



VIETNAM VETERANS PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

DECEMBER 2015



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MEET OUR NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

This year started on a sad note with the unexpected death of Tim McCombe OAM.. I think he would have been pleased to see how many veterans and other friends attended his funeral and the eulogies which indicated the very warm regard in which he was held.

My thanks to Bill Roberts for filling in as Acting President until my election on 25 June. From that day on I have had a steep learning curve. Graham Walker, our veteran researcher, has been an enormous help to me. Without his mature insight and sound advice progress would have been painfully slow.

I have represented the Federation at the ESO round table in meetings with DVA. The SRDP Working Party was another task. Of interest was the appeal that Tim had started re Prostrate Cancer and which I took over with lots of help from Ross Dunn of our Canberra Branch.

Tim had spent many years trying to get smoking introduced as a factor in the Prostrate Cancer SoP. He succeeded and on 22 Oct 12 SoP No. 77 & 78 of 2012 introduced the smoking amendment. Imagine his surprise when less than 2 years later, new SoPs were introduced. Whilst the Operational Service SoP (51/2014) retained smoking as a factor, the non- Operational SoP (52/2014) had smoking removed as a factor. Ross and I attended the review hearing on Prostate Cancer on 31 July and put what we believe was a

strong case. Decision not yet received.

SRDP stands for Special Rate Disability Pension and is supposed to be the MRCA equivalent to TPI under the VEA. It is not equivalent because it is offset by the Commonwealth contribution to MSBS. In effect this means that almost always the actual SRDP compensation is zero and in some cases a negative sum. You will not be surprised to know that of those eligible for SRDP, some 170 personnel, only one has accepted the offer. The

ESO working party has suggested very strongly that the offsetting should cease. There is no connection between superannuation and compensation.

I met the new DVA Minister, Stuart Robert, in October. He is also the Minister for Human Services and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC. He will have his work cut out to keep on top of his Parliamentary and Electorate workload.



JIM WAIN NATIONAL PRESIDENT VVFA

My Christmas Message appears on page 6.



*Our President confronts the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, The Honourable Stuart Robert MP, with a raft of changes both proposed and already introduced, which directly affect your pensions, and the pensions of those to follow.....***Page 7.**

*During August/September 2015 the Government tried to introduce legislation through the Senate, which was bad for veterans. The Senate held it up for an inquiry. We write to the honourable members Senators Black, Gallacher and Lambie to lodge our submission for the Senate inquiry.....***Page 8.**

What is happening at the VVCS and the children of veterans? Any movement on child care? The Minister agrees but we need certainty.... **Page 10.**

*With a change to Veterans. Affairs portfolio and Human Services, (Centrelink), going to the same minister, we seek assurances that an amalgamation with DVA and HS is not on any agenda with the Prime Minister and the government.....***Page 11.**

*It's part of the larger government attack on disabled war veterans' benefits. Just because nothing much has been heard about it lately, doesn't mean it's gone away. A timely reminder for us all.....***Page 12.**

*At Last -- (We say) - Australian War Memorial Agrees to Commission New Agent Orange Official History. We hope it will be an improvement of the last lamentable effort and indeed we have every confidence it will be.....***Page 13.**

NB: See 'Breaking News' opposite.

On 3rd July NSW President, Frank Cole, wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, DVA seeking clarification of the effects of the revised Assets Test for service pensions on Part Pensions and Gold Card holders. Franks' letter and the reply appear on **pages 14 & 15.**

*'I Was Only 19', has been added to the Sounds of Australia registry. It was one of 10 sounds officially added to the National Film and Sound Archives (NFSA) for 2015.....***Page 16.**



OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

Meagre military compensation says the TPI Federation. See their media release.....Page 17.

There is another side to the story of the original ANZACs' that is often missed, it is the side of the story that is less told but it is the reason VVAA and the VVFA, came into existence. By National Researcher Graham Walker AM ...Page 18.

ALLIED FORCES Service Pension and Membership entitlements. A timely reminder for our Allies.....Page 24.

News from our Scholarship recipients and how they are progressing in 2015/2016.....Page 30.

Case Study : Consequences of Medical Treatment . A story of a good outcome to a real nightmare....Page 32

The Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS) provide financial assistance, for eligible children and descendants of veterans.....Page 38.

"SAY WHAT YOU FEEL FOR OTHERS IN THEIR LIVING YEARS". Senior Vice President NSW Branch, W. (Bill) Roberts OAM brings us timely words of wisdom.....Page 44.

For NSW Branch members you will find our general information pages for the 2016 AGM and membership renewals notices on pages 36 and 41, respectively.

Our comprehensive index can be found on Page 5 this issue.



Why so much trouble accessing Agent Orange Records.

Many Vietnam veterans were exposed to Agent Orange.

So you'd expect we should be able to get easy access to the DVA files on the subject that are the required age (15 years) for release.

No such luck.

It has been an unholy battle with most files still held at DVA even though their release dates were decades ago.

And, by law, these files must be produced no more than 90 days after a request is lodged.

This has rarely been achieved.

Surely Vietnam veterans have the right to learn about their exposure and its consequences from these DVA files long past their release dates.

Why the delay?

Is it inefficiency? Lassitude? Lack of respect for war veterans?

The National Archives is an important institution that is not providing the service to Vietnam veterans that morality expects and the law demands.

See our article on page 13.



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.

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Tas State President	TBA
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**OUR COVER
SANTA & GREETINGS**

**FROM AN ORIGINAL GRAPHIC AND
CONCEPT BY R FRESHFIELD,
EDITOR.**

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.
- 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.granville.org, 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.

What's inside & Regular features

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President's Christmas message

I wish all members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Please drive safely and keep your peripheral vision clear for the idiots!



To all the office bearers in Branches and Sub Branches and all the volunteers who keep the VVFA together I am proud of you all and the great work you do.

To the Pension Officers, Advocates and Welfare Officers. You have made the reputation of the VVFA as a caring, inclusive and welcoming organisation. Your standard of work is, in my opinion, without peer.

Let us remember at this time our serving men and women who are on duty this Christmas, especially in overseas deployments. We wish them well and hope for their safe return home to Australia.

Please have a good break and come back refreshed.

JIM WAIN



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

As the year comes to a close, our Federation will have helped somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 veterans and ADF personnel with having their conditions acknowledged by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Interestingly, nearly half the number of those we have helped are veterans of the Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

This issue sees items affecting all the veteran community brought to the fore, and none so compelling as the fight to force the government historians to get it right in our battles to change the incorrect historical reports on Agent Orange.

For NSW readers please see the AGM notice on page 36, and the gentle reminder about NSW membership renewals on page 41.

Another pleasing aspect is the growth in donations and bequests made in Wills. All going toward our endeavours to help fellow veterans. A big thanks from the Treasurer, and he says don't slow down.

I wish everyone fine times, healthy lives, and, to Rock On.

For new material and compliments, please

Write, phone, or e-mail:

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Weekdays before 6pm thanks.

Email: editor@vfvagranville.org

Other comments about the articles should be addressed to:

'The Secretary'.

Email: secretary@vfvagranville.org

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

Hitting the floor running, the new National President, James Wain, has raised several questions with The Honourable Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs . We report here, the first of those enquiries, with a summary of recent slashes proposed and already implemented, affecting the Veteran community.

Dear Minister,

We were angry to learn that your government has cut yet another Repatriation benefit.

From July 2016, disabled war veterans and war widows will no longer be eligible for concessional travel on The Ghan.

This joins a shameful list of slashed benefits already implemented or announced:

- The government will reduce the pensions of more than 10,000 Part Service Pensioners and completely cut out the Service Pensions of some 2,800 others.
- The government has withdrawn its \$223million share of an agreement with the States to fund Service pensioners' concessions for travel, electricity, phone and council rates.
- The government intends to axe the three month backdating of Veterans Disability Pension claims; a very long standing concession giving some flexibility for delays in obtaining medical evidence and a recognition of the special nature of military service.
- It has axed the Seniors Supplement (\$876.20 a year) for Gold Card holders not receiving income support.
- It has cancelled the indexation of the Clean Energy Supplement added to Veterans Affairs pensions and payments, causing it to quickly lose real value.
- Military Superannuation not previously counted, now to be counted as income when applying for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.
- Some regional DVA offices are closing with clients sent to Centrelink.
- Some regional dedicated VVCS offices will close and staff at others reduced.
- The government tried (unsuccessfully thanks to an unimpressed Senate) to downgrade the indexation of the TPI, General Rate Pensions, Invalidity Service Pension, Age Service Pension, War Widows Pension, Income Support Supplement, wholly dependent partner payment. Whilst the Senate thwarted its attempt this time, will it be able to thwart it next time?
- The government has downgraded the quality of hearing aids available under SRCA.

