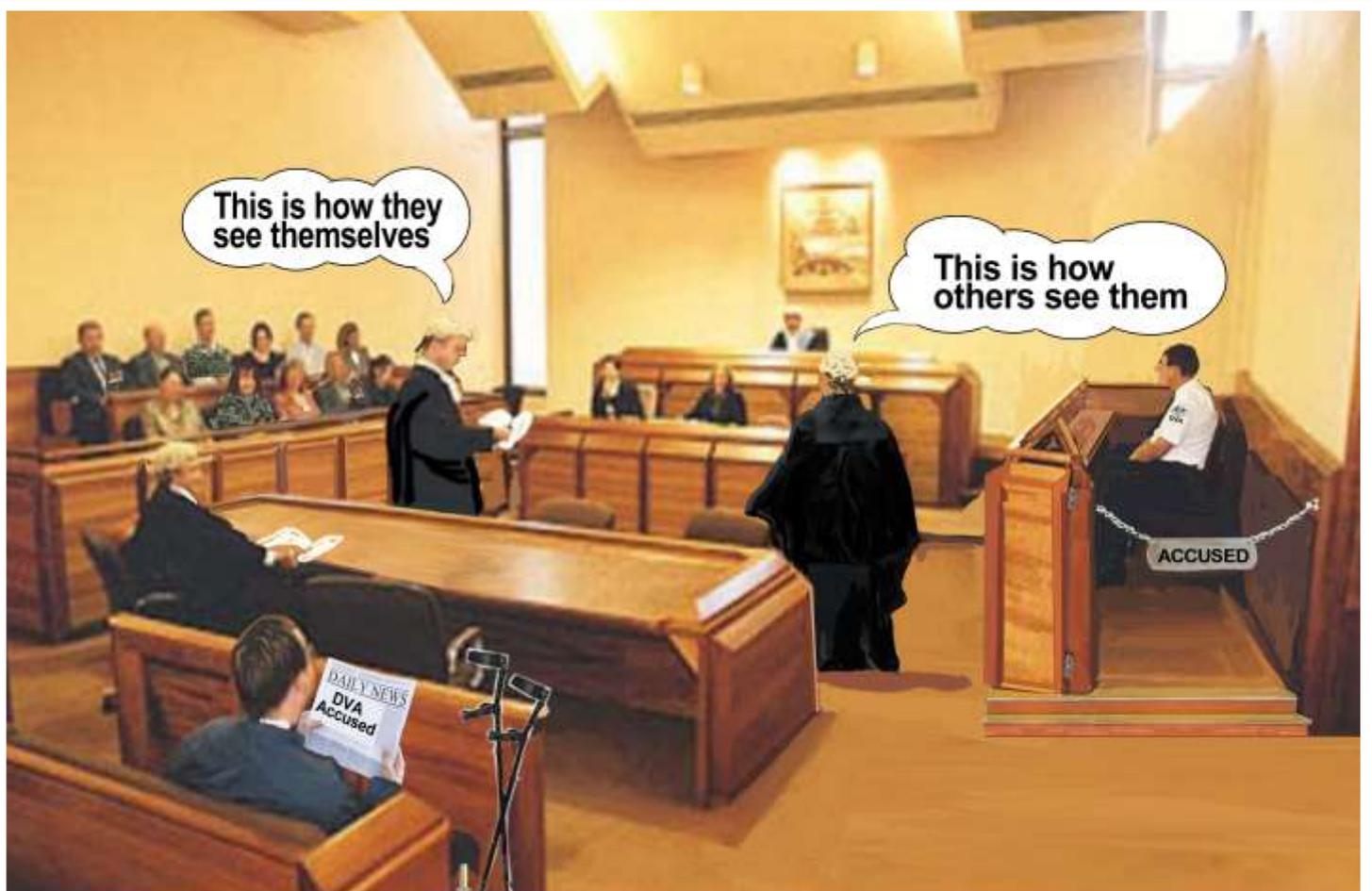




THE VIETNAM VETERANS' NEWSLETTER

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

DECEMBER 2018



How should we judge the Department of Veterans' Affairs ?

Also in this issue

TEAM RUBICON TO THE RESCUE AGAIN
VIETNAM VETERANS STORIES
WHAT ABOUT THE PARTNERS

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We wish our overseas troops a happy and safe Christmas

Operation	Location	Pers
Accordion	Middle East	500
Aslan	Sudan	25
Manitou	Middle East	240
Mazurka	Egypt	27
Okra	ME and Iraq	600
Paladin	Israel/Lebanon	12
Resolute	Australian maritime	600
Highroad	Afghanistan	300
Augury-Philippines	Philippines	100





How should we judge the Department of Veterans Affairs. Recently the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) scrutinised the 'Efficiency of Veterans Service Delivery'. The audit report was damning. Page 4



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It's a beauty. Page 12



What about the partners Not enough is done for veterans' partners. Yet it is clear that partners can be, and in many cases are, second wave war casualties. Page 14



VVCS has a new name
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Reeling Vets



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(Concord '68)

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How should we judge the Department of Veterans Affairs

We know how the Repatriation Commission and DVA judge themselves.

A survey is sent to selected veterans asking if they are satisfied with DVA's service.

Most veterans have dealt with DVA by submitting a compensation claim. Most are eventually accepted so most veterans have no serious complaints.

From these surveys the Repatriation Commission and DVA have asserted that all is well.

But is it?

Recently the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) scrutinised the 'Efficiency of Veterans Service Delivery'.

The audit report was damning.

Of most concern was the finding that high error rates continue, despite an internal report in 2014 finding that incapacity testing revealed a high error rate due to a failure to follow the approved national procedures and supplied checklists.

That the problem persists four years later demonstrates incompetence or bad faith or both.

In particular, for claims with high processing times, the audit found this was due to delays in the actioning of those claims despite the presence of required information and medical reviews.

Here's an example:

"In one claim reviewed a period of 66 days elapsed between assignment to a delegate and an initial request for medical information. There was no

Repatriation Commission/Department of Veterans Affairs

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

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

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

So one is not independent of the other.

Speaking of one is to speak of both.

activity recorded in the file for this period. Later, for the same claim, there was an 82 day period where no activity was recorded between receipt of the medical information and the request for the impairment assessment from the CMA. In effect, the claim appears to have taken 148 days longer to process than would have been the case had action been taken expeditiously."

To sum up, the report says that, despite the bad report it received four years ago, many claims take an excessively long period to process due to inefficient handling .



The Audit Office has found serious flaws in our compensation system, and you're just the man to fix it

R 18/21

But the Repatriation Commission continues to pat itself on the back.

It is not only ANAO that finds the Repatriation Commission and DVA wanting.

Paratrooper, Martin Rollins' fight to have his badly damaged back accepted by DVA lasted a decade.

In an admission to Parliament, the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Marise Payne admitted that: "It is evident that there were and may still be cultural issues in the department that do need to be addressed."

And what does the Ombudsman think?

In its submission to Productivity Commission enquiry into DVA's processes, the Ombudsman said that veterans often faced waiting times of longer than 12 months.

"These cases are particularly concerning where the veteran has significant mental health issues and is

unable to access the appropriate health treatment and income support,"

And it is not long since DVA's gross mismanagement preceded the suicide of Jesse Bird.

And that mismanagement had its precedent. DVA promised, after the 2009 immolation suicide of Gary McColley, it would be diligent in identifying veterans at risk.

In the 2017 case of Jesse Bird it simply failed to do so.

We believe the Repatriation Commission and DVA should be judged on their many serious failures Those failures that have caused sick and troubled veterans avoidable distress. Those failures may perhaps have even contributed to suicide.

There is no room for complacency and self congratulations. ■



VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA Inc.

Incorporating

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Queensland Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation ACT Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Victorian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australian Branch Inc.

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OUR COVER DESIGN
AND IMAGING
COURTESY OF BAMBOO PRINTING
& BOB FRESHFIELD
EDITOR

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the new National President of the Vietnam Veterans Federation let me first re-state our organisation's mission.

The VVFA's mission is to actively pursue the legal, political and social issues relating to the welfare of war veterans and their families. Moreover we are vigilant **in our efforts to counter threats to veterans' welfare and are continually resisting** Government parsimony and reminding politicians and public servants of their duty of care to veterans.

My predecessor Jim Wain and his National Office team did outstanding work over the last three years pursuing this mission.

Jim was lucky enough to have with him in the National Office two outstanding researchers, John Godwin OAM and Jules Wills. Their contribution was immense.

Jim, himself, has a long history of organising support for veterans suffering because of their military service for which he received an OAM in 2017.

Another essential and hard working member of the National Office was the previous National Secretary and Treasurer, Ray Colburn.

One legacy of the Wain presidency is an excellent submission to the Productivity Commission for its review of DVA's compensation and rehabilitation system for veterans.

It is a most professional piece of work, a blueprint for the new National Office's efforts.

Happily, Jim's team has not totally retired but remains ready to advise the new team and to identify issues needing attention. I am grateful that such expertise will continue to be available as there are so many problems with the Repatriation system needing remedies.

I hope the new National Office can successfully continue the outstanding work of Jim's team.

Bill Roberts OAM
National President ■



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

+ ASIST Why not do the course and help prevent suicides

I wrote in my March editorial comment:

“A veteran’s suicide is a very sad affair. A soldier’s suicide inconsolable. Both bring nothing but desolation to those left behind. That they occur because of delays in administration of their claims procedures is inconceivable and must be a priority for government to enact changes NOW.”

It is not as though this is a new problem.

We knew back in the 1980s that too many veterans were committing suicide. But official recognition lagged.

In 1999 a government sponsored Vietnam Veterans Health Study found that suicide amongst the children of Vietnam veterans was 300% higher than their equivalents in the general population.

That set the alarm bells ringing.

It also set Bob Tyrell, (VVFA Vice President at the time), into action. Stung by the tragic suicide of his daughter, Bob, with financial support from the VVFA, and the backing of other ex-service organisations, went round Australia getting together groups of veterans and their families to attend ASIST courses.

ASIST stands for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Its purpose was (and is) to provide practical skills to care givers with an emphasis on providing ‘suicide first aid’ - helping a person at risk to stay safe and seek further help. Over several years Bob’s groups were a great success.

We campaigned for the organisation of the courses Australia wide to be taken over by DVA who initially resisted taking on the task. But eventually the worth of the courses and a Federal Election won the day and ASIST was included in a new government initiative, Operation Life.

The 1999 study also suggested that Vietnam veterans had an elevated suicide rate. Six years later, a 2005 Vietnam Veterans Health Study, found that National Servicemen who served in Vietnam had a substantially higher rate of suicide and motor vehicle accidents (the latter often a method of suicide), compared with National Servicemen who served only in Australia. That made it abundantly clear that the trauma of war definitely increases the risk of suicide amongst those who fight them.

Even this finding was ignored in recent times by the Repatriation Commission and the government. They made statements dampening the significance of suicides of veterans of more recent wars by saying that, as far as they could see, the rate of veteran suicide was no more than that of the general population. These statements conveniently ignored the selection process for the army and especially the SAS and Commandos, that results in recruits as a group being more psychologically and physically healthy than the general population, meaning lower rates would be expected.

The expectation of lower death and sickness rates among veterans is known as the Healthy Soldier Effect (an effect well known and understood in the statistics world).

So the Government, Repatriation Commission and DVA continued to drag the chain. It has taken the Jacqui Lambie inspired Senate enquiry and a highly publicized veteran suicide to spur the government and DVA to some action. We hope their renewed efforts avoid a repetition of recent gross mismanagement.

