



VIETNAM VETERANS PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

JULY 2017

THREAT to the privacy of veterans' DVA Records Averted

New History of the **AGENT ORANGE** **CONTROVERSY**

For Younger Veterans

What Is a **NON-LIABILITY** **WHITE CARD?**

VIETNAM
51 Years On

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2017

- WE REMEMBER -

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VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA Inc.

Incorporating

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Queensland Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation ACT Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Victorian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

Federation of Australia (WA Branch) Inc.

Vietnam Peacekeepers Peacemakers Federation of Tasmania Inc.

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ACT State President	Ian Thompson
Vic State President	John Arnold
SA State president	Mal Thiele
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Attempt foiled to release the medical and other records of any veteran to the media or 'for such purposes as the Secretary [head] determines'.

Article commences on page 4



Simon Lewis PSM

Free mental health care for current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) without having to prove a link with service and without having to pay, has been expanded.

See page 10



Writing of the new official history of the Agent Orange controversy to correct the inaccurate and insulting report by F B Smith.

Article commences on page 14



National President, Vietnam Veterans Federation, Jim Wain, honored in Queens Birthday awards with an OAM. We acknowledge Jim's hard work, on behalf of veterans.

See page 6



What else is making news

NSW President, Frank Cole, reminds us to keep focused on our mission. And, among other things that Veterans who served overseas and are now over 70 could be entitled to a Gold Card.

Page 9

NACCF & WA President, Milton Kirk, brings news of this vital forum for the aged and community care.

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Victoria President, John Arnold, asks if there has been any approach at the National level to any of the veteran publications outlining the work we do and seek people who may be available to help their mates who are in need?

Page 18

SA President, Mal Thiele, reports on a swag of events that keep our croweater mates busy in a well presented article.

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PSK Financial Services introduce themselves to our readers, offering advice for those making plans for the future.

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ACT President, Ian Thompson, continues the trend most of us can see coming as our welfare and pensions officers get older. Timely request to help.

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NSW Vice President, Bill Roberts OAM, brings news of our latest scholarships recipients

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The Vietnam War series continues from *Page 38*

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Attempt foiled

AS we reported in our last edition, the Repatriation Commission/DVA tried it on.

It had legislation drawn up specifically allowing the departmental head, on his own authority, to release the medical and other records of any veteran to the media or 'for such purposes as the Secretary [head] determines'.

Of course there were assurances given that such power would not be used unless absolutely warranted, but that assurance was far from comforting.

A veteran with a justified, valid long standing complaint against the department might well be intimidated out of going public knowing his private DVA medical and other records could be splashed all over the media.

Happily, Senator Jacqui Lambie, the Nick Xenophon team, the Greens and eventually Labor were as appalled as we were with this gross intrusion on the privacy of our DVA records and announced they would oppose the change in the Senate.

We thank those Senators.

The government, seeing the legislation would not pass the Senate, withdrew it.

AND what of those assurances that this radical power would not be mis-used. Why should any veteran be mollified by an assurance from the Repatriation Commission/DVA.

In our last edition we told of one instance of departmental bad faith. There are more.

Take for instance the words of an ex-Coalition Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Peter Durack.

Senator Durack was a respected and accomplished politician having served as Attorney General as well as Minister for Veterans Affairs.

The Repatriation Commission/DVA drew up legislation in 1992 to change the accepted interpretation of the standard-of-proof applied to

Repatriation Commission/Department of Veterans Affairs

The three person Repatriation Commission advises the Minister for Veterans Affairs on Repatriation policy.

The Department of Veterans Affairs implements that policy when approved by the Minister.

The head of the Commission and the head of the Department are the same person.

So one is not independent of the other. Speaking of one is to speak of both.

veterans' compensation claims. It claimed DVA's much harsher interpretation was what was really meant when the legislation was first introduced in 1985.

But Senator Durack had been the Minister for Veterans Affairs who introduced the original legislation.

He was not impressed by DVA's contention.

In his speech to the Senate he said:

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

Senator Durack added:

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

He went further:

"The reason I have risen to speak in this debate is that I believe that over the last 10 years or so there have been very strong attempts by the

Here's what the legislation said:

(1) The Secretary may, if the Secretary certifies that it is necessary in the public interest to do so in a particular case or class of cases, disclose any information obtained by any person in the **performance of that person's duties** under this Act to such persons and for such purposes as the Secretary determines.

Repatriation Commission to subvert the longstanding intentions of Parliament in favour of claims for war-caused injuries by veterans.”

It should be noted that the legislation was introduced by Senator Durack's own party, so his criticism could not be blamed on partisan politics.

His denunciation spoke for the years of frustration Vietnam veteran organisations were having in their dealing with the Repatriation Commission/DVA.

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

It was a case that certainly raised some problems that needed attention.

But rather than consulting with the veteran community as part of seeking a remedy, Departmental Secretary Mr D Volker advised the Minister to quickly introduce legislation to toughen up the law as part of a 'money' bill in the upcoming May 'mini-budget', so that the Senate could not amend it.

He was, of course, concerned that, seeing the bill pass through the House of Representatives, veterans organisations would lobby the Senate to vote against it.

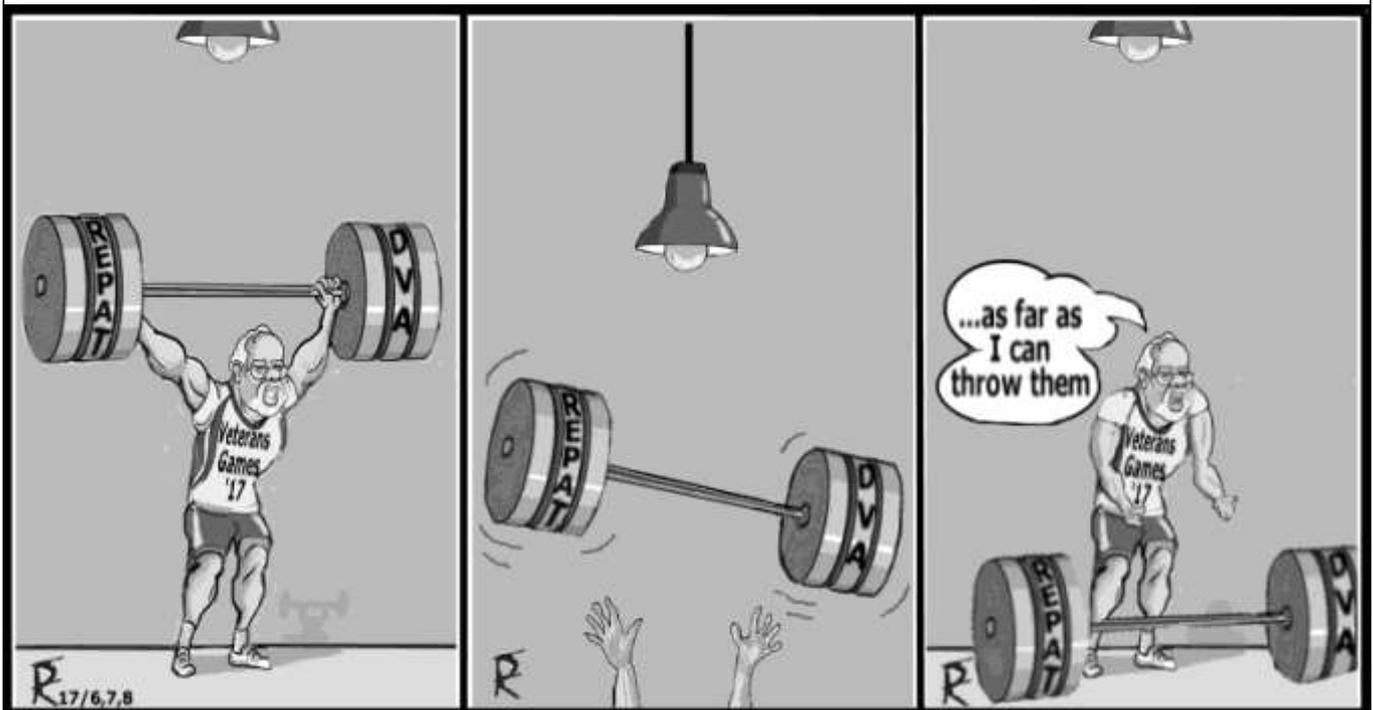
Mr Volker wrote these words to the Minister:

“There may be no better opportunity than the present to initiate an amendment given that the proposed bill will be a money bill and cannot be amended in the Senate”

It was advice aimed at denying veterans a legitimate voice on a matter of central importance to them. It was the breaking of a promise that the veteran community would be consulted on such matters.

It amounted to a 'Dirty Trick' and showed what the Repatriation Commission/DVA really thought of veterans.

More examples will be published in our next edition (there is no shortage).■



National Office News

The story of Jim Wain

WHEN Jim Wain joined the VVFA ACT Branch, it met at the Ainsley Football Club, moving to a small ACT housing commission house in Ainsley in 2000. The branch had 85 members and they were crowded. Interviews were held in the bedrooms and files were stored in the roof space. There was very limited parking.

Soon after Jim was elected President he sought approval for a men's shed in the back yard. When this was refused Jim redoubled his efforts to find suitable premises. Amazingly, he found the premises the branch now has in the suburb of Page. This is a large former Parks and Gardens Department depot that has been transformed by the members into eight private offices, a reception office, conference room, kitchen/meeting room, fully equipped workshops, outdoor entertainment area and garage accommodating several large vehicles. These include a large Food Van and truck to tow it, and a mobile cold room with towing vehicle.

The security of tenure in these well used and comfortable premises is in large part due to Jim's initiative, and his ability to muster support.

The branch had few members when it started at Ainsley but when Jim left the State presidency to become National President in 2015, the membership was well over 600. Jim was the driver of that growth.



MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Queens Birthday Honours 2017

James WAIN

For service to veterans and their families.



Jim Wain at work in the metal workshop at the ACT Branch headquarters at Page ACT.



Gathering and bbq in the entertainment area



Cooking class enjoying the fruits of their study

As well as overseeing the establishment of the attractive facilities at Page, Jim had the vision of reaching out to veterans of other conflicts and veterans in other areas where they needed a friend. He oversaw the change to the inclusive name of *Veterans Support Centre* and looked to country areas beyond the ACT such as Griffith, Cowra, Jindabyne, Wagga, Goulburn and the South Coast. Veterans in these areas were often isolated and unaware of support for which they were eligible. The ACT branch became a hub of veterans' support for Southern New South Wales.

Jim showed outstanding administrative and liaison skills gaining grants for things such as tools for the workshops, for the branch's work supporting seniors, the disabled and community outreach, and acquired a truck with Bob Jones efforts

Whilst Jim would strongly point out that it was a team of willing workers that achieved these remarkable results, it is clear that Jim's leadership and example was the principal driving force.

In 2015 Tim McCombe, the long time National President of the VVFA, died. It was a great loss.

Jim was elected to take Tim's place.

He has been an outstanding National President, getting together an expert and dedicated team to campaign for a remedy to the inadequacies and anomalies plaguing the welfare of veterans and ex-service people.

They have had at least one outstanding success whilst other campaigns continue. And that success was a beauty. Jim's representation to a Senate Committee helped thwart the government/DVA attempt to stifle the appeals process for certain MRCA cases.

JIM's contribution to the welfare of veterans and their families was officially acknowledged by his award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

No one could be more deserving. ■



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

What a bumper 60 page issue, and most of the States individual Presidents Reports are a welcome return. Thanks to all.

Can't go past wishing congratulations to our National President, Jim Wain, and his OAM. Well done Jim.

