



THE VIETNAM VETERANS' NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc.
SUPPORTING ALL WHO SERVE & HAVE SERVED

MARCH 2018

ANZAC DAY 2018

SEE PAGE 26

Lest We Forget



**GOVERNMENTS
VETERANS'
AFFAIRS
REPORT CARD**

**STILL NOT
RELEASED**
LONG AWAITED
Report On DVA's
Mismanagement
of Jesse Bird Case

**NEW AGENT
ORANGE
HISTORY
IN PROGRESS**

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST STATE HEAD OFFICE:

NSW secretary@vvhqgrainville.org
ACT vvfact@vvhqact.org.au
QLD secretary@vvhqld.com

SA vvhsa@ipg.com.au
WA Phone: 98 9489 6632
VIC ICARGI@survivorswellth.org.au

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:
aldappy@aspt.net.au

NATIONAL SECRETARY:
vvhmatcc@hotmail.com



VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA Inc.

Incorporating

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Queensland Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation ACT Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Victorian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

Federation of Australia (WA Branch) Inc.

Vietnam Peacekeepers Peacemakers Federation of Tasmania Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Committee:

National President

James Wain OAM

NSW State President

Frank Cole

Qld State President

Peter Handy

ACT State President

Ian Thompson

Vic State President

John Arnold

SA State president

Mal Thiele

WA State President

Milton Kirk JP

Tas State President

TBA

Research Officer

John Godwin OAM

Research Officer

Jules Wills

Research Officer

Graham Walker AM

COPYRIGHT NOTICE ©

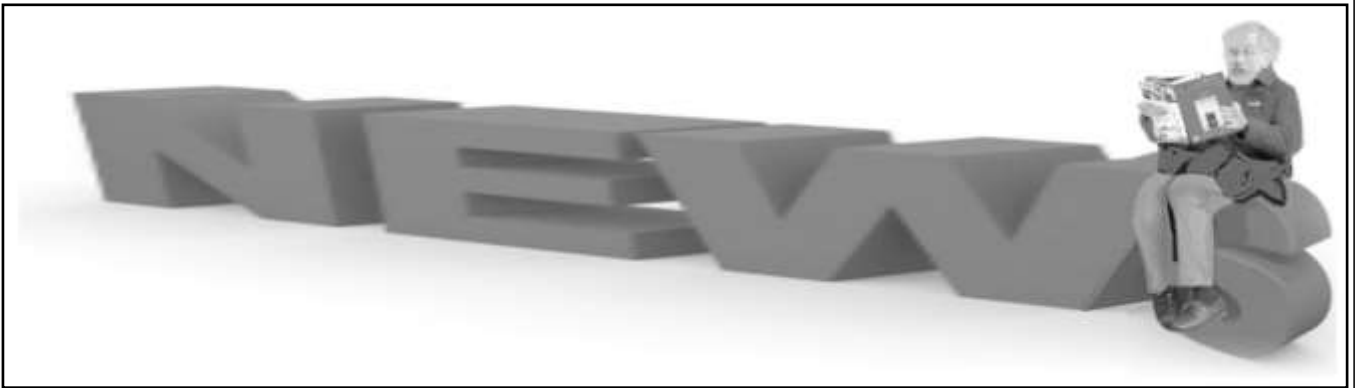
Copyright of all original material in The Vietnam Veterans Newsletter is held by the author and should not be reproduced for profit without the permission of the author. Reproduction for non-profit newsletters, military archives or study purposes in proper context is allowable but acknowledgement of the author and source should be made.

OUR COVER

“Image of A Dead Man”

Painting by 2RAR Vietnam Veteran Ray Beattie.

It pictures an empty kitchen chair with an empty army jacket hung on it; the empty chair and jacket representing the absence of Ray's colleagues killed-in-action. They would never have the opportunity to occupy that chair, sitting round Ray's kitchen table telling stories and drinking beer. There is some sort of Australian flag on the chair, reminding us in whose name his comrades died. The painting tells of Ray's feelings of sadness and loss.



Government report card (Chip, chip, chipping away...)

Over the last few years, the government, the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs have been disappointing.

Page 8...



The suicide of Jesse Bird (Report on the Department's mismanagement still withheld)

The mismanagement by the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs as revealed by the Jesse Bird suicide investigation is alarming.

Page 10...



Some thoughts from Jacqui Lambie's ADF Suicide Enquiry

In September 2016, Senator Lambie, also on behalf of Senators Xenophon, Hinch and Culleton, moved that the Senate establish an enquiry into ADF suicide.

Page 12...



The Medical and Health Legacy of the Vietnam War The new history now being written

Historian Dr Peter Yule has two more years to complete a new Official History volume on the medical and health legacy of the Vietnam War.

Page 20...



Think Piece: Defining the Contemporary Veteran
CONTEMPORARY veterans are a diverse group with no ingrained stereotype. Some are still serving military members and will participate in Anzac Day marches with their units.

Page 22...



Who should we remember on Anzac Day

Anzac Address by Graham Walker AM

An insight into a set of values that is the beating heart of the ANZAC tradition, through the stories and memories provoked by those who were there.

Page 26...



What else is making news

Many DFRB / DFRDB superannuants being short changed. **Page 16...**

Professor Jock McCulloch, early Agent Orange crusader, dies. **Page 18...**

National Car Brokers free vehicle buying introduction. **Page 30...**

Quilts Of Valour article. A story well worth the read. **Page 40...**

VVPPAA/AVCAT Scholarships news and catchup. **Page 46...**

Cockatoo Rise Veterans Retreat news and roundup **Page 49...**

NSW State Branch AGM Notice, Agenda and Constitution change proposals. **Page 54...**

Honour Our Fallen media release. **Page 59...**

Regular features

1. Federation Affiliates list
2. Headliner News Index
3. Other News & Index
4. The Editors Desk
5. National President Report
7. NSW State President Report
15. SA State President Report
25. Qld State President Report
34. WA State President Report
35. Membership Form
36. Merchandise List
37. Change of Address Form
38. Mortality Report Form
39. NSW Secretary Report
42. PSK Financial Advice
44. Reunions & Notices
49. Cockatoo Rise Veterans Retreat news
50. Heart Health—A Timely Reminder
53. Crossword & Unknown Comic
56. Branches / Sub-Branche s Listings
60. Last Post
64. Member Discounts

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

(These clients pay or offer in kind support for Adverts)

Inside Front Cover	AVAILABLE
Inside Back Cover	Bamboo Printing
Outside Back Cover	NCB (In kind for veterans)
Page 29	#3 RAR book offer
Page 33	Battlefield Tours
Page 43	PSK FINANCIAL

**I'M TERRIFIED OF
ELEVATORS....**

**I'M TAKING STEPS TO
AVOID THEM.**



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Giddy readers and welcome to 2018 for our first issue. Once again we have brought you a bumper edition traversing the girth of veteran information. And, now officially renamed *The Vietnam Veterans Newsletter*, or as it's often called, The Newsletter. Enjoy the journey.

The continued refusal by the government to release the findings of the investigation into DVAs' handling of Jesse Birds suicide is bewildering. The findings could only help future veterans surely.

See our report beginning on page 10.

There is a reprint of 3 RAR history of their first tour available for those interested to purchase.

Catch the Advert and details on page 29.

See the Queensland State President report on page 25 and take a note about their new initiative to say *thank you* to our veterans and service members.

Our merchandise continues to sell well, and all monies so raised goes to help us help veterans. There is a new initiative on the NSW website that may interest many readers wishing to purchase some of the items on offer. Visit us at <http://www.vvfagranville.org> and check out the news headlines for further information.

The *Unknown Comic* is running out of printable material and seeks your help in rounding up some of your best humour. However, he does request that only *printable* items be offered

We have a vacancy for a full colour, full page advertisement on the inside front cover, and we invite advertisers to tempt me. The offer is for the next 2 issues at \$770 (GST in) per issue.

Be well, go well, Ed.

Advertise in our Journal
Best rates going
Australian Military
Associations reunions and
contact notices, all FREE!

Corporate Rates:

(Monochrome, grayscale, black/white only)

Full Page \$660

Half Page \$330

(Prices include GST)

10% Discount applied to campaigns that run consecutively for 3 or more issues.

Contact the Editor
always open to negotiation
editor@vvfagranville.org

CLOSE-OFF DATE FOR
JULY 2018 ISSUE
JUNE 4 2018

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION

For new material, advertising and compliments, please Write, phone, or e-mail:

The Editor, VVPPAA Journal

C/- PO Box 170

GRANVILLE, NSW 2142.

Ph: 02 9682 1788 Mob: 0421 690 959

Weekdays before 5pm thanks.

Email: editor@vvfagranville.org

For comments about the articles please write to:

'The National Secretary'.

Email: vvfanatsec@hotmail.com

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There are a number of issues that have been on the National Office agenda for the past few months. Some will be familiar to you, others are new. Many members will be aware of the old saying that work expands to fit the time available. I think this is turned on its head in the volunteer experience, where time is always trying to catch up with the work that either needs to be done, or that could be done. I will try to summarise the major issues briefly.

The 'Legislation Workshop'

In November, DVA held an inaugural legislation workshop, to discuss future legislation, and (for DVA) to understand the issues and priorities of Ex Service Organisations (ESOs). Basically – what needs to be done to improve the legislation that covers veterans? Our initial submission, and those of other ESOs, is on the DVA website (search on Legislation Workshop). Following the workshop DVA distributed 81 items and asked ESOs to prioritise their Top 20.

Thanks to the commitment of Branch executive officers, we were able to get Branch input, and develop the Federation's priority list. Our submission tackled some core issues (e.g. we proposed Terms of Reference; we challenged the notion that any change had to be cost neutral; and we emphasised the need to adhere to the spirit of beneficial legislation), and based on Branch and National Office responses, we prioritised 15 items (despite the title of the workshop, many of the items related to policy and practice, rather than legislation).

I'm assuming that our submission will eventually appear on the DVA website. Our top six items are:

- The need for an Australian Military Covenant to provide overarching direction to legislation.
- To work toward one Act to replace the existing four Acts, and to do so by simplifying the language of legislation, and by

including the best aspects and excluding the worst aspects of existing legislation.

- Statements of Principles (SOPs) – the criteria that are used to connect injury to service – should be applied across *all* current Acts.
- The 5th edition of the Guide to the Assessment of Rates of Veterans' Pension (GARP V) should be used.
- The two different standards of proof applying to SOPs should be abolished.
- The need for formal legislative recognition of the impact of a veteran's service on their families.

We will continue to be represented on this workshop, and we will seek to work closely with other ESOs, to try to ensure a common and united approach to positive change.

The Operational Working Party (OWP)

The Federation is a member of this working party, which is one forum of DVA's National Consultative Framework. In a nutshell, the aim of the OWP is to "enhance" DVA service delivery; something we would like to see and experience. Watch this space?

Gold Cards for Spouse and Partners

The Federation has raised this issue in ministerial submissions, at least as far back as 1996, and in 2001 it was raised very persuasively by the Vietnam Veterans' Association submission to the Clarke Review. It has remained on the Federation's agenda. We are currently liaising with the Partners of Veterans Association (PVA), and the Australian Families of the Military Research Foundation (AFOM), to determine the best way to progress on this issue, which at least now, is likely to be on the agenda of the Legislation Workshop. The evidence of the impact on families is irrefutable, but we need to identify equitable and effective options that are politically persuasive.

Continued overleaf

A Professional Advocate Service

As a result of recommendations arising from the Jesse Bird Report, the government has directed that there be a review of the feasibility of establishing a professional advocate service. In part, this acknowledges the ageing volunteer advocate population, and the difficulty in maintaining volunteer advocate resources to meet current and future demand. We are committing as much time as possible to consider and review options, and we will keep a watching brief on DVA progress in implementing the review.

Ex Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT)

We have requested that the ESORT secretariat place, on each quarterly agenda, progress reports on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Senate Committee on suicide, and from the Jesse Bird Report.

Meetings with the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)/Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA)

I have had two meetings recently with Kel Ryan, President of DFWA, and we have been attending ADSO/DFWA meetings relating to then Minister Tehan's call for ESOs to speak to government with 'one voice'. The ADSO goal is to submit a paper to government by November 2018. The paper will detail the major issues of concern to the veteran population. Our observation is that progress on this has slowed, and at this stage the Federation has not been aware of any substantive consultation. That having been said, we are not part of the ADSO alliance.

DFWA is also keen to keep the proposed Covenant to the forefront, and are also committed to supporting, and pushing, the medical review regarding the impact of mefloquine on individuals.

Contemporary Veterans

The 'Think Piece' in this issue, (page 22), of the Newsletter is well worth reading, and considering. How do we best understand the so-called contemporary veterans? How do we pass on our experience? Will they step up and take the baton that we have to pass to them, or will they seek to run in a different race?

Former Senator Jacqui Lambie

On behalf of members of the Federation, I wrote to Ms Lambie to thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of veterans during her time as a Senator for Tasmania.

Conclusion

In 2018 I want to increase my efforts at being 'political'. Jules Wills (National Office Volunteer Research Officer) and I have a scheduled meeting with Minister McCormack (hopefully he will remain in the role) in the last week of February, and Senator Molan has agreed to see me at a time yet to be arranged. My continuing concern centres on how to effect change where it is obviously required, and how to ensure that DVA is both receptive to, and accountable for, change.

I wish all Branches, and members, the best for the coming year.

James Wain OAM
National President
VVFA



NEW SOUTH WALES PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2017 was yet another very busy year for the New South Wales Branch. During this twelve months period the Granville office alone processed in excess of 1500 claims on behalf of both serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and with an extremely high success rate. Credit for this high volume of claims must go to our highly trained and experienced Advocates most of whom are ex-service volunteers who ask for nothing in return. We also employ three paid Advocates who are also major contributors to the welfare of our clientele.

