



# THE VIETNAM VETERANS' NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

SUPPORTING ALL WHO SERVE & HAVE SERVED

JULY 2019



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NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES

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## THE BATTLE OF BINH BA



IN early June 1969 an Australian force took part in one of the rarest actions seen by *Australians* in *Vietnam*. It involved house to house close quarter fighting, to clear a village of *Viet Cong* and *NVA* regulars.

In an attempt to influence ongoing peace talks, a combined force including a company from the *33 NVA Regiment*, elements of the *Viet Cong D440 Provincial Mobile Battalion*, and squads from local guerrilla units, occupied *Binh Ba* on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> June 1969.

In response, South Vietnamese *ARVN* forces were sent from *Duc Thanh* the following morning. Initial intelligence suggested that a group of about platoon strength had infiltrated the village. However the *South Vietnamese* soon discovered they were facing a larger force, and their district commander subsequently asked *1ATF* for assistance in clearing *Binh Ba*.

An understrength (65 men) unit of *D Company 5RAR* was deployed to the village with *Centurion Tanks* and *APCs*, to set about getting the civilians (about 3,000), safely out of harm's way. However, they came under a volley of fire and *RPG* rounds – *Rocket Propelled Grenades* – and soon realised that the enemy was a much larger force than at first reported.

As well, *helicopter gunships* heading in to support

the ground troops, reported another large force of about 60 *Viet Cong* heading for the village. In total, probably about a battalion strength force was either ensconced in the brick houses among the villagers, or heading toward the village to support those already there.

*D Company* was joined by *B Company* in the early afternoon, along with more tanks and *APCs*, *105 Field Battery Artillery*, and *RAAF Gunships* in support. They began their house to house searches, clearing civilians to the rear of the action, and carefully searching the small air-raid bunkers attached to nearly all the houses.

Each time the Infantry came under fire from a house, it was blasted with a tank round then the Infantry moved in to clear the enemy from the rubble, if anyone had survived the initial bombardment.

Harbouring up in defensive positions overnight, the clearance of *Binh Ba* continued throughout the next day, with most of the enemy forces fleeing toward another village, *Duc Trung*, where *ARVN* forces again required the assistance of the *Australians* to clear that hamlet. By the end of the fourth day most of *Binh Ba* lay in ruin, but the enemy had withdrawn, leaving behind 107 dead, 8 captured and 6 wounded, for the death of 1 *Australian* and 10 wounded. ■



**VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA Inc.**

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Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

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Cover design and image  
by Bob Freshfield

## KIWI VIETNAM VETERAN'S DREAM



I dreamed the soldier's dream last night, it came to me so clear  
I dreamed I saw my old platoon, they seemed to me so near  
I dreamed I heard again the sounds, that only soldiers understand  
And I dreamed I smelt the jungle smells of that far distant land

And in the dream I felt the heat, and the heavy monsoon rain  
And I felt again the comfort of the ground, in the places I have lain  
I dreamed I saw the blood red stain of the hard red laterite soil  
I saw again the thick jungle slopes, through which we had to toil

And the dead and jumbled trees caused by Agent Orange sprays  
Devastating to the jungle and the effects will last us all our days  
I dreamed I heard the insects, mainly the mossies angry scream  
And I saw my legs festooned with leeches, after crossing any stream

I dreamed I felt again the familiar feel, of rifle, web and pack  
And I felt again my shoulders pain, and the weight upon my back  
I dreamed of being out of water, and the terrible, burning thirst  
I felt of all the deprivations, the lack of water is the worst

I dreamed of the itch of tinea that stretched from toes to waist  
And I dreamed of taking Paludrin and its bitter awful taste  
I heard again the rifle shots, and saw machine guns tracer lines  
I heard again the crash of shells, and the blast of Claymore mines

I dreamed I smelt the cordite and the strong iron smell of blood  
And I dreamed of finding bodies and the wounded in the mud  
I dreamed of our wounded soldiers, dusted- off to waiting aid  
And I dreamed of other soldiers and the sacrifices they had made

I dreamed of empty hours, doing sentry in a gun- pit in the sun  
**I dreamed of fear filled sentry night's, in that pit behind the gun**  
I dreamed of all these things, and it was if it were but only yesterday  
As I slept that restless sleep, that twists the sheets in which I lay

I awoke to find that the world was as I'd left it, when I went to bed  
And the soldier dream was real for me to see, but now only in my head.

Peter Anderson - 1PL W3 Coy (RNZIR)



# NEWS



The Battle of Binh Ba

IN early June 1969 an Australian force took part in one of the rarest actions seen by *Australians* in Vietnam.

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### Do you have a story?

#### Again we bring you some veterans' stories.

There must be lot more stories out there languishing in old letters, diaries and, of course, in our heads, about our time in Vietnam.

In this edition we have stories from Al Wood and Greg Lockhart.

So if you have a story with some photos in your archives, we would welcome them. ■

KEN GRAHAM IS SEEKING  
216730 CPL JOHN J MYLES  
RAEME 68-69 VIETNAM

Anyone knowing of John's whereabouts is asked to  
contact Ken on 0416 179 186

**NSW MEMBERS TURN TO  
CENTER PAGES FOR YOUR  
VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY  
TICKET ORDER FORM AND  
SERVICE TIMETABLE.**



## FROM THE EDITORS DESK

WE have a new government.

What can we expect from them?

In this edition we bring you the new government's stated veterans agenda.

This journal will keep track of promises kept and those delayed or abandoned.

We also await the government's response to two important reports springing from enquiries into veteran suicide.

We shall keep you informed.

We shall keep you informed too about a new enquiry into DFRDB Military Superannuation which will, to be blunt, examine just how much military superannuants are being screwed.

The terms of reference are yet to be determined and could be kept so narrow as to hobble the enquiry.

We shall keep you informed.

August is fast approaching, and once again the NSW Branch is holding the Vietnam Veterans Day function in Sydney at the Bankstown Sports Club. Full information can be found later inside this issue. Order your tickets early to secure a table.

Our Website continues to draw attention, with many a comment on its content, that often reflects on issues raised in previous editions of our newsletter. Check it out at [www.vvfa.org.au](http://www.vvfa.org.au). It will be revamped soon to make it responsive for smartphone applications.

*It's only when you look at ants through a magnifying glass on a sunny day that you realise how often they burst into flames.*

## MEMBERSHIP

**Belonging  
Advocacy  
Success**

*Membership is due on 1 January each year.*

*(July 1 for Queensland members)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

*We thank you for your kind support.*

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**CLOSE-OFF DATE FOR  
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OCTOBER 31 2019**

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**'The National Secretary'**

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# FREE PENSIONS & ADVOCACY SERVICE

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

Contact any of our Branches or Sub-Branches from the lists elsewhere in this Journal. Alternatively, visit our website, [www.vvfa.org.au](http://www.vvfa.org.au) and email from the lists included.

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

# What did the government promise veterans during the Federal election

(and what should it have promised but failed to do so)

## 12 treatments limit before new doctor's referral is required (The Treatment Cycle)

The present scheme

Under current DVA arrangements, a GP may refer a client to physiotherapists and other allied health services for up to a year at DVA's expense (except for dental and optical, for which no referral is required). For chronic conditions, the GP can make an ongoing referral.

This scheme seems to be working well. But DVA believes it is failing veterans because their GPs are not supervising sufficiently their treatments. This is leading, DVA contends, to veterans failing to receive the best possible treatment and care.

The change

DVA came up with a scheme that would provide more GP supervision.

The government announced that from 1 July 2019, GPs will only be able to make a referral to physiotherapists and other allied health **services at DVA's expense for up to 12 sessions or one year, whichever comes sooner.** This new arrangement would also apply to those clients with a chronic conditions. Dental

and optical services would still not need a GP referral.

At the end of the treatment cycle (of 12 visits), the allied health provider would have to report back to the GP on the treatment's progress. The veteran would make an appointment with the GP who would assess whether further treatment was required and, if needed, write a referral for another 12 treatments.

The Reaction

Some veterans thought this was OK but others, specially those with chronic conditions, were unhappy.

Veterans needing weekly physiotherapy to keep them mobile, for instance, were looking at having to visit their GP every three months for new referrals. And what if they were being treated for more than one condition with the same allied health professional; would they get 12 sessions for each condition or have a reassessment after 6 sessions of each ailment. And what about the veteran needing sessions with multiple allied health professionals; would that require even more frequent GP visits?

**Obviously, the crafters of this new scheme don't** often make GP appointments. Many GPs (perhaps most in Regional areas) are booked up two and three weeks ahead. This would make veterans anticipate the end of a 12 treatment cycle and book a GP appointment well ahead. But what if the veteran had to miss a scheduled treatment or two for some reason making the appointment with



the GP wrongly timed. There would be little chance of changing it to fit.

And what about the travel to and from the GP, often a considerable distance in Regional areas.

To many veterans this new scheme was just unnecessary inconvenience.

But DVA persisted, claiming better GP supervision was necessary to produce needed better medical care.

### **The Minister's election promise**

But the Minister made a strange election promise.

He promised that, should the Coalition be elected to government, TPIs would be exempted from the new arrangements.

Here's what he wrote:

“We know how important exercise physiology and physiotherapy are for Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) veterans so we will deliver an extra \$17 million to exempt them from the new ‘Treatment Cycle’ requirements that were due to commence on 1 July 2019, allowing TPI veterans to continue to access these important allied health services under existing arrangements.”

This commitment was strange because the Minister was exempting the very group which would most need the Treatment Cycle's claimed beneficial health effects.

Why would the Minister exempt the most in need of the changes but enforce the new rules on those with less need.

It doesn't make any sense.

Other explanations

Some suggest another reason for the change.

There have been some reports of possible over-servicing.

Stories have circulated of veterans having many one on one sessions a week at the gym with exercise physiologists.

But how many sessions is too many given that veterans are continually exhorted to exercise more?

We have heard one story where a veteran was having two sessions a day.

On the face of it, that would seem excessive. But what about three sessions a week?

That sounds reasonable. A good number to keep the veterans reasonably fit.

So the 12 session rule would see that veteran returning to the doctor every month for a new referral.

And what if he was also being treated by a physiotherapist. Would all those sessions be aggregated, sending the veteran back to the GP every few weeks?

If there is evidence of exercise physiologists over servicing, then put a reasonable limit on their sessions (of say three sessions a week) unless special permission is given, but leave the rest of the system at peace.

And there is a much better solution if this is really a problem.

DVA should allow eligible veterans to have many more than one go at Heart Health courses.

Readers may have been on a Heart Health course run by DVA. Report after report testifies to their beneficial effect. Heart Health courses have lifted many veterans out of depression and into a world of the possibility of health and optimism.

**But you can't do a second course.**

If subsequent Heart Health courses were allowed there would not much need for exercise physiologist sessions. Heart Health courses would do the exercise job with an added social engagement benefit.

What are we to make of this?

Many TPIs (perhaps all of them) will be pleased they are not subjected to the inconvenience of the new Treatment Cycle.

But in exempting TPIs, DVA has shown that necessary health improvements could not have been the primary motivation for the change.

Over servicing may have been claimed as a reason but this could have been remedied much more directly or by some sideways thinking.

That leaves only the motivation of cost cutting by reducing veterans' valuable health benefits.

That there was a predicted saving of \$40 million over four years after introduction of the 12 service limit, gives strength to this explanation.

And even though that saving will be reduced by \$17 million by exempting TPI pensioners, the saving is still predicted to be \$23 million.

That is \$23 million less health care for veterans.

To many veterans, the new scheme has a bad smell about it.

## Defence Service Homes Insurance

The Minister promised:

“We will also extend eligibility to the Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme to

allow any current or former ADF member who has at least one day of service to access home building insurance through the Scheme. That means veterans can access more competitively priced home building insurance, particularly in disaster prone areas, which will lower the cost of living for veterans and their families, particularly in northern Australia.”

Sounds like a good idea.

## Veterans' Wellbeing Centres

The Minister promised:

“We will invest \$30 million in a network of six new Veterans' Wellbeing Centres that will bring together the key services for our veterans and their families.

“The new Centres will integrate government and non-government support for Australians who have served in our Defence Forces with local health services community organisations, advocacy and wellbeing support. They will partner with ex-service organisations and state and territory governments across Australia.”

We wish this initiative well but note that previous similar attempts have had mixed success.

## Acknowledge and honour the service and sacrifice of our service personnel

The Minister promised:

“The Coalition has introduced legislation to create an Australian Veterans' Covenant, which, in partnership with the ex-service community, will formally recognise the unique nature of military service and acknowledge and honour the service and sacrifice of our service personnel.

We also understand it is important our



veterans are appropriately recognised by the community and businesses, even when they're not wearing their medals and uniforms. That's why we've launched the Australian Veterans' Card and Lapel Pin, so veterans can be appropriately recognised, including by businesses who want to offer special discounts and offers to veterans."

The covenant is full of promise.

Take these two sub-sections for instance:

*'(3) The Commonwealth acknowledges that veterans may require support mechanisms to enjoy good health, to access employment and training opportunities, to access appropriate housing, to have access to justice, to enjoy social wellbeing or to participate in community engagement after the end of their military service.*

*'(4) The Commonwealth is committed to supporting veterans and providing the care and support they require.'*

And there are many more sub-sections with equally welcome sentiments.

But none of these sentiments have any force in law. We cannot go to a tribunal hearing and quote them in our case. They represent only a government aspiration.

Nevertheless, the covenant is valuable. It should have a moral effect on those charged with the welfare of veterans and their families.

We acknowledge Kerry Mellor of the Defence Force Welfare Association as the genesis of this important step forward.

## What did the government fail to promise but should have

There are no, doubt, many answers to this question.

We choose one issue that could easily have been promised (and indeed was promised by the Opposition).

The government should have promised to cease discrimination against Vietnam, Korean and WWII veterans in funeral benefits.

Currently, eligible\* Vietnam, Korean and WWII veterans (coming under the Veterans' Entitlement Act) are entitled to a maximum of \$2,000 to assist in funeral costs, usually leaving families with the burden of out of pockets costs.

The government should have promised to increase this amount to \$12,053.62 to match that provided to younger veterans of more recent wars (who come under the Military Rehabilitation and

*(Continued on page 12)*

Compensation Act).

As Vietnam veterans advance into their senior years, this failure is a great disappointment. ■

\* Which Vietnam veterans are eligible for a funeral benefit?

Australian veterans are automatically entitled to a funeral benefit if, at the time of death, they were:

- receiving Special rate (T&PI) disability pension; or
- receiving Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) rate pension; or
- receiving disability pension plus an allowance as a multiple amputee.

A funeral benefit may also be payable for a Vietnam veteran who died:

- from an accepted service-related disability; or
- in needy circumstances; or
- in an institution (including a hospital or nursing home); or
- travelling to or from an institution; or
- after discharge from an institution in which the veteran had received treatment for a terminal illness; or
- while being treated at home for a terminal illness.

A funeral benefit may be payable where a war widow(er), wholly dependent partner, child under 16 or full time student under 25 dies in severe financial need. Applications must be made within 12 months of the dependant's death. ■



THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE,  
JUST STOP DYING



FOLLOWING an article printed in the December Issue of the Vietnam Veterans Federation magazine the Partners of Veterans Association of Australia would like to add our support for Partners to be considered by the government to receive the white card.