In the meantime, why not sign up to an ASIST course. It might help you to identify a veteran friend or family member at risk and to know what to do next.

Operation Life is run by OPEN ARMS (Formerly the VVCS—Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service).

Ring them on 1800 011 046. Visit their website: www.vvcs.gov.au .



Do you have a story?

Again we bring you some veterans' stories.

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

In this edition we have stories from Al Wood and Garry Gladhill.

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

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CLOSE-OFF DATE FOR
MARCH 2019 ISSUE
FEBRUARY 4 2019

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION

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What a mess

Veterans seeking compensation for war and peace time injuries and illness are faced with three compensation schemes.

Many veterans are eligible to apply to more than one of these schemes and must choose which one is best to pursue.

Others are eligible to receive different benefits from more than one scheme.

And there are inconsistencies and

discrepancies between these schemes preventing equitable treatment between veterans applying for compensation.

In short, the veterans' compensation system is a mess.

How can we fix it?

We can combine the three schemes into one, keeping the best of each and discarding the worst.



"Well if you have a Commonwealth pension you will lose it under MRCA but not VEA; under VEA and MRCA we have SOPs available but not under DRCA; even then, we can have some choice with SOPs under VEA but not under MRCA; and there are some benefits available under DRCA not available under VEA; and if you have high quality hearing aids you were given under SRCA and need to replace them, you can now only get the low quality ones available under VEA and MRCA; and if you die your funeral benefit available under VEA is \$2,000 while that available under MRCA is \$11,654; and under VEA your compensation will be paid on acceptance of liability, but under MRCA and DRCA it is not paid till deemed 'permanent and stable'....."

Of course, the danger is that DVA will press for the worst aspects of each scheme to be included and engineer the discarding of the best. That would fit its track record.

But with strong input from the veteran community, including knowledgeable veterans on any committee assembled to work through combining the three schemes, an improvement could be achieved.

Of particular importance in combining the schemes is keeping reminding DVA and the Minister, of the 'beneficial' nature of Repatriation legislation. It is supposed to be sympathetic to veterans rather than antagonistic. It is meant 'to deal generously with those who served on the nation's behalf and to whom the nation is indebted'.

(Unfortunately, DVA has a history of being antagonistic. For instance, DVA has a history of hiring 'red-hot', highly expensive barristers to represent it against poorly funded veterans at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.)

There is another good reason for properly combining of the three schemes into one; it would save time and money. ■

What are those three inconsistent, confusing schemes?

- **The Veterans Entitlement Act (VEA),**
- **Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) and**
- **Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA)**

FREE PENSIONS & ADVOCACY SERVICE

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

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

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

Shooney's new album

(highly recommended)

John Schumann wrote two songs to commemorate the 2015 ANZAC Centenary.

One of them was commissioned by the Chief of Army who was concerned the ANZAC Centenary might overlook the military service of Indigenous Australians.. The song is *On Every Anzac day*.

The other was the moving contribution, *Anzac Biscuits*.

Both these memorable songs feature on the new album by *John Schumann and the Vagabond Crew*.

Another ten songs also carry John's distinct Australian voice we have come to know and love. They explore new topics and approaches.

Some delve into the life of famous Australian explorer John McDouall Stuart ('Skinny Little Kid', 'Won't Look Down', 'Remember Me'), another explores the complexities of being a 'FIFO' worker ('FIFO Road') and climate change ('Nobody's Fault'), others discuss the state of the world from the perspective of someone who genuinely cares ('Times Like These', 'The Long Run Remix') and has an interest in life on the land ('Fade Away', 'Awesome Day', 'What Did You Do Today').

The author of 'I Was Only 19' has done it again.

It's a beauty.

Shooney sums it up

Of '**Ghosts & Memories**', John said, "Music is a funny thing. It's one of the career paths that you don't willingly retire from regardless of your age. It doesn't matter whether you're 18 or 80 - if it's in you, it's in you.

It's done now - it's an album of songs, not a cure for cancer. For me the sense of pride comes from having great musicians who, most importantly are



mates, play on my songs: Rob Hirst, Shane Howard, Mal Logan and, of course, the Vagabond Crew.

Hugh McDonald and I started a few of these songs before he died. I wondered whether I should even bother finishing them but then I realised he would want me to. It was a bit hard sometimes listening to his guitar playing and his voice but the lesson is that we all pass. It's the music that lives on.

I am reminded of a line from "Ted", one of Redgum's early songs which was penned by Michael Atkinson.

"But years of toil with a bunch of mates
you know it leaves you satisfied,
we never moved a mountain
but we sure gave it a try..."

"That about sums it up." ■



John Schumann of the Vagabond Crew meets Private Louis Carbery of Task Group Afghanistan, during a visit to Camp Qargha near Kabul, Afghanistan, during a Forces Entertainment Tour on March 5, 2016.

Live performances coming up

Friday 30th November
Twin Towns Services Club

Saturday 1st December
Imperial Hotel Eumundi

Friday 7th December
Grafton District Services Club

Saturday 8th December
Laurieton United Services Club

Sunday 9th December
Wests New Lambton Newcastle.

Where to get your copy

This link will lead you to various ways of ordering or downloading the album.

<https://abcmusic.lnk.to/ghostsandmemories>

The link will lead you to:

iTunes Store download

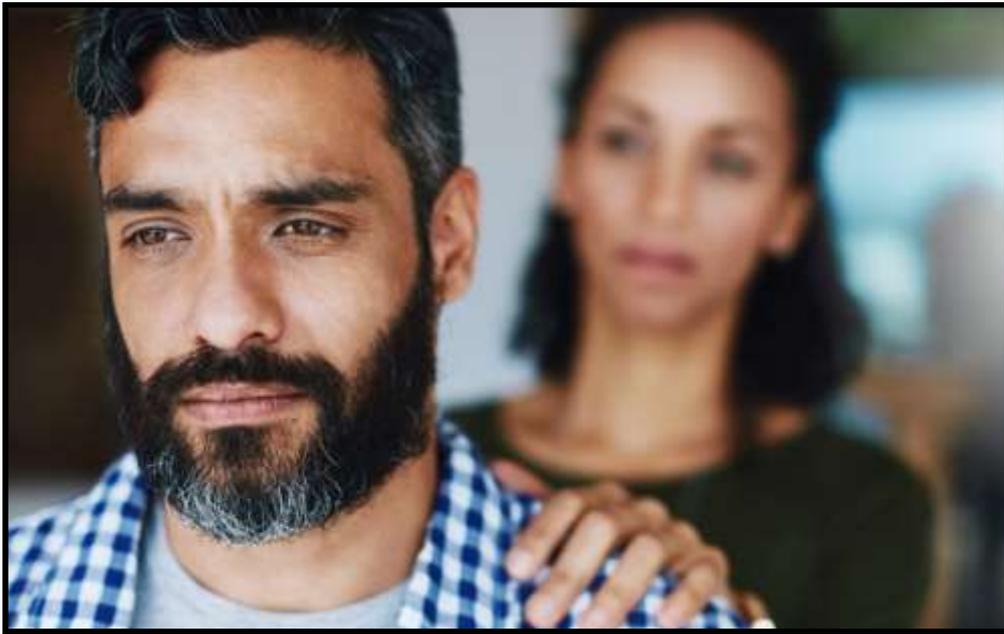
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ABC Shop order online

JB HiFi order online

Google Play download

What about the partners



Not enough is done for veterans' partners.

Yet it is clear that partners can be, and in many cases are, second wave war casualties.

Respected study after respected study shows that partners of combat veterans have a significantly higher risk of developing psychological problems as a result of living with, and caring for their veteran partners, when compared with the general population.

These research findings are universally accepted.

So more should be done for partners.

And its not only because the partner deserves greater support. It's also because you can't have a healthy veteran without the support of a healthy partner.

The greater the distress of the partner the worse the well-being of the veteran.

No matter how much effort and resources are spent on trying to fix the veteran, if his partner has become sick and troubled and cannot give support, all that effort may be for nothing.

Partners can seek counselling at VVCS. This is a valuable service.

But there can be long waiting times for

appointments. Offices may be distant. And VVCS telephone counselling may not meet the clinical needs of the partner.

Yet early intervention is the key to the prevention of family disruption and even tragedy.

In the short term, an answer to the problem is to issue partners with a Non-liability White Card simultaneously with the issue of the same card to the veteran. This would guarantee immediate access to medical and psychological help.

Not only is this a sensible and practical solution, it would also be an acknowledgement by government of the essential and demanding role that partners play in supporting our psychologically and physically damaged veterans.

And whilst this article has focused on the partners of war veterans, the same difficulties can arise with ex-ADF members experiencing adjustment difficulties.

So partners should be eligible for a Non-liability White Card at the same time as the ex-ADF member. ■

NEW SOUTH WALES PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I am pleased to inform you that Bill Roberts OAM - New South Wales Senior Vice-President - was recently elected unopposed as President – Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc. – our National body. Bill is a long- time volunteer operating from our Granville office with extensive experience in pension and other veteran related matters. **Bill's additional role includes being our representative at the Ex-Service Round Table (ESORT) meetings.** He also sits on the AVCAT Board as well as being a Director of the TPI Association of NSW. Bill took over the position of VVFA President after Jim Wain decided not to stand for a further term.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorations were held around the State including at the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza and our own service and function held at the Bankstown Sports Club. Our service was very well attended and the following lunch and entertainment enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks go to the Bankstown Sports Club for their continued support and to the many Clubs and businesses which donated prizes for our fund raising raffle. The team of volunteers led by Terry Corcoran did a magnificent job organising the function. Our thanks to Bankstown Sports Club can be found on page 52 of this issue.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

I would once again remind members who live in regional and remote areas of New South Wales that you have available to you the benefits of our long-standing and highly successful Outreach Program which is managed by Dennis Hanmer OAM, of our Granville office. Dennis is a pension expert who has had many years of service in this role. All it takes is for you to contact Dennis at our Granville office. He will decide when to visit your area to answer your pension questions and to lodge the necessary

claims with the DVA. The costs associated with this program do not come out of your monetary contributions but from registered clubs which donate for this specific purpose.

We also have a Sydney Outreach program where a highly qualified pension advisor will visit **the claimant's home to advise on entitlements and lodge a DVA claim** where appropriate. This service is designed to assist those who are incapacitated to the extent that they are unable to travel to our Granville office.

NSW BRANCH ELECTIONS

Members are reminded that each second year a election is conducted to fill all positions on the NSW Branch Committee. 2019 is an election year and full details of that election are contained in this issue of the Newsletter. Election results will be announced at the NSW Branch AGM in May 2019.

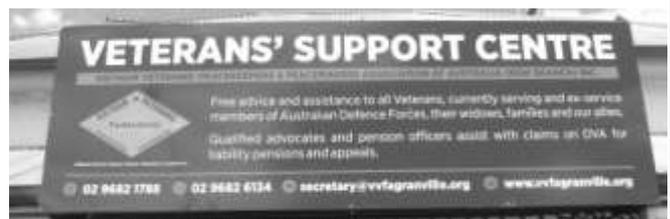
NSW BRANCH HQ FACELIFT

Our offices here at Granville have recently undergone some changes both internally, with updates to offices and a kitchen makeover, and externally with new signage. More elsewhere in this issue.

FESTIVE SEASON

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the very best for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. May 2019 be one of your best years!

Frank Cole
NSW President



New signage for NSW Branch

VICTORIA STATE PRESIDENT REPORT



HELLO AGAIN FROM THE VICTORIAN BRANCH.