All but one of our Administrative staff are volunteers and provide an incredible range of skills in performing necessary functions to maintain the proper governance necessary to run an ex-service organisation with complete honesty and integrity. Your membership subscriptions are used wisely and every cent is properly accounted for. Without you your Association could not continue to exist.

During 2017 our staff fielded almost 13,000 phone calls and conducted 1300 interviews and recorded 1300 welfare matters. A most impressive array of service to our membership.

We have entered 2018 with the similar momentum to that of last year and look forward to continuing our aim of servicing the needs of the current and former Australian Defence Force members. One should not forget the existence of our many sub-branches around New South Wales who do a magnificent job in serving the needs of our membership in regional areas. They are all volunteers and service their membership well.

Should you believe that you can also contribute to our team, particularly as a volunteer Advocate you should make contact with our Granville office. Experience within our Defence Force would be a major asset for any applicant. Training will be provided "in-house" and trainees will only be allowed to advise clients once they become formally qualified.

In closing, a friendly reminder to renew your membership should you have not already done so. We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018 and beyond.

Frank Cole
NSW State President

ATTENTION NSW MEMBERS
SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 55
REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION
AND A GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD PRIOR TO THE AGM IN
MAY.

Government report card

(Chip, chip, chipping away...)

Over the last few years, the government, the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs have been disappointing.

Indeed it was more than disappointing that the government tried to downgrade the indexation of the TPI Pension, General Rate Pensions, Invalidity Service Pension, Age Service Pension, War Widows Pension, Income Support Supplement, and wholly dependent partner payment.

This downgrading would have, over time, significantly reduced the living standards of disabled war veterans and war widows.

It was only resistance in the Senate from the Opposition, Jacqui Lambie and some other cross-benchers that foiled the government's attempt.

The government did, however, succeed in reducing the taper rate of 'asset determined' Part Service Pensions, reducing the pensions of some 10,000 Part Service pensioners and completely cutting out the Service Pensions of some 2,800

others.

Chip, chip chip...

"Veterans must now join these Centrelink queues before being directed to the DVA staff or being dealt with by Centrelink staff."

In a miserable act, the government withdrew its \$223million share of an agreement with the States to fund Service pensioners' concessions for travel, electricity, phone and council rates.

In another, it has axed the Seniors Supplement (\$876.20 a year) for Gold Card holders not receiving income support.

It has also cancelled the indexation of the Clean Energy

Supplement added to Veterans Affairs pensions and payments, causing it to quickly lose real value.

In another mean act, Military Superannuation not previously counted, is now to be counted as income when applying for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

The government is pausing the indexation of Gold and White card payments to doctors. Previous experience suggests doctors may eventually ration the number of Gold and White

(Continued on page 9)



card holders they accept for treatment, if not simply not accept DVA patients at all.

Chip, chip, chip...

And there's more.

The government downgraded the standard of hearing aids issued under SRCA (compensation scheme for peacetime soldiering) citing the criterion of 'medical necessity'. But even some claims including specialists' reports recommending more versatile hearing aids have been rejected. Yet who is better qualified to judge 'medical necessity' than the specialists?

Chip, chip, chip...

More recently the government has been amalgamating DVA with Centrelink.

Last year the Canberra VAN office was closed and its staff moved to Woden Centrelink.

Here are just some of the previous closures:

Morwell VAN office has been co-located into Centrelink Morwell;

Ballarat VAN office has been co-located

into Centrelink Ballarat;

Frankston, Gosford, Bairnsdale and

Wollongong VAN offices were closed and veterans sent to Centrelink offices.

Bendigo, Mildura and Warrnambool agency contracts were ended.

Launceston VVCS closed.

Newcastle VVCS staff cut.

Other VVCS offices have been closed and veterans sent to civilian clinics.

Veterans must now join these Centrelink queues before being directed to the DVA staff or being dealt with by Centrelink staff.

This attack on the veterans' dignity is in breach of many government promises.

Chip, chip, chip...

Other disappointments include the government's failure, despite our continuing advice, to acknowledge there may be a barrier of no-guaranteed-child-care for young mums seeking VVCS counselling. Any obstacle to early intervention should be abolished.

It is hard to understand the government's failure to act on the \$9,465 difference between funeral benefits for Vietnam veterans and the more generous benefit for younger veterans. This unfair difference is important for the aging Vietnam veteran community.

It is baffling too, that the government refuses to remove the absurd off-setting between DVA and other completely unrelated Commonwealth payments; its absurdity increased by the fact that, if the unrelated payment is a State government payment, there is no off-setting (see article in November 2017 edition).

Then there is the ridiculously out-of-date life expectancy tables used to calculate DFRB/DFRDB military superannuation payments (see article in this edition) leaving many superannuants out-of-pocket.

The government's report card reads:

'Disappointing. Must do better'. ■

The suicide of Jesse Bird

(Report on the Department's mismanagement still withheld)

The mismanagement by the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs as revealed by the Jesse Bird suicide investigation is alarming.

We know this because some of the investigation report into the Jesse Bird suicide was leaked to the media. But the Minister refuses to release the full version to the veteran community even in a redacted form so as to overcome privacy concerns.

Yet the report belongs to the veteran community because it outlines the failures in DVA when dealing with sick and troubled veterans. We have the right to know in detail where DVA failed so as to monitor the remedies put in place.

This is particularly important because history shows that good will on the part of the Repatriation Commission and DVA cannot be assumed. Consider these examples of bad faith:

- Jesse Bird's suicide followed the DVA disobeying the law in its claims processing as well as dismissing the pleas of a competent advocate and a veteran with accepted Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (a disorder increasing the risk of suicide).
- In 2009, the suicide of Vietnam veteran Garry McColley followed DVA informing him, after an anonymous telephone tip-off, that he was under investigation for

providing false information in gaining his TPI pension. DVA left Garry, a known 'veteran at risk', dangling for 15 months without advising him of the progress of the investigation. To make matters worse, after his suicide, he was found to be innocent.

(From the McColley tragedy came a recommendation for special care with 'veterans at risk', a recommendation that seems to have been lost somewhere in the Department between McColley and Bird.)

- In 1987, we requested a DVA document under 'Freedom of Information'. DVA refused to release the full document, supplying only a heavily redacted copy citing as its justification that the document was 'Cabinet in Confidence'. Knowing the

document had not been submitted to Cabinet, we wrote both to the Ombudsman and the DVA Secretary complaining.

DVA relented and sent what it purported to be the full document. We learned, however, that certain vital information had been removed. The document was fraudulent. Only after informing the Ombudsman of this deceit was the full document provided. Bad faith indeed.

- In 1992, the Repatriation Commission/ DVA drew up legislation to make more onerous the accepted standard of proof

The Royal Commission went so far as to accuse the Department of training Determining Officers "to find ways around Court statements of what the law was" and of emphasising "ways in which a claim could be 'knocked-out'

(Continued on page 11)



applied to veterans' compensation claims. In justification, the Repatriation Commission claimed its more onerous interpretation was that which was meant in the 1985 legislation. Senator Durack who was the Minister for Veterans Affairs introducing the 1985 legislation called that a thundering lie. Here's what he said.

"... We were not in the business of taking anything away from the veteran community ... In redrafting the legislation, we gave the right of proof beyond reasonable doubt ... to veterans."

Senator Durack added:

"It is that particular matter [the 'benefit of the doubt' concession] which this Repatriation Commission, in the last decade or so, has been absolutely determined to modify and hopefully reverse. That is my major complaint and the reason why I am speaking here tonight."

He went further:

"The reason I have risen to speak in this debate is that I believe that over the last 10 years or so there have been very strong attempts by the Repatriation Commission to subvert the longstanding intentions of Parliament in favour of claims for war-caused injuries by veterans."

- Take another instance; DVA's response to the 1985 O'Brien court case.

The Secretary of the Department gave advice to the Minister on how to get legislation through parliament without

having to deal with arguments from the veteran community when the legislation reached the Senate.

"There may be no better opportunity than the present to initiate an amendment given that the proposed bill will be a money bill and cannot be amended in the Senate." (a case of 'dirty tricks')

- In 1985, the Agent Orange Royal Commission found that DVA had, as in the Jesse Bird scandal, been disobeying the law. It reported:

"...for a number of years, [Repatriation Commission] refused to concede that benevolent judicial interpretations of the application of ... [the law] were consistent with parliamentary intention".

And, the report said, the Department was guilty of "finding a method whereby the Repatriation Commission may restrict benefits which have flowed from a generous – though proper – interpretation of the legislation".

The Royal Commission went so far as to accuse the Department of training Determining Officers "to find ways around Court statements of what the law was" and of emphasising "ways in which a claim could be 'knocked-out'."

As Repatriation Commission/DVA good will cannot be assumed, the Minister should release the report on DVA's mismanagement of the Jesse Bird case to the veteran community. ■

Some thoughts from Jacqui Lambie's ADF Suicide Enquiry

In September 2016, Senator Lambie, also on behalf of Senators Xenophon, Hinch and Culleton, moved that the Senate establish an enquiry into ADF suicide.

It was a welcome move.

In August 2017, the Senate enquiry's report was released.

It has 24 recommendations. The government has agreed to 22 of them and supports the 2 remaining in principle.

It should be noted, however, that many of the recommendations are to 'review', 'continue to support', 'Task Force examine', 'enhance existing programme', giving DVA plenty of wriggle room.

Here's an example:

'Perhaps the most concerning evidence the committee received related to veterans who gave up their claims in frustration before they had even received a final determination due to their adverse experiences in the administration of their claims. A number of veterans (and partners of veterans) explained that they would not speak or engage with DVA staff again due their negative experiences.

'The committee recommends that the

Department of Veterans' Affairs conduct a review of its training program to ensure relevant staff: have an understanding of the realities of military service...'

Here's another example:

'A supportive and inclusive approach to the families of veterans in the transition process is vital to ensuring the long-term well-being of veterans. However, a consistent theme from the evidence received was that there was a lack of support for the partners of veterans who have mental

health conditions or have acquired severe disabilities arising from their service.

'The committee has recommended that the Department of Veterans' Affairs review the support for partners of veterans to identify further avenues to support.'

In a damning finding, the Senate enquiry reported:

'...the committee believes a key contention by many witnesses, that the claims process is a key stressor and contributing factor to suicide by some veterans should be looked

'The evidence to the inquiry indicates some urgent areas for administrative reform identified by Professor Dunt in 2009 and by the APSC Capability Review in November 2013 have not been adequately addressed...'



The Senate is forcing change on us, Bruce, and I think you're just the man to make it happen.

at closely.

‘The committee has recommended that the government commission an independent study into the mental health impacts of the claims processes.’

DVA’s primitive computer system has always been inadequate. The system couldn’t (and perhaps still can’t) even record from which ex-service organisation veterans’ claims come, making identifying and remedying areas of bad practice or even calculating how many claims each ex-service organisation submits, impossible.

Here’s what the Senate enquiry reported:

‘The committee recognises the ICT issues with multiple systems adding to the

complexity and the lack of investment in efficient ICT.

‘Important administrative reform is starting to occur, but the pace does not reflect the importance of the outcomes for veterans and their families’

‘The committee [recommends] that DVA be adequately funded to achieve full digitisation of its records and modernisation of its systems by 2020, including the introduction of a single coherent system to process and manage claims.’

If you would like to see all the recommendations of the enquiry go to the website of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Meanwhile here is a general comment from the Senate enquiry report that gives cause for concern:

(Continued on page 14)



How Senate Committees work

‘The evidence to the inquiry indicates some urgent areas for administrative reform identified by Professor Dunt in 2009 and by the APSC Capability Review in November 2013 have not been adequately addressed... Important administrative reform is starting to occur, but the pace does not reflect the importance of the outcomes for veterans and their families.’

We leave you with some evidence given to the Committee by Ms Connie Boglis, the former partner of Jesse Bird:

‘Jesse did not have a 'Part time' 6-10 scale PTSD, Jesse had PTSD Everyday! Jesse was trained to run into the face of fear, you taught him that. You broke him down before he even left for war and if that wasn't enough, he was deployed to Afghanistan for 9 months when it was only meant to be 6. The day Jesse landed on Australian soil he should have been handed a white card, given a pension and options for supports thereafter if he choose. Instead Jesse was expected to pour out his wounds from the battlefield to a

complete stranger and talk emotions, something you taught him to hide so well. Well he did it, Then you made him wait. In hope that his voice would be heard, we continued to wait, I couldn't wait any longer, So Jesse tried to wait a little more and fight on his own but you never came.’ ■



Senator Jacqui Lambie

CROWEATERS CORNER

Lots of things have happened since our last note to the National Newsletter. Firstly, we have had a grant application approved from the Liberal/National party re Solar Panels for the VVF at Warradale and for Camp Andrew Russell (C.A.R.) at Alawoona. Both of these have been installed and currently functioning.

We have done a lot of work at C.A.R. lately with members spending quite some time working around the camp getting things up to scratch for any visitors wishing to go there.

Members of our Gem Vets, Glass Fusion, Lead Lighting, Quilting, WACAS (We All Care and Support, VORG (Veterans Off Road Group) and Sewing groups continue to provide an interest to our members and partners who wish to learn about, or do, something a little different.

Once again, our wonderful; quilting Ladies presented us with a very fine quilt for our raffle at our Christmas Lunch. The lunch was very well attended with approximately 125 people attending. Once again our Patron, His Excellency the Governor, Mr Hu Van Le honoured us with his attendance, along with many Politicians, both Federal and State. It was a great way to end the year with the organisers of this event once again doing themselves and us proud. Our Patron is a very popular figure amongst our members and much respected and liked by the entire Veteran's community in S.A.