The NSW Branch elections were handled with care and a diligence to duty by all involved. Every NSW Member that was financial on our records, received ballot documents included with the March Journal mail out. All other NSW members not listed as 2017 financial on our records received a separate inclusion in the March Journal mail out, that asked them to make sure they were financial by the end of April, if they wanted to take part in the elections. Such arrangements were then made to forward the ballot papers once confirmed that 2017 dues were paid. All worked extremely well, despite confusion generated by some to undermine our efforts. The election details are included opposite.

We are at the pointy end of the winter doldrums, when last years BEST funding begin to dwindle, and we are left to our own resources to cover paid employees wages, administrative costs, and this very journals production and mail out., until the next round of funding is distributed. That is why there is a spirited call for donations on page 36.

The Series on the Vietnam War from an Australian perspective, received many accolades, thank you. One person took issue with part of the article covering the 'Battle of Long Khan'. I have been given some new material and will endeavor to make any corrections should the information prove to shed new light on the particular battle, and simply not expand on the whole 'Overlord' Operation.

Don't forget, your feedback on any of the issues raised herein or on our websites is accepted and acknowledged on good faith. We respect honest constructive criticism at all times.

Editor.

NSW BRANCH ELECTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT

2017 marks an election year for positions on the NSW Branch Head Office Committee. This year, when called in previous issues of the journal, we held nominations for all positions, but there were 3 nominations for 2 of the positions of vice presidents.

The make up of the committee is generally by constitution defined as:

- 1 President, 1 (Snr) Vice President,
- 2 Vice Presidents, 1 (Hon) Secretary,
- 1 Treasurer, and 10 Committee Members.

A Returning Officer, Michael Nevin, of Election Solutions NSW, was appointed to carry out and oversee the election of 2 Vice Presidents.

The contenders, in order as drawn at the April Committee meeting included; Dennis Hanmer OAM, Sheldon Maher OAM, and John Rogers.

Following the ballot and as announced at the NSW AGM on 20 May 2017, by the Returning Officer, those elected to the positions of Vice Presidents were Sheldon Maher OAM and Dennis Hanmer OAM. Congratulations gentlemen.

Commiserations to John Rogers who was a Vice President for 10 years, and still serves us extremely well as a Pensions Officer, Advocate and mentor to all wishing to become the same.

Your NSW Branch Committee for the next 2 years is as follows:

- President: Frank Cole
- (Snr) Vice President: Bill Roberts OAM
- Vice Presidents: Sheldon Maher OAM
Dennis Hanmer OAM
- (Hon) Secretary: **Ron O'Connor**
- (Hon) Treasurer: Bob Freshfield
- Committee Members:

Barry Bannerman, Sandy Bishop, Terry Corcoran, Stephen Emerson, Bob Gagan, John Rogers, Ken Thistlethwaite, Ted Tokarczyk, Jim Wrigley.

There is a vacant Committee Member position which will be addressed at the earliest convenient Committee Meeting.

NSW PRESIDENT REPORT

On our Mission...

The only reason our Association exists is to assist war veterans, current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in their time of need. Many years ago Vietnam veterans formed their own Association to pursue issues such as the effects of Agent Orange and other toxic substances on our troops in Vietnam when we could not receive the support of existing organisations. With the youngest Vietnam veteran now aged 63 the focus for many years has been to provide assistance to those who have served in places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, the former East Timor and on numerous peacekeeping and peacemaking missions around the world. These younger veterans comprise the majority of our clients and have done so for some time. Over the past two years our Granville (NSW) office alone has processed almost 2700 claims and with a very high success rate. Many of our NSW sub-branches also process claims which can be added to that total. **The Association's continued successes can only continue through our membership numbers remaining at a good level, Federal Government and other grants, donations and raffles. You can be most proud of your Association's successes. Our staff (mainly volunteers) have done well, yet there remains much more to do.**

On the Election...

Our Constitution provides for each State to conduct an election for all Office Bearers and Committee members to be held each two years. Nominations were called for all positions which were filled without the need for voting with the exception of the two positions of Vice-President (as distinct from the position of Senior Vice-President). There were three nominations for the two positions with the second and third candidates obtaining the same number of votes after distribution of preferences necessitating a ballot draw to determine the successful candidates. The draw was conducted at our AGM held on 20 May. Full NSW Branch election results appear on previous page.

On Vietnam Veterans Day...

NSW members are reminded that our Vietnam Veterans Day service will once again be conducted at the Bankstown Sports Club complex on Friday 18 August 2017. The service will be followed by lunch and entertainment. Full details appear on page 30 in this Journal.

On the Gold Card...

Now that some of you veterans have crept past the age of 70 years, you may not be aware that you, or a mate, are entitled to a Gold Card from DVA. Even if you have never made a claim on DVA for a disability, it doesn't matter. **It's an entitlement. And, we think there may be thousands of you, who can gain financially, and get treatment benefits hither to disadvantaged by out of pocket expenses.** It only takes a phone call to DVA on 13 32 54 and the process is easy.

Frank Cole
NSW President

Free Mental Health Care for current and former ADF members without having to show a link with war or peacetime service

THE range of mental health conditions current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members can seek treatment for without having to prove a link with war or peace-time service and without having to pay, has been expanded.

It is important that current and former ADF members take up this offer quickly because the earlier a veteran gets treatment, the better the health and other outcomes.

All current and former members with continuous full-time service (CFTS) are eligible for treatment of the following conditions:

- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Depressive Disorder;
- Anxiety Disorder;
- Alcohol Use Disorder; and
- Substance Use Disorder.

There is no need to lodge an application form for non-liability health care for PTSD, anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, alcohol use disorder or substance use disorder. Simply call DVA on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 if you are in a regional area, or email nlhc@dva.gov.au.

You may need to provide proof of identity, and your service records will be examined to check your service eligibility.

For mental health conditions, a diagnosis is not required at the time of applying in order for treatment to be approved. However, a diagnosis is required within six months of the date of approval



if treatment is to continue past that period. A diagnosis can be made by a psychiatrist, a general practitioner (GP) or a clinical psychologist.

A range of treatments may be available to you. These could include treatment from a general practitioner, medical specialist, psychologist, social worker, occupational therapist, psychiatrist, hospital services, specialist PTSD programs or pharmaceuticals as required to treat the condition.

If you are found to be eligible you will be issued with a DVA Health Card – for specific conditions (White Card).

To access this treatment, call 133 254 or 1800 555 254 if you are in a regional area, or email nlhc@dva.gov.au. ■



John Schumann and Shane Howard are two of the most influential singer-songwriters in Australia . As we all know, John is best known for his leadership of Redgum and his Vietnam veterans anthem, "I was only 19". Shane is best known for his leadership of Goanna and his powerful, evocative statement on behalf of indigenous Australia, "Solid Rock".

They have written and recorded a song for the times.

Times Like These.

It can be downloaded from Shane Howard's web-site

<https://www.shanehoward.com.au/times-like-these>



...The tide you say....Oh well its a Navy problem now

FREE PENSIONS & ADVOCACY SERVICE

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

**Belonging
Advocacy
Success**

Membership is due on 1 January each year.

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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Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Issue: July 2017

13

The writing of the new official history of the Agent Orange controversy



Historian Dr Peter Yule

VOLUME 3 of the Official History of the Vietnam War included an account of the Agent Orange controversy.

That account was a shocker. It was both inaccurate and insulting.

It was written by FB Smith and focused on the Agent Orange Royal Commission, falsely claiming that the campaigning veterans were motivated by greed and that they had no valid case to present.

Both claims were ridiculous.

The veterans' submission to the Royal Commission plainly stated that no extra compensation was sought. The veterans simply believed that DVA, in denying any link between exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam and certain cancers, was breaking existing Repatriation law. This was because, whilst there was good scientific evidence for and against the link, Repatriation law demanded war veterans be given the 'benefit-of-the-doubt'.

So it was not greed that motivated Phil Thompson and the other campaigning veterans, just a need to right a glaring injustice plaguing

them and their comrades-in-arms.

FB Smith's claim that the veterans had no case to present avoided the fact that the Royal Commission found that under Repatriation law, soft tissue sarcoma (with its very many varieties) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma could be linked to exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Whether FB Smith's viscous attack on the campaigning veterans and his incorrect claim that the veterans had no case, were due to incompetence or something else is not known.

After the 1994 publication of Volume 3, the Vietnam Veterans Federation campaigned for a new truthful history to be written.

Eventually (after some 20 years) that campaign succeeded.

In 2013, the new Director of the War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, responded to a document we sent him, and invited us to a meeting. In 2014 the Australian War Memorial Council ordered a scoping study. The scoping study criticised FB Smith's account and recommended a new history be written. This was followed by the War Memorial Council

commissioning a new history from Melbourne historian, Dr Peter Yule.

The new history will be titled *Health and Medical Legacies of the Vietnam War* and, as well as a rewriting of the Agent Orange controversy, will look into the vast problem of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other psychological fall-out from Vietnam War trauma.

Dr Yule was given four years to complete the history.

Now, 18 months into the project, Dr Yule and his team have interviewed over 100 randomly selected veterans as well as surveyed a mountain of information, including listening to our case.

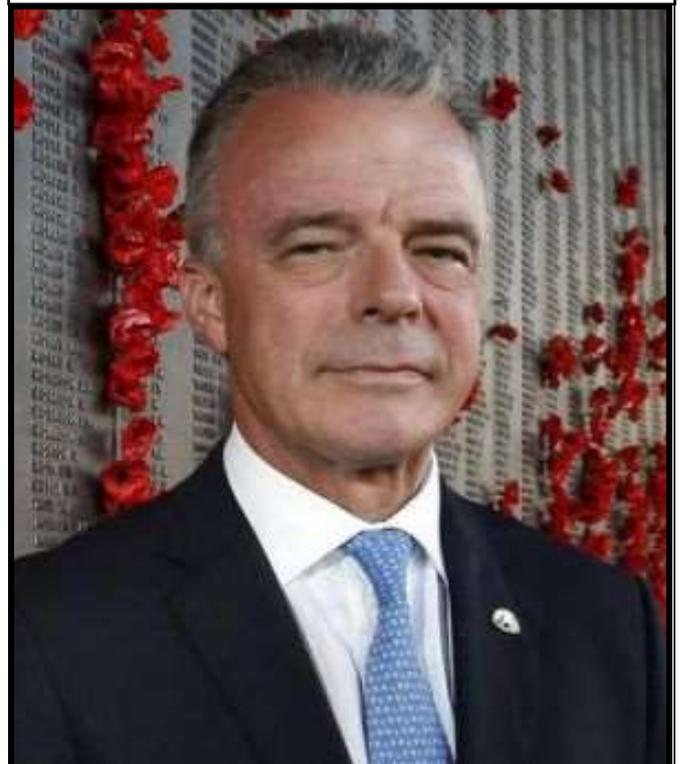
We are grateful to the War Memorial Council and to Dr Brendan Nelson for this opportunity to correct this long-standing blight on the reputation of Phil Thompson and his team of campaigning veterans and the long-standing mis-information on the veterans' case before the Agent Orange Royal Commission. ■