By the time you read this over 300 care packages that the Victorian branch packed and had mailed to our troops on deployment should be just about to reach a number of units and give some of the troops a little “thought from home”. The care package endeavour is an initiative of our inaugural state president, Ron Cargill and is now a labour of love for his daughter Stacey McDonald (nee Cargill) who continues as a tribute to her father. It is very heartening when we receive so many “Thank You” notes from deployed troops from baggy arsed privates to officer ranks in all services.

Other than this, branch volunteers are out in the public eye virtually every Saturday at a number of Bunnings stores within the Geelong/Bellarine area, selling memorabilia to raise funds which are needed to provide help for our veterans and their families as and when needed. In this I would offer a great big THANK YOU to our volunteers as the funds we make are a great benefit particularly in view of the little we receive from government and RSL sources.

At this time of writing our emergency housing facility, Bowder House, has only one tenant residing in it and he does a good job as his health allows him in the caretaker role he has adopted.

After being disappointed by some previous tenants seeking help we now find that we have to be a bit more circumspect as to who we put into the home. There have been a few incidents in the past in which we have had our fingers burnt and

this manifests a feeling of futility and loss of faith in the makeup of some people.

Our Welfare volunteers are still quite busy with their visits to hospitals and various facilities to check on the welfare of veterans from all deployments. I think these volunteers need a special mention as it is not everybody that can operate in such environments.

We are still kept busy with assisting veterans seeking medical and pension benefits for their problems and this sees a variety of claims being lodged from veterans from all deployments. It is still surprising that even today we have Vietnam Veterans who were/are unaware what their rights are until they are urged by friends or family to seek out our help.

Until next time I wish you all well in your health and lives and trust that you are having success in your endeavours for our veterans and their families.

Regards

John Arnold
State President
Victoria Branch.

CROWEATERS CORNER



Well, since our last report a lot has happened, but where do I start. It was reported that our club rooms at Warradale, our home for the past 19 years, had been compulsorily required by the State Government for the upgrade of the railway crossing adjacent to where we were located. This meant a search for new premises.

After inspecting numerous sites (38 in all), none were remotely suitable and the decision was made to build new club rooms. This began on 1st June and the building was completed and officially handed over to us on Friday 12 October 2018. We have built on Marion City Council land adjacent to the Marion RSL.

Both the RSL and Council have been amazingly supportive, and without their assistance it would not have been possible. I believe that we may well be the only Vietnam Veteran (State HQ) ESO in Australia that is collocated with an RSL.

We now have the job of unpacking all the boxes and trying to fit in all our memorabilia and paraphernalia into the new building and having it ship shape for the official opening on 14 December 2018 by our patron, His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Mr Hieu Van Le AO. Accompanied with the Honourable Mr Stephen Marshall, Premier of South Australia.

The official opening will be broadcast live by Radio Station Coast FM 88.7 (SA), with a string of dignitaries and politicians in attendance. The new building will be named The Yerbury Centre, after Captain Ian Yerbury (AKA Impy), who completed two (2) tours of Vietnam, and whose parents lived in Adelaide. After his discharge from the Army 'Impy' lived at Campsie in NSW until his death.

Not long after he died, Ian's father passed away, and his mother contacted the VVF and donated a large sum of money to the VVFSA in his memory. To quote her... "to ensure our doors never closed". This money was invested by the VVFSA in case we ever had to relocate. Thus, when the circumstances eventuated we were able to utilize some of this money toward the building of our new club rooms. The Committee felt that the naming of our new building was a fitting gesture to the memory of Captain Ian Yerbury, (Impy), and his family.

Photos of the opening, dedication, and ceremony will feature in our next "SNAFU" report.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from VVFSA.

Mal Thiele
SA President



During the new build

Almost there



Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

This is a short story about how my dog saved my life.

By Garry Gleadhill.

In July 2007 I adopted a Kelpie/Australian Shepherd cross puppy, who was the runt of the litter and on his way to the RSPCA.

In April 2008 I was involved in an appeal "battle" with the VRB who refused to accept my diagnosis of Extremely Severe Depression, Extremely Severe Anxiety and a PTSD score of 60 and accusing me of making the whole story up. I am sure a lot of Veterans are familiar with that scenario!

Although my Advocate, Heather Graham, - (*From Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc*) - fought valiantly the VRB knocked back my appeal and said I could apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal if I wished to do so.

I started this process and one morning thought "enough is enough" and went to the chemist and bought the strongest bottle of sleeping pills I could get without a 'script.

I was sitting at the dining room table with the pills and a glass of water when Canem came over and put his paw on my leg and gave me a look I still cannot describe. It was then that I thought about how we were "joined at the hip".

As I have no family he was my child, my best mate and sometimes even my counsellor.

He slept in my bed, under the covers and we had a daily routine we would follow. I thought "who will take care of him if I am not around?" and, thankfully this brought me to my senses and the pills went into the bin.

Canem was never trained as an assistance dog, he never even attended puppy pre-school, but from the day I brought him home I spoke to him like a little person and even the staff at his Vet. Clinic said they were amazed at how intelligent he was.

When I was working on my submission to the recent Senate inquiry into DVA and Veteran Suicide my little mate was always there ready for a game with his toys, a walk, or a drive in the car when things started to get to me.

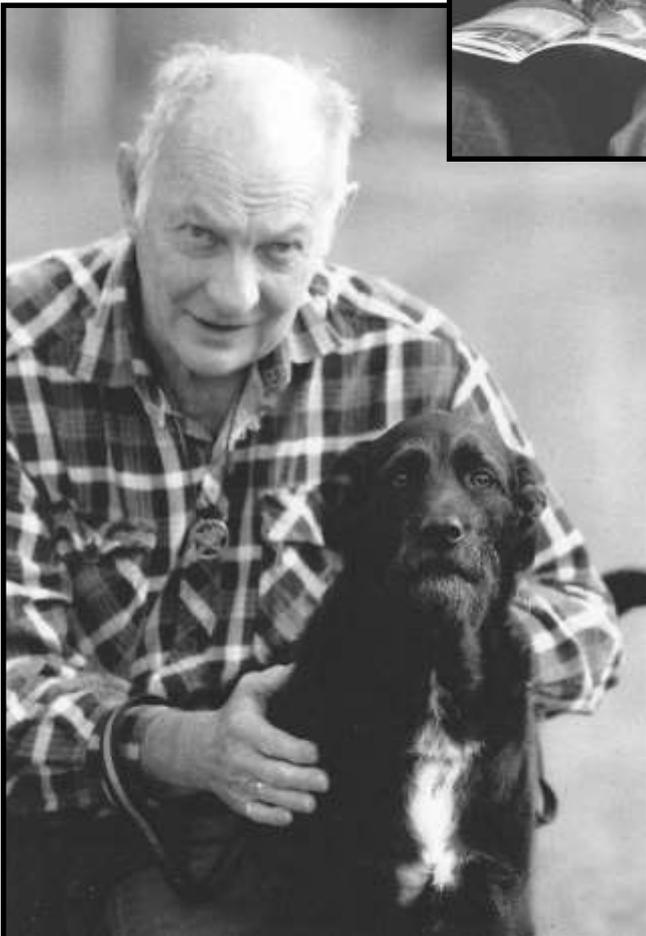
This may sound like strange advice, but I have been through it. Even if your appeal is turned down and you have thoughts of ending it all, think of those you will be leaving behind - in my case Canem - and don't do it, don't 'let the system win! You fought for your Country and believe me the majority of people out there respect and admire you for it.

Sadly, Canem passed away suddenly on the operating table on the 23rd of May this year, exactly 2 months before his 11th birthday. Although I am totally shattered at losing my "little mate" so suddenly, I will forever be grateful for having him in my life for the best part of 11 years and a lot of happy memories to look back on.

The Examiner _ (*Launceston Tas*) - newspaper ran a story about Canem and me on the 22nd of May 2016 (the day before his 9th birthday) titled "A Veterans Best Mate" and it is available online at <http://www.examiner.com.au/story/3919870/a-veterans-best-mate/> if you are interested in reading it.

Remember, no matter how bad things seem, fight your way through it. The alternative is not worth thinking about. ■

Garry served with the RAN and was a Steward on board HMAS Perth serving in Vietnam from September 1970 to April 1971.



Do you have a story?

Again we bring you some veterans' stories.

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

In this edition we have stories from Al Wood and Garry Gleadhill.

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

VVCS (Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service) has a new name



IS CHANGING TO



WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SAME:



A service founded by Vietnam Veterans

The Vietnam Veterans Association (VVAA) in the late 70s and early 80s had two concerns.

There was concern for the mental health of many Vietnam veterans. It was not unusual for someone to be called out to calm down a veteran in a domestic dispute or sometimes even to help the police with a troubled veteran. Indeed, the Association's office was used as a counselling centre employing several volunteer part-time professional counsellors.

The Association thus saw the need for a properly funded counselling service. With the assistance and case studies of one of the volunteer counsellors, Leanne Grierson, the Association made submissions to government.

When the government (Senator Tony Messner was the Minister for Veterans Affairs) agreed to establish a counselling service in 1982, Phil Thompson, in recognition of the Vietnam Veterans Association's substantial role in its establishment, accompanied Repatriation Commissioner Major General 'Alby' Morrison touring Australia interviewing potential staff. The first Counselling Centre was opened in Adelaide in 1982 with Phil Thompson making an address at the launch.

A Vietnam Veterans Association representative was appointed to the supervisory body, the National Advisory Council.

Such was the success of that first Counselling Centre that the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS) has grown to some fifteen centres round Australia and a network of outreach counsellors.



One of its founding principles was its independence from the Department of Veterans Affairs, an independence we have had to defend from time to time.

In April 2007, the service was renamed, Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), 'to better reflect that the benefits of the service

founded by Vietnam veterans is now open to all Australian veterans and their families'.

From October 2018 the service is to be renamed Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling Service. The DVA announcement adds: 'The new branding also acknowledges that VVCS is a service founded by Vietnam Veterans'. ■

WA STATE REPORT



MEDICAL REFERRALS.

In recent months there has been some concern expressed in ESO circles about changes to be implemented by DVA involving referrals by your GP to allied health professionals.

The way that GPs refer DVA cardholders to allied health professionals is set to change from July 2019 following adjustments foreshadowed in the May 2018 – 19 Budget. Under current DVA arrangements a GP may refer a client to allied health services for up to a year at DVA's expense. For chronic conditions, the GP can make an ongoing referral.

Under the new arrangements, which will be in place from July 1 2019, GPs will only be able to make a referral to allied health services at DVA's expense for up to 12 sessions or one year, whichever comes sooner. This new arrangement will also apply to those clients with a chronic condition. The new arrangements will be called the "treatment cycle". The treatment cycle is designed to improve quality of care for DVA cardholders. At the end of the treatment cycle, the allied health provider will report back to the GP who will assess whether further treatment is required.

This matter was raised at a recent meeting of the National Aged Care and Community Forum at DVA as it was felt that the introduction of the "treatment cycle" could place an imposition on DVA cardholders undergoing treatment for serious health conditions such as cancer.

It has now been made quite clear that there will be no change to existing arrangements with GP referrals to other medical practitioners or specialists and the change has been introduced because some "Allied Health Professionals" e.g. physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others, have simply been abusing the system, using DVA as a cash cow and over servicing particular clients or patients. This explanation clarifies the matter and it is now felt there will be no detrimental effect on veterans.

On another matter I am pleased to be able to advise members that in the not too distant future we will have a paid advocate at our service within WA. I won't go into the Advocates details just yet but suffice to say she has an excellent record and is employed by the NSW branch of the VVFA. She is moving to Perth for family reasons however, will remain on the NSW payroll continuing to do work for them whilst also picking up whatever is required in WA. This will be of tremendous assistance to me personally and will provide all veterans in WA with the services of a fully qualified and professional veteran's advocate.