Our Pension Officers continue to be very active with younger and older veterans.

Our sub committee ably led by Bob Ellis, is well down the track of organising the commemorative service for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of FSB's Coral and Balmoral on the 12th May, 2018, They even have an original artillery piece from FSB's Coral and Balmoral along with other Military vehicles on display. Dr Brendan Nelson has kindly agreed to be our Keynote Speaker for the event and we await confirmation of attendance by other VIP's including the Prime Minister, Governor General and State Governor. Other things have been organised by the subcommittee to commemorate this event nationally, but are unable to be revealed at this time. Needless to say, these initiatives by the S.A. group will be utilised by all other organisers commemorating this event.

In October, we received notification from the State Government that they were compulsorily acquiring our facility to enable the upgrade of the Oaklands Railway Crossing. This means that we have to find another suitable venue to use as our HQ. Another subcommittee has been formed and is frantically searching for a suitable premise for us to move into. This is causing some angst amongst our members but the Government has assured us that we will not be required to move until a suitable site has been found. Never a dull moment here in S.A. Watch this space.

Well that is about it for us "Croweaters", hopefully our next article for the Newsletter will have some news on our relocation.

Mail Thiele
SA State President
08 8296 2411
Mon-Thur 1000—1500hrs
vvfsa@tpg.com.au

**I JUST SWAPPED OUR BED
FOR A TRAMPOLINE**

MY WIFE HIT THE ROOF

Many DFRB/DFRDB superannuants being short changed

Many DFRB/DFRDB superannuants have elected to receive lump sum payments with a compensating reduction of their fortnightly pension.

The amount of this reduction is calculated by dividing the lump sum payment by how many years the recipient has to live according to life expectancy tables. The more years the recipient is expected to live, the less each pension payment has to be reduced to compensate for receiving the lump sum.

But life expectancy has increased markedly in the last thirty years. This means that the amount of money deducted from fortnightly pensions to compensate for receiving the lump sum should be reducing.

No such reduction has occurred, because old, out of date, life expectancy tables continue to be used.

This is despite the anomaly having been brought to the government's attention a number of times over the years.

The DFRB/DFRDB life expectancy tables are based on 1960-62 figures. Life expectancy has increased a lot since then.

Whereas DFRB/DFRDB tables give a 45 year old male a life expectancy of 72.4 years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) table, based on up-to-date data, give a 45 year old male a life expectancy of 82.1 years.

Whereas DFRB/DFRDB tables give a 65 year old male a life expectancy of 77.5 years, the ABS up-to-date table gives a 65 year old male a life expectancy of 84.5 years.

Quite a difference.

So the repayment of lump sums by pension deductions should have been reducing over time to take account of increasing life expectancy.

But they have not.

The DFRB/DFRDB life expectancy tables are based on 1960-62 figures. Life expectancy has increased a lot since then

There is another anomaly.

When the lump sum has been repaid through pension deductions, the pension is not returned to its original value; deductions to the pension continue to be made.

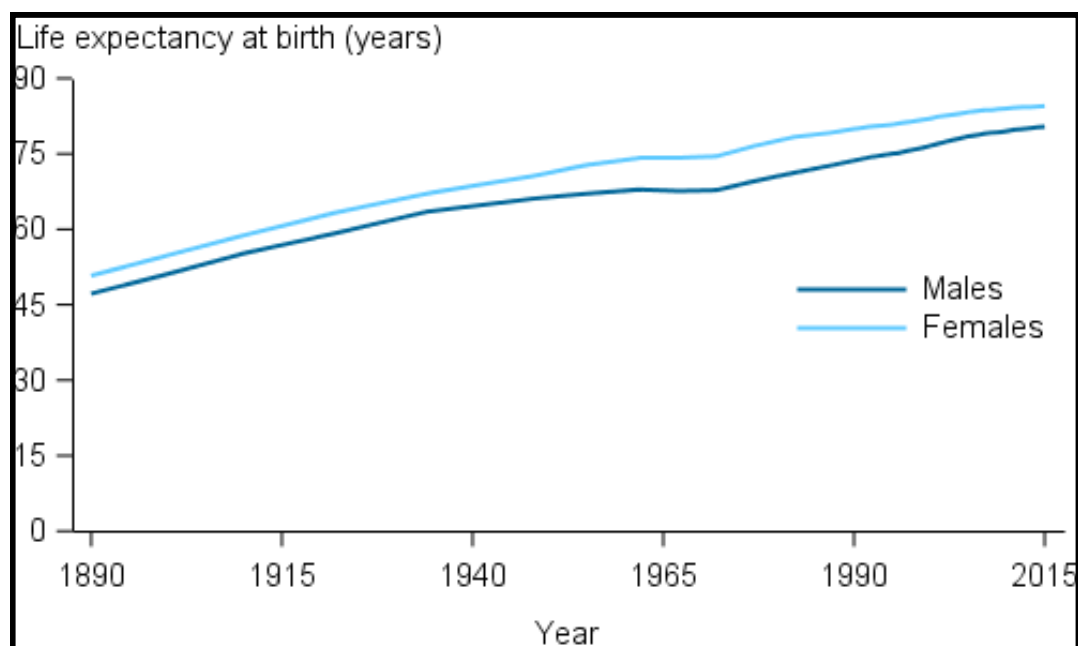
Combine this with the deductions being more than they should have been because an out-of-date life

expectancy table is being used, and it is clear many military superannuants are being seriously short changed.

And another thing. Whilst the spouse of a deceased parliamentarian receives 83% of the deceased's superannuation pension, the spouses of deceased DFRB/DFRDB superannuants receive only 62.5%. Short changed indeed.

Are the spouses of deceased parliamentarians worth more than the spouses of deceased war veterans? ■

Life expectancy (years) at birth by sex, 1881–1890 to 2013–2015



Sources: ABS 2014a; ABS 2014b; ABS 2015; ABS 2016

Age	Life expectancy used by DFRB/DFRDB Males	Life expectancy ABS up-to-date figures Males
0 (birth)	67.9	80.4
1	69.5	80.7
15	70.1	80.8
25	70.8	81.1
45	72.4	82.1
65	77.5	84.5
85	89.1	91.2
95	97.3	98.0

Sources: ABS 2014a; ABS 2016 .

Obituary

Professor Jock McCulloch

11/8/45 to 18/1/18

Early Agent Orange crusader

Dr Jock McCulloch, published *The Politics of Agent Orange: An Australian Experience* in 1984.

It's publication coincided with Vietnam veterans fight to have harmfulness of exposure to Agent Orange acknowledged. The book was an important part of the fight which, after a decade of campaigning, saw veterans' cancers linked to Agent Orange and compensated.

We are grateful for Jock's valuable contribution.

Jock was an environmental historian who, after his foray into the Agent Orange controversy, took on the asbestos industry exposing the human cost of the worldwide asbestos trade. Indeed, Jock died of mesothelioma probably resulting from his time investigating asbestos mining in South Africa.

As well as his academic and campaigning pursuits he was a lover of art, cricket and Aussie Rules.

Jock died on the 18th January 2018 at Peter Mac Cancer Hospital.

We send our condolences to his family. ■



The Minefield

Every war, it seems, has its disasters brought on by misunderstanding the enemy.

In the case of the Vietnam War it was not realising and acknowledging who the enemy was.

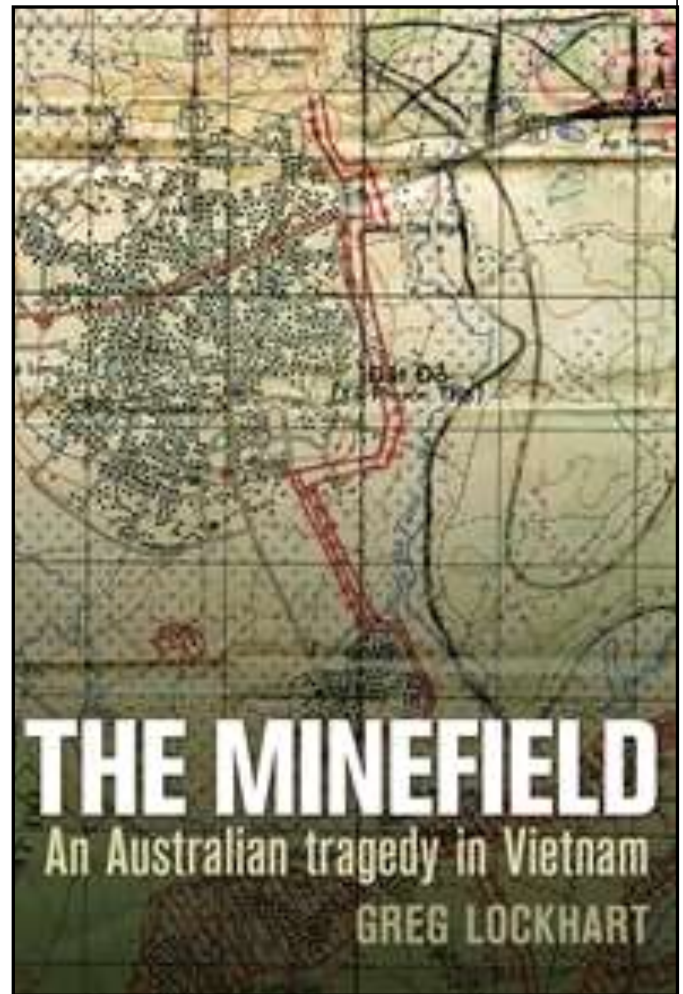
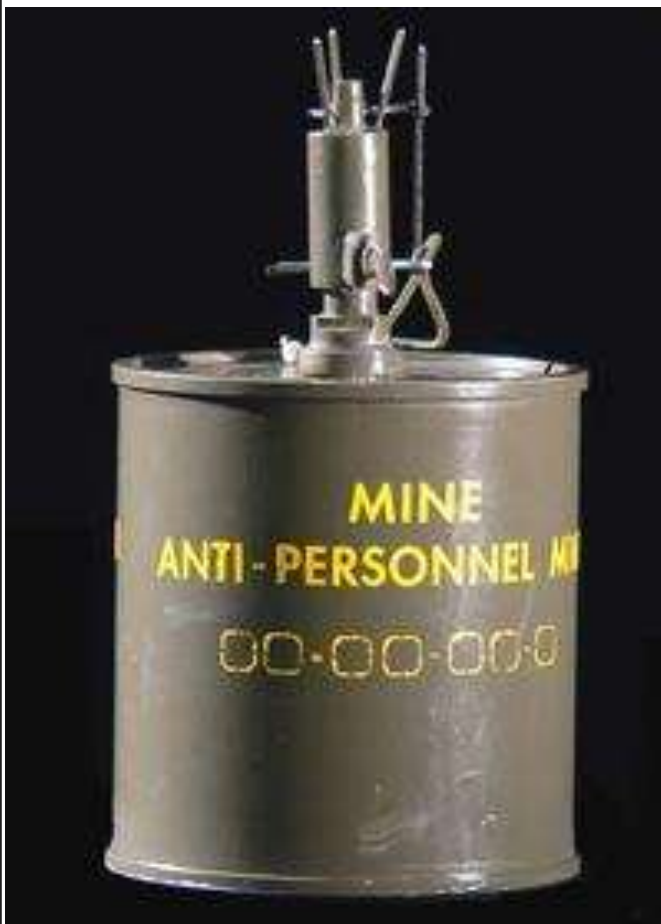
So it happened that we built a deadly minefield designed to keep the enemy out of the populated areas, when the enemy always had been part of the populated areas.

The result of this misunderstanding was that we had a minefield, against all the principles of mine warfare, with the enemy on both sides.

Indeed it was people from the villages the minefield was meant to protect who lifted thousands of the 25,000 jumping jack mines and placed them in the path of Australian and allied soldiers, with great destructive effect.

How could this happen?

Read Greg Lockhart's book to find out. ■



It is the best book so far written about Australia's participation in the Vietnam war.
Written ten years ago and still selling well.
To get your copy simply ring the NSW Branch Granville Office on 02 9682 1788.
Or order online at www.vvfaгранville.org ■

Dr Greg Lockhart is a Vietnam veteran, having served with AATTV.

He is an eminent historian whose work has been widely acknowledged.

His writing of this excellent book came from the VVFA's concern that it knew very little about the Minefield when dealing with veterans damaged by their contact with it.

He is the VVFA's honorary historian. ■

The Medical and Health Legacy of the Vietnam War

The new history now being written

IT'S half way there.

Historian Dr Peter Yule has two more years to complete a new Official History volume on the medical and health legacy of the Vietnam War.

The volume will, of course, tell the story of the Agent Orange controversy anew but also the story of the scourge of PTSD and other psychological damage from the trauma of war.

The Agent Orange Controversy

Readers will know that the Agent Orange story for veterans started in the very late 1970s when evidence emerged from the US that exposure could cause cancer.

For a long time the government simply denied that veterans had even been exposed.

The veterans' own research, however, found to the contrary. They demanded the Government give them the full story.

They also demanded an acknowledgement from the Repatriation System that exposure to Agent Orange may have been harmful. The Repatriation Commission, however, denied any link between exposure and cancer.

Certainly there were good scientific studies finding no link between Agent Orange and cancers. But there were also good studies in which a link was established.

Repatriation law gave (and gives) war veterans the 'benefit of the doubt'. And on this question there certainly was doubt. The campaigning veterans believed, therefore, that the Repatriation Commission should have been acknowledging the link for Vietnam veterans.

Despite this argument, the Repatriation Commission remained unmoved.