For the last 20 years our association has represented and fought for improvements in issues affecting all partners of veterans and their families no matter in what arm of Defence they served.

Not only have we represented the Partners of veterans, but separated partners, widows/widowers and their families as well.

We are here to make sure that those who take on the responsibility of partnering a service man or woman are respected and recognised for their sacrifice and service. Sometimes that sacrifice is too much for some to bear, as mental and physical illnesses overtake our veteran and for those who stay, the toll it takes can be enormous. Partners and families can be affected as much as their veteran as he/she struggles for some kind of normality.

We do not want the children of our younger Veterans to suffer as the children of Vietnam Veterans did and for this reason our Association, with the support of Defence Families, took up the fight for children of serving or ex-serving defence personal to attend Kookaburra Kids camps and functions (at no cost to the family) to help children deal with living with a family member affected by mental illness.

We took our fears for our children to government asking that they fund Kookaburra

# PARTNERS- WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR

Kids and support children of serving/ex-serving military members to gain the resilience and coping skills needed when living in a family affected by mental illness. We succeeded in our endeavours and many of our children are the winners.

But who looks to the health and wellbeing of the partners, who worries if we are unable to hold the family together?

Unfortunately suicide statistics in the veteran community, homeless veterans, often resulting from a marriage breakdown, domestic violence and a fractured lifestyle can be the result of serving in the Australian Military. For our veterans there is help available as there should be, more often than not researched and pursued by the partners themselves in order to re-gain a semblance of the person they married.

Partners of Veterans applaud the efforts of the government in relation to the younger cohort. It is concerning that the needs of Vietnam Veterans partners/carers and families have been overlooked yet again, Home Care being a prime example.

Help for the mental stability and stress related illnesses suffered by the partners are vital in order to keep the partner in good health. It has been suggested that counselling from Open Arms is available and for some partners Open Arms could be helpful but for severe depressive illness Open Arms is a band aid fix leaving partners vulnerable to more serious mental/physical illnesses.

Result: Veteran family left with two parents suffering severely as a result of Military service!

The Government accepts responsibility for those adversely affected by their Military Service.

The Government considers Partners/Carers and families of Veterans to be collateral damage!

The way Government assists partners is less than adequate.

Partners save the Government millions of dollars in care for the veteran, but the costs both physically and mentally are selflessly borne by their partners, who care continuously.

## Solution:

- Include the Partner on the card when the Veteran is issued a Non-Liability Health Care Card (White Card) for Mental Health Conditions.
- Issue Partners of ex-serving Veterans with mental health illnesses, a Non Liability Health Care Card (White Card) in their own right, for stress related health issues.

The issuing of either of the options above would allow treatment of the Partner to be accessed more readily and would be seen as a validation and recognition of the contribution by the Partner to the wellbeing and support of the ADF member or Veteran.

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

National Headquarters



### Hoping for action, not just more enquiries

GOVERNMENTS are noted for commissioning reviews and reports that, rather than spawning timely improvements, spawn more reviews and reports.

So we are hoping that two recent reports which were spawned by previous reports will encourage some timely action rather than more enquiries and reports.

#### Productivity Commission Draft Report

The first of these reports was the Productivity Commission's Draft Report, *'A Better Way to Support Veterans'*.

This review was recommended by Senate Enquiry, *The Constant Battle, Suicide by Veterans* which followed the National Mental Health Commission *Review into the Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Services Available to current and former serving ADF members and their families*. At the same time the DVA internal inquiry into the mismanagement of Jesse Bird preceding his tragic suicide produced a report with a long list of recommendations.

These reports provided a mountain of evidence on which to make improvements.

But DVA commissioned Phoenix Australia to examine if its compensation claims process might be a factor in suicides even though it was

clear from the previous reports that the process was. Phoenix Australia advised DVA that "that there were issues that they needed to address".

Not content, DVA then commissioned another expert to review the Phoenix Australia report. That expert identified "multiple features in DVA's processes that could trigger or exacerbate mental illness among applicants, potentially even leading to self-harm or suicide".

Will DVA find another expert to report on the report of the previous expert, or will it take bold and quick action?

Back to the Productivity Commission Draft Report.

Our Canberra Research Group composed our VVFA submission. It is well considered and comprehensive.

It is worth reading in full on the Productivity Commission web-site, but you may prefer the summary which appears on the next few pages.



CSC, the organisation designed specifically for members like you

We're an organisation dedicated to serving current and former Australian Government employees and ADF members. Since we understand you, we can give you the returns, choice and cover you deserve. With CSC, your commitment is rewarded with ours.

## But is our commitment really justly rewarded?

### Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study

This study was also spawned by the Senate Inquiry.

As readers may know from articles in previous editions, Vietnam veteran pension officers and advocates are starting to retire and the younger veterans have shown little interest in taking our places.

And its happening at a pace.

So something has to be done urgently to look after our veteran successors.

Whilst defining the problem, the report fails to site the urgent action required to save the fading system.

Our Canberra Research Group prepared the VVFA response to the scoping study.

A summary of it can be found on the next few pages.

\*\*\*\*\*

Then there is the promised enquiry into unfairness in military superannuation.

There is so much unfair about DFRDB and other military superannuation that its hard to know where to start.

Take the life expectancy tables. They are from 1962. Since then life expectancy has increased markedly. This means there is far too much taken from the pensions of those who took a lump sum.

It also means that many will pay back that lump sum and continue living for a long time.

You'd think that when you had paid back that lump sum, you pension would revert back to its original value.

But, no, the government continues to pay you a reduced pension.

If anything was ever unfair, that is.

But having paid back the lump sum does not mean the government stops reducing your pension to make up for it. Amazingly the government continues paying you a reduced pension and pocketing .

Isn't that dishonest?

And here's a strange one. DFRDB military superannuation pensions are indexed less generously if you are under 55. Work that one out.

And there's also a question as to why DFRDB is taxed. The government claims it was not originally taxed so it should be now.

That sounds reasonable except that we were not advised of that or given the option to pay tax at the time. Indeed, the whole thing was opaque and compulsory.

So far the promised enquiry includes only commutation (lump sum) issues. But we are hoping the terms of reference will be expanded to cover other military superannuation injustices. ■

# Summary of VVFA Submission to Productivity Commission (PC) Draft Report: 'A Better Way to Support Veterans' of December 2018.

## Introduction

In early February 2019, the Federation submitted a 45-page report to the PC after reviewing its draft findings and recommendations. This followed upon our initial submission to the PC in June 2018. The VVFA, through its members and advocates, has amassed significant experience in all matters pertinent to veteran support and welfare, and our aim was to bring that experience to bear **on the Productivity Commission's review, in the interests of all veterans.**

In both submissions we commented on a range of relevant topics including structural changes, legislation proposals, strategic management and governance issues.. An Executive Summary of our Submission follows.

## Executive Summary of the VVFA Submission

The VVFA welcomes the Draft Report from the Productivity Commission as a comprehensive examination of the role of DVA, Defence, **veterans' legislation and associated policy and performance in supporting Australian veterans.**

While the VVFA disagrees with several statements, analyses, conclusions and recommendations in the Report, we note and endorse many positive suggestions designed to improve this important social benefit regarding the rehabilitation and compensation of retired and current ADF members.

Particular points of issue are shown in the following sections.

## The unique nature of ADF service

The VVFA recognises that the Productivity Commission has accepted the unique nature of ADF service, but it is concerned that the report then appears to rely solely on civilian workers'

compensation models as the best foundation for recognising that unique nature. This is a predictably economic start point, but an unsatisfactory recognition of the unique nature of ADF service.

## Restructuring Veteran Policy and Administration

Various recommendations seeking to disband DVA and relocate its functions to Defence and other bodies are not supported by VVFA. In realpolitik terms, given that both major political parties have already rejected the proposal to abolish DVA, the VVFA considers that, at minimum, the Productivity Commission must consider the option of DVA being retained, together with the impact that would have on its recommendations.

The VVFA supports the retention of DVA, supports increased accountability around the Veteran Centric Reform program, which is producing real and productive benefits to veterans, supports the continuing and necessary upgrade of its computer systems, and supports the **Productivity Commission's recommendations that call for more effective data collection, analysis, and subsequent program evaluation.**

## Veteran Legislation and Policy

The VVFA accepts and supports the introduction of the recommended Two Scheme legislative approach that retains benefits for older veterans under a VEA-based scheme, and all others supported under a modified MRCA-based scheme. While this differs from the recommendation in our submission to the Productivity Commission regarding an Omnibus Act, the practicality of this approach is, apparently, so daunting to the legal fraternity and legislative drafters, that separation



# Australian Government

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## Productivity Commission

and harmonisation is the preferred tactic. The so-called 'harmonisation' of legislation is proposed to be completed by 2025.

Included in the legislation, we believe that DVA should accept liability within 30 days as a reasonable waiting period, noting the current and **planned improvement in a member's medical information transfer between Defence and DVA.** This would complement the current arrangements **for members' service documents being made available to DVA upon recruitment to facilitate acceptance of the member by DVA on discharge from Defence.**

Moreover, as suggested in earlier submissions, we believe that the requirement for a condition to be both permanent and stable should be eliminated to prevent continual distress and delay in commencing compensation. The elimination of this waiting period may have the potential to remove the main obstacle for the uniting of the three acts. The dangers of the waiting period were shown with the suicide of Jesse Bird. It is true that in response to Jesse **Bird's suicide there is now an interim income support payment for veterans waiting for mental health claims to be determined.** But granting this **payment is acceptance that the veteran can't work and won't be able to for the period of waiting.** It is a de-facto acceptance of the veteran's claim for compensation.

For those members under Scheme 2 who are medically discharged, their documents should be passed to DVA, and liability accepted by DVA by streamlining, to expedite compensation action.

### Joint Transition Command

VVFA supports the introduction of a Joint Transition Command as recommended by the Productivity Commission to coordinate and expedite rehabilitation of injured ADF members along with Defence and DVA arrangements.

VVFA argues that the Department of Defence should accept greater responsibility in both rehabilitation, and transition, and that it should work with DVA to achieve this.

### Compensation Premium

VVFA does not support the levying of a compensation premium upon Defence as it would be inappropriate for a military force to manage the often, unmanageable activities and forces in play during both peacetime training and wartime operation.

### NLHC White Card for Spouses and Partners

The VVFA previously recommended that spouses/partners be issued with a NLHC White Card for mental health, at the same time that the veteran is issued with that card. The Productivity Commission has not addressed this recommendation directly.

The VVFA believes that the Commission should address this issue noting the substantive body of scientific literature that reports the adverse impact upon families and the demonstrable advantage of early intervention and support. If it believes that its recommendations adequately address the immediate needs of many spouse/partners and families, it should present its argument in detail.

### Conclusion

**The Productivity Commission's final report will not be handed down until mid year.** Comments in the last edition of our magazine correctly identified some of the negatives of the Commission's draft report, and VVFA addressed these constructively in its formal comments on the draft. Our initial submission, and our subsequent comments on the draft, can be read in full on the Productivity Commission's website. ■

## NEW SOUTH WALES PRESIDENT'S REPORT



### Vietnam Veterans Day

Sunday 18 August is Vietnam Veterans' Day and once again our Association will conduct a service and function at the Bankstown District Sports Club, Bankstown. Vietnam Veterans and wives/partners are most welcome to attend. A special Guest Speaker will attend the Service which will be followed by lunch, entertainment and camaraderie. Full details of this event are published in this Newsletter, in the center pages.

### Battle of Binh Ba

On the morning of 6 June 1969 an Australian tank and an armoured recovery vehicle were approaching Binh Ba, less than ten kilometres from the ATF base at Nui Dat when the tank was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. This event marked the beginning of the Battle of Binh Ba which involved both D and B Companies, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion RAR, B Sqn 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment, APC's from B Sqn, 3 Cavalry Regiment, RAAF helicopter gunships and South Vietnamese Troops. They were supported by 105 Battery, Royal Australian Artillery. Engineers from 1 Field Sqn and 21 Engineer Support Troop buried the enemy dead. 2019 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this battle which included house-to-house fighting. A national service to commemorate this battle was held at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, Canberra on 6 June 2019. Read the full story contained in this issue of the Newsletter.

### Long Term Volunteers

We are all aware of the enormous value of volunteers to charitable organisations such as ours. Many of our volunteers have served with dedication over a very long period of time. Recently, Barry Bannerman, a member of the NSW Branch Committee for many years and NSW Branch life member decided that due to ill health he is unable to continue assisting at our Granville office. Barry became well known in his roles as Membership

Officer and NSW Branch Treasurer. A former Bombardier who assisted to man the guns during the Battle of Long Tan, Barry had volunteered with us for around 18 years. We wish Barry and his family all the best for the future.

Former RAAOC Vietnam Veteran Darrel Nelson was the foundation President of our Illawarra sub-branch and later the Vice-President and Computer Systems Manager and also performed other office duties including welfare and pension work.

"Dazza" has volunteered with our Association for 36 years and was forced to retire due to ill health. He was recognised for this outstanding service by an award of NSW Branch Life Membership at our recent AGM.

Robert Allport served with the RAA in Vietnam and was one of those instrumental in founding our Great Lakes sub-branch in 1999 and held the initial meetings in his garage. He served as Vice-President and on the Committee for many years and stood down recently due to ill health. In those early days of the sub-branch Bob had the fund-raising ideas and the knowledge to organise them to maximum benefit. Bob service was also recognised at the recent AGM with the award of NSW Branch Life Membership. I first met Bob when we were both in 23Pl. "E" Company 1RTB Kapooka in 1965. Good bloke then, good bloke now.

On behalf of our members I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Barry, "Dazza" and Bob for their enormous efforts over many years to assist our current and former ADF members in their time of need.

Frank Cole

President (NSW Branch)

## The Minefield

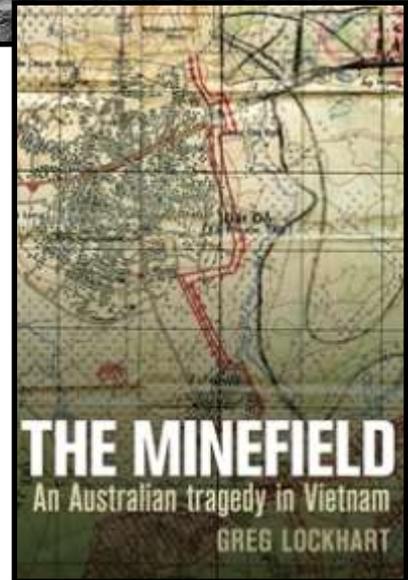
Extract from article by Greg Lockhart

Asia Pacific Journal June 4, 2007

Volume 5 | Issue 6

In 1967 the commander of First Australian Task Force (1ATF), Brigadier Stuart Graham ordered the construction of an 11 kilometre 'barrier fence and minefield' in Phuoc Tuy Province, southern Vietnam. This 'barrier', which ran for some 11 kilometres through the southern Phuoc Tuy, would constitute the biggest blunder in Australian military history since the Second World War. It would also constitute a story of strategic self-destruction that epitomised both Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and the wider Australian imperial tradition of sending expeditions to far-flung wars.

