



THE VIETNAM VETERANS' NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

SUPPORTING ALL WHO SERVE & HAVE SERVED

APRIL 2023

Remembering Australia's withdrawal from Vietnam December '72 – June '73.



® Members of AATTV, the last major unit to leave Vietnam, arriving in Australia 18 December 1972.

Only an embassy guard platoon remained until it was fully disbanded in June 1973.



Kel Robertson continues our history with the origins of the VVCS.



It's been 50 years since we left Vietnam

Yes, but Vietnam still hasn't left me

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Duty of care ... achievement in a crisis.
- Our now famous Veterans Stories continue
- An eventful Outreach Program in NSW
- National President calls for vigilance

**NEXT ISSUE
JULY 23**

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SERVICES

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Asbestos - Dust Disease Tribunal claims.

Industry super claims - income protection - TPD appeals,

Coroner's inquests

claims for Detriment Caused by Defective Administration - CDDA

Our Readers love Vietnam Veterans' Stories

Gleaned from letters diaries and memories



"Oh! What a great story Grandpa"

Welcome back to author Ian N Brookes who writes about a US general's encounter with a red kangaroo and about hitchhiking round Vietnam in US helicopters. In our last edition, we twice misspelt Ian's name, Ian B Brookes and Ian N Brooks. Our apologies.

Welcome back to the author of many of our Vietnam veterans' stories, Al Wood, with his article on a little known battalion affiliation.

New author, ANON, submits a story written many years ago about being the victim of the chaotic Repatriation system of the late 1970s and early 1980s. He recently recovered this written version from a long unopened box in the garage.

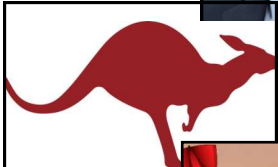
John Ingram continues his story of HMAS Sydney, this time including the poisoning of the ship's water supply with Agent Orange. ■

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President's Comment

Harmonising the three veterans disability compensation schemes

Readers will know that the three current veterans' compensation schemes are being harmonised into just one.

It is being done to reduce the complexity of the Repatriation system. Presently the ridiculous backlog in the claims processing system is, according to the Royal Commission, a factor in veteran suicide. This harmonisation is expected to speed up processing.

But as the three schemes are being harmonised into one there are principles that we and other veterans' organisations must insist upon.

- The first of these is that: No veteran claimant should be worse off under the new scheme than they would have been under any of the disbanded schemes.
DVA has form on this one.
- The second is that: The distinction must remain between those with qualifying service and those without, in benefits and in the standard of proof needed.

There is likely to be resistance to both but we must insist. ■

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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.

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CLOSE-OFF DATE FOR JULY 2023 ISSUE

1 JUNE 2023

For items of publication contact
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OUR COVER

Designed by Editor Bob
Acknowledging an end to our war in Vietnam with a depiction of its aftermath.

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John
Abernethy

‘...for what can only be described as a ‘life saving’ situation... *My life!*’

What can be achieved when all parties show a duty of care toward a veteran

We have been critical of DVA from time to time including more recently about its dangerously huge backlog of disability claims, the unreasonable delay in harmonising the three compensation schemes and, of course, about DVA’s actions (or inaction) prior to the suicide of Jesse Bird.

It brings us great pleasure, then, to report on a compassionate action by DVA which may actually have saved a life.

The beneficiary of this compassionate treatment is Vietnam veteran John Abernethy. He wrote a letter of appreciation to the DVA head, Liz Cosson*.

*Liz Cosson AM CSC, (Major General retired), until recently Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs, President of the Repatriation Commission and Chair of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission.

Continued next page

Dear Liz,

All too often we hear the bad on government departments, but rarely, *(if ever)* the good. I'm pleased to advise that this is the exception. And I take the opportunity with a great deal of pleasure to congratulate you, your department, and in particular your staff – for what can only be described as a 'life saving' situation.... *My life!*

As a T&PI Vietnam Veteran I have a chronic lung condition from exposure to toxic gas in an enemy tunnel system during my 1970 tour with 7RAR. At age thirty-two this condition began to have severe life changing effects, and by age forty-six I was dramatically incapacitated. DVA have taken great care of me since being a Casavaced on Christmas Eve 1970, to this very day, not only my medical needs, but my needs as a single dad raising two boys.

As you would expect, any respiratory condition in addition to my badly damaged lungs can be fatal. Contracting Covid in April this year was a potential death sentence and would have been had I not received (3) Covid injections prior to exposure. However, during the height of my infection my Carer also contracted Covid – From me!

I was now in very serious trouble as I live in a semi-rural area on the outskirts of town. I had no Carer, no food, and I was too weak to shower or dress myself. In essence I had gone 4 days without food, and I was in the same clothing, unshowered, for well over a week – I had reached a point where I knew I had less than 24 hrs to live without help! I rang the local RSL Club for assistance.

Assistance came by way of a phone number they provided, VVFA Granville. Bill Roberts



Repatriation Commissioner Don Spinks AM

'I got the shock of my life when the Repatriation Commissioner, Don Spinks, appeared at my door! Not once, but twice...'

answered the call. Until that day I was unaware that such an organisation existed but less than two hours later I received a call from DVA, a lady, Alexandra, who Bill had contacted realising how grave my situation was! Almost too weak to talk I gave Alexandra my situation, and how it was deteriorating by the minute!

At the time I had no idea that Alexandra was the head of a large department within DVA in Canberra, nor that she could make decisions to give me immediate help. All I know is that she

(Continued on page 7)

worked tirelessly for days, to ensure I was firstly safe, then medically safe, and that what resources she had available to secure my wellbeing were being provided. Within days my situation was in hand with medical support, transport, oxygen needs, and simple items such as walking frames.

All though I was back in the land of the living, and my circumstances began to receive attention through a widening support network, I got the shock of my life when the Repatriation Commissioner, Don Spinks, appeared at my door! Not once, but twice, to get a ground roots appraisal of my recovery in a very low key but sincere gesture of support. Both he and Alexandra were simply amazing with their genuine concern and full effort of support for Veterans and our families. Words do not adequately cover how much these people give without recognition.

In addition to the reversal of my health crisis, I was appointed a new GP, and Alexandra set in place the very first, and only, CVC [Coordinated Veterans Care] rated GP on the Far South Coast. Again, this was something I was totally unaware of and came out of the horrific experience I went through. Had I not been so ill this is another discovery bought to light I would never have known about.

In essence Liz I can't say enough for how DVA have looked after me since I came home a Casavac and have continued to look after me through many years of bad health and constant needs. Never once have I been denied anything and everything that has been provided has been the best. From veterans and I, thank you for looking out for us – especially now in our senior years when we are more vulnerable and in need of someone we can trust and depend upon.

Yours faithfully,

William John Abernethy.
6 November, 2022

From: Liz Cosson,



27 February 1970. Troops of 7RAR, landed from HMAS Sydney

Tuesday, 8 November 2022 10:22

To: Bill Roberts and John Abernethy <
RE LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear Bill, thank you so much for connecting us with John. Thank you for everything you do for veterans and families - you are always so caring and constructive in everything you do.

Dear John, thank you so much for your beautiful letter to acknowledge the Department, and in particular Don and Alexandra. I am so grateful to Bill for connecting you with us and that we have been able to support you during a very challenging time. Please continue to take care of yourself and never hesitate to reach out to us if you need our assistance.

Kind regards and sincere thanks to you for your service to our nation.

Liz

Liz Cosson | Secretary
Department of Veterans' Affairs

A reminder about some helpful pamphlets

Get them sent free from DVA



There are two booklets that may be specially useful to Vietnam veterans which have been recently refreshed in look and content, given the recent changes in funding to residential aged care homes.

These are:

[A veteran's guide to living independently](#)

[A veteran's guide to moving into aged care](#)

Veterans and their families can view these online

or they can order hard copies to be delivered. For branches and sub-branches they can order up to 100 hardcopy booklets of each at a time and these too will be delivered.

To order go to www.dva.gov.au/ac

We also have [The veteran's guide to hearing services](#) available in hardcopy. ■



We must be vigilant

Any government using veterans as political pawns must be condemned.

Evidence presented recently to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide suggested this may have occurred.¹

Just before the 2019 Federal election, the government announced where ten new veterans' Welfare Hubs would be located.

Evidence was presented, however, that DVA had not been consulted about these locations.

We could not help but consider the possibility that the choices of location had not been made to maximise veterans' welfare but to maximise electoral advantage.

If that was so, we would be very disappointed indeed, even angry.

That was some years ago and there has since been a change of government. Nevertheless we should remain vigilant.

If we detect any government using veterans as political pawns, we must call it out, loudly.

¹ The full story is in the December 2022 edition of this magazine.

There is another issue of underlying importance.

As we have previously reported the Royal Commission's research found the following:

We note the considerable number of previous reports delivered and inquiries conducted since 2000 that are relevant to the topics of suicide and suicidality among serving and ex-serving ADF members. We have identified over 50 previous reports, and more than 750 recommendations. While we acknowledge that many of these reports and inquiries were about discrete topics, we have been dismayed to come to understand the limited ways that Australian Governments have responded to these previous inquiries and reports.

So 'dismayed' was the Royal Commission at these findings that it has proposed a special independent body be set up to monitor government's implementations of its eventual recommendations.

What does this mean for the veteran community?

There will no doubt be political and bureaucratic reluctance to establish such a body.

We must watch to ensure that this independent body to monitor government implementation of the Royal Commission's findings is actually set up. ■

Have you seen.....

Have you seen the old man in a wheel chair,
Have you seen him sometime today,
Have you seen the old man in a wheel chair,
Have you seen him pass this way.

He's not known by many,
Known by hardly anyone,
But you would want to know him,
If you knew the things he'd done.

Lost his folks when he was eighteen,
Joined up and wore the jungle green,
Got sent to the war in Vietnam
There, by god, he became a man.

Saw war and death along the jungle trails,
He fought as hard as anyone could
His mind could not blot out the horror
He'd seen more than any young man should.

No one came to meet him when he came home,
He could not tell his story, kept his thoughts his
own,
He went to places far from all his kind,
Not just in body but also in his mind.

The Uni crowd called him a killer
And tried to make him believe them right,
But it wasn't him who was the coward
Who refused to go and fight.

They couldn't see what life had shown him
War is not about things like love and hate
It is what your country calls upon you
And where you never leave your mates.

He met a girl who seemed to understand

Married and seemed to settle down
Repressed those memories which plagued him
And built a house in a quiet town.

The nightmares rose some years later
Just as the second child was born
He'd wake up screaming
To memories he thought were long gone.

There was no path to look for guidance
From those who sent him off the war
He left his wife and family
He could not drag them through much more.

He heard his son had joined the army
And was sent to a place called Afghanistan
He hoped his country would treat him better
Than those who fought in Vietnam

Have you seen the old man in a wheel chair
Have you seen him today
That man is my father
And he's my hero in every way.

Norm Jones





THE HEADQUARTERS TOUR



HA NOI



OLD SAI GON



LOC NINH



DIEN BIEN PHU



PHUOC TUY



RUNG SAT

IN THE NORTH
The Politburo's Secret
Underground Command Bunker

Giap's and de Castries' HQs in
Dien Bien Phu

The Air War in the north as seen
from the ground

AROUND SAIGON
MAAG, MACV and Free World
Headquarters in what was Sai
Gon and a host of significant
historic sites

The Australian Force's Bases in
old Phuoc Tuy and Vung Tau

THE BIG RED 1'S AO
Coral Balmoral sites, Dong Xoai,
Hon Quan, An Loc, and Loc Ninh,
the NLF's HQ for the final push
on Sai Gon

10 Sapper Regt's Mangrove
Forest HQ

The BIG RED 1 HQ in Di An

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Dr Peter Yule, historian, author *Vietnam's Long Shadow*



WALTER PEARSON - 53 years connected to Viet Nam

Two tour Vietnam Veteran, linguist, history and philosophy expert, fought in the Battle of Binh Ba in 1969, in 1989 was among the veterans who attended the first gathering at the replica Cross in Long Tan. Walter was also central to the search for Australia's MIAs. A journalist, he wrote and produced the documentary Vietnam Minefield, has advised and assisted TV programs including Australian Story, In Their Footsteps, Foreign Correspondent, Who Do You Think You Are and the makers of the Coral Balmoral documentary.

Since 2000, Walter has led tours by car, bus, train, plane and motorbike throughout Vietnam. He has taken Australian War Memorial staff, Staff College groups, ships' crews, and international VIPs around Viet Nam.

Married to a Vietnamese, Walter lived an authentic Vietnamese lifestyle for almost five years, in Binh Long, formerly An Loc, about 100 kms from Ho Chi Minh City.



*Twin Share includes all internal airfares, hotels, meals, ground transport in air-conditioned coaches, bottled water every day, site permissions and entry fees. Single supplement available. Not Included: International airfares and visa

Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

General Creighton Abrams, Commanding General United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam and the Red Kangaroo

By Ian N Brookes



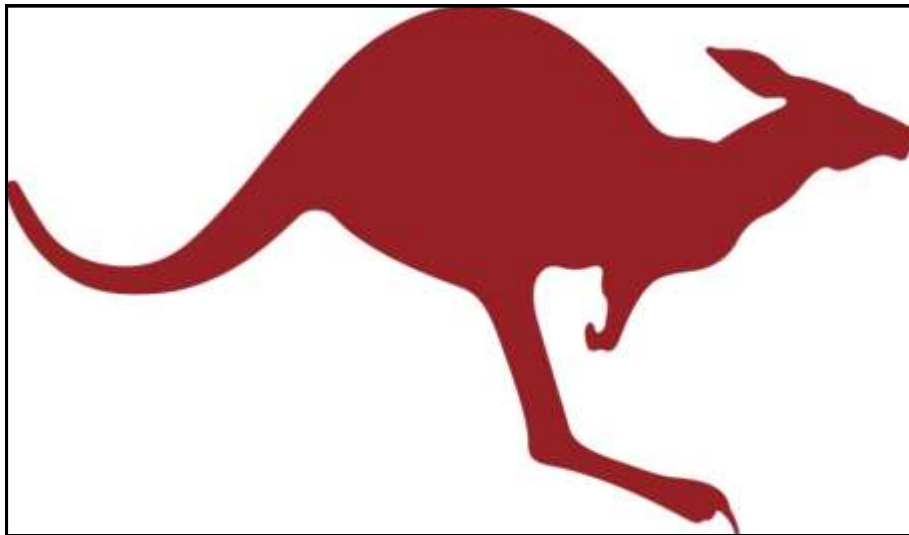
Location: St Kilda Pad, LZ, 1 Australia Logistics Support Group (ALSG),

I had only been “In Country” about ten days and was still getting to know my “lads” and the mischief they could and did get up to if given the

chance.

General Creighton Abrams, Commanding General United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam (COMUSMACV) came to

(Continued on page 13)



make his first visit to the Australian Commander 1 ALSG in his super deluxe command and control Huey Helicopter.

Chopper lands. Met by Commander 1 ALSG, Colonel John D. Stevenson. Abrams went off to meet the 1 ALSG Command team at 1 ALSG HQ.

The US Army aircrew went off to visit the Australian ASCO Canteen (US PX). Chopper left unattended.

My lads then sprayed big red Kangaroos on both sides of Abraham's helicopter forward of the door spaces, and, for good measure, a very large one underneath. They had stencils for this purpose. Not that I was aware of this at that time

The US Army chopper crew returned from shopping at the 1ALSG ASCO Canteen. Panic ensued when they saw the big red Roos adorning the area forward of the door spaces and on both sides of where the doors would normally have been (No doors on operational choppers).

Frantic wiping down of the new paint job with avtur removed the images and it looked ok when the general returned to fly back to Saigon.

Needless to say, my senior commanders were at the pad for Abrahams' take off, as was I because it was my unit's LZ.

As Abrahams came to the vertical hover, all Australian commanders, including myself saluted.

But as he rose higher, my jaw dropped a fraction. There was the big red roo on the underside of the huey!

The commander of 1ALSG, Colonel John D. Stevenson, turned to me and said - Well done - But do not make a habit of doing this.

Which I thought was rather sporting of him given the rank of his visitor! The Company Commander of 5 Coy RAASC, under whose command I then came, was less than amused!

But this was not the end of it.

Courtesy of the 147th Hill Climber Assault Helicopter Company (147ASH), I had acquired a "surplus" ANPRC 147 Radio set and an AN 292 Radio antenna. Approximately thirty minutes or so later there was a frantic radio call from the reception party at Free World HQ, Saigon, wanting to know what the hell we Australians had done to the COMUSFVN Helicopter!

Oh well. It seemed like a good idea at the time. Had to talk to the "lads" about that and remind them that certain helicopters were "off limits" but others remained fair game.

The red spray paint can had, after all, come from the US Army Self-Serve store at Vung Tau. Or so I was told.

INB ■

A plea from Bourke RSL Club Ltd.



Imagine, god forbid, your home is burned to the ground, all your memorabilia lost forever. Sure, **medals can be replaced....**

However, imagine then if a remote district RSL Club suffers that fate.

Imagine if you will, the likelihood, that over 80 years of memorabilia collections, will ever be satisfactorily replaced.

That is the dilemma Bourke RSL Club President, Victor Bartley, approached us with in a plea to our NSW President, Frank Cole, recently.

Frank writes below

APPEAL FOR AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORABILIA

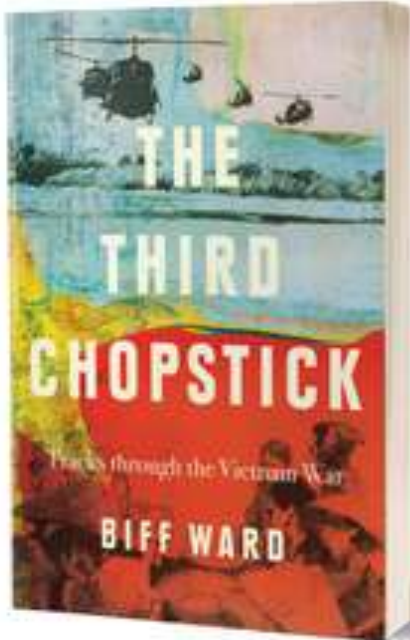
D Company 7 RAR , 2nd tour Vietnam Veteran, Victor Bartley, is seeking Australian war memorabilia to replace that lost in a devastating fire which destroyed the Bourke Diggers Club a couple of years ago. The town of Bourke does not have the required numbers to form an RSL sub-branch and is now reaching out to re-establish its war memorabilia exhibition in the local bowling club in order to keep locals focused on **Australia's military veterans' magnificent contributions to our nation over many, many years.** Victor is also President of the Bourke RSL Club Ltd.

Should you be able to assist Victor re-establish this collection please contact him by email at victor7@bigpond.com

Frank Cole, President, VVPPAA NSW.

It is sincerely hoped that Victor's challenge is not in vain, and that many of our Veteran members may be able to assist...ED

Excerpt from:



Do you remember Ray Fulton?

He contributed so much to our **Federation and to veterans' welfare** in general.

This book, amongst other things, is about him.

If you remember Ray, we invite you to write a letter-to-the-editor with your memories.

As I drifted about [at the Granville office], I saw that the volunteer advisors each had their own style, just as Ray had told me in Darling Harbour. One was quiet, focused on pen to paper, another joked and spread his hands. It was triage work. They listened and decided what was needed: accommodation, money, food, medical help. Nearly always, they set the guy on the path to repatriation benefits, which meant supplying contacts for psychiatrists. As volunteers, they worked as much as they wished, every day or once a month.

It's part of our own therapy, they all told me. We've been there.

As they helped each other wind down a little , it granted them enough slack to be able to help the next guy wind down too.

One guy said to me, they wound us up with all that training, but they didn't wind us down. They were working out how to do that themselves. ■

To get your copy simply ring the NSW Branch Granville Office on 02 9682 1788 or order on-line at www.vfagranville.org

Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

It was 1980 and this veteran was not at all well.

Here is his story, written by him many years ago and recovered from one of those old dusty boxes in the garage.

It's an alarming story but perhaps things have improved since then???

A veteran's THANK YOU to the departments of Social Security and Veterans Affairs for their overwhelming generosity and assistance.

(NOT)

This story is true. The names have been changed to protect the guilty. The author wishes to remain anonymous. as he fears his pension may be cancelled on the ground of ingratitude. (They used every other excuse.)