What's next?

Jim Wain
National President

Senate Inquiry into the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. (2015 Budget Measures)

During August/September 2015 the Government tried to introduce legislation through the Senate, which was bad for veterans.

The Senate held it up for an inquiry.

The following is our submission to that inquiry.

Senator Chris Black
Chair
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Legislation Committee
Canberra

Cc Senator Alex Gallacher, Deputy Chair
Senator Jacqui Lambie, Participating Member

**Inquiry into the Veterans' Affairs Legislation
Amendment (2015 Budget Measures) Bill 2015.**

This submission is made by the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc. We represent some 6,200 Veterans, former and serving ADF Members and their families.

We strongly oppose the proposal in Schedule 2 of the Bill:

a. to remove the option for internal reconsideration, by the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Committee (MRCC), of a decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to refuse a Veterans claim for benefits under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA); and

b. to allow only for a 'single pathway' review of that decision by the Veterans Review Board (VRB); and

This proposal is directly contrary to the recommendation by the recent Review of Military Compensation Arrangements (the Review), which recommended that the single pathway appeal process should involve internal reconsideration by the MRCC first, then the VRB process, and then the AAT, thus creating a faster and less costly process:

'The (Review Committee) believes that reconsideration by the MRCC should be the first step in the review process. This would help ensure the quality of decisions that are considered by the

VRB and reduce VRB workloads and costs' and would align with the review process under the VEA.

The Government claims that the proposed changes give effect to the Review recommendations. However, while implementing Recommendation 17.1 for a

single appeal path, the proposed amendments ignore Recommendation 17.2, i.e. for internal reconsideration by the MRCC to be the first step in this review process.

Instead, the proposed amendments will remove internal reconsideration by the MRCC from the appeals process altogether, so that the VRB review becomes the first tier of the single appeal pathway.

The Government has provided no explanation for its failure to adopt the Review's Recommendation

Plainly, the Government is concerned about the 'open-ended' scope for the AAT to award costs against DVA if the Veteran wins. The new policy will potentially save DVA money, but to the detriment of Veterans.

17.2 in full. However it might be surmised that the underlying policy of the more restrictive proposal is intended to have a twofold effect-

1. first, without explanation, it will in effect abolish the present long-standing arrangement, by which a Veteran may appeal an unfavourable internal DVA 's 349 decision' direct to the AAT; if successful there, the AAT is empowered to award costs in the Veteran's favour; by contrast, the AAT cannot award costs if the Veteran has appealed an unfavourable VRB decision. Plainly, the Government is concerned about the 'open-ended' scope for the AAT to award costs against DVA if the Veteran wins. The new policy will potentially save DVA money, but to the detriment of Veterans.¹

2. second, perhaps less obvious but equally feasible in the general context of the opaque official explanation of this proposal, it may be that the policy is intended to 'nudge' Veterans away from seeking any review of any kind of an unfavourable decision. The 'nudge' concept is by now well-known and frequently used by governments in the Western world.² It is therefore not fanciful to speculate that by depriving Veterans of the present relatively straightforward process of seeking an internal review and thereby 'nudging' them into the more complex process of the VRB, with no prospects of a favourable costs order on appeal to the AAT, the policy is intended to discourage appeals against DVA decisions. Once again, this is to the detriment of Veterans.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs has stressed the support of the ESO Round Table (ESORT) members for the Government proposal. I have dissented from the ESORT decision to support the proposed amendment. I now suspect that the ESORT has also been influenced by 'nudge' tactics.

Our members are dismayed and in many cases, angry, about those proposed changes, and also about the opaque and disingenuous method of their presentation and explanation.

It is our submission that the Committee should-

1. recognise the disproportionate and seriously

adverse impact of the present proposal upon Veterans, and

2. recommend that the Government abandon the proposal and instead implement the full recommendation by the recent Review of Military Compensation that the single pathway appeal process should involve internal reconsideration by the MRCC first, then the VRB process, and then the AAT, retaining the right to have costs awarded if successful at the AAT.

James Wain
National President
Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc
13 September 2015

Notes to article: _____

¹ In theory, as mentioned in the Explanatory Memorandum, war veterans legal aid should be available, but there are limited legal aid funds and present indications are that state and territory legal aid offices will not place veterans ahead of others in need of legal aid.

² Richard H. **Thaler** Cass R. **Sunstein** *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness* 2008 Yale University Press New Haven & London.



The Minister agrees something should be done but nothing is happening

Returning troops from fighting wars and peacekeeping can suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other psychological conditions.

Readers will know that this can sometimes disrupt family life.

In fact, we know from a recent study that the children of Vietnam veterans have high rates of psychological distress and we know from a previous verified study that they have a 300% higher suicide rate than their peers in the general community. We also know from a recent study that the wives of Vietnam veterans have much higher rates than their peers in the Australian community of thinking about, planning and attempting suicide.

So intervention as soon as a veteran's behaviour begins to disrupt the family is vital if long term suffering (and huge cost in the longer term) is to be prevented.

So there must not be any disincentive or obstacle to a veteran's partner getting counselling at our Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).

But what if she has a 3 year old and a 5 year old or even a 6 year old and no nearby family or neighbour or other young mother to mind them while she seeks VVCS help.

The consequences of the unavailability of childcare preventing the young mum having counselling could be, in the longer term, a family disaster.

The Minister says something should be done about the situation, but nothing is happening.

Why not?

Is the Repatriation Commission continuing to sit on its hands?

Disapproval of the idea has, in the past been justified by claims that young mums might use the service to go shopping (which is hardly a vote of

confidence in the VVCS administration). But the strongest argument has been that there isn't any demand for such a service.

Then this argument has been contradicted by the claim that that no new initiative is

needed because some VVCS offices do sometimes make once-off costless arrangements (such as having several young mums counselling on the one day, each looking after the other's children). Of course this simply means that *there is* a demand).

But uncertain casual arrangements at some VVCS offices sometimes is not good enough. Certainty is essential.

If face to face counselling is the best clinical option there must be certainty of child care so there is a guarantee that it can be delivered.



The Repatriation Commission says that, if child care can't be offered, the young mum will have to accept the inferior option of telephone counselling. But the danger of family dysfunction and its tragic consequences is too serious for second-best solutions.

The Minister has said something must be done. Let each VVCS office work out its own solution to be able to guarantee child care if needed and have a fund available if costless solutions can't be used.

And if this certainly encourages only one or two young mums to quickly find VVCS help who would otherwise not have done so, having funded arrangements in place would be totally justified.

We do not want a repeat of the tragic family aftermath of the Vietnam war.



From the VVCS website

Amalgamation concerns

President, James Wain wrote to the Prime Minister to seek assurances that the DVA would not be disbanded, with all Veterans' administered by 'Human Resources Department', (Centrelink by any other name).

Dear Prime Minister

The Hon Stuart Robert has been made the Minister for Veterans Affairs and the Minister for Human Services. We note that his military background will be an asset in helping him to get across Veterans issues.

However being responsible for two portfolios concerns us. Sections of the government and some other organisations have for years advocated the disbanding of the Department of Veterans Affairs with its responsibilities taken over by the Department of Human Services (or its predecessors).

We note too, that the Hon Dr Peter Hendy has been promoted to Assistant Minister for Productivity. When Chief Executive, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Hendy promoted a paper meant to influence government policy titled Commonwealth Spending (and Taxes) Can Be Cut --- And Should Be. The paper advocated that the Department of Veterans Affairs be disbanded with disabled war veterans and war widows administered by various departments such as Welfare and Health.

We would appreciate an assurance that an amalgamation of the two departments is not contemplated.

Yours faithfully,
James Wain
National President

Government's attack on the Service Pension.

It's part of the larger government attack on disabled war veterans' benefits.

**Just because nothing much has been heard about it lately, doesn't mean it's gone away.
And indeed it hasn't.**

The Opposition, Greens, Senator Jacqui Lambie and some other independents blocked the Government's attempts to seriously downgrade Service Pension indexation, so they slipped this one through instead.

In 2017, only a bit more than a year away, the Service Pensions of more than 10,000 veterans will be reduced and some 2,800 will be cancelled.

In danger are those veterans whose Service Pension now or in the future is calculated on the Assets Test.

A change will commence in 2017.

Currently, the Service Pension is reduced by \$1.50 for every \$1,000 worth of assets held above a means-test free threshold. The government intends to double this reduction to \$3 for every extra one thousand dollars of assets.

Is this fair?