In Vietnam, the purpose of Graham's 'barrier' was to separate and to shield Phuoc Tuy's most densely populated villages in the southwestern District of Long Dat from his enemy's regular units in the north and east. These were the regular units of the National Liberation Front (or NLF) for the southern region of Vietnam and/or the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). The problem, however, was that Graham did not know his enemy. He did not realise that the people in Long Dat were also largely hostile to 1ATF's presence in Phuoc Tuy. He did not realise that, led by the NLF, the people in Long Dat would lift thousands of the mines and turn them back against 1ATF with horrendous, far-reaching results. Amplifying the conceptual travesty of building a 'barrier' with his enemy on both sides of it, Graham built it with over 20,000 powerful M16 'Jumping Jack' landmines. ■



It is the best book so far written about Australia's participation in the Vietnam war. Written ten years ago and still selling well.

To get your copy simply ring the NSW Branch Granville Office on 02 9682 1788.

Or order online at [www.vvfagranville.org](http://www.vvfagranville.org)

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

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

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

He is the VVFA's honorary historian. ■

## How it all began

The new Official History volume about the health and medical legacies of the Vietnam War

Including the scourge of PTSD and the Agent Orange controversy

(2016 article in the Sydney Morning Herald)

**History** Record revised on Agent Orange

# Vietnam vets win a long war

**Gregory Pemberton**

A new official medical history of the Vietnam War is to be written to correct the record on the Agent Orange controversy.

The council of the Australian War Memorial decided on the move after a long campaign by veterans dissatisfied by Barry Smith's account in the original history.

Jim Wain, the national president of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, told veterans the "wonderful news" over the weekend.

He said that Professor Smith's account was "fatally flawed" and "unjustly insults" the veterans over their years of campaigning to have the repatriation system acknowledge Agent Orange's harmfulness.

Mr Wain said that Professor Smith's history "goes so far as to accuse the campaigning veterans of dishonesty and greed".

Instead, he said, the "veterans turned out to be right about the harmfulness of Agent Orange" and "their behaviour, far from being

dishonest and motivated by greed, was a fine example of the Anzac tradition of veterans looking after their comrades-in-arms".

Mr Wain succeeded Tim McCombe, who died this year after leading the long campaign to achieve this result.

Professor Smith also died this year, but when contacted last year by Fairfax Media, when the possibility of a new history was first raised, he was unavailable for comment.

Brendan O'Keefe was the main author of the 1994 volume *Medicine at War: Medical aspects of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asia 1950-1972* that included Professor Smith's chapters on Agent Orange.

Mr O'Keefe declined to comment but had previously "welcomed" the prospect of a new history.

Mr Wain said Professor Smith's history omitted two key findings of a royal commission on the effects of chemicals on Australian Personnel in Vietnam, established under Justice Phillip Evatt in May 1983.

The findings were that "under the standard of proof prescribed

by Repatriation law, there were two categories of cancer attributable to exposure to Agent Orange" and "the Department of Veterans' Affairs purposely disobeyed Repatriation law in not allowing veterans the prescribed 'benefit of the doubt'".

In July 1993, the year before Professor Smith's chapters were published, the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sci-

**'Veterans turned out to be right about the harmfulness of Agent Orange.'**

**Jim Wain, Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia**

ences found "sufficient evidence" and "limited/suggestive" evidence to conclude there was a positive association between the herbicides used in Vietnam and various cancers.

Graham Walker, AM, who was an infantry company commander

in Vietnam said, on behalf of veterans, that Professor Smith had "ridiculed their case and accused them of dishonesty and greed" but without interviewing anyone.

The council has appointed Dr Peter Yule, History Department Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, to complete by 2019 a volume on the medical legacies of the war in Vietnam.

Mr Walker, who was directly involved in the lobbying to commission the new volume, said: "Of course the veterans' campaign has been vindicated. The official war history must now tell the true story and restore the reputations of those fine Vietnam veterans."

A spokesperson for the Australian War Memorial explained that the volume is not intended to "rewrite history but instead be informed by 25 years of new knowledge and interviews with Vietnam War veterans".

Gregory Pemberton worked on the diplomatic history of the Vietnam War, before the start of the Agent Orange chapters.

The new history volume is due for release at the end of 2019 or early 2020

*So you've left the military but not easily  
adjusting to your new civilian status?*

*Are you feeling isolated?*

*Do you miss 'that old feeling' of  
comradeship and shared goals?*

*In the following pages are two  
remedies.*



## Reeling Veterans Fishing for Therapy

# That Old Feeling 1

By Bill Griffiths, ex RAAF

IF you're feeling down or burnt-out, just needing a break from the everyday, fishing with mates, no matter what your experience, is a great way to unwind. It is natural based platform where there are no expectations on an individual but a great opportunity to 'let it go'.

Mental health well-being is important, it can be debilitating for some. That feeling that no one really understands your thoughts, concerns, silent cries for help or at the least companionship and understanding.

Reeling for Veterans is growing group of like-minded people, who have or still are serving in the Defence forces and frontline services, Police, Fire, Ambos and Emergency Services from around the country.

Fishing being one of the most popular and gender/individual sports in the world and one of only a few truly global form of hobby, recreational activity there is. It is easier than ever to go fishing, even if you are a 'newbie', without the added stress of not catching anything. It's about nature, companionship and creating shared memories and experiences. Grab some fishing gear, pick a place, either from a boat or shoreline, ask a mate or put it out there for others to join you, then go and enjoy. If you get a fish for your efforts, that's a bonus, on top of what a fishing outing can deliver. It is also healthy. Fishing outdoors increases your vitamin D, with benefits of healthy bones and



teeth, boosts to your immune system and helps the mind overcome depression.

October 2018 saw 4 veterans from Army, Air Force and Navy have the chance to spend some quality time together fishing. None of us had ever served or worked together but through the commonality of serving our country, we had met and got to know each other via our association with Reeling Veterans.

The date was set and in the very early hours





of the morning 4 excited grown men jumped into the car and drove for hours through Arnhem Land along a bouncy gravel road to a remote community, where we were met by Dave. Dave is one of the professional fishing guides operating out of the remote Dhipirri Barra & Sportfishing Lodge based in a isolated part of the Arnhem coastline. The friendliest and personal touch that Dhipirri offers was felt from the get-go.

Dave immediately set about building on our excitement by outlining the plan for the next few days. On arrival at Dhipirri after a 40 minute boat ride down the amazing Glyde River we were met at the lodge's private boat ramp where John was eagerly awaiting our arrival with the tractor ready to retrieve the boat and us from the water.

We were introduced to Kylie and shown our rooms and around the lodge. We had the afternoon to relax, have a shower, and sit on the breezy cool deck of the lodge and discuss the next couple of days fishing, enjoying a cold beer all the while listening to the waves gently breaking against the shore.

A couple of the lads had an arvo snooze before Kylie called us up for an amazing dinner of fresh seafood and more cold refreshments. It was an early night for all as we were heading off at sunrise the next morning.

The next morning we were up and rearing to go! Kylie was already up and had cooked up a storm, bacon, eggs, sausages, along with toast and cereal were on the table, along with fresh brewed coffee and fruit juice. Breakfast was consumed, sunscreen applied and Dave and the boat was hooked up to the trailer awaiting us. A quick safety brief and we were on our way to fishing paradise. All fishing tackle required was supplied by Dhipirri with high quality gear.

Once the boat was launched, Dave pointed us northeast for a run across the water whilst the sun was rising up over the water. On reaching our first destination along a promising shoreline of mangroves and snags in crystal clear water, rigged up rods were passed around. It wasn't long before you could hear the plonk as barra attracting lures were cast in the gaps up amongst the mangroves. The words soon reverberated out, "I'm on" - Ando was on to a nice fish that was taking line, we all immediately reeled in to give him the best chance, unfortunately the fight was short lived and the score was – fish 1/fisho's 0. Back to it and I hooked up and again the fish won out. Not a great start but the appetite had well and truly been wet.

From that point on more calls of "yep" or "fish on" become the norm with all the lads bring-





ing them to the net. Nice silver fish with beautiful yellow through the fins and tail. Yep this place is fisho's paradise on earth. The tide was eventually dropping out from the mangroves forcing us out of the creek and back into deeper water. We went around to another spot and fished the last of the run out at a series of gutters, where once again we found a few willing barra. As the bite went quiet, we headed off to find a shady tree lined creek to stop and have a bite and a break.

After lunch Dave took us to the rocks, a favourite spot of his, again crystal clear water and as the tide turned so did the fish with another great session with the lads bringing barra to the net again and again and again. This place is amazing to say the least. I have had a fairly dry spell when it comes to quality salt water barra of legal size, it sure beats spending a whole day on the water burning a tank of fuel for either nothing or 1, maybe two fish.

Eventually the tide came in fully and the fish shut down so back to the lodge we went for a shower and a couple of cold ones whilst we all recounted the great day we had had. Once again Dhipirri Lodge and its amazing staff, turned it on with an awesome feed whilst we relaxed on the deck enjoying the evening cool breeze coming off the sea.

The next day we were all up again early and keen to go and get that big one. We headed out across the water and on the way spotted birds dropping into the water, so had a crack at throwing around some "chromies" for a tuna, however they proved a bit allusive and had us charging from one bust up to another. Eventually a fish finally succumbed to our offerings, a lonely mac tuna was hooked and landed. We lost a few jigs to these toothy rig busting fish. We then headed back to where we found fish the previous day and had another great session before trying some new spots. Due to change of tides we couldn't spend a whole day on the water and had to be back at the lodge before the water ran out making for a half day fishing.

Day 3 of fishing saw a repeat of the previous day with more barra coming on board to say hello. Crab pots were also deployed up a likely looking creek, with the plan to check on the way home. We tried the gutters again for not much return, fished up one of the creeks with "vibes" for a mixed bag of fish with one of our group 'taking one for the lads' and keeping the local catfish way from our lines. Headed off to check and retrieve the pots, adding some nice grabs too the esky for our last night's cook up.

Again the low tide was early afternoon and we had only a half day. The rocks were tried again with small amount of success, before heading up



past the lodge to another gun spot. The 'Big one, was finally found and landed by our quite achiever, Jase. Not one but two. What a great way to end a dream fishing trip with a great bunch of blokes. That night we had a feed fit for a king, not a person went hungry that's for sure and the crabs cooked on the coals as entrée were amazing.

Good company, great hospitality, all getting on to good quality salt water barra, a yarn or two had, what more could you ask for. Thank you Reeling Veterans and Dhipirri Barra & Sportfishing Lodge. You guys rock!

### Contacting Reeling Veterans

While Reeling Veterans is based and run in Darwin, they are contacted by people all over Australia.

For more information on Reeling Veterans, visit their website [www.reelingveterans.com](http://www.reelingveterans.com) or Facebook page: Reeling Veterans. ■



## 2018/2019

### RAFFLE WINNERS

Drawn at the NSW Office Granville on Tuesday 28 May 2019 in the presence of Messrs: W Roberts, J Rogers, D Hanmer, R O'Connor and R Freshfield.

The lucky winners included

1st & 3rd Prizes to

T Bousfield    Tanilba Bay NSW

2nd Prize to

S Hawes        Ashtonfield NSW

4th Prize to

K Morton        North Rocks NSW

We thank all ticket buyers and hope you join us in the newest raffle with the same great prizes. All proceeds to our Scholarships.

## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

### 18 AUGUST 2019

### COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE & LUNCHEON

VVPPAA NSW

&

BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

### REMEMBERING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BIHN BA JUNE 1969

Join us at Bankstown Sports Club for the service and luncheon. Details with itinerary are included elsewhere inside this issue

## That Old Feeling 2



Ex-ADF members getting 'that old feeling' helping out after the Queensland floods.



TEAM Rubicon Australia launched Operation Gordon in response to unprecedented flooding that occurred across northern parts of Queensland, inundating over 3000 homes and businesses in and around the city of Townsville. The purpose of Operation Gordon, named after Townsville based Victoria Cross winner Sidney Gordon, was to provide disaster relief and recovery assistance to the most vulnerable elements of the population.

Over a five week period, Team Rubicon Australia deployed 124 'Greyshirts' delivering a broad range of assistance to a devastated community. Operation Gordon logged over 10,000 volunteer hours while responding to 350 requests for assistance, some of which took up to 4 days to complete. For many overwhelmed homeowners, Team Rubicon Australia brought back hope.

Throughout the Operation, Team Rubicon Australia's Greyshirts managed 341 local volunteers, allowing members of the Townsville community to help each other, and in the process, help themselves. ■

### WHY WE SERVE

Disasters can happen anywhere at any time. Team Rubicon exists to provide the greatest service and impact to survivors and communities in need, no matter where. Simply put, we help people on their worst days.

If you are able to spend a week or so in disaster relief and you want to experience again 'that old feeling', why not join?

Join on line at <https://www.teamrubiconaus.org/>

PH: +61 (02) 8815 8113

Team Rubicon Australia  
1/299 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
[info@teamrubiconaus.org](mailto:info@teamrubiconaus.org)



First job of Team Rubicon Australia strike teams was to clear out flood damaged homes

**After 30+ years in the Australian Army I found a very easy camaraderie within Team Rubicon. We have done some really good work down here. And it was driven home to me today when I ran into a mate of mine whom I haven't seen in awhile. He said I looked really well... which is thanks to Team Rubicon Australia.**

**Adrian Hopkins  
Army Veteran**

# *Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study*

## The Robert Cornall Report

### *A report from our Canberra Research Group*

The Cornall study was commissioned following a recommendation from the Senate committee report on veteran suicide, published in August 2017. That recommendation acknowledged that advocates have a significant role in supporting veterans through the sometimes complex and lengthy processing of claims to DVA.

National Office, through its Canberra Research Group (CRG), reviewed the Cornall 129-page report, its findings, and recommendations. **The CRG's reaction was that the report was superficial, that it was all but silent on suicide, and that the time frame for change did not reflect the urgent need for action. In the interests of being 'heard', the CRG tried to be constructive and objective in its response.**

The main issues identified by the Cornall report are:

- Volunteer advocacy as we know it, appears to be entering its twilight. Traditional ESOs, like the Federation, are fading; the current population of volunteer advocates is ageing and rapidly reducing; younger veterans apparently

want advocates with training that is, to them, more obviously professional; and younger veterans prefer to deal with digital platforms.

- Professional advocacy is seen as the way of the future, and the approach used by the Canadian government is suggested as worthy of consideration.
- ADF members and families need more support during transition from the ADF.

So, the Federation has made the following general points to DVA, in its response to the Cornall Report.

- The report does not reflect the urgency implied in the August 2017 Senate report on suicide.
- The report does not scope the size of the issue. It makes no attempt to predict how many advocates will be needed in the future, neither does it make any attempt to predict whether the incidence of claims from younger veterans will increase or decrease over the years.