My story starts as many others. I hadn't been all that laid back since getting out of Vietnam and finishing my two years conscription.

Trouble was though, I hadn't noticed changes in myself. I thought everyone else was weird. I thought the whole world was screwed; that was why I spent so much time by myself.

Health wasn't real good either.

Headaches, vomiting, fevers, nightmares etc.

But that will all probably pass in time?

But I do hit the grog a fair bit. It's probably that.

Trouble is, the old amber makes me feel good and gets me nicely unconscious.

I figured things needed to turn soon though, as this was the last week of my third stint in the psych ward at the local Repat hospital.

Sadly, however, there seemed to be no sign



of things turning.

The local Community Mental Health Clinic hadn't done much good either.

That lady at the Vietnam veterans counselling centre seemed OK. She seemed to make sense. I wish I could remember what she was saying.

I wonder what I'll do when I get the flick from here next week? No job to go to. That went shortly after the wife did.

Thank Christ that local doctor put me on Sickness Benefits. He is really trying to fix whatever is wrong with me. The lousy 50% [of the general rate] veterans' disability pension Veterans

Affairs pays me doesn't even cover rent. I'm left with a rent debt and nothing for food and fares. At least I'll get that decent Social Security Sickness Benefits cheque when I get back to the flat.

Wednesday morning and I've beaten the mailman to the letter box.

I've had to be careful though; that bloody summons server from the credit card mob is still trying to pin me. At least the sale of the furniture kept the other sharks at bay.

(Continued on page 18)

You beaut.....Here it is.....The envelope with the little window in it.....Wait a minute.....Just a letter.....No bloody cheque.

"Dear Sir,
As you have been in receipt of a DVA war disability pension, this department has over paid you \$1,000. Please appreciate we must recover this amount. Your benefit has been reduced to \$10 to help recovery of this amount.

Mr Sway,
Regional Manager."

What.....

Overpaid.....

Bullshit.....

\$10 a week to live on?.....

Fighting off the blinding white flash in my head and the lead weight in my gut, I staggered back to the flat.

Staring dumbly at the letter my head reeled.....

Bullshit, it can't be real.

Now let's think this through.

I successfully got over the time they cancelled because I hadn't filled out a particular form. I also managed to sort out the time they cancelled because they said I'd been granted a Service Pension.....I don't know where they dug that one up..... At that stage I hadn't even applied for a Service Pension — I wasn't even aware there was such a thing.....Computer error or something, they said.

This has got to be a mistake too.

I mean even if I'm on the dole or even if I'm working, they assured me I still get the 50% veterans' disability pension.....year.....this is another mistake.

I'll go straight up and sort it out.

Jesus, three million people at the counter.

'Take a number and wait till it's called' - a gruff voice and disapproving glare

from the receptionist.

The white flash again.....

'Stuff the number...I demand to see Mr Sway.'

'He is not available.'

'Get him or I'm going to come over your bloody counter and get him myself.'

The receptionist disappears and as I'm brewing to the boil a crew-cutted poor man's bureaucrat arrives.

'Year.....What's up?'

I show him the somewhat crumpled letter.

'Year that's right, we'll start deductions right away.'

'Bullshit you will.'

I explain the bit about being assured I'm entitled to both pensions.

He disagrees.

I explain the bit about being stony broke and needing my Social Security cheque.

He shrugs his shoulders.

A series of white explosions in my head and I find myself standing on his counter.....

Oh Jesus.....Well I'd better make the most of it.

'You bastard', I scream. 'I've had enough. I've been stuffed around by departments like this and dickheads like you for long enough. Get Mr Sway or I'm going to break every partition on this counter and then I'm going to start on you.'

He disappears and returns with a lady who he introduces as the social worker.

Christ, just what I need. Another flamin' social worker.

It was a flamin' social worker who told me I would get both entitlements and landed me in this mess in the first place.

Still.....I suppose I better talk to her.

At least its an excuse to get off this counter.

I'm shaking as I tell her my story.

At least she appears to be human and there

could be a heart beating inside all that wool knit.

She says she'll write a letter on my behalf and have the matter waived for three months.

I say I'd like to apply for the dole.

She says I can't because I'm unfit for work.

Christ, the sicker I get the broker I become.

She says I should go to Veterans Affairs and take out the soldiers immediate cash assistance grant.

YOU BEAUT..... A star is shining.....Good old Vet Affairs to the rescue.

The man at the desk on the ninth floor is unimpressed by my enthusiastic application for cash assistance.

'Whaddayer wannit for?'

I explain all and show him my wallet.

'Fill these out.'

Jesus, looks like the transcript of *War and Peace*.

'Good, takem to that desk, gettem signed, bringem back here and I'll takem to the tenth floor blah, blah, blah etc, etc for triple approval Wait here till I get back.'

'OK.'

Two hours later the papers reappear bearing signatures and stamps from what seem to be a dozen different sources.

'OK', he grunts. 'Takem to the tenth floor cashier and collect the dough.'

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

'Justaminnityou.'

'Yes?'

'This application now is finalised and goes in your file.....you only get one grant and this is it.....OK?'

'OK.'

I race up the stairs to the tenth floor, my heart pounding in my chest.

I hand the paper to the cashier.

She opens the drawer and hands me a ten dollar note.

'What's that?'

'Ten dollars' she says. 'What's it look like?'

'Where's the rest of my Immediate Assistance Grant?' I stammer.

'That's it,' she says.

Oh Christ, I don't believe it.

As I turn to the stairs, I begin to cry.

I hold the ten dollars to the light.....

Well, at least *it's* genuine.



At least *it's* genuine

The author would like to thank the boys and girls at the Redfern Welfare Rights Centre who took up this case and had the overpayment waived, his benefit restored (once more) and withheld benefits paid in full.

ANON ■



NEW NSW SUB-BRANCH

I warmly welcome Taylors Arm as a new sub-branch to our Association.

Threatened with a forced merger with other RSLNSW sub-branches Taylors Arm withdrew from the RSL and applied to join our Association where they are warmly welcome. Taylors Arm is the home of The Pub With No Beer and is located on the NSW mid-north-coast about 500 km from Sydney and 27 km west of Macksville. What may be termed a small sub-branch it is now slowly attracting more members.

Once again, we are most happy to have you on board.

Contact details for the new sub-branch are listed on page 74 of this Newsletter., and on our website:

www.vvfganville.org



LUCKY WINNERS NSW 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL GIFT VOUCHER DRAW

Congratulations to the following members whose names were randomly selected from all members who had renewed their 2023 NSW Branch Memberships by 31st January 2023. Each lucky winner has now received a \$100.00 Bunnings Gift Voucher.

Kevin Taylor, John Killalea,
Kevin Summerson

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.

DONATIONS SINCE LAST JOURNAL

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. Whilst all donations are gratefully received, and combined are of enormous assistance to us, they are too numerous to list. However, periodically, we will publish a list of individual NSW Branch members who have donated amounts of \$200 or more.

Generous supporters of the NSW Branch since time are:

- \$1,000 Kevin Faust Anonymous Warren Axford
 Brian (Tab) Hunter Amelia Jenkin
- \$970 Kevin Taylor
- \$600 Anonymous
- \$500 Stephen Bunter Garry Smyth
 Tania Edwards-Hackett Peter Unwin
 Geoffery Jones John Mogan Gordon O'Brien
 Dale Folkes Wayne Adler
- \$450 Bryan McVinish
- \$400 Bruce Cullen
- \$350 Neville Lemon
- \$300 Geoffrey Graham Geoffrey Peattie Garry Chenhall
 John Robicheau Dallas Mulhall OAM
 Henry Walker
- \$290 Barry Elphick
- \$250 Alan Limn David Gibbs
- \$200 Anonymous Graham Lee Eric Tickner
 John Stoker Geoffrey Cole David Gilmer
 John Evans John Harris Anonymous
 Brian Carney Neil Croker Geoffrey Lopez
 Charles Shay Kevin Stewart Colin Kelson Ronald
 Gieven Daniel Panarello Peter Brown
 Peter Peterson Patrick Gallagher Anthony Shephard

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. Chester Hill-Carramar RSL sub branch
Bankstown RSL sub branch. ■

What We Do

We have over forty years' experience assisting with claims in all of the Military Compensation schemes, by our fully qualified, compassionate, highly skilled, Compensation Advocates, Pension and Wellbeing Officers.

We continually strive for the rights of veterans and their families, whenever changes to the laws that govern and recognise their service threatens to diminish just and fair compensation for those that are sent to fight Australia's wars.

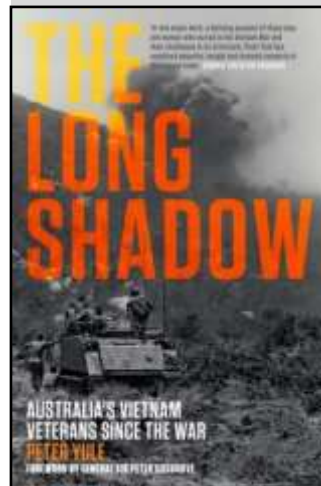
We achieve our aims by continued vigilance of government proposals that affect the Acts of parliaments protecting veterans rights and entitlements. By assuring that DVA uphold and enable due process of claims to the letter of those laws. By lobbying government and ministers where the laws could be improved for the benefit of veterans and their families.

We fully support and faithfully attend the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table, (ESORT), group discussions with the government and DVA. As well as maintain a close liaison with other Ex-service organisations.

Our successes have been many, and clarified in our following pages of News, Current Issues and Historical records. Our legacy and continued efforts needs to be handed on to the next generation of youthful supporters willing to take up the challenge as our volunteers become frail and unable to take up the vigil.

We do not charge any fee nor expect recompence for any of our services, and rely upon grants, donations, gifts and bequests, along with a small income from the sale of Raffle tickets and merchandise, for paid Advocates, volunteer amenities, at our many offices throughout Australia. ■

Excerpt from:



'Bomber' Bower-Miles recounted how 'I went to a party when I got home from Vietnam. The trouble is the party only finished a few years ago. Every opportunity, I was on the piss...As far as I was concerned I was just having a good time, but I was drowning myself. Alcohol was my medication. Regular soldier Lynton Reynolds was only 20 when he returned from Vietnam and 'was an incredibly heavy drinker, if not an alcoholic. This put strains on his marriage, but his wife eventually 'dried me out'.

Although some relationships collapsed in the years after return from Vietnam, it is hard not to be struck by the number of women who stuck by their husbands, often through extremely difficult circumstances. Conscript Fred Manno (8RAR, 1969-70) married in 1975 and says that **his wife deserves a medal for 'putting up with me. I was very moody, I used to fly off, sometimes for no reason at all. Yeah, she put up with a fair bit of shit.'** ■

To get your copy simply ring the NSW Branch Granville Office on 02 9682 1788 where we have limited stocks.

Several State branches of the VVFA have Outreach programs.

Our many Outreach tours have been made to assist veterans of all wars as well as serving members in regional and remote areas.

This one was conducted by our NSW Branch (Vietnam Veterans Peacemakers and Peacekeepers Association).

..... and flooding rains

The story of a not so average journey to assist veterans in regional areas of NSW

My name is Dennis Hanmer..

For 23 years, I have been a pension officer and Advocate at the Veterans Support Centre in the Granville office of the NSW Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Federation. We have gained a reputation both with veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs for thorough and skilful work .

Our services are therefore in demand.

It was nearly the end of March 2022 and myself, with the equally experienced Darrel Maher OAM, as trusty co-driver and general secretary, set off for a two week Outreach tour that was to take in several RSL sub-branches and a bowling club along the Gwydir Highway, then swing back to the coast to take in Iluka and Nambucca Heads.

After almost 3 months of planning, painstaking organisation and with welcoming RSL sub-branches and a long list of veterans awaiting our services, we set off.

Our timing could not have been worse. The last week of March saw Inverell drenched with almost 140mm of flooding rains in 5 days. We were able to reach Moree and Inverell RSL sub-branches, conducting some 15 interviews, resulting in 13 VEA claims, 2 MRCA claims and 6 NLHC conditions. But we prematurely ceased the tour as conditions deteriorated including road closures and land slippages. We made a hasty and lucky

The array of compensation schemes covering veterans and serving members

VEA: Veterans Entitlement Act—most Vietnam veterans are covered by this compensation scheme.

MRCA: Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—mainly covers post 2004 deployments and incidents.

NLHC: Under non-liability health care, a veteran can access fully funded treatment for mental health conditions from a range of providers without the need to prove it was caused by their ADF service.

DRCA: provides rehabilitation and compensation for injuries and diseases caused by peacetime and peacekeeping service up to and including 30 June 2004 and operational service between 7 April 1994 and 30 June 2004.

EDA: The EDA rate can only be considered for veterans who have reached 65 years of age who are not eligible to receive a Special or Intermediate rate of Disability Compensation Payment.

retreat back to Sydney.

It was not until the first week of May 2022, that we returned to undertake further Outreach trips to the remaining centres of Iluka Bowling Club, and Glenn Innes, and Nambucca Heads RSL sub-branches.

We clocked up some 2,600 kilometres, conducted another 20 interviews resulting in 10 VEA, 2 MCRA and 6 DRCA claims, along with 1



War Widow claim, 3 EDA applications, and 1 Reassessment.

On our first trip we also visited a severely disabled Vietnam veteran in his home in Delungra. He was seeking Home Care and other urgently needed services. The Doctor and I interviewed his part time carer as the Veteran had some speech difficulties and started the process with Home Care and DVA .

During our May tour, we checked to see if he was receiving the requested services. But we determined the veteran was no longer capable in living alone. We contacted his daughter who arranged the veteran’s transfer to rehab and nursing home.

The ‘we’ on all Outreach tours to NSW country areas, interstate trips and ADF bases, includes a very experienced and supportive GP.

This doctor provides medical examinations, referrals for MRI’s, referrals to Psychiatrists and Psychologists and a full range of other services that relate to veterans’ disability claims. This GP service is provided totally free to all clients, as are all NSW Branch (VVPPAA) services.

The inclusion of a GP has resulted in some cases in a reduction in the ridiculously long time it takes for claims to be processed. This reduction in processing times is because:

- other applicants often have to wait months for appointments with base medical officers;
- in some remote areas there is simply no local GP; and,
- in areas serviced by fly-in-fly-out GPs many of them have little or no knowledge of the Repatriation system.

When completing interstate Outreach trips

(Continued on page 24)

to places like Darwin, Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane, I am also accompanied by the very accomplished NSW Branch employee and most experienced Compensation Advocate, Melonie Lloyd-Riley from Perth.

Next time, possibly in May this year, we will once again head off for the same region, as I have been informed there are quite a few people still wanting to see me. However, instead of visiting each town we will utilise one venue, Inverell RSL Club. This will allow setting up the best arrangement for medical check-ups.

There is also a chance we can include Nambucca Heads RSL Club before returning to Sydney.

The waiting lists show that expertise such as ours is sorely needed in regional and remote areas. However I think we are the only ex-service organisation providing such services.

Dennis Hanmer OAM
 Vice President
 Compensation Advocate
 VVPPAA NSW ■



**"Glad we left when we did, Dennis."
 "Yes, but with all those veterans still to see, Darrell, we will be back soon, I hope"**

MEMBERSHIP

Belonging Advocacy Success

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We thank you for your kind support. ■



A WARNING FOR DVA CLIENTS!!!

Potential DVA clients should be aware that some organisations offering to advise veterans and submit their claims to the DVA are charging their clients for the privilege to do so. We have come across a number of such organisations whose main interests appear to take a sizable slice of any entitlements when equal, or, in our case, more superior services are available free of charge to the veteran.

One example of such organisations which is based in Queensland requires veterans to sign a six- page contract. The contract contains a commitment for the veteran to pay fees for service such as \$1,000 plus GST to submit a Freedom of Information request when the veteran can make the submission him/her self at no cost. An application for a pension increase can be provided by them at the cost to the client of four pension payments. Potentially, this could cost a client up to approx. \$10,000. Payments may also be required for the initial client interview.

Lump sum payments are charged at 5% plus GST. Late payments attract a 10% fee.

This type of organisation is not required to hold formal qualifications to advise our ADF community.

You are obviously aware that our Association provides our services free of charge. Our Compensation and Well-Being staff are formally trained and possess vast experience. For many years we have taken on, on average, six new claimants each day, Monday to Friday 52 weeks per year.

Co-payment for Gold Card Holders

The DVA has once again confirmed that doctors should not be charging a co-payment. Providers who accept DVA arrangements agree to accept DVA fees and conditions.

Museum Calls for Volunteers

The Army Museum NSW located within Victoria Barracks needs volunteers for various functional areas of the Museum including acting as tour guides and assisting visitors.

Should you wish to discuss available opportunities please contact Colonel Graham Fleeton on 0412 399 693 or email secretary@armymuseumnsw.com.au.

Frank Cole
President
VVPPAA NSW

“IT’S ON AGAIN!”

VVPPAA NSW VIETNAM
VETERANS DAY

BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

50 YEARS SINCE ‘LAST OUT’

Date: 18 August 2023

Grand Hall foyer then Grand Hall function room for a meal and great entertainment.

Meet and Greet 9:30-10:30am

Commemorative Service 11am

Luncheon and Show 12:30-3:30pm

Recommend table reservations from Monday 15 May by calling Granville office Admin

02 9682 1788 to secure a spot.

Tickets expected to go on sale 17 July, following release of July issue of The Vietnam Veterans Newsletter.

More details as they come to hand, check our website often <http://www.vvfganville.org>

Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

Vietnam 1969 Recollections (hitchhiking round Vietnam in US helicopters)

by Ian N Brookes

Although I was a member of the Australian army, the US military war machine had brought me, completely unofficially and undoubtedly illegally, in and out of SE Cambodia a number of times during its preparation for the very costly “incursion” into Cambodia. The incursion was to take place in the period 1 May to 30th June 1970 by combined US Army and SVN Armed forces.

Australia had no involvement or military personnel in Cambodia other than, I believe, a Military Attaché; although the Australian Army Training Team, AATTV, our most decorated military unit of the Vietnam War, did train Cambodian force members. This training was conducted within SVN. (In fact Terry Smith wrote a book about this titled *Training the Bodes*. Also John (Jack) Peel authored *Walk Tall 1970-1971 – With the 2nd Battalion 1st ARVN Regiment.*)

Australia's involvement was strictly within SVN and nowhere else. However, the air logistics unit I commanded frequently used US aircraft to transport cargo including:

- Iroquois UH helicopters came, on occasions, from the 269th Black Barons Combat Assault Aviation Battalion;
- The medium lift Chinook - CH 47 helicopters, our most frequently used helicopter, came from US Army Assault Helicopter Companies;
- ASH (Assault Support Helicopters) such as

the 147th ASH Hill Climbers, the 242nd Mule Skinners, the 205th Geronimo's and the 213rd Black Cats in particular, occasionally there were other ASHs sent to support 1ALSG and 1ATF activities; and,

- The heavy lift – Sikorsky CH 54 “Sky Crane” helicopter support also came from the US military but I can no longer remember the names of the units they may have come from.

But my air dispatchers were deployed in penny-packets in virtually every Fire Support Base (FSB), Land Clearing Team (LCT) location or Night Deployment Position (NDP) and countless other areas and military activities throughout the Australian AO and the US army Three Corps area, including the deployment of a combined 1ALSG1ATF contingent to provide additional security to the Bien Hoa air base (Bien Hoa was the largest base in SVN. In February 1969, during the Vietnamese celebration of TET, it was attacked and quite heavily so).

The only way that I could get in and out of these locations was by any US Military chopper, regardless of type, that I could hitch a ride on.

But one was never just a passenger – all US units were constantly short of men virtually all of the time due to battle casualties, non-battle casualties, sickness, disease, 3 days short Rest in



Australian Fire Support Base Pamela



Chinook CH 47



The door gun

Country (R in C) – I never got one! And R&R – (aka rooting and raving) etc. So invariably I had to earn my keep in transit and crew one or other of the door guns – M60 machine guns - which, depending upon aircraft type and ASH SOP (Standing Operating Procedures), each had approximately 1,000 or 2,000 rounds of ammo for when we found we were not welcome or for prophylactic fire.