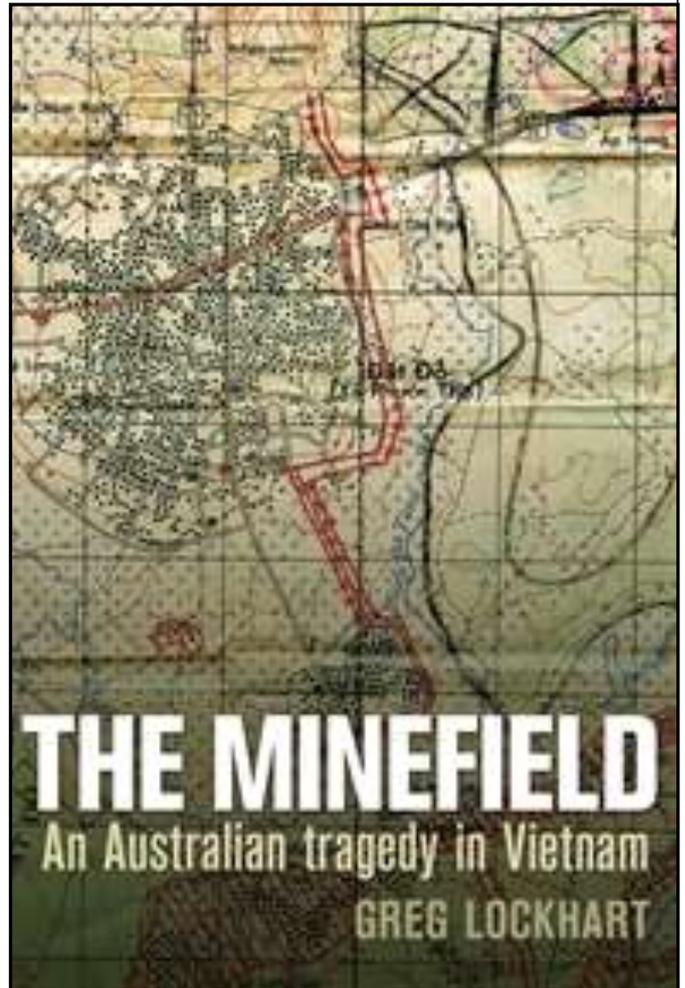
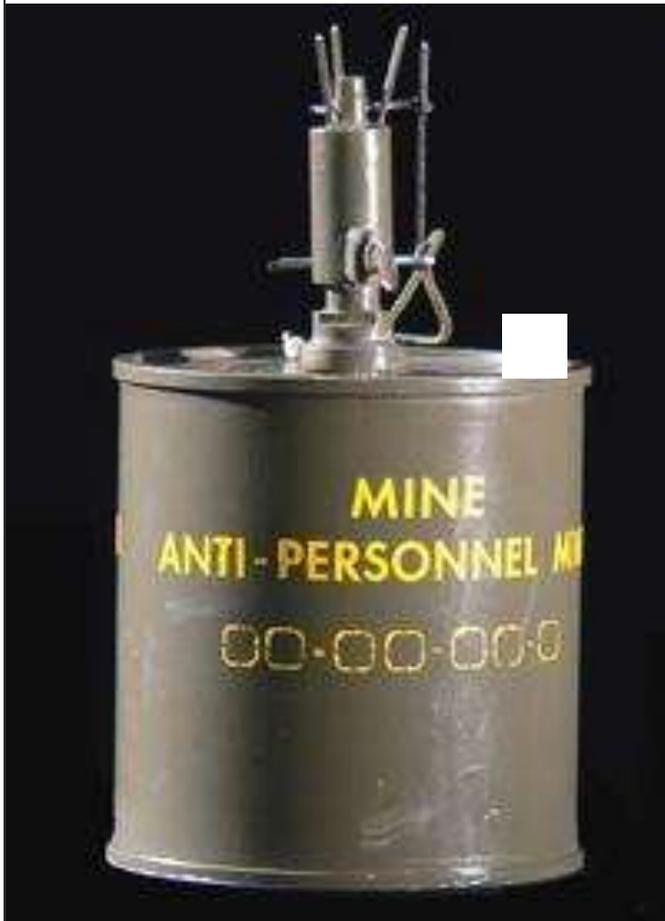
**Rear Admiral Ken Doolan
AO RAN (Ret'd) who was
Chair of the War Memorial
Council that commissioned
the new history.**



**Phil Thompson OAM
Leader of the campaign for
a Royal Commission**



**The Hon Brendan Nelson
AO BMBS FRACP (HON)
FAMA who so adeptly and
enthusiastically made it
possible**



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Weekdays before 5pm thanks.

Email: editor@vfvagranville.org

For comments about the articles please write to:

'The National Secretary'

Email: racyjoyc@gmail.com

WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT

National Aged and Community Care Forum

The following summary is provided courtesy of DVA for distribution to ESO's

Summary of Meeting – 29 March 2017

The National Aged and Community Care Forum met in Canberra on 29 March 2017.

Guest Presentation: Ms Sharon Stuart

Ms Stuart, Branch Manager, Disability and Carer Policy, Department of Social Services addressed the NACCF on the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services.

The main priorities are to support carers in everyday activities such as employment and the workforce; to reach carers earlier and build their capacity to sustain their caring role; supporting carers that are in risk of a crisis; supporting long term social and financial outcomes and provide a carer gateway service that is easy to access via phone, web and/or the interactive services finder.

Transformation Update

Members were updated on the range of transformation projects currently underway in the Department. The new online MyService application which significantly improves the times taken to process claims was highlighted, and members were informed that the on-line form will be expanded to include the other Acts in the future.

Outcome of ESORT Hearing Services Working Group

Members were advised that the Ex Service Organisation Round Table Hearing Services Working Group (HSWG), met three times in 2016 and discussed current funding regarding the benefits of hearing packages offered to entitled persons.

The packages comprise Work Health and Safety fully subsidised hearing aids and assistive listening devices, available through the Rehabilitation Appliances Program, including training and education for the family on managing an individual's specific hearing goals.

Aged Care Update

Members were provided with an update on the implementation of Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC). The STRC Program, implemented from 23 February 2017 delivers a time-limited, goal-oriented, multi-disciplinary two stage package of services for care recipients.

Members were advised that DVA covers the daily care fee component for former Prisoners Of War and Victoria Cross recipients who access STRC.

The next meeting of the NACCF will be held in Canberra on 26 October 2017.

Milton Kirk JP

President VVFAWA Branch

VICTORIA PRESIDENT REPORT

OUR work here in Victoria continues to keep us quite busy and we are still seeing veterans from the various deployments from WW11 through to the younger veterans returning from the Middle East conflicts, Afghanistan in particular. It is for this reason I was somewhat surprised with a suggestion that we, Vietnam Veterans Federation may think of closing down our operations due to volunteer staff getting older.

There is no argument against this fact of us all getting older but we must be available for veterans (and their families) who are seeking assistance in their dealings with DVA or other bureaucracies as there does not seem to be any clear advice to them as to whom they may approach for that assistance. I know from personal experience that it is extremely hard to win their trust and in many cases they are even more reluctant than our original Vietnam veterans to reach out for help. I have made approaches to a number of organisations in an effort to get the younger people to come and learn what we all had to do so they can gradually take over the workload but to date there has been no reaction.

Here in Victoria we only open the office for two days a week due to manning levels and our secretary, Iris Cargill JP, continues to offer help in so many ways to the veterans we see. Apart from basic enquiries we are interviewing, on average, 5 veterans for pension and welfare matters within that 2 days and this makes me wonder what happens to these men & women (and their families) if this facility was not open to them. We run a 24/7 mobile phone for Veterans in need and if this is not answered Iris will always get back to them.

In Victoria there just does not seem to be any worthwhile input from some RSL's and it is a common remark heard that the younger veterans will not go to them for help as there does not seem to be any interest in them and they are made to feel that they must join a sub branch before they can seek the help they need which is totally opposite to what we offer. While we are of course

open to provide membership to any veteran we assist it is made clear that it is definitely not criteria before we provide what assistance we can as it is the veteran and their family that is of utmost importance.

(As an example of the cause of mistrust with some ESO's we are preparing to act on behalf of a veteran who was subjected to very poor comment from a 'welfare officer' on ANZAC Day).

Before the ghost is given up in regard to our future I would ask if there has been any approach on the National level to any of the veteran publications outlining the work we can do and seeking people who might consider making themselves available to help their mates who are in need? It may well be that an approach from the National office will carry more weight and attract greater attention than our attempts at a state level. This may be an answer to the aging problem of our volunteers and circumvent any suggestion that the Federation cease to exist.

Bowder House, the home we run and have run since 2003, is going strong and we need to remind Veterans in need it is there for them. Please call our office if you know of anyone in need of accommodation. Ph 03 4215 2421.

Regards

John Arnold
Victoria State President.





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REDGUM PLATINUM RECORD RETURNS



NSW RSL President (Rtd) John Haines AM (L)
and NSW President Frank Cole

In one of his last acts as NSW RSL President, John Haines AM, returned to *"It's rightful custodians"* (He said), a platinum record of 'Regums' album, *Caught In The Act*, which included our anthem, *I Was Only 19*.

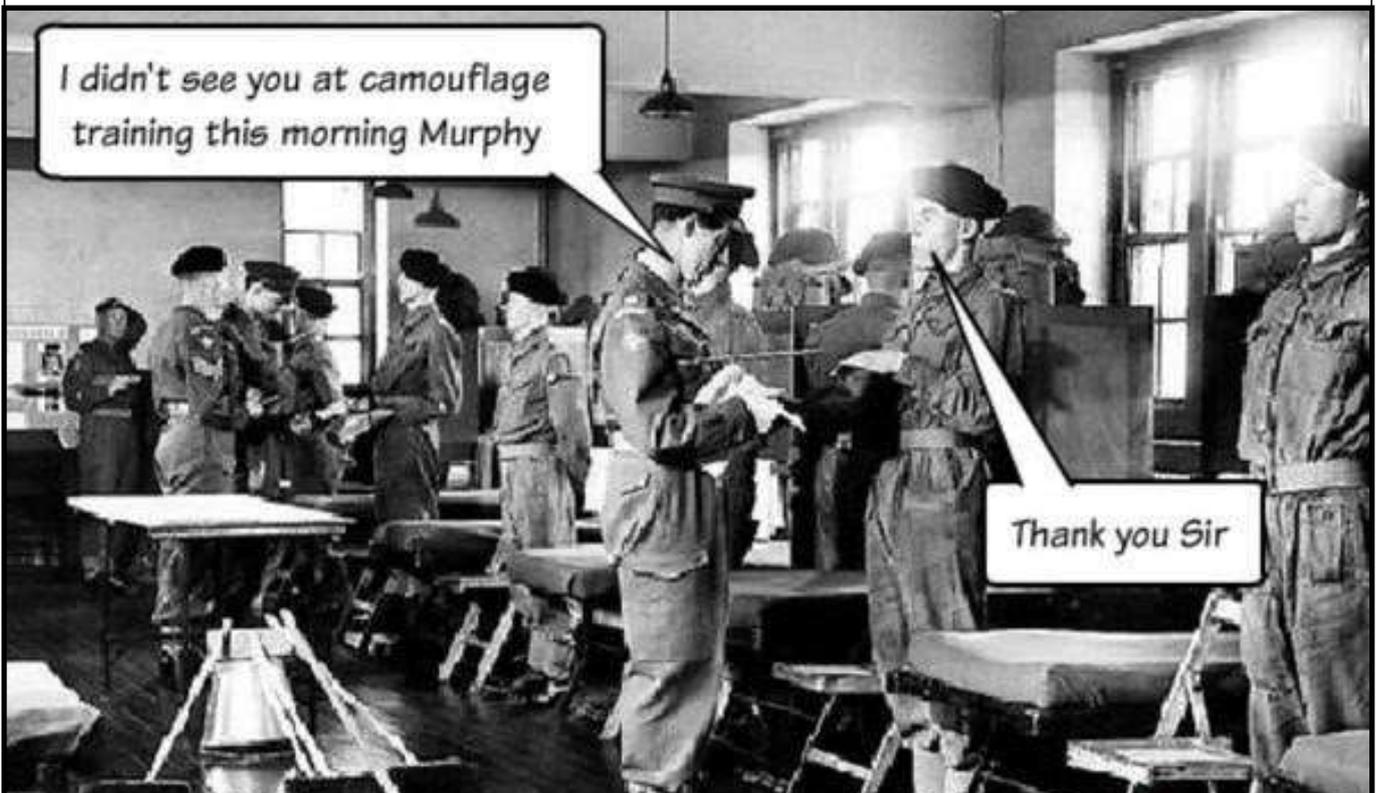
The plaque is inscribed

'Presented to Vietnam Veterans Association by CBS Records Australia for gold record and tape sales of **"Caught in The Act" June 1983**'.