Australian Government

# Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study

A modern professional sustainable service for Australian Veterans and their families

- The need for advocates will remain.
- The Advocacy Training and Development Program (ADTP) must be the foundation of the professionalisation of advocacy, and that program has to be resourced and managed effectively to meet program objectives, and to ensure effective communication to users.
- Whether the Canadian model is adopted or adapted, we need leadership action from DVA, now, rather than further time-consuming and expensive reviews.
- Families, including carers, do need more support during transition, but the need for that is *now*, and a fundamental need is for families and carers to be issued with a Non Liability Health Card, for mental health, coincidentally with an ADF member being issued that card.
- The recent Productivity Commission draft report on veteran rehabilitation, recommended the 'harmonisation' of the various legislative Acts that support

veterans. This harmonisation must occur to reduce complexity, and in the interests of beneficial legislation.

Copies of the National Office response to the Cornall report have been provided to Branch presidents. This article is a summary of the main points only. We anticipate that the Productivity Commission will consider the Cornall report before publishing its final report in mid- 2019.

It is not the case that nothing has been done about suicide prevention – many dollars have been spent, trial programs have been implemented, and 'well-being' advocacy training is underway. It is not our advancing years that lead to the perception that the need for action and change is more urgent than our bureaucratic and political leaders appreciate - it is our experience.

Canberra Research Group  
May 2019. ■

## CROWEATERS CORNER



to hand over of keys in seventeen weeks. A frantic month of unpacking memorabilia and re- displaying ensued.

The committee felt it would be appropriate to name the building and ultimately decided to name it the Yerbury centre after Captain Ian Yerbury AKA “IMPY”, an artillery officer who did two tours of Vietnam and was sadly affected deeply by what he witnessed. His mother and father lived in Adelaide and after “IMPY’s” death in Sydney and his father’s death, his mother,

who was not very well, made a substantial donation of money to VVF SA with a wish that “our doors never close”. This money was invested by

**[Above]; Yerbury Centre, front view; and [below], western end depicting services.**

SINCE our last report in the National magazine we have had our old premises compulsorily acquired by the SA Government and were frantically trying to find a new home in an existing building. This proved to be impossible and a decision to build was our only option. Luckily our local Council was keen to keep us in their area and offered us some land along with some other incentives for us to build next door to the Marion RSL.

The RSL was very keen to have us there and have proved to be very accommodating with all of the little things you have to do in relation to a new build. We have a very amicable relationship with the RSL and our progress to where we are at the moment is due largely to their assistance. We had to temporarily relocate to Netley, a suburb near the Adelaide Airport where we stayed for four months whilst we built our new club rooms. The build went really well and we went from bare earth



**President Mal Thiele accepting keys from CEO Marion City Council**



**President Mal, His Excellency Governor SA, Mr Hu Van Le, FMP for Boothby, Ms Nicole Flint, unveiling plaque., shown at right.**



the then Committee and has grown quite substantially. We believe the naming of the building the “Yerbury Centre” is a fitting tribute to “IMPY” and his family.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 the Yerbury Centre was officially opened by Our Patron, His Excellency, Hu Van Le , Governor of South Australia. This was a great day for VVF SA and the culmination of twelve months of meetings with all levels of government, Federal, State and Local, builders, architects, project managers and sponsors. A year I have no wish to go through again, but, the result is something all members can be proud of.

The pictures accompanying this article should give you an idea of what we have all achieved.

I believe we may even have achieved a first in Australia in that we have a Vietnam ESO co-located with an RSL.

Members of our Glass Fusion, Lead Lighting, Quilting and Sewing groups along with our Off-Road Group continue to provide an interest to our members and partners who wish to learn about or do something a little different.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of May we held a memorial service to remember those who lost their lives at the Battles for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. This year is the 51st anniversary of this battle. In attendance will be our Patron, His Excellency, the Governor of South Australia, Mr Hu Van Le, Federal and State politicians,

*(Continued on page 32)*



**Our Patron, His excellency Governor of SA, Mr Hu Van Le AC, addressing members and guests at opening ceremony.**

representatives of the three-Armed Services, many ESO's, many distinguished guests along with VVF members and their partners.

Our Quilting group have been very busy making and suppling quilts for homeless veterans. This group gift 25 quilts every year to the Andrew Russell Veteran Living unit run by RSL Care. Once again, our wonderful quilting ladies presented us with an exceptional quilt for Anzac Day and also Remembrance Day. They do this each year to raffle at our closest Monthly BBQ to

repeating on an ad hoc basis.

A group of hardy souls (about 34) ventured to Goolwa for a week of frivolity, quizzes (with some very dubious answers) outings, mystery car outings and camaraderie. A great time was had by all, some birthdays were celebrated along with some wedding anniversaries and a lot of joke telling. Thanks to "Obee" and Dee O'Brien for organising the entire trip, it was a hoot. Plans are already "in the mill" for next year's jaunt to somewhere in the Riverland. So, keep your eyes peeled for the dates.

Congratulations to our "Artist in Residence" Haley O'Shea who voluntarily painted an Easter scene consisting of a large rabbit in long grass wearing a camouflage "giggle: hat and Easter eggs strewn all around. Bunnings asked all organisations doing BBQs to submit an entry with an Easter theme to be displayed in their Café area and which would be voted upon by the general public. Haley's entry won and her prize was donated to the VVF, namely Bunnings vouchers to the tune of \$200. Thank you very much Haley, we appreciate your time, skill and artistic flair in creating this picture which will now be auctioned off to the highest bidder by the Club.



**City of Marion Mayor Mr Kris Hanna, Project Manager Mr Glynn Ricketts, Honorable Corey Wingard State Member for Gibson, President Mal Thiele, His Excellency Governor of SA Mr Hu Van Le AC, Ms Nicole Flint Federal Member for Boothby, and State Member for Badcoe Jayne Stinson, at the opening ceremony.**

the occasion. These quilts really are a work of art and very evocative of those special occasions and I thank these very skilful ladies for their endeavours and their generosity.

Recently we had a visit by Bob and Margaret Braithwaite from "Quilts for Valour" who presented a number of our members with a quilt thanking them for their service. These were very well received and it was a very moving ceremony.

Bob Ellis, one of the recipients, was speechless, and for anyone who knows Bob, this must be a first. But seriously speaking this was a very heartfelt occasion and one which we will be

Once again, we will be holding a Memorial service to remember all those who lost their lives during the battles for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. This will be at 2.00 pm on 10th of May and will be attended by Our Patron, His Excellency, Hu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, Federal, State and Local politicians, Members of the Armed Services, members and their families.

From a VVF SA perspective we have been very actively involved in preparing a combined response to the Productivity Commissions (PC) Draft Report on DVA. The VVF were one of eight ESO's who joined forces to submit a

response which was personally presented to the PC by all member organisations. We now await their final report.

We also combined together with the same group of ESO's to submit a response to the State Government on the Regeneration of the old RGH site at Daw Park. We believe a number of our suggestions for the site will be adopted by the Government over a period of time.

Additionally, myself and Bob Ellis represented the National VVF at the Royal Commission into Aged Care Roundtable in November, 2018. We presented a paper on the impact of Veterans in Aged Care and some possible solutions. This was very well received by the Commission and we were congratulated on our two-page report which summarised a number of other submissions with page numbers in their hundreds. We have noticed articles in the news media of late outlining new initiatives in Aged Care which were mentioned in our submission and those of some other organisations, and it appears that we have had some impact on the Royal Commission's deliberations.

I trust everyone enjoyed a safe and enjoyable Easter and I look forward to the next edition of "Croweater Corner".

Before I go just a little joke which amused me. Did you hear about the two satellite dishes that got married? The reception was amazing.

Mal Thiele  
President  
Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australia

At the train station the train stops  
At the bus stop the bus stops  
At the office I have a workstation

## 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@vfvfagnville.org  
Mail: VVPPAA (NSW Branch) Inc.,  
PO Box 170, Granville. 2142



**ABN 36 490 214 100**

**Partners**

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**488 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic 3000**

**DX: 488 Melbourne**

**PH: 03 8673 5888**

**Fax: 03 8673 5899**

**gregisolani@kcilawyers.com.au**

**www.kcilawyers.com.au**

## ***DVA— "Vets' We Forget"***

Many people may be aware, either by personal experience, through friends or what they read regarding the scrutiny into DVA's handling of Veterans. In particular, the profound and lethal effects the Department can have when, their administration and approach to administering, a "beneficial compensation scheme", may compound financial and psychological hardship where the consequences can be fatal.

Whilst the incident of Veteran suicides is on the lips of many people, there have been significant and public pledges of change by DVA from the very top, starting from the Secretary, Ms Liz Cosson AM CSC. These changes, we are assured, will trickle down within all layers of DVA including policy and administration to reduce or lessen these incidents and will genuinely assist Veterans.

There is even a small but growing chorus of ESO's and their advocates who believe they are seeing change in terms of faster permanent impairment (lump sum benefits) being paid, personal phone calls to them and Veterans', non liability care and so forth, just to name some of the (positive) changes.

While positive changes are welcome, after decades of positive recommendations that have remained unimplemented or lack the political and bureaucratic goodwill to effect change into how DVA, "does business" within the Veteran community, it does not meet with the experience of

other Veterans and, as a lawyer acting on their behalf, what I see.

One of those forgotten Vets' is Mr Timothy Thurlow, a 94-year-old World War Two (2) Veteran, with a number of accepted medical conditions, including psychiatric, vascular and musculo-skeletal problems relating to former service. Mr Thurlow applied for a higher rate of pension - the *Extreme Disability Adjustment* or EDA that provides for a 50% increase from the general rate of pension; an increase of around \$250 a fortnight.

The EDA was introduced in 1988, "to assist those frail aged veterans who are not adequately compensated by their present disability pension structure" and "who are severely incapacitated by their war or defence caused disability's" (Second reading speech *Veterans Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 1988*).

Mr. Thurlow applied for this pension on 26 August 2015. DVA looked at his "Lifestyle Questionnaire" to assess his EDA pension and rejected it on 19 July 2013.

The *Veterans Review Board* reviewed it on 21 August 2015. They used the same technical approach, to deny the effects of his injuries on his lifestyle, to deny the EDA.

The VRB's decision was the subject of a review by the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal* - AAT (Ref 2015/5682).

The AAT process required Mr Thurlow to travel from the Central Coast of NSW to be assessed by two (2) psychiatrists, two (2) Occupational Physicians and to attend the AAT with his spouse (and carer) to ultimately give evidence on 26 September 2017. There was legal and medical argument so, the AAT asked the Occupational Physicians to give a joint report and evidence. Then a further two (2) days of AAT hearings on 16 and 17 October 2018.

On 8 May 2019, the AAT handed down a decision and accepted the effects of his accepted conditions impacted on his Lifestyle to the EDA level - 6 years later.

You may think this is DVA's, "old approach" and not one that reflects the current goodwill. Well, Mr Thurlow's case was specifically presented to the DVA Secretary on 27 June 2018 to provide the new secretary with the opportunity to take it out of the public domain and provide this Veteran with some dignity. Maybe this case was overlooked, forgotten or DVA's legal advice was to continue to act as, "model litigants" and run (and deny) Mr Thurlow the increase of \$250 a fortnight to EDA pension.

Don't think it ends here as DVA may appeal Mr Thurlow's decision to the Federal court - like Mr Brian Sharp, an unrepresented Veteran before the AAT. DVA engaged their top tier lawyers two weeks before his hearing. He was cross examined and examined medical witness on his own. When the AAT agreed with Mr Sharp, DVA promptly appealed to the Federal court ([2017] FCA 350) and, were seeking, amongst other things, that he pay DVA's legal costs. I was fortunate to act for Mr Sharp in the Federal court and, together with Mr Peter Hanks QC, we were able to defend the AAT decision - and DVA didn't get Mr Sharp to pay their legal costs.

So, is this an aberration of DVA's "fine tradition" of looking after Veterans. Unfortunately, I am in the AAT again acting on behalf of a 94-

year-old, World War 11, BCOF, Korean and Vietnam War Veteran, who stopped work, on his account, at age 91 because of his accepted war caused conditions and is seeking a higher pension rate.

*This Veteran is a Military Cross recipient, and, if his overall service does not deserve recognition or the application of "beneficial legislation" that the DVA administer, I can only put it down to DVA (again) being, "model litigants" with the same lawyers who acted on their behalf in Brian Sharp's case advising them all the way.*

My current 94-year-old World War 11 Veteran will be required to see no less than three (3) independent doctors, has been requested to produce employment records going back in excess of 27 years and had medical records from the last 10 years of his life subpoenaed to the AAT by DVA's blue-ribbon law firm -- watch this space.

If you are troubled by DVA, make your concerns known to the DVA Minister, the Shadow Minister, and your local Federal Member, about what you read, hear or experience, with DVA's administration, despite their soothing rhetoric and motherhood statements.

For those of you despairing when reading and hearing about Veterans' suicides, visit the [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) and search, "Royal commission into Veteran suicide". It may be time for a Royal Commission to shine the light deeper into the complex issues relating to Veterans' Mental health and inter relationship with Defence and DVA.

*Greg Isolani  
KCI LAWYERS*

## FROM NATIONAL SECRETARY



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.

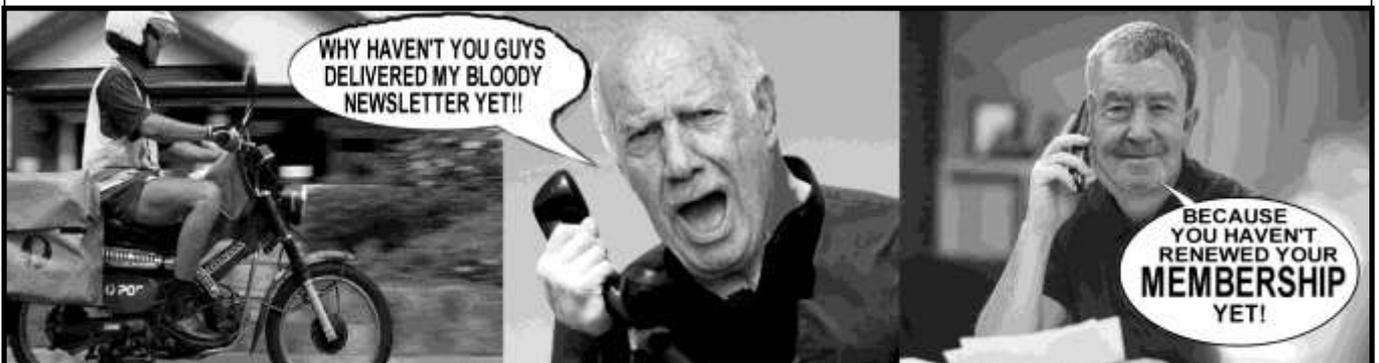
Whilst all donations are gratefully received, and combined are of enormous assistance to us, they are too numerous to list. Donors to the NSW Branch of \$200 or more since the last Journal were:

- \$3,000 Greg Isolani
- \$2,000 Carl Martin  
Anonymous

- \$1,000 Amelia Jenkins
- \$500 Robert & Mary Schofield  
Frederick Moody  
Anonymous
- \$330 Dan Crennan
- \$270 Thomas Grills
- \$250 Wolfgang Umlauff  
Anthony Mills  
Paul Zaat  
Robert Naismith
- \$220 Ian Devereux
- \$200 Patrick Gallagher  
Peter Clisdell  
Stephen Watkins  
Peter Doolan

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

**RON O'CONNOR JP**  
STATE & NATIONAL SECRETARY





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

*Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc.*

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>SECOND NAME</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**STREET ADDRESS**

<b>SUBURB/TOWN</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>POST CODE</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

<b>HOME PHONE</b>	<b>MOBILE PHONE</b>	<b>OTHER PHONE</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**EMAIL ADDRESS [PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY]**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	<b>SERVICE UNIT</b>	<b>O'SEAS AREA OF OPERATIONAL SERVICE</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

<b>NEXT OF KIN</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>CONTACT PHONE [NOK]</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
MEMBERSHIPS SUBS	(YEARS)	@\$30.00 PER YEAR	\$
DONATION	(AMOUNT ONLY)		\$
RAFFLE TICKET/s		@\$2.00 EACH	\$
MERCHANDISE			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Stock item numbers and prices are available on line and from branches. Also page 44,45.		<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>	\$

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

**CREDIT CARD DETAILS** (Mastercard or VISA only)

**CARD HOLDER NAME (PRINT)** **CREDIT CARD NUMBER**

<input type="text"/>				
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<b>EXPIRY DATE</b>	<b>TRANSACTION AMOUNT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
(Mnth/Yr) ____/____	\$	<input type="text"/>

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

OFFICE USE ONLY	
<b>MEMBERSHIP RECEIPT DATE:</b>	<b>DONATION RECEIPT DATE:</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP RECEIPT N<sup>o</sup> :</b>	<b>DONATION RECEIPT N<sup>o</sup> :</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBER:</b>	<b>COMPLETED &amp; ISSUED BY (PRINT):</b>
<b>COMPLETED &amp; ISSUED BY (PRINT):</b>	<b>BANK SHEET ENTRY BY (PRINT):</b>



**BankstownSports**

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

in conjunction with

**BANKSTOWN DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB**

Invite you to attend

**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY**

**SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 2019**

**COMMEMORATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BATTLE BINH BA - JUNE 1969**

THE VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) Inc., in conjunction with BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB, will once again host this years VIETNAM VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE.