Services are provided to all veterans and or serving members of the ADF throughout WA so if you need or you know of someone who needs some assistance then get in contact with me for further information.

Milton Kirk
President
WA Branch

Vietnam Veterans' Stories

From letters diaries and memories

Life inside a US Fire Support Base

By Al Wood

FSB 'Concord'. – (June/July 1968)

WE travelled out of Nui Dat to 'Concord' by road-convoy on the morning of Sunday 23rd June '68, for a planned stay of about 6 weeks on Operation "Final Victory". The role of our Tracker Platoon was to be used as base defence plus available for call-out on contact follow-up by the rifle companies. The base, already established by the US Forces, and not far from the air-base of Bien Hoa, was about 300 yards in diameter, completely devoid of any vegetation, and scattered with tents, sandbagged bunkers, and numerous US Army vehicles, the most obvious being a dug-in battery of six 155mm Self-Propelled Heavy Howitzers of the 2/35 US Artillery.

The perimeter was surrounded by 3 barbed-wire fences, and our allotted position faced approximately south, adjoining some US forces, (199th LIB) which was a blessing, and quite an eye-opener to us newly arrived "in-country", as to how the other half lived in the field. Here we are, with our Australian military C-ration packs to sustain us, while these guys receiving Yank beer, soft-drinks, known as "hinoo" to us for some reason, (?) radios, fresh cold milk, ice, ice-cream, and all supplied from their PX just down the road at the Long Binh complex. We were soon finding our way into their mess-tent to eat their freshly cooked rations, (steak, ham & eggs, etc), and taking HOT showers, our first in some weeks, since arrival "in country".

Work quickly commenced on building our

defence bunker, given a good start by us getting the aid of an American GI driving a back-hoe, who quickly dug the hole for us, about 20ft long, x 8ft wide, x 5ft deep. Until this was habitable, we slept in shallow "shell-scrapes" about 1foot deep, continually partly getting buried by dirt, from the vibration caused from the 155's on their frequent night fire-missions. With the day's light long gone, and the Yanks watching us "stand-to" with a certain amount of amusement & curiosity, the only lights visible would be faint red bulbs in the 155's, throwing low light in each turret. A fire-mission would come in, the turrets would rotate with a low whirring noise, the barrels would all elevate in unison, there would be a call in a broad American accent of "stan-bah", and a deafening multi-sourced eruption followed, fire spewing from each barrel, and a whizzing sound off through the black night skies, only to be followed by a very distant multiple-crunch as the shells found their mark. Quite awesome, and something I will never forget.

Another night memory comes to mind. We would sit out under the stars in the evening, watching the aircraft activity at Bien Hoa and sometimes the distant fireworks of an artillery strike or a lightening storm. One evening, there were 2 fiery jet trails off to the south, as fighters lifted off from Bien Hoa. Suddenly, one flame pointed back to earth & went out, followed by a far-off explosion. I never did discover if the pilot

Concord Moonscape 1



Concord bunker



Tank at Concord

ejected.

On the night of 4th of July we were treated to a fireworks display courtesy of multi-bursts of star-shells & numerous other sky-bound explosive devices all across our region, an awesome sight for us, not long “in-country”. Then on other nights, we watched the awesome spectacle of the fire-power exuded by US “Spooky” gunships, as they emptied their load of ammunition into the ground in a matter of just a minute or two via several “mini-guns” aboard ; electrically operated Gatling-guns, their tracer seeming like just a single unbroken stream of “death-ray” down to the ground.

Our palatial sandbagged bunker, to house 6 men, wasn’t quite finished even after a week, but habitable by the start of the 2nd week at “Concord”. Just to finish sandbagging the roof, and we’d be ready for anything, we felt. But we didn’t plan for flood. Our 1st Sunday in our new home, and I was busy writing home, laying in my

bunk inside. There was a short, sharp shower, which soon passed. 15mins. later, the skies opened with a deluge, but inside was dry, so far. After 30minutes rain, a trickle of water started down into the bunker. No problem, “we can deal with that”. On I wrote, but suddenly there was a noise of running water, and through the far entrance came an 18inch wall of water, followed by a flurry of activity from the inhabitants, throwing equipment though gun-ports or hanging it from the ceiling. It was some days before the level was reduced to an oozy-mud floor and much of our equipment was either ruined or needed some degree of drying-out. With the help of a US bulldozer, we were able to arrange some diversion channels to take any further deluges away. My supply of *National Geographic* mags was ruined but on writing to their head-office in the US some months later, they were happily replaced for free under the circumstances. Fortunately, our *Playboy*

(Continued on page 24)

Concord Moonscape 2



Al Wood



Pte Warren, LCpl Bryant,
Pte Rynne, Pte Crossett

magazines were rescued. Priorities! My ½ frame camera was also much worse for wear, and was never the same after that inundation. First chance I got, I bought a new one at the base PX.

About mid-July, & having finally just completed our “palace”, elements of our platoon were put on alert for a 3 day patrol outside the wire, but after these days went by, crashing about the bamboo thickets, thorn-bushes, hills, biting flies, mozzies, leeches & red-ants, the ‘powers-that-be’ decided we loved it out there, so flew out a further 3 days rations by chopper. Great! So hot out there, we had blokes fainting from heat-stroke, and we’re expected to stay alert too.

After our week getting acquainted with the

countryside, we returned to “Concord”, to be alerted to pack-up our gear for re-deployment. Four weeks had passed based out at “Concord”, our first long operation away from Nui Dat. It had been a real experience here, working with the US forces for our first time, doing boat patrols at night on the nearby Song Dong Nai River, and swapping cultures with them. I’d surely miss those large cartons of thick “Foremost” chocolate milk freshly flown in from Hawaii, even though I once overdosed on the mixture, then wasted the whole carton’s contents in the mud at my feet.

Off to the “Firestone Trail” by Chinook-lift on the 18th July. ■

QUEENSLAND STATE PRESIDENT REPORT



We have just held our Annual General Meetings and most of the previous Committees membership remains the same. We have been very successful over the past 12 months and consolidation of those efforts will be a plus. The new Management Committee of the Queensland Branch is: Peter Handy – President; Ken Bridges – Vice President; Peter Cameron OAM - Secretary/Treasurer; Committee Members – Bob Graves; Errol Harris; Kevin Roberts and Neil Purton. Neil replaces Graham Allan who declined nomination because of the distances he needs to travel.

The Sub Branch Management Committee is: Peter Handy – President; Alf Reimers - Vice President; Peter Cameron OAM – Secretary/Treasurer; Committee Members – August Bauer; Neil Purton; Kevin Roberts; Ken Bridges; Don Lees and Errol Harris.

The Brisbane/Gold Coast Regional Sub Branch continues to thrive with all active members taking full advantage of the facilities and equipment. Members enjoy their time at the Shed.

Our weekly Sausage Sizzle at the local Bunnings store continues as our major fundraising activity. We also achieve good income from paid jobs for local residents and members where local businesses are not interested in such small jobs. We receive many donations of various items including tools, furniture and hardware that we sell through Gumtree. In the past couple of years we have been given a motor bike, three cars and a 14 foot Canadian canoe with electric motor. Two of the three cars have been sold for approximately \$6,000 and the third is being prepared for sale. Profits from the various donated items and vehicles sold are being split evenly between the Queensland Branch and the Sub Branch.

We have four bee hives and a member makes

chutneys and jams. The sale of chutneys, jams and honey also improves our bottom line.

I have met on several occasions with the Vietnam Veterans Association, Queensland Branch and the local Gold Coast Branch with the aim of working together and supporting each other. If **only all Veterans' organisations worked together** in the best interests of all Veterans then Veterans in need of help will be much better off. Our **organisation will not be critical of other Veterans' organisations**. There is no need for us to do so.

In conclusion, we await the findings and recommendations the current enquiries into DVA Services and legislation and we have fully **supported the Federation's submissions at every opportunity**.

Our project 'sayingthankyou.org.au' is progressing well and I ask that all units of the Federation supports and promote this project through their newsletters and messages to their members. If you have not visited the website **please go to 'sayingthankyou.org.au' and read some of the messages fellow veterans and non-veterans have recorded**.

Thank you for your continued support of our organisation, particularly during our recovery period.

Peter Handy JP (Qual)
QLD President

ACT BRANCH PRESIDENT REPORT



This is the first Newsletter article I have written as the new President of the ACT Branch I suspect that some of my ramblings may not interest the multitude but what we do in our small part of the country is well worth talking about.

Having become the first Navy President-“that would not have happened a few years ago”-I am currently coming to grips with the empire that Ian Thompson has left me. Fortunately because he is such a well organised person I at least have a baseline on which to begin to understand this role.

Like the other Branch Presidents, I attended the National Conference in Sydney at the end of October and became aware of the workings of the organisation a little better. There is probably a report in this Newsletter which will extol the benefits to the Federation.

I would like to report that we are swimming in funds and can continue to offer our admin staff the rewards that they deserve but this is not the case but we will survive. I have been able to pay the Advocates and the rest of the volunteers the customary reward for their services and so far no complaints.

We have been able to find a replacement Wellbeing Advocate for our Canberra office and this is going very well and she is being kept busy. Unfortunately we missed the boat with our bid for a Grant to cover the wages but we will work on that.

Good news with our Advocate numbers in that we have had members from Wagga and the mid-north coast join our team and they will continue to

operate in their areas under our banner. We continue to see Veterans in the office and our numbers are still increasing if only slowly-so the battle is still to be won.

Support from local Government has been reduced to nothing this year although if there are any ‘projects’ we can identify then maybe that will be an avenue-but I see that as a hard task to win-we need financial support for wages and utilities-but we have a plan.

There have been several bus trips this year-one to our annual pilgrimage for the ‘Games’ and lately a trip to the Junee Liquorice and Chocolate Factory -strangely enough in Junee. Funds for future trips ‘are in the mail’.

Our Food Van continues to be a source of fun for the members and an outing to see new things like Highland Games and Motor Shows. As well as that there is a profit which will always be welcome.

Our regular Tuesday lunch BBQ continues with an increase in numbers now the weather has warmed up. We have a whole new galley area paid for by Grant and assembled by the members. This has been a great addition to our member facilities.

Ward Gainey
Commander RAN (Ret’d)
 President VV&VF ACT Inc

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

Are you feeling isolated?

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

*In the following pages are three
remedies.*

Remedy 1



Reeling Veterans grew from a really simple idea. The idea that reaching out to veterans and asking “would you like to go fishing?” may help them to have a chat, open up or quite simply just get them out of the house. Veteran, Michael Hurren, from Darwin suffers PTSD after two deployments to Afghanistan. He was actively seeking help for his condition and found it frustrating that there was very little support for veterans with mental illness in Darwin. Lack of funding was always the excuse given. “Call Lifeline” he was usually told. The only time he felt completely relaxed was when he was out on his boat “wetting a line”. He used fishing as a form of therapy.

Michael was constantly reading and hearing about fellow veterans taking their own lives. Time and time again he would read the same story. Young veterans either being denied treatment or their support being taken away after they were deemed “better”. The turning point was when Michael found out that another young veteran had taken his own life. Michael knew and served with him in Afghanistan and his death hit Michael very hard. He felt he needed to do something to try and stop this epidemic. This is when Reeling Veterans was born. Through sponsorship and fundraising Michael raised the funds to get a team into the Barra Nationals, a major barramundi fishing tournament held at the mighty Daly River about 2 hours south of Darwin. From there Reeling Veterans has gone from strength to

strength. A news story was run about them and the response was overwhelming! They were contacted by so many people wanting to be involved and people who needed help. The wonderful people from Dhipirri Barra & Sportfishing Lodge (in Arnhemland, Northern Territory) have donated 4 trips per year to groups of veterans. This is an amazing gift and the first trip is due to take place at the end of October.