On 9 May 2006 when reducing the taper rate from \$3 to \$1.50, the then Treasurer, Hon Peter Costello, gave this explanation:

"The current taper rate of \$3 means that a retiree loses more age [Service] pension than

they earn on their additional savings if they do not achieve a return [on their assets] of at least 7.8 per cent a year. This is a large disincentive to save for retirement."

The question is this:

Are Service Pensioners likely to achieve a return of 7.8% on their savings?

The answer is:

**"Mostly, they'd have to be dreamin'".
They'd be lucky to get 4%.**

And it gets worse.

In a front page story in the 21 May edition, Political Correspondent David Crowe reveals that **'A new study shows that the federal government changes—budgeted to save \$2.4 billion—will expand over time to reach far more people than expected.'**

Something to look forward to!



'But wait there's more' editorial cartoon by R Freshfield 22/2015

At Last -- Australian War Memorial Agrees to Commission New Agent Orange Official History.

Readers will know that since the publication of the official history's version of the Agent Orange controversy in 1994, the VVFA has been campaigning for it to be rewritten.

Readers will know the reason for this is that the official history's version wrongly defends Agent Orange as harmless and accuses the veterans who campaigned for its harmfulness of dishonesty and greed. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth.

Of course, we know for sure that exposure to Agent Orange is potentially harmful and that the veterans campaigned to support their sick and worried comrades in the best ANZAC tradition.

For years the Australian War Memorial ignored or dismissed out of hand our carefully argued case for a new official version that told the truth. Indeed our carefully argued case in letters to the AWM went unanswered. This was their frustrating defence; the 'wall of silence'; a time honoured tactic of large organisations against minnows like us. It is a tactic often based on the good chance that a relatively un-resourced, volunteer organisation like ours will eventually run out of steam and go away.

But we did not give up. We kept hammering away.

Many of you will have seen our petition and our magazine articles pushing our case.

The breakthrough came with the announcement that Dr Brendan Nelson would be the next AWM director; taking up his appointment in December 2012. Brendan was Australia's ambassador to the

European Union, and before he returned to Australia we sent him our case. We were delighted at his response, inviting our President Tim McCombe and Research Officer Graham Walker to meet with him on taking up his new post.

This was the breakthrough we needed. It led to our Research Officer being invited to address the AWM Council. We had broken through the 'Wall of Silence'.

The War Memorial Council saw the injustice just as we did and ordered the commissioning of a new official history on the health and medical legacy of the Vietnam War, including of course, the Agent Orange legacy.

Dr Peter Yule, a Melbourne academic has been commissioned and given three and a half years to complete the job.

We hope it will be an improvement of the last lamentable effort and indeed we have every confidence it will be.



Dr Brendan Nelson



Australian War Memorial Canberra ACT

Effects of the Revised Assets Test

On 3rd July NSW President, Frank Cole, wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, DVA NSW, seeking clarification of the effects of the revised Assets Test for service pensions on Part Service Pensioners and Gold Card holders. Franks' letter and the reply follow:

Jennifer Collins
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs
GPO Box 9998
Sydney NSW 2001

3 July 2015

Dear Jennifer,

Revision of the Assets Test for the Service Pension

On 1 January 2017 a revised Assets Test will result in some 2,800 veterans losing their Service Pensions.

One of our members is a Part Service pensioner who also receives a 50% disability pension. He was granted a Gold Card several years ago on the grounds he is in receipt of both a 50% disability pension and a Part Service Pension.

When the revised Assets Test is introduced and he loses his Part Service Pension, will he also lose his Gold Card?

The loss of the Part Service Pension and Gold Card also means the loss of discounts on Council and Water Rates, Driving Licenses, car registration, and rental assistance etc.

We have a number of other members who are in a similar position, and therefore, we would be grateful for clarification.

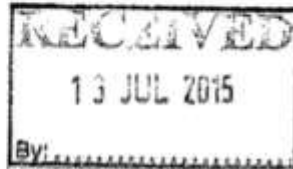
Yours sincerely,
Frank Cole
President
VVPAA NSW

A copy of the reply to Franks' enquiry is included opposite



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
NEW SOUTH WALES OFFICE



Mr Frank Cole
NSW President
Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association
PO Box 170
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

13 July 2015

Dear Frank

Thank you for your letter to Jennifer Collins, Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT, dated 6 July 2015 concerning the revised Assets Test to be introduced on 1 January 2017. Jennifer has asked that I respond on her behalf.

As announced in this year's Budget, the assets value limits and the taper rate used to determine the rate of service pension will change from 1 January 2017 to improve the fairness and sustainability of the pension system. Rebalancing the assets test parameters will involve increasing the assets test free areas and the taper rate by which a pension is reduced once the free areas are exceeded.

Those whose pension is cancelled on 1 January 2017 as a result of this measure will automatically be issued with a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or, for those under the pension age, a Health Care Card, without the need to meet the usual income requirements.

Veterans whose service pension is cancelled on 1 January 2017 as a result of this measure will retain their Gold Card.

Yours sincerely

Hadyn White
Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT

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Saluting Their Service

'I Was Only 19' Receives Much Deserved Honour



REDGUM

(1984/5)

(Left to right)

**HUGH McDONALD
JOHN SCHUMANN
VERITY TRUMAN
MICHAEL ATKINSON**

(John Schumann says "I see it as an honour really to the Vietnam veterans about whom it's written and their families.")

'I Was Only 19', has been added to the Sounds of Australia registry.

It was one of 10 sounds officially added to the National Film and Sound Archives (NFSA) for 2015.

The Sounds of Australia registry was established by the National Film and Sound Archive in 2007, to recognise the contribution of recorded sound to Australia's evolving identity.

The immense popularity of 'I Was Only 19' (remained on top of the charts for a record time) dramatically spread the Vietnam veteran story and informed Australians that all was not well with their Vietnam veterans.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the song's writer, John Schumann and to the original Redgum Band, Hugh McDonald, Verity Truman and Michael Atkinson for this invaluable gift they gave us.

This is a much deserved honour.

JOHN AND HUGH
PERFORMING AT TIM McCOMBE'S
FUNERAL EARLIER THIS YEAR.





TPI Federation Of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

DISABLED VETERANS STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE ON MEAGRE GOVERNMENT COMPENSATION

In April of this year the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women wrote to the Prime Minister and asked that the Special Rate/Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (SR/TPI) Compensation be adjusted to reflect today's standard of living.

The Federation is asking that the most disabled Veterans in the community be allowed to live in dignity and with some self-esteem by having the SR/TPI Compensation increased to 100% of the average weekly wage. It is currently at 43%. This has diminished over the past 65 years from 80% to 43%.

This is a deplorable situation for our most affected Veterans. This explains a number of things –

- the number of Veterans who are homeless,
- the number of Veterans' whose spouses/partners must work in order to bring in a worthwhile income for them and their children,
- the number of Veterans who cannot afford the ever increasing cost of living – especially electricity costs,
- the number of Veteran and Civilian organisations who are relied on to provide the very services that the Government should be providing,
- and the number of Veterans who cannot hold their heads high with the proud knowledge that they have done their country proud and that the Government will look after them. .

It is most disappointing that at this time of immense fiscal wastage that the Government cannot find less than half of 1% of GDP to look after those who have already looked after them.

Tony Mogridge
President TPI Federation Australia

DENTAL SURGEON

DR PAUL A MATUSKO

B.D.S. (HONS) UNIV SYD

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Yagoona NSW 2199

(Opposite railway station)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO THOSE IN RECEIPT OF A DISABILITY PART PENSION

Our offices around the nation have processed many thousands of pension claims over the years and with an extremely high success rate. Many of those processed have resulted in recipients gaining entitlements to a part pension.

We strongly urge those persons to consider seeking an increased pension should they believe their health has deteriorated since they last claimed.

You are reminded that pension claims through the Association are at no monetary cost to the applicant.

Should you believe you may have a claim for a pension increase please make an appointment to see one of our Pension Officers. Contact details are listed elsewhere in this Journal.

The Other Side of the ANZAC Story

A burst of TV and other media stories about WWI has accompanied the Centenary of ANZAC eulogising the fine soldiering, endurance and sacrifice of our armed forces. Some focus too has been on Australia's General Monash, perhaps the finest general to have commanded on the Western Front.

And so we should eulogise that effort and sacrifice.

But there is another side to the story that is often missed, it is the side of the story that is less told but it is the reason VVAA and the VVFA, came into existence.

It is a side that has its parallel after the Vietnam War.

This article is taken from an address by our National Research Officer, Graham Walker AM on 5 and 30 August 2015.

(There are few good references to the Australian aftermath of WWI. One that I am particularly indebted to for this talk is Michael Tyquin's *Madness in the Military*.)