So the veterans campaigned for a Royal Commission that would find more evidence,



Historian Dr Peter Yule

which, combined with giving veterans the 'benefit of the doubt' as the law demanded, would make it impossible for the Repatriation Commission to remain in denial.

But whilst the Royal Commission found that, under Repatriation law, two categories of cancer could be attributed to exposure whilst in Vietnam, and whilst the Royal Commission castigated the Repatriation Commission for previously evading the law and Parliamentary intentions, the Repatriation Commission dug in, refusing to budge.

The disappointed campaigning veterans then turned to the appeals tribunals, noting they seemed to have a much greater respect for the law. In the early 1990s appeal after appeal was won.

(Continued on page 21)

Still the Repatriation Commission resisted.

In 1993, the US Academy of Science submitted a meta-study (a summary of all available studies) to the US Congress that linked, at a high standard of proof, Agent Orange to several cancers.

The game was up.

The Repatriation Commission was humbled into submission.

In 1994, Volume 3, the medical volume, of the Official History of the Vietnam War was published.

Included in it was an account of the Agent Orange controversy by Professor FB Smith. He claimed that the campaigning veterans had no case and that they were dishonest and motivated by greed.

Nothing could have been further from the truth.

As we have explained, the veterans' contention had clearly been upheld by the Royal Commission.

As for 'motivation', the veterans' submission to the Royal Commission had not asked for additional compensation for Agent Orange injuries, only that claims be treated fairly under the existing system. This was hardly 'greedy'.

Twenty years of campaigning to have this inaccurate and unjustly insulting history re-written succeeded in 2013 when the War Memorial Council commissioned a scoping study to determine whether an new account was warranted.

The scoping study heavily criticised FB Smith's account. Consequently, the War Memorial Council commissioned Dr Peter Yule to write a new volume of the Official History on the medical and health aspects of the Vietnam War.

The PTSD Controversy

PTSD and other psychological illnesses are a major legacy of the Vietnam War. Many thousands of Vietnam veterans and members of our families have been damaged by this blight.

Dr Peter Edwards was the Official Historian overseeing the writing of the nine volumes of the Official History of the Vietnam War.

He fiercely supported FB Smith's version of the Agent Orange controversy and was disparaging of the campaigning veterans. He wrote:

'The focus on Agent Orange served not to assist but to delay and to obstruct constructive action towards remedying, or paying compensation for, a wide range of diseases suffered by veterans and their families, to which war service might have contributed. The most important was probably post-traumatic stress disorder...'

Once again, nothing could be further from the truth.

The same veterans campaigning for recognition of the possible harmfulness of Agent Orange, were also campaigning for a counselling service to be set up.

It was this group, led by Phill Thompson, that, in 1980 opened its own Counselling Service at its Parramatta office employing three qualified volunteer counsellors. One of the counsellors, Lianne Grearson (later to join the VVCS) wrote up case studies that formed a telling part of a submission by the VVAA to the government. This submission, as well as the general campaigning of the veterans, convinced the government to establish the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS).

Between January 1981 and January 1982, Repatriation Commissioner Major General Alby Morrison and Phill Thompson toured Australia conducting interviews to recruit staff. In January 1982, Phill Thompson, in recognition of his group's part in its establishment, gave a speech in Adelaide at the first Counselling Centre opening.

In other words, the campaigning veterans, far from causing a delay and obstruction to remedying the problem of post-traumatic stress, expedited the availability of treatment and compensation.

Our Hope

Our hope is that the new volume of the Official History will set the record straight. ■

Think Piece: Defining the Contemporary Veteran

Source: Published 20 July, 2017 by MAJ Clare O'Neill

CONTEMPORARY veterans are a diverse group with no ingrained stereotype. Some are still serving military members and will participate in Anzac Day marches with their units. Others have transitioned to civilian life and may march under an ex-service organisation's banner. Some will opt to stand undetected on the sidelines while others, who hold painful memories of war, may wish the day was not filled with military reminders. So how does the stereotype of 'Anzac' and 'veteran' compare alongside the mould of our most recent veterans on Anzac Day?

The image conjured when I think of *Anzac* is that of rugged men muddied in trenches. They stare out at you from history books with toughness, resilience and bashful courage. Their knowing eyes defy their youthful faces. Anzac is the image of our past and provides the foundation for our present.

The image of a *veteran*, to me, has always been my grandfathers. Both served in World War II, one Army and the other Air Force. Their tales from Papua New Guinea, Britain and Burma were lost with their passing some years ago as neither shared their war stories when alive. As they reached the end of their lives their features mirrored those often flashed up on screens during Anzac Day—that of aged men with worn medals clanking across their chests. This vision of veteran is often shown with the dichotomy of youth; an



iconic visual of the veteran's actions and sacrifice as their legacy to future generations. Their youthful faces passed on to the next generation but without the toughened glare of war.

I only had one fleeting moment of conversation with each of my grandfathers about their roles in World War II. War was rarely discussed. The first was with my grandfather who served in Papua New Guinea. I was 20 years old

(Continued on page 23)

and had just completed Exercise Shaggy Ridge (a sleep and food deprivation training exercise) as a cadet at the Royal Military College Duntroon. I was proud I had completed the arduous activity when others hadn't. My grandfather paused in his response to my story, "Shaggy Ridge, yes, I patrolled in that area. I was so bloody scared of heights that I was more afraid to look down than I was of the Japs". This ephemeral exchange of stories with a World War II veteran forever put my Army warries back in the box.

The second exchange was with my grandfather who served in the Air Force.

I was about to deploy on my second tour of Afghanistan and was visiting him during pre-deployment leave. I chatted about my first deployment to Afghanistan and explained how my second deployment would be similar. During the conversation my grandfather disappeared. A couple of hours later he re-emerged holding two photographs. The first was a photograph of him in Afghanistan, taken while he was transitioning from Britain, where he had been a Night Intruder, to the campaign in Burma. "Afghanistan's pretty rough, don't trust the locals in a card game, they slit a chap's throat when he didn't pay his debt". Handy advice. The second was a photograph of his Flight taken in Britain. For all bar two, the word 'dead' or 'maimed' was bluntly stated as he pointed at their youthful faces. I'm grateful one of the two was a younger image of my grandfather. With the words "war's not the same anymore", he disappeared again. This grandfather never attended Anzac Day.

I will never know the rest of my grandfathers' stories but they will always be my image of a veteran and what I personally remember each Anzac Day. I cannot change my

own stereotype image of *Anzac* and *veteran*. The textbook definition of a veteran may be simple but having a sense of being a modern veteran is a little more complicated when analysed against the past and ingrained stereotypes. The word veteran may never sit comfortably with me when pointed in my direction.

With this foundation
and remembrance it
is time for
contemporary
veterans to define
our own image

Who we are and who we are not.

On Anzac Day the song 'And the band played Waltzing Matilda' rang out at my Regiment's Dawn Service. Images of frail aged men once again flashed up on an overhead screen as the song struck the words:

"But the band plays Waltzing Matilda, and the old men still answer the call. But as year follows year, more old men disappear. Someday no one will march there at all."

But there will be someone. They are the contemporary veterans.

My thoughts coincide with reading James Brown's book *Anzac's Long Shadow*. Brown, a contemporary veteran himself, has eloquently captured the thoughts of many of us who are struggling to define ourselves against the *Anzac* stereotype.

Against another era of veteran, contemporary veterans do not face the Vietnam veteran's adversity of returning to a nation that scorned their deeds. Our return has the support of the broader Australian community. We also have a blank canvas for our image. Brown points out that little is known in the general Australian community about the role of Australian Defence Force personnel in recent conflicts including East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and Solomon Islands.

Indeed serving personnel sometimes have

(Continued on page 24)

misconceptions of veterans. During Anzac Day in 2011 I overheard an Australian Army soldier question why a member of the Royal Australian Navy was wearing an Afghanistan Campaign Medal. The tone suggested unworthiness of the honour; Afghanistan after all is a land-locked country. I was affronted by this comment as I had deployed to Afghanistan with Navy personnel who were Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians and Air Force personnel who were Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. If you know what these roles are, you will know how much admiration I have for their contribution to the survivability of our team. As I explained to the soldier—even though medals look the same, each medal comes with its own story. Every contemporary veteran's contribution should be valued without judgement.

Similar stories are also presenting. Women are often judged to have only completed sedentary roles in Afghanistan and Iraq when there are many examples of the opposite. I have had young sappers tell me they have attended RSLs on Anzac Day and been told to move their medals to their right side as 'don't you know, medals awarded to a family member go on the right side of your chest'. Someone needs to remind these self-appointed hall monitors that the sentiment of the song 'I was only 19' applies not only to wars of bygone eras but also to our most recent conflicts. Having to justify your medal and convince people of the violence you faced in conflict because of your gender, age, service or corps is something I hope is a passing fad. This is a dangerous form of stereotyping that may become ingrained if our stories are not shared.

I don't have a definition for the contemporary veteran or what mould we are made from. The lack of a stereotype may be our defining feature in the end. What I do know is that we own the image of the contemporary veteran because we are the contemporary veteran. We should not sit

passively by and let others define who we are or who we are not. If we don't own the image of the modern-day veteran then someone else will define it for us. Brown calls for proactive participation of serving members in intellectual debate and the "fluid exchange of ideas and the honest and intelligent study of the past." Reflecting on our own contribution to the past and its meaning to our future may be a good place to start.

I caveat this call for action. There is no romanticised version of war, and men and women sign up to protect the general community and their loved ones from the horrors of war. It is difficult to share the horrors with people outside the military fold when it is those people who you served to keep the horrors from. Some contemporary veterans might not be ready to share. Like my grandfathers, the time may never come when the stories flow in general conversation. It is in this space that the voice of other veterans becomes ever more important.

To me the words veteran and *Anzac* conjure images of courageous men. Those men who returned home are now wearied by age and those who did not return home are forever suspended in youth. It is the spirit of *Anzac* and actions of veterans past that found the human qualities of the contemporary veteran—qualities of mateship, resilience and courage. They give meaning to our present and a reassurance in our human spirit for the adversities of the future. With this foundation and remembrance it is time for contemporary veterans to define our own image. ■

MAJ Clare O'Neill is a Royal Australian Engineer in the Australian Army who's operational experience includes deployments to Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. Clare was the 2013 Chief of Army Scholar and Fulbright Professional Scholar in Australia-US Alliance Studies at Georgetown University. Clare is the Founder of Grounded Curiosity and Executive Director of the Defence Entrepreneurs Forum Australia. After completing sub-unit command at the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, Clare completed Australian Command and Staff College and is now the Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Army.

QUEENSLAND STATE PRESIDENT REPORT

The Queensland Branch has been very busy and our two level 4 Advocates, Kathryn McRae and Flavia Senter are achieving great results for veterans and for widows of veterans. Their workload has increased considerably and the bulk of their new work is the result of recommendations from their recent clients. They are assisted by Kevin Borger and they work exceptionally well as a team by continually discussing and resolving issues amongst themselves.

We are all aware that many veterans go through very difficult times after leaving the Australian Defence Force. Ex Defence Force personnel have physical and mental health issues because of their various roles within the Defence Force. The rate of suicide of veterans is well above the Australian average and now this problem has been recognized and is in the early stages of being addressed.

Many Ex Service organisations are committing time and resources to help and assist all veterans needing such help. All involved will make a difference as veterans realise that not just fellow veterans but the vast majority of Australians value their current Defence Force members and all Australian veterans who willingly defend Australia's freedom and liberty. The Australian public who turn out each and every ANZAC Day is an example of how much average Australians value the efforts of all current and past Defence Force personnel. Not all who want to attend can actually get there for various reasons.

With that in mind, the Queensland Branch is about to launch an online opportunity for Australians to say thank you and express how they value the service of veterans and current Defence Force members. Also be able to thank the families of all Australians who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and liberty.

This Queensland Branch project will be called "Saying Thank You" and will be launched very soon. (Early March this year). The aim is that this will be driven by the Australian public through social media and word of mouth. It will be most important that Australians not just add their name and comments to the online "Saying Thank You" Register but also spread the word to all their friends, family, neighbours, workmates, or simply put, as many other people as possible.

Towards the middle of March please look up "sayingthankyou.org.au" or go to our website "www.vvfqld.com" and follow the links.

Peter Handy JP (Qual)

President, Queensland Branch VVFofA.

21/2/2018



Image of a Dead Man

Painting by 2RAR Vietnam Veteran Ray Beattie.

It pictures an empty kitchen chair with an empty army jacket hung on it; the empty chair and jacket representing the absence of Ray's colleagues killed-in-action. They would never have the opportunity to occupy that chair, sitting round Ray's kitchen table telling stories and drinking beer. There is some sort of Australian flag on the chair, reminding us in whose name his comrades died.

The painting tells of Ray's feelings of sadness and loss.

Who should we remember on Anzac Day

Anzac Address by Graham Walker

RECENTLY, Vietnam veteran and historian Dr Greg Lockhart came across the graves of the crew of a Bomber Command Stirling aircraft which crashed on the Island of Ile d'Yeu off the French Atlantic coast on 16 October 1942. The crew included four New Zealanders, two Britons and a Canadian. For some years the families knew only that the crew was Missing-in-Action. And for three aged siblings of the pilot, Canadian John Ekelund, the first effective confirmation of their brother's death came from Dr Lockhart in 2012

Even after 70 years it was a relief for them— at last they were able to grieve.

Today, ANZAC Day, in remembering the fallen, we honour the sacrifice of that bomber crew.

At the same time we recognise the families' sacrifice— the agony of waiting.

INDEED, WAITING is the lot of every family whose loved one goes off to war. They wait— quietly dreading a knock on the door and a uniformed officer and padre saying 'We have some bad news...'

AND THE bad news is not always of the fallen.