We thank John for his foresight and actions to, initially save this icon, but also it's safe return to us for prosperity.



Some of the crew at Granville receiving the record



CROWEATERS CORNER— THE SA PRESIDENT REPORT

Lots of things have happened since our last note to the National Magazine. Firstly, we have had a grant application approved from the Liberal/National party re Solar Panels for the VVF at Warradale and for Camp Andrew Russell (C.A.R.) at Alawoona. Things are progressing positively, and we hope to finalise the agreement in the next two weeks. By the time this goes to print it will be close to completion.

We have done a lot of work at C.A.R. lately with members spending quite some time working around the camp getting things up to scratch. Our VORG (Veterans Off Road Group) spent Easter there getting things in shape for any visitors wishing to go there.

In early March another of our groups, WACAS (We All Care And Support), organised a caravan trip to Tanunda in the Barossa Valley where some 25 members and their partners enjoyed a convivial week visiting wineries, going on a car information tour (Rally), eating at varied restaurants (Information Sessions), enjoying bus trips to local sights and having a great time. Another of these trips has been planned to visit another part of S.A next year and already the vacancies for this next trip are filling rapidly. Well done to the organisers of the event it was a memorable week.

On 9th March we held an Information Night where we learned about what we should do if our partner passes away. This was very popular with some 70 odd people attending and presentations from eight different organisations. All those attending were fed, informed and went home with all sorts of **information along with some “freebies”**. **The positive comments received from those attending means we will probably have a similar night in the future**

Members of our Gem Vets, Glass Fusion, Lead Lighting, Quilting and Sewing groups continue to provide an interest to our members and partners who wish to learn about or do something a little different.

On the 12th of May we organized a memorial service to remember those who lost their lives at the Battle for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. This year is the 49th anniversary of this battle. In attendance was our Patron His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Mr Hu Van Le, **Federal and State politicians, representatives of the three armed services, representatives of many ESO's, many distinguished guests and VVF members and their partners.**

Continuing on from 2016 when we had students from Sacred Heart College participate in the service, this year we had them back along with the Somerton Sea Scouts. Once again this was a very moving memorial service with anecdotal stories from veterans who were there. Next year, the 50th Anniversary of this Battle, the memorial service will be much larger and more publicised amongst the various media outlets and be held at the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide. The organization of this event is already well under way.

Once again our wonderful; quilting Ladies presented us with a very fine quilt for our monthly BBQ, nicely timed for Mothers Day.

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

Mal Thiele

South Australia State President

PSK FINANCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE

DVA Assets Test changes that came into effect 1 January 2017

Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) pension assets test took effect from 1 January 2017. More than 330,000 DVA and Age Pensioners have had their pension entitlements cut, with at least 100,000 of those affected Australians losing all pension entitlements altogether.

The assets test affects the Service Pension and Income Support Supplement, as well as pensions paid under Social Security law such as the Age Pension. Compensation payments such as the Disability Pension and War Widow(er) Pension are not affected by the assets test.

Let's start with a recap

There were two changes to the DVA pension Assets Test on 1 January 2017:

1. an increase to the Assets Test thresholds (Table 1), and
2. doubling of the taper rate from \$1.50 to \$3 per \$1,000 of assets per fortnight.

Table 1: Assets Test thresholds

Your situation	Pre 1 January 2017 threshold	Post 1 January 2017 threshold
Single, homeowner	\$209,000	\$250,000
Single, non-homeowner	\$360,500	\$450,000
Couple, homeowner	\$296,500	\$375,000
Couple, non-homeowner	\$448,000	\$575,000

The first of the changes relate to the increase in the Assets Test thresholds allowing recipients to hold more assets before their pension starts to reduce under the Assets Test. For some recipients with lower asset levels, this may lead to higher pension entitlements. For others, the Income Test may continue to determine their entitlements.

The second change relates to the increase in the taper rate. This change will reduce DVA Pension entitlements at a much faster rate once assessable assets exceed the new Assets Test thresholds. The largest reduction in pension entitlements will occur at the new Assets Test cut-off thresholds in Table 2.

Table 2: Assets Test cut-off thresholds

Your situation	Pre 1 January 2017 threshold	Post 1 January 2017 threshold
Single, homeowner	\$791,750	\$542,500
Single, non-homeowner	\$943,250	\$742,500
Couple, homeowner	\$1,175,000	\$816,000
Couple, non-homeowner	\$1,326,500	\$1,016,000

Significantly, the upper cut-off thresholds have been considerably reduced, with recipients holding a lower level of assets having their pensions cut-off than under the previous rules.

There may be opportunities to help reduce this impact and some of the options you may want to consider include:

- holding superannuation assets in the name of the spouse who is below DVA pension age
- “gifting” within the allowable limits of \$10,000pa, or \$30,000 over a rolling 5-year period
- purchasing a funeral bond
- capital expenditure such as home improvements
- purchase a lifetime annuity

Planning ahead: Key Superannuation changes effective 1 July 2017

There are sweeping and substantial superannuation changes taking effect from 1 July 2017.

With the new regulations set to become part of Australian superannuation law, some of the rules around super contributions and the tax breaks available will change significantly.

Overview

The majority of the superannuation reforms announced in the 2016 Federal Budget will take effect on 1 July 2017. These reforms have significant implications for many Australians and any actions taken leading up to and beyond this date. There are many decisions and actions you may need to take prior to 30 June 2017 to ensure you take advantage of opportunities and/or to avoid an adverse outcome.

Reduction on non-concessional contributions caps (ie. personal contributions to super)

In the current (2016/17) financial year, non-concessional contributions (NCCs) are capped at \$180,000 or \$540,000 if up to two years' worth of contributions are brought forward.

From 1 July 2017:

- the annual NCC cap will reduce to \$100,000
- the bring forward cap will reduce to \$300,000 or less, depending on the individuals total super balance
- no NCCs can be made by people with a total super balance of \$1.6 million or more, and
- transitional rules will apply if the bring forward rule was triggered in 2015/16 or 2016/17 and the full \$540,000 isn't contributed by 30 June 2017. A window of opportunity exists to make larger NCCs before the caps are reduced from 1 July 2017. This window will be particularly important for individuals who will be unable to make any NCCs after this date, either because they will have more than \$1.6 million in super, or they are turning 65 and won't meet the work test.

This article continues over page



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Continued from previous page.

Reduction on concessional contributions

In 2016/17, concessional contributions (CCs) are capped at \$35,000 pa for individuals aged 49 years of age or older on 30 June 2016 and \$30,000 pa for younger individuals. From 1 July 2017, the CC cap will reduce to \$25,000 pa for all people who are eligible to contribute to super. Where cashflow allows, people may want to take advantage of the higher CC cap that applies until 30 June 2017.

Transition to retirement (TTR) pensions

From 1 July 2017, the tax paid on earnings from investments held in TTR pensions will increase from 0% to a maximum of 15%, regardless of the pension start date.

Despite this change, TTR pensions may still be attractive where used for their intended purpose, which is to help people approaching retirement to maintain their lifestyle when cutting back their working hours.

However, in the vast majority of cases, TTR pensions have been commenced to help people build a larger retirement nest egg without scaling back their work.

This has generally been achieved by using the income payments from the TTR pension to fund additional salary sacrifice or personal deductible contributions.

\$1.6 million transfer balance cap

The total amount of super monies that can be transferred to pension phase will be capped at \$1.6 million. The cap will be indexed in \$100,000 increments in line with CPI.

People who will exceed the transfer balance cap on 1 July 2017 will need to reduce their total pension interests below \$1.6 million prior to this date. , otherwise they may be required to pay excess transfer balance tax.

Some strategies that could be used when reducing pension interests include:

- commuting and rolling over the excess amount to the accumulation phase, where earnings on investments will be taxed at a

maximum rate of 15%, not 0%

- commuting and cashing out the excess amount and investing outside super, where **earnings would be taxed at the individual's marginal rate**, or
- commuting and cashing out the excess amount and arranging for the spouse to contribute the proceeds into their super account as an NCC.

The legislation allows CGT relief when assets are moved out of pension phase to satisfy the transfer balance cap requirements.

The purpose is to provide tax relief for super funds from capital gains accumulated before 1 July 2017, where the gains would have been exempt if realised in pension phase prior to this date.

Commutations must be made before 1 July 2017 to obtain the relief. Commutations and other **adjustments made from this date won't qualify** for the concessions.

If the pension is run through a Self-Managed Super Fund or a small APRA fund, you may need specific tax advice to determine which assets should be reallocated, based on the type of accounting method being used by the fund.

Abolition of Anti-Detriment payments

Anti-detriment payments were introduced by the Government after the 15% super contributions tax was implemented in 1988, as a way to refund the contributions tax paid by deceased members, so that the contributions tax wasn't seen as a 'death duty'.

An anti-detriment payment is an additional payment made to certain beneficiaries of a deceased superannuation member, as part of the death benefit claim. This payment broadly represents a refund of the 15% contributions tax paid by the deceased member throughout their life, and goes a long way towards off-setting the death benefits tax payable by certain beneficiaries.

Largely missed by many financial commentators, from 1 July 2017 the anti-detriment payment will be abolished, significantly reducing the death benefit received by many superannuation death

benefit beneficiaries.

Importantly, there certain strategies that may be implemented to ensure beneficiaries receive the maximum level of benefit they are entitled to.

Conclusion

The rules surrounding DVA entitlements, superannuation and financial planning in general are very complex and require a measured assessment of your situation to ensure you make good financial decisions.

Now more than ever it's imperative that you undertake a review of your circumstances to ensure you are maximizing opportunities and to protect yourself from any adverse consequences that these recent changes impose.

Who are PSK Financial Services?

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At PSK Financial Services, we offer a wide range of services which focus on every client's unique goals and needs. Our personalised strategies put you in control of your financial future.

We have a long-standing affiliation with the Vietnam Veterans Federation and are proud to offer you (along with any family or friends) a complimentary assessment of your situation.

To find out more, or if you have any questions please contact me on 0414 811 777, (02) 9895 8800 or paulm@psk.com.au

This article contains information that is general in nature. It does not take into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular person. You need to consider your financial situation and needs before making any decisions based on this information. ■

NSW Secretary Report

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:

\$1,000	Anonymous Amelia Jenkins
\$500	Anonymous R Bateup
\$250	Michael O'Halloran Neill Croker
\$200	Greg Porter D Maddox Elton Robinson

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

Ron O'Connor
Hon. Secretary
NSW Branch

ACT PRESIDENT REPORT

Critical Shortage – Please Help

THE constant demand for Advocacy services from the hard-working Veteran Support Centre (VSC), Belconnen Practitioners continues at the normal busy pace and all Advocates are working at maximum. Unfortunately, a member who has been mentored with the view of assisting the veteran community, has succumbed to personal pressures, and I was advised recently that he is forced to withdraw from all duties at the VSC. On a brighter note, there are still two members in the training pipeline and hopefully they will continue their training to conclusion.

Given that clients are now being forced to wait extended periods prior to seeing an Advocate we are in critical need of reinforcements in the Advocate ranks. If any member is inclined to help their mates, now is the time to put your hand up and step forward.