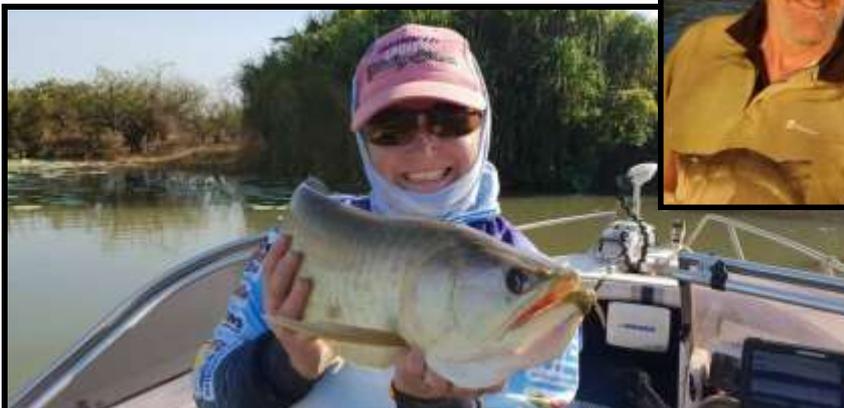
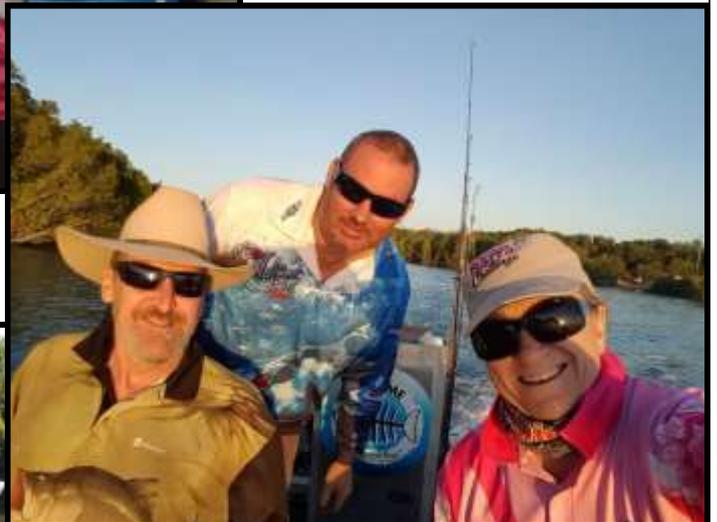
So, what started as an idea to put a team in a fishing tournament, has now become a not-for-profit organisation who run monthly fishing outings for anyone who would like to come along. They also hold monthly catch ups at restaurants around Darwin. Reeling Veterans is about mateship. It’s about people getting together in a non-judgemental environment where they feel comfortable and can talk about their problems, if they want to. We have one member who, before hearing about Reeling Veterans, never left the house. Now he doesn’t miss an event. If Reeling Veterans can help even just one person think twice before taking their own life, then that is a success story.

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

For more information on Reeling Veterans, visit their website www.reelingveterans.com or Facebook page: Reeling Veterans. ■



(Left) Some success in the Barra Nationals, a major barramundi fishing tournament held at the mighty Daly River about 2 hours south of Darwin.



Remedy 2



Ex-ADF members getting 'that old feeling' helping out in drought stricken Dubbo.

Last edition we told the story of Team Rubicon's deployment to assist in the aftermath of the Tathra bushfires.

Their contribution in cleaning up after that disaster was magnificent.

Now they are deploying to assist with the disaster that is the drought.

They call it Operation Harding.

A Team Rubicon Ops Reconnaissance team, arrived in Dubbo on 7 August to liaise with key representatives overseeing local response efforts.

On 12 August the Management Team arrived and began identifying useful tasks.

Who is Team Rubicon?

Team Rubicon is a volunteer disaster relief organisation made up of 70% ex-ADF members and the rest, first responders and interested civilians.

Members are called on to give a week or so of their time to join Team Rubicon groups heading off to help people suffering because of a disaster.

One Response to "Drought Relief

19/08/2018

I sit in front of my warm fire tonight after a day that I will forever cherish. "Team Huz" has just spent the day assisting us in what was a rewarding experience of volunteers just wanting to give you a day of help and support under not the best of conditions and situations. May this team

and Team Rubicon in general feel proud of their efforts in being wonderful citizens of this great country called Australia.

Thank You all of you, John & Jill

The Story of Team Rubicon

The first chapter of Team Rubicon Australia (TRA) is a modest yet determined one. In 2013 a couple of regular blokes got it in their heads that they could take the model of disaster response and veteran reintegration pioneered by Team Rubicon US, slap a big coat of Vegemite on it and make it Australian. In doing so their goal was to shift the paradigm of disaster response in the Pacific Rim and change the narrative around veterans in Australia.

Since that time we have been diligently growing and building capability. We began putting Australians into the field before we were even a registered organisation – Nepal, America, Greece, Canada and the list keeps growing.

We are now a team and are becoming a TRibe. 2017 will see TRA become a fully operational entity. We will bring a capability to field not yet seen in this region and provide an opportunity to Australian Veterans that is much needed and long overdue.

Our next chapter will be an exciting one....

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

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

PH: +61 (02) 8815 8113
Team Rubicon Australia
1/299 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
info@teamrubiconaus.org



Remedy 3



Veterans Care Association



New Awakenings for Veterans and their families.

For the past few years the Veterans Care Association (VCA), based in Brisbane, have been working on front line veteran rehabilitation, supporting many hundreds of clients and their families. VCA's tactical objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of the veterans they engage with daily, but their strategic objective has been to model and improve the systemic way Veterans Health is managed, moving it from the current "treating sickness" model to a "promoting wellness" model. All of the core VCA team are seasoned infantry veterans who have experienced the good and bad of what is currently on offer and they have cobbled together a best practice veteran friendly service.

Chaplain Gary Stone, a veteran of some 47 years service, (8/9 RAR , 6RAR , 1RAR) and his son Michael, a veteran of 20 years service (2 RAR, 8/9 RAR), lead a group of veteran clinicians and peer support carers engaging ill and injured veterans in peer support, encouragement, holistic health education, and life coaching.

Gary says, "Frankly, veterans are not responding well to the so called 'Gold standard' of medication and cognitive/exposure therapy. At a recent Post Traumatic Stress conference in Brisbane it was reported that 1/3 of veterans are actually getting worse from the clinical treatments they are getting. So whilst clinical treatments may

be necessary, and should be continued, it seems they are often not enough. All the clients VCA are seeing are making significant improvements, as they open up and respond to fellow veterans, who encourage them".

VCA currently provides a comprehensive peer support, health and wellbeing education programme, engaging disengaged veterans and educating them about health and wellbeing possibilities and/ or getting them into clinical therapy before they become acute cases requiring hospitalisation. They utilise a front line team of chaplains and peer supporters -- all very experienced former military officers , and a second row of Doctors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social workers who advise both staff and clients.

Designed and developed by Michael Stone, VCA's Flagship activity is a 9 month "Timor Awakening" (TA) rehabilitation program, involving 3 months preparation, a 12 day immersion in Timor along with Timorese veterans and a 6 month follow up period. VCA have conducted five of these programmes with 125 participants and support of 20 veteran volunteer staff members, and are preparing for two more programmes in 2018. In Timor they get a "mountaintop experience" – a circuit breaker awakening that their lives can improve , and they find new purpose and identity .

The detailed evaluation data VCA have collected and had externally analyzed by clinical

*"I'm now inspired.
I have purpose.
I feel alive and I look
forward to many
opportunities
ahead"- Kerri.*



With children of Timorese veterans who we are sponsoring in education

Presenting education kits to students



psychologists and medical officers, presents solid evidence that the program is significantly reducing symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression in all participants, and conversely improving quality of life. These results are being sustained over the long term, through regular follow up, and the participation by many participants in “Life Coaching” offered by veteran Michael Albrecht.

TA alumni are engaging and assisting with ESO (especially RSL) and are making positive contributions to the veteran community and society. Noteworthy is the case of TA2 participant, 15 year navy veteran Kerri Howie who has recently given public testimony in the Catholic Leader newspaper (circulation 33,000 nationwide) of her coming to VCA in a state of deep depression and drug addiction, and subsequent to TA has been rehabilitated and has returned to Timor walking 160 km from Dili to Betano conducting a health clinic in every village en-route. ***“I’m now inspired. I have purpose. I feel alive and I look forward to many opportunities ahead”- Kerri.***

Another significant outcome has been the mutual support given to the Timorese veterans and Government of Timor in progressing veteran support initiatives. The recently elected Prime

Minister Mari Alkitiri hosted the TA5 group in his office, and heard first hand from VCA staff on what his Government could be doing to enhance veteran support. This occurred simultaneously with the Governments release of a 40 minute documentary on the TA experience that has been shown nationally in Timor. VCA have produced the following short videos on YouTube and currently working on a professional documentary with interviews of participants.

[Timor Awakening Commandos Return October 2017 Introduction Video \(2 Minutes\)](#)

[Timor Awakening 5 General Video \(5 Mins\)](#)

VCA wishes to continue to offer TA experiences. They have more applicants than they can support, but their capacity for veteran support is significantly diminished by the time an effort

(Continued on page 34)



At Balibo fort after Remembrance service

they must put into fund raising. The programmes delivered to date have been made possible largely through the Sponsorship of RSL Qld and RSL Care – now known as Bolton Clarke.

Further sponsorships and donations are most welcome.

Michael Stone says, “Defence has given many of us extensive training in leadership, training and development, to be able to design and deliver these programmes, and healing our struggling veterans is an honourable task for us veterans to be engaged in. Experienced veterans can care for younger veterans in ways that civilian clinicians can’t. Younger veterans trust us and can be led into new lives because they know we understand them and we care. The deepest issues for veterans are not psychiatric- they relate to identity, dignity, purpose and connection. We can offer the empowerment for these to be rediscovered and realized.”

Comprehensive information on this work is available at www.veteranscare.com.au

Gary Stone

President

Veterans Care Association

Gary served 25 years as an infantry officer in the Army, before ordination as a married Deacon in 1994. Since then he has served as an army and police chaplain, has led extensive humanitarian ministries in Timor Leste, and is now chaplain to the ex service community in SEQLD. Gary has been married to Lynne for over 43 years and they have four adult children and three grandchildren.

Veterans Care Association Inc.

Holistic Care of Body Mind & Soul for Veterans, Families & Carers
Reg. Charity No: CH2629 | ABN: 97 213 464 172

Brisbane, 15 Feb 18



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

Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc.

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

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

STREET ADDRESS

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

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

EMAIL ADDRESS [PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY]

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

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

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
MEMBERSHIPS SUBS	(YEARS)	@\$30.00 PER YEAR	\$
DONATION	(AMOUNT ONLY)		\$
RAFFLE TICKET/s		@\$2.00 EACH	\$
MERCHANDISE			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Stock item numbers and prices are available on line and from branches. Also page 38.		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD (Circle one only) CASH CHEQUE MONEY ORDER CREDIT CARD
CREDIT CARD DETAILS (Mastercard or VISA only)
 CARD HOLDER NAME (PRINT) _____ CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

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

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

OFFICE USE ONLY	
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):

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

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc., will be held at Merrylands RSL Club 10.30am Saturday, 25 May 2019.