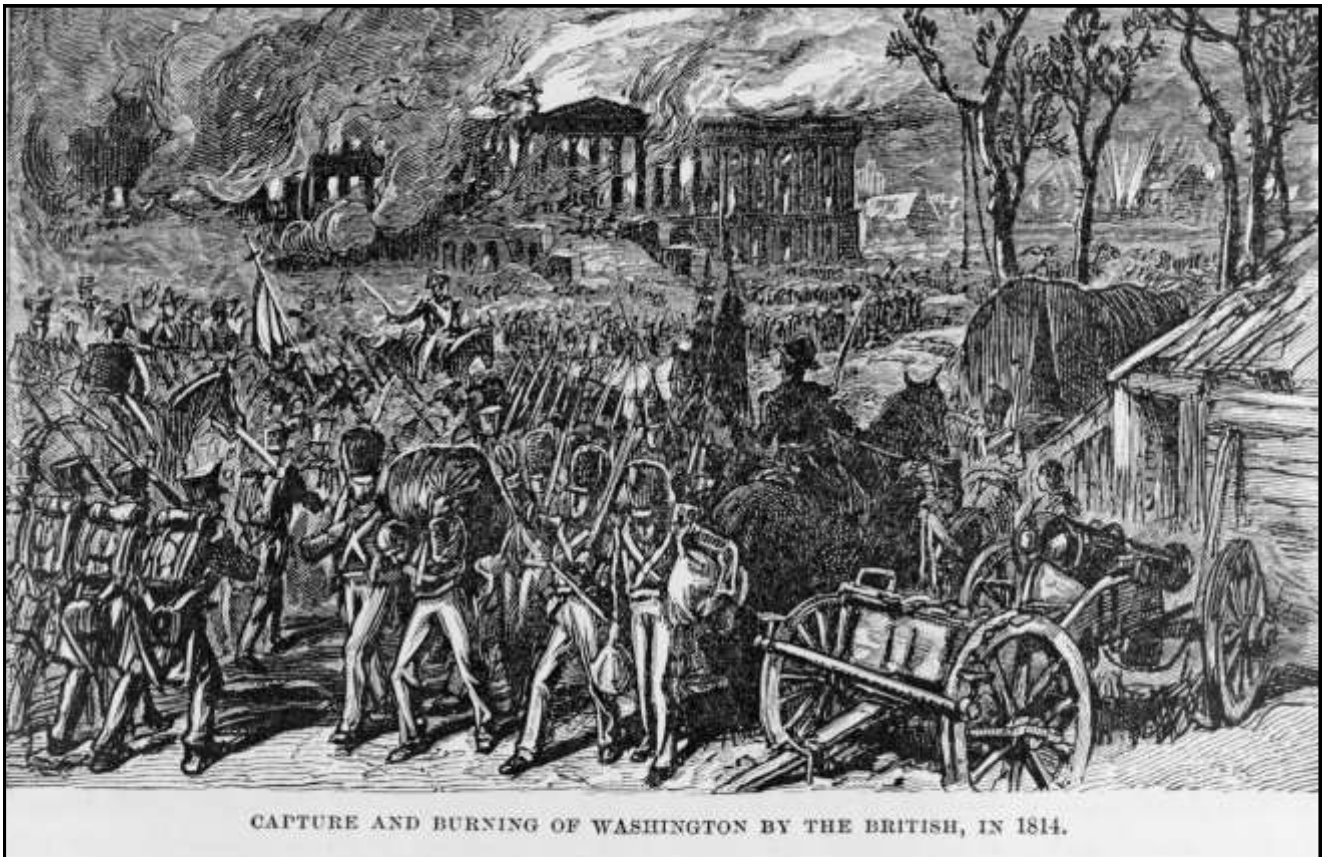
It sounds a lot of ammo, and so it is compared to the “grunts” (infantry) on the ground that had to carry it, but unless strong fire discipline was maintained, it could and did get expended far

too quickly for comfort.

Helicopters were very valuable military assets. It is incredible to know now that the US had about 11,835 U.S helicopters that served in the Vietnam War. The U.S records show 5,607 helicopter losses. I think RAAF 9 Sqn had a total of eight or nine UH 1 B Iroquois in SVN, which had to be carefully protected for the most part and flew back from supporting 1ATF to Vung Tau airport most nights.

But there was another problem with my unauthorised aerial hitch-hiking. The intensity of

(Continued on page 28)



CAPTURE AND BURNING OF WASHINGTON BY THE BRITISH, IN 1814.

US operations meant that helicopter units were frequently tasked and re-tasked in flight. This meant that occasionally I could not get back to either 1 ALSG or to 1ATF the same day. A further complication was that during the monsoonal wet season flying conditions sometimes deteriorated so suddenly that flying had to stop, and we just landed at the nearest base the pilot could put down at and waited overnight in the hope that flying conditions would improve.

This was not a problem for the US army air crew, as they had the aircraft communications to tell their parent unit where they were. But for me, it was a problem trying to let someone, anyone, know who and where I was over the multiple American army switchboards. It was archaic by today's standards because each switchboard operator had to manually transfer you to the next switchboard operator and so on. For some reason the switchboard names Ebony and Deer stick in my mind.

To their great credit the Americans were

always very generous hosts and I never went without a bed or a good feed on the few occasions this happened to me. Although when flying completely closed down, things did get a bit alcoholic.

As most Americans had no idea that Australians were allies in the Vietnam War, I think that odd blow-ins such as I were something of a curiosity in some of their outposts. All the more so, as I had started life in the Australian army as a UK enlistee, following initial service in the British army in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry – KSLI – that had participated in the burning of Washington and of the White House (not actually called the White House at that time) in 1814. A military historical event that I mentioned at my peril on one occasion, when asked by an American aviator who the heck were the KSLI and what did they ever do? "Friendly Fire" beer cans flying at you from all directions are hard to dodge!

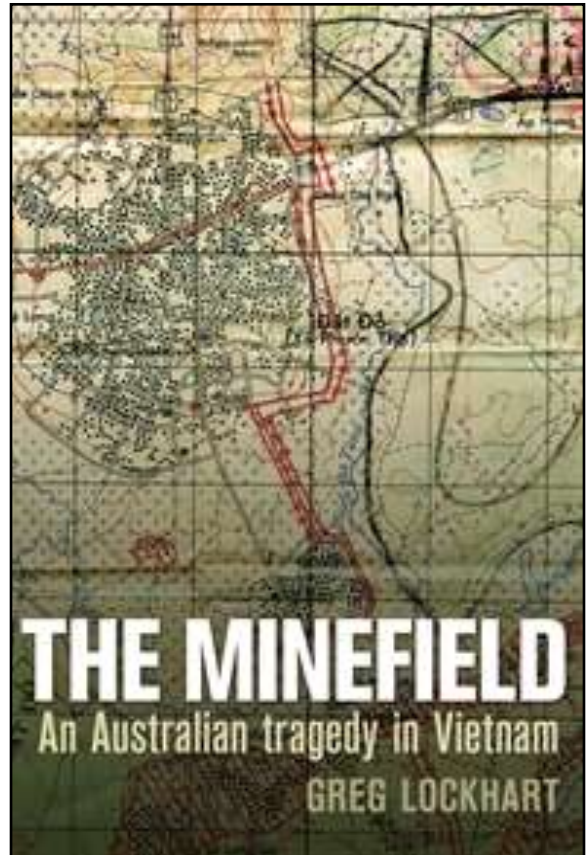
INB ■

Excerpt from:

[Commander of Australian Force Vietnam, General Hay], also pointed out the Australian press in Vietnam knew well that the original reason for the minefield was to 'deny enemy movement to and from population centres... [and] prevent movement of food supplies'.

[In a signal to Army Headquarters in Canberra General Hay said]:

'The means of preventing the above movement is now viewed differently because we know the barrier minefield in fact had only limited success. You refer to 'most successful'. I know opinions differ on the degree of success but I think most successful is overdoing it...We are now destroying the minefield not because the minefield has achieved its purpose but because there are many gaps in it...and the minefield is a source of supply to the VC. Why cannot we say so and clear this up for good? The Australian press in this area know of this.' ■



To get your copy simply ring the NSW Branch Granville Office on 02 9682 1788 or order on-line at www.vvfagranville.org.

From the Archives



The Founding of the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service

VVAA HISTORY DRAFTS - PART 2

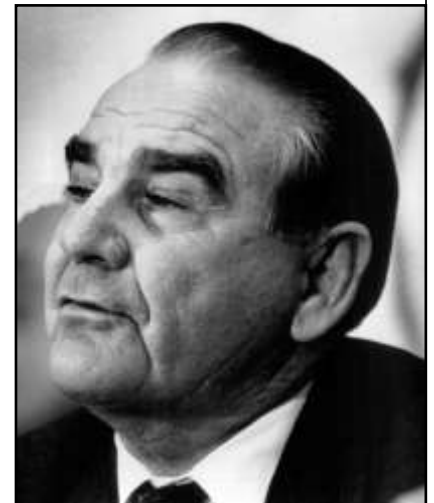
By Kel Robertson

VVAA HISTORY DRAFTS - Founding the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service - Part 2

Previously: Part 1 of this article, noting celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the **founding of the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service (VVCS)** in 2022, traced the **early efforts of veterans' organisations to obtain government funding of their counselling services. These funding attempts led to consideration of the VVAA's Operation Simpson proposal by the RSL National Executive and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Tony Messner, in March of 1981.** This second instalment concludes the story of the founding of the VVCS.

Though allegedly supportive of the VVAA's Simpson proposal, Veterans' Affairs Minister Messner was, according to Sir William Keys, strongly opposed to the control of any new counselling service by an incorporated body, as suggested by the Association. Keys indicated to members of the RSL National Executive, prior to their 14 March 1981 meeting, that Messner's desire for the service to be under his control could be met by the establishment of a statutory body, oversighted by a Council, reporting directly to the Minister.

When the Simpson proposal was discussed by the RSL National Executive at the 14 March meeting, the ACT representative expressed reservations about a service specifically for Vietnam veterans but Keys



Sir William Keys, President
RSL, (Circa 1983)

countered that the Minister was already committed to the initiative. Keys' National President's report reminded Executive members that, although the Minister was favourably impressed by the proposed service structure, he (the Minister) was **not impressed by the organisation's proposed removal from ministerial control.**

The RSL meeting resolved that the matter of the counselling service should be left in the **National President's hands, and a couple of days later, on 16 March 1981,** Keys wrote to Minister

(Continued on page 32)

Messner, stating that the League would support “a Central Control Council” to oversight the service. Departmental participation could, perhaps, be limited to that of Veterans' Affairs and Health; RSL National Secretary Peter Young, a Vietnam veteran, could represent the League; there could also be a VVAA representative. Keys conceded that the organisation structure set out in Operation Simpson would be “quite effective” but that the service should start as a pilot in Sydney and Melbourne. He suggested that he and Messner should discuss the matter further before his (Keys) imminent departure overseas.

On the same day, Keys wrote to VVAA President Holt McMinn to tell him that the League would not be funding the attendance of delegates from distant States at the May VVAA national conference because of recent VVAA attacks on members of the RSL National Executive in the media. Keys added, though, that the League would support a counselling operation similar in approach to the Simpson one. The new organisation, he remarked, could be oversighted by a Commission “made up of representatives of the necessary Government departments in this type of thing, together with a representative of the RSL, and a representative from the Vietnam Veterans' Association.”

Efforts Becalmed

Keys, as planned, had a further Simpson discussion with Messner before heading overseas, but there was no great imperative for the Minister to then meet with the VVAA about the counselling issue. Messner, like Keys, awaited the outcome of the VVAA's National Congress of 3 May to see which presidential candidate he'd be dealing with in the time ahead. There were other Vietnam veterans' issues, too, to keep both Messner and the VVAA busy. Most importantly, though, a hold was put on things by Messner's announcements in late March and early April, that he would go to the US to find out about counselling.

Within the VVAA, efforts were made to



Holt McMinn OAM in later times.

ensure ongoing support for Operation Simpson in the event of regime change. In late March, the Melbourne-based Welfare Adviser Dirk Van Neuren wrote to secure support for Simpson from the rising man, NSW President, Phil Thompson. Van Neuren noted that the proposal had taken “three months of hard work, careful thought, and consulting with professionals to produce a service project proposal that is both practical and politically feasible.” Almost apologetically, he added that “Due to the current lack of a national forum in the VVAA this submission has been presented as our initiative, without as much consultation with each State and Territory Branch as was desirable.”

On 11 May, a week after the VVAA National Congress had elected Thompson as National President, David Harris, the President of the VVAA Victorian Branch, wrote to Thompson and McMinn to encourage a ‘handover’ meeting between the two. Harris put the view that it was vital that national matters, including “the continued active publicity and support for Operation Simpson”, be discussed.

VVAA leaders weren't the only individuals in this period to be reminded of the importance of veterans' counselling proposals. Minister Messner

was told in the Senate on 14 May of the things he needed to bear in mind – **principally veterans’ suffering** – when making his US trip. On 27 May he was asked whether, **firstly, he’d received the Victorian and WA counselling submissions and, secondly, when a decision about them could be expected.** To the latter question his answer was, predictably, that no decision would be made until **he’d seen counselling in operation in the US.**

Good and Bad News

A couple of days later, on 29 May, Thompson and Messner met briefly at Parliament House while the Senate was in session. **Things didn’t begin well for the VVAA, as the recently elected/appointed National Secretary, Mike Boland, was excluded from the meeting (for reasons not made clear in either Boland or Thompson’s account of events).** This meeting appears to have been the first between the Minister and Thompson in his new role, **although it’s likely that the two had met to discuss counselling issues in early February, when Thompson was still head of the NSW organisation.**

At the 29 May 1981 meeting Messner – whether intentionally setting the tone for future relations or not – gave the VVAA President little **cause for optimism. Where Messner didn’t reject Thompson’s requests outright, he at best undertook to consider them.** On the two issues of most significance, both raised at the outset of the meeting – implementation of Operation Simpson and funding of the VVAA – there were to be no concessions. A decision about counselling would be made, said Messner, after consultation with colleagues and with other organisations, following the trip to the US; there would be no funding of the VVAA at any stage in the future.

Messner left for the US on about 16 June and returned on 2 or 3 July, making public comments on the trip soon after his arrival home. The key message about his time away was that the Americans – officials and Vietnam veterans – **didn’t regard chemical exposure as a significant factor in US veterans’ problems; delayed effects of**

the war were, instead, to blame. The Australian Government was, consequently, **“on the right track in its handling of the problems of its Vietnam veterans”.**

Thus began a controversy that would dog Messner for months to come: one about whether **he’d consulted broadly enough while in the US, and had, as a result, accurately gauged the American position.** Things were not assisted by **the Minister’s remarks, before and at his Sydney 8 July news conference, that there was no credible evidence of any link between chemical exposure and veterans’ disabilities.** (Such was the media focus on this statement that Messner wrote to Prime Minister Fraser on 13 July to explain himself.)

However, Messner’s 8 July news release and some reports of his news conference noted that **he’d been most impressed by the US Veterans Administration’s shop front centres delivering counselling and related services; he consequently “proposed to expand the limited counselling service for [Australian] Vietnam veterans which he announced in January this year”.** No mention was made, though, of the two proposals received from Victoria and Western Australia or of the **originating organisations’ support for the independent, shopfront counselling model.**

Reactions to Messner’s account of what **he’d learned in the US mostly focussed on his claim that there was no credible link between herbicide exposure and deformities or illnesses, rather than on his enthusiasm for counselling.** Phil Thompson was nonetheless reported in at least one newspaper as giving a guarded welcome to the announced expansion of existent counselling arrangements. A belated, short-lived attempt was surprisingly made by a DVA spokesman a few days later to characterise the proposed expansion of DVA counselling as a way of dealing with problems caused by chemical exposure.

(Continued on page 34)

The Canberra Times**17 July 1981**

Vietnam veterans list demands



Members of the Vietnam Veterans Association met the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Messner, at Parliament House yesterday. From left are the Secretary of the Department, Sir Richard Kingsland, Mr M Letts, Mr Phil Thompson, Mr M Kehoc, Senator Messner and Mr F Donovan.

The Government's Plans Are Made A Little Clearer

On 16 July 1981, Messner met in Canberra with representatives of the VVAA and with Frank Donovan (representing the WA Vietnam Veterans' Family Association), specifically to discuss his already proposed expansion of government counselling arrangements. The Australian predicted that the meeting would, though, serve additional purposes; the paper dramatically suggested that the gathering would be an "Agent Orange showdown" and noted Phil Thompson's intention to be accompanied by a

team of scientific advisers (to contest the Minister's view about the minimal impact of Agent Orange).

The VVAA notes of the meeting record the attendance of eight Association participants and fourteen nameless Departmental and Ministerial staff members, in addition to Messner. Counselling dominated the discussion to the exclusion of all else. Other matters had been included at the end of a list of demands which the Association put to the Minister but, after nearly three hours, these other matters – including reimbursement of previous Association expenses, the payment of meeting-related expenses and the

establishment of an independent judicial inquiry – hadn't been broached. Time had run out.

The Association's demands had opened with a statement that research into the biological and psychological problems of Vietnam veterans was not a matter separate from the establishment of counselling. A 24-hour counselling service was then proposed ... and it was not to be "an extension" of DVA but to be run by directly funded regional committees. The selection and employment of staff was to be a function of specially constituted State Committees, and Vietnam veterans were to be "directly involved in the planning and establishment of these services."

Messner disposed of most of these requirements by reference to different US arrangements and was seemingly unconvinced by any arguments in support of the Association's points. Most notably, he countered the core argument for an independent service by denying that Australian veterans felt abandoned by or hostile towards the Government ... or would continue to feel that way. Most insultingly, he mused that the counselling service could in some way rely on RSL networks and that the VVAA would have just a single representative on any committee to plan next steps.

On the day following, The Australian reported veterans' angry response to the meeting. Even before Frank Donovan had returned to Perth to report to his executive, the Secretary of the WA body had been briefed by the VVAA and had described the Canberra meeting as "a fiasco" in his organisation's newsletter.

A day later The Canberra Times, drawing on a VVAA media release, reported that the Association would "not cooperate with Federal Government plans" for the counselling service but that "all State Branches decided yesterday to keep the door open to negotiation"; the Association had "accepted in principle the Government's service proposal as essentially the same as its submission ... [but had] ... "wanted independent management of the scheme." What, exactly, VVAA non-

cooperation might have meant, especially for the operation of the future service, was not made clear.

Standoff and War By Press Release

A few days after the VVAA's non-cooperation announcement, Messner finalised a submission to Cabinet outlining the key findings of his US trip and recommending the adoption of the American counselling model – a service operated by Government from shop fronts – as "the most appropriate course in seeking to reach a satisfactory conclusion from the social, therapeutic and political standpoints."

The service proposed to Cabinet, to operate in each State capital and Darwin, would be subject to DVA control and would employ professional counsellors with, where possible, Vietnam service. Messner noted, in support of his point regarding DVA control, that the US Veterans Administration only funded its own counselling service, not services run by others. He noted, too, that "The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia can be expected to persist in its view that a counselling service run for the main part by their present members and advisers, with Government funding, is the only acceptable arrangement."

Cabinet agreed to the operational arrangements suggested by Messner, to the required expenditure (\$625,000 in year 1) and to informing both of the relevant Vietnam veterans' organisations that Government would not agree to them running the new centres. Approval was also given to a press statement along the lines of the one provided to Cabinet by Messner i.e., announcing Government agreement to suburban-based centres, detailing the kinds of services to be offered, specifying the staffing selection strategy (without any stated preference for qualified/experienced veterans) and announcing the search for suitable accommodation.

Messner's next step was to write a peculiar letter, both provocative and conciliatory, to the

(Continued on page 36)

VVAA, expressing disappointment at its announced non-cooperation, querying the extent of that non-cooperation, and noting that quality counsellors who were also Vietnam veterans would be hard to find. He disingenuously claimed to not understand “what differences really exist between us” (when his Cabinet submission had acknowledged the matter of control to be of fundamental importance to the VVAA). Before outlining the arrangements for “a national committee ... to advise on the establishment and operation of the service” he stated that the Association’s non-involvement in planning appeared “to represent an attempt to undermine public and veteran confidence in the proposed service.” He also noted, mischievously, that the RSL (with “many thousands of Vietnam veterans in its membership”) had agreed to his arrangements. In a less confrontational vein, he expressed the hope that Thompson’s consultation with VVAA State Branches (foreshadowed in discussion with Messner’s staff) would result in a more collaborative stance by the Association.