The following brief story clearly indicates the dearth of Advocacy services in the field: **“On 26 April 2017, I flew to RAAF Tindal as the guest of honour at the No 75 Squadron, 75th Anniversary celebrations. Although a private trip, as an ex-fighter pilot I really enjoyed being back on an operational base sniffing fumes from F/A 18 aircraft and telling stories from “the old days”!!.**

As a consequence of the trip to RAAF Tindal, I have been asked to return to the base in August, and over a 4-day period conduct 6 client interviews per day, to assist RAAF members with DVA claims assistance. Depending on the success of the venture, VSC Advocacy services may become a regular thing in RAAF Tindal to satisfy serving member requirements.

To be honest, if the visit to Tindal does eventuate, the additional clients gained by the VSC will be difficult to cope with given our current workload and existing Advocate numbers.

Membership Report

At the end of May, there were 497 paid-up members of the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation ACT. Membership for this year is

sound and compares favourably with the same period last year. We are on track to meet our annual membership of near 600 affiliates.

ANZAC Day 2017

The Federation Vietnam Veteran community was well represented at the ANZAC Day march this year, despite the tumbling rain and blowing wind. Following the drenching at the War Memorial service I wonder how many of us retired home hurt, for a change of clothing prior to kicking on with regular ANZAC Day activities?

Final Training Information Program (TIP) Course Training

I was involved with the conduct of the last TIP National training course to be run in Australia during the period 17 to 19 May 2017 (inclusive). Eleven practitioners from the ACT region, Moruya and Port Macquarie attended this historic event in Canberra that saw the passing of an era. After 23 years of very successful and productive operation, TIP no longer exists and all future Advocate training will be conducted by Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) accredited facilitators and assessors.

18 August, Vietnam Veterans Day Planning

The Vietnam Veterans Federation (ACT Branch) has jointly conducted the Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance ceremony in the ACT, in association with the Vietnam Veterans Association (ACT) Branch, since 2007. This shared arrangement has entailed jointly organizing, conducting and of course, funding the ceremony by the local Vietnam Veteran community.

The ACT Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association recently announced, that due to age of members and lack of interest displayed to maintain the Association, the VVA is no longer able to represent the interest of members at various veteran forums, and is effectively defunct. As a result of the winding down of the Association, in future, all of the costs associated with arranging this important Remembrance

ceremony, will be borne by the ACT Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Federation alone. Planning activities for the 18 August ceremony are in hand and initial requests for assistance have been made to the National Capital Planning Group and the ADF Ceremonial Section.

Bus Trips

Good use has been made of DVA monies provided as a Grant to the VSC. Several very successful and well-attended bus trips have been conducted over this period. No doubt the highlight of the "Bus Season" is the visit to one of our members property and the shenanigans that mature-age veterans and their partners seem to get up to once they enter the gate of the estate is quite amazing. I am advised that fine food, drinks and camaraderie invariably light the competitive flame in otherwise sedentary people and the competition in the various events is fierce. Well done to everyone involved in the organisation and conduct of this most enjoyable day.

We in the ACT are settling in for the winter season and the morning temperatures are regularly dropping to below freezing. Notwithstanding the sometimes frigid weather conditions, if any readers visit Canberra, you are always welcome to join us at the regular Tuesday BBQ and experience the warmth our members will offer you.

Warm regards
 Ian Thompson
 President/Advocate
ACT Branch ■



No-one Knew

by Ray Fulton (of fond memory)

Big wide grin quick with joke.
 Always smiling, a funny bloke.
 Anyone that knew him was his friend.
 No one knew why it had to end.

Light coloured hair, smiling face.
 Looked at life with an easy grace.
 One that kept all his tears
 To himself for all those years.

Thought his dreams would never
 come true.

Laughed at it—deep inside he knew,
 No matter how hard he looked all
he'd find

What was in front was what was
 behind.

*Gone upstairs, that's for sure.
 Wouldn't let him in any other door.*

Had his reasons, knew what was
 right.
 Never really gave up the fight.

Although he's not he's always here.

Can see him now so very near,
 Smiling face always on that lad.
 No-one knew the thoughts he must
 have had.

Compensation versus Rehabilitation?

SEVERAL years ago, a senior officer of DVA was publicly touting the idea that ‘compensation causes illness’.

As his evidence, he pointed to a New Zealand study that focused on ‘bad backs’; a disability notorious for dodgy claims in the civilian community but not so for Australian veterans.

To make his contention even less credible, the study was done by the occupant of a university chair paid for by the *NZ Accident Rehabilitation and Compensation Insurance Corporation*, the body that pays out compensation; a clear case of conflict of interest.

Our 30 odd years’ experience dealing with a couple of thousand veterans each year was that nearly all had fronted up for help with compensation claims as a very last resort after savagely ‘hitting the wall’. Indeed, even after that, it was often the wives dragging them ‘by there earlobe’ that got them to a pension officer. We estimated that most of them should have applied years earlier.

Of course, there will always be those wanting to ‘scam the system’ but, in our experience, these have been very few.

When the MRCA was being put together, rehabilitation was the focus. And for the Repatriation Commission/DVA ‘rehabilitation’ meant only one thing; getting a paying job.

Of course, the best result is a veteran getting back into the workforce promoting self-worth and a social group.



But we argued then and we argue now that there are and will always be many war veterans who clearly will never be able to hold down full-time jobs because of the effect of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other war-trauma caused psychological illnesses. For them, we argued and argue still, compensation is the first requirement of a successful rehabilitation, a rehabilitation not into paid work but into some sort of satisfactory social interaction. ■



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

Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc.

2017

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

[1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER]

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STREET ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN	STATE	POST CODE
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EMAIL ADDRESS [PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY]

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

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

CREDIT CARD DETAILS (Mastercard or VISA only)

CARD HOLDER NAME (PRINT)	CREDIT CARD NUMBER
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EXPIRY DATE	TRANSACTION AMOUNT	SIGNATURE
(Mnth/Yr) ___/___	\$	<input type="text"/>

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COMPLETED & ISSUED BY (PRINT):	BANK SHEET ENTRY BY (PRINT):



BankstownSports

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ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) Inc.

in conjunction with

BANKSTOWN DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB

Invite you to attend

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

FRIDAY, 18 AUGUST 2017

**COMMEMORATING THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF LONG TAN.**

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 at special rates for those attending the function. 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 THE SPECIAL RATES.

Book a room and pay by 31 July you pay only \$149 plus \$21 for breakfast. (Non refundable)

Book after 31 July and room rate is \$179 plus \$21 for breakfast

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 to secretay@vfagranville.org*



*Vietnam Veterans, Peacemakers & Peacemakers
Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc
& Bankstown Sports Club,
Present*



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2017
FRIDAY 18 AUGUST

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.

1030hrs Memorial Service with Chaplain Shane Mount
& Guest Speaker Dr Daryl Chamberlain (Maj rtd).
(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
Featuring Australia's golden boy of rock ROLAND STORM and band

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.**
Lucky Door draw with chance to win 1 of unique selection of 14 commemorative ports.

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.
Raffle prizes will be on display, and tickets will be sold throughout the day, with the draw to take place immediately following the entertainment. Please find a seller and make your purchases frequently.



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

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

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Cut out and send completed form, make cheques etc., payable to VVPPAA (NSW Branch) Inc., PO Box 170 Granville NSW 2142.

MERCHANDISE

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



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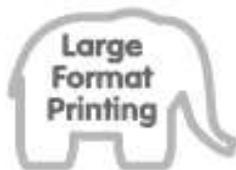
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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

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

Each Scholarship provides for funding of \$3,000 per year for three years, provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements and also the availability of funds.

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

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

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

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

Virtually all the recipients of the Associations Scholarships since its inception have done very well in their chosen vocations. The following are progress reports/results/achievements of the Association’s Scholarship recipients for: Jeremy Nyman (2014) and Liam Dwyer (2015).

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

Jeremy who lives in Kew, Victoria, was granted the “Phil Thompson” Scholarship in 2014 as a grandchild of a Vietnam Veteran (Chaplin). He completed his studies at the end of 2016 and achieved the following final year marks:

Semester 1 (2016): **2 “High Distinctions”, 2 “Distinctions”**

Semester 2 (2016): **3 “High Distinctions”**

In an Email sent to AVCAT in February 2017, Jeremy made the following comments:

“Please make it known to VVPPAA that their contribution to my study has made everything so much more stress free and helped me achieve my high marks, especially the last few months with the wedding and everything going on as well as finishing study”

Well done Jeremy, we wish him well and every success for the future.

Liam Dwyer – 3rd Year of Bachelor of Engineering, University of Queensland.

Liam who lives in Wellington Point, Queensland, was granted the “Tim McCombe OAM” Scholarship in 2015, as a grandchild of a Vietnam Veteran. His grandfather served in the Australian Army with 3 CAV Regt (1969-1971). His achievements during 2016 were:

Semester 1 (2016): 2 “**Passes**”, 1 “**Fail**”

Semester 2 (2016): 2 “**Credits**”, 1 “**Pass**”

Liam has written the following letter addressed to AVCAT and the Donor of the Scholarship:

“I would like to start by thanking everyone involved in this Scholarship for their ongoing support in 2016. It was truly a trying year in which I learnt the value of hard work and strong relationships with both family and friends. Your donations have been invaluable, enabling me to achieve my desired results. While subsidising my part-time income and ensuring study remained my primary focus.

As you may already know, my first semester was quite interesting, resulting in myself failing a single subject, something I have never done before. But with my hard work and diligence during the second semester I was able to achieve two credits and a pass from three subjects taken.

Coming into 2017 I have set some personal goals, to not only achieve better academic results but **remain more focused and potentially set myself up for the future.** I’d like to thank you again for your ongoing support without which life could have been a lot more stressful” - Yours sincerely, Liam Dwyer

Liam will be continuing with his studies during 2017, we wish him ever success for the year.

The following are the details of the new recipient of the Association’s “Phil Thompson OAM, Scholarship”, in place of Jeremy Nyman:

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

Ryan who lives in Cranebrook NSW, is the grandchild of an Australian Army Vietnam Veteran who served in Vietnam between March 1966 and 1967.

We congratulate him on being granted the Scholarship and wish him every success during the course of his studies. Ryan has written a “thank you” letter which will be printed in the next issue of the Journal together with his academic achievement for 2017.

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

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



New recipient Ryan Balkin with Bill Roberts OAM

SEE AVCAT INFO ON PAGE 50

LUCKY WINNERS
NSW 2017 MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
GIFT VOUCHER DRAW

Congratulations to the following members whose names were randomly selected from all who had renewed their 2017 NSW Branch Memberships by 31st January 2017. Each winner has now received a \$100.00 Bunnings Gift Voucher.

Rodney John O'Neill

Kelvin Stanley Seton

Mervyn James Wood

Special thanks to all our members who have renewed for your ongoing support of the Association in its work to assist our serving and ex service personnel and their families in need.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The best way to prevent suicide is to recognise warning signs and know how to respond if you spot them. If you believe that a friend or family member is suicidal, you can play a role in suicide prevention by pointing out the alternatives, showing that you care, and getting involved.

Signs are many but most include words of warning telling people that they will kill themselves, purchasing or possessing weapons or drugs, withdrawal from family and friends.

What you can do is:

Be yourself and talk calmly. Listen and let them talk. Be sympathetic not judgemental. Offer hope, but above all, take them seriously.

For more immediate advice or assistance, contact
LIFELINE AUSTRALIA 13 11 14

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED NOW

Now is the period when your Branch, Sub-Branch and local veteran community need assistance.