It was 1914 and on the Western Front an epidemic, slowly at first, began its spread. The epidemic was new, little understood and, to the military, bewildering and frightening. This was the epidemic of Shell Shock.

Soldiers began streaming from the front line with a variety of symptoms. The least severe were such things as unfocused anxiety, depression, startle reaction, inability to concentrate, inability to reason, insomnia, nightmares, feelings of intense fear, panic attacks and shaking. More serious were

symptoms such as paralysis of the limb, blindness, fits, inability to speak, speaking reduced to a whisper, stammering and amnesia for which no physical cause could be found.

The less serious symptoms matched those of 'neurasthenia' whilst the more serious matched those of 'hysteria' [now termed conversion disorder]; both mental conditions.

Often these symptoms followed intense artillery bombardments.

Michael Tyquin in his book *Madness in the Military* gives some examples from the military record.

But the Military, desperate for men to man the trenches continually depleted by staggering casualties, tended to interpret the symptoms as malingering and cowardice. At the very least the military judged the sufferers to be moral degenerates.

In one example a soldier, over a period of a year, was buried and dug out after artillery barrages, four times. He was described as 'Expression anxious, general tremor of head and limbs'.

Another had been part of a group of ten men blown up during an artillery barrage and had found himself the sole survivor. He told his doctor that 'all I know of France in what I dream'. He complained of

headaches and spoke with a stammer. His body was so tremulous that he was forced to walk with a stick.

Neurasthenia and hysteria were thought of in those Edwardian times as 'unmanly', particularly hysteria, which had been thought to be confined to women.

So, at first, a theory that the cause of these symptoms was the concussive effects of nearby artillery-shell-explosions, resulting in microscopic lesions on the brain, became popular.

But this as the only cause of Shell Shock had to be dismissed as more and more soldiers who had not

suffered concussion, presented with the symptoms. That these symptoms could be psychological injuries had to be faced.

But the Military, desperate for men to man the trenches continually depleted by staggering casualties, tended to interpret the symptoms as malingering and cowardice. At the very least the military judged the sufferers to be moral degenerates. The medical profession, on the other hand, saw Shell Shock as real psychological illness but judged the sufferers as predisposed through genetic weakness.

In either case, the fault lay with the soldier. Both the military and the medical profession quarantined the sufferers as lesser beings, deprived of their manhood.

Of course, there were, no doubt, those individuals who were more prone to suffer Shell Shock than others. But the more important truth that failed to escape the taboos of Edwardian masculine culture was that no one was immune from Shell Shock. The more important factor was not individual predisposition but the severity and frequency of the shock.

And whilst it was understandable that there would be a number of such cases the question remained, 'why the epidemic?'

In retrospect we can perhaps see the reason. Instances of Shell Shock were not caused by some exceptional occurrences, they were caused by the very nature of the war. WWI, if not the first 'industrial' war, was certainly the first of such scale and intensity. The individual soldier was dwarfed by the great feats of industrial production particularly the devastating effect of modern massed artillery and the withering effect of the machine gun. And there was little manoeuvre. The soldier felt trapped

in his trench waiting for Armageddon in the form of the next artillery salvo. The combination of these, caused a feeling of helplessness. It is interesting that there were very few cases of Shell Shock on the battlefield amongst the Australian Light Horsemen in Palestine where the troops were constantly on the move and where the individual felt his courage and perseverance could make a difference.

During and after the war, the troops returned home to a sympathetic but uncomprehending public. That public had been fed media reports of the feats of the strong, resilient, inventive, good-humoured, laconic and selfless ANZACs. Of course the public understood the plight of the physically maimed and disabled, but they knew

little about the often invisible wounds of Shell Shock.

This ignorance was later reinforced by the official historian, CEW Bean, who in his many volumed official history made very little mention of Shell Shock and who, in his widely distributed *Anzac Book* excluded contributions not reinforcing the appealing side of the ANZAC story.

And what of the official view?



To say the least it was confused.

The authorities certainly had to look after those returning home with Shell Shock but many expected the symptoms would cease in the benign home atmosphere. But not only did most sufferers not recover but over time numbers of those returning apparently in good mental health, succumbed. Some in authority pointed to over indulgence in alcohol, marriage breakdown and other disappointments as the real cause of the returned soldiers' delayed symptoms, failing to realise that these unwelcome events themselves

could well have been caused by the underlying war damage. And the official view that predisposition or moral weakness separated those inflicted from those who were not, persisted. It is not surprising then, that though it was more generous than in some other countries the repatriation system was accused of cases of treating genuine sufferers as malingerers and denying them deserved pensions

In this climate of public incomprehension and official scepticism, it was often left to the households to carry the burden.

Marina Larsson, in her book *Shattered Anzacs*, gives some examples.

“In 1917 Mrs D Brown married Albert Brown, a soldier who had been wounded in the leg at Gallipoli. In the years after the war, she noticed a decline in his mental outlook. He became subject to ‘moody turns’ and ‘would sometimes sit for hours without speaking and if spoken to would not reply for some seconds’...he would sit for hours in an armchair biting his nails and staring into space... Albert became increasingly

paranoid that ‘someone was working against him’...But it was not till 1928, [some eleven years after his return] that Albert was admitted to ... [hospital] ...”

Sometimes, the returned soldier was not so passive.

“After his return, Gerald Muir regularly vented his rage at the family, as Joyce recalled: ‘[Dad] would fly into this temper, and he destroyed so many houses, and our belongings...he’d pull the electric light fittings out, he’d smash every piece of crockery in... the house... he’d throw a pot of tea... over the curtains and things like that. He went crazy...”

Sometimes the violence of the returned soldiers was turned onto the family members.

The Repatriation Department, however, did not see physical violence against the family as any of its

business, declaring it to be part of the veteran’s ‘private life’. In fact the family itself was not seen as part of the Department’s responsibility.

In the spirit of Billy Hughes’ promise of ‘A Land Fit For Heroes’ the Federal government established the Soldier Settlers Scheme inviting returned soldiers to take up farm blocks and offering seemingly attractive loans. Some 40,000 took up the offer in the early 1920s.

The scheme was a debacle.

By 1928 one third of the veteran settlers had abandoned their selections. In Victoria, by 1939, 60% had left their blocks most joining the unemployment queues in the cities.

The Repatriation Department, however, did not see physical violence against the family as any of its business, declaring it to be part of the veteran’s ‘private life’. In fact the family itself was not seen as part of the Department’s responsibility.

What were the reasons for the failure?

Government enquiries found that some of the land had been of poor quality, the blocks were too small to be economic, and too many settlers with no farming experience had been selected.

With this insubstantial base, falling agricultural prices had

destroyed their hopes.

On top of this, one enquiry identified ‘war disability’ as a significant cause of the scheme’s failure. Indeed, a large percentage (40% in Victoria) of the settlers had war caused disabilities including Shell Shock.

Marina Larsson recounts one such situation.

“Despite being discharged from the army as ‘medically unfit’ and receiving a small pension, John Watson, in 1919 was allocated a block... By 1922 John’s health had declined to the point of admission to hospital. His wife Mary, took over the running of the block. Thinking John would return she carried on alone at the same time looking after eight children. But John died in hospital. Mary realised she could not continue alone but the block’s debt was over £550. Her pleas to the Board

that the failure was not due to lack of effort but to John's war caused illness were headed but she left the block penniless.'

Canberra artist Katy Mutton has recently exhibited art works reflecting the despair felt by many Shell Shocked settlers and their families on the Red Cliffs settlement near Mildura. Her gathering of family recollections and letters includes many stories of drunkenness, family violence and suicide.

Vietnam was a different kind of war for most Australian troops. They were not subjected to frequent artillery barrages, nor were they static. Constant jungle patrolling kept them on the move. The result was that psychological casualties on the battlefield were few.

But the Vietnam War did have its own stresses.

It was guerrilla warfare. There was no front line behind which there was safety; there was always the danger of ambush, booby traps and stumbling onto camouflaged bunker systems.

Indeed it was estimated that in a 12 month tour of duty in Vietnam an infantry soldier would have felt his life in danger for ten of those months. This has been compared with a soldier leaving Australia with the second AIF and returning 6 years later having felt his life in danger for round six months.

Then there were those particularly nasty jumping jack mines which would leap a metre into the air before exploding sending shrapnel for 100 metres; mines lifted by the enemy from our own 25,000 strong minefield. A tragedy in itself.

There were frequent small engagement as well as the big battles such as Long Tan.

And who were we fighting? The villagers we were there to protect could be, and in fact often were, the enemy.

The effect of these stresses rather than being

exhibited on the battlefield, was delayed so that the aftermath of the Vietnam War became similar to that of WWI.

