World War Two and a further 20 came to W.A. as part of the wave of reinforcements in 1942. Their role in W.A., N.T. and New Guinea has long been forgotten and the RAE Association of W.A. is using the opportunity of the centenary year for 13 Fld Sqn and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first reinforcements to W.A. to unveil the memorial to these World War Two RAE units in and from W.A.

This is a condensed history of RAE units in W.A. from information provided by the RAE Association W.A.

## BACK TO THE BUSH

## BRUCE ROCK 2012

**29th October  
5th November  
2012**



## CALLING ON THE GREY NOMADS!

If you are one of the many grey nomads out there who

- Have a good story to tell
- Want to share some photos
- Have some good recipes to share
- Have some useful & handy hints on caravanning
- Know some good fishing spots
- Know of a good place to be around 18th August

I think by now you have the general drift. Sent in your stories, photos hints etc to the editor of Debrief

Kath Coxon

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**What do you say?**

What do you say to a dying mate?  
 As you sit and hold his hand?  
 What do you say to ease the pain?  
 That you know is so hard to stand

What do you say to the anguish you see  
 In his eyes that are washed with pain  
 What do you say when no words will suffice  
 When you know all is in vain

You fought through the days full of horror  
 and strife  
 In the desert and the jungle green  
 But now that he's dying what do you say  
 What does his life really mean?

He's only a young man, still in his prime  
 He has hardly begun to live  
 But now it's all over, and what do you say  
 When there is only his life left to give

He's been your mate since you first joined  
 up  
 Through the good times and the bad  
 But now you sit and hold his hand  
 And know that your days will be sad

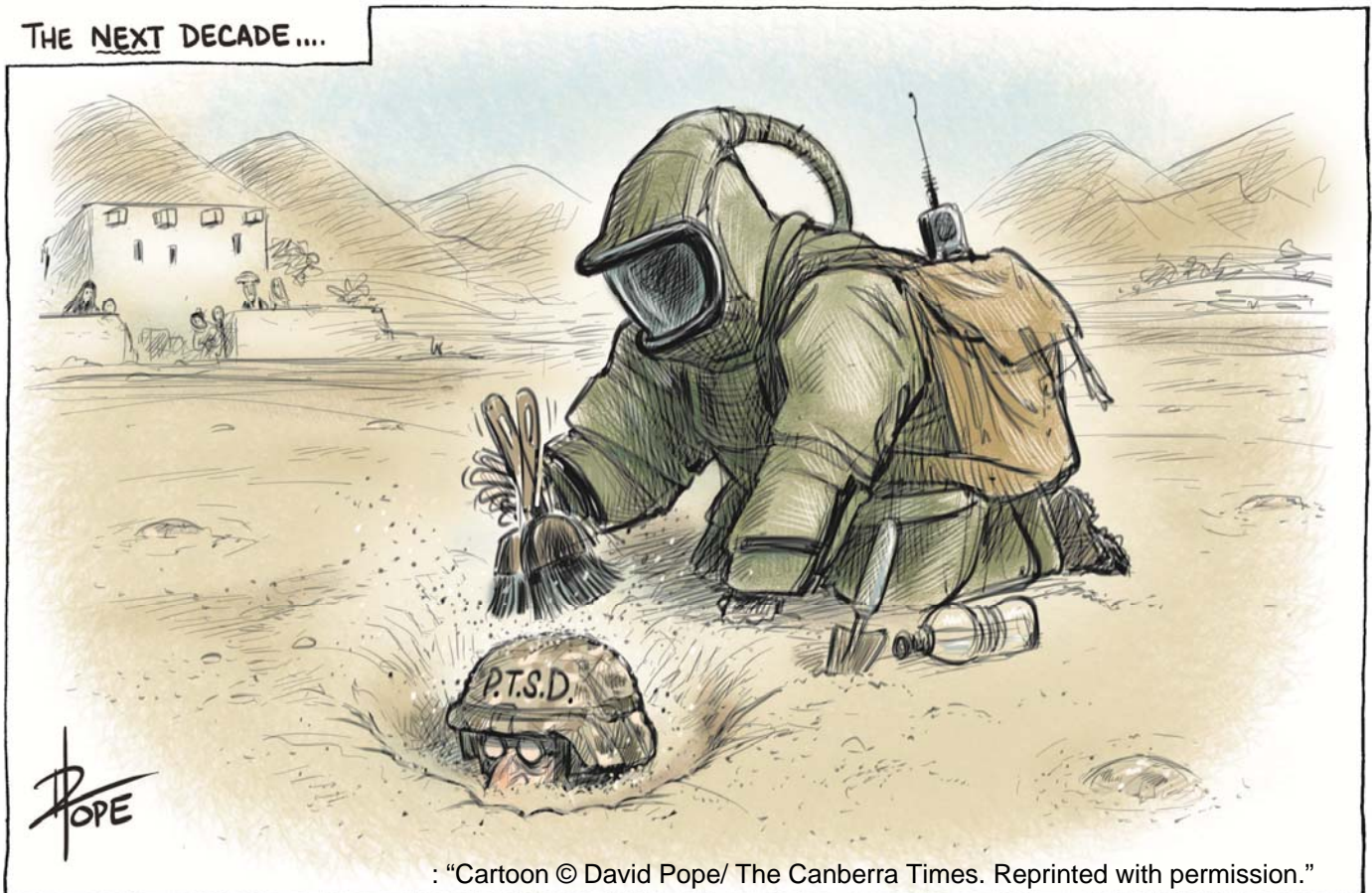
For what do you say to a dying mate  
 When you know his time is short  
 When the flame, once bright, is now slowly  
 dulled  
 Do you remember how well he fought?

You remember how he saved your life  
 How he was always there at your side  
 You remember his words, "I'm here mate."  
 You'll remember him with pride

An enemy bullet brought him down  
 And now you must say "Goodbye."  
 But what do you say to your best mate  
 As you sit and watch him die

Roslyn Thomson

THE NEXT DECADE....



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**Any change of address is to be sent to  
 your Sub Branch NOT TO DEBRIEF**



Some more pics from

**VetRide 2012**



**Below “Huey now at the Vietnam Veterans National Museum”**