On Sunday the 25th of April 1915 Vernon King, a former Albany resident, landed on the Gallipoli Peninsular with the 11th Battalion. 'We got a hot reception', he writes: 'I got in the hottest part of the firing line and saw all my best cobbles falling... a shell blew up the bank that I was on &

tossed me over a steep hill about 200 feet deep'. Vernon was evacuated, returning however in June to more fierce fighting and artillery bombardments. 'I had a bad turn', he writes, and 'went stone blind for a while'. He was evacuated again, eventually returning to Australia suffering Shell Shock. He was a changed man. Distressed

by his memories, Vernon was reluctant to speak of these experiences and avoided Anzac Day commemorations.

On Anzac Day 1969, Roy Mundine, of the Bunjalong people, was on an operation with the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Phuoc Tuy Province, Vietnam. While

moving forward to clear a bunker system, Roy tripped a mine. 'I was engulfed by a huge explosion', he says, 'then realized my leg was in tatters'. He continued to direct his troops but later lost the leg. 'I had hoped for a continuing career as an infantryman,' he says, 'but I had to think again'.

On the 14th of August 2006 Sarah Webster, from Brisbane, was in the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq. A 122mm Ketyusha rocket crashed into a concrete wall nearby. There was a devastating blast. 'I remember nothing', she says, 'till regaining consciousness in hospital'. Among other wounds her leg was seriously damaged... Sarah's career has been limited and shortened.

The wounded— so often denied the dreams of their youth— Today, we honour their sacrifice.

PERHAPS IT IS this set of values that is the beating heart of the ANZAC tradition.

(Continued on page 28)

AND THE FAMILIES of the wounded, so often their worlds turned up-side down, finding themselves with the life-long task of care and support— Today, ANZAC Day, we honour that sacrifice.

And consider that chilling statistic from the Vietnam War, that the children of Vietnam veterans have had a 300% higher suicide rate than their peers in the Australian community— Today we might shed a tear for them.

INDEED, ANZAC DAY is a day on which we might remind ourselves that the cost of war does not end with the warriors' homecoming.

WHAT CAN WE salvage from the tragedy of war?

Under the threat of death on the battlefield, the Anzacs aspired to the values of courage, loyalty, trustworthiness, rejection of pomposity and above all, selflessness. From this code of behaviour come the deeds we so admire; William Earl, on the HMAS Parramatta during the battle of Crete, with bombs landing nearby and risking being drawn into the ship's propellers, diving into the water to rescue a crew member of HMS Auckland who was near the point of exhaustion; Mark Donaldson in Afghanistan exposing himself to enemy fire to protect his wounded comrades, then beating almost impossible odds to rescue one of his party from no man's land.

It is this code of behaviour, too, that fosters those bonds of friendship that remain iron-clad for a lifetime.

It is a code whose rewards money cannot buy.

And, it is a code of behaviour whose validity transcends the battlefield. It is a code we can all aspire to, regardless of gender, ethnicity or creed.

PERHAPS IT IS this set of values that is the beating heart of the ANZAC tradition. ■

3 RAR In South Vietnam 1967-1968

[See image opposite]

Peter Dorman, 3 RAR *first tour veteran*, took on the task of digitally reprinting the book that was originally presented to members of 3 RAR in 1969.

Now 50 years on Peter is making this worthy volume available to the battalion and public. Using best quality binding and paper, this new edition will survive well into the future.

Priced to recover costs only, plus postage and handling of \$13.80, it is hoped that many veterans and the public alike, will take this opportunity to purchase a piece of historical value.

For less than \$90 it represents the best value for money you could spend this year.



2RAR National Reunion 2017

“where old mates reunite”

date: 17-21 May 2017

Brisbane

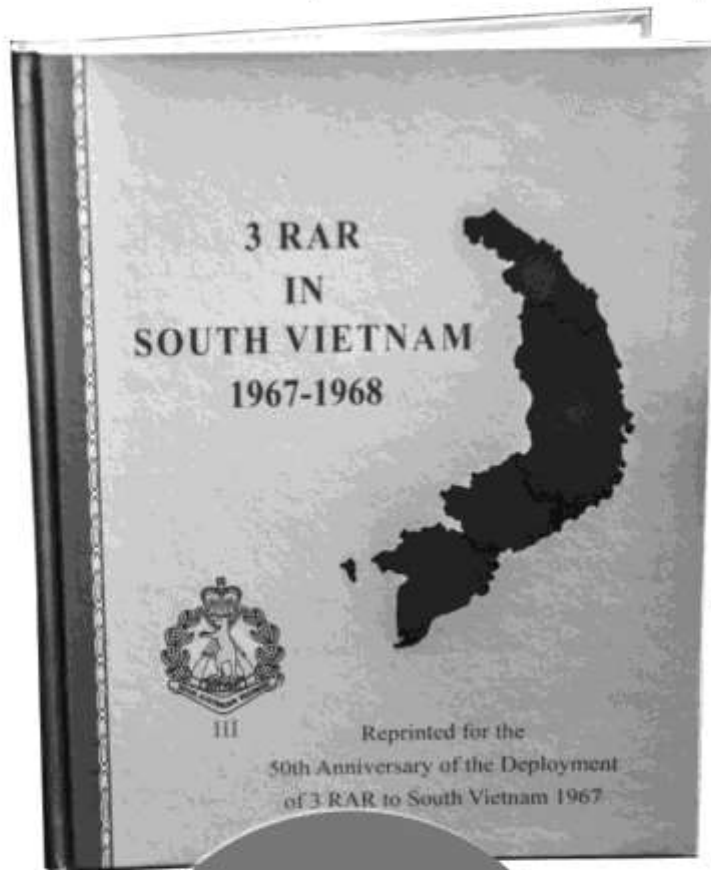
Rally your mates and make this a memorable reuniting of past comrades-in-arms. Spouses/partners/families are welcome however it is essential that all attendees are registered.

Click on the 2AR Association website <http://www.2rar-association.com.au> to register. The cost of the reunion is listed on the registration form and will depend on the date of your registration. For further information call 07 3342 4272.

See page 44 for more Reunion Notices...

3 RAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM 1967—1968

This book was first published in 1968. It chronicles the Operations that 3 RAR were involved in during its deployment to South Vietnam. With the permission of the Department of Defence, Directorate of Communications, the original book is reprinted for the 50th Anniversary of the deployment to South Vietnam.



\$74.99

Plus Postage & Packaging \$13.80



To purchase go to www.3rarcharliecoyvietnam67-68.com/store/

FREE PENSIONS & ADVOCACY SERVICE

- We represent former as well as current members of the defence force.
- We represent veterans of all conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan. As well as Peacekeeping services.
- We have many years of experience helping with claims in all the Military Compensation schemes.
- If your initial claim has been unreasonably rejected we have experienced Advocates to prepare and present an appeal to the Veterans Review Board.
- Should an appeal to the Veterans Review Board be unsuccessful we can, for entitled veterans, arrange legal representation and legal aid for Administrative Appeals Tribunal hearings.
- These services are free.
- Neither is there any obligation to join our Federation although you would be welcome to do so.

Contact any of our Branches or Sub-Bran­ches from the lists elsewhere in this Journal. Alternatively, visit our website, www.vvfa.org.au and email from the lists included.

Tasmanians wishing assistance are asked to call Dennis Hanmer OAM from our Outreach Program at our Sydney Head Office on 02 9682 1788.

MEMBERSHIP

**Belonging
Advocacy
Success**

*Membership is due on 1 January each year.
(July 1 for Queensland members)*

Membership to our organisation empowers a team to achieve much within the veteran community, by assisting veterans with claims and applications on a wide spectrum of government provided avenues of compensation and benefits across 3 Acts of parliament.

Each as an individual is ineffective when lobbying governments for change, or to amend an injustice. Together as an organisation, with a strong membership we are able to, and have done, improve pathways for better treatment of veterans.

We survive as an organisation on the strength of our membership, and even if you have won the battle with Veterans Affairs (DVA), there is always the risk of changes in Government policy which may erode benefits and pensions or changes to eligibility entitlements.

We encourage membership from all who support our objectives, veterans, service and ex-service members, as well as war-widows and their families. You don't have to be a member or ex-member of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF). In most instances, anyone may join our organisation, with few exceptions, so why not enquire today.

It is through our membership subscriptions, fund raising activities and many kind donations from our members, and general public, that we are able to continue supporting our fellow Veterans and Service members in need, and meet our increasing welfare and pension workload.

Should you be able to help with a donation, or leave a bequest in your Will, it would be extremely beneficial and greatly appreciated.

We thank you for your kind support.

WA STATE REPORT

All WA Branch members should have received their December Vietnam Veterans Federation Newsletter which contained the membership renewal for 2018.

Unfortunately it stated the form was to be used for 'NSW Only', this was an oversight and it should have included for use by WA Branch members also.

Frank Cole, NSW president has undertaken to ensure this doesn't happen in the future. I made every attempt to get WA members to use the form or I emailed them a copy of a renewal. The important message for all members here is that if you have not yet renewed your subscriptions for 2018 then you can simply use the form in this Newsletter, (opposite), ensuring you write on the form "WA Branch Member" this will let those processing memberships in Granville know that you are indeed from WA.

Members will recall that due to a lack of volunteer support I was forced to hand over the administration of WA Branch affairs such as renewals etc., to the NSW branch a couple of years back. It was not possible for me to continue on my own doing Branch admin and Claims for Veterans. The system works well as long as members understand they simply fill out the renewal form and post it to the NSW Branch at PO Box 170 Granville NSW 2142, having indicated they are from WA.

Any questions you can email me on vvfawabranh@bigpond.com or if you like ring me on 94096682.

Kind regards to all.

Milton Kirk JP

30 Cornish Ave

Woodvale WA 6026

0894096682/ 0407420472

OUTREACH PROGRAM PENSION TOURS

Our Outreach Program continues to be extremely successful in reaching out to Veterans, service and ex-service community living in regional and/or remote areas.

Any Veteran, widow of a Veteran, and/or relative of a Veteran in rural NSW seeking assistance of the Outreach Team in matters of Service Pensions, Disability Pension Claims, War Widow Pensions, and/or MCRS Claims, etc., should contact the *OUTREACH COORDINATOR* (below), who will organise assistance.

In the event that members have friends who need assistance they are urged to contact Dennis Hanmer OAM who will coordinate the visit program. Of course, the more people wishing assistance in any one town or rural area, the more fulfilling the trip will be for the team.

Remember, we assist all Veterans, and service and ex-service personnel, in any matter relating to your service that may require the lodgement of a claim or application with DVA..

The team will provide assistance and advice to ALL Veterans of ALL conflicts, including Peacekeeping and Peacemaking deployments.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR
REPATRIATION BENEFITS? OUR
SERVICES ARE FREE.

Contact: Dennis Hanmer OAM (JP)

Mob: 0428 388 221 Ph: 02 9682 1788

Fax: 02 9682 6134

Email: secretary@vvfagranville.org

Mail: VVPPAA (NSW Branch) Inc.,
PO Box 170, Granville. 2142



VIETNAM VETERANS PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) Inc.

Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc.

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	SECOND NAME

STREET ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN	STATE	POST CODE

HOME PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	OTHER PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS [PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY]

SERVICE NUMBER	SERVICE UNIT	O'SEAS AREA OF OPERATIONAL SERVICE

NEXT OF KIN	RELATIONSHIP	CONTACT PHONE [NOK]

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
MEMBERSHIPS SUBS	(YEARS)	@\$30.00 PER YEAR	\$
DONATION	(AMOUNT ONLY)		\$
RAFFLE TICKET/s		@\$2.00 EACH	\$
MERCHANDISE			
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Stock item numbers and prices are available on line and from merchandise lists at branches		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD (Circle one only) CASH CHEQUE MONEY ORDER CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD DETAILS (Mastercard or VISA only)

CARD HOLDER NAME (PRINT)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--

EXPIRY DATE	TRANSACTION AMOUNT	SIGNATURE
(Mnth/Yr) ____/____	\$	

All cheques and money orders payable to VVPPAA NSW Branch Inc. Mail to PO Box 170 Granville, NSW 2142
Credit Card payments may be phoned in to (02) 9682 1788 Mon-Fri 9:30am – 3pm.

OFFICE USE ONLY

MEMBERSHIP RECEIPT DATE:	DONATION RECEIPT DATE:
MEMBERSHIP RECEIPT N ^o :	DONATION RECEIPT N ^o :
MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBER:	COMPLETED & ISSUED BY (PRINT):
COMPLETED & ISSUED BY (PRINT):	BANK SHEET ENTRY BY (PRINT):

MERCHANDISE

MERCHANDISE IS ONE WAY WE RAISE FUNDS THAT ALLOWS THE FEDERATION TO ADMINISTER AND ASSIST FELLOW VETERANS CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS TO DVA. IT HELPS US TO DO OUR ADVOCACY AT NO COST TO THE VETERAN. YOUR PURCHASE WILL ENABLE OUR BRANCHES TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS VALUABLE SERVICE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

SECOND NAME

--	--	--

OLD DETAILS [PRINT CLEARLY]

OLD ADDRESS

--

SUBURB/TOWN

STATE

POST CODE

--	--	--

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

OTHER PHONE

--	--	--

NEW DETAILS [PRINT CLEARLY]

NEW ADDRESS

--

SUBURB/TOWN

STATE

POST CODE

--	--	--

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

OTHER PHONE

--	--	--

EMAIL ADDRESS [PRINT CLEARLY]

--

YOUR SIGNATURE

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

Complete all sections and post to:

**The Secretary
VVPAA NSW
PO Box 170
Granville
NSW 2142**

OFFICE USE ONLY

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRY
DETAILS CHANGED**

DATE: ____/____/____

INITIALS: _____

VETERANS MORTALITY REPORT

As you are aware, Vietnam Veterans are dying at a rate higher than while on Active Service. This situation is perhaps a natural phenomenon compared to non-serving members of the public, who might die of an illness which is equally distributed through the population of the same age group.