AGENDA

Opening of Meeting by the Chairman

Apologies

Confirm the Minutes of the AGM 2018.

Business Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2018

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

Membership Report

Changes to Constitution

[As listed and included at page 40 of this issue]

Election results (for Office Bearers)

[*Nomination form is printed opposite* for convenience]

President

Senior Vice President

Vice Presidents (2)

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Members (10)

Appointment of Association Auditors

Appointment of Association Legal Representatives

Appointment of Life Members

Other Business by leave of the Chairman

Close of Meeting.

Any items for General Business must be in the hands of the Secretary by close of business on Monday 29 April 2019.

Next AGM to be held on a date to be confirmed during May 2020.

Ron O'Connor

Hon. Secretary

NSW Branch

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

2019 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. 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 2019.

Details of Nominee:

.....
Print Name	Signature	Membership No

Details of Seconders (2)

.....
Print Name	Signature	Membership No.

.....
Print Name	Signature	Membership No.

NOTE:

All nomination forms must be in the Secretary's hands by COB 25 March 2019.

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 25 May 2019.

MERCHANDISE

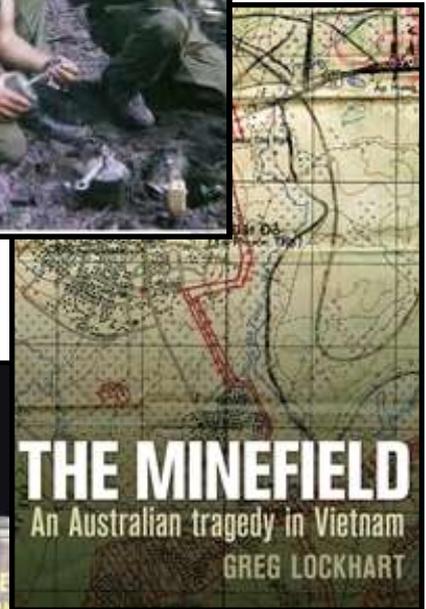
Initial enemy response to the fence

(Extract from *The Minefield, An Australian Tragedy in Vietnam*, by Greg Lockhart)

The presence of children round the fencing operation was the first sign of the popular reaction against its construction. As 'the Dat Do kids' watched 5 RAR working on the fence and flew kites to mark the obstacle's progress most afternoons, their reports were passed on regularly to the local guerrilla forces. According to Xuan: 'We relied on the children... it was through our children that we found out where the Australians had gone and what they had done down there. We weren't on the spot to know...' About two weeks after the fence construction began on 16 March, the Long Dat District Committee was in any case able to order the counter-measures that caused the 5RAR casualties suffered on 6 and 7 April during fence building. Then, after 1 Fiend squadron began laying the mines on 1 May, local village guerrilla units were lifting them before the mining was terminated on 30 May.

...

Almost as soon as the mines were laid in the Dat Do section of barrier minefield, Xuan had breached it one night after some instruction from local sappers. She felt the ground lightly for prongs with her hands and feet, and marked paths through the mines with stones and pieces of paper. Rarely using the same path twice, she carried letters to and from the District Committee west of the fence and the revolutionary forces in the east. Before long, she also led village guerrilla forces and others through the minefield on a regular basis. ■



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

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

Or order online at www.vfagranville.org

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

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

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

He is the VVFA's honorary historian. ■

Notice

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

A General Meeting of NSW Branch members is required to vote on any change to the NSW Branch Constitution. The NSW Branch Committee has approved certain changes to the Constitution which seek to vary -PART 1 Paragraph 1 – Name

The General Meeting will be held at Merrylands RSL Club, 14 Military Road, Merrylands New South Wales at 10.15 am on Saturday, 25th May 2019 (immediately prior to the 2019 AGM).

The proposals to vary the Constitution are:

AIM

To vary the NSW Branch Constitution to provide further abbreviation of the registered name for banking purposes.

PART 1 Paragraph 1 – Name, states, “the name of the association (hereinafter called the “Association”) shall be the **“VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INCORPORATED.**

(2) So far as is permitted by law and unless it is incapable of application, the short title of the Association shall be **“VPPA of AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.”.**

VARIATION REQUIRED

Amend (2) to read; **“.....VPPAA NSW”**

in lieu of **“VPPA of AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.”.**

Vietnam Veterans Day 2018. NSW Branch

The Vietnam Veterans Federation, and Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch), would like to thank the following organisations for their very generous donation of prizes in aid of our raffle on Vietnam Veterans Day, 18 August, 2018. Our very special thanks go to the Bankstown District Sports Club directors, management & staff for their ongoing very generous support.

Bankstown District Sports Club, Bankstown RSL sub-branch, Bankstown RSL Community Club, Club Liverpool, Bunnings Rydalmere, Cabravale Diggers, Bunnings Blacktown, Fairfield RSL, M V Meat, Ingleburn RSL and a very generous donation from Merrylands RSL and Cumberland RSL.

The combined generosity of these organisations enabled us to raise \$1,740.00 on the day and these funds will greatly assist us in providing the much needed assistance to not only Vietnam Veterans but Veterans of all conflicts.

Once again, thank you all.

*Terry Corcoran
(Organising Committee)*

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PTSD

Many of you will recognise the name, Dr Anthony Dinnen, and indeed, some may even have been treated by him over the years. The good doctor has sought our help in compiling a survey for a project he is currently working on

He wrote *“I am enquiring about the use and benefits of exposure therapy for treating PTSD. I have given two critical papers about it at overseas conferences. I may give a paper next February.*

I wondered if I could do a (nonscientific) survey through your journal. Could I ask readers to answer a simple questionnaire about their experience of exposure therapy?”

So, if any of you diggers out there wish to lend the doctor a helping hand, please respond and answer the questionnaire below. We ask that you email your response directly to Dr Dinnen, and if you do not have access to email but would like to assist, then you may forward your response marked “Confidential” to the Editor C/- VVPPAA NSW PO Box 170 Granville NSW 2142. I will forward them on unopened to Dr Dinnen.

Dr Anthony Dinnen graduated in Medicine and Medical Science from Sydney University and qualified as a Psychiatrist in 1970. He was a research psychiatrist at Callan Park Hospital before entering private practice in 1971.

He immediately started consulting to the DVA (“The Repat”) in Grace Building and continued shortly after when the Outpatient Clinic moved to Concord Hospital. He ceased the one or two sessions a week when the Hospital ceased being a Veterans hospital in the 1990s. He has continued to treat and assess veterans in his private practice and in recent years has had serving members of the Military as patients as well.

Dr Dinnen may be known to veterans through giving expert evidence over many years to the AAT on behalf of DVA claimants. He has published and given papers on PTSD (diagnosed for many veterans before the 1980s as “Anxiety State”) at International and local conferences. However he is not an Academic and his expertise is the result of the confidences and close bonds formed with his service and ex-service patients over nearly five decades.

Dr Dinnen is happily married with children and grandchildren and is still enjoying practicing his profession (and hoping to get it right!)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PTSD

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PTSD	
YOUR AGE	YRS
1. DIAGNOSED PTSD BY DOCTOR, PSYCHOLOGIST, PSYCHIATRIST	YES NO
2. YEAR DIAGNOSED	
3. HAVE YOU HAD ANY TREATMENT	YES NO
4. COMPLETE LAST THREE (3) QUESTIONS ONLY IF YOU HAVE HAD, OR ARE UNDERGOING PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX
5. HAS YOUR TREATMENT INCLUDED ‘EXPOSURE THERAPY’ SUCH AS EMDR OR METHODS REQUIRING YOU TO REVISIT TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES	YES NO
6. WAS THAT HELPFUL	YES NO
7. WAS IT DISTRESSING	YES NO

Please complete the questionnaire and email directly to Dr Dinnen: docdinnen@bigpond.com

Thank you

Dr Anthony Dinnen

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

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

Presently the Association sponsors two Scholarships - **"Tim McCombe OAM Scholarship"**, named in honour and memory of Tim, who passed away in January 2015, and was a long serving and much loved and respected President of the Association/Federation. The **"Phil Thompson OAM Scholarship"** is named in honour and memory of Phil who was a founding member and highly respected former President of the Federation who passed away more than 20 years ago.

We have decided to increase our sponsorship to three Scholarships, the new scholarship will be named **"Graham Walker AM Scholarship"** in honour and recognition of Grahams' many years of voluntary service to the Federation (over 30 years) in numerous roles and activities that included campaigning for veteran's rights and entitlements, the establishment of the Royal Commission into the effects of Agent Orange upon the health of Vietnam Veterans and the establishment of the **"Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS)"**, later to be renamed **"Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service"** and recently renamed **"Open Arms"**.

Graham continues to be actively involved in many other significant activities within the Federation that has helped veterans and those in the services communities with entitlement/welfare/mental health issues. He is also our Spokesperson

and National Research Officer whose work in this regard has enabled the Federation to present submissions to the Government and Department of Veterans Affairs on a wide range of issues affecting the veterans and services communities generally. In 2014 Graham was named Senior Australian of the year ACT for his services as a **"Veterans Campaigner"** and in 2015 was awarded an **"AM"** – Member of the Order of Australia – for his significant services to Veterans, particularly those who served in Vietnam, and their families.

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

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

The Scholarships are administered on the Association's behalf by the **"Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)"**, who also administer other scholarships funded by the Australian Government (Long Tan Bursaries), and sponsors such as Legacy, RSL, TPI and a number of other organisations. Applications for all Scholarships administered by AVCAT will open from 18 August of each year and close on 31 October of that year, and will be advertised by AVCAT through the Federation's Newsletter and other media outlets prior to August.

Those wishing to make general inquiries about the Association's and other AVCAT administered Scholarships, may do so at any time by writing to the **"Scholarship Manager, AVCAT"** at: P.O. Box K978, Haymarket, NSW 1240, or contact them on: Telephone (02) 9213-7999,

Fax (02)9213-7307, or Email:
avcat@dva.gov.au.

We are proud of the fact that nearly all those who we have sponsored over the years have done very well in their chosen vocations. The following are progress reports/results/achievements of the Association's Scholarship recipients for: Ryan Balkin (2017) and Kirsti Young (2018)

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

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

In 2017. His achievements during 2018 were:

Semester 1 (2018): 3 High Distinctions, 1 Distinction

Ryan will be continuing his studies through 2019 and has written a letter thanking the Federation for its continuing support of his Bursary. He continues to be actively involved in MECA, mentoring refugee high school students that are transitioning into Australia as well as being a volunteer at a community legal centre. It is pleasing to know that he is able to combine his studies with local community activities. Well done Ryan.

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

Kirsti who lives in Broadford, Victoria is the grandchild of a Vietnam Veteran who served with 17 Construction Squadron in Vietnam between 1967-68, was awarded the "Tim McCombe OAM" Scholarship for 2018. Despite some challenging times during her first Semester because of family illness, her achievements during that Semester were nevertheless excellent:

Semester 1 (2018): 1 Distinction and 1 Credit

Kirsti will be continuing her studies through 2019 and has written a letter thanking the Federation for its continuing support, and mentions the challenges she was faced with during 2018 in looking after her ill children (twins) and trying to

cope with her studies at the same time, which she believed had possibly affected her ability to achieve higher grades. However, despite these very trying circumstances and challenges, Kirsti was still able to attain excellent results in her first Semester which shows her determination to do well even under adversity, this augurs well for the remainder of her studies. It is so rewarding to be able to support our children/grandchildren, like Kirsti, who are determined to succeed no matter what the circumstance. We are proud of Kirsti's achievement and wish her every success during the course of her studies.