The club is located at 8 Greenfield Parade Bankstown. If arriving by rail use this entry. If arriving by vehicle, free car parking is available via the Mona St., car park entry. There are also bus services from Parramatta, Liverpool and Hurstville. Doors open at 0900hrs. Make your way to the Grand Ballroom entry hall.

You may wish to avail yourself of the TRAVELODGE HOTEL located within the club premises. You can stay the prior evening or following the function. However, we advise to book early. YOU MUST MENTION THE VIETNAM VETERANS FUNCTION TO ACHIEVE ANY SPECIAL RATES IF ON OFFER BY TRAVELODGE. (Offers unknown at time of publication).

For bookings call 02 9793 0000 or 1300 886 886.

This is a ticketed event and entry will only be granted to those holding tickets. Pre-purchasing tickets is the preferred method to ascertain attendance figures for catering arrangements and seating by the club.

Tickets on sale soon. \$40.00 each. Check with the Granville office

See opposite for event details and ticket order form

*Contact the Granville office for further information:*

Ph 02 9682 1788 Fax 02 9682 6134 or

Email: [secretay@vfvgranville.org](mailto:secretay@vfvgranville.org)

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 2019  
COMMEMORATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BATTLE OF BINH BA - JUNE 1969

ITINERARY & TICKET ORDER FORM

0900hrs Doors open. Meet & Greet at the Grand Ballroom entry hall.  
Bar opens 0900hrs to 1015hrs (at the discretion of management ) and closed for the service.

1100hrs Memorial Service with Chaplain Shane Mount  
& Guest Speaker  
(Service scheduled for approximately 40 to 45 minutes)

1150hrs Entrance to Grand Ballroom & function proper

1215hrs Buffet Lunch

1300hrs Entertainment provided by Bankstown District Sports Club  
Band: Boogie Train - Featuring Lynne Fletcher

**TICKETS** \$40.00 per person  
Tickets are to be pre-purchased/ordered, and can be paid by cash in person from the Granville office. Alternatively you may pay by Cheque, Money Order, or Credit Card. (using the cut-out form below). Tickets will be numbered and include your table number. **Don't forget to leave a contact number in all instances.**

**TABLES** Tables will be set for ten (10), and if you wish to organise a group, let us know when booking and all booked tables are to be paid for by Friday 11 August for catering purposes.

**RAFFLE** Tickets \$5.00 for strip of 6. All proceeds help towards costs of the function, which enable us to keep ticket prices at the current level. Prizes will be drawn immediately following the entertainment.



Name of ticket purchaser \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by (Circle one) Cheque Money Order Credit Card (See below)

Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_ Card type \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket/s @ \$40(qty) \_\_\_\_\_

Card number

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Card Expiry Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Amount (this transaction) AUD\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out and send completed form, make cheques etc., payable to VVPPAA NSW,

POST TO: Admin PO Box 170 Granville NSW 2142.

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

SECOND NAME

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**OLD DETAILS** [*PRINT CLEARLY*]

OLD ADDRESS

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SUBURB/TOWN

STATE

POST CODE

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HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

OTHER PHONE

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**NEW DETAILS** [*PRINT CLEARLY*]

NEW ADDRESS

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SUBURB/TOWN

STATE

POST CODE

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HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

OTHER PHONE

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EMAIL ADDRESS [*PRINT CLEARLY*]

--

YOUR SIGNATURE

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

*Complete all sections and post to:*

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

<p><b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b></p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP REGISTRY DETAILS CHANGED</b></p> <p><b>DATE:</b>    ___ / ___ / ___</p> <p><b>INITIALS:</b>    _____</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

# VETERANS MORTALITY REPORT

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

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

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

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

*Please print clearly*

*VETERANS DETAILS*

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	SERVICE NUMBER
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SVN UNIT/S	TOUR DATES
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CAUSE OF DEATH (If known)

SR Service Related      UNK Unknown      S Suicide      O Other )

DATE OF DEATH (If known)	LOCATION AT TIME OF DEATH
<input type="text"/>	(TOWN) <input type="text"/> (STATE) <input type="text"/>

YOUR NAME

SUBURB/TOWN	STATE	POST CODE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

HOME PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	SIGNATURE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

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

# The Gunnedah Water Tower

ANZAC Day 2019 had a special meaning for Vietnam War veterans when two murals honouring those who served were launched at the Gunnedah Water Tower Museum in front of a large crowd.

The Gunnedah & District Historical Society had been looking at ways of honouring veterans from the Vietnam War after creating a dedicated display in the military section on the ground floor of the museum. The society has identified more than 50 veterans who were born or have lived in the Gunnedah area.

Silo artist Jenny McCracken used an image from the war etched in granite on the Vietnam War Memorial in Canberra as her inspiration. This features the iconic Huey helicopters and group of 7RAR soldiers waiting on the ground after Operation Ulmara.

The second mural facing north will create a quiet place of reflection with soldiers standing at attention beside the Long Tan Cross.

The Gunnedah & District Historical Society had applied for a grant under the Federal Coalition's Drought Communities Programme (DCP) and the project was completed on the eve of ANZAC Day 2019.

Australia's most highly awarded pavement artist, Jenny McCracken (Zest Events International) was a finalist in the Moran Portrait Prize and her work is celebrated internationally. Along with her artworks created for AMEX, MONA, the Art Gallery of NSW, Walt Disney and Mazda among others, she has had significant experience painting on other rural silos and outdoor sites, most recently at Gulargambone NSW.

The committee already had ideas for the mural when funding for drought-affected communities became available and the grant of \$53,651 was received.

Now that the artwork is complete the Gunnedah Water Tower Museum has become recognised as one of the attractions on the 'silo trail' in regional

NSW and the site will be a public memorial for the Vietnam War.

Prior to this project, Gunnedah had no dedicated memorial to Vietnam veterans - there was an honour board inside the Town Hall Soldiers Vestibule and a generic plaque at the cenotaph.

The museum is located on ANZAC Hill overlooking the War Memorial pool, Remembrance Grove and 8th Division Memorial Avenue. and is bordered by ANZAC Parade.

Another special feature of ANZAC Day was the donation of mounted medals awarded to the late Private Phil Barwick who was one of the long-term casualties of the dreadful "not talked about" war.

In 1983, Phillip received a life-saving kidney from his sister Helen but the long-term effects of his war injuries took a toll on his body and he died from kidney failure in 1988, leaving a wife Kath and a son Rohan.

**Phil Barwick's former tank training commander, Major Bill Burton OAM (rtd)** became aware that all medals had not been awarded and he organised a new set, including Balmoral/Coral conflict to be sent to the family.

Bill Burton travelled to Gunnedah for ANZAC Day and was proud to pin the new ribbon bar on **Private Barwick's uniform, while Phil's nephew, Andrew Barwick, presented the famed medals to historical society president Bob Leister. Major Burton said of Phil Barwick: "Many people don't think of Phil as having died of his wounds, because there was such a long period of 17 years between his wounding and final passing. He and many others who have eventually died of their wounds at a later date after the Vietnam War should have their names inscribed on the National Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial. As it stands, the Australian Government declared the Vietnam War as having ended on April 30, 1975, so that most of those who died of their wounds after that date, are thought of as never having paid the supreme sacrifice.**



“I am honoured and delighted to attend this historic occasion and further honoured to be able to pin this now completed ribbon bar on the late Phillip Barwick’s uniform, as a measure of the high esteem that his colleagues, comrades and mates hold him.”

*Notes: Phil Barwick*

*On the 25th June 1971 in the north west of Phuoc Tuy Province, a New Zealand Infantry unit found a Viet Cong bunker system that was heavily defended. They were immediately fired upon and received casualties, so they were required to withdraw back to a safer location.*

*The decision was made to attack the bunker system with the use of infantry and tanks but now everyone knew that the enemy had been alerted and was preparing for the fight to come.*

*The tanks advanced in line abreast with Phil’s Tank on the left flank. For approximately an hour, they continued forward, breaking down the jungle. At 3.45pm a small clearing appeared and showed signs of a cooking area and recent diggings.*

*Soon after advancing again and nearing the enemy position, the left flank was slowed by a thick clump of bamboo that would have funnel the assault making it less effective. It was at this stage that Phil’s Tank Commander, Corporal Anderson, took the initiative to manoeuvre their tank to break it down. This process then forced the enemy to reveal their position. Then at 4.15pm, as Phil’s tank crash through the bamboo, two Rocket propel grenades known as RPGs were fired at them. One went high but the other hit the Commander’s machine gun. The shrapnel from blast inflicted massive wounds to the upper bodies of both Phil and Anderson taking their tank out of the fight.*

*The other tanks push past them and engaged the enemy with canister rounds. One tank manoeuvred next to Phil’s tank to protect it and*

*provide covering fire. Three soldiers quickly climbed aboard and together they got both the crewman out of the turret and onto the back of the tank. Both crewmen were then quickly evacuated out of the area by an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) to an landing zone (LZ) where they were evacuated by helicopter back to medical care in a procedure known as a DUSTOFF. ■*

Reference:

AWM: Interview recording Bruce Cameron

Book: Canister on Fire – Bruce Cameron

London Gazette: MID for CPL Anderson

Extract 2 RAR Diary – Vietnam.

Extract 1 Armoured Regt Diary – Vietnam



## VICTORIA STATE REPORT



Greetings from Victoria and good wishes are extended to all.

Things are rolling pretty well down here and I must thank the people who keep this branch one which is looked up to by all veterans, partners and children. We are lucky that we have such a dedicated pensions officer, secretary, 'go to' person and font of knowledge as Iris Cargill. It must run in the blood as iris' daughter Stacey McDonald is the power machine behind our very successful Care Package programme from our troops deployed in various locations of the government's pleasure. The reaction and feedback we get from those troops is just so encouraging and we even have had a couple of foreign allies send us 'thank you' messages because our blokes share goodies with them.

I also offer a big Thank You to Janifer Eales, one of our ladies who has brought the branch's Newsletter to a point of excellence with the effort she does put into it and now it is something that can be kept and keep returning back to because of the interesting facts and histories she includes. Janifer also assists in the running of our sales days at the various Bunnings outlets in the Geelong area.

Another recent volunteer to join our band of merry misfits is Jackie Norris who the members in the Granville office will know well. Jackie does a lot of the research for veterans who approach us for assistance and she is another one who has so much experience it is just such a professional approach.

We have a couple of our members doing their best to keep the hospitals and medical services in good practice recently; Geoffe Casey one of our Welfare blokes has recently gone through a pretty extensive operation to repair problems he was having with his sinuses and we reckon it was a bit of an overdo just to get a nose job.

Terry Martin, our sale days stalwart has had another trip in hospital for some running repairs and if he keeps going like this he is going to earn heaps of frequent bed points and our Vice President, Lindsay Horton, has had to have a refit of one of his hips so he is going to be hopping around soon enough.

We are pretty busy planning out our Vietnam Veterans Day observance which will be held at the Highton College Middle School Campus on Friday August 17 so it will fit with the students curriculum even though they were quite happy to attend if held on the actual date but we did not want to interfere with the children's weekend and also some of our members will want to attend services in Geelong and Melbourne we expect on the actual day. I would suggest to anyone reading this that if you may be in the Geelong area during this period you would be made welcome at this service and I am sure you would enjoy the experience as we receive excellent comments from veterans and official guests on how it is conducted.

So this brings us up to date pretty much and time for me to sign off. I wish everyone peace, happiness and health and a hope that your life is treating you well in these "Maturing Years".

Regards  
John Arnold.  
State President, Victoria Branch.

## Warragamba's Bold Jack Country Music Festival April 27, 2019

Each year Warragamba is host to the 'Bold Jack' Country Music Festival. Named so, for famous convict bushranger John Donohoe who roamed the Warragamba to Illawarra region during the 1820's. This Not-For-Profit festival raises much needed funds for local and worthwhile communities from the proceeds of the music festival, and this year, festival organisers chose the VVPPAA NSW as its recipient.

President Frank Cole and Committee man, Jim Wrigley attended the festival and graciously accepted their kind donation on behalf of the Association.



**NSW President Frank Cole, and Committee Member, Jim Wrigley accept donation to VVPPAA NSW from Bold Jacks Country Music Festival, Warragamba, organisers.**

## Our Chosen Charity 2019

The Bold Jack Country Music Festival are proud to support the **Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association**. All proceeds from the event go to the veterans and will be used to assist those whom are suffering from PTSD and depression.



# AVCAT

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

This Association, which is affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, has for many years sponsored 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 their children through tertiary education.

Presently the Association sponsors three (3) Scholarships – **“Tim McCombe OAM”** and **“Phil Thompson OAM”** Scholarships, both former long serving Presidents of the Association who were very much loved and respected but have since passed away, and also the **“Graham Walker AM”** Scholarship in recognition of his many years (over 30) of voluntary service to the Federation in numerous roles and activities and continues to do so to this day.

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

The Scholarships are available nationally and parental membership of the Association/Federation is not a requirement. We provide funding of \$4,000 per year for three years for each scholarship, provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements and also the availability of funds.