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc has for many years maintained records of the deaths of Vietnam Veterans and the cause of death if known. This has proved invaluable regarding the health standards of Vietnam Veterans when compared to the general public.

We seek your assistance in reporting the death of Vietnam Veterans, past or recent, to allow the Federation to expand and preserve it's record base.

Kindly circulate a copy of this page through your RSL Club, Unit or Corps reunions and meetings and raise it as an issue. The information gained from these reports will greatly assist all Vietnam Veterans and their families regarding future claims for benefits.

Please print clearly

VETERANS DETAILS

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER

SVN UNIT/S	TOUR DATES

CAUSE OF DEATH (If known)

--

SR Service Related UNK Unknown S Suicide O Other)

DATE OF DEATH (If known) LOCATION AT TIME OF DEATH

	(TOWN)	(STATE)
--	--------	---------

YOUR NAME

--

SUBURB/TOWN STATE POST CODE

--	--	--

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE SIGNATURE

--	--	--

RETURN FORM TO: The Welfare Officer
VVPAA NSW Branch
PO Box 170
Granville NSW 2142

Phone: 02 9682 1788
Fax : 02 9682 6134
Email: secretary@vfvagranville.org

NSW Secretary Report

A MESSAGE FROM THE NSW BRANCH

Once again we say THANK YOU to our many members who have made a financial donation to their State Branch. Without these donations we would find it much more difficult to cater to the needs of our war veterans, service and ex-service persons generally. Periodically, we will publish a list of individual NSW Branch donors of amounts of \$200 or more. Whilst all donations are gratefully received, and combined are of enormous assistance to us, they are too numerous to list. Donors to the NSW Branch of \$200 or more since the last Journal were:

\$5,000	Ray Hopkins
\$2,500	Greg Isolani
\$1,500	Raymond Balmer
\$1,000	Brian Hunter, Michael Walker, Colin Glenn, Neville Moloney
\$970	Alan Green
\$870	Ken Hull
\$500	Bruce Robertson, Tania Edwards-Hacket, Gordon O'Brien, Kevin Faust, Stephen Bunter, Geoffrey Jones, Steve Nugent, John McNeil, Anonymous
\$300	Peter Unwin, William Smith, Geoffrey Peattie, Henry Walker, Brian Sargnt, Wesley Hindmarsh
\$264	Dallas Mulhull OAM
\$250	Richard Croell, Neville Lemon, Anthony Gibbs, Frederick Moody
\$210	Francis Scicluna, Robert Wyr
\$205	Denis Nolan
\$200	Kevin Smith, Kevin Stewart, Peter Cochrane, Garry Smyth, Ronald Giveen, Stephen Hockings, Hector Grant, Peter Paterson, Terence Glover, Rowan Gillard, John Robicheau, John Worrard, Donald Elbourne, Warren Coupland, Graeme Sutherland, Albert Brown, Danny Heys, Graham Cowell, Colin Kelson

Whilst the above refers to, mostly, individual donations only, we are also indebted to the many RSL sub-branches and other licensed clubs who generously contribute to our cause.

Ron O'Connor
Hon. Secretary
NSW Branch

My name is Jackie Dent and I'm a journalist doing some research for a series of mini features to complement a longer documentary about the history of US and Australian relations in June this year.

We have a number of segments ranging from music to fashion to food, and one of the segments is the entertainment and buddy aspect of the Vietnam war.

Thus, I'm keen to speak to track down Vietnam vets in Sydney who recall their time with Americans, whether it be in Vietnam or in Kings Cross during R + R. It'd also be great to speak to an American veteran who stayed on and married a local Aussie.

Best way to contact me is jackiedent@fastmail.fm or 0411 985 765.

Jackie Dent

Journalist www.jackiedent.com

The Power of a Quilt

- A story begging to be told

It was Sunday 4 Nov, 2017 at a Campbelltown RSL Sub-Branch meeting, after a presentation of three "Quilts of Valour", when VP Warren Browning said, "it's a pity we couldn't have gotten to Rod Armstrong". Rod was in palliative care at Camden hospital with only days to live! What about tomorrow was my immediate response after checking my diary and, with a quick phone call to Rod's wife, Michelle, it was arranged. Rod was having a bad day and Michelle worried that he might not be lucid!

My wife, Sue, and I are the NSW Coordinators for "Quilts of Valour Australia Inc." and at 3:30 Monday afternoon we met up with Warren and a few of the guys from Campbelltown RSL Sub-Branch. We all wandered down to Rod's room to be greeted by a beaming Michelle and a lucid Rod.

As I approached him, I asked if he remembered me and with a big smile he said that he did. We had been to Campbelltown RSL Sub-Branch on several occasions to award "Quilts of Valour" when Rod was the Hon Sec and obviously in a lot better health. I didn't deviate from my usual preamble and said to him that I had a bunch of numbers here that didn't mean a damn thing to me but they might to somebody in the room.

I proceeded to read out those numbers. With a smile that went from ear to ear he responded: "that's my Regimental number: my service number". My only retort was, "well there's nothing wrong with your bloody memory". With laughs all round I continued with the award:

"Rod, any man, or woman, who has served in a Theatre of War returns with demons; some handle them well, some not so well and some not at all. This quilt is a powerful gift of love, and consists of three components: the "Top" with the many colours and patterns are representative of the individuals who make the quilts and also of the recipients.

The wadding, the filler, is the centre of the quilt, its warmth. It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace and

healing to the recipient. The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents the recipient's strength, the support of communities, and our nation. Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker".

With this said we laid the quilt over Rod in his bed and with the words: "Rod, we award this Quilt of Valour to you on behalf of a grateful Nation and Quilts of Valour Australia. Thank You for your Service, Sacrifice and Valour". A certificate was then given to Rod. Warren eventually relieved him of this to have it framed and returned to him before he passed.

By this time, everybody in the room had a tear in their eye with Rod and Michelle beaming with pride. Surrounded by his mates from the Sub-Branch, Jerry, Stewie, Ronnie, Wally, Gary and Warren, photographs were taken, Rod was congratulated, hugs all round and a lot of "frivolity". Seldom do you witness so many men close to tears as you do on occasions such as this ... grown men do cry!

We stayed for a "considerate" amount of time as we did not want to overly tire Rod. As we left a very happy but dying man we were quite subdued by the feelings of the moment and we went our separate ways.

The story should have ended here with Rod Armstrong, his body racked with cancer, passing away within the week.





However, moving on to the 12th December and at the funeral of another Ex-Serviceman I ran into Warren and asked of Rod, fully expecting that he had passed, yet couldn't understand why I had not been told.

He was amazed that nobody had told me! Told me what? *"That quilt"*, he said, *"that's what it is"*. Rod was still with us and had attended the Sub-Branch Christmas party, enjoyed a beer and "even told a joke" There was a rousing reception when Michelle wheeled him in and a bigger one when he left as a guard of honour was formed.

Such is the measure of the man, and the respect and love that he gleans from the camaraderie of being a member of Campbelltown RSL Sub-Branch.

And so the story gets better. In early January I had occasion to take my wife to Campbelltown for a sewing lesson and decided to fill in some time at the Club where I happened, again, to run into Warren and sure enough, Rod was still with us, saying, *"Michelle reckons it's the quilt"*

At the time of writing Rod is still with us, has been to the Club a few times but is now back in hospital to stabilise his pain management.

*WELCOME HOME ROD & THANK
YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, SACRIFICE &
VALOUR.*

Sue and I have been the NSW Coordinators for *Quilts of Valour Australia Inc.* since Jan 2015 after Sue arranged for me to be awarded a QOVF (USA).

I served with the US Army and spent some 21 months and 5 days in Vietnam (but who's counting?).

Often Sue has said, "most people would say 'thank you for the quilt and move on' but not my husband, he says 'thank you for the quilt how can I help'" and so

began our journey, and what a journey.

The awarding of my quilt was so emotional for me that I could not do anything but help. It has become a passion for me. We have, personally, awarded over 90 Quilts of Valour and above is only one of over 90 stories that we could tell as each presentation is as individual as the recipient who receives the quilt. We cover all conflicts, the criteria is "To have been touched by war".

"Quilts of Valour Australia" has Coordinators and Representatives in all States and Territories. QOVA is an Incorporated body, registered with an ABN and registered with ACNC as a "not for profit charity". We also have DGR (Deductible gift registered) status.

For more information and National contacts go to www.quiltsofvalour.com.au. Follow us on Facebook at: <https://facebook.com/qovoz> or email: qovoz@hotmail.com.

Do we need help? Yes we need help, help with presenters as well as quilters. Feel free to contact us, in NSW, by any of the following: email: stansue.allen@optusnet.com.au Phone: 02 9754 2110 or mobile: 0402 844 616.

Written by Stan & Sue Allen, NSW Coordinators, *"Quilts of Valour Australia Inc."*

PSK FINANCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE

Downsizing your home – Opportunity but potential impact on your pension.

In a time of increased property prices, many retirees consider downsizing their home to an easier to manage dwelling and to free-up capital.

Parliament has recently passed legislation that will implement measures allowing those aged 65 and over to contribute up to \$300,000 from the proceeds of 'downsizing' their former main residence.

While these measures appear quite straightforward, there are certain rules that must be considered and related impacts to be wary of.

Selling a property

The property that is sold must be in Australia and not be a caravan, mobile home, or houseboat,

The property must have been owned by the person, or their spouse, for at least ten years prior to disposal,

Even if only one member of a couple was the property owner, both will be eligible to contribute up to \$300,000 each,

The property must be eligible for at least a partial capital gains tax (CGT) main residence exemption.

This may accordingly allow a property that has been previously used as an investment property to qualify under this proposal,

A downsizer contribution can also be made from the sale of a dwelling that is not a CGT asset because it was acquired prior to 20 September 1985. For a sale of a pre-CGT asset, the person can only have a downsizer contribution if they would have been entitled to a whole or partial main residence exemption if the dwelling had been a CGT asset,

Only sale contracts entered into (exchanged) from 1 July 2018 are eligible, and

The legislation does not require the purchase of another home.

Making a contribution

Super funds will be allowed to accept 'downsizing' contributions from those age 65 or more (regardless of meeting the work test),

These contributions will not be included in the individual's non-concessional contributions (NCC) cap.

It will also be possible for those aged 65 and over to make these NCCs to super regardless of their 30 June Total Superannuation Balance (TSB). However, if a downsizer contribution is made it will increase the person's TSB for the purposes of that test.

A maximum contribution of \$300,000 per person is permitted. However, this is also potentially limited by the actual sale proceeds of the house. For example, if a house is sold:

For \$250,000 – the maximum contribution will be \$250,000, spread between two members of a couple as applicable, or

For \$450,000 – the maximum contribution of \$300,000 is allowable for one person, with the other person contributing up to \$150,000,

The contribution must be made within 90 days of settlement (unless allowed a longer period by the ATO), and

A notice must be provided prior to or with the contribution notifying the super fund that the contribution is from the proceeds of eligible downsizing.

General observations

1. The 'downsizing' contribution measure will allow eligible persons to contribute sale proceeds up to \$300,000 to superannuation where they may not otherwise be eligible. However, it does not necessarily allow this contribution to be moved to the tax-exempt retirement pension phase.

That is, from 1 July 2017, the amount that can be moved to a tax-exempt retirement phase pension is limited by the \$1.6 million pension transfer balance cap. The downsizing contribution legislation does not give any extension to the pension transfer balance cap for these contributions.

2. There is no special Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) or Centrelink means test exemptions that apply to the downsizing contribution. That is, your residential home is exempt from the assets test but the contribution to super does not typically receive an exemption.

However, when a DVA/ Centrelink client sells their residence, the sale proceeds can typically be exempted from the assets test for up to 12 months to the extent that the sale proceeds will be used to purchase another residence (deeming rules still apply to the sale proceeds for the income test, depending on how they are spent/invested). It would appear that this exemption can also apply when the proceeds are contributed to super, as long as the persons intention is to use the proceeds to purchase another residence.

Summary

While this represents an opportunity for many people, it is imperative to get the right advice for your circumstances given the potential impacts on other aspects of your financial situation.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Paul Messerschmidt of PSK Financial Services on 02 9895 8800, 0414 811 777 or paulm@psk.com.au



Advice that puts you first

Authorised Representative of Charter Financial Planning
AFS Licence No. 234665

At PSK Financial Services our key focus is to guide you through life's financial challenges and our promise is to help you achieve financial peace of mind.

We offer a wide range of services which focus on every client's unique goals and needs.

Areas of advice:

- DVA/Centrelink strategies
- Superannuation
- Retirement planning
- Aged Care
- Investment
- Estate planning

For any questions regarding your financial situation please contact

Paul Messerschmidt MFinPlan, GradDip-FinPlan

Partner and Senior Financial Adviser

PSK Financial Services

Level 4, 3 Horwood Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

M 0414 811 777 | P (02) 9895 8800

E paulm@psk.com.au



REUNIONS & NOTICES

REUNIONS & NOTICES



AVCAT

This Association, which is affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, has for many years funded Scholarships for children or grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans and also Peacekeepers and Peacemakers, who are struggling on their Repatriation Pensions and do not have the spare financial resources, or are in necessitous circumstances, to help these children through tertiary education.