One such similarity was that, until 1980, Vietnam veterans suffered the indignity of being told their psychological problems resulted from their own weakness; the diagnosis often being a pre-existing personality disorder.

Thankfully, in 1980, the authoritative US Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or DSM, introduced the diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD, a psychological condition with an external traumatic cause; one not requiring a sufferers' predisposition.



But regardless of who or what was to blame, Vietnam veterans like their WWI grandfathers, suffered a flood of delayed mental distress.

A recent examination of the Repatriation records of every one of the 60,228 army, navy and airforce Vietnam veterans over a 43 year period, showed almost half (47.9%) had an accepted claim for a mental health condition, mostly Post

Traumatic Stress Disorder but including such conditions as anxiety state, depression and substance abuse.ⁱ The percentage for those involved directly in combat would likely be greater.

Another related statistic is that of the approximately 50,000 currently surviving Vietnam veterans, some 21,500 have been categorized as Totally and Permanently Incapacitated. Whilst there is no published statistic on the primary condition causing total incapacity, experience tells me it would probably be psychological conditions including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Recently statistics have emerged from a Sydney University study on 'suicidality' of Vietnam veterans and their partners.ⁱⁱ

'Suicidality' is not a count of completed suicides. It

has three aspects to it; 'thinking about suicide', 'planning suicide' and 'attempting, suicide.

The findings are alarming.

Amongst Vietnam veterans, the risk of 'thinking about' suicide is 7.9 times higher, 'planning' suicide 9.7 times higher and 'attempting' suicide 13.8 times higher than amongst their peers in the general population.

In such studies an increased risk of say 0.5 is considered significant. So these figures are tragically huge.

One difference between Vietnam veterans and their grandfathers was that Vietnam veterans were less inhibited about making public their distress. They demanded their problems be fixed.

I became involved with the Vietnam Veterans Association in 1981. It was in those days something of a rag-tag organisation operating from a less than salubrious office in Parramatta. There, help was offered to Vietnam veterans including counselling by three volunteer qualified counsellors. Case studies from these sessions accompanied a submission to government successfully arguing for the establishment of a shop front counselling service. In 1982 the first of many offices of the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service opened in Adelaide.

From this experience, those veterans realised that it was not just Vietnam veterans who were suffering, but also their families. This realisation led to the organisation advocating for recognition of the effect on families as well as the war's effects on veterans.

Confirmation of this concern has come from government sponsored studies over the past fifteen or more years.

A 1998 a government study found veterans' partners suffered high rates of psychological

distress.ⁱⁱⁱ

Alarming statistics have emerged from that recent Sydney University study on 'suicidality'.^{iv}

For the wives the risk of 'thinking about' suicide is 6.2 times higher, 'planning' 3.5 times higher and 'attempting suicide' 6 times higher than for their peers in the general community.

From the year 2000, comes an even more alarming statistic. A government study^v showed the children of Vietnam veterans suffering a suicide rate 300% higher than their peers in the general population. The main

cause was family dysfunction caused by the psychologically damaged veteran husbands.

After that finding, it was not surprising that the recently published Vietnam Veterans Family Study found higher rates of psychological illness amongst the children.^{vi}

It's was the same old story; the rerun of an old movie.

But looking forward we wonder how our Repatriation Commission and government will

From this experience, those veterans realised that it was not just Vietnam veterans who were suffering, but also their families. This realisation led to the organisation advocating for recognition of the effect on families as well as the war's effects on veterans.



Pic. courtesy Internet 'Global Research' Group free imagery.

handle the inevitably similar situation faced by our veterans returned from Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan and the similar situation of their families.

On their present performance, there is reason for pessimism (see the July 2015 edition of the VVFA magazine).

Notes to article _____

ⁱ *Long-term Disability Associated With War-related Experience Among Vietnam Veterans Retrospective Cohort Study* Philip M. Clarke, PhD, Robert Gregory, PhD and Joshua A. Salomon PhD, April 2015.

'Suicidality in Australian Vietnam veterans and their partners'

ⁱⁱ *Brian I. O'Toole (University of Sydney Brain & Mind Research Institute), Tammy Orreal-Scarborough, Deborah Johnston, Stanley V. Catts, Sue Outram, in Journal of Psychiatric Research xxx (2015) 1-7.*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Morbidity of Vietnam Veterans, Volume 1, Survey of Community Comparison Outcomes, Department of Veterans Affairs, 1998.*

^{iv} *'Suicidality in Australian Vietnam veterans and their partners'*
Brian I. O'Toole (University of Sydney Brain & Mind Research Institute), Tammy Orreal-Scarborough, Deborah Johnston, Stanley V. Catts, Sue Outram, in Journal of Psychiatric Research xxx (2015) 1-7.

^v *Morbidity of Vietnam Veterans, Supplementary Report No 1, Suicide of Vietnam Veterans' Children, Department of Veterans Affairs, AIHW, 2000.*

^{vi} *Commonwealth of Australia 2014, Vietnam Veterans Health Study. Volume 1, Introduction and Summary of the Studies of Vietnam Veterans Families, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canberra.*

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:

\$10,000	Ray Hopkins
\$5,000	Sam & Bev Cropper, and 1 x Anon.
\$3,000	ARVN Association of NSW
\$2,000	Joseph Bartos
\$1,000	Kevin Faust, Riverina Sub Branch, and 3 x Anons
\$500	Dr William Nguyen, Steve Bunter, Darryl Clifford JP MIAME, also Bruce Robertson, Alf Torrisi, Michael Walker, Ian Wells, 2 x Anons
\$400	Brian Wood
\$300	Gerry Binder, Geoffrey Peattie, Peter Unwin, William Smith, Henry Walker, and 1 x Anon
\$270	Howard Clark
\$250	Stephen Nugent, Dallas Mulhall OAM,
\$200	Frank Curphy, Neil Croker, Michael Ekman, Gordon O'Brien, Charles Shay, Frank Taylor, 1 x Anon.

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

ALLIED FORCES

Service Pension and Membership entitlements

There are provisions within the Veterans' Entitlement Act, 1986 (VEA), for allies of Australia during World War Two, and the wars/conflicts that followed, to apply for a **Service Pension** (equivalent to the "Old Age" Pension from Centrelink), through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), provided that they have satisfied all the DVA and Government requirements for that pension.

I am aware from my conversations with a number of our members and readers of the Association's quarterly Journal, that many are unaware of the assistance that the Association also provides to the former "Allies" of the wars and conflicts that Australia has been involved with. These allies (post WW2) included South Korea, South Vietnam, New Zealand, America and the Philippines, and now a number of others, following Australia's recent deployments.

From about 1994 our Association has had an "open door" policy, and have assisted Australian veterans of **all wars/conflicts, Peacekeeping / Making deployments and past and current serving members of the Defence Force**, with disability pensions and welfare matters, at no cost to them and with no requirement to be a member.

Since then we have also assisted our "allies" with their claims for Service Pension entitlements and some welfare matters. Please note that the allied veterans are only entitled to claim for the **Service Pension**, and **not the Disability Pension**.

I might also point out that under the Association's Constitution, allied veterans are entitled to join the Association as "Ordinary Members", and many have done so, not dissimilar to RSL Sub-Branches.

In appreciation of our assistance to them, the "South Korean Vietnam Veterans Association" and "South Vietnamese Vietnam Veterans Association (ARVN)" in particular, have, over the years, and continue to do so, held various "functions and ceremonies" where monies raised have been donated to our Association to help us to continue our assistance to all Australian and allied veterans. Some of the donations have been **quite substantial**, and very much appreciated.

A considerable number of our South Vietnamese and South Korean members, who receive our Journal, are unable to read English, but would still like to receive advice or information, preferably in Vietnamese or Korean, of special events or important Government issues affecting them.

As they are members and have supported the Association for many years, by way of monetary donations, and in other ways, I believe that it would be **reasonable** and **prudent** of the Association to include in our Journal, when required, information/advice in the Vietnamese or Korean language, in our Journal or by way of a "flyer", or a separate mail-out, on those occasions.