Much of this information was contained in a DVA news release the next day. It began by rejecting an earlier VVAA assertion that Messner’s counselling service would be “merely an extension of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs”. It went on to maintain that, notwithstanding the regrettable unhappiness of the VVAA, the service could proceed, as detailed, because Messner “had reached agreement with the RSL on ... [its] ... establishment and operation.” The membership of a committee to advise Messner on the establishment and operations of the service was detailed. It could include a single representative of the VVAA.

Undated notes, clearly from this time (and seemingly for Thompson’s discussions with VVAA State Branch officials) demonstrate that the Association was keenly aware of the advantages and disadvantages of the Minister’s (more detailed) plans.

On 29 July the Canberra Times prematurely reported that Thompson would be



Senator Hon. Anthony (Tony)
Messner AM, 1980

helping to establish the new counselling service. In fact, on 5 August 1981, the Association demonstrated that such participation in preparatory work was still some way off. It stated in a press release that it reluctantly accepted the Minister’s proposal of 23 July but that this acceptance was subject to negotiation of a number of conditions and recommendations.

Putting aside the problem of the VVAA’s recommendations being, in effect, conditions and one such condition making no sense at all, the requirements were a mix of the reasonable, the unnecessary, the unworkable, the optimistic and the politically impossible. Some were about the workings of the Committee and the operation of the counselling service, while some had nothing at all to do with counselling or the service. The VVAA release (with conditions and recommendations attached) was provided to Messner’s office on 10 August 1981, presumably because it had not elicited a response from the Minister when distributed earlier.

Significant Vietnam veteran-related events then distracted attention from the counselling stand-off – events mostly relating to the chemical exposure issue and the Association’s push for a judicial inquiry.

By 20 August, Messner was again focused on membership of the counselling advisory committee, writing to Thompson to say that, while some of the points raised by the Association could be considered at the committee's first meeting, he couldn't accept conditional VVAA membership of the committee. (This refusal was almost certainly a matter of principle, but Messner would not, in any event, have been interested in complex negotiations about the terms of veteran representation, having indicated on multiple occasions that he was keen to proceed with all speed.) On the same day Thompson sent Messner one of the cheekiest letters of the early VVAA years as a tangential prompt for a response on the counselling issue.

Shortly afterwards, Thompson wrote to all State Branches, enclosing Messner's letter of 20 August: the Minister's letter refusing VVAA conditional membership of the advisory committee. Thompson asked how he should respond to the Minister's request for advice on whether he (Thompson) would be joining the committee. Not all Branch responses are on file; it seems likely that some were communicated via telephone. Written responses were, however, received from four Branch Presidents: from Kerry Murtagh of the Tasmanian Branch, Barry Fulton of the Queensland Branch, Adrian Bishop of the Victorian Branch and Patrick Connell of the ACT Branch.

Murtagh (TAS) said it was good that Thompson was wanted on the committee but expressed surprise that more Vietnam veterans weren't required; "I think," he said, "that we should have a majority of Vietnam Veterans ... especially professional veterans such as doctors, lawyers etc."

Fulton (QLD), after consultation with his State committee, recommended more forceful communication with Messner about representation, but added that the counselling arrangements shouldn't distract effort from the Association's primary objectives "e.g., admission from govt that chemicals are the main cause of our

problems."

Bishop (VIC) stressed the importance not just of VVAA representation on the advisory committee but of the Association President's participation. If the Association's views are not taken seriously, Bishop said, "we can then stand down and make our reason for doing so public." He went on to stress the importance of collocation of counselling offices with VVAA State Branch offices and, most importantly, of links between counselling centres and special treatment centres. Bishop also argued that having Thompson represent the Association on the advisory committee would result in greater attention being paid to the Association's research papers.

Connell (ACT) agreed with the other three Branch Presidents that Thompson's initial participation in the deliberations of the Advisory Committee was important. "It is imperative", he wrote, "that we know what this Committee is recommending to the Minister, and if possible, control these recommendations."

Wary Participation

On 8 September Thompson sent the shortest possible note to Messner, informing him that he (Thompson) would be representing the VVAA on the counselling advisory committee. Some idea of Thompson's thinking at this point can be deduced from the brief mention of counselling matters included in the wide-ranging update on events he sent to State Branches on 7 September 1981. He reminded readers of the Minister's position that counselling issues of concern to the Association – embodied in the conditions and recommendations of 20 August – were only to be discussed when the advisory committee met. The Association, Thompson maintained, drawing on the advice of the Branch presidents, could use the committee to its advantage and could easily withdraw if there proved to be little benefit in participation.

The minutes of the initial meeting of the National Advisory Council (as it was formally known) on 21 September 1981 are missing from

(Continued on page 38)



The first centre opened under the banner of the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service in Adelaide, giving veterans and their families specialised support.

the relevant RSL and VVAA files but it seems likely that the Association's "let's see how it goes" strategy resulted in most of the Association's concerns of 20 August being allowed to rest. In addition, other issues of arguably greater importance had captured or recaptured the Association's attention by this time. Still further, the number and complexity of matters to be considered by the Committee at its initial meeting – the agenda papers were voluminous – would also have made the raising of other matters difficult. However, the key matter of the service's independence from DVA would soon resurface and remains an issue to this day (with the rebranded and expanded service).

Within days of the inaugural National Council meeting, Messner announced that staff for the counselling service were being recruited. The bigger issues which the VVAA had hoped to raise and seek concessions on at early meetings, were inevitably matters for struggle elsewhere, and those early meetings were otherwise uncontroversial; the Minister accepted the Committee's recommendations; the RSL

representative, Peter Young, supported the Association's positions on matters; and selection panels for all staff of the new organisation included the Association representative.

So it was that in early 1982 Thompson was able to write to Messner stating that he was pleased with progress made in establishing the service. The Association could continue its participation in the work of the Committee and its support for the service "so long as the present attitudes are sustained, and the present course of action is continued."

The first Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service shopfront was opened in Adelaide (Tony Messner's base) on 29 January 1982. Others quickly followed.

Disputed Credit

In the estimation of Bruce Ruxton, President of the Victorian Branch of the RSL (and an often-lonely supporter of the Vietnam veterans' cause in League National Executive meetings), the media saw the establishment of the counselling service as a victory for Vietnam veterans. If this was, in fact, an accurate assessment of the media's view, it was

not without justification. After all, the push for shopfront counselling had originated with Vietnam veterans' organisations.

However, it should also be recalled that the VVAA and the Family Association didn't get the entirely independent counselling organisation they'd hoped for. In addition, the VVAA didn't get the long-sought opportunity to part-support its other activities with counselling funding. The victory was, in these respects, an incomplete one.

In Ruxton's view the RSL also deserved some thanks for the counselling service. In so far as Sir William Keys supported Messner's interest in a variant of the Simpson proposal (and quashed internal National Executive criticism of a service exclusively for Vietnam veterans), Ruxton was right; the RSL did deserve some credit.

The number of other individuals and organisations who have, over the decades, claimed responsibility for the establishment of the VVCS is almost beyond counting: a good indication of how effective and valued the Service has been.

After the Fraser Government was defeated at the March 1983 Federal election, Thompson wrote a generous letter to Messner, paying particular tribute to the assistance provided by the Senator and his staff in dealing with urgent matters affecting veterans and their families. Thompson added: "The setting up of the Counselling Services can be accredited directly to you and I thank you personally for this most valuable initiative."

Messner responded, thanking Thompson for his kind words, and confirming his belief that the counselling centres would provide "a focal point ... [for individuals] ... reluctant to avail themselves of the standard programmes for veterans because of their particular war experiences." Messner evidently remained convinced that the war-time experiences of Vietnam veterans, rather than chemical harms, were the cause of their post-war problems.

Note: After the first part of this article was published, Graham Walker, the long-time research officer of the VVAA (and subsequently the Vietnam Veterans Federation) drew the attention

of the author to important records deposited by the original NSW Branch Welfare Officer, Carla McCallum, at the Australian War Memorial. These records have enabled improvements to be made to the description of early NSW funding efforts described in Part 1 of this article. ■

Kel Robertson is a Canberra writer. He is currently researching the history of the VVAA. The views expressed in this article are his and not those of the Federation.

The aim of "VVAA History Drafts" is to inform readers about progress made with the Association's history and encourage people who have extra information to contact the writer. Readers who have additional information about matters mentioned in this article can contact Kel at vhhistory99@gmail.com.



A version of this article with extra material and notes on sources will be available once additional research has been completed in late 2023. © 2022 Kel Robertson

FROM THE EDITORS DESK



Some thoughts for Compensation Advocates and Wellbeing Officers

ESOs perform services essential to the Repatriation system; principally assisting with disability claims and providing welfare.

You will know from my article in our July 22 issue that DVA now has sole jurisdiction over the official training and qualification of Compensation and Wellbeing Advocates that assist and aid ADF members, those transitioning from ADF, and those already belonging to the Ex-Services community, or veterans. Prior learning and experiences are no longer accepted as an exemption from passing DVA qualification courses known as *Advocacy Training and Development Program -ATDP*..

This is a misguided attempt to improve the quality of claims being submitted. Certainly it puts a floor under the skill that Advocates must have but at the same time dismisses many fine and successful Advocates with many, many years of experience. Many of these Advocates are not prepared to have to attend a course on which they might well make better instructors than those supplied by DVA. And it is not as though an **experienced advocate's ability could not be checked by looking up the records**. Is it laziness or incompetence?

So this ill-advised DVA edict will not only reduce the number of good advocates in the system but reduce the average skill level.

And this at a time when reduction of the ridiculously high backlog of claims needs reducing urgently.

Neither has DVA's ill-considered On-Line Claims submission process, as predicted in my article of December 22 issue, improved the situation. The on-line system encourages claimants to make incomplete and often frivolous claims, (sadly often prompted by DVA VSO's – *Veteran Support Officers* - operating on ADF bases), so that many traumatised, stressed, and bewildered veterans seek help from our organisation, and no doubt other ESOs, after their on-line claim has been rejected.

Are the VSO's as skillful and qualified as DVA insist all our advocates must be? It seems, with this advice being given, a reasonable question to ask.

ESOs are eligible for some government funding for the part they play in the Repatriation system. This is known as BEST funding; BEST standing for *Building Excellence in Support and Training Program*. How much each ESO receives depends on how much work they do in helping veterans submit compensation claims and how much welfare work they do.

Recently changes have been made in how this workload is calculated. We are just now trying to understand the implication of these changes and fear they may have been introduced to save money and/or reduce the number of claims submitted, rather than to improve the system.

For instance, claims submitted by an Advocate who has not passed the ATDP course are not included in an ESO's workload, regardless

of the quality of the claim. So the work of those highly experienced, successful Advocates are simply ignored. How rigid and inflexible can you get?

And that's not all.

Since 2019 at ESORT (ESO Round Table attended by presidents of major ESOs) forum, DVA has continued to bring pressure on ESOs to reduce the number of activities that once were included for workload rating assessments that determine BEST payments.

This reduction in eligible ESO services may even tip some below the minimum score for *any* BEST funding while reducing payments to other ESOs for their providing much needed services.

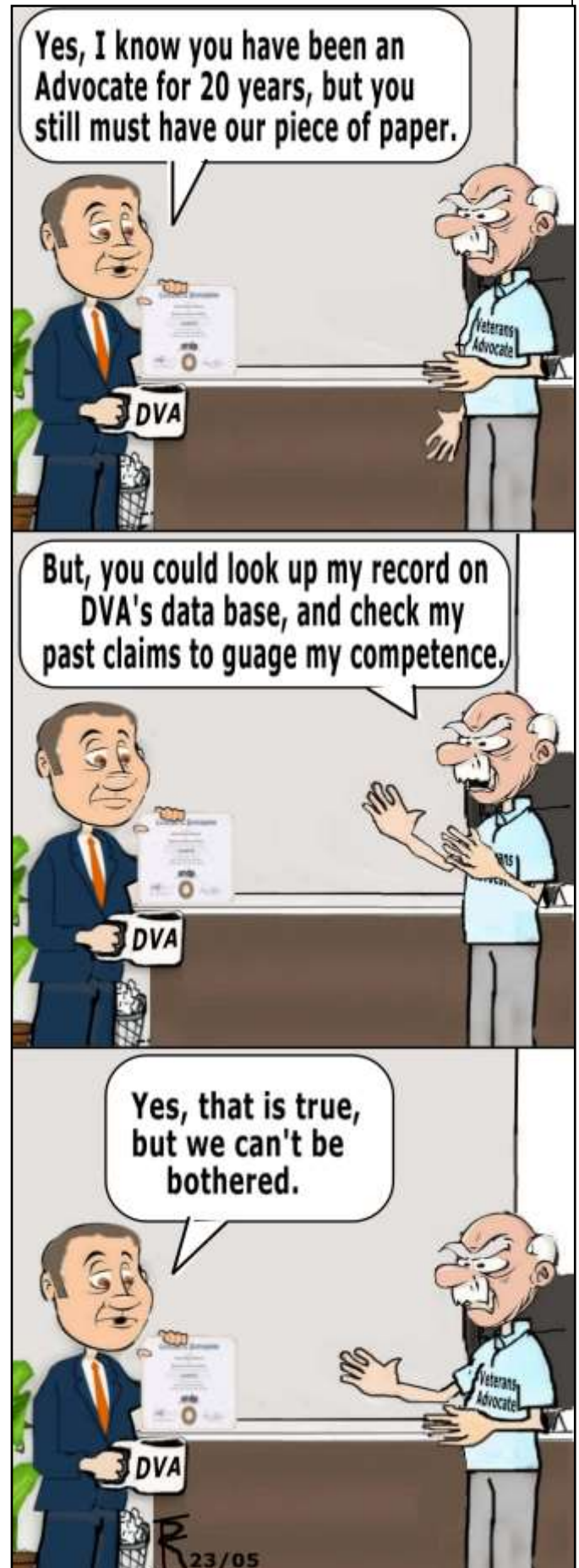
The combination of losing skilled advocates due to the non-recognition of prior learning, and the demise of ESOs through funding shortages will bring about conditions that have dire consequences for the veteran community. Smaller ESOs in remote areas will lose the ability to support paid staff, and lose volunteer advocates because ATDP recognition and courses will no longer be affordable. Veterans within these country areas will suffer, increasing their stress and anxiety levels.

Surviving ESOs managing to retain paid qualified staff and support a volunteer base, even with a reduced grant allotment, will become busier as veterans from remote areas seek assistance away from their former support centres, again placing high stress levels on them and their families.

The only purpose these latest changes can have is to reduce the number of claims for a short period, making a short term improvement to the outrageous backlog but worsening the situation in the long term.

Will it reduce the BEST funding budget? More than likely it will. But at what cost to veterans' welfare.

Editor



And another thing (from the Editor)

How DVA is reducing the backlog without reducing the backlog



Readers will know there is a serious backlog of disability compensation claims in DVA's system.

So bad is the backlog that most disability claims take well over a year to decide.

So what is the backlog?

Well, you would think the backlog of disability claims is the number of claims received by DVA but not yet accepted or rejected.

Currently, that is a large number.

In February 2023 the number of claims received by DVA but not yet accepted or rejected was 58,868 or 48,712 depending how they are counted. Both devastatingly high numbers.

DVA, and the government, are rightly embarrassed and would like to have that number reduced quickly.

The remedial measures announced, including more staff and legislative reform, will not reduce the number significantly for a year or two.

So how does DVA reduce its embarrassment quickly?

Answer: It redefines 'backlog'.

Now, only those claims not yet allocated to decision makers are defined as the 'backlog'.

But the number of claims already allocated to decision makers is huge. It is 30,292. And we don't know how many each decision maker has in their in-trays. What we do know is that having waited the best part of a year to be allocated to a decision maker claims take months more for the decisions to be made.

So there is absolutely no legitimate reason to exclude claims allocated to a decision maker from the backlog figure.

But it suits DVA and the government because redefining 'backlog' has meant that instead of DVA reporting the real backlog figure for February as 58,868 (or 48,712 depending on how they are counted) it is reporting a dodgy one of 28,576 (or 18,420).

Reducing the backlog without reducing it.

DVA has pulled out from its cupboard the old 'redefine' trick.

Appropriately, it is the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland who says:

'Shut up and toe the line
While I redefine.'

Editor ■

*I wonder what ever
happened to that
bloke we called
'Cracker'?*



*A week before Anzac Day
in a city laneway
wind biting at my face
a flash of red blew past my feet:*

A WELL WORN PATHWAY

I wonder what ever happened to that bloke,
We called 'Cracker'?

Solid bloke: met him during my time at Infantry
training;

Had a chest like a Barossa oak-wine barrel: and
laugh!

He had a way about him. Infectious really!

And reliable!

He was the bloke to be with in a contact,

Calm: and all seeing;

Yet there were times his stare was fixed and empty.

I heard through other Veterans,

That all went pear shaped for him though, when
back home!

Four years!

Killed a man: by chance,

In a car park!

Cracker caught him assaulting a woman and
exploded,

One hit! But the man's head crashed against a car
fender,

On the way down:

Severed his neck!

Died!

From gaol Cracker just disappeared again:

Went bush, I heard,

Up on the Murray somewhere:

Caravan, and alone.

Then there are stories of him,
Showing up at a Serviceman's Club,
Where someone saw him again, as a veteran in
need;

Began helping him towards a pension,

But Bureaucracy wanted more,

Of Cracker than he could stand,

And he disappeared again into the bush:

Lost!

A week before Anzac Day,

In a city laneway,

Wind biting at my face,

A flash of red blew past my feet:

A poppy on a wire,

A tag attached.

Scooping to catch it up,

I saw on it, a one word overseas brand name
emblazoned;

'CRAKER', which brought a choke,

And deep thoughts of a man's name

That had gone unseen in an obituary list,

As someone who had self harmed,

Despite having humour, reliability and calmness!

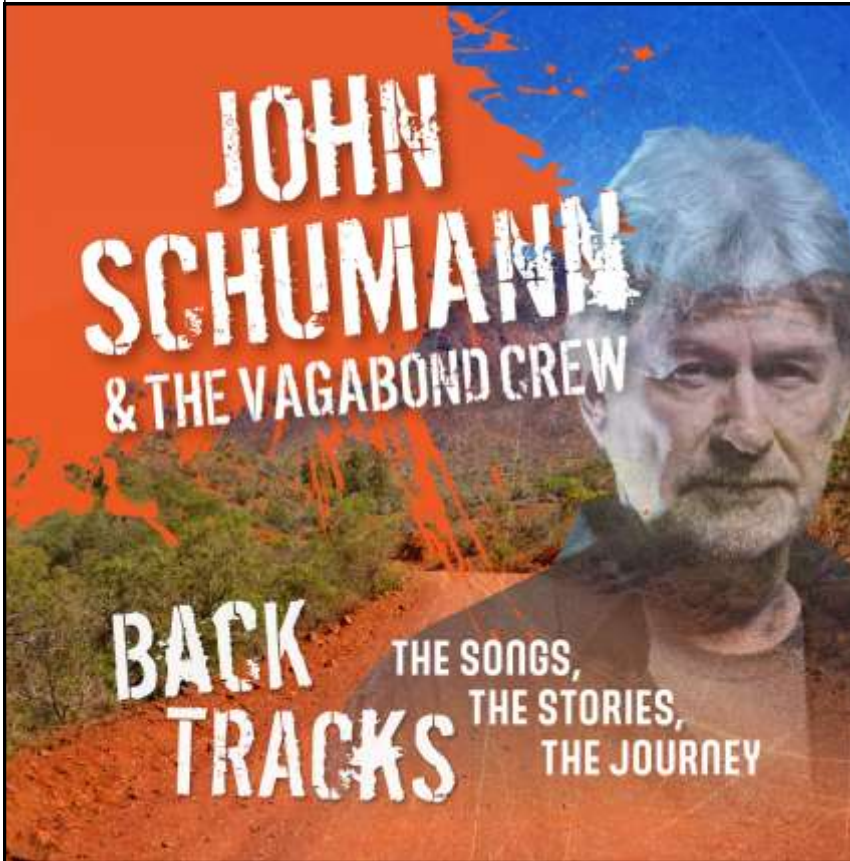
Graeme Foley

ex B Coy 3 RAR

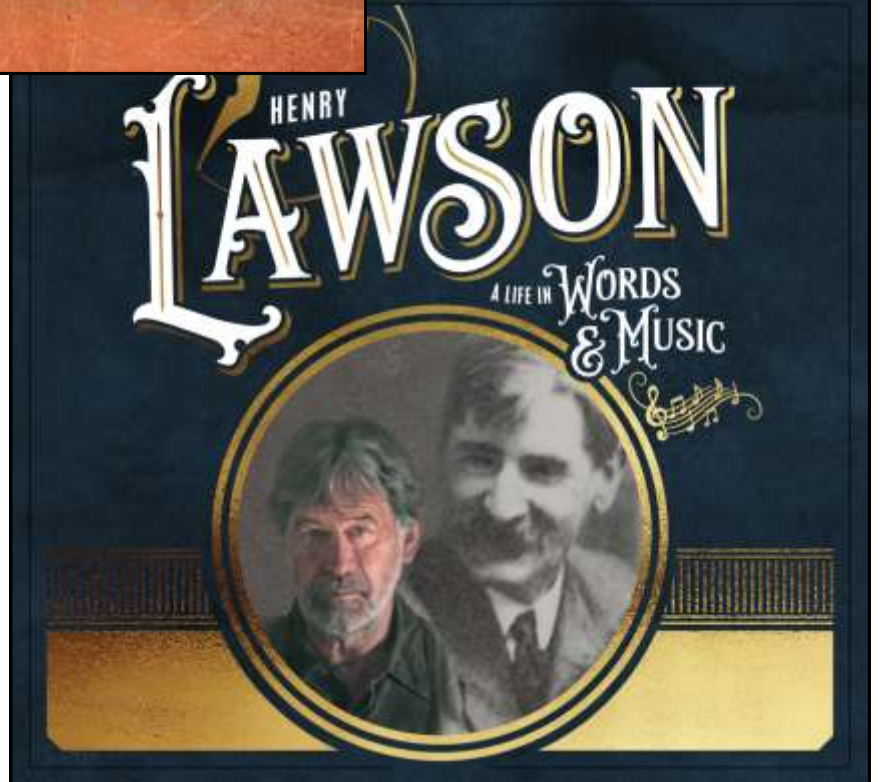
Vietnam first tour 1967 -68)

Shooney's on the road.