It is this time of the year, when DVA funded BEST Grants, from the previous round, are being depleted and the next funding may not be available for 2 months.

The best way you can help is to make that donation now.

And remember, your donation is tax deductible.

All donations go directly toward the administration of a veterans claim for a disability.

Please help us and give generously.

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*, who will organise assistance.

See page 51 for details.

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SPECIAL FEATURE— SERIALISED HISTORY PART 3

CONTINUING THIS ISSUE WE BRING AN EXPOSE INTO ONE OF THE MOST DEVISIVE PERIODS IN AUSTRALIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY...

THE VIETNAM WAR — AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE

Compiled from records, official reports, and historical accounts by Bob Freshfield.

THE RAN IN VIETNAM

Ships of the *Royal Australian Navy*, (RAN), were stationed on continuous operational service in *Vietnam* between 1965 – 1972, with a total of 18 ships serving during the war. Although *HMA Ships Vampire and Quickmatch* made goodwill visits to *Saigon* in 1962, and likewise *HMA Ships Quiberon and Queenborough* during 1963, it was not until 1965 that the RAN deployed ships operationally into *Vietnam* waters.

The RAN played a variety of roles during the Vietnam War with naval vessels ferrying troops and heavy equipment between Australian ports and the Army logistics base at Vung Tau. The Navy also served on the ‘gunline’ where they provided naval gunfire against ground targets in support of *Australian and United States* troops. *RAN Clearance Divers* carried out operations to dispose of unexploded ordnance and keep shipping safe from enemy mines and attacks by enemy frogmen.

Naval personnel also served in an airborne role, the *RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam*, attached to the *United States Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company*, flew combat operations and a detachment of naval aviators also served with the *RAAF’s No. 9 Squadron*. Other RAN personnel served ashore in *South Vietnam* in medical teams, at the *Australian Embassy in Saigon*, or as advisors at *1ATF Nui Dat*.

During the *Vietnam War* the task of moving, supplying and maintaining Australian forces in *South Vietnam* was shared between the *RAAF*, civilian aircraft – mainly *Qantas* – and ships from the *Australian National Line* (ANL). With the refusal of civilian merchant navy to support the troops in *Vietnam* in the form of protest, the Navy commissioned 2 ships, renaming them from designated *MV Vessels* to *HMAS Boonaroo* – 1



voyage as an *ANL MV* in 1966 then under the white ensign in 1967- and the *HMAS Jeparit*. The *Jeparit* went on to make over 40 trips carrying *Centurion* tanks and other heavy equipment to and from *Vietnam*.

However the bulk of the task fell to the RAN and the vessel that carried out the majority of transport duties to and from *Vietnam* was the former aircraft carrier, now a converted troop carrier, *HMAS Sydney*, affectionately known as *The Vung Tau Ferry*.

HMAS Sydney’s first voyage to *South Vietnam*, began on 27 May 1965 and she was escorted by *HMA Ships Melbourne, Duchess and Parramatta*. For *HMAS Sydney’s* crew, the trip meant the chance to both establish routines for a logistic task, and to gain an understanding of the risks facing their ship in hostile waters. In the years to come, the run to *Vung Tau* and back became an increasingly speedy and smoother operation.

HMAS Sydney made 25 round voyages from

Australia to South Vietnam between 1965 and 1972, each trip taking between 10 and 12 days, carrying more than 16,000 Army and RAAF personnel, almost 6,000 tons of cargo and 2,375 vehicles, during the 8 year period.

For those on the return voyage after their twelve-month *tour of duty*, the passage to Australia offered a chance to relax, to reflect on their experiences and to prepare themselves for the transition from war to peace. Such a period of reflection was denied to those soldiers who returned home by aircraft, leaving Vietnam and being home within 10 hours.

Although many Vietnam veterans recall being ignored upon their return to Australia. This was not the case for those who returned with their battalions on board HMAS Sydney. When the ship docked, the infantry were often met by dignitaries, including the Minister for the Army, and a march through the city - Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide or Townsville - usually followed within hours.

RAN ships were called on for escort duties during the Vietnam war and ran the gauntlet through hostile waters for both Australian and US Ships bringing troops and supplies to Vietnam. These included the HMA Ships Anzac, Derwent, Duchess, Parramatta, Stuart, Swan, Torrens, Vampire and Yarra, along with the Aircraft Carrier HMAS Melbourne.

Australia's largest naval commitment to the Vietnam War was the provision of destroyers, on 6 month rotation, to serve on the 'gunline' – delivering naval gunfire support for ground forces – with the US 7th Fleet. HMA Ships Hobart, Perth and Brisbane all served on multiple six-monthly rotations between 1967 and 1971. The Daring Class destroyer, HMAS Vendetta served one tour of duty on the

gunline during 1969. RAN utilised the American 7th Fleet Naval Base of Subic Bay in the Philippines for re-supply, repairs, maintenance and R&R leave.

HMA Ships Hobart and Perth were also involved in Sea Dragon Operations along the North Vietnamese coast between 1966 and 1968. Ships serving on 'Sea Dragon' interdicted enemy attempts at seaborne infiltration and resupply along the North Vietnamese coast from the Demilitarised Zone to the Red River delta near Hanoi and often came under heavy and accurate fire from shore-based batteries. For the ships of the RAN serving in the waters off Vietnam, these operations were amongst the most dangerous of the war.

The first destroyer deployed in March 1967 was HMAS Hobart and was immediately assigned to 'Gunline' duties with US Ships 7th Fleet. She fired off 100 5 inch rounds on the first day. Swapping duties between Operation Sea Dragon, escorts, and on the 'Gunline', problems with the guns and ammunition saw her return to Subic Bay for self-repairs several times during the first 6 month 'tour'.

The destroyer was fired on by shore batteries several times, and on one occasion took minor shrapnel damage. Several explosions in 5-inch/54 gun mounts during April saw all similarly equipped destroyers (including Hobart) reassigned to other duties while investigations into the cause (believed to be a bad batch of ammunition) were explored. It is well to remember that this problem was not confined to Australian ships and affected US Ships as well.

In July, Hobart was double tasked to the USS Forrestal escort group and Sea Dragon operations; three destroyers were required to escort the carrier at any time, with any additional ships operating on Sea Dragon duties. On 29 July, a fire aboard the carrier necessitated her removal from the operational area; Hobart was one of the ships assigned to escort and assist with casualties.

The remainder of her tour saw little action apart from an in-close amphibious interjection by US Marines during the 'Beacon Hill' landings close to Gio Linh. HMAS Perth arrived in September 1967 and the Hobart sailed for home.

Hobart returned in March 1968 for her second deployment and in June tragedy struck when Hobart came under attack from what the commander had identified as 'friendly' aircraft. In the meantime whilst HMAS Hobart had been



trying to establish its identity, the aircraft launched a missile which hit the 'Hobart' amidships on the starboard side, behind a boat davit. The warhead passed through 01 Deck and penetrated several areas amidships until it finished up in the forward funnel. In its passage it killed one sailor and wounded two others.

'Hobart's' crew clambered to Action Stations, and 3 and a half minutes later another two missiles fired from close range slammed into her. Again, on the starboard side. The 2nd missile entered just below 1 Deck, but luckily the warhead did not explode. The 80 Man Aft Seamen's Mess wore a large part of this missile. The 3rd missile hit her very near the site of the first and the warhead passed through to the No 2 Missile Director. One more sailor was killed and several wounded by part of the missile warhead.

The *Hobart* fired off 5 rounds of 5 inch shells and the aircraft did not attack again. It was only after she pulled out of the action and headed for Subic Bay that 'Hobart's' crew cleared away the damage and recovered parts of the missiles, that it was found to have come from the USAF. Oddly, it was discovered later that *HMAS Hobart* was one of several ships attacked by 'friendly' aircraft between the 15th and 17th June 1968. However, by the end of July, after repairs and a re-fit, The *Hobart* was back on duty on the gun line.

Pic crtsy D. Hanmer OAM – Shows Dennis as a young 18 year old aside one of the holes left by one of the missiles.



Hobart returned to Vietnam for her third tour on 28 March 1970, taking over from the Daring class destroyer *HMAS Vendetta*. After working up, the destroyer relieved a US Ship from gunline duties. The ship moved north to near the Demilitarized Zone. At the end of April, the ship sailed to Subic for maintenance. After this was completed, *Hobart* returned to gunline duties and remained on station until 24 May, when the destroyer sailed to Singapore for maintenance. Between June and September 1970 *Hobart* resumed gunline operations, only breaking off for a gun rebarreling and maintenance in *Singapore* and a Naval Exercise off *Bangkok* during August. *Hobart* was called to relieve *USS Lloyd Thomas* on the gunline after an explosion in one of the American destroyer's gun mounts. On 22 September, *Hobart* sailed to *Subic*. The destroyer was relieved by *HMAS Perth* on 26 September. Two personnel were *Mentioned In Despatches*, and 23 *Naval Board commendations* were issued for the deployment. *HMAS Hobart* received the battle honour "Vietnam 1967–70" for her wartime services.

HMAS Perth steamed over 149,000 miles on active service in the Vietnam War, fired some 30,711 five-inch rounds and came under fire on five occasions. She was awarded the United States Navy Unit Commendation after her first deployment, and the United States Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation after her second deployment.

The destroyer's first assignment was the gunline off the II Corps operating area, In September 1967, where the *Perth* was specifically tasked with providing gunfire support for the *1st Cavalry Division* of the *United States Army*. Three days later, *Perth* was reassigned to the northern part of South Vietnam, in response to increased *North Vietnamese* activity.

On 2 October, both turrets broke down; both were repaired, but the aft turret failed again the next evening, with the new problem beyond repair until replacement parts were air-dropped. She was redeployed to *Sea Dragon* operations on 16 October, and on the morning of 18 October, the destroyer was fired on by coastal artillery while investigating a group of fishing junks; *Perth* was hit once, with the shell deflecting off the aft gun turret and penetrating the superstructure to start a

fire. The gun turret captain was later awarded a *Distinguished Service Medal* for his actions in response to the attack, while the officer of the watch was *mentioned in despatches* for courage and calmness under fire. Six days later the Perth and a US Ship fired on six small enemy supply craft, sinking five.

In February, with the destroyer returning to the Sea Dragon force, the commanding officer of *Perth* was appointed overall commander of both the northern and southern task units; the northern unit was normally led by the commander of the assigned cruiser, but the US Ship was in dock for maintenance. On 23 March, *Perth* withdrew to *Subic* to conclude her tour of duty, and was replaced later that month by the *Hobart*.

HMAS Perth was awarded the *United States Navy Unit Commendation* for her service during the deployment. In addition to the two personnel awards for actions in response to the 18 October hit, *Perth's* commanding officer was *Mentioned in Despatches*, and 22 personnel received *Naval Board commendations*.



On 19 September 1968, *Perth* departed from Sydney to replace *Hobart* in the Vietnam warzone. En route, a training exercise with RAAF aircraft revealed that one of the radars and both *identification-friend-or-foe* units had defects, which were repaired in *Subic*.

Perth relieved her sister ship on 29 September, and after exercising with the Seventh Fleet, deployed to the gunline on 5 October. Four days later, the destroyer sailed north to relieve *USS Berkeley* as leader of the northern Sea Dragon unit, as that destroyer was experiencing

faults with her gun turrets and targeting computer. The next day, *Perth* and *USS Furse* were joined by the battleship *USS New Jersey*, with the battleship taking command of the unit and the Australian destroyer was reassigned back to the southern force. On 21 October, a day after rejoining the northern Sea Dragon unit, the destroyer observed the return of 14 North Vietnamese prisoners-of-war.