The scholarships are administered on our behalf by the **“Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)”** who also administer other sponsored scholarships. Applications for all scholarships administered by AVCAT will open

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

from 18 August each year and close on 31 October of that year, and will be advertised by AVCAT through the Federation’s Newsletter and other media outlets, prior to August.

Those wishing to make general enquiries about our, 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](mailto:avcat@dva.gov.au)

We are proud of the fact that nearly all those we have sponsored over the years have done very well in their chosen vocation and gone on to successful careers. The following are progress reports/results/achievements of our Scholarship recipients’ for 2017, 2018 and 2019:

Ryan BALKIN (2018 Recipient)–  
Studying Bachelor of Law with Bachelor  
of Science at Western Sydney University:  
Semester 2 (2019): 2 Distinctions, 1 Credit

Ryan continues to do well with his studies and his achievements in Semester 2 is a reflection of his efforts. He has written a letter to the Federation expressing his continuing gratitude for its support and links this to his personal desire to give back to the broader community by continuing to volunteer his time with “MECA” to mentor high school refugee students transitioning into Australia. He undertook additional study activities during the summer period to speed up his degree - that’s commitment. Well done Ryan, keep up the good work.

Kirsti YOUNG (2018 Recipient) – Studying Bachelor of Education (Primary), 4<sup>th</sup> year, at Swinburne University

Semester 2 (2018): 1 High Distinction, 2 Distinctions

As mentioned in the December 2018 Issue of the Federation’s Newsletter, Kirsti has undertaken these studies under extremely difficult and trying circumstances, having a lot of family caring obligations and to cope with and meet all the requirements of her studies. Despite this she continues to achieve excellent results. She has been commended through a “Certificate of Academic Achievement” for her results in “Discovering Science”. This award is given to top students in the class. She was also placed in the top 30% of education students for the LANTITE Test.

Kirsti has written a letter to the Federation expressing her sincere and ongoing gratitude for the support she has been given. She mentions that having her family caring obligations and coping with all the requirements of her studies continues to be a challenge, and that Course designer’s attempts to simplify Coursework for instructors, has in fact made the workload heavier for students, and assessment harder. She also mentions that “DHA” have been extremely unhelpful which has made study even more difficult. Nevertheless she is determined to give it her best and finish her studies on time, and when one looks at her results and achievements thus far, she is well on her way.

I believe I speak for all members of the Federation when I say that we are proud of Kirsti’s academic achievements under extremely difficult circumstances and that she is not only an inspiration to us, but also others who are faced with the similar challenges. It is a testament to what can be achieved when one is determined to succeed in life, even when faced with hardships. We wish Kirsti well and every success for the remainder of her studies. Well done.

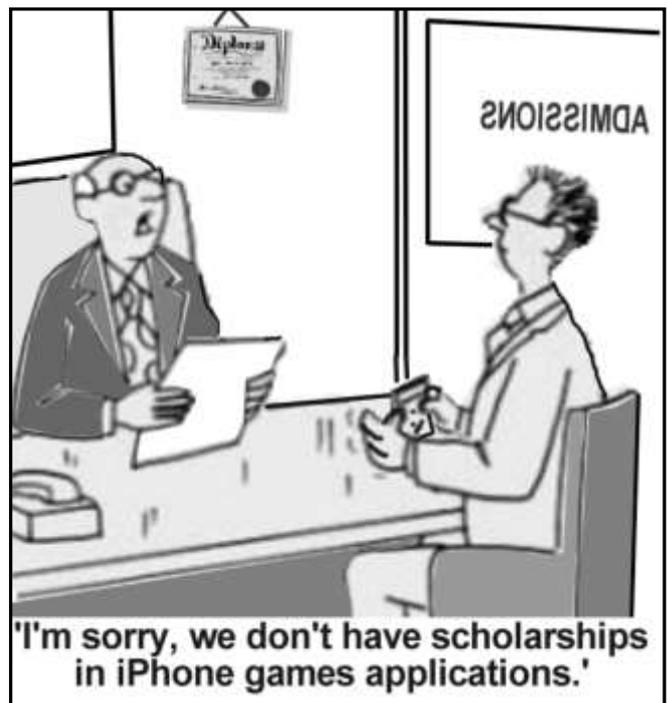
Emily HESPE – Studying Bachelor of Performance Deans Scholar at Wollongong University

Emily is the recipient of the Federation’s “Graham Walker AM” Scholarship for 2019. She lives in NSW and is the grandchild of an Australian Army veteran who served on operational service both in Malaysia and Vietnam (1971). He served in the Australian Army from 1958 to 1978, sadly he passed away in 2018.

We will keep our readers informed of Emily’s progress for 2019 as they come to hand.

The Federation continues to be extremely proud of the achievements of those it has supported with scholarships over many years, and we are determined to continue this support with the generous contributions from our members and readers through the purchase of tickets from our Raffle and personal donations.

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



# Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

**In our last edition we brought you  
the story of the ancient vivid pink Citroën**

**From Al Wood**



Australian nurses (left to right) Lieutenant (Lt) Ann Hall, Lt Ruth Page, and Lt Diane Lawrence with an ancient vivid pink Citroën sedan on the beach at Vung Tau in 1969. The car, sporting hippie flowers and three bullet holes in the rear windscreen, was captured in November 1968 by New Zealand troops of Victor 3 Company, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion. After repairs and a coat of paint, the 'new' car was presented to the fifteen Anzac nurses of the 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau. The car was used to transport the nurses between the hospital and the beach

**Readers have responded by sending in photos of its discovery and recovery.**



# Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

## A Weekend in "Vungers" ~ (23/25 August 1968)

Al Wood

WE'D been "in-country" about 12 weeks before our first short period to unwind came around. Come Friday afternoon, and we were in a convoy of trucks with armed escort, winding the 20 miles or so down Highway.2 en-route to Vung Tau, 1 Australian Logistic Support Group (ALSG), and the newly-opened *Peter Badcoe Club*, right on the beach, and our resort home for 2 nights. The contrast in climate between Nui Dat and here surprised us. Just a short distance between, but at Nui Dat it's always raining now, but here on the coast, not a sign of rain, and blue skies for us all weekend, but very much hotter.

Once off the trucks around 3pm, the rules and regulations were read-out to us, and all weapons, ammo, and webbing, were handed into the

clean sheets, pillow cases, and not even having to remake our beds next morning. Wow ! Local Vietnamese women would enter the rooms about 8:30 or 9 in the morning, to clean and tidy-up our mess.



New arrivals at the Badcoe

Very soon after our arrival, the bar was packed with very-thirsty diggers, many hadn't even bothered to change out of their bush gear before getting stuck into it. That could wait. I ambled down to the nearby beach with a mate to take a look, and went in for our first dip in the South China Sea.



On our way to the Badcoe Club

armoury-store. Indeed a strange feeling after near 3 months, not to have our personal weapons readily at-hand. A naked and exposed feeling.

Assigned 4 to a room, we were blown-away by the comparative luxury available. Ceiling-fans,



Badcoe Club

The water was kinda' warm, no surf as we'd know it at home, and with globs of what we thought was oil floating about.

After about 30mins, we took a walk south along the beach past the ROK (South Korean) complex, 'til we came to a barbed-wire fence strung across the sand and out into the water.

This of course wasn't about to stop two curious diggers, so after traversing this obstacle, we were



Badcoe Club onto the beach

now on Uncle-Sam's property, and home to their *Beachcomber Club*, more like a beer-garden with covered bar area, poker-machines, etc.

Did our "reconn" and thought that perhaps we'd better make it back in case there was a roll-call or something. Didn't want to be posted as missing. Just in time for evening meal in the club



Beachfront and off to the Beachcomber

restaurant, we were to find that there was even a waitress-service provided here. I'd almost forgotten what civil-living was all about, it'd been so long since.

Leave in the "flesh-pots" and bars of downtown "Vungers" would be allowed between 6 and 9 pm for half of our company that night, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> contingent, (including myself) to be let -loose on the following night (Saturday). Such a small detail as an official leave pass wasn't about to



US Beachcomber Club

stop us breaking out that night though. We changed into 'civy' clothes and a mate and I walked down toward the 1ALSG gatehouse to try our luck. and it was with us. As we neared the gate, a Kiwi officer drove up heading for the gates, and asked if we'd like a lift ? In we jumped of course.

At the gate, the sentry checked the Kiwi officer's pass, who then said he'd only just picked us up, and our papers better also be checked. The jig was up! Miraculously though, the "screw" looked us over in the back, and said "they'll be right", and through we went, all the way downtown.

The 'gods were indeed smiling on us". We intended to have a good look over this town tonight, prior to our "official" visit in 24 hour's time. I'd guarantee however, that 60-70% of the guys we saw around town didn't have passes that



1 ALSG Gatehouse

night.

Vung Tau central was a maze of bars, hotels, souvenir shops, café, etc, and full of bar-girls in every door, enticing US and us poor naive Aussie guys inside to buy them "Saigon-Tea", simply a glass of coloured water at \$2-\$3, and beers for



On the Street of Bars

ourselves, at about 70c bottle. What a racket ! A ‘rip-roaring’ town to say the least. So easy to part with one’s cash. I was a little light-on anyway, and only went through \$40 to \$50 all weekend, but many were to lighten their pockets by 2-3-4 times that amount. Being officially AWOL, and not wanting to press our luck too far, we made a point of being back at “The Flags” rendezvous place by the allotted 9pm, in time to jump aboard a truck back to 1ALSG.

Again, I would’ve thought that only 1 or 2 on this truck had leave-passes for the night. Arrival back at the Badcoe was around 9:15, and some of us continued on at the poolside bar for an hour or so more.



The Flags

Not healthy to be out and about in town between 9pm and 6am, as there’s a curfew, if picked-up by the MP’s an evening in the ‘can’ awaited, or worse, the trigger-happy SVN “white-mice” may come across you. Now that could’ve

turned real ugly !

Saturday arrived, and after arising at a luxurious time around 7:30 and taking a cold shower, (very welcomed in these climes) we were informed over breakfast with much jubilation, that we were to get leave-passes into town from 12 noon, ‘til the usual 9 that night. With only about 3 hours now to kill, back down to the beach we went, spending about two hours there, back to



Poolside bar—Badcoe Club

freshen-up and change, collect our passes, and away ! Stopping for some quick shopping at the American PX on the way, we jumped a lift into town, where the troubles for our platoon, and us in particular, slowly unwound. That afternoon, we did a further reconn. around the town, stopping in for several hours at the Australian Leave Centre, downing a few ales there, then moving-on to inspect the USO (United Services Organisation) Club, supposedly an ‘exclusive’ oasis for American personnel, but obviously no objection shown to Australian diggers also paying them a visit. Then again, perhaps they couldn’t tell we were Australians, dressed in our civies as were all the others. Looked a great place to grab a feed, 45c “all you could eat”, so we stayed on there a bit.

Leaving the USO Club behind, it was back into town we went, via the area known as “the Flags”. There we came upon two of our platoon mates, blind-drunk, in an American jeep, apparently placed there we discovered, by some Military Police (MP’s), to “sleep it off”. One of our guys

had climbed into the driver's seat, and though the wheel was chained, he had tried to get the vehicle moving. Meanwhile, two US guys who belonged to this vehicle, returned and tried to haul our blokes out. Voices on the footpath grew progressively louder, with a little pushing and shoving mixed in. Another of our Tracker Platoon guys appeared and went over to try to settle things down, but met with little success. I reckon that if a blow hadn't been struck then, a riot would've quickly erupted, as it looked like a hundred US and Australian servicemen had gathered to watch the show. In time, an Australian vehicle with 3 Regimental Police (RP's) drew-up, and after some explaining of the situation to them, it was suggested that they take our two back to base to 'dry-out'. They were having none of it. A little more pushing and shoving, and while one of our guys went quietly, the other suddenly spun around and slugged one of the RPs. Now that was a BAD MOVE ! They put him in a headlock, thrust him in the back of their vehicle, and away they went. We later heard that one was charged with making a nuisance of himself, and the other was released on Sunday morning on "open-arrest", charged with assaulting an RP and resisting arrest. At last someone else, if not many more, would soon be joining me in our platoon as one to receive an A4 (charge sheet), mine being several week's earlier. What a record!

Following this "street-circus" affray, our thirst had returned again, and with it now getting dark, we decided to walk down to the beach-front esplanade and the famous Grand Hotel, overlooking the beach.

Surely remaining from the French epoch, this grand edifice is a popular "watering-hole" amongst the military. Going in through the side 'tradesman's entrance' and into the main bar area, the place was full of Yanks and girls, a true "den of iniquity" it appeared, and so just the place for us. Grabbing a couple of bar-stools, (don't know if

they were spoken for at the time ?) and ordering a couple of 'balmy-bars' to keep our thirst at bay, it wasn't long before we were brushing-off the bar-girls who sidled over asking "you buy me Saigon-tea ?" After being stung the previous night, we were now all-knowing, and perhaps a little more



Grand Hotel

selective with our free-spending. Soon got talking with some Yank patrons, and saw several more of our blokes in there too, quietly taking tea I suppose ?

Having arrived there around 7:30 pm, four hours quickly passed, and before long, it was nearing 11pm. Far too late to break curfew and return to base now, we could also run the risk of a confrontation with the 'white-mice' out in the streets, so we decided it was better to wait out the night hours there in the bar. The Yanks didn't seem too concerned, and since they were doing all the buying, who was complaining! Besides, so much for getting back to base by 9pm. Both our platoon commander and the Major in charge of our whole detachment over the weekend, were still drinking in the bar around 10pm: "Goose and Gander". We considered we'd have a good case to argue should we have found ourselves charged over returning late to the Badcoe.

We ran into our platoon mate ---- in the bar that night, pretty 'stoned' it would appear, and as

the hours passed, he grew more drunk and agitated. It appears that in his infinite wisdom, and sometime earlier that evening, he'd given "his" bar-girl companion \$40 or \$50 for a few 'extra favours' that night, and he hadn't seen her since payment, (in advance) was made. Well, ---- was he going to rip this place apart, and after some heated 3-way discussion with 'mama-san' and 'the girl' in question, she offered to supply three stretchers for us in the now closed and darkened restaurant, there to remain 'til curfew was lifted next morning. Everything looked 'rosy' I thought, 'til, in a fit of drunken temper, our mate punched a plate-glass window. A bloke can sober-up so very quickly indeed sometimes. He withdrew his arm, blood everywhere, with pleas to stem the bleeding. "Help, I'm bleeding to death". "Quick, put a tourniquet on it". Bright-red blood was literally spurting from a gash about 3 inches below the elbow, obviously an artery, and there was no movement or feeling in the hand, so there was muscle and nerve damage also. Another mate used his dog-tags and a pen to stem the bleeding, and meanwhile, mama-san grabbed me by the hand to rush upstairs and call an ambulance from our base. By the time I came back down however, both were gone, rushed away to the US 36<sup>th</sup> Medical Evac. Hospital in the nearby US air base, in a Yank vehicle.

Two operations were to follow in the next few days, and while we thought that just maybe he'd be back with us in a month or so, he was eventually RTA'd back home, and his arm was to remain in plaster for around 3 months. We never saw him back again at Nui Dat.