More details at: <https://www.schumann.com.au/>



The Vagabond Crew present



Back Tracks
Concerts

FRI, MAR 31

Canberra

8pm The Street Theatre
15 Childers St,
City West ACT 2601

SAT, APR 1

Sydney

8pm THE FACTORY THEATRE
105 Victoria Road, Marrickville,
2204

SUN, APR 2

Lambton

2:00 PM Lizotte's
31 Moreshead St, Lambton,

FRI, MAY 12

St Kilda

Doors 7:00PM
Show 8:00PM
MEMO Music Hall
88 Acland Street, St Kilda Victoria
3182

SUN, MAY 14

Gladysdale

1.30pm—5pm The Barra Shed
655 Little Yarra Road, Gladysdale
Victoria 3797

SAT, JUN 24

Adelaide

7.30pm The Gov - Main Room
(Hindmarsh, SA)

FRI, AUG 25

Byron Bay

8pm Byron Theatre
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay, 2481

SAT, AUG 26

Brisbane

7pm The Tivoli

Lawson Special Concert

SAT, MAY 13

St Kilda Doors 7.00PM Showtime: 8.00PM

MEMO Music Hall 88 Acland Street, St Kilda Victoria 3182

Farewell to Nambus



It was 2010.

The Nambus was chugging its way up the highway on the very long journey from Sydney to Cobar.

Would we make it? we wondered.

After all, it was a 1979 vintage bus, admittedly with a relatively new (five years old) motor fitted by the apprentices at Ryde Bus Depot during their 2009 January break.

We had been invited to show Vietnam war memorabilia to the students at Cobar High particularly those studying the war in their history classes.

But Lorraine Scott, Nambus Secretary, not wanting to waste such a long trip, had organised similar visits to schools on the way; at Orange, Dubbo and Nyngan.

So what did we have to show them?

Bankstown TAFE had built cabinets inside the bus so we were able to display photos of Australian servicemen and women in Vietnam, an excellent diorama of the Cu Chi tunnels as well as

paraphernalia about conscription and the war itself.

And, of course, we had with us veterans who could speak and answer questions.

But the Nambus had been doing similar trips (though rarely so long) for many years.

Walter Pearson, who was there in the early days, tells us about it.

The Nambus, an educational initiative of Viet Nam Veterans on the Central Coast, has been retired and will now be on permanent display at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, at Phillip Island, Victoria.

Over more than twenty years the Nambus visited about 350 schools in New South Wales delivering first hand experience of the Viet Nam War to more than 39,000 students.

The Nambus is jam-packed with memorabilia and genuine artefacts of the Viet Nam War. A prominent piece of the display is a



diorama of the Cu Chu Tunnels encountered by 1RAR on Operation Crimp in 1966. This is complemented by examples of ammunition, ration packs, contemporary photos, and a reproduction of the national newspaper compilation of those who died in the conflict.

Of course central to the Nambus and its success were the Veterans who gave their time to share their experiences of the War. Veterans from

every service and every military background told honestly their unique perspective of their time in Viet Nam.

For the Year 10 students the bus was aimed at, the experience brought a new dimension to their understanding of one part of Modern History, giving it new reality and poignance. Students came away with a greater understanding

(Continued on page 48)





Back Row in photo L to R **Graham Pile Nambus crew, Gordon Lawson Nambus President/ Driver, John Pollitt crew member, Chris Stone former Nambus President/Driver, Charlie Hankin crew, Ian Betteridge crew, Lindsay Wilson crew, Peter Goldsmith Port Macquarie crew member, Walter Pearson former Nambus crew member, John Wilton (Navy) crew.**
 Front row **Kerrin Brown crew, Greg Walsh Port Macquarie crew member, Barry Lynch Port Macquarie crew member/ co-ordinator, Rob Purcell crew member.**

of events and a reinforced respect for those who served and the concepts of patriotism and duty.

The Nambus went through three iterations starting with a cantankerous old Albion bus with steering so heavy it almost took two men to turn a corner. Local businesses and organisations contributed to the fuel for the bus and members of the bus union helped maintain it at the bus depot in North Ryde. The local Rural Fire Service provided a safe place to park the bus between operations.

But at the centre of it all were the Veterans and the members of the Central Coast Vietnam Veterans and Peacekeepers Sub-branch where volunteers liaised with school, booked trips, made sure participants had their clearances to work with children, and made sure the vehicle was always fully staffed.

Unfortunately, time took its toll on everyone involved as age took volunteers away and the rapidly rising cost of maintaining a heavy vehicle and its associated stringent regulations made it clear that a volunteer organisation could not keep the old girl on the road.

On Saturday 14 January this year, the Nambus went out for its last public appearance for the sub-branch fittingly at the Ettalong Beach front near the Vietnam War Memorial.

The following day the bus set off for Phillip Island with a full complement of crew on board and a small convoy of support vehicles to bring the volunteers back home. Now a wider public will be able to see this unique enterprise undertaken by Veterans aimed at bringing some realistic understanding of the Vietnam War and the men who did their duty. ■

A request for assistance from the National Vietnam Veterans Museum



Calling all Vietnam Veterans:

Your Museum Needs Your Help

At a cost of over \$1M, your museum now has a Development Approval for the new museum building. However, the DA is being challenged by residents who do not want to see the new museum on our land.

So, now we must fight the objections at the
Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

At a cost of around \$140K!

***Vietnam Veterans Have Never Walked Away From a
Fight,***

***So we are appealing to all Vietnam Veterans (and friends) to donate \$10
(more if you can afford it) to a fighting fund.***

Every cent raised will go towards the legal costs of fighting the objections. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made by direct debit until the end of March to the museum as follows:

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Trading Account

Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Account: 149 738 577

Identify the donation as “VCAT FUND” along with your name.

**For other donation options please contact the museum
Tele:03 5956 6400**

Authorized by R W Elworthy AM, NVVM Secretary M: 0402106262

Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories



Did you know 4RAR was affiliated with the
Irish Regiment of Foot Guards?
(Yes, the ones that guard Buckingham
Palace from time to time)

My 2010 visit to The Irish Guards (the *Mick's*) our 'Brothers-in-Arms'.

by Al Wood. ~ (Tracker Platoon. SVN1)

Visiting the UK for several weeks in July 2010, I thought it would be appropriate while there, for me to take some time out to somewhat explore this somewhat overlooked connection our battalion's association has with the 1st Battalion of the *Irish Regiment of Foot Guards*.

As some members may not be aware, 4RAR and the "Micks" (as they are affectionately called) received royal ascent to an affiliation of our two units way back in 1965, but until now, I am not aware that it has been given the recognition it deserves.

This British light infantry battalion was very soon to be deployed to it's first tour to Afghanistan, (sometime in September) and I

thought way back to our state of mind in Brisbane in 1968 as we prepared for our own deployment, with a certain degree of empathy.

Our journey found us in Liverpool on Saturday 26 June, (which happened to be UK Armed-Force's Day) and we found it an opportunity to attend a very moving commemorative service held in Liverpool Cathedral that morning.

Later that day, I took a short rail journey out to the small Lancashire town of Widnes, where I spent 2 ½ hours in the home of John Hyland and his charming and hospitable wife Doreen. John was a long-serving ex-member of the Irish Guards, and in fact, they now have 2 sons also long-serving



The Irish Guards Singers

in the same regiment. I had discovered him on the www, as founder/conductor of the *Irish Guards Singers*, (www.irishguardssingers.org.uk) a male choir doing their utmost to raise funds for the welfare of the troops and families, by public singing engagements and fund-raising in shopping-centres, etc. They have also produced two audio CD's to further augment their fund-raising, and I was presented with several fine copies of their repertoire, in the hope that news of their endeavours may be further spread amongst us. I was also given a handsome, but rather bulky book, covering the "First Hundred Years of the Irish Guards". Though quite a large "coffee-table" type of publication, it was well worth the effort of bringing it home with us.

Some months ago, and because of my recent interest in this affiliation, I had come across the *Irish Guard's Forum* on the www, (www.ig.association.forums-free.com) and due to this 4RAR/Irish Guard connection, I was deemed eligible to join, as we all are, as former 4RAR members.

Through this interaction, it was arranged for a meeting to be made with an ex-Guardsman on our last day of our time in Britain. Here I am, sitting outside the "Bag o' Nails" pub in Buckingham Palace Road in London, at noon, as arranged. Right on time, along the footpath

through the lunchtime crowds, strides this 6'3" crew-cut guy, smartly bedecked-out in dark blazer (with embroidered badge on the pocket, tie, grey trousers, etc.), and by the audible and rhythmic 'clack-clack' sound of his heels on the pavement, I guessed correctly. Straight up to me he marches, "Al" he exclaims? I confirm, and am instantly greeted with a bear-hug. "Great to meet a member of our brother battalion" he exclaims with his East-End come Ulsterman accent, though he now lives in southern England, and breeds/trains German Shepherds.

Davy is an ex-Irish Guardsman of some 10 year's service, who tells me over a pint we down in the "Bag o' Nails", an oft-frequented pub by the guard doing duty at the Palace, that he rose to the heady heights of corporal during those years of service in the regiment, but only for 3 days, before they got wise to him. He knows them up at Wellington Barracks near the Palace, the home of the Guards in London, and presently occupied by the Grenadier Guards. (the "Micks" being currently quartered out at Victoria Barracks, near Windsor Castle). Would I like a look-around inside the gates? So one beer and off we go. "One is enough" he says. "Don't wish to have the smell of booze on the breath." "Always a Guardsman", thinks I. Our 10 minute walk up past Buckingham

(Continued on page 52)

Palace to the barracks rear-gate in Petty France St., is filled with anecdotes of his memories of standing sentry at the palace years ago.

We go past the two gate-sentries and into the orderly room, where he states our credentials and my purpose for the visit. After a short time, a guy arrives and takes us up to what I soon learn is the RHQ of the Irish Guards Regiment., past a vast display of medals, drums, uniforms from many years past, where we are left in the tender care of Captain Vince McEllin of the RHQ, who tells us the Regimental Adjutant is currently in a meeting, but will soon be with us. ‘Quite no need to interrupt him’, I say. Gulp !!! What am I doing here ? All I wanted was a look around the complex. Even Davy in all his years in the Guards Regiment, has never got this far, he tells me. Both of us feel just a bit uneasy, as in a former life, we’d have been up here most probably in less pleasant circumstances. But after a short time talking with Captain McEllin, we are ushered into the presence of the Regiment’s Adjutant, Lt. Col. (Ret) Brian O’Gorman, for a cordial 5-10 minute meeting, just the four of us. Sitting in a large, timber-panelled room, resplendent with painted portraits of uniformed personages and opulent wooden furniture, looking out onto the parade-ground, on to Birdcage Walk and further on to St. James’s Park and The Mall, with Buckingham Palace just off to the left, I briefly talked of my remembrances of service in Vietnam with 4RAR some 40 year’s ago, and our association’s empathy and moral support for our ‘brother’ battalion’s forthcoming journey into ‘harm’s way’, and touched on the many similarities of our situations; a hardened, determined and difficult to identify adversary, IED perils, the oppressive climate, the sometimes inferior equipment supplied, serving alongside the US forces, the unending stress experienced, the often critical media and factions of the public at home, etc., etc. A lot of this was brought home to me late last year, while watching the cable-TV British series *Ross Kemp in Afghanistan*, mostly “up-close and personal” like.

I could almost smell it all again, even after all



Al & Davy at Wellington Barracks

these years. Our guys, more than most out there in society these days, could appreciate the task and personal toll which lies ahead for them, and theirs.

We said our cordial goodbyes, and I was directed to the Q-Store, where I picked-up a silk Guard’s Regimental tie before departing the precinct.

Incidentally, all ex-members of 4RAR are entitled to purchase any of the items available through www.grenade.org.com.

It was not quite the grand tour of the Wellington Barracks complex which I had expected, but a very worthwhile experience none-the-less. Shortly after, Davy and I said our brief goodbyes near Victoria Station, and went our separate ways.

This interaction with our affiliate ex-Irish Guards members sure beat the hell out of taking any organised and touristy sightseeing tour. So much more personally rewarding.

I was also privileged to visit the Royal Hospital (for aged military pensioners) at Chelsea (www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk) ; and the two veteran’s charities - COMBAT-STRESS (www.combatstress.org.uk) and **VETERAN’S AID** (www.veterans-aid.net) ...but that’s another story.

Al Wood ■

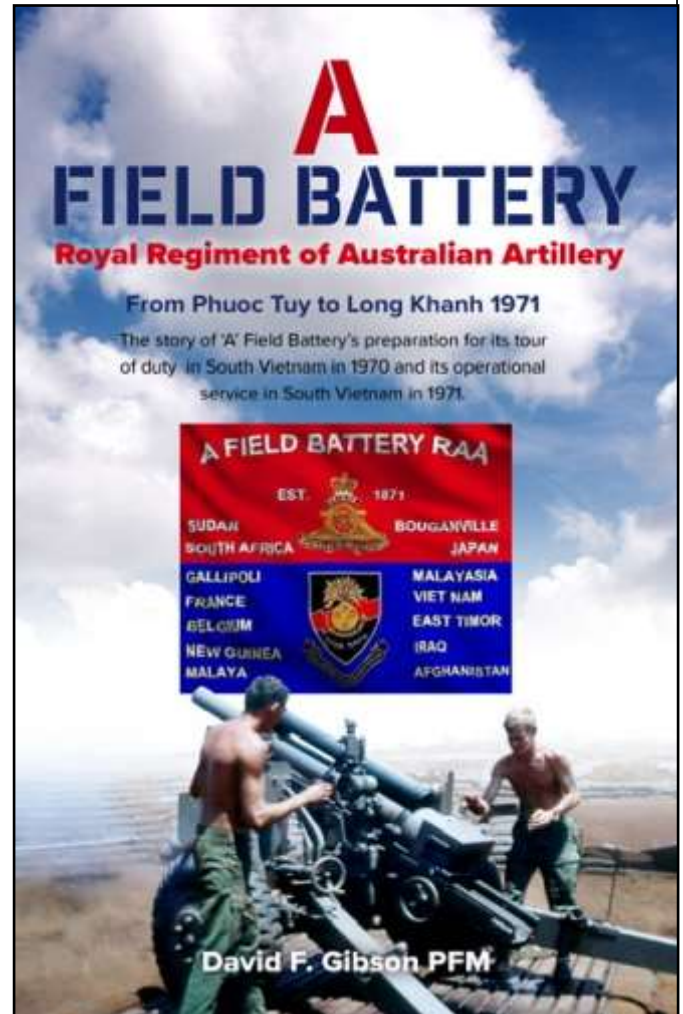
DID WE HEAR RIGHT?

Yes, perhaps with difficulty, you heard right.

Not everyone is happy with their pensioner level, DVA distributed, hearing aids.



Where to get it



David Gibson, a National Serviceman, joined the battery in March 1970.

The battery moved to South Vietnam in February 1971 to be in direct support of 3RAR.

David tells the story of how the battery performed from official records and from his own experience.

David experience was both as a member of the forward observer party and from the gun line.

A good read. ■

To order your book contact David at:
David.rital@bigpond or ring 0425 753 533.

Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

Here we have Part 5 of the story of HMAS Sydney told by one of the crew, John Ingram

HMAS SYDNEY: the bloody “American War” 1966-67



(In which readers learn of the contamination of the water supply by Agent Orange)

On the return home leg of a deployment the ship's company would do all possible to make “our” soldiers feel welcomed. This would include “Crossing the Line” ceremonies with King Neptune and his Mermaids, race meetings with wooden horse profiles, concerts with “female” entertainers and so on.



Soldiers relaxing on the flight deck (note fuselage of repatriated RAAF Caribou)

King Neptune & his maidens

Whenever safe to do so taking into consideration operational factors, a beer issue would be authorised for all personnel not required to keep watch that night. A 26 oz (750 ml) can of cold beer did much to maintain good morale. For 20 cents a can “opened” (could not be stowed away for binge purposes) a sailor or soldier could unwind and socialise. Unlike the US Navy or Marine Corps, we in the RAN didn't have an illicit substance problem in our ships at the time.



“Folies Bergere” performance



Placing bets trackside on (horse) race day



Soldiers embarking in South Vietnam, whether from lighter or “chopper”, would stomp heavily on the deck with their boots as if to say “no land mines here; this is safe to walk on without being blown up!” Then would follow long, hot showers to wash off the notorious Nui Dat red dust or mud of Bien Hoa Province. Our Engineering personnel would be dismayed at the ensuing consumption of fresh water as the levels in the potable water tanks fell while the evaporators worked overtime replenishing storage tanks from the heavily polluted waters of the Saigon River basin.



We didn't know it at the time but that distilled water contained extremely dangerous toxins, mainly dieldrin in a man-made product commonly known as “Agent Orange”. We mistakenly believed it was being sprayed by low flying US military aircraft (fixed and rotary wing) to kill mosquitos in the vast swampy, delta area forming the Saigon River basin. These aircraft could be seen usually late in the afternoon dispersing their vapour trail. The toxic “cocktail” was actually a defoliant designed to kill

vegetation and thereby expose the enemy, his supply trails and hide-outs. The toxins quickly dispersed into waterways and river basin and entered the human food chain via crops, marine life etc. Now 50 years later “Agent Orange” is still causing genetic deformities in the animal kingdom including humans.

In the SYDNEY and her escorts, we were affected by the water we showered in, drank, prepared and cooked our meals and in which our clothes were washed. I first became aware of a contaminant in the water when some of the Cooks complained about the smell. I discussed with our Senior Engineer, whom I jokingly accused of adding kerosene to the water to reduce consumption. He promised to investigate and later reported it may have been traces of a boiler cleaning compound (Gamlen D) then in common use to de-scale the boiler tubes (ironically since banned from use in the RAN as a known toxin).