William (Bill) Roberts OAM
Senior Vice President - VVPPAA



Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers

Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc



2016

Membership Application / Renewal Form

1st JANUARY to 31ST DECEMBER

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	SECOND NAME

STREET ADDRESS

SUBURB	STATE	POST CODE

HOME PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	WORK PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS (Please print clearly)

SERVICE NUMBER	SERVICE UNIT	OVERSEAS AREA OF OPERATION SERVICE

NEXT OF KIN	RELATIONSHIP	NEXT OF KIN CONTACT PHONE

ITEM	NUMBER of YEARS	COST	TOTAL
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION		@ \$30.00 PA	\$
DONATION	ONE OFF	NOMINATE AMOUNT	\$
RAFFLE TICKET(S)		@ \$2.00 PER TICKET	\$
MERCHANDISE ITEM NUMBER	QUANTITY	ITEM PRICE *	
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
* ITEM PRICES AND STOCK NUMBER AVAILABLE ON REVERSE		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$

PAYMENT OPTION Payment may be made by Credit Card, (phone or post), Cheque, Money Order, or by cash if paying in person. Make all Cheques & Money Orders payable to: VVPPAA (NSW BRANCH) Inc. Post to: PO BOX 170, GRANVILLE 2142 Contact the Granville Office on 02 9682 1788 for advice. Email: secretary@vvpaa.org	PAYMENT METHOD (CIRCLE ONE ONLY) CASH CHEQUE MONEY ORDER MASTERCARD VISA	
	CARD HOLDER NAME (PRINT) _____	
	CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____	
	EXPIRY DATE _____	TRANSACTION AMOUNT _____
	SIGNATURE _____	

OFFICE USE ONLY	
RECEIPT DATE:	MEMBERSHIP CARD No.:
RECEIPT No. MEMBERSHIP:	RECEIPT No. DONATION:
RECEIPT & CARD ISSUE BY (PRINT)	BANK SHEET ENTRY BY (PRINT)
MEMBERSHIP DATA ENTRY BY (PRINT)	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please complete and return this form to the NSW State Office if you have recently, or are about to, change your preferred mailing address for mail-outs from the association, including this magazine.

Please print clearly.

SURNAME: _____ GIVEN NAME/S: _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBER: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

Old details: Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

NEW Details: ADDRESS: _____

STATE: _____ POST CODE _____

NEW CONTACT DETAILS: Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email Address: _____

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' Name _____ Service number _____

SVN Unit _____ Tour date(s) _____

Cause of death (if known) _____

(**SR** Service Related **UK** Unknown **S** Suicide **O** Other)

Date of death (if known) _____ Location at time of death (State & Town) _____

Your name _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Phone no _____ Signature _____

Please Return To

**The Welfare Officer,
PO Box 170,
Granville, NSW 2142**

Ph **(02) 9682 1788** Fax **(02) 9682 6134**
E-mail to **secretary@vfvagranville.org**

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR CHILDREN

Our readers would be aware that 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 provides funding for two Scholarships – “**Tim McCombe OAM Scholarship**”, named in honour and memory of Tim, who passed away in January this year, 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 \$3,000 per year for three years, provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements.

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

The Scholarships are administered on the Association’s behalf by the “**Australian Veterans’ Assist 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.

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, 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

Virtually all the recipients of the Associations Scholarships since its inception have done very well in their chosen vocations. The following are progress reports/results of the Associations Scholarship recipients: **Emma Wratten** (2012), **Brayden Witcombe-Keep** (2012) and **Jeremy Nyman** (2014). There were no scholarships awarded in 2013 as the previous recipients had continued with their studies. A scholarship was awarded to **Mr Liam Dwyer in 2015** as Emma had completed her studies:

Emma WRATTEN - Bachelor of Education, Queensland University of Technology.

Emma who was granted a scholarship in 2012, was awarded the QUT Medal for exceptional performance in the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) with First Class Honours, when she completed her degree in November 2013. Emma is now employed as a teacher at Dalby State High School in the Darling Downs. Her high achievements during the course of her studies were mentioned in a previous issue of the Association’s Newsletter.

Brayden WITCOMBE-KEEP – Bachelor of Arts (Psychology & Sports Degree), Swinburne University of Technology

Brayden was granted a scholarship in 2012 and completed his degree in December 2014. He graduated with: 2 “**High Distinctions**” and 5 “**Credits**”.

The Scholarship enabled Brayden to travel to Nepal, on exchange, as part of his Course. His appreciation of the Association’s support and experiences during his visit to Nepal are expressed in the following message from him: “Thank you so much for giving me the

opportunity to experience a university degree with no financial burdens around collecting required texts and paying annual amenities fees. I could freely purchase anything needed to assist with my degree without feeling like I would miss out. Your support eliminated the stress of financial burden and allowed me to focus fully on my university degree. I also wouldn't have been able to experience the amazing country that is Nepal, met the amazing people that I did, formed everlasting friendships with fellow travellers, and grew as much as I did mentally and emotionally.

The day that I received the phone call informing me that I will be receiving a scholarship was such a positively overwhelming day. I had just arrived in Melbourne only days before and had a hard time setting up, dealing with the real estate agents and adjusting to the speedy Melbourne lifestyle. I am as grateful now, as I was that day and appreciate your support over the three years of my new life in Melbourne, my university degree and my overall growth as an independent young person”.

Brayden is presently working as a Retail Assistant Manager until he returns to studies to gain his teaching qualifications.

Jeremy NYMAN - Bachelor of Design (Communications Design) Degree, Swinburne University of Technology

Jeremy who lives in Kew Victoria, was granted a scholarship in 2014 as a grandchild of a Veteran. His grandfather served in the Australian Army from 1953 to 1973. He served in South Vietnam 1968-1969, when he

discharged in 1973 he was a Chaplain 3rd class.

During Semesters 1 and 2 (2014), Jeremy achieved: 5 “**High Distinctions**”, 3 “**Distinctions**”.

Liam DWYER – 2nd Year of Bachelor of Engineering, University of Queensland

Liam who lives in Wellington Point, Queensland, was granted the “Tim McCombe OAM” Scholarship in 2015 as a grandchild of a Veteran. His grandfather served in the Australian Army 1967-1988 and South Vietnam 1969-1971, with 3 CAV Regt.



William (Bill) Roberts OAM, JP presenting Liam Dwyer with his Scholarship

Progress reports of his studies will be provided in future issues of the Association's Newsletter.

Once again it is pleasing to see the wonderful results and achievements of our past and present recipients. It only highlights their determination to succeed under

hardship in the true ANZAC Spirit.

The Association continues to be extremely proud of those that it has supported with the Scholarships over the years and is determined to continue this support for as long as we are able to do so. We wish them well and every success during the course of their studies.

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



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

SCHOLARSHIPS

**FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN
OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS**



The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a not-for-profit organisation. AVCAT administers bursaries and scholarships to help children, and in some cases grandchildren, of Australian veterans with the costs of full-time education. The most deserving candidates are provided with financial assistance to facilitate their tertiary studies.

One of the scholarships administered by AVCAT is the **VVPPAA Scholarship**, specifically available for the children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans.

If you would like to find out more about this or any of the sponsored scholarships that AVCAT administers, please contact us:

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

2014 Recipient

P: 02 9213 7999

E: avcat@dva.gov.au

W: www.avcat.org.au

APPLICATIONS OPEN 18th AUGUST

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR
A SCHOLARSHIP?
DO THE ELIGIBILITY TEST
NOW!

(See opposite)

ARE **YOU ELIGIBLE** TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP OR BURSARY THROUGH AVCAT?

TEST YOUR ELIGIBILITY NOW!!

Are you a child or grandchild of an a Australian veteran?
YES Go to Question 2. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

Are you an Australian permanent resident?
YES Go to Question 3. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

Are you enrolled or planning to enrol in tertiary studies for a minimum of one year?
YES Go to Question 4. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

Will you be studying full-time next year?
YES Go to Question 5. **NO** You are NOT eligible!

Are you or will you be eligible for Centrelink's Youth Allowance?
YES Go to Question 6. **NO** See Note 1 below.

Are you under 25 yrs of age? **NO** See Note 2 below.
YES

Please contact AVCAT for more information.

NOTES:

1. Scholarships are awarded to those students in disadvantaged circumstances as determined by the means test eligibility for Youth Allowance. You need to be eligible for Youth Allowance even if not receiving it.

2. if you are older than 25 years you will need to explain the reasons for your delay in tertiary studies.

To find out more please feel free to contact AVCAT:



P: 02 9213 7999 or
 E: avcat@dva.gov.au
 or go our website: www.avcat.org.au

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

Unintended Consequences of Medical Treatment .

A story of a good outcome to a real nightmare.

BACKGROUND

In early July 2012 an Army Reserve soldier had an inoculation. He had been for a medical and was informed that he had not had all the inoculations needed by the Army. He refused all the injections needed for deployment but agreed to the tetanus shot because he worked on his small farm. However there was no option available in the Medical Centre for a single tetanus shot. There was only a triple antigen i.e. tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria. He was told by the nurse administering the injection that it 'would knock his immune system around': it did.