Not much more I could do that night, so bedded down in the restaurant with a few other curfew-breaking Yanks, arising about 6:30 Sunday morning to get back to 1ALSG by local taxi.

Arriving at the gates, the MP's allowed me through with a minimum of fuss, and I thought that under

the circumstances, I was in the clear. I soon found that about 7 or 8 of our blokes in the platoon were now facing charges over weekend incidents in town. We were told by an Australian RP on his way back to base after leaving 36<sup>th</sup> Evac. Hospital, that they'd had more trouble from members of our platoon than all the other 4RAR platoons there over that weekend. Drunkenness, brawling, assaulting 'screws', one of ours in hospital, etc. Obviously a great weekend was had be all ! A very gentlemanly well-behaved crew, I thought.

Getting back to base around 7:20am, I just had time to take a quick shower, change back into my "work", clothes, get across for breakfast, then hurry back to the room in time to clear out my gear, in time for the room to be cleaned and prepared for the next incoming guests that afternoon. We were to be on the trucks back to Nui Dat by 9am, but were told that departure was delayed by 4 ½ hours, as some "big-wigs" from Oz were to visit later that morning to officially open the Olympic-size swimming pool at the Club. "Great", we thought. Here's a pool we've been banned from using all weekend during our stay, because it hadn't been 'officially' opened, and it'd be 'opened' for use just as we're leaving. Typical ! And as for it's name. The "Harold Holt" Pool. Seemed a little whimsical, a pool named after a guy who'd apparently drowned.

"Official" opening was set for noon, and in the meantime, we were told we could just hang-around, or go down the beach, but the bar was closed. It wasn't long before about six of us were back through that wire along the beach, to pay another visit to the US Beachcomber Club, and get stuck again into that Yank beer to while-away some time. We observed that we were soon also joined by a number of 4RAR sergeants, including our own platoon sergeant, and several RP's, so we considered we were on "safe ground" here, but hoped and trusted that we wouldn't meet with any

problems on the road back to Nui Dat that afternoon, bearing in mind the amount of booze we had, and still were consuming.

or laying on the board, and drinking scotch or whatever poison took your fancy. What an easy life this was !



New Badco Club pool



Waiting to return to Nui Dat

Quietly told that we'd be OK providing we were back at the Badcoe Club in time for the official opening at noon, we started to withdraw around 12:15pm, but a mate and I only made it a little past the Beachcomber's entrance-gate, then noticed one of our guys still locked in conversation and sitting with several Yanks over a beer, inside. Not being ones to leave one of ours behind, we were quickly over to join him, and them, not eventually leaving 'til around 12:45, when we stole back, arriving unseen around 1pm., and still in time to catch the convoy bound for home.

Despite my good intentions that second night in Vung Tau, despite the good reason for getting back to base next morning, despite the gate MP's indicating that I should be OK, I was very soon



Back to work

I later heard that when our Delta Coy. had their weekend-leave in Vung Tau 3 weeks earlier, (in early August) they collected twenty-eight A4 charges for a company compliment of approx. 128 personnel. By what was flying around this weekend, we just may have given this number a good shake.

Though there for just 2 days, I received a sunburned face just knocking about in "Vungers", so although so close to Nui Dat, the weather was so very much different.

The Badcoe Club facilities were very beach-orientated. Around 40 surf-boards, 2 sail-boats, water-ski equipment, a power-boat. The surf is certainly not much to write home about, but who cared ? Many would just take out a board, (skilled with one or not), and gather in a loose circle a hundred yards off-shore, just floating about, sitting

served with my second A4 "on tour", this time for being AWOL that Saturday night. A certain irony there I suppose. I was lucky that first night to get away with it, though with no good alibi ; but on the second night, despite having good reason for being out late (?), I'd been caught out.

*- Transcribed from an audio-tape recording made by Pte. A.W.Wood (2786855) on Monday 26 Aug. 1968 on return to base at Nui Dat*

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# Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

## BLOODY BART !!

Another story from **Ray (Boris) O'Brien**

Who brought us the story of the bike races in an earlier edition.

NOVEMBER 65 BCOY 1RAR BIEN HOA

It has been 5 months now since we arrived in Vietnam, getting off the "Sydney" on 8 June 1965. We have settled in at Bien Hoa Airbase, whilst here the company had had its ups and downs, good days and bad days, but that's life.

We are having a few days off between going out on Operations with the Americans and our TAOR Patrols.

My friend Trevor, also my partner in our SP venture, gets a letter from his brother in Australia, telling Trevor he has the '65 Melbourne Cup winner, and he should have a bet on it.

I ask Trevor where does his brother work and who gave him the tip.

Trevor says, 'My brother now works for a race horse trainer in South Australia. Names Bart Cummings'

'Never heard of him' says I, 'Save your money, don't back the donkey. What's this donkeys name?' Light Fingers I'm told.

Trevor tells me he is going down to Admin Company to back the tip with their SP bookie. Don't be a goose I say, keep your money for day leave in Saigon.

Not taking any notice of my sound advice Trevor backs Light Fingers, and I had a small bet on a horse named Midlander, each way.

Tuesday, Cup day, arrives. Trevor and I take bets off the Company. We then listen to the unknown trainer from South Australia with the donkey win the race at 16-1. Another Cummings horse, Ziema, runs second and my bet, Midlander, comes third. The only big winner on the race was Trevor and he lets me know about it. 'You should have taken the tip,' He says. '16-1'.



**(Front L-R) Pte Ned (Nellie) McAuliffe  
& Sgt Tom Prosser—BCoy 1RAR  
8 June 1968  
Embarking from USA Landing Craft.**

### BCOY 1RAR A DAY BEFORE THE '66 CUP

The Company now has only about 75% of the people who returned from Vietnam 5 months ago. Promotions and postings, with more to come, have taken its toll on the original Company.

We are at Enoggera Army Base in Brisbane after returning from an exercise in Shoalwater Bay. BCoy were the enemy, the VC, and an English Commando Company were the friendlies. They chased us all around the bush for two weeks, and we are now in Brisbane awaiting tomorrows train back to Sydney.

Trevor tells me he is going to ring his brother, still in South Australia, and see if he has another winning tip. I tell Trevor, trainers these days don't train the winner 2 years in a row. It hasn't been done for years, again, save your money.

After he makes the phone call he tells me the now well known trainer from SA will again train the winner, a horse called Galilee is a good thing, and last years winner, Light Fingers, will also run well. Bullocks I say.

The Company has been confined to barracks for the day, no local leave for anyone. The reason is another story. How are we going to get our bets on?

Trevor and I go and ask the OC, can we have 1 hours leave to go and put the Company's bets on at the local TAB, just down the main street.

We are only putting our bets on, the company ones remain in our pockets. We are granted 1 hour.

Trevor backs Galilee and I backed Duo.

Next day, Cup day.

BCoy is on the train back to Holsworthy. After being on the train for a while we find out we have a gigantic problem, no sound out of our trannies, just static, bugger.

Later on the train conductor passes through our carriage and we tell him our problem, that we have just returned from Vietnam, dying to listen to the cup, but getting no reception on our radios, could he please help us.

He says leave it with me. 10 minutes before the cup start, the train slows down then stops midway between Brisbane and Sydney. Nearly everyone on the train gets off. Now there's good reception from our radios. We listen to Galilee win the cup, bloody Bart wins his 2nd in a row, Galilee at 6-1, Light Fingers runs second and Duo third.

Bart has the quinella 2 years in a row, also history.

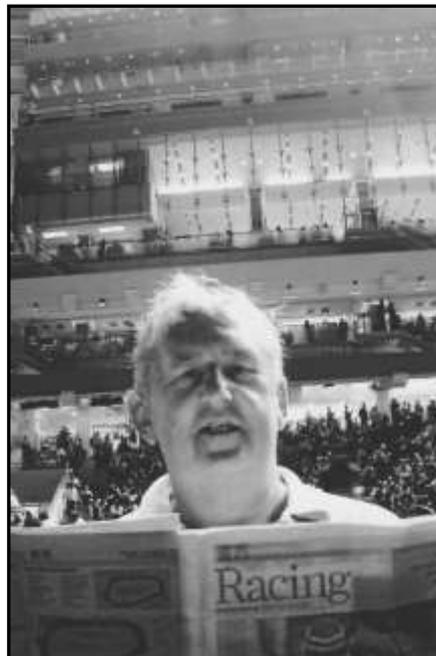
Trevor is going crazy, he has won over \$2,000

dollars, which in 1966 is very good money. Again he gives me a serve over not backing the winner, now 2 years in a row. I just say "Bloody Bart".

We all get back on the train and resume a favourite pastime, playing cards for money. As we are nearing Sydney's Central Station there is a very large pot and Trevor bets and loses his winning TAB ticket. He had a great hand of cards, but not good enough to win, bye bye winning TAB ticket.

#### 1 DAY BEFORE 1967 MELBOURNE CUP

Trevor and I are no longer running the SP. I am posted to 1RTB Kapooka Wagga Wagga as an instructor.



**Ray (Boris) O'Brien  
' Still trying to pick a  
winner at 'Happy Valley'  
Hong Kong.**

Trevor is still in BCoy 1RAR at Holsworthy. I notice in the paper that Bart Cummings has 3 horses in the cup tomorrow. He couldn't train the winner 3 years in a row. It would be nearly impossible, but maybe Trevor's brother could have a winning tip again, you never know.

I ring 1RAR and ask to be put through to BCoy, and get told BCoy is at LWC Cunnungra doing jungle training because 1RAR is going back to Vietnam next year, 1968. It would be impossible to get in contact with Private Veale, as they are in the field training.

Next day, Cup day, Bart does it again, 3 in a row, unheard of, Red-Handed wins at 4-1.

About 2 years later Trevor and I meet again and talk over old times,

as you do, and I ask him did he get the tip again on Red Handed. Yes, he says, my brother gave it to me and this time I didn't lose the ticket playing cards with you.

All I could say was. 'Bloody Bart, what a champion'.

Boris.

# LETTERS TO THE



# EDITOR

To the Secretary.

Hi my name is James Overton .

I recently received a DVA Gold Card (EDA). This I could not have done without the support of Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association of Australia NSW Branch INC. My thanks also go to Denis Hanmer but in particular Melonie Lloyd-Riley (MY ROCK). DVA are big on Mental Health issues but to me they didn't seem to care or understand the stress they were putting me thru especially in the appeal process for my osteoarthritis claim for my hips. It was Melonie's determination, her understanding, her compassion, and her concern that saw a successful outcome when I asked her to stop. It was doing my head in so to speak. " You forget about it and get better," she said "but I will continue to fight on. The next time you hear from me will be when we have won or lost. You just get better". She was concerned about my health. To her credit she prevailed and won going on to other successful claims as well.

I am pretty forgetful and sometimes not easy to deal with but Melonie was always contactable and her advice spot on which helped to calm me down.

We as veterans who are getting on in years need people like Melonie and your Association to help guide us thru this maze.

Thanks,

James Overton,

Dear Editor,

Seeing the photos of the old premises at the back of the old Granville RSL Hall, brought back so many memories of years gone by when I worked there as an office assistant , I remember the lack of privacy and the overcrowding, queues out the door and lack of space in general and indeed privacy for suffering Veterans, however the good memories were of those who "found us" and realized that help was indeed available, Tim McCombe Ray Fulton, Terry LofTus, Les Bloc, (if there were others then I apologize if I have not mentioned you )were my mentors in learning about PTSD and what a revelation that was myself being the wife of Veteran living with the results of War Service but in total ignorance of the effects that were kept from us until they became apparent and caused so much grief to families.

Later some money became available to us, (by this time I was treasurer NSW) and was a participant in buying the current Granville premises, what a joy that was to offer Veterans a facility that gave them privacy and a permanent home, (somewhere to come that inspired some confidence that there were many more Veterans suffering and in this place as in the Granville RSL Hall there was other volunteers (ie: other veterans) offering assistance for their plight even though they were suffering themselves and sacrificed so much to aid these men in dire trouble. I can't recognise anyone in the photos as the date was before I came there to offer assistance.

Thank you for the memories and I have to add that I am incensed by other articles you have written that are ideas from the productivity commission, give them time with a returned serviceman or woman suffering PTSD and they would be long way away by now the utter ignorance astounds me just when a new History about Agent Orange is about to be published.

Thank you Granville for continuing to support Veterans and their families

Kindest regards  
Lorraine Davison

To the Secretary.

Subject: March 2019 newsletter

Re: around 1982/3 .who are these people.

Photo 5. Third from left or second from right with papers in his hand is my cousin Dominic (Don) Wilson he also appears in photo 15, at some stage he was a committee member, of the VVFA or whatever the original name was.

Served in SVN with 7RAR 67/68.

Regards

Bryan Holborow

3 RAR and 4RAR 68/69 SVN

Dear Editor,

I was present at some of those events on pages 24-28 of the March newsletter.

I believe photo (a) is Phill Thompson with the VVAA's lawyer Brian Donnellan.

In photo 5, I believe the older man on the right is our patron, Jim Greenwood.

In photo 8, Robin Foster is holding the wreath, and the white-haired man wearing a tie is Frank Ashton, from Granville RSL, who gave us the use of the building.

I'm on the right in picture 13, and I'm also in picture 14. Admiral Guy Griffith of AVADSC is at the left of the front row in picture 14. This is a dawn service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, but I don't remember the year. The fact that I'm involved in what looks like an official capacity suggests that it's after I became National Secretary in May 1983.

Picture 17 is John Haines.

I remember a lot of the other faces, but my memory for names is not so good.

I hope this helps.

Lachlan Irvine.

29 East Street  
MACKSVILLE NSW 2447

The Editor

**The Vietnam Veterans' Newsletter,**

Dear Editor

I have read in the March 2019 newsletter – A word from our outraged Editor- and – National **President's Report Part 2-** and I am shocked not **only of the Productivity Commission's Draft Report** but of the complete ignorance of the issue by all the veterans and ex-service personnel that I know.

I am the President of the Frank Partridge VC Military Museum and have regular contact with a large number of people who will be dramatically affected by the recommendations and they have no knowledge of the draft report. I have spoken to members on the local Sub Branches and got no sense of immediate concern for the seriousness of **the Commissions approach to veteran's benefits.** I commend the two items on the newsletter.

I have not been able to discover what action is being taken to prevent these recommendations being legislated. I consider the significance of this review would have been communicated to all veterans either directly or through the Sub Branches with the request they contact their local Federal Member to record their outrage and demanding what action will they be taking to have the recommendations dismissed as an insult to veterans and serving defence personnel.

I also consider us veterans would have been aware of any actions taken by our Returned Services Associations etc to make a political issue of this matter with the upcoming Federal election. It would be very easy to get widespread media coverage in each state and each political party made to announce their position on the recommendations.

I hope you are able to confirm this outrageous attack on veteran benefits is no chance of being legislated.

If this is not the situation, I hope you are able to advise of the action planned to mobilise the veterans and service personnel to have the recommendations dismissed.

Yours faithfully

L Beresford-Maning.