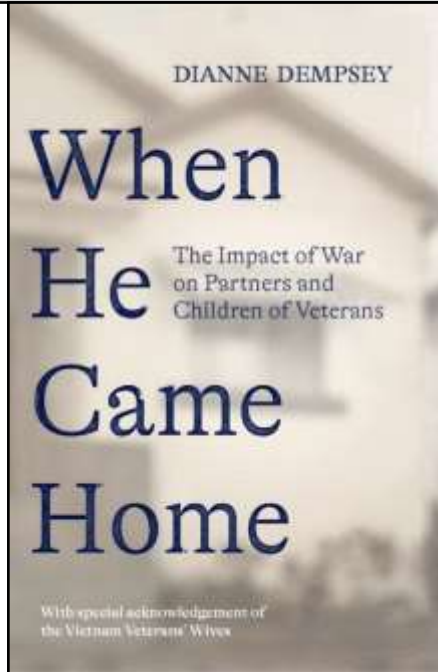
History records “Agent Orange” did affect the health of those exposed. Unlike US ships which were replenished with potable water sourced in Guam, RAN ships manufactured distilled water from the polluted coastal waters of South Vietnam. While it was “distilled” it was not “demineralised” per se and the “Agent Orange” cocktail entered the ships’ potable water tanks and hence our food chain and bodies. Australian military personnel, especially those who served years in the SYDNEY (including me) recorded some of the highest personal levels ever documented of this extremely dangerous cocktail. ■



Target practise: drone recovery Towed target for a surface shoot Pre-fighting drone on launch dolly

Above photos are of different types of targets deployed in the SYDNEY to keep the Gunnery department on their toes while providing entertainment for the troops. The orange drone was remotely controlled and assisted the 40 mm Bofors crews hone their skills. Occasionally, a direct hit “inadvertently” occurred causing much shouting and cheering by onlookers, but later incurring the wrath of the “bean counters” back at the Ordnance Depot. The yellow Battle Practice Target was towed astern on a very long wire and the escorts would engage with their main armament mostly, the 4.5” guns in “throw off” shoots.■

Excerpt from:



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Maggie tells me the Vietnam war has been a **integral part of her life**. ‘How I dealt with the adversity within my marriage taught me life lessons. Ironically, these lessons have come from my husband as well. Hans continues to **teach me all the time**. He’s **courageous and tenacious**. He’s had so much to deal with. These days he plays music and he is creative. He has a life threatening heart condition, **diabetes and he’s an alcoholic**. He still has **PTSD**. He’s been suicidal. I’ve been suicidal. I know Hans would have died if I had walked away. Our son is suffering from a major **depression and he’s 44 years old**. So the war affected us hugely but I see things in the bigger picture now such as our overall growth and triumph over all of this.’ ■

PSK FINANCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE

Considerations for different retirement living options

Whether downsizing your home, relocating to a new city, modifying your existing property, or entering an independent or assisted living arrangement is on the cards, thinking ahead could create more certainty.

When thinking about your retirement, financial and non-financial considerations will all play a part.

Downsizing your home, relocating or both

For many Aussies, retirement may be an ideal time to downsize, possibly relocate somewhere new, or both, while freeing up a bit of extra money. Either way, there will be a variety of things to consider including:

Whether the money from your potential property sale could affect the results of income and asset tests for any Government Pension entitlements you may be eligible for.

If you're 65 or over and eligible, whether you may want to make a downsizer contribution into super. This is where older Aussies can put up to \$300,000 into their super (or \$600,000 per couple) using money from the sale of their main residence, noting various rules apply.

There are also a lot of non-financial considerations, if you are thinking about moving **to an area that you're not familiar with. It might be worth trialling where you're thinking about** moving to, by visiting the neighbourhood a few times, or even taking a short break and renting there for a while.

Making modifications to your existing property

Rather than moving, you may be thinking about making modifications to your existing home to make it more accessible for what you might need in your future years.

For instance, you may be considering installing handrails and ramps, widening doorways, installing emergency alarms, monitoring systems or even adding sensor lights.

This could also delay the potential need to move into an assisted living facility down the track, **and the good news is, if this is something you'd like to do, there may be government subsidies** to help you cover the costs.

If you're looking for more information on subsidies for modifying your home, you can either **check out the government's [My Aged Care website](#)** or call 1800 200 422.

Moving into a retirement village

If you're looking to downsize or reduce your responsibilities (your home might be getting too big to manage), you may be considering moving into a retirement village, which is a residential community designed for older people who are generally able to care for themselves.

Retirement villages have different living options and offer a range of leisure, social and **support services, depending on whether you're** choosing an independent living centre or an assisted living arrangement.

Independent living centres typically have minimal assistance in day-to-day living but plenty of medical and recreational facilities, such as community halls, bowling greens, libraries and pools

Assisted living centres generally offer more support with house responsibilities and maintenance, such as housekeeping, cleaning or

preparing meals.

Payment models for retirement villages

There are many different payment models when it comes to retirement villages, depending on whether it's an independent living or assisted living centre.

However, some typical costs you may come across include an entry contribution, an exit fee and ongoing charges to cover things like maintenance and general services provided by the village

How different villages charge can vary significantly, and some residents may be subject to different payment models or special levies, which could also change over time. This is why it's important to read the fine print and consider speaking to a legal professional before signing anything.

Living in an aged care home

By considering your options in aged care earlier rather than later, you may be able to provide yourself, or a loved one, with greater flexibility and freedom down the track.

The other thing worth noting is that moving into an aged care facility might not be the only option, with the government providing various services that could help you to stay at home for longer.

Help at home

If you're generally able to manage, but require assistance with daily tasks, like shopping, cooking, home maintenance, personal care, travel and social activities, there are various home-care services that could support you, so you may continue to live independently in your own home.

Short-term care

Short-term care services provide support for a set period of time. There are three types of short-term care available: short term restorative care, transition care and respite care.

Aged care homes

An aged care facility (or nursing home) is typically where you live in a full-service residence

and receive ongoing care and support while you live there.

These aren't the same as retirement villages or other independent living centres, which provide facilities but not necessarily the same level of support and care that you may need later in life. If you think this is the best option for you or your loved one, it's a good idea to research and visit several residences to find the right fit.

Eligibility for different services

To be eligible for various government aged care services, you have to meet certain criteria and pass an assessment process. This can be organised through the government's My Aged Care website or by calling 1800 200 422.

Also keep in mind that the costs of different aged care services vary and will depend on the care you're eligible for, the provider you choose and your financial situation.

See [My Aged Care - Commonwealth Home Support Programme](#)

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To discuss further or to arrange a time to review your current financial position please contact:

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*We welcome a letter from the National President of the TPI Federation. It is an important letter that should generate discussion on an important topic. It is in response to the article in the December 22 edition of this magazine titled, *The campaign for a more generous TPI pension.....Is a different approach needed?**

Dear Editor,

The TPI Federation of Australia (TPI Federation) acknowledges the contribution made by the Author of the article “*The campaign for a more generous TPI pension Is a different approach needed?*”, in the December 2022 issue of the Vietnam Veterans’ Federation’s (VVF) Newsletter. In response, the TPI Federation offers the following contribution to the discussion.

The TPI Federation has a proud history of advocating and securing positive outcomes for not only TPIs, but in some cases, the broader Veteran community. Over the last decade or so, major issues presented to a succession of Governments have been:

- To correct the characterisation of TPI Compensation – the main purpose of this objective was to help delineate and differentiate Veteran / TPI compensation to that of welfare pensions. The TPI Federation secured a positive outcome, with the old “TPI pension” descriptor now abandoned in favour of - “TPI Compensation Payment”.
- The removal of the DVA / TPI Compensation Payment from the means-test for Rent Assistance. After 15 years, this important objective was finally accepted and ratified late last year, where approximately 7,000 Veterans in total (including 2,500 TPIs) now qualify for this extremely critical entitlement.
- To “restore” the TPI Compensation Payment – the TPI Federation was successful in securing a partial win with a \$1,000 p.a. structural increase, but as discussed below, the campaign for proper “restoration” continues in earnest.

The adequacy, or not, of the TPI Compensation Payment has been a focal point for some considerable time, as far back as the late 1970s in fact. In more recent times, a campaign ensued after the 2008 Harmer Review, which focused mainly on an unwritten “Gentlemen’s Agreement” where percentage increases in welfare provisions would directly result in the same percentage increase being applied to DVA related compensation. Unfortunately, this understanding failed to materialise as the Rudd Government continued to reject such claims, stating that the Harmer Review was only for welfare provisioning, not compensation.

In response, and after detailed research was conducted, the TPI Federation adopted a new fighting stance from early 2013, highlighting the fact that once analysed, the TPI Compensation Payment was so badly eroded in relative terms, that it only measured at approximately 43% of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE). This compared to a historical backdrop of where in the early 1950s the payment was once at a

level of 80.3% of AWE. The research also revealed for the first time the complete extinguishment of the compensation once afforded to a TPI Veteran's spouse and children.



Contrary to the VVF article, the TPI Federation has never campaigned to have the TPI compensation payment split. The Federation has only ever campaigned to have the entire compensation payment restored to a level commensurate with what it believes was the Parliament's original intent. In doing so, the TPI Federation has only ever used the 'notional' components of "Pain & Suffering" and "Economic Loss", as described officially by others, as a means of doing so. These notional components have long been described in several ways as far back as the 1975 Toose Review.

In early 2013, the notional Economic Loss component measured at just 65% of the then gross minimum wage. If that wasn't bad enough, then over the last decade it sank as low as 60.9%. When questioned by the late Senator Jim Molan AO DSC in the February 2019 Senate Estimates, the former Secretary of DVA – Ms Liz Cosson AM CSC, agreed that the TPI Federation had a legitimate claim, because in relative terms at the time, she confirmed that the value of the notional component had indeed fallen to 63% of the gross national minimum wage (please see here: https://youtu.be/FscJnUJ_dHI).

No Veteran ever wants to be TPI - it is not a choice. However, once assessed and classified as such, then the amount paid in addition to 100% of the General Rate / "Pain & Suffering", is the "Above General Rate" / "economic loss component". No matter the descriptor used, the fact remains that a notional split in the total payment has always existed in one form or another. These notional components make perfect sense, because if the total payment was for loss of income only, as DVA has incorrectly asserted from time to time, then a TPI Veteran would never receive compensation for their 'Pain and Suffering'. By comparison, a Veteran classified at 100% under the General Rate can potentially continue to earn any quantum in income in their chosen field whilst still receiving full compensation for their assessed 'Pain and Suffering'. TPI Veterans are not capable of working to such an extent.

The TPI Federation rejects any notion that suggests that the 'Economic Loss' component is 'income support', the latter of which is a welfare term. The component is rightly described as 'Compensation' for the inability of not being able 'to work for more than 8 hours a week' under the *Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986* (VEA), or ten hours per week under *Military Rehabilitation & Compensation*



TPI Federation of Australia

DISABLED IN OUR SERVICE - UNITED IN OUR CAUSE

Act 2004 (MRCA).

Disappointingly, the VVF article cites two biased reviews as supposed authorities in such matters (i.e., the KPMG and Tune Reviews). The TPI Federation justifiably rejects such unfounded notions, because both reviews were not independent as claimed, but instead just continued to perpetuate the ongoing false narratives and bias of DVA, conflating welfare provisions with that of compensation.

As an important distinction, welfare / Income Support is provided only to those without any other form of assessable income or assets (e.g., superannuation, inheritance, investments, income of the spouse etc.). Approximately 10,000 of the 27,000 TPI Veterans receive full income support, because in the absence of other income and assets, then they are assessed as being in the greatest of financial need.

In principle, it is incongruous to suggest that ‘income support’ is ‘compensation’, because such notions are at complete odds with various Compensation Acts. If, as falsely ascertained, ‘income support’ is to be classified and included as ‘compensation’, then by default, every compensation recipient should receive full income support. By any measure that would be extremely expensive and politically unpalatable.

In early 2021, the TPI Federation negotiated favourable terms with then Shadow Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans’ Affairs, Mr Shayne Neumann MP, to hold two Senate Inquiries into not only the TPI Compensation payment, and the deleterious nature of DFRDB retirement pay. To his credit, Mr Neumann secured the two Inquiries, which were chaired by the late Senator Kimberly Kitching. Both inquiries were held and finalised in July 2021, where for TPIs the one and only recommendation was – *“The committee recommends that the Australian Government consider an increase in the TPI Payment”*.

Disappointingly, the former Government refused to address this recommendation. The Labor Party, on the other hand, did make it an election commitment. In doing so though, they only committed a paltry \$1,000 per annum (or \$19.23 per week) increase to the TPI Compensation payment. This increase came into effect from the 1st January 2023. The table below illustrates the structural increase in detail.

as at November 2022	as at January 2023
Minimum Wage - \$42,276 p.a.	Minimum Wage - \$42,276 p.a.
Tax-Adjusted Minimum Wage - \$36,856 p.a.	Tax-Adjusted Minimum Wage - \$36,856 p.a.
DVA 100% Pain & Suffering - \$14,596.40 p.a.	DVA 100% Pain & Suffering - \$14,596.40 p.a.
DVA Economic Loss Compensation - \$26,464 p.a.	DVA Economic Loss Compensation - \$27,464 p.a.
Economic Loss Compensation = \$10,392 p.a. less than Tax-Adjusted Minimum Wage (60.2%)	Economic Loss Compensation = \$9,392 p.a. less than Tax-Adjusted Minimum Wage (64.9%)

Importantly, in the lead up to the passage of the Bill, in the lead up to the last federal election conferred the \$1,000 increase. Senators, such as Senator David Shoebridge, clearly recognised that the

\$1,000 was totally inadequate to the task at hand. Not wanting to kill the Bill outright, he and others called on the Government “to at least double that amount in the next Parliament”. The effect of the \$1,000 p.a., only increased the total payment back to approximately 45% of AWE, where the notional ‘economic loss’ component was just 65% of the gross minimum wage – an unacceptable level which is what it was 10 years ago!

It is a long-held principle that any form of compensation is always paid tax free. The TPI Federation maintains strong adherence to such principles and its long-held policy objective, because as a measure of compensation, the tax-adjusted minimum wage is indeed a defensible benchmark upon **which to reference a TPI’s notional economic loss compensation. This is because the minimum wage** is the absolute bare minimum that a Veteran could have reasonably expected to receive had they not been TPI. In benchmarking the economic loss to the tax-adjusted minimum wage, for budgetary purposes, an outlay of approximately \$240m per year is required.

Contrary to further assertions, other objectives are not mutually exclusive. For example, in 1975 Toose recognised and accepted that compensation should continue to be provided to spouses and **children of TPI Veterans. He concluded rightly that they do indeed “suffer a loss of love and amenity”** of a once fully functioning husband and father, and as such, should be afforded compensation. However, as history shows, the DVA has allowed such provisions to wither on the vine.

The TPI Federation has highlighted this and many other issues over time, but Governments have not readily acknowledged the tireless work and suffering of spouse/partners in any meaningful way. To address this issue, the TPI Federation and other commentators have suggested such measures as **reinstating the spouse’s non-means- tested compensation payment**, and to provide full medical health care once again. Other commentators have suggested to not means-test a **spouse/partner’s income in** the combined income and assets test for welfare provisions, such as the Age/Service pension. Acknowledging and provisioning such provisions would be a good start in trying to restore what has clearly been lost over time.

As kindred spirits, the TPI Federation would welcome the partnership of the VVF and other ESOs in prosecuting these and other issues for all Veterans. The restoration of full medical coverage for all Veterans, including that of pharmaceuticals, is a case in point. Indeed, compensation in terms, pharmaceutical needs have not been fully met since 1992, when the co-payment system was first introduced. There are other examples, such as the urgent clinical needs of fully funding hearing aids for all Veterans. If not for the political will to do so, the Government could immediately implement such measures to help all Veterans in a meaningful way. By ignoring the advocacy of the TPI Federation, and other ESOs, a succession of Governments have failed in their lawful obligations to defray the compensation needs and cost of living of all affected Veterans.

As kindred spirits, the TPI Federation welcomes the partnership of the VVF, and other likeminded ESOs, so as to hold the Government to account on such matters, because the continued political and bureaucratic recalcitrance to rectify such issues remains at considerable odds to that much **lauded but fabled ideal of putting “Veterans first” as enshrined in the *Australian Defence & Veterans’ Covenant*** legislation. This must change!

Pat McCabe OAM President
TPI Federation of Australia 13 February 2023

**VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA**

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc., will be held at the Veterans Support Centre, 8 Mary Street Granville 10.30am, Wednesday, 24th May 2023.

AGENDA

Opening of Meeting by the Chairman

Apologies

Confirm the Minutes of the AGM 2022.

Business Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2022

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

Membership Report

Changes to Constitution: (See the draft proposals on page 66 of this issue)

Election results (for Office Bearers) *[Nomination form is printed opposite for convenience]*

President

Senior Vice President (1)

Vice Presidents (2)

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Members (10)

Appointment of Association Auditors

Appointment of Association Legal Representatives

Appointment of Insurer

Appointment of Life Members

Other Business by leave of the Chairman

Close of Meeting.

Any items for General Business must be in the hands of the Secretary by close of business on Thursday, 27th April 2019.

Next AGM to be held on a date to be confirmed during May 2024.

Ron O'Connor

Hon. Secretary

NSW Branch

**VIETNAM VETERANS', PEACEKEEPERS' & PEACEMAKERS
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.
2023 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Members wishing to nominate for one or more of the following positions on the NSW Committee are asked to indicate with an (X) alongside those positions, and remember appointment on the Committee is for a 2 year term.

- President (1)
- Senior-Vice President (1)
- Vice Presidents (2)
- Secretary (1)
- Treasurer (1)
- Committee Members (10)

*Members nominating for a position(s) must be financial for the year 2023.

Details of Nominee:

.....

Print Name	Signature	Membership No
------------	-----------	---------------

Details of Seconders (2)

.....

Print Name	Signature	Membership No.
------------	-----------	----------------

.....

Print Name	Signature	Membership No.
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NOTE:

All nomination forms must be in the Secretary's hands by COB 23rd March 2023.

Should an election be required personal profiles will be requested and ballot papers will be posted. The election results will be declared at the AGM on 24th May 2023.

**VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CONSTITUTION CHANGE PROPOSAL**

DRAFT PROPOSAL TO VARY THE NSW BRANCH CONSTITUTION No. 1

At the NSW Branch Sub-Branch conference held on 8 September 2022 delegates discussed options for increasing membership in the Association.

One option was the need to consider changes to the NSW Branch Constitution by specifically allowing ordinary membership to those who have served in conflicts other than Vietnam. The NSW Branch Committee Meeting of the 14th September confirmed a need to revisit the Constitution in this regard.

You are aware, of course, that Peacekeepers and Peacemakers (from 1973) are already provided for in this regard.

Below is a first draft of a proposed change to the NSW Constitution to specifically include those who have served in conflicts from 1990 onwards.

All other suggestions to vary the proposal are welcome.

The final agreed wording will be put to the 2023 AGM for approval.

The proposal to vary the Constitution is:

AIM

To vary the NSW Branch Constitution to provide greater eligibility for membership of the **“VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INCORPORATED.**

VARIATION REQUIRED

Amend PART II “MEMBERSHIP” to:

Insert a new clause 6(4) as follows -

“(4) Notwithstanding the aforesaid sub-clauses, the following persons are also eligible to become ordinary members of the Association:

Any persons of the Australian Defence Force with Operational Service having served in the Gulf War (1990-1991), East Timor (1999-2000), Afghanistan (2001-2021) and the Iraq War (2003-2009).

Veterans of allied nations who also served in the aforesaid conflicts.”

The proposed insertion of a new clause 6 (4) will require the renumbering of the current clauses 6(4) and 6(5) to 6(5) and 6(6) respectively.

“Note: this variation to the NSW Branch Constitution was approved at a State Committee Meeting on 8th February 2023.”

DRAFT PROPOSAL TO VARY THE NSW BRANCH CONSTITUTION No. 2

Insert a new By-Law as follows:

“(b) By-Law

The Committee may authorise any one of the Executive sub-committee to process electronic transfers through internet on-line banking subject to the following conditions:

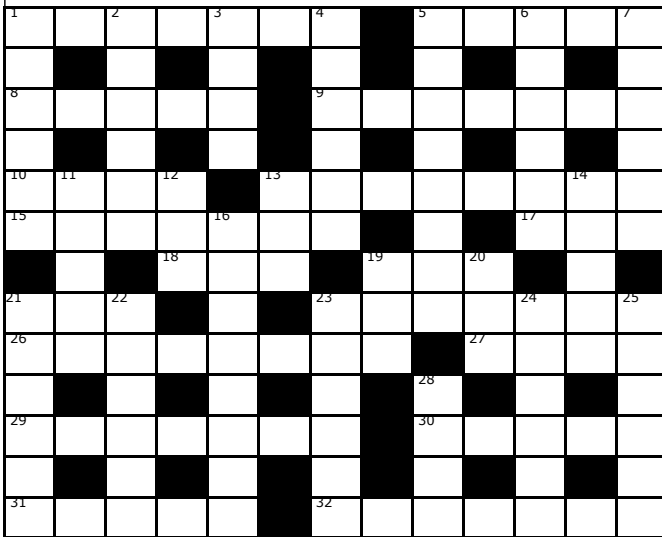
That the nominated person/s hold signatories and letters of authorisation with the respective financial institutions.