Presently the Association sponsors two Scholarships - **“Tim McCombe OAM Scholarship”**, named in honour and memory of Tim, who passed away in January 2015, and was a long serving and much loved and respected President of the Association/Federation. The **“Phil Thompson OAM Scholarship”** was named in honour and memory of Phil who was a founding member and highly respected former President of the Federation who passed away more than 20 years ago. These Scholarships are available nationally and parental membership of the Association is not a requirement.

The Scholarship provides for funding of \$4,000 per year for three years, provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements and also the “Association’s availability of funds.

The Scholarships are mainly funded from the proceeds of the **“Association’s Annual Raffle”**. Your continued support of this Raffle would allow us to assist these children with Scholarships and is very much appreciated.

The Scholarships are administered on the Association’s behalf by the **“Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)”**, who also administer other scholarships funded by the Australian Government (Long Tan Bursaries), and sponsors such as Legacy, RSL, TPI and a number of other organisations.

SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

AVCAT usually calls for applications for Scholarships in August of each year, with a closing date of 31 October of the same year. The Scholarships on offer and the eligibility requirements of those Scholarships, will be advertised by AVCAT through the Association’s Newsletter and other media outlets, prior to that date.

However, those wishing to make general inquiries about the Association’s and other AVCAT administered Scholarships, may do so at any time by writing to the **“Scholarship Manager, AVCAT at: P.O. Box K978, Haymarket, NSW 1240, or contact them on: Telephone (02) 9213-7999, Fax (02)9213-7307, or Email: avcat@dva.gov.au**

We are proud of the fact that nearly all those who we have sponsored over the years have done very well in their chosen vocations. The following are progress reports/results/achievements of the Association’s Scholarship recipients for: **Liam Dwyer (2015 recipient) and Ryan Balkin (2017 recipient)**

Liam DWYER - Bachelor of Engineering, University of Queensland.

Liam who lives at Wellington Point, Queensland was awarded the “Tim McCombe OAM” Scholarship in 2015. He has now completed his initial three years of studies and entitlement to our scholarship. He achievements during 2017 were:

Semester 1 (2017): 1
Distinction, 1 Credit, 1
Pass

Semester 2 (2017): 1
Distinction, 1 Credit, 1
Pass

We congratulate Liam on his achievements during 2017 and wish him well for his final 4th year of studies. Unfortunately we are unable to support him for his final year in 2018. Liam has written a lengthy letter of appreciation in which he expressed that he was not only honoured but also grateful of having received the “Tim McCombe OAM Scholarship” over the past three years that has allowed him to live independently.

He outlined a number of Engineering related research activities he is undertaking and plans to extend on his research program and completing an undergraduate research thesis in wind/structural engineering. He also mentioned that during 2017 he maintained a work/social life ratio, whilst juggling the commitment of playing AFL at semi-professional level.

He pointed out that without the support of AVCAT, VVPPAA/VVFA, all of this would not have been achievable and is forever grateful for the support provided. We wish Liam every success for the remainder of his studies and for the future, well done Liam.

Ryan BALKIN – Bachelor of Laws with Bachelor of Science at Western Sydney University.

Ryan who lives in Cranebrook NSW, was awarded the “Phil Thompson OAM” Scholarship

In 2017. His achievements during 2017 were:

	Semester 1 (2017): 1 Distinction,
2 Credits	
	Semester 2 (2017): 1 Distinction,
2 Credits	

Ryan has written a letter of appreciation for our support, his expectation for the second year of his studies and what he hopes to achieve. He has immersed himself in local community activities trying to help others in need and is involved in MECA mentoring refugee high school students that are transitioning into Australia as well as being a volunteer at a community legal centre.

As Liam Dwyer has completed his entitlement to the “Tim McCombe OAM” scholarship, the scholarship for 2018 has been awarded to Kristi Young.

Kristi YOUNG – Bachelor of Education (Primary), 2nd year, Swinburne University

Kristi who lives in Broadford, Victoria is the grandchild of a Vietnam Veteran who served with 17 Construction Squadron in Vietnam between 1967-68, has been awarded the “Tim McCombe OAM” Scholarship for 2018.

Progress reports of her studies will be provided in future issues of the Association’s Newsletter.

The Association continues to be extremely proud of the achievements of those that it has supported with the Scholarships over the years and is determined to continue this support for as long as it is able to do so.

William (Bill) Roberts OAM, JP
Senior Vice President - VVPPAA,
NSW Branch
Director - AVCAT

AVCAT ADVERT IS OVERLEAF

**TELL ME AND I FORGET
TEACH ME AND I REMEMBER
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN**

Benjamin Franklin



SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

AVCAT OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust is a national independent charity helping the children and grandchildren of ex-service men and women to a better future through tertiary education. Through the generous support of the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs, ex-service organisations, corporate sponsors and private donors, we provide scholarships which assist recipients to obtain the tertiary qualification they need for their chosen career.

One of the scholarships administered by AVCAT is the VVPPAA Scholarship, specifically available for the children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans. Our proud association has seen many successful recipients achieve tertiary qualifications and reach their goals, that erstwhile may not have been available to them. We hope to continue this proud heritage long into the future with your help. It is through your generous support of this organization, and valued donations, that we keep the hopes of children alive.



Some of our recent recipients and successful achievers in their chosen fields

"It means the world to me that someone I don't know cares about my education and believes I have potential."

2014 Recipient

2019 scholarships open in August 2018 and close at the end of October 2018. See below for more.

"Without the scholarship, achieving my goals would be almost impossible. The financial support has provided me the opportunity to study and without your support I would simply not be in the position I am in today, and for that I will be forever grateful". Recent recipient.

You are eligible to apply for a scholarship with AVCAT if you answer yes to the following questions:

- Are you a child or a grandchild of an Australian veteran? A veteran is a person who has rendered service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.
- Are you an Australian citizen or permanent resident?
- Are you enrolled, or planning to enroll, in tertiary studies for a minimum of one year?
- Will you be studying full-time next year?
- Are you or will you be eligible for Centrelink's Youth Allowance?
- Are you under 25 years of age?

To apply you should contact AVCAT and request to be added to the expressions of interest register.

Phone: 02 9213 7999

Web: avcat@dva.gov.au

PO Box K978 Haymarket, NSW 1240

HEART HEALTH—A TIMELY REMINDER

Heart Health – A Veterans' & Peacekeepers' Health & Fitness Program

What is the Heart Health Program?

The Heart Health Program aims to help you increase your physical health and wellbeing through practical exercise, nutrition and lifestyle management support. It is a 52 week program and includes physical activity sessions each week that are tailored to meet your needs and 12 health educational seminars.

The program covers a range of topics including setting healthy goals, eating well, lowering alcohol consumption, sleep, stress management, diabetes, taking care of your body, managing your weight and maintaining a healthy heart.

The program is offered in two formats – the Heart Health Group Program and the Individual Heart Health Program.

Why Should I register for the Heart Health Program?

Physical Health is vital to your mental health and your overall quality of life. There are a number of benefits to a daily routine of exercise and balanced nutrition. Exercise can help you to:

- prevent chronic diseases like heart disease, type diabetes and certain types of cancer,
- maintain a healthy weight,
- strengthen your heart and lungs,
- improve your sleeping patterns,
- improve your sex life, and
- have fun and socialise.

Most people want to improve their health but find it hard to get started. Registering for Heart Health gets you started and keeps you going on the path to new life long habits.

Changing our routine to improve our health can be challenging. The Heart Health Program gives you the skills to improve and sustain you health and wellbeing by giving you practical information and access to specialist advice and training.

Heart Health Group Program

This program is delivered in groups of approximately 10-15. The group meets at a designated gym for weekly activity sessions and educational seminars. Experienced exercise and health professionals provide the participants with a structured and supervised fitness training schedule.

Individual Heart Health Program

Veterans and peacekeepers living in rural, remote and outer metropolitan areas can access the Heart Health Program via the correspondence version of the program. It has similar support to the regular program that is provided by telephone or e-mail..

The Individual Heart Health Program is delivered via correspondence over a 12-month period with participants having their own tailored physical activity program and health education modules. Participants are supported by their GP, a Program Coordinator and a Health Consultant, who guide participants through the program.

The Individual Heart Health Program provides the veteran community more flexible access to information and education to give them the tools they need to improve their physical health and ultimately, to enjoy a healthier and happier lifestyle.

Eligibility

The Heart Health Program is open to all veterans and peacekeepers who have not previously participated in a Heart Health Program. All participants are required to get a medical clearance from their General Practitioner prior to beginning the program.

Other DVA and VVCS programs promoting health and wellbeing

DVA Programs

Men's Health Peer Education (MHPE): This program trains volunteers to provide and promote health information to men in the veteran, current and ex-service communities.

Day Clubs: Promote social contact through activities such as games, sports, fitness, information sessions and arts & crafts.

Cooking for One or Two: Helps improve confidence in preparing a variety of healthy meals using easy cooking techniques.

Veterans' Medicines Advice & Therapeutic Education Services (MATES): Aims to improve the health care of veterans and war widows through quality use of medicines and better use of health services.

Veterans' Health Week: This week provides an opportunity to participate, connect and influence the health and wellbeing of themselves and their friends.

At Ease: It's not unusual to experience sadness, distress or anger during your life. At Ease can help veterans, ADF personnel and their family members identify the symptoms of not coping. When you need to reach out, seek treatment or identify effective ways to move forward, At Ease can provide tips, treatment options & resources.

For further information on these initiatives and more, visit www.dva.gov.au or call DVA on: 133 254 or Regional callers: 1800 555 254*

VVCS Counselling & Programs

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) provides counselling and group programs to veterans, peacekeepers and eligible family members. It is a free and confidential Australia-wide service.

VVCS group programs are designed to improve your quality of life and sense of wellbeing. VVCS offers programs to address issues such as anger, depression, anxiety and sleep disturbance.

Beating The Blues: This program develops participants skills and techniques to manage symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Mastering Anxiety: This program aims to promote a sense of wellbeing through developing skills and strategies to reduce anxiety and associated stress.

Sleeping Better: Participants learn about sleep patterns, factors affecting sleep and how to improve their sleep in this program.

You can find out more about VVCS programs and services including counselling support by contacting your nearest VVCS centre on 1800 011 046* or visiting www.vvcs.gov.au

This is for the stokers of old

Now each of us from time to time, has gazed upon the sea,
And watched the war ships pulling out, to keep this country free.
And most of us have read a book, or heard a lusty tale,
About the men who sail these ships, through lightning, wind and hail.

But there's a place within each ship, that legend fails to teach.
It's hot below the waterline, it takes a living sole....

A hot metal living hell, that sailors call the Hole.
I houses engines run by steam, that makes the shafts go round,
A place of fire and noise and heat, that beats your spirit down.

Where boilers like a hellish heart with blood of angry steam,
Are moulded gods without remorse, are nightmares in a dream.
Whose threat that from the fire roar, is like a living doubt,
That any minute would with scorn, escape and crush you out.

Where turbines scream like tortured souls, alone and lost in hell,
As ordered from above somewhere, they answer every bell.
The men who keep the fires lit, and make the engines run,
Are strangers to the world of light, and rarely see the sun.

They have no time for man or God, no tolerance for fear,
Their aspect pays no living thing, the tribute of a tear.
For there's not much that men can do, that there men haven't done.
Beneath the decks, deep in the hole to make engines run.

For every hour of every day, they keep the watch in hell,
For if the fires ever fail, their ship's a useless shell.
When ships converge to have a war, upon the angry sea,
The men below just grimly smile at what their fate might be.

They're locked below like men fore-doomed. Who hear no battle cry,
It's well assured that if they're hit, the men below will die.
For every days a war down there, when the gauges all read red,
Twelve hundred pounds of superheated steam, can kill you mighty dead.

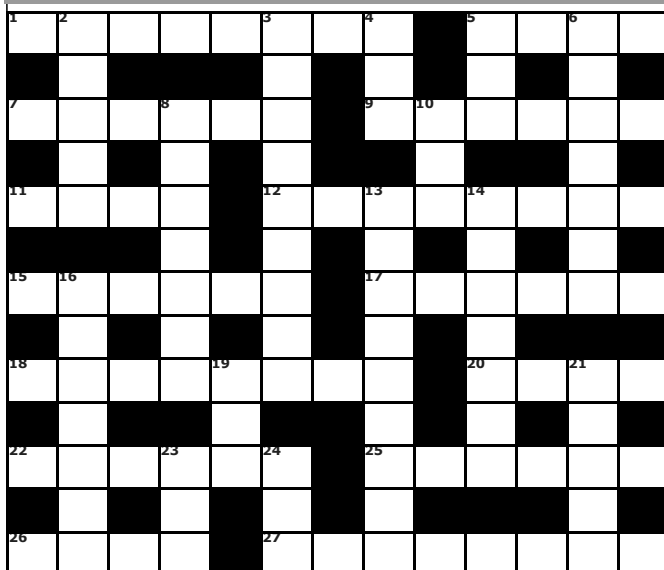
So if you ever write their sons, or try to tell their tale,
The very words would make you hear, a fired furnace wail.
And people as a general rule, don't hear of men of steel,
So little's heard about the place, that sailors call the hole.

But I can sing about this place, and try to make you see,
The hardened life of men down there, cause one of them is me.
I've seen those sweat soaked heroes fight, in superheated air,
To keep their ship alive and right, though no one knows they're there.

And thus they'll fight for ages on till warships sail no more,
Amid the boilers mighty heat and the turbines hellish roar.
So when you see a ship pull out, to meet a war like foe,
Remember faintly if you can, "The men who sail below."

Poem submitted by D Hanmer OAM author unknown.