Two days later, a failure of the counter-recoil mechanism in the forward turret forced *Perth* to withdraw from *Sea Dragon* and sail south to less-demanding gunline duties off *Danang*. She remained on station until November 1968, when *Operation Sea Dragon* was cancelled completely. The ship was assigned to the II Corps area on 12 November, providing gunfire support for a battalion of the Korean *26th Regiment*, then later relocated south to the IV Corps area to provide similar services for the South Vietnamese *7th* and *9th Divisions*.

Perth returned to the gunline off *Danang* on 12 December, sailed back to the IV Corps area four days later, then effectively turned around on arrival as the ship was ordered to sail to the II Corps area and provide gunfire support for *Operation McLain*, firing 511 rounds in one day. On 19 December, *Perth* sailed back to IV Corps, where, apart from a brief deployment to Taiwan at the start of 1969, she remained until 20 January.

Perth was assigned to the destroyer screen of the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* for ten days, sailed to *Subic* for maintenance on 7 February, then returned to naval gunfire support duties on 22 February. From 25 to 28 February, the ship operated in support of *Operation Victory Dragon VIII*, and fired 690 shells at a variety of targets. *Perth* continued on fire support operations until 16 March, when she completed her second deployment.

Perth was awarded the United States Navy *Meritorious Unit Commendation* for the second deployment. An appointment as a *Commander of the Order of the British Empire*, two *Mentioned in Despatches*, and 25 *Naval Board commendations* recognised the achievements of individual personnel during the tour of duty.

Perth's third and final tour of duty in *Vietnamese* waters began on the ship's arrival in *Subic* on 26 September 1970. After

relieving *Hobart* and completing work-up trials, the destroyer arrived off *Danang* on 3 October and took up gunline duties in *Military Region 1*. On 23 October, the ship supported a *United States Navy SEALs team*. On 26 October, *Perth* sailed to *Subic* for maintenance and rebarrelling, and returned to gunline operations on 4 November. On 14 November, both gun turrets became unusable, although the aft turret was restored later that day. Two days later, the ship sailed south to *Military Region 3*. On 2 December, the destroyer moved further south to *Military Region 4*.

After a brief break away for personnel shore leave, the *Australian* warship returned to duties in January with a five-day stint at *Yankee Station*, escorting the carrier *USS Hancock* during *Rolling Thunder* operations. *Perth* was then assigned to the gunline at *Military Region 4*. The forward gun turret became unusable again during the latter part of January, and the destroyer sailed to *Bangkok* for repairs, then *Subic* for maintenance and repairs.

The ship returned to service in February, operating across *Military Regions 2 and 3*. There was minimal activity when operating off *Military Region 3*, as the presence of a gunfire support vessel was unexpected, thus no pre-planned fire missions had been made. *Perth* left the gunline for the final time in March, and was attached to the escort group of *USS Ranger*. Five days later, she sailed to *Hong Kong*, then *Subic*, to conclude her Vietnam deployment. The destroyer was relieved by *HMAS Brisbane* on 29 March 1971.

Personnel awards for the deployment included one appointment as a *Member of the Order of the British Empire*, two instances of *Mentioned in Despatches*, and 26 *Naval Board commendations*.

HMAS Brisbane arrived in *Vung Tau*, South Vietnam, on 15 April 1969 for her first deployment in *Vietnam* and conducted her first *Naval Gunfire Support (NGS)* mission that evening. Apart from a brief period to repair and replace a damaged gun barrel, after a premature explosion, the '*Brisbane*' remained on the gunline until relieved by the *Daring Class* destroyer *HMAS Vendetta* in September 1969.

Brisbane returned to Sydney on 13 October where she began preparations for refit during which she was fitted with the *Ikara anti-submarine guided missile system*. After sea trials and exercises during 1970, she returned to *Vietnam* and the gunline in March 1971.

This proved to be the RAN's last gunline deployment. She arrived in *Subic Bay*, via *Manus Island*, on 28 March and arrived in the AO on 5 April. Her first period on the gunline was comparatively quiet conducting multiple NGS missions in the regions known as *Military Regions 3 and 4*, south of *Phan Thiet*.

HMAS Brisbane relieved *USS Floyd B. Parks* as the commander of TU 70.8.9, marking the first time an RAN officer held the position of Gunline Commander. She operated just south of the *Demilitarized Zone* until joining the destroyer screen for the aircraft carrier, *USS Kitty Hawk*, on 31 May. She departed the AO on 12 June for *Hong Kong* where her stay was interrupted by *Typhoon Freda*. She returned to the gunline on 24 June once again operating in *Military Regions 3 and 4*, and visited *Subic Bay* and *Hong Kong* before returning to the gunline for her final stint in *Vietnamese waters* on 15 August. This period was spent near the *Demilitarized Zone* where there was a marked increase in enemy activity and a commensurate increase in NGS missions.

Over the course of her two deployments to *Vietnam*, *Brisbane* had steamed nearly 70,000nm



and fired some 16,000 rounds of 5-inch ammunition. The ship earned high praise from the *Commander of the US Navy's 7th Fleet* who said that the ship's crew had attained 'a most enviable reputation for extreme dedication and true professionalism, which was in keeping with the fine tradition established by a long series of predecessors'. Her performance during the year was recognised with the awarding of the *Duke of Gloucester's Cup* for 1971.

In 1968, it was realised that the combination of maintenance requirements and other operational deployments meant that none of the RAN's three US-built Perth class destroyers would be available to serve in the Vietnam War once HMAS Brisbane completed her deployment in late 1969. They started investigating the possibility of deploying a Daring class destroyer, with the main concern being the supply of 4.5-inch (110 mm) shells, as the USN destroyers were standardised to 5-inch (130 mm) shells. After receiving reassurance from the USN, HMAS Vendetta was marked for the deployment in November 1968, as she was the only available Daring or River class vessel available. The decision to send Vendetta meant that the consistent deployment of an Australian warship with the United States Seventh Fleet since March 1967 would continue, and steps towards breaking a 'two-tier' culture within the RAN favouring the Perth class ships would be made, with associated benefits to morale.

On 15 September 1969, Vendetta left Australia for South Vietnam, and relieved Brisbane at Subic on 26 September. While deployed to Vietnam, the destroyer was placed under the administrative control of Commander Australian Forces Vietnam in addition to that of the Flag Officer Commanding Australian Fleet, while operationally, she was under the command of the US Seventh Fleet. A USN lieutenant was assigned to Vendetta to serve as a liaison. Australia was the only allied nation to provide naval support to the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. The destroyer's main activities were the provision of naval gunfire support to assist ground forces, particularly the United States Marine Corps units operating closest to the North Vietnam border. Seven ships were usually stationed on the 'gunline', and attacks fell into two categories: 'unspotted' shelling of areas where North Vietnamese or Viet Cong forces and facilities were known or believed to be, and 'spotted' fire missions in direct support of ground troops.

Vendetta sailed for a gunline assignment at Danang at the end of September, and she commenced naval gunfire support missions almost immediately. After time at Danang, the ship sailed to the II Corps operating area, and continued gunline duties between I, II, and III Corp. At the end of November, the destroyer sailed to Taiwan for rebarrelling and other maintenance. She



returned to the gunline on 21 December, and on 1 January 1970, was called on to assist Market Time operations by firing on two small craft suspected to be on a supply run to Viet Cong positions.

On 17 January, Vendetta was forced to sail to Hong Kong for boiler repairs. Returning on 17 February, the destroyer was assigned to III Corps, and operated off Vung Tau in support of Australian and South Vietnamese units, along with a mercenary group. Four days later, she was reassigned to II Corps. On 6 March, the ship left the gunline to have two of her turrets rebarrelled at Subic, then returned to duty on 13 March. The destroyer sailed to Subic on 23 March, and was relieved by HMAS Hobart on 30 March, after having fired 13,295 4.5-inch shells at 751 targets over five deployments.

The destroyer was the only Australian-built warship to serve as a combatant in Vietnam, and the only Daring class destroyer to be operationally deployed in the shore bombardment role. Vendetta's deployment to Vietnam under the new Australian White Ensign, and patrols during the Indonesia-Malaysia Confrontation under the old ensign (identical to the British White Ensign), made the destroyer one of only two RAN vessels to deploy operationally under both ensigns. Personnel awards for the deployment included one appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, two Mentioned in Despatches, and 16 Naval Board commendations.



RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (EMU)

The Experimental Military Unit (EMU) was a joint Australian-American company-sized helicopter assault force which operated during the *Vietnam War*. The unit was created in 1967 following a request from the *United States* military for *Australia* to send more helicopter pilots to the conflict. As the only available experienced pilots were from the *Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Fleet Air Arm*, (with *Australian Army* and *RAAF* pilots already heavily committed).

The *RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV)* was formed and integrated into the *135th Assault Helicopter Company* of the *United States Army*. The *EMU* unit name was selected by the *Americans* as a backronym for the Australian bird, a choice which amused the *Australians*: despite being large, fast, and highly mobile, the Emu cannot fly.

The unit flew multiple variants of the *UH-1 Iroquois (Huey)* helicopter, and was primarily tasked with providing transport and support for the *Australian Army* and units of the *Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)*, *United States Army* and *Marine Corps*. A typical day's operations consisted of ten transports (supported by four *gunships* and a command unit) collecting a unit of soldiers, performing a combat assault, then returning the unit to base.

Other operations included dawn and dusk assaults, night hunter-killer patrols, and supporting *United States Navy SEAL* units in the capture of senior *Viet Cong* personnel. Although the *RAN* contingent was significantly smaller than the rest of the unit, the *Australian* personnel frequently found themselves in senior positions, due to having more extensive training and experience than their *American* counterparts.

Initially operating out of *Vung Tau*, the *EMU* was relocated to the *Xuan Loc district* at the end of 1967. In late 1968, the unit was moved to near *Bien Hoa*. In mid-1970, the *EMU* was tasked to operations into *Cambodia*, but as the *rules of engagement* for the *Australians* forbade them from operating outside *Vietnam*, the unit operated under-strength for several days until being re-tasked back to *Vietnam* operations.

Later that year, the unit was relocated to *Dong Tam*. The *RANHFV* was withdrawn from *Vietnam* in 1971, ending the joint unit. The *Australian* contingent was the most heavily decorated *RAN* unit to serve in the *Vietnam War*, and the one with the highest casualty rate.

The *Australian* personnel who received a number of honours and decorations included 3 appointed *Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)*, 8 received the *Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)*, 5 the *Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)*, and 1 received the *British Empire Medal (BEM)*. 24 were *Mentioned in Despatches*, and 34 received *Naval Board Commendations*. This was over half of the honours and awards presented to *RAN* personnel serving in the *Vietnam War*. *Australian* personnel were also awarded several *Vietnamese* and *United States* decorations.

Five *RAN* personnel assigned to the *EMU* were killed during the conflict, with another ten seriously injured: the highest casualty rate of any *RAN* unit in *Vietnam*. *723 Squadron RAN*, the parent unit of the *RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam*, was awarded the battle honour "Vietnam 1967–71".





RAN Clearance Diving Team

The need for clearance and commando divers demonstrated during and after World War II prompted the *Australian Commonwealth Naval Board* to establish a clearance diving branch within the *RAN* in 1951. Divers were initially attached to the *Underwater Research and Development Unit*. In 1956, they were organised into a separate *Mobile Clearance Diving Team*.

In March 1966, the divers underwent further reorganisation, splitting into two *Clearance Diving Teams*, known as *CDT 1* and *CDT 2*, both confined to Australian waters. *CDT 1* was the operational team assigned to mine clearance and reconnaissance operations throughout Australia, while *CDT 2* was dedicated to mine warfare in the Sydney area, but neither were cleared for operations outside this area.