That secured channels of authorisation include that each transaction generates a receipted record emailed the same day to all authorised signatories and the Admin/Accounts Manager.

This By-Law is to take effect as from 8 February 2023.

“Note: this By-Law was approved at a State Committee Meeting on 8th February 2023.”

CROSSWORD CORNER



ACROSS

- 1. Large knife
- 5. Enchant
- 8. Wanders
- 9. Musical compositions
- 10. Aid in crime
- 13. Control flow
- 15. Spins
- 17. Cover
- 18. Whale school
- 19. A trap
- 21. Group of things
- 23. Started again
- 26. Well learned
- 27. Dreadful
- 29. Cuddle
- 30. Angry
- 31. Smooth and glossy
- 32. Hears

DOWN

- 1. Artillery piece
- 2. Ski home
- 3. Direction
- 4. Follows from
- 5. Eats
- 6. Real
- 7. Deluded
- 11. Nodded reverently
- 12. Water valve
- 13. Danger colour
- 14. River (Italy)
- 16. Small axe
- 19. Marry
- 20. New flower
- 21. Cuts
- 22. Trip
- 23. Show
- 24. Desert image
- 25. Puts off
- 28. One-sided view

Solution next issue.

DECEMBER 22 SOLUTION

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

THE UNKNOWN COMIC

A certain politician was visiting a remote little rural town in Australia and, addressing a meeting of locals, asked them what his Government, if elected, could do for them.

"We have two big needs," said a spokesman for the townspeople.

"First, we have a hospital but no doctor."

The politician whipped out his mobile, spoke for a while and then said, "I have sorted that out. A doctor will arrive here the day after we win Government. Now, what is your other need?" The townspeople replied as one: "We have no mobile phone reception in this town".

I think my wife has started to show the first signs of Alzheimer's...

She said she can't remember what she ever saw in me!

If you are in need of a job, you could always try search and rescue.

I've heard they are always looking for people.

In financial circles why is it the dealer and not the customer, who is called 'The Broker'.

The waiter seemed impressed with my wine selection but sounded a tad snobbish when he asked "What year, Sir?", so I told him "Well, I'd like it right now."

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

I went to see my son the other day and when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper, he gave me the usual guff about it being the 21st century, and how he doesn't buy newspapers anymore, and offered me his iPad.

I can tell you this: That spider never knew what hit him.

And finally some Zen.

If nobody likes your selfie, what is the value of the self?

Reunions & Notices

RAADC 80th Shin Dig

Date: 22 Apr 2023

Open to all past, present, family and associated friends of our outstanding Corps.

Reunion details

Location: The Portsea Camp, VIC

Contact details

Name: Sonia Thompson

sonithompson1@gmail.com

2 SQN RAAF Reunion

All former and serving members are invited to attend.

Location: Brisbane, QLD

Date: 25 Apr 2023

Contact details

Name: Arthur Rennick

Phone: 0408 064 042 (business hours)

2sqn.association.raaf@gmail.com

1 RTB Kapooka - B COY 11+12 PL - 10 year reunion

Date: 13 May 2023

Reunion details

Location: Townsville, QLD

Contact details

Name: Rosie + Goody

Phone: 0455 531 599

2nd/4th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association 50th Anniversary Reunion

Townsville, QLD

Date: 15 Aug 2023

To be held around Townsville and Lavarack Barracks 15 - 20 August 2023. Further details are on the website or via email reunion@24rarassociation.com

Contact details

Name: Phillip Smailes

Phone: 0409 642 067

committee@24rarassociation.com

www.24rarassociation.com

17th Intake 24 platoon D Coy 1 RTB Kapooka 1969

Looking for those of us who trained together in 24 PI D Coy for a bit of a get together during and after the 50th anniversary commemoration.

Reunion details

Date: 18 Aug 2023

Location: Vietnam Forces National Memorial, Anzac Pde, Canberra, ACT

Contact details

Name: Ernie Burgers and Baz Collins

Phone:

Email: ernie.burgers@bigpond.com

Website: Facebook - 17th Intake 24 Platoon D Coy 1 RTB Kapooka

8/9 RAR Association

50th reunion of raising the Battalion linking 31 Oct 1973. Activities include Meet & Greet, AGM, all Companies function, visit Battalion, birthday service and luncheon. Visit online for more details. All welcome, remember Vietnam to Afghanistan/ Iran

Reunion details

Date: 27 Oct 2023

Location: Samford, Brisbane, QLD

Contact details

Name: Gregory Decker

Phone: 0417 464 251

Email: pointstar@bigpond.com

Website: <https://89rar.com/welcome/> or <https://www.facebook.com/89RARAssn/>

Anyone wishing to advise of a Reunion, or add to a Wanted Known list, should contact VVFA Head Office via vvfanatsec@vfa.org.au

Remember that our Newsletters are published each April, July and December, however we are able to add to our website lists at any time.

(Continued on page 69)

NOTICES

NSW Police called up for National Service 1965-72

I am seeking details of NSW Police who were called up for National Service (or who maybe failed the medical) between 1965-72. I am compiling a list of these personnel and requesting details and experiences prior to, during and after their army service. I hope to provide what I gather in a printed form for the AWM and the NSW Police Department. I know there are tablets at the chapel at the Police Academy in Goulburn listing police who served overseas but unfortunately many of these details are incorrect. I am doing this because far too often activities and events that take place in our lives go unrecorded and as we pass those who follow know nothing about the past and what happened.

Contact details

Name: Ian Granland

Phone: 0412 798 521

Email: iangranland@gmail.com

Seeking members of A Company 8RAR

I was a digger in Operation Hammersley in February 1970. There was an incident on February 28 where my platoon in A company 8RAR received severe casualties. I am still great friends with the survivors of this incident and we try to meet up once a year. I am trying to contact the wounded soldiers from that day. We stayed in Vietnam until November 1970. 8RAR are having a reunion on ANZAC day 2023 in Melbourne and I would love to have as many of these heroes there.

Contact details

Name: Jo McGillion, Brisbane

Phone: 0429 826 425 jmcgillion@bigpond.com

11PL, Delta Coy 4RAR, SVN Second Tour 1971-1972

Army

Seeking contact with two members we have lost touch with - 3799111 Peter James Higgins and 2795730 Trevor Wayne Walpole. Hoping to renew old friendships.

Contact details

Name: Warren Dowell

Phone: 9223 8755 70

Email: moc.liamg@llewod.nerraw

Seeking Charles Warren Young (3788443)
Army

Charles, known by his second name Warren, was a trooper with A Squadron 3 CAV during service in South Vietnam March 1967-68. Would like to make contact as Warren was known to a member of my family during this period.

Contact details

Name: Ross Croft

Phone: 0427 093 915

Email: 4crofty@westnet.com.au

John 'Johnny' Michael Mills

Army

Seeking my cousin who served in Vietnam from 1969-1971. He was a member of 8RAR Battalion and the 1st Australian Logistic Support Group. He was born in 1949 in Sydney and may be living in the Woonona, NSW area.

Contact details

Name: Bob Mills - New Italy, NSW

Phone: 0491 634 946

Email: montferns@msn.com



**"One day we'll all be laughin'
at this cockup at some
flamin' reunion!"**

MERCHANDISE LIST

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	ITEM#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1101	NSW PLAQUE	\$ 50.00	1509	STICKER NAVY VETERAN	\$ 7.00
1103	NSW BADGE	\$ 10.00	1510	STICKER SUPPORT ARMY	\$ 7.00
1105	NSW STICKER	\$ 6.00	1511	STICKER ARMY VETERAN	\$ 7.00
1106	NSW PEN	\$ 7.00	1512	STICKER SUPPORT RAAF	\$ 7.00
1107	VVFA PEN Support	\$ 8.00	1513	STICKER RAAF VETERAN	\$ 7.00
1108	NSW STUBBY HOLDER	\$ 8.00	1514	STICKER AFGHAN VETERAN	\$ 5.00
1109	STUBBY HOLDER TRICOLOR	\$ 10.00	1515	STICKER IRAQ VETERAN	\$ 5.00
1111	VVFA GREEN CAP	\$ 22.00	1516	STICKER SOMALIA VETERAN	\$ 5.00
1112	VVFA BLUE CAP	\$ 22.00	1517	STICKER TIMOR VETERAN	\$ 5.00
1113	VVFA WHITE CAP	\$ 22.00	1518	STICKER SUPPORT/THANK	\$ 5.00
1114	VVFA BLACK CAP	\$ 22.00	3440	BOOK Research War Heroes	\$ 39.00
1116	PLATE SURROUND SML	\$ 12.50	3442	BOOK The Third Chopstick	\$ 35.00
1120	RED GADGET	\$ 8.00	3120	TIE BAR Vietnam Veteran	\$ 8.00
1121	RED NOTE BOOK	\$ 8.00	3133	KEY RING AVIATION	\$ 6.00
1122	RED COOLER BAG	\$ 14.00	3134	KEY RING RAE	\$ 6.00
1125	KEYRING NAVY	\$ 8.00	3140	KEY RING RAAC	\$ 6.00
1126	KEYRING ARMY	\$ 8.00	3141	KEY RING RAEME	\$ 6.00
1127	KEYRING RAR	\$ 10.00	3301	BUCKLE VETERAN	\$ 15.00
1128	KEYRING AIRFORCE	\$ 8.00	3302	BUCKLE RAR VETERAN	\$ 15.00
1129	KEYRING VVFA	\$ 9.00	3401	PIN RAR	\$ 6.00
1130	LANYARD	\$ 10.00	3402	PIN REG WITH MAP	\$ 6.00
1201	THE MINEFIELD BOOK	\$ 45.00	3406	PIN VIETNAM VETERAN	\$ 6.00
1308	BUCKLE RAAMC	\$ 35.00	3407	PIN SLOUCH HAT penny	\$ 6.00
1309	BUCKLE RAASC	\$ 35.00	3408	PIN SLOUCH HAT green	\$ 6.00
1312	BUCKLE RAAOC	\$ 35.00	3409	PIN CHOPPER	\$ 6.00
1401	LAPEL PIN RAN	\$ 5.00	3412	PIN MEDAL CHOPPER 'Veteran'	\$ 7.00
1402	LAPEL PIN ENSIGN	\$ 5.00	3420	CAP BLACK WITH RIBBONS	\$ 25.00
1403	LAPEL PIN ARMY	\$ 8.00			
1405	LAPEL PIN RAAF	\$ 8.00			
1406	LAPEL PIN CROSS	\$ 8.00			
1411	LAPEL PIN FAMILY of VETERAN	\$ 7.00			
1500	STICKER TWIN SET REG	\$ 7.00			
1501	STICKER REGULAR	\$ 7.00			
1502	STICKER NASHO	\$ 7.00			
1507	STICKER TWIN SET NASHO	\$ 7.00			
1503	STICKER DAMN PROUD	\$ 5.00			
1504	STICKER LOVE or LEAVE	\$ 5.00			
1505	STICKER PROUDLY	\$ 5.00			
1506	STICKER SUPPORT	\$ 7.00			
1508	STICKER SUPPORT NAVY	\$ 7.00			

ALL ITEMS (ABOVE) ARE FOR SALE VIA OUR WEBSITE, (www.vfagranville.org/ecommerce/index.php).
 And at the Granville office, and some Branches and sub-branches.
 All proceeds go toward our Scholarships for the children and grandchildren of veterans.

MERCHANDISE PICS

 1101	 1103	 1105	 1106	 1107	 1201			
 1108	 1109	 1116						
 1111	 1112	 1113	 1114		 3420			
 1120	 1121	 1122	 1125	 1126	 1127	 1128		
 1129	 1130	 1308	 1309		 1312			
 1401	 1402	 1403	 1405	 1406	 1411	 3440	 3442	
 1500	 1501	 1507	 1502		 1503			
 1504	 1505	 1506	 1508		 1509			
 1510	 1511	 1512	 1513		 1514			
 1515	 1516	 1517	 1518					
 3120	 3133	 3134	 3140	 3141	 3301	 3302	 3401	 3402
 3406	 3407	 3408	 3409	 3412				

VVPPAA SCHOLARSHIP REPORT



THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

2021 Cohort Scholar Update and Thank You Note

Jin Ju Redding — Bachelor of Nursing
University of Tasmania

Tim McCombe OAM Scholarship

Course Completion: December 2023

Jin Ju has achieved outstanding results in the last 6 months. A placement at the Roy Fagan Centre helped consolidate Jin Ju's decision to pursue mental health nursing when she completes her degree. At present Jin Ju is on another placement in North East Tasmania and is looking forward to completing her degree in December.

2022 Annual Review: 4 Distinctions; 1 Credit

Previous Reviews: 2022 Mid-Year Review: 2 Distinctions; 1 Practical Outstanding due to COVID 2021 Annual Review: 2 High Distinctions; 1 Distinction 2021 Mid-Year Review: 2 High Distinctions; 1 Distinction

Thank You Note:

Dear VVPPAA and AVCAT, Hope you are healthy, well, and full of holiday spirit. It has been a challenging, triumphant, and insightful year. I have learnt a mountain of knowledge and experienced a character-building nursing adventure. Since the last time I wrote to you I completed my work placement at the Roy Fagan Centre – A geriatric mental health service. I could not have asked for a more brilliant placement. I observed, participated, and managed mental health conditions and behaviours using holistic, recovery-based, and strength-based care. I had the opportunity to witness an electroconvulsive therapy procedure to treat major depression disorder. Plus, I journeyed with the patients and the multidisciplinary team towards recovery and increased quality of life. From this amazing experience, I aim to pursue a career towards mental health nursing. I am excited to commence my six-week placement on Flinders Island (North-East Tasmania) in January. My goals for 2023 remains; Achieving 90% or over in my units, with the addition of becoming the safest and most competent nurse that I can be. Once again, thank you for your support with my studies. I live rurally with limited public transport (two buses a day into the city which did not correspond with nursing shift timetables). With this scholarship, I have been able to temporarily live in Hobart for my urban work placements. Additionally, I have used the scholarship for textbooks. The textbooks got me through some tough times during my studies and assignments; preserving my mental/emotional wellbeing and thus, keeping me motivated and on top of my grades. Wishing you all a brilliant Christmas and wonderful new year.

Take care,
Jin Ju Redding

**Harrison Saunders — Bachelor of politics philosophy and economics
University of Western Australia
*Phil Thompson OAM Scholarship***

Course Completion: December 2023

Harrison has again had a successful semester with excellent results. He remains focused on his study entering his final year and is very grateful for the support that VVPPAA have afforded him over the last 2 years.

2022 Annual Review: 2 Distinctions; 2 Credits

Previous Reviews: 2022 Mid-Year Review: 2 Distinctions; 2 Credits 2021 Annual Review: 3 Distinctions; 1 Pass 2021 Mid-Year Review: 1 Distinction; 2 Credits; 1 Pass

Thank You Note:

To the Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association, I'd like to start out by thanking for the opportunity you have afforded me over the last six months, and indeed the past two years. The opportunity you have afforded me has been life changing, from helping chip in for my bus fare to uni, to allowing me to explore opportunities within sport. This past 6 months has been a big one for me, I have seen a consistent growth in my university marks as well as being able to complete a series of online leadership courses. I have also seen myself grow mentally and physically, something that has only been possible due to your ongoing support. I wish you the best of health throughout the end of 2022 and into the New Year. I look forward to writing to you in June.

Kind regards,
Harry

**Nathan Miller — Bachelor of Social Work
Flinders University
*Graham Walker AM Scholarship***

Course Completion: December 2026

Nathan has had a difficult semester but managed to pass 50% of his course. He is very thankful for the sponsorship as believes it does alleviate a lot of stress during his semester. He has been placed on AVCATs watchlist. Nathan is determined to work hard this semester and improve his results.

2022 Annual Review: 2 Pass; 1 Fail Withdrawn

Previous Reviews: 2022 Mid-Year Review: 2 Credits, 1 Pass, 1 Fail

Thank You Note:

Dear VVPPAA,

Thank you for the opportunity to be Sponsored I am so thankful and feel honoured it helped assist me financially and took so much stress off my back. I am committed to using my experience and skills to provide counselling to the most vulnerable people. Thank you for believing in me I have made my pop proud and will continue to drive for success.

Thank you and kindest regards,
Nathan Miller

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

SECOND NAME

--	--	--

OLD DETAILS [PRINT CLEARLY]

OLD ADDRESS

--

SUBURB/TOWN

STATE

POST CODE

--	--	--

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

OTHER PHONE

--	--	--

NEW DETAILS [PRINT CLEARLY]

NEW ADDRESS

--

SUBURB/TOWN

STATE

POST CODE

--	--	--

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

OTHER PHONE

--	--	--

EMAIL ADDRESS [PRINT CLEARLY]

YOUR SIGNATURE

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

--

--

--

Complete all sections and post to:

The Secretary
 VVPPAA NSW
 PO Box 170
 Granville
 NSW 2142

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

VETERANS MORTALITY REPORT

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

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc has for many years maintained records of the deaths of Vietnam Veterans and the cause of death if known. This has proved invaluable regarding the health standards of Vietnam Veterans when compared to the general public. We seek your assistance in reporting the death of Vietnam Veterans, past or recent, to allow the Federation to expand and preserve it's record base.

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

Please print clearly

VETERANS DETAILS

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

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

CAUSE OF DEATH (If known)

SR Service Related UNK Unknown S Suicide O Other)

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

YOUR NAME

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

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

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

Phone: 02 9682 1788
 Fax : 02 9682 6134
 Email: secretary@wvfa.com.au

VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA FULL STATE AND SUB-BRANCH LISTING

NATIONAL HEAD OFFICE
 VVFA Inc
 PO Box 170, (8 Mary St.)
 Granville, NSW 2142
 National President: William (Bill)
 Roberts OAM JP
 Email: vxfanatpres@vvfa.org.au
National Secretary: Ron O'Connor JP
 Email: vxfanatsec@vvfa.org.au
 Ph: 02 9682 1788 Fx: 02 9682 6134
 Web: http://www.vvfa.org.au

NEW SOUTH WALES
 HEAD OFFICE
 VETERANS SUPPORT CENTRE
 VVPPAA NSW Inc.
 8 Mary St PO Box 170
 Granville NSW 2142
 Ph: (02) 9682 1788
 Fax: (02) 9682 6134
 www.vvfagranville.org
 secretary@vvfagranville.org
 President: Frank Cole
Secretary: Ron O'Connor JP
 Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1600

CENTRAL COAST
 PO Box 505 Ettalong 2257
 Ph: (02) 4344 4760
 Fax: (02) 4344 5467
 centralcoastveterans@bigpond.com
 President: Alan Ball
 Secretary: Eric Daniel
 Hours: Mon,Wed 0930-1330

CENTRAL WEST
 7 March St
 Orange NSW 2800
 President: Lindsay Wright
 (02) 6362 5959
 Secretary: Wayne Willis
 0447 066 996
 wayne.willis@bigpond.com

CLARENCE VALLEY
 PO Box 137
 Grafton 2460
 Ph: (02) 6649 4186
 President: Ron Shoebridge
 Secretary: Lorraine Burt
 nswpva@skymesh.com.au
 Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1700

EUROBODALLA
 28 Emmott St.
 Moruya 2537
 Ph: (02) 4474 2362
 Mob 0419 201 788
 President: Russell Graham
 Secretary: Helen Kop
 eurobodallavietnamveterans@yahoo.com.au

GREAT LAKES
 Unit 3, 80-82 Kularoo Drive
 Forster, 2428
 Ph: 0480 283 744
 vvagforster@gmail.com
 President: Graham Kelly
 Secretary: Paul Dawson
 Hours: Mon & Thur 1000-1300

HASTINGS MANNING MACLEAY
 PO Box 5330
 Port Macquarie 2444
 Office at RSL Wauchope Sub-Branch
 Office Ph: (02) 6581 5230
 Advocate only: (02) 6581 5509
 hmvvppaa@c2a.com.au
 President: Bill Wagner
 Office Manager: Lyn Hancock
 Hours: 10 –13:30 Mon, Tues, Thur.