CROSSWORD CORNER



ACROSS

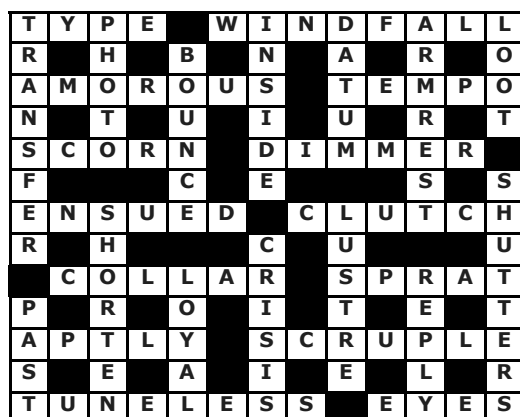
1. Blockage
5. Destiny
7. Meet completely
9. Parcel
11. I was-You ?
12. Challenging
15. Advert motto
17. Splatter water
18. Picture of person
20. _? Macpherson
22. Type of mine
25. Rubbish
26. Unsightly
27. International aid group

DOWN

2. _? Springsteen
3. New __? (Island)
4. Recede (tide)
5. Idol
6. Skills
8. Cargo, goods
10. Vase
13. Disturbed
14. Highest
16. Viewing
19. Cereal
21. Ogles
23. Work at trade
24. Rocky outcrop

Solution next issue

DECEMBER 2017
SOLUTION



THE UNKNOWN COMIC

A man needed a horse, and knew that the local priest had one for sale, so he bought it.. Before he left, the priest told him that it was a special horse.

In order to make the horse go, you say, "Thank God," and for it to stop you say, "Amen."

So the man left, and a few minutes later he dozed off on his horse. Hours later, he woke up and his horse was racing him towards the edge of a cliff..

Just in time, he shouted "Amen!" and the horse stopped a few inches from the edge. "Whew," said the man, "thank God!"

There was a plane and it had 5 people in it: a president, a lawyer, a young teenage boy, a priest and a gorgeous girl. The pilot said that the plane was going to crash so one of them has to jump off without a parachute because there was only 5 and as he was the pilot he already had his on. So they were talking to each other about who was going to jump off without a parachute. The president spoke first and he said " I run a country so I should get a parachute" so he jumped off with one. Then the lawyer said he helped people so he took a parachute and jumped out.

The priest said "I save people for god, so I'm taking one too. And, he jumps out with a parachute. The gorgeous girl says "Well if you like me you'd hand me that last parachute"

The boy smiles at the girl and says "No it's alright there are still 2 left. I handed one of them my backpack".

A guy asks his neighbour in an apartment building: "You live directly above me and you have the same floor plan as I do. How many rolls of wallpaper did you buy when you moved in?"

"We got 18 rolls," answers the neighbor.

Two months later the guy meets his neighbour again and says, "It's really funny – I put the wallpaper on everywhere and I still had 10 rolls left over."

The neighbour smiles, and says "Yeah, so did we."

VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc, will be held at the Merrylands RSL Club 10.30am Saturday, 26th May 2018.

AGENDA

Opening of Meeting by the Chairman
Apologies
Confirm the Minutes of the AGM 2017
Business Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2017
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Secretary's Report
Membership Report
Appointment of Association Auditors
Life Membership proposals
Other Business by leave of the Chairman
Close of Meeting

Any items for General Business must be in the hands of the Secretary by close up of business on Tuesday, 1st May 2018.

Please note that 2018 is not an election year, so voting for positions on the Committee is not required.

Next AGM to be held on a date to be confirmed during 2019.

Ron O'Connor JP

Hon. Secretary

NSW Branch

Anyone wishing to attend the AGM is reminded that to take part and vote at the meeting you must be a current 2018 financial member. If you are not sure as to the state of your membership, you should contact the Granville office to verify your situation.

Also, those wishing to take part in the constitutional changes proposed on the following page, should be in attendance prior to the advertised commencement time, (10:15 am).

Notice

General meeting

THE VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.

A General Meeting of NSW Branch members is required to vote on any change to the NSW Branch Constitution. The NSW Branch Committee has approved certain changes to the Constitution which seek to vary Clause 23 – “REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE”.

The General Meeting will be held at Merrylands RSL Club, 14 Military Road, Merrylands New South Wales at 10.15 am on Saturday, 26th May 2018 (immediately prior to the 2018 AGM).

The proposals to vary the Constitution are:

AIM

To vary the NSW Branch Constitution to provide further clarity to Clause 23 – “REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE”

VARIATION REQUIRED

Sub-clause (2) – Insert at the end of sub-clause (2) the following – “Any such representations to be made must be received by the State Secretary at least twenty one (21) days prior to the General Meeting as referred to in sub-clause (1) above”.

Insert a new sub-clause (3) with the following – “Any member removed from the Committee under Clause 23 shall not be eligible to apply to be a member of the Committee until three (3) further biennial elections pass from the date of removal”.

No further business will be conducted at this meeting.

Ron O'Connor JP
Hon. Secretary
NSW Branch

Please note that due to recent upgrades at Merrylands RSL Club, rooms previously set aside for our AGMs may be in a different location. You are advised to arrive earlier than advertised meeting times, and ask the Merrylands staff for directions to the meeting room.

BRANCH LISTINGS NSW SUB-BRANCHES

BRANCH LISTINGS OTHER STATES



VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

A service founded by Vietnam veterans

The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service provides counselling and group programs to Australian veterans, peacekeepers and their families. It is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service.

VVCS staff are qualified psychologists or social workers with experience in working with veterans, peacekeepers and their families. They can provide a wide range of treatments and programs for war and service-related mental health conditions including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and counselling. Phone 1800 011 046.*

* Free local call. Calls from mobile or pay phones may incur charges.



1300 924 522

Our programs

Alcohol Drugs Eating disorders
Anxiety Depression Bipolar
disorder
Borderline personality disorder
Schizophrenia and psychosis
Veterans services

Wesley Hospital Ashfield and Wesley Hospital Kogarah provide compassionate care for those in need of psychiatric help. The goal of the hospitals is to provide positive outcomes, not only for our patients with a mental illness but also for their family and carers. As centres of excellence within Wesley Mission our Wesley Hospitals have been providing professional and compassionate care for over 60 years.

Wesley Hospital Ashfield and Wesley Hospital Kogarah are private psychiatric hospitals which offer both in-patient and day patient services. Our treatment programs combine medication, therapy and include life skills and support networks to ensure recovery is effective, ongoing and enriching.

91 Milton Street,
Ashfield NSW 2131

&

7 Blake Street,
Kogarah NSW 2217

“Honour Our Fallen”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Honour Our Fallen Ltd ABN Pending

Honour Our Fallen is a newly raised not-for-profit organisation (registration pending) formed to honour and preserve the memory of those deceased military personnel, buried in Australia, who served our Nation in all conflicts and theatres since the Boer War.

In partnership with local Schools, who will research and locate ex-Service personnel graves in local cemeteries, in any area and thereafter, on each Anzac Day beginning in 2018, place an Australian flag on each gravesite or memorial plaque.

We request all veteran groups, historical, community, ex-Service associations and schools through member newsletters, and individual families and friends of deceased veterans, to all complete a simple “Flag Request” form to assist us in our research and commemorative activities.

Honour Our Fallen was launched on Remembrance Day, 11th November 2017, through media announcements and via correspondence to a number of Government authorities requesting their assistance, with positive results to date. The program will allow us to implement our plans in concert with the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1.

Commemoration will include Army, Navy, Airforce, Nursing Corps, Women’s Services, Merchant Seamen and Peacekeeping personnel from all conflicts dating back to the Boer War.

Honour Our Fallen’s mission is to perpetuate the memory of all deceased veterans and to build pride in our community, particularly our youth, in the virtues of service to our Nation and respect for those who died protecting our freedom and way of life. This in turn should lead to greater recognition and respect for those presently serving in uniform.

Go to honourourfallen.com, complete a Flag Request form and press submit. We do the rest pre ANZAC Day 2018 in all requested areas of the Nation.

Rick McCarthy OAM

Director

Honour Our Fallen

(e) info@honourourfallen.com

Postal Address: PO Box 2123 BOWRAL NSW 2576

E-mail: info@honourourfallen.com.au Website: www.honourourfallen.com

President: Rick McCarthy OAM 0408 670 812

Secretary: Shane Walker 0404498089 Treasurer: John Stead 0414 946 694



Last Post





Last Post





Last Post



But each one, man by man, has won imperishable praise!

Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined. Remembrance that will live on the lips, that will blossom in the deeds of their countrymen the world over. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven, not on stone or brass, but on the living heart of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that *freedom* is the sure possession of those alone who have courage to defend it. Pericles

PLEASE NOTE

We make every endeavour to ensure the accuracy of all names published in "The Last Post". If any omission or error has been made we apologise unreservedly...please contact the editor if you feel an error has been made.

Please consider leaving a bequest in your will

Every Veteran deserves a lifestyle and better treatment than is currently available. Every Veteran should be able to successfully attain their rights to pensions and just compensation.

Yet we still receive veterans unaware of their rights, what they may be entitled to, and where and how to apply or enter a claim.

Through your Will, you have the power to help us achieve our goals. Help surviving veterans, and those that follow them, to receive their true entitlements.

Through your Will you have the power to make a difference. Any gift you bequest to our Association, no matter how large or small, will assist a fellow veteran.

You don't need to be wealthy or have tens of thousands of dollars to make a difference to the lives of veterans and those who follow us. Many people leave amounts both large and small through their wills to our association.

Combined each amount assists our association to carry on the vital support network we provide to the veteran community.

OPERATION Life



REGISTER NOW!!

Phone Veterans and Veterans Counselling Service
on 1800 011 046 or 9761 5000

Operation *Life* workshops' emphasis is on suicide prevention – they aim to help members of the veteran community to recognise someone who might be having thoughts of suicide and to link them in with appropriate help. There are three types of workshops:

- Suicide alertness for everyone: (*Safetalk*) – half day presentation.
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training: (*ASIST*) – Two-day skills training
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Tune-up: (*ASIST Tune Up*) – half day refresher workshop

Workshops are open to people who are concerned about veterans, their family, friends or mates in the veteran community. Welfare, pension officers and other helpers from ex-service organisations and the veteran community are encouraged to attend



Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service
A service founded by Vietnam Veterans

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following businesses are offering discounts to members of The Vietnam Veterans Federation.

MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES	SMASH REPAIRS	BATTERIES	FLOOR COVERINGS
CARNEEDS Pty Ltd 152 Parramatta Rd STANMORE Prptr: Robert Stenta Ph: 9519 1441 10% discount On mechanical repairs & competitive prices on tyres and batteries. To all Vietnam Veterans Federation Members. MALCOLM MOTORS Automotive Service Specialist. All mechanical repairs & servicing. 15% Discount for members on services and repairs. JOE CARE 603-605 Parramatta Rd Leichhardt NSW MTA Lic. # 42198	Wreck-A-Mended Smash Repairs Unit 1, 20 Bosci Rd Ingleburn NSW 02 9605 9008 Ask for Alan Tell them you are a member and they will send us a donation	POWER PRODUCTS For all your power needs BATTERIES SOLAR POWER INVERTERS GENERATORS <i>Motor Cycle battery specialists</i> Russell is offering 15% discount to VVF Members on Batteries . 5% on Solar products, Inverters & Chargers 10% 3/3 Sovereign Pl Sth Windsor Ph: (02) 4577 7761 Fax: (02) 4577 7768	Waratah Floor Coverings 473 Burwood Rd BELMORE Ph: (02) 9759 6511 Ask for Special Rate
	MOTOR CYCLE ACCESSORIES		MOTELS
	Motor Cycle Accessories Supermarket Head Office. 321 Parramatta Rd Auburn NSW (02) 9648 1400 www.mcas.com.au CITY: 9261 5182. LIVERPOOL: 9601 8276. CARINGBAH 9574 5100 PENRITH 4737 6100 10% Discount except helmets and tyres	Ashfield Battery Centre 110 FREDERICK STREET ASHFIELD, NSW, 2131 02 9798-6166 GEORGE KAWAUCHI (owner) We sell: CAR, TRUCK, MARINE, DEEP CYCLE, GOLF CART, MOBILITY, MOTOR CYCLE BATTERIES. CHARGERS, SOLAR PANELS, BOOSTER CABLES, FUSES, GLOBES, INVERTERS, TERMINALS, BATTERY BOXES. OPEN FROM: 9am - 5-30pm Mon-Fri OPEN SAT FROM: 9.30am-3.30pm Closed Sundays and public holidays. 10% Discount to veterans	Golden Chain Motor Inn Ltd Ph: 1800 023 966 Must have Golden Chain Card. Its Free When You Call The Number Above And Ask Present your Federation membership card and ask for a "Golden Link" card to be issued. There is a 10% discount on room rates Australia wide
TRAILERS TOWBARS BULLBARS	TYRES		TRAVEL TRANSFERS
Fastfit Bullbars & Towbars Trailer sales and spares-side steps Bike beacons-Custom work 65 St Hilliers Road AUBURN Ph: (02) 9749 1209 10% Discount on products	 BRIDGESTONE Tyres & Complete Au-to Servicing. 10% discount to members (not current specials) 223 Woodville Rd Merrylands NSW 02 9897 1002 Mon-Fri 8—5 Sat 8:30-12:30		GROUP TRANSFER Airport or Cruise Terminals All Tours, All Services 15% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS For Bookings call: Michael Viet (02) 9723 2262 0404 754 899
EXHAUST SYSTEMS			
Menai Mufflers Unit 4/788 Old Illawarra Rd MENAI Ph: (02) 9541 4720 20% Discount Balmain Radiator Centre Mark Borghonzian 22d Crystal St ROZELLE Ph: (02) 9818 4920 Mbl: 0419 417 206 10% Discount			