Within 24 hours he developed glandular swelling and swollen lymph nodes. He could not raise his arms and was off work. He had flu like symptoms and a whitish covering on his tongue and his gums. By August he had mouth ulcers. In October he developed Oral Thrush. In early 2013 the symptoms flared up again. By July he had developed lymphadenopathy:

Lymphadenopathy or lymphadenitis refers to lymph nodes which are abnormal in size, number or consistency, and is often used as a synonym for swollen or enlarged lymph nodes. Common causes of lymphadenopathy are infection, autoimmune disease, or malignancy.

This occurred in the left arm pit. He also developed fatigue and some loss of balance. In

2013 Oral Thrush and mouth ulcers were diagnosed as Gingivitis (Gum Disease).

In March 2014 he was diagnosed with Lichen Planus:

Lichen planus (LP) is a disease of the skin and/or mucous membranes that resembles lichen. The cause is unknown, but it is thought to be the result of an autoimmune process with an unknown initial trigger. There is no cure.

In November 2014 he was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome:

Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a complex medical condition, characterized by long-term fatigue and other symptoms. These symptoms are to such a degree that they limit a person's ability to carry out ordinary daily activities. CFS may also be referred to as systemic exertion intolerance disease (SEID), myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), post-viral fatigue syndrome (PVFS), chronic fatigue immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS), or several other terms. [3] Quality of life of persons with CFS can be extremely compromised.

Because of the long period of these significant conditions he developed Adjustment Disorder with Anxiety:

An adjustment disorder (AD) (sometimes called exogenous, reactive, or situational depression, occurs when an individual is unable to adjust to or cope with a particular stress or a major life event. Since people with this disorder normally have symptoms that depressed people do, such as general loss of interest, feelings of hopelessness and crying, this disorder is sometimes known as situational depression.

THE CLAIM

The members initial claim on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), in March 2015, for Gingivitis, Lichen Planus, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Adjustment Disorder with Anxiety was rejected by a delegate under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

THE APPEAL

The member came to the ACT Branch of the Federation, situated in the suburb of Page branch, for help with an appeal to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB). The appeal was lodged under section 29 of the MRCA - this section covers unforeseen consequences of medical procedures. The research to support the appeal was carried out entirely by the claimant. He was diligent, thorough and painstaking in his efforts to unearth medical research that linked his physical reactions to the inoculation and his subsequent psychiatric condition.

When the appeal was lodged with the VRB, a request was made that it be reviewed under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, which has been trialled in NSW and the ACT this year. This process enables a single member of the VRB to review the case 'on the papers'. That member only has two options. One is to uphold the appeal, by setting aside the decision of the original delegate and direct DVA to accept the conditions claimed. The other option is to advise the claimant, that a decision can't be made on the papers and refer the appeal to full hearing of the VRB. A single member does not have the authority to reject an appeal.

On 25 Nov 15, a single member, decided to uphold the appeal and asked the claimant if he accepted that decision. He did and a written decision has since been sent to him. He did not have to attend a hearing. Thus an end to the laborious process of a claim and ultimately a successful appeal.

NEXT STEP

We now need to lodge a claim with DVA for the financial loss arising from losing his job. Hopefully we will be able to provide more good news in the next issue of the magazine.



[Ed:] - This is an actual case study of a recent claimant taken with permission on it's merit for the wider veteran community while withholding the identity of the soldier to protect his privacy.

REUNIONS & NOTICES

REUNIONS & NOTICES



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

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc., will be held at **Merrylands RSL Club 10.30am Saturday, 21 May 2016.**

AGENDA

Opening of Meeting by the Chairman

Apologies

Confirm the Minutes of the AGM 2014.

Business Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2015

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

Membership Report

Appointment of Association Auditors

Appointment of Association Legal Representatives

Appointment of Life Members

Other Business by leave of the Chairman

Close of Meeting.

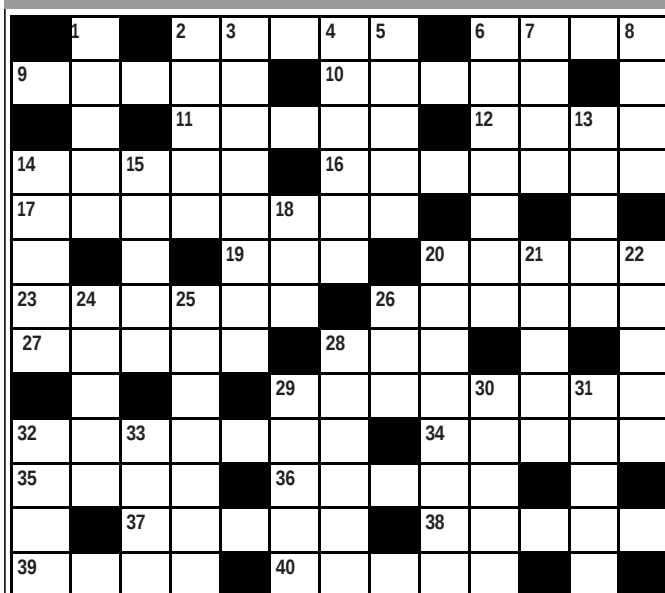
Any items for General Business **must** be in the hands of the Secretary by close of business on

Monday 2 May 2016.

Next AGM to be held on a date to be confirmed during May 2016.

**Ron O'Connor
Hon. Secretary
NSW Branch**

CROSSWORD CORNER



ACROSS

2. Rate of progress
6. Whip
9. Part of church
10. Part of coat
11. Lofty structure
12. Malleable
14. USA Seaport (Mas.)
16. Ships, boats
17. Sat at chair
19. Wrongdoing
20. Interior design
23. Dodged
26. Dwell
27. Specials
28. Command
29. Dregs
32. Shares
34. Inner parts
35. Type of cheese
36. Essential
37. Rescued
38. Late
39. Skin, rind
40. Point out to

DOWN

1. Unclouded
2. Satisfies
3. Assures
4. Number
5. Ventured
6. Given leases to
7. Drug plant
8. Forest dwellings
13. Deluge
14. Agents
15. Within law
18. Accomplished
20. Give in earnest
21. Beverage
22. Reposes
24. Well founded
25. Tenths
26. Disencumber
28. Apart from
29. Cut off
30. Tooth
31. Poor
32. Chasm like
33. Flower holder

Solution next issue.

THE UNKNOWN COMIC

Barry, the Aussie builder, was going through a house he had just built, with the woman who owned it.

She was telling him what colours to paint each room. They went into the first room and she said "This room is to be a light blue"

The builder went to the front door and yelled out "Green side up!" As he went back to her she said the next room was to be red.

The builder again went to the front door and yelled "Green side up". Once back with her she said "This one is to be tan".

And again he went to the front door and yelled "Green side up" The lady very curious said "I keep telling you different colours, but you always yell "Green side up."

"What do you say that for?"

"Oh don't you worry about that" said the builder, "I've got a couple of 'ex-Politicians' laying turf out the front."

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90 % of their body... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

Apparently I snore so loudly that it scares all my passengers.

June/July SOLUTION

M	A	C	H	E	T	E		C	H	A	R	M
O		H		A		N		O		C		I
R	O	A	M	S		S	O	N	A	T	A	S
T		L		T		U		S		U		L
A	B	E	T		R	E	G	U	L	A	T	E
R	O	T	A	T	E	S		M		L	I	D
	W		P	O	D		W	E	B		B	
S	E	T		M		R	E	S	U	M	E	D
E	D	U	C	A	T	E	D		D	I	R	E
V		M		H		V		B		R		F
E	M	B	R	A	C	E		I	R	A	T	E
R		L		W		A		A		G		R
S	L	E	E	K		L	I	S	T	E	N	S

V C E S NEWS & UPDATE

The Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS) provide financial assistance, student support services, guidance and counselling for eligible children to help them achieve their full potential in full-time education or career training. The schemes cater for children undertaking primary, secondary and tertiary study and are normally provided only for full-time study within Australia.

In each State there is a Veterans' Children Education Board (VCEB) and a Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education & Training Board (MRCETB) responsible for assisting with the administration of the Education Schemes. Board members serve in an honorary capacity and include respected members of the community experienced in matters relating to the welfare and education of children. The Board oversees each student's progress and provides educational guidance and counselling where necessary.

Under the VCES, an eligible child is someone who is:

- under 16; or
- between 16 and 25, undertaking full-time education; and
- the child of a veteran or a present or past member of the Australian Defence Force who is receiving (or was receiving prior to their death) a disability pension:
 - ◇ at the special rate (commonly known as T&PI);
 - ◇ at the extreme disablement adjustment (EDA) rate;
 - ◇ at an increased rate because of multiple amputations, or multiple amputations and blindness; or

- the child of a veteran or a present or past member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) whose death was war or defence caused; or
- the child of a veteran who was an Australian prisoner-of-war and is now deceased.