ILLAWARRA
 Legacy House 96 Market St
 Wollongong NSW 2500
 Ph: (02) 4228 6774
 vvaill@aapt.net.au
 President: Ian Birch
 Secretary: Pam Bowmaker OAM JP
 Hours: Tue, Fri 9:30-12:30

MUDGEES & DISTRICTS
 Inglis St, Railway Station
 PO Box 511 Mudgee NSW 2850
 Ph: (02) 6372 7740
 secretary@vfvamudgee.org
 President: Ken Atkinson
 Mb: 0428 246 147
 Secretary: Renee Lamshed
 Ph: 0433 073 387
 Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed 9:30-3:30

NEWCASTLE & HUNTER
 15 Tyrell St., PO Box 288
 Wallsend 2287
 Ph: (02) 4951 2666
 Fax: (02) 4951 2633
 secretary@nhvv.org
 President: Ian Bell
 Secretary: Dave Hansen
 Hours: Mon, Thu 0900-1300

RIVERINA
 PO Box 7120
 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
 President: John Ploenges
 Ph. (02) 6922 9766
 Secretary: Ralph J Todd
 Mb: 0418 446 590
 Email: ralphtodd@bigpond.com

SHOALHAVEN
 PO Box 3229
 North Nowra NSW 2541
 President: Clyde Poulton
 Mb: 0412 642 848
 Secretary: Carl Robinson
 shoalhaven.vietvets1@gmail.com

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
 BOWRAL MITTAGONG MOSS VALE
 PO Box 900, Moss Vale NSW 2577
 President: TBA
 Mb: 0420 864 133
 Secretary: Norman Austin
 Mb: 0427 854 141
 shvppa@gmail.com

SOUTH WEST SLOPES
 VIETNAM VETERANS INC.
 3 Thomas Street
 Junee 2663
 jc18746@bigpond.com
 Ph: (02) 6924 1924
 Mb: 0408 296 765
 President: John Curtis
 Secretary: Barbara Curtis

TAYLORS ARM
 798 North Bank Rd
 Taylors Arm 2447
 President: George (Stuart) Johnson
 Ph: 02 6564 2153
 Secretary: Stephen Spear
 Mb: 0439 642 181
 Email: cvpb16@hotmail.com

WENTWORTH-COOMEALLA
 Raymond Deed Veterans Retreat
 PO Box 397
 Dareton NSW 2717
 President: Michael Chopping
 Ph: 0481 306 854
 Secretary: Sheila Sanders
 Ph: 03 5027 4447
 rdveteransretreat@iinet.net.au

VVPPAA NSW Inc
 ZONE REPS
 FAR SOUTH COAST
 Gary Berman
 Bega RSL SB
 Ph: 6493 0449
 Mob: 0409 888 248
 gandsberman@bigpond.com

VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA FULL STATE AND SUB-BRANCH LISTING

QUEENSLAND
 VVF Queensland Branch Inc.
 18 Leagues Club Drive
 PO Box 2817
 Nerang Business Centre
 Nerang Qld 4211
 Ph: 07 5578 2233
 Fax: 07 5578 2822
State President: Peter Handy JP
 Mbl: 0448 195 050
 president@vvfqld.com
 Qld Sec.Treas:Peter Cameron OAM
 Mbl: 0408 276 044
 treasurer@vvfqld.com
www.vvfqld.com

VVF Brisbane/Gold Coast of
 Australia Regional Sub-Branch
 Inc.
 18 Leagues Club Drive
 PO Box 368
 Nerang Qld 4211
 Ph: 07 5502 2836
admin@vietnamveterans.net.au
 President: Andy Bryson
 Mbl:0424 476 027
 Sec/Treas Peter Cameron OAM
 Mbl: 0408 276 044

TOWNSVILLE
 Veteran Support Centre NQ Inc
 TOWNSVILLE
 PO Box 280, Hyde Park
 JC Butler Bldg
 1 Charters Towers Rd
 Townsville, 4812
 Ph: 07 4772 4655
vethelp@bigpond.com
 President: Barry Martin OAM
 Sec/Treas Chris Mills OAM RFD

TASMANIA
 VVPPF
 Tasmania Branch Inc.
 ALL PENSION ENQUIRIES
 DENNIS HANMER OAM
 NSW HO 02 9682 1788

ACT STATE BRANCH
 VV&VF ACT Inc
 9 Burkitt Street, Page. 2614
 Veterans Support Centre Belconnen
 Ph: 02 6255 1599
 office@vscact.org.au
 www.vvfact.org.au
 President: Ward Gainey JP
 Secretary: Carrissa Ibbott CSM

VICTORIA
 VVF Victorian Branch Inc
 ALL MAIL TO: P.O. Box 167
 Newcomb 3219
OFFICE: "The Annex" NO MAIL
 PLEASE:
 Barwon Health
 Myer St, Geelong 3220
 Phone: TBA
 President: John Arnold
 johnarnold@iinet.net.au
 Secretary: Iris Cargill JP
 Mb 0488 053 973
 ritscargill@yahoo.com
 Mon - Wed 0900 -1400

VIC SUB - BRANCHES
 GRAMPIANS
 Secretary: Ron Jensen
 0409 023 487

*Respite Housing For Veterans in
 need*
 Bowder Veterans Housing
 160 Coppards Rd Whittington 3219.
 03 5248 0996

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 VVF South Australia
 Branch Inc.
 The Yerbury Centre
 Unit 1, 31-39 Norfolk Rd
 Marion SA 5043
 Ph: 08 8296 2411
 Mon – Thur 1000 – 1500hrs
 vvfsa@tpg.com.au
<http://vvfsa.org.au>
 President: Mal Thiele JP
 Secretary: Don Cochrane

SA ZONE REPS
 BROKEN HILL
 Des Kennedy
 M: 0412 458 054
 MILITARY MUSEUM
 BUBLACOWIE
 Welfare Officer: Chris Soar
 0448 994 561/0428 377 287
 Ph: 08 8853 4379

REPS
 ALICE SPRINGS AREA
 Alan Wilkes
 KATHERINE AREA
 Scott Landers

NORTHERN TERRITORY
*Contact SA Head office for Northern
 Territory contact details.
 Contact Granville Office for future Darwin
 Outreach Programs*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 VVFA WA Branch
 30 Cornish Ave
 Woodvale WA 6026
 Ph 08 9409 6682
 vvfawabranch@gmail.com
 President: Milton Kirk JP

**Currently in the ADF, Transitioning, a younger Veteran?
 We invite you to join our association and become a member, provided
 you meet our constitutional criteria.
 Contact one of our branches listed above to make an enquiry now.**

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



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

JUST CALL 1800 011 046

If overseas call +61 8 8241 4546

Veterans and Veterans Families
Counselling Service

FORMERLY KNOWN AS



Call
24/7

A service founded by Vietnam veterans



1300 924 522

Our programs

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

Wesley Hospital Ashfield and Wesley Hospital Kogarah provide compassionate care for those in need of psychiatric help. The goal of the hospitals is to provide positive outcomes, not only for our patients with a mental illness but also for their family and carers. As centres of excellence within Wesley Mission our Wesley Hospitals have been providing professional and compassionate care for over 60 years. Wesley Hospital Ashfield and Wesley Hospital Kogarah are private psychiatric hospitals which offer both in-patient and day patient services. Our treatment programs combine medication, therapy and include life skills and support networks to ensure recovery is effective, ongoing and enriching.

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



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

Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc.

Website: www.vvfagranville.org

1 JAN—31 DEC

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	SECOND NAME
---------	------------	-------------

STREET ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN	STATE	POST CODE
-------------	-------	-----------

HOME PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	OTHER PHONE
------------	--------------	-------------

EMAIL ADDRESS [PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY]

SERVICE NUMBER	SERVICE UNIT	O'SEAS AREA OF OPERATIONAL SERVICE
----------------	--------------	------------------------------------

NEXT OF KIN	RELATIONSHIP	CONTACT PHONE [NOK]
-------------	--------------	---------------------

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
MEMBERSHIPS SUBS	(YEARS)	@\$30.00 PER YEAR	\$
DONATION	(AMOUNT ONLY)		\$
RAFFLE TICKET/s		@\$2.00 EACH	\$
MERCHANDISE			
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Contact Granville for Stock item lists numbers and prices		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$

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

CREDIT CARD DETAILS (Mastercard or VISA only)

CARD HOLDER NAME [PRINT]	CREDITCARD NUMBER
--------------------------	-------------------

EXPIRY DATE	AMOUNT CONFIRMED	CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE
-------------	------------------	-----------------------

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

OFFICE USE ONLY

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

Please consider leaving a bequest in your will

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operation Life



Register Now!!

CALL 1800 011 046



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

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

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

FORMERLY

Veterans and Veterans Families
Counselling Service





Number	Rank	Intl	Surname	Unit	DOD	DOB
R59144	AMA1	RK	McDERMOTT	HMAS MEBOURNE	UNK/newc	7/6/45
R64683	OS	BJ	FATHERS	HMAS MELBOURNE/2	23/12/22	22/9/48
R94041	TACOP	HJ	HUNT	HMAS MELBOURNE/2	16/7/22	21/9/47
R64942	OS	NIJ	LIVINGSTONE	HMAS SYDNEY/2	1/9/22	29/3/43
R104425	ASWM	NJ	CUNNINGHAM	HMAS SYDNEY2/ PARRAMATTA	23/9/22	3/1/52
2782260	PTE	PG	MOSCATT	HQ 1ATF	16/11/22	17/2/45
	ALSO		PRESIDENT	STH HIGHLANDS SB	VVPPAA	NSW
214810	CPL	PM	LEVY	161 IND REC FLT	5/1/23	3/2/43
217700	CPL	BW	HARRISON	AFV PROV UNIT	20/8/22	9/10/36
3790326	PTE	NB	YANDLE	HQ 1 ALSG	17/12/22	26/12/45
2794453	PTE	PC	HIBBARD	1FDSQN/ 8 FD AMB	16/11/22	16/10/50
3788572	LCPL	GB	CASEY	8 FD AMB	16/10/22	28/12/45
2787843	PTE	DC	HUNTER	2AOD	10/11/22	17/4/47
3789077	SPR	PR	BURNS	32 SMALL SHIPS/2	12/11/22	27/11/45
214030	CPL	MH	MACDONALD	32 SMALL SHIPS	24/12/22	11/3/43
2167779	LT	BJ	REILLY	32 SMALL SHIPS/2	1/12/22	2/7/41
2785127	SPR	FC	SEIDENKAMP	32 SMALL SHIPS	27/12/22	25/2/45
342906	SPR	KL	STUART	17CONSTSQN/32 SMALL SHIPS/2	21/11/22	19/2/45
2793681	SPR	RJ	FITTLER	17 CONST SQN	12/5/22	17/4/49
2795166	SPR	R	MAJEWSKI	17 CONST SQN	2/12/22	30/7/48
2782359	CPL	GE	HANDLEY	DET 11 MOV CTL GRP	26/1/23	31/7/45
2785480	SPR	FJ	NEAL	1 FD SQN	10/1/22	30/1/46
216296	SPR	BG	CROOKS	1 FD SQN	2/2/23	11/11/46
2795092	SPR	JC	BOYLE	1 FD SQN	?/11/22	10/1/48
3790233	CFTN	CF	SCHELFHOUT	1 FD SQN WORKSHOP	24/10/22	12/3/45



Number	Rank	Intl	Surname	Unit	DOD	DOB
44524	SIG	AR	FORRESTER	104 SIG SQN	24/3/22	25/1/50
218714	SIG	GD	LAWRENCE	110 SIG SQN	UNK/newc	14/12/50
2789857	GNR	HN	ALIDENES	1ST FD REGT	5/2/23	12/8/47
3791335	BDR	DJ	RYAN	1 ST FD REGT	4/1/23	22/8/46
213683	SGT	DW	McDONALD	105 TH FD BAT/ 1 ST FD REGT	14/12/22	18/4/39
3791361	TPR	DC	McINTOSH	C/B SQN 1ARMD REGT	10/2/23	28/11/46
2787133	TPR	CM	ENGLAND	C SQN 1ARMD REGT	4/12/22	24/11/45
54601	SGT	AG	BULLOCK	1APC SQN/ ASQN 3CAV REGT	21/10/22	14/4/36
215100	CPL	MA	YOUNG	1 RAR/ AFVDET 1DIVIU 8 RAR MALAYSIA	12/8/22	17/5/39
44979	PTE	TJ	RANKIN	2 RAR	13/11/22	1/6/51
212555	SGT	MR	CARROLL DCM	4 RAR	?/2/23newc	3/4/40
55865	LCPL	RWR	WALKER	1ARU/ 6RAR/ 8RAR	27/9/22	8/12/42
2793137	PTE	R	REED	1ARU/ 8 RAR	13/1/23	2/7/49
1734820	PTE	DP	BRENNAN	8 RAR	2/1/23	3/4/48
4720549	PTE	WF	GLOVER	8 RAR	26/1/22	30/6/48
218526	PTE	BJ	MARTIN	8 RAR	2/3/22	9/5/50
2790902	LCPL	LJ	PATTLE	8 RAR	11/11/22	21/5/48
218313	LCPL	RV	WHILEY	8 RAR	25/10/22	13/9/37
43931	LCPL	P	SCULLIN	1ARU/ 6 RAR/ 9 RAR	15/10/22	29/7/44



Number	Rank	Intl	Surname	Unit	DOD	DOB
A224655	LACTN	DF	HOOLAHAN	No2 SQN	24/1/23	20/1/50
			ASSOCIATION MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS			
423768	FLLT	FB	LEWIS	WW2, NSW SUPPORTER	?/23	12/8/20
		W	HEDLEY	NATPRES 8RAR ASSOC SERVED IN MALAYSIA	13/1/23	?
R38879		H	SELLARS	NAVY	4/2/22	?
A235704		WJ	CRAIK	RAAF / NEWCASTLE MEMBER	10/22	?

Loving Lord, bless them forever in Your eternal peace.
 Let the sounds of strife, the cries of battle, the wounds of war
 be calmed for all eternity in Your loving and endless grace.
 Let these great warriors find rest at last,
 Ever reminded that we who are left behind
 Cherish their spirit, honor their commitment,
 send them our love,
 and will never forget the service that they gave.

PLEASE NOTE

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

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES	NEW CARS	BATTERIES	SMASH REPAIRS
<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> <hr/> <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>carhelper.com.au New car buyer's advocate Buy a discounted new car over the phone and have it home-delivered No salesmen, just independent advice from a Wheels magazine car reviewer Contact James Whitbourn Motoring journalist & new car buyer's advocate james@carhelper.com.au 0403 892 897 Service cost of \$165 reduced to \$110 for members</p>	<p>POWER PRODUCTS For all your power needs BATTERIES SOLAR POWER INVERTERS GENERATORS <i>Motor Cycle battery specialists</i> Russell is offering 15% discount to VVF Members on Batteries . 5% on Solar products, Inverters & Chargers 10% 3/3 Sovereign Pl South Windsor Ph: (02) 4577 7761 Fax: (02) 4577 7768 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>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>TRAILERS TOWBARS BULLBARS Fastfit Bullbars & Towbars Trailer sales and spares-side steps Bike beacons-Custom work 65 St Hilliers Road AUBURN Ph: (02) 9749 1209 10% Discount on products</p>	<p>MOTOR CYCLE ACCESSORIES Motor Cycle Accessories Supermarket Head Office. 321 Parramatta Rd Auburn NSW (02) 9648 1400 www.mcas.com.au CITY: 9261 5182. LIVERPOOL: 9601 8276. CARINGBAH 9574 5100 PENRITH 4737 6100 10% Discount except helmets and tyres</p>	<p>FLOOR COVERINGS Waratah Floor Coverings 473 Burwood Rd BELMORE Ph: (02) 9759 6511 Ask for Special Rate</p>	<p>MOTELS Golden Chain Motor Inn Ltd Ph: 1800 023 966 Must have Golden Chain Card. Its Free When You Call The Number Above And Ask Present your Federation membership card and ask for a "Golden Link" card to be issued. There is a 10% discount on room rates Australia wide</p>
<p>EXHAUST SYSTEMS Menai Mufflers Unit 4/788 Old Illawarra Rd MENAI Ph: (02) 9541 4720 20% Discount Balmain Radiator Centre Mark Borghonzian 22d Crystal St ROZELLE Ph: (02) 9818 4920Mbl: 0419 417 206 10% Discount</p>	<p>NEW AD SOON Know of a company that supports your local veterans with discounts. Ads placed in this section are free 0421 690 959 For advice</p>	<p>TRAVEL TRANSFERS 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>	

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have to tell you –
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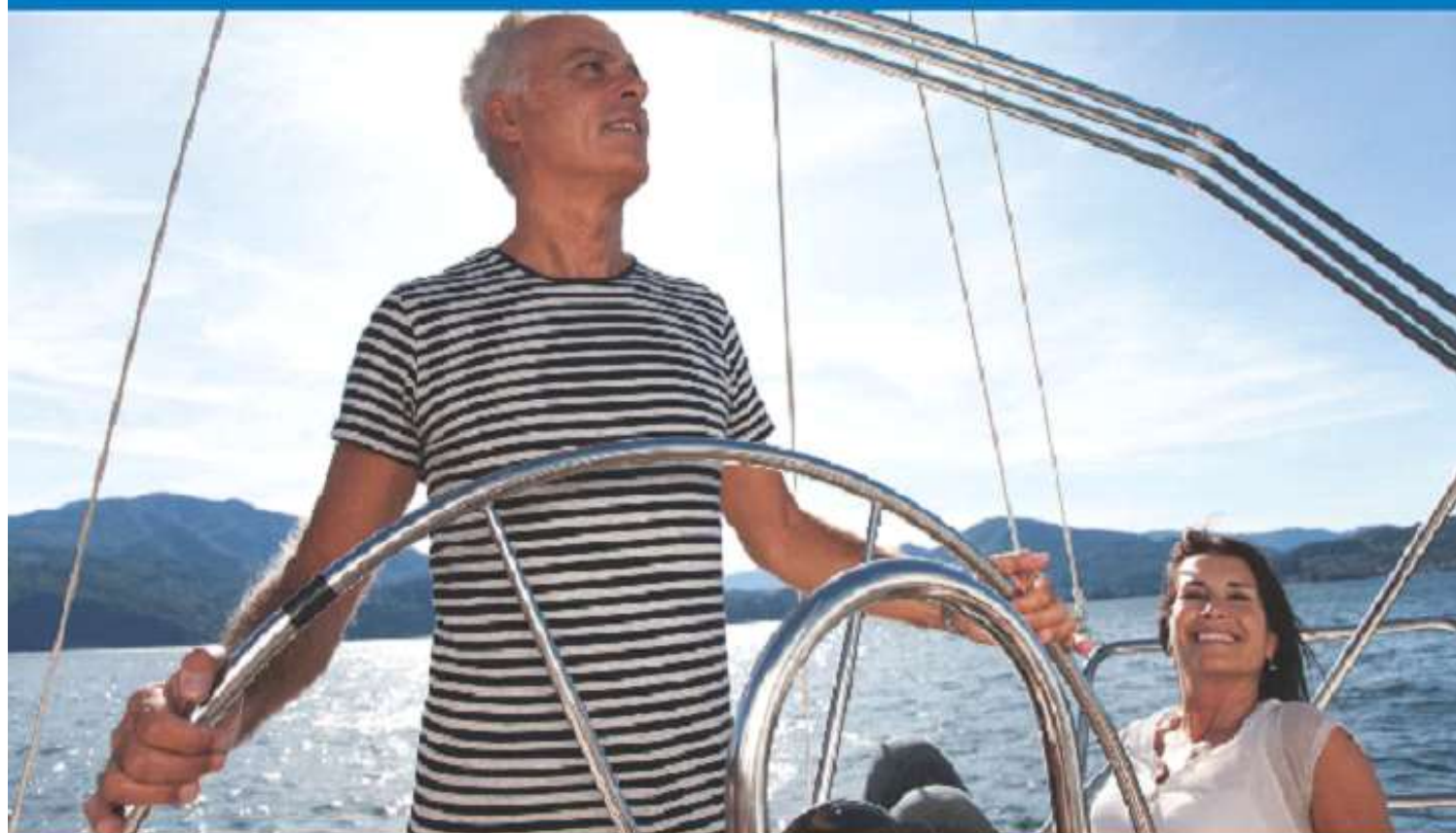
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