In late 1966, *Clearance Diving Team 3 (CDT 3)* was established specifically for deployment to the *Vietnam War* to assist the overworked *United States Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal* units, and to train *RAN* personnel in clearance diving work in an operational environment.

Sending *CDT 1* or *CDT 2*, in full or in part, would have impacted on the teams' existing commitments, along with the continuity of training and postings. *CDT 3* was formed from available personnel, and this was sufficient to keep a six-man team on station in *Vietnam* from early 1967 until early 1971, with six-month deployments.

The *RAN's diver training* program is centred on a 10-day clearance diver acceptance test (CDAT), colloquially known as "hell week". Recruits begin each day at 02:00, and are put through over thirty staged dives designed to test their strength and endurance.

Upon passing selection recruits must successfully pass a number of specialist courses to become fully qualified. The Basic Clearance Diver Course spans 37 weeks whilst the Advanced Clearance Diver Course and the Clearance Diving component of the Mine warfare and Clearance Diving Officers course, known as MCT-EOD, spans 41 weeks. The *MCT-EOD* role requires clearance divers to be familiar with *TAG* specialist insertion techniques including diving, fast roping and parachuting to be able to integrate into the unit to provide IED expertise.

In 1966 during a tour of *South-East Asia*, a team of *Australian* clearance divers spent a week on an unscheduled operational attachment to a *United States Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal* team based near *Saigon*. Brief and unofficial though their sojourn was, they became the first *Australian* clearance divers to serve in *Vietnam*.

The task that faced the eight *Australian Naval Clearance Diving teams* in *Vietnam* was complex and **dangerous**. The country's long coast and many rivers, and the large *Mekong Delta* near *Saigon* gave the *North Vietnamese* and the *Viet Cong* many opportunities to attack and disrupt shipping with mines and underwater obstacles, often planted by sappers known as swimmers. The attempts to combat these threats to shipping were collectively labelled '**Stable Door**' operations and these were the primary task of the *Australian* clearance divers.

Large merchant ships, often carrying military supplies, were a particularly valuable target as were military vessels, especially those that operated in *Vietnam's* rivers. The *Viet Cong* and *North Vietnamese* used a range of mine types against shipping including moored and floating mines as well as those placed on the bottom of a watercourse. In the north of the country *Soviet-manufactured limpet mines* were used.

The mines were also transported and placed in a variety of ways. In some instances they were tethered beneath a sampan by cables that could be cut if the vessel was approached. The most common method, however, was to have the mines placed by swimmers who had been trained in *North Vietnam*.

In addition to combating attacks on shipping, *Australian Naval Clearance Divers* were engaged in disposing of ordnance that had become unsafe, and in salvage operations. These included diving around downed aircraft to remove classified

material and render any explosive material safe. After mid-1968 the *Australians* were also involved in operations with the *South Vietnamese* armed forces during which they cleared barriers along the approaches to suspected enemy positions.

All eight clearance diving contingents performed difficult, dangerous tasks, often in very unpleasant conditions. The waters in which they generally operated carried swift currents, were murky – reducing visibility considerably – and choppy. The materials with which the divers worked were unstable and, if handled incorrectly, lethal. Their work did not have the same profile as that carried out by *Australian* naval vessels or aviators, but it was vital to the safety of shipping, both military and civilian, in *South Vietnam*.

In August 1970 *CDT 3* was relieved at *Vung Tau* by *South Vietnamese Navy* personnel and airlifted to *Da Nang*. In three and a half years on Operation *Stable Door*, *CDT 3* searched 7,441 ships. The eighth and final contingent returned to *Australia* in May 1971, bringing to a close four years of war service in trying and hazardous circumstances. The contingents had rotated through *Vietnam* at approximately six to seven month intervals. The one fatal casualty was a young sailor killed in a motor vehicle accident while on exchange with an *American* unit in *Cam Ranh Bay*.

CDT 3 was awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation the United States Navy Unit Commendation twice and the United States Meritorious Unit Commendation for its mine clearance work. Seven personnel were decorated whilst others received recognition from the *United States* and *South Vietnamese* governments.



No 2 Squadron RAAF aircrew arrive at Phan Rang with their Canberra bombers during 1967

**NEXT ISSUE
DECEMBER 2017**

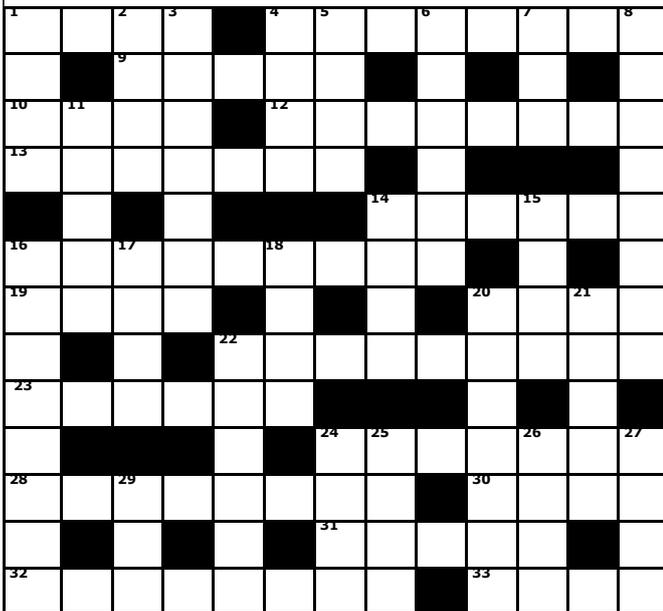
**THE SAGA CONTINUES
WITH PART 4 OF
OUR SERIES**

**THE VIETNAM WAR
AN AUSTRALIAN
PESPECTIVE**

**THE RAAF
IN VIETNAM**

**NOT TO BE MISSED.
ENSURE YOUR COPY
BY MAKING SURE
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS
UP TO DATE.**

CROSSWORD CORNER



ACROSS

- 1. Impartial
- 4. Slender towers
- 9. Postpone
- 10. Halt
- 12. Set Free
- 13. Picks out
- 14. Road
- 16. Plots, schemes
- 19. Love god
- 20. Fronded plant
- 22. Makes less, reduces
- 23. Ribbon waistbands
- 24. Disperse
- 28. Determined
- 30. Irish Republic
- 31. Embellish
- 32. Cheap ship fare
- 33. Flower stalk

DOWN

- 1. Useless bustle
- 2. Object of worship
- 3. Says again
- 4. Dissolve, thaw
- 5. Coloured part of eye
- 6. Wards off
- 7. Period in time
- 8. Adds sugar
- 11. Male singer
- 14. Prophet
- 15. Seeing organs
- 16. Reprimands
- 17. Signals with head
- 18. Frosts cake
- 20. Wavers
- 21. Allude
- 22. Trader
- 24. Male deer
- 25. Yield
- 26. Tinge
- 27. Quantity of paper
- 29. Prosecute

[Solution next issue]

THE UNKNOWN COMIC

A bloke goes into a supermarket and after a while notices a hot looking woman staring at him with a smile, and a wave. This doesn't happen much so he approaches her and says gingerly, "Do you know me?" She replies, "Yes. I think you're the father of one of my kids.

This starts his mind racing and he speaks in a rush, "My god, are you one of the strippers from my bucks party, or my wife's friend from that party when I was drunk, or.." Then the attractive woman holds up her hand, and her eyes widen, then she says.

"No, I'm your son's teacher."

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses.

She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!"

After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up.

The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Little Johnny?"

"No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

A soldier serving overseas far from home was annoyed and upset when his girl wrote to break off their engagement and ask for her photograph back. He went out and collected from his friends all the unwanted photographs of women that he could find, bundled them all together, and sent them back with a note saying, "I regret that I cannot remember which one you are. Please keep your photo and return the others."

S
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REUNIONS & NOTICES



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN
OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS



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

"It means the world to me that someone I don't know cares about my education and believes I have potential."
2014 Recipient

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

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

P: 02 9213 7999 E: avcat@dva.gov.au W: www.avcat.org.au

APPLICATIONS OPEN 18th AUGUST

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR
A SCHOLARSHIP?
DO THE ELIGIBILITY TEST
NOW!
(See opposite)

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Please contact AVCAT for more information.

NOTES:

1. Scholarships are awarded to those students in disadvantaged circumstances as determined by the means test eligibility for Youth Allowance. You need to be *eligible* for Youth Allowance even if not receiving it.
2. If you are older than 25 years you will need to explain the reasons for your delay in tertiary studies.

 To find out more please feel free to contact AVCAT:



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

*OUTREACH PROGRAM
 PENSION TOURS*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: Dennis Hanmer OAM (JP)
 Mob:0428 388 221 Ph: 02 9682 1788
 Fax: 02 9682 6134
 Email: secretary@vfvfagnville.org
 Mail: VVPPAA (NSW Branch) Inc.,
 PO Box 170, Granville. 2142

BRANCH LISTINGS NSW SUB-BRANCHES

BRANCH LISTINGS OTHER STATES



VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

A service founded by Vietnam veterans

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

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

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

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



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

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

1300 924 522

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



A member found this article in the (NSW) "Police News" of April 2017, and it impressed us so much we thought it a worthwhile entry to include during this centenary of the ANZACS.

With the kind permission of **Nicola Silva** Publications Officer, Police Association of NSW.

FEATURE



ANZAC POLICEMAN REMEMBERED...

While researching historical police deaths recently, Sergeant Danny Webster (Rtd.) came across an article in the *Northern Star* (Lismore) newspaper of 15 November 1930. Although the officer concerned wasn't killed on duty such an extraordinary man deserved to be remembered.

OBITUARY: CONSTABLE G. WRIGHT

Constable George Wright, who had a long and varied career in the N.S.W. police force, died in the Casino District Hospital yesterday morning following an operation. He was a Military Medal winner during the Great War and will be buried with full military honours at Casino this morning. Well liked, the late Constable Wright made many friends in Lismore, where he was stationed for about four years, and was regarded by his colleagues in the police force as a clever criminal investigator. He joined the police force 23 years ago at North Sydney. He enlisted at the outbreak of the Great War and went into training at Rosebery Park, later embarking on the *Star of Victoria* for Egypt. He took part in the first landing at Gallipoli and it

was while despatch riding that he was decorated for bravery.

Of fine physique, the late Constable Wright was selected as a representative from the First Light Horse Division for service at Divisional Headquarters and was detailed to do special work in organising troops for service. He was a foot-runner of unusual merit and won many sporting championships. George Wright was born in New Zealand and was 49 years of age. He was a married man, but has no relatives living in this district. While he was stationed in Lismore he was secretary of the Lismore branch of the N.S.W. Police Association.

Constable Wright was associated with the clearing up of several crimes, including several sensational murder cases, which stirred the whole of N.S.W. It was while stationed at Lismore that he

was responsible for the discovery and arrest of a number of prohibited Hindu immigrants. Inspector Wood, stationed at Lismore, yesterday spoke of the late Constable Wright as an officer of integrity and a good criminal investigator. He had always done his work satisfactorily during the whole of the time the inspector had known him.

Inspector Wood will represent the Superintendent and Commissioner of Police at the funeral this morning, and other representatives of the Lismore police force together with a number of members of the Lismore sub branch of the R.S.I.L.A. will also attend.

Constable Wright was born in New Zealand in 1881 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 21 December 1908. His registered number was 8914.

RIP George. ■

POLICE NEWS APRIL 2017 27



Last Post



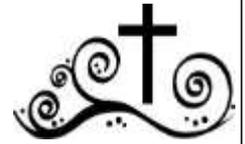


Last Post





Last Post



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

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

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

Please consider leaving a bequest in your will

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATION Life



REGISTER NOW!!

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

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

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

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



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

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