The Association continues to be extremely proud of the achievements of those persons it has supported with Scholarships over the years and we are determined, with the generous contributions from our members and readers, to continue our sponsorship of these Scholarships for as long as we are able to do so.

We eagerly await the latest inclusion to our Scholarships for 2019 and hope to bring you news in the next edition of this Newsletter, due in March next year.

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

[The AVCAT advert appears on page 60]



Applications open August 18 2019
and close October 31 2019
Register your interest through the *Contact Us* page, on our website,
<https://www.avcat.org.au/>
and an application package will be sent to you.

FROM NSW SECRETARY



Once again we say THANK YOU to our many members who have made a financial donation to their State Branch. Without these donations we would find it much more difficult to cater to the needs of our war veterans, service and ex-service persons generally.

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

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

Sincere thanks to all,
Ron O'Connor
 NSW Hon. Secretary

\$5,000	Elizabeth Conway
\$3,000	Anonymous Peter Muller
\$2,000	Beverley Semfel
\$1,000	John Garcia Ken Van Den Heuval Amelia Jenkins
\$625	Gayle Roberts
\$500	Brian Wood R Bateup John Greenhill Richard Hannigan Wendy R Anonymous Anonymous
\$270	Thomas Grills
\$250	Andrew Brien Ted Tokarczk John Burrows Brian Callaghan
\$200	Elton Robinson Alan Limn Frank Curphey Robert Edmonds Dennis Wotherspoon



2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE!!

Dear Member,

It is that time again when annual membership renewals are due.

Members of our various State Branches and sub branches should receive membership renewal notices from their respective organisations. NSW membership subscription renewal forms for 2019 have already been sent out to NSW Branch members under separate cover by the Granville office. In the event you do not receive a form in the mail you may use the Membership Renewal form included, on page 35, in this Newsletter or the one available on our web site at www.vvfgranville.org

To renew your membership just complete the membership form you receive and return it to your State Branch, Sub Branch or, for NSW Branch members, to the Granville office. Please check the Membership Application form to ensure your details are correct and amend any incorrect details so we can update our records.

Once again we are offering all members of the NSW Branch who renew by 30 January 2019 the chance to enter into the draw to win 1 of 3, \$100.00 gift vouchers from Bunnings Hardware. So get your application in quickly to ensure you don't miss out on this great opportunity. Cheques and money orders from NSW Branch members can be made payable to VVPPAA NSW.

Your financial support in the past has been most appreciative and we hope you will continue to support the Association and therefore assist our fellow Veterans and Service members in need.

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

We look forward to receiving your renewal for 2019 and thank you for your on-going support of the Association.

Ron O'Connor
NSW Hon. Secretary

PSK FINANCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE

Intergenerational wealth transfer

Intergenerational wealth transfer – or in simpler terms, passing on assets to your family, can be, and often is, a huge issue for all family members concerned. If done well and executed properly, it can make a real difference to the financial position of the recipients. If misjudged or poorly handled, it can cause enormous grief, fights and resentments that are never forgotten nor forgiven.

What's involved?

The first step you should take, is to go through the process of making a Will, which is a legal document that enables you to say who gets what after you die. Without one, your estate could go to people you wouldn't want it to. Indeed, in the absence of a Will, and any relatives, your estate may end up going into the public purse.

Given the importance of a Will in seeing your family receive what you want when your estate's distributed, incredibly, it's estimated that nearly half of all Australians die without one. This is even more surprising when you realise a Will can be a fairly simple document to draw up, and generally doesn't cost much. Having a solicitor draw one up for you will ensure it's properly completed and worded, and is less likely to be successfully contested by anyone who believes they haven't received their fair share of the pie.

Naturally, there's not much point in having a will if no one knows where it is. Make sure one copy is in a safe place for yourself, and keep another copy with your executor and/or solicitor.

Wealth transfer during your life

While having a well-considered and properly drawn up will is a necessity for anyone serious about achieving good outcomes, you don't have to wait until you die before distributing your wealth. – You can pass on assets while you're alive, though note, there may be some pitfalls involved, depending on your circumstances.

Firstly, you need to ensure that by giving your capital or assets away you're not going to leave yourself short-changed, particularly if you live longer and have greater aged care costs to deal with than anticipated, which is not unlikely. You really have to consider closely whether you can afford to pass on the assets you would like to while you're alive.

Secondly, if you give away assets worth more than \$10,000 in one year or more than \$30,000 in five years, anything above those limits, under so-called 'deprivation' rules, are still counted as belonging to you, for up to five years – and this can negatively affect your Department of Veterans Affairs or Centrelink pension and aged care entitlements.

There may also be costs involved in the transfer, such as capital gains tax and stamp duty. Make sure you speak to your accountant before making any decisions.

Other considerations

With intergenerational wealth transfer there are other issues to consider in addition to the ones above. These include:

What tax implications there may be for your beneficiaries (some assets may be passed down with a potential capital gains tax liability or a superannuation death benefit tax attached – which affects their ultimate net value)

What your beneficiaries really want (one child may want your shares, the other may want your old Jaguar)

Which of your beneficiaries may be 'at risk' (for example, your daughter's marriage could be looking shaky, which could see part of her inheritance from you end up in her ex partner's hands).

These and other matters can be addressed through some key steps including open family communication, the use of testamentary trusts if required, a binding nomination on your super and a good Will. Much of intergenerational wealth transfer will involve input from your solicitor, however for an area as important as this, a lot of very useful advice and help can be provided by us.

If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me on (02) 9895 8800, 0414 811 777 or paulm@psk.com.au

Paul Messerschmidt
Authorised representative of
Charter Financial Planning

PSK Financial Services Group Pty Ltd
(ABN 24 134 987 205), trading as
PSK Financial Services, Authorised
representative on behalf of Charter Financial
Planning Limited (Charter Financial Planning,
ABN: 35 002 976 294, AFS Licence No. 234665).

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



*Advice that puts you
first*

Authorised Representative of Charter Financial
Planning
AFS Licence No. 234665

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

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

Areas of advice:

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

For any questions regarding your financial situation please contact

Paul Messerschmidt
MFinPlan, GradDipFinPlan
Partner and Senior Financial Adviser

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



VETERANS MORTALITY REPORT

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

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

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

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

Please print clearly

VETERANS DETAILS

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

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

CAUSE OF DEATH (If known)

SR Service Related UNK Unknown S Suicide O Other)

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

YOUR NAME

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

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

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

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

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*]

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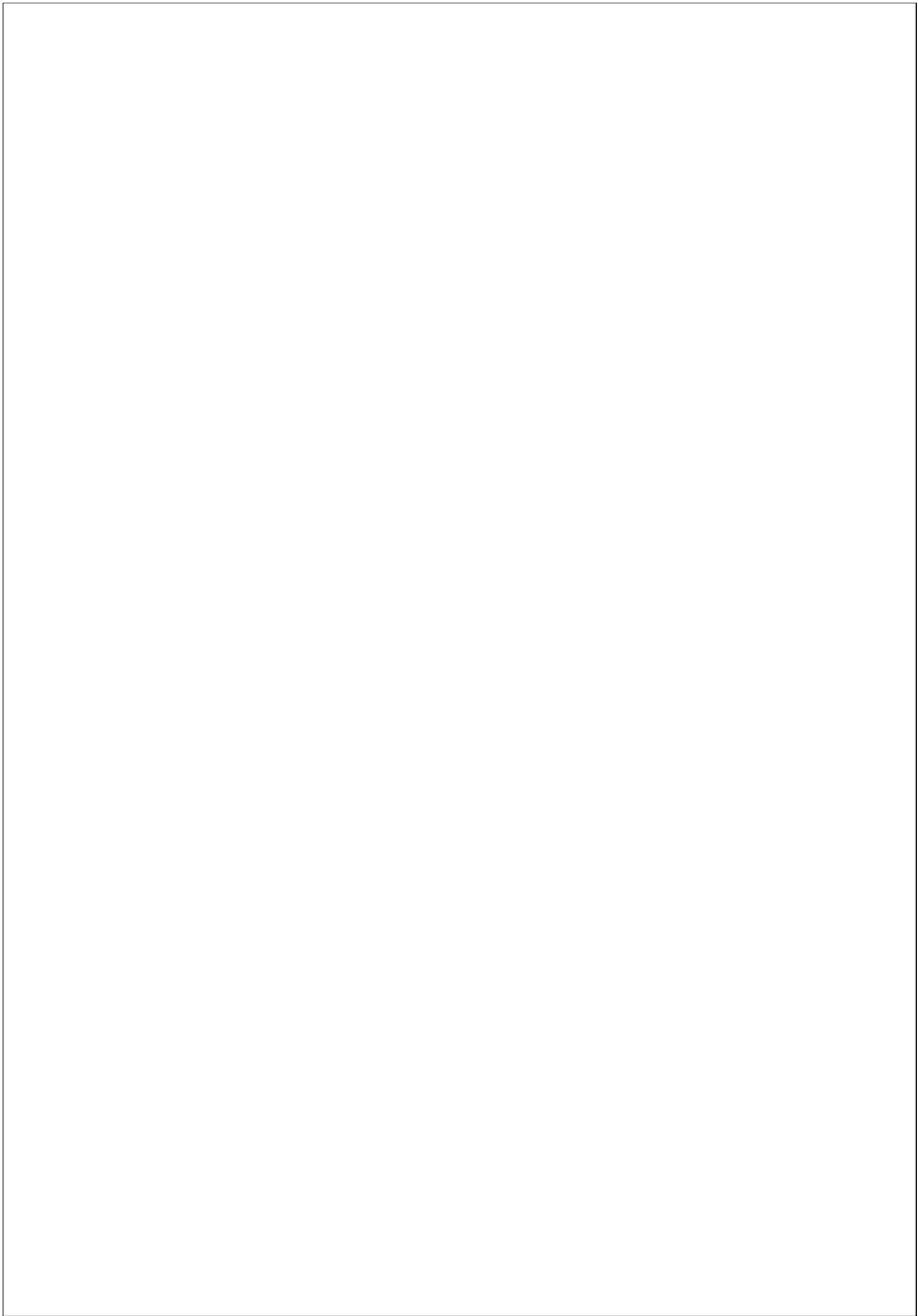
YOUR SIGNATURE

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

Complete all sections and post to:

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

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



OUTREACH PROGRAM PENSION TOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 RAR In South Vietnam 1967-1968

[See image opposite]

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

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

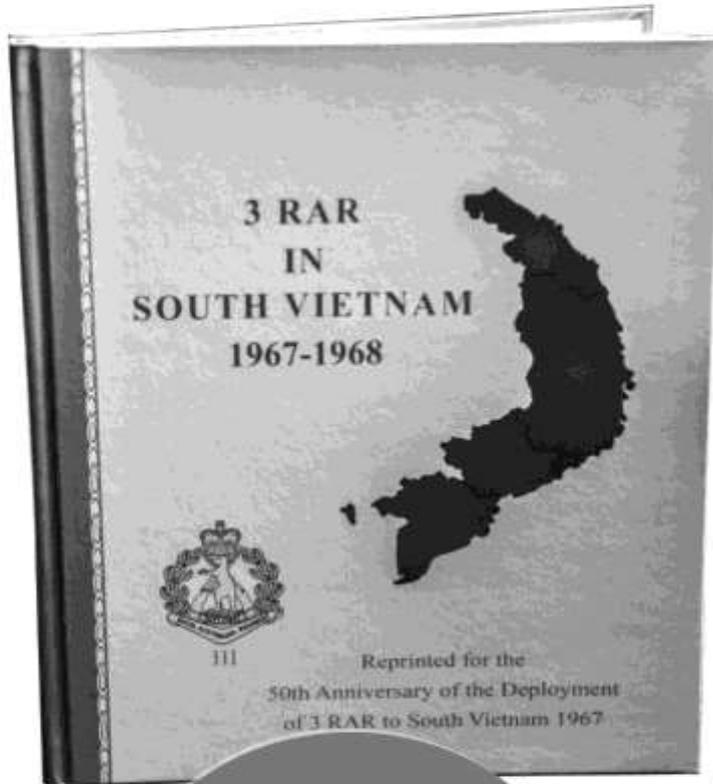
Priced to recover costs only, plus postage and handling of \$13.80, it is hoped that many veterans and the public alike, will take this opportunity to purchase a piece of historical value.