## PSK FINANCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE

### Money mistakes to avoid in retirement

How to keep your finances on track once you leave the workforce

When you've worked hard all your life to build up your nest egg, the last thing you want to do is fritter it away too quickly. In this article, we look at the common money mistakes people in retirement make, and how you can do your best to avoid them.

#### 1. Not taking control of your super

It's important to know what your options are for getting access to your superannuation when you retire. You can take it as a lump sum, an allocated pension or an annuity. Learn more about accessing your super and then speak to your financial adviser to find out what's right for you.

#### 2. Not knowing your entitlements

Don't make the mistake of not knowing what payments you're eligible for in retirement. This may include government benefits, such as the Age Pension, carer's allowance or disability support through to concessions on health and travel. Your financial adviser can help you understand how your entitlements will fit into your overall retirement plan.

#### 3. Spending like you're still working

Dipping into your savings or your super money regularly will soon whittle away your hard-earned savings. Find out about ways to manage your money in retirement to help you free up your cash flow and keep an eye on your expenses.

#### 4. Not managing your investments

Just because you're retired, doesn't mean you should be complacent about your investments. It's important to consider your personal situation.

Many retiree's enjoy learning more about investments as they have the time to do so. Speaking with your financial adviser can give you peace of mind that your investments are being managed in the best way for your situation.

#### 5. Not managing your debts

Consider all your options for reducing your debts, as you may not have enough funds to last you through your retirement. Be careful about paying too much interest on your debts. If you need to pay off your home loan, make sure you're aware of how selling your home or investment property affects your entitlements.

#### 6. Spending your retirement savings on the kids

If you plan to give money to your children (or grandchildren) to help them out financially, be aware of how gifting or going guarantor might affect your tax and your lifestyle in retirement. Your financial adviser can help you understand the best way to transfer your wealth to your loved ones.

#### 7. Letting your insurance lapse

It's tempting to reduce your outgoings in retirement by cutting back on things like insurance. But before you do, consider that almost 62% of AMP insurance claims were made by people over age 50 in 2017.i. Be sure to discuss any changes you plan to make on your insurance with your financial adviser.

## 8. Taking expensive holidays

Make sure your choice of destination fits within your overall budget, bearing in mind you need your money to last the distance in retirement.

When you retire it's very tempting to use your super to buy a new car to last you through your retirement. If you're serious about watching where your money goes, you might want to think about making your current vehicle last a bit longer, but you'll need to weigh up the maintenance costs versus buying another one.

We can help you plan wisely for retirement, so you can still enjoy the good things in life once you've stopped working.

If you would like to discuss your situation, please feel free to contact me on (02) 9895 8800,

0414 811 777 or paulm@psk.com.au

(i) AMP claims paid 2017.

Article first published in October 2017 provided by Paul Messerschmidt of PSK Financial Services

PSK Financial Services Group Pty Ltd (ABN 24 134 987 205) and Paul Messerschmidt are Authorised Representatives of Charter Financial Planning Ltd (AFSL 234666), Australian Financial services Licensee and Australian Credit Licensee

Information contained in this article is general in nature. It does not take into account your objectives, needs or financial situation. You need to consider your financial situation before making any decisions based on this information.



*Advice that puts you first*

Authorised Representative of Charter Financial Planning  
AFS Licence No. 234665

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

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

Areas of advice:

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

For any questions regarding your financial situation please contact

Paul Messerschmidt  
MFinPlan, GradDipFinPlan  
Partner and Senior Financial Adviser

PSK Financial Services  
Level 4, 3 Horwood Place,  
Parramatta NSW 2150  
M 0414 811 777 | P (02) 9895 8800  
E paulm@psk.com.au



# REUNIONS & NOTICES

# REUNIONS & NOTICES



**AVCAT**

# SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN  
OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

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

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



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

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

2014 Recipient

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

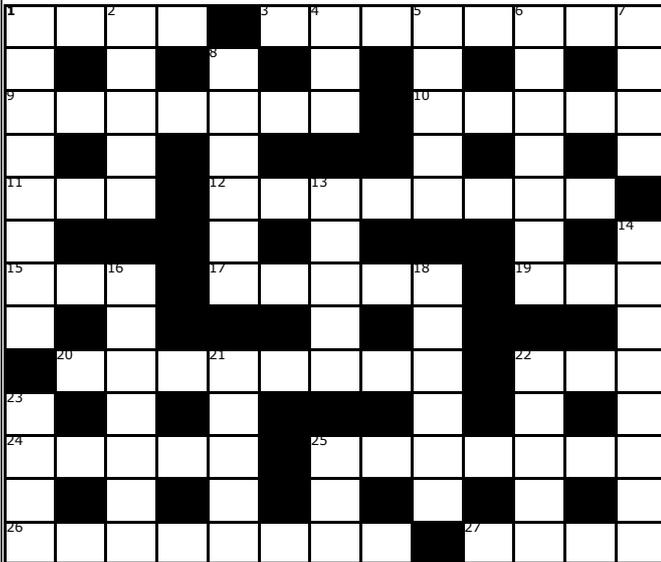
**"Without the scholarship, achieving my goals would be almost impossible. The financial support has provided me the opportunity to study and without your support I would simply not be in the position I am in today, and for that I will be forever grateful".** Recent recipient.

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

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

To apply you should contact AVCAT and request to be added to the expressions of interest register.  
Phone: 02 9213 7999      Web: [avcat@dva.gov.au](mailto:avcat@dva.gov.au)      PO Box K978 Haymarket, NSW 1240

# CROSSWORD CORNER



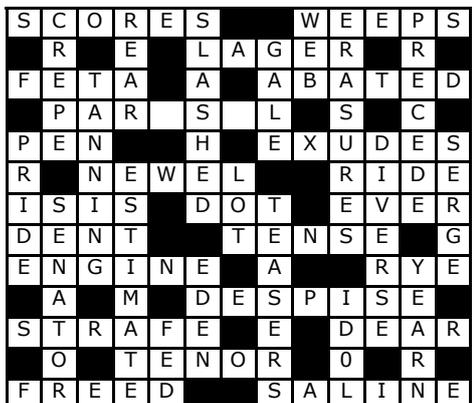
ACROSS

- 1. Cosy corner
- 3. Wrote songs
- 9. Saved
- 10. Pile neatly
- 11. Stern (Naval)
- 12. Rain shield
- 15. Lower limb
- 17. Grab
- 19. Candle material
- 20. Woolly material
- 22. Nocturnal hunter
- 24. Expel from house
- 25. Vacuumed, dusted
- 26. Switching
- 27. Upper limbs

DOWN

- 1. Usually
- 2. Beginning
- 4. Aged
- 5. Glue up
- 6. Not deep
- 7. Nobleman
- 8. Lines up
- 13. Groom's partner
- 14. Detonates
- 16. Feeding like cattle
- 18. Cricket team
- 21. Large inn
- 22. Possessor
- 23. Joke
- 25. Beer container

**MARCH 2019 SOLUTION**



# THE UNKNOWN COMIC

A cranky old woman was arrested for shoplifting at a grocery store. She gave everyone a hard time, from the store manager to the security guard, to the arresting officer who took her away. She complained and criticized everything and everyone throughout the process. When she appeared before the judge, he asked her what she had stolen from the store. The lady defiantly replied, "Just a stupid can of peaches you old fool." The judge then asked why she had done it. She replied, "I was hungry and forgot to bring any cash to the store." The judge asked how many peaches were in the can. She replied in a nasty tone, "Nine! But why do you care about that?" The judge answered patiently, "Well, ma'am, because I'm going to give you nine days in jail, one day for each peach." As the judge was about to drop his gavel, the lady's long-suffering husband raised his hand slowly and asked if he might speak. The judge said, "Yes sir, what do you have to add?" The husband said meekly, "Your Honor, she also stole two cans of peas."

I discovered that I scream exactly the same way **whether I'm about to be eaten by a great white shark**, or if a piece of seaweed brushes my shins.

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the Doctor to come in for the baby's first exam. The Doctor arrived, examined the baby, checked his weight, and seeming a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed.

"Breast-fed," she replied.  
 "Strip down to your waist," the Doctor said. She did. He pinched her nipples, then pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for awhile in a detailed examination. Motioning her to get dressed, he said, "No wonder this baby is underweight, you don't have any milk."  
 "I know," she said, "I'm his Grandma, but I'm glad I came."

I told the nurse I was seeing spots before my eyes. She asked if I'd seen the doctor. "No." I told her, "Just the spots."

## 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!!

CALL 1800 011 046



Operation Life workshops emphasis is on suicide prevention – they aim to help members of the services and veteran community to recognize someone who might be thinking of suicide, and link them with appropriate assistance. There are 3 types of workshops

- Suicide alertness for everyone (Safetalk) ½ day presentation
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) 2 day skills course
- ASIST Tune Up ½ day refresher workshop

Workshops are open to anyone concerned about veterans, their family, friends and mates in the service and veteran community. **Welfare, Compensation Advocates and other helpers from ESO's** are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FORMERLY



## CAMPAIGN FOR 3,000 TO RECEIVE RVCM

RICHARD BARRY

I would be very grateful if you could find space in your next issue to include this very important article. Thank you very much for your support in the past to have these veterans recognised.

Richard Barry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just over 3,000 National Servicemen (NS) served in South Vietnam (SVN) for periods up to 180 days. All these men were conscripted or volunteered for NS to fight and were prepared to die and then were sent home, having completed their lawful period of National Service under the Act.

These men were awarded the Australian Vietnam Medal (everyone was eligible for this after only 24 hours in SVN) but not the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) because they did not serve in SVN for at least 181 days.

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam's Directive for the RVCM provided for successive Australian governments to *determine eligibility of the RVCM for its own personnel*.

I have mounted a campaign to have the 3,020 NS officially recognised by the government, however, I have been unsuccessful to date. I am seeking a fair go, and a fair and ethical determination from our Minister and decision makers.

I am NOT asking for an amendment to the eligibility criteria for the RVCM. I want to be very clear about that.

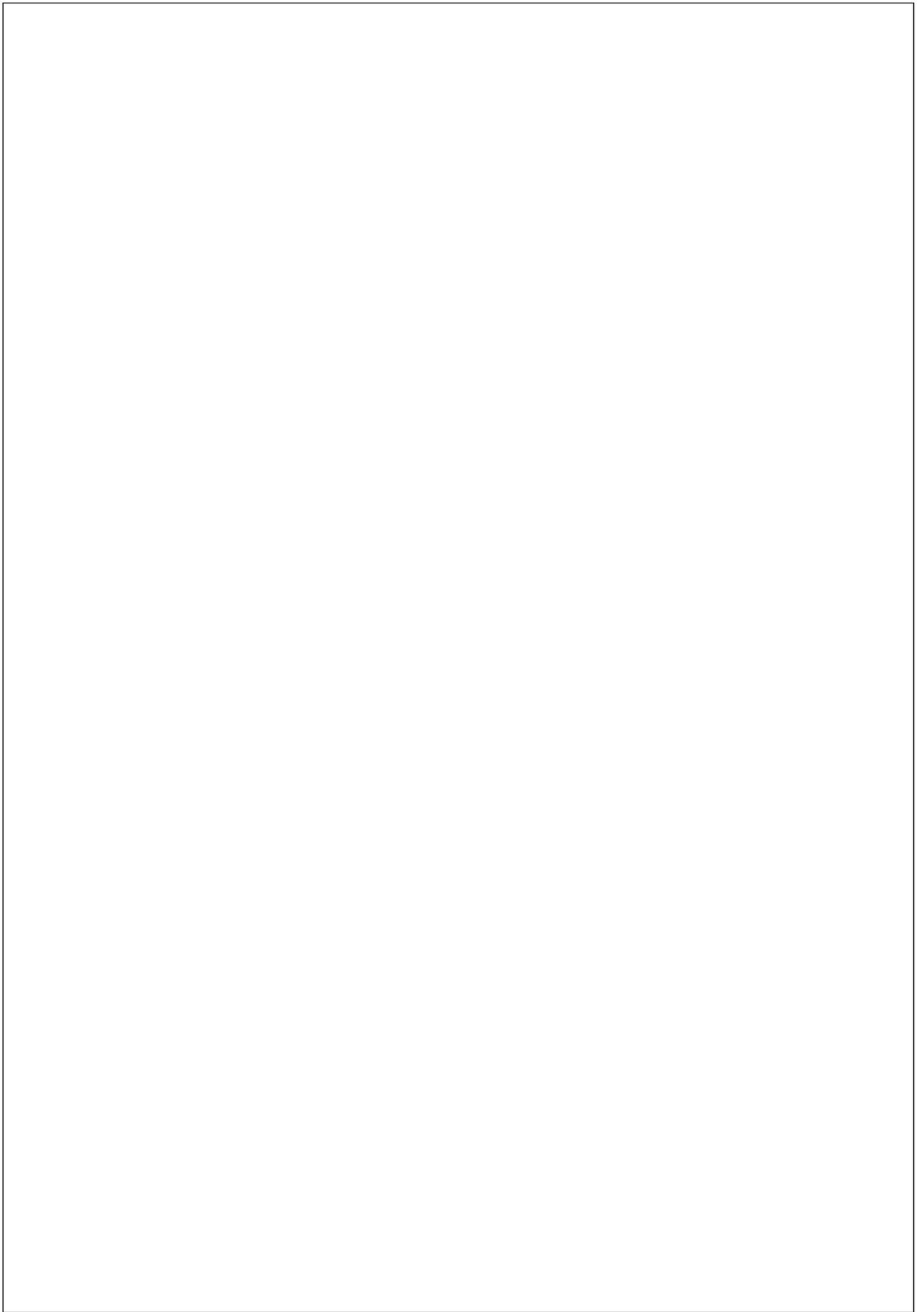
How many of these 3,020 NS are still with us? We need a good response to make the politicians take notice, and now give these men fair and due recognition. Please help me manage our campaign for fair and proper recognition. Go to [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) (type in Richard Barry) and register your interest and support.

URGENT REQUEST. In the meantime, if any of your mates are affected, please have them register on the website if they are agreeable. We need as many of the remaining 3,020 Nashos to step forward. Ring 02 6792 3124 and leave a message only if it is urgent.

***We encourage your support of Richards campaign....ED VVPPAA NSW***

## BRANCH LISTINGS NSW SUB-BRANCHES

## BRANCH LISTINGS OTHER STATES





Our name has changed but we will continue to provide professional, military aware, support to all current and former serving ADF personnel and their family members.



Free and confidential counselling to support your mental health and wellbeing is available 24/7. We also run group programs and suicide prevention training.

**JUST CALL 1800 011 046**

If overseas call +61 8 8241 4546

Veterans and Veterans Families  
Counselling Service

**FORMERLY KNOWN AS**



Call  
24/7

**A service founded by Vietnam veterans**



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.

1300 924 522

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.

Our programs

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

91 Milton Street,  
Ashfield NSW 2131  
  
&  
  
7 Blake Street,  
Kogarah NSW 2217



# Last Post





# Last Post





## Last Post



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

Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined.

Remembrance that will live on the lips, that will blossom in the deeds of their countrymen the world over. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes.

Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven, not on stone or brass, but on the living heart of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that *freedom* is the sure possession of those alone who have courage to defend it. Pericles

### PLEASE NOTE

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

# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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