If a student, whose deceased veteran parent had operational service but whose death was not war or defence caused, has also lost their other parent, they are also an eligible child. This loss may be through death or where the surviving parent is not maintaining them.

A student who is the child of a Vietnam veteran (or who is or has been dependent on a Vietnam veteran) but who does not qualify under any of the above criteria may be eligible in certain circumstances.

Who is a child of a veteran, member or former member under the VCES?

A child of a veteran, member of the Forces or member of a Peacekeeping Force can be:

- a biological son or daughter or an adopted son or daughter of the veteran or member; or
- a child who is wholly or substantially dependent on the veteran or member, including, but not limited to:
 - ◇ a child who by law the veteran or member is liable to maintain; or
 - ◇ a child who is in the care of the veteran or member and for whom the veteran or member is legally responsible for day-to-day care, welfare and development ; or
 - ◇ a child who is wholly or substantially in the veteran or member's care.

Under the MRCAETS, an eligible child is someone who is:

- under 16 years old; or
- between the ages of 16 and 25, undertaking full-time education and who is not ordinarily engaged in full-time work on his or her own account; and
- has been compensated as an eligible young person under the MRCA for the death of a deceased member of the ADF; or
- is the dependant of a member or former member who is eligible for the Special Rate Disability Pension safety net payment (SRDP); or
- is the dependant of a member who has satisfied the criteria for eligibility for SRDP at some point in their life; or
- is the dependant of a member or former member who is eligible for maximum permanent impairment compensation under the MRCA (assessed at 80 or more impairment points).

Information supplied by:

Hadyn White

Executive Officer to the Deputy
Commissioner NSW & ACT



The *Families of the Military Research and Support Foundation* raises money for research into helping military families deal with post war life.

Every booking raises funds for this excellent Foundation.

When booking use the code: 1240.

When booking online just go to:

www.quickbeds.com/?grassrootscode=1240

(The VVFA supports this initiative)



YOU STAY, WE PAY!

Every week one
lucky person will
win a **FULL REFUND.**

Letters

ATTENTION ALL.

Hi,

My name is Geoff Clark and live in Golden Grove, South Australia, and was a 9 Squadron RAAF Helicopter Crewman in Vietnam from February 1968 to February 1969.

I am trying to trace 2, maybe 3, 35mm colour slides that were lent to the Vietnam Veterans' Association in Walkerville, South Australia, at about the time of the "Agent Orange Royal Commission" hearings in Adelaide.

At that time, VVAA had a president who had a surname of Tudleman or similar and he was a naturopath. They were never returned and have not worried about them till now, but circumstances have changed. These colour slides were taken at Fire Support Base Coral on the 16th May 1968.

One of the slides shows two dead Vietcong on the side of the helipad, one with "horrendous" wounds to his stomach where an ammunition magazine exploded, and the other slide is of the Mass Burial Pit which was had many bodies inside. It was taken from the helicopter.

I have attached rough, (and I mean rough), drawings of the contents of the slides.

I have contacted the Australian War Memorial, but they have no record of either of the images.

Would you please be able to include my request to locate these slides – even copies of the slides, in your magazines and give my contact details as:

Geoff Clark
0414825171
clarkg@internode.on.net

It has got to a situation where I need to locate these slides.

Thanking you in advance

Geoff Clark

6 Blue Gum Court
Golden Grove, SA, 5125
0882515582



The Old Man Marched

He no longer is a young man
the years have come and gone,
no-longer there, a young man's face
but a body old and worn.
And his clothes are different now
from what they used to be,
old man's pants and old man's shirt,
in place of jungle greens.
And the old man marched on ANZAC day.
The feet that now tread city streets
once walked on jungle tracks,
his cares are carried on his shoulders,
just like a heavy pack.
And sometimes in the dark of night
when the old man tries to sleep,
shadows like the ghosts of past
will to his bedroom creep.
And the old man marched on ANZAC day.

What is it people wonder,
that makes the old man duck,
when the only sound they can hear
is the backfiring of a truck.
And when he tries to tell them
what makes him act that way,
they say your war old man was long ago,
but for him it was only yesterday.
And the old man marched on ANZAC day.
His grandson by his side.

DRV 2012.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE!!

It's that time of the year again to renew your Association Membership.

NSW membership subscription renewal forms for 2016 have already been sent out to NSW Branch members under separate cover by the Granville office. Members of our various State Branches and Sub Branches should receive membership renewal notices from their respective organisations. In the event you do not receive a form in the mail please use the Membership Renewal form included in this Journal.

To renew your membership just complete the enclosed membership form and return it to our Granville office. Please check the Membership Application form to ensure your details are correct and amend any incorrect details so we can update our records, including your email address.

Your financial support in the past has been most appreciative and we hope you will continue to support the Association.

Even if you have won the battle with Veterans Affairs there is always the risk of changes in Government policy which may erode benefits/pensions or change eligibility entitlements.

It is through our membership subscriptions, fund raising activities and many kind donations from our members that we are able to continue supporting our fellow Veterans and Service members in need and meet our increasing welfare/pension workload. Should you be able to help with a donation in this regard it would be greatly appreciated.

BRANCH LISTINGS NSW SUB-BRANCHES

BRANCH LISTINGS OTHER STATES

"SAY WHAT YOU FEEL FOR OTHERS IN THEIR LIVING YEARS"

Like many others, I have, over my lifetime, seen the passing of family members, fellow comrades, colleagues and close friends. Many of whom I loved, respected or admired, but had never told them so, when they were alive.

I have listened to the kind and sincere words spoken at the Eulogies and Wakes of those who have left us, and of the many loved ones and those who were paying their respects, that had later expressed their sorrow and regret for not having shown or conveyed their feelings, to those that have departed, during their living years. I would be the first to admit that I had been guilty of this in the past, but no longer.

I believe that many of us have been reluctant to express our feelings for others, for fear of it being taken the wrong way, that it may be embarrassing to the other person or that we are just frightened to say so, or just don't know how to express these feelings. Perhaps you could write a personal letter, say it to them personally, put your arm around their shoulder, or just give them a "hug" and let them know that you love, care, admire or respect them for whatever the reason might be.

An expression of these feelings does not hurt anyone, and if anything, it may make that other person feel so much better about themselves, or yourself. So do it, if that is how you feel, you may be surprised at the difference this makes. Let your heart lead the way you may wish to express your feelings.

I have three children (boys), a young boy of 23 years and two older boys who are now in their 40's. They have not been "angels" growing up, but they have expressed and shown their love to me on many occasions, and to this day. Although my two older boys are in their 40's they regularly give me a "hug", the occasional peck on the cheek, and tell me that they love me and that I am a good dad (sometimes debatable). That is all I ask and need of my children, and it makes me feel good.

Should I pass away suddenly tomorrow I will have done so, happy in the knowledge that my children have shown and expressed their feelings for me, and I them, during my "living years".

If you genuinely love, care, admire or respect someone, be it family members, comrades, colleagues or close friends, let them know of these feelings, in whatever way you like, or are comfortable with – **In their living years.**

William (Bill) Roberts OAM, JP
Senior Vice President - VVPPAA



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**



Last Post





Last Post





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

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

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.

**DO YOU KNOW ANY
BUSINESS OFFERING**

**DISCOUNTS FOR
VETERANS.**

**THEY COULD ADVERTISE
HERE FOR FREE !!**

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

TRAILERS TOWBARS BULLBARS



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

SMASH REPAIRS



**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

Ask for Alan

**Tell them you are a member
and they will send us a
donation.**

**FREE ADS
YOUR FREE ADVERT
HERE!!**

ENQUIRE AT
0421 690 959

CONDITIONS APPLY

EXHAUST SYSTEMS

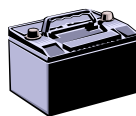


Menai

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20% Discount

Balmain Radiator Centre
Mark Borghonzian
22d Crystal St
ROZELLE
Ph: (02) 9818 4920
Mbl: 0419 417 206
10% Discount

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321 Parramatta Rd
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www.mcas.com.au

CITY: 9261 5182.
LIVERPOOL: 9601 8276.
CARINGBAH 9574 5100
PENRITH 4737 6100

**10% Discount except
helmets and tyres**

BRIDGESTONE
Tyres & Complete Auto
Servicing.

TYRES



10% discount to members
(not current specials)
223 Woodville Rd
Merrylands NSW
02 9897 1002
Mon-Fri 8-5
Sat 8:30-12:30

FLOOR COVERINGS



Waratah Floor Coverings

473 Burwood Rd

BELMORE

Ph: (02) 9759 6511

**Ask for Special
Rate**

MOTELS



**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

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ASHFIELD, NSW, 2131
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