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



3 RAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM 1967—1968

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



\$74.99

Plus Postage & Packaging \$13.80

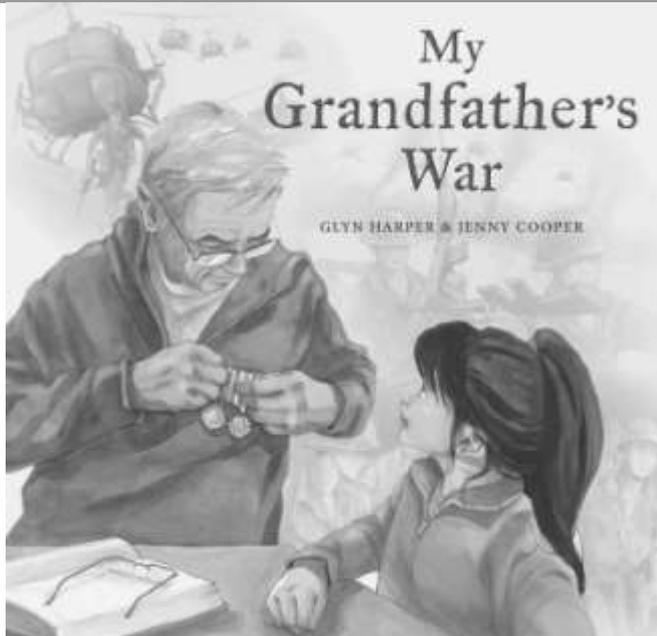


To purchase go to www.3rarcharlicoyvietnam67-68.com/store/

For those having trouble ordering contact Peter Direct at peter.dorman1@bigpond.com

or PHONE: 0419594256

BOOK REVIEW



RRP \$24.99 PUBLISHED JUNE 2018

My Grandfather's War is available from www.ekbooks.org and wherever great books are sold. Teacher notes available. Recommended Age Group 5-10 years



MY GRANDFATHER'S WAR BY GLYN HARPER & JENNY COOPER

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's longest battle, Khe Sanh. Now, pre-eminent war historian Glyn Harper has written a children's picture book that brings the impact of this conflict to life.

My Grandfather's War sensitively tackles the tricky topics of PTSD, the legacy of war and the social mores that framed the return of the Vietnam Veterans.

Glyn Harper, a Professor of War studies, is no stranger to untangling the complexities of conflict. A highly respected military historian, Glyn's career includes time in the military and in the trenches teaching school children. He believes passionately that children need compelling stories to get them 'hooked on history'.

In *My Grandfather's War* Harper has teamed up with Jenny Cooper to create a compassionate and poignant story about a Vietnam veteran and his relationship with his granddaughter.

Harper and Cooper have won awards for their work independently, as well as for their collaborations together. In their deft hands they delicately deliver the story of a child and her grandfather, a man touched by the pain of his war service.

Curious to find out the cause of her grandfather's unhappiness the child innocently seeks answers, and in doing so unknowingly opens old wounds. This is a sensitive exploration of the lingering cost of war and of the PTSD so many returned servicemen experience.

Released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Khe Sanh, it also sheds light on a war that is not always remembered in the same way that the world wars and other conflicts are. Many who served experience a sense of betrayal at the treatment they received on their return, as the conflict came to be regarded as the 'unpopular' war; this is covered in a child-friendly way in a note at the back of the book.

www.ekbooks.org

2884 Wollombi Road, Wollombi, NSW 2325

Australia

MB: 0404 158 096

alison@exislepublishing.com



EK

EXISLE
PUBLISHING

EK Books is an Imprint of Exisle Publishing

Books with Heart on Issues that Matter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR
PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL CAR
BROKERS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING
EMAILS.*

Dear Members.

I recently purchased a new Mitsubishi Pajero Sport through National Car Brokers. The courtesy, professionalism and service was second to none > Under the guidance of Christopher David I received a far better price than I thought possible. I would strongly recommend this company to fellow members, family and friends.

Yours sincerely

DJ

Also,

Christopher David from National Car Brokers assisted me with the purchase of my Mazda BT50. I had done my research and new exactly what I wanted, had spoken to some dealers who were just trying to rip me off, Chris new his stuff and the whole process couldn't have been easier from start to finish. Saved me a bundle on what the dealers were offering and I even added a few extra's directly with the dealer and got them at cost. Collected my car and am very happy with the service, I highly recommend using Chris and National Car Brokers for your next vehicle purchase, they will look after you.

JB

*WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FEEDBACK
OF YOUR DEALINGS THROUGH
NATIONAL CAR BROKERS EITHER BY
LETTER OR EMAILS FORWARDED TO
THE EDITOR
PO BOX 170
GRANVILLE NSW 2142
editor@vfvfgranville.org*

Frank Partridge VC Military Museum

Named in honour of Frank Partridge—the youngest and last Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross in WW2.

The museum houses a fantastic collection of memorabilia and artefacts including uniforms, medals, weapons, vehicles and much more.

This museum is a 'MUST SEE'

Open everyday from 9.30am to 3.30pm

Large groups welcome by appointment

Admission by donation

29 High Street Bowraville NSW 2449

Phone 02 65647056

enquiries@militarymuseum.org.au

Operated and maintained by volunteers

SEEKING MATE

Phillip Butler

Is seeking his Army mate

1735946 Pte John William Charlton

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of John is asked to contact Phil direct on

0428 055 435

Otherwise contact the Granville office on

02 9682 1788

And leave your details with us.

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.

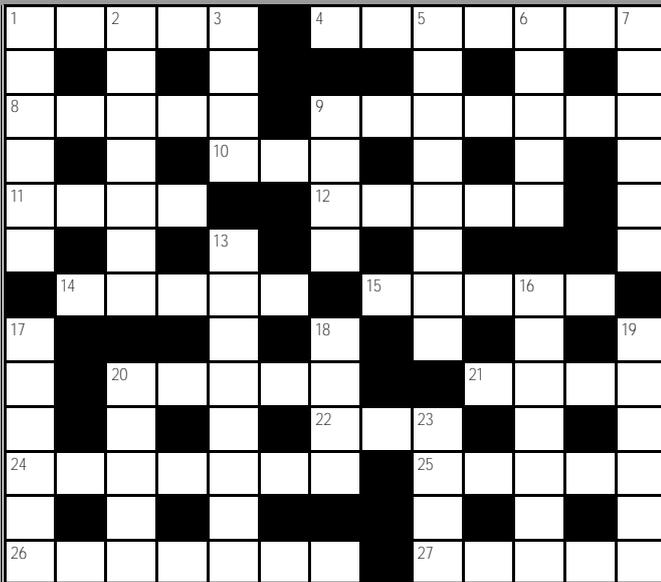
We encourage membership from all who support our objectives, veterans, service and ex-service members, as well as war-widows and their **families. You don't have to be a member or ex-member** of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF). In most instances, anyone may join our organisation, with few exceptions,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

CROSSWORD CORNER



ACROSS

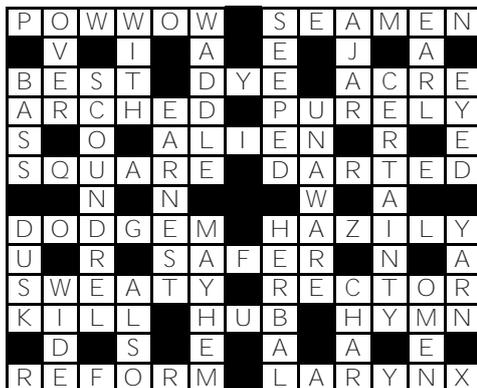
- 1. Intelligence centre
- 4. Realm
- 8. Refresh
- 9. Instrument
- 10. Digit
- 11. Playthings
- 12. Direction
- 14. Skilled
- 15. To smell
- 20. Point of attention
- 21. Plant
- 22. Animal
- 24. Openness
- 25. Not once
- 26. Books of maps
- 27. Value

DOWN

- 1. Scold
- 2. Irritated
- 3. Salamander
- 5. Atom particles
- 6. Measure down
- 7. Length measures
- 9. Nurse
- 13. Roomy
- 16. Eternal
- 17. Wattle
- 18. Russian leader
- 19. Look (for)
- 20. Last
- 23. Frozen rain

Solution Next Issue.

JULY 2018 SOLUTION



THE UNKNOWN COMIC

I managed to lose my rifle in a sandstorm while in Afghanistan, and had to fork out \$1,000 bucks for the experience. Kind of makes you realise why Navy Captains always go down with their ships.

I was sitting in a bar one day and two really large women came in, talking in an interesting accent. So I said, "Cool accent, are you two ladies from Ireland?"

One of them snarled at me, "It's Wales, Dumbo!" So I corrected myself, "Oh, right, so are you two whales from Ireland?"

That's about as far as I can remember.

The urge to sing 'A lion Sleeps Tonight' is only a whim away.

During the planning stages of a very large military operation, Operations HQ received a radio request for a "Time Check." The Operations HQ lackey asks, "Who's calling?"

"What difference does that make?"

"It makes a lot of difference," says the lackey. "If you're a Reservist Unit, it's 3 o'clock. If you're an Infantry Unit, it's 1500 hrs. If you're the Navy, it's six bells. If you're the Armoured Corps, the big hand is on the 12 and the small hand is on the 3. If you're the Artillery Corps, it's Thursday afternoon. **If you're calling from RAAF you're 3 hours late!"**

In the middle of the battle I used my knife to conserve ammo, but that only freaked out the other Paintball players.

In London on R&R, two American GIs found themselves sharing the same cell. One GI asked the other, who was very hungover, "How did you manage to get arrested?"

"Well, I was out very late on a binge with my buddy, and he advised me to take off my uniform and shoes when I got to the digs, and sneak up the stairs quietly so that I wouldn't wake up the Sarge." "So what happened?"

"Well, when I got upstairs I found I was on top of a double-decker tourist bus without any clothes on."

Some people are shocked when they find out I'm not really an electrician.

REUNIONS & NOTICES

REUNIONS & NOTICES



AVCAT

SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THE CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN
OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

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

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



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

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

2014 Recipient

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

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

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

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

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

WANTED KNOWN

Have you served or had a relative in the 66th BN 2nd AIF, 2 AR, 2 RAR or 2/4 RAR? Do you have images, gear, medals, maps, photographs, movies etc. from your or your relative's service in these units which form the lineage of today's 2 RAR (AMPHIB)?

Are these items sitting in boxes or a trunk not seeing the light of day, with the possibility they could be thrown out by your family if you passed? The Unit has served in places like, The Dutch East Indies, Japan, Korea, Malaya, South Vietnam, Malaysia, Rhodesia, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, The Solomon Islands, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Timor Leste. We are not just interested in operational service we are very much interested in the Battalion's daily life, Exercises, Sport, Special Activities, parades, ETVCC, BN balls etc. during its time.

The 2 RAR Historical Collection would like you to consider donating these items for display and to be preserved as part of the collection. We would like copies of any digital images or scanned copies if you don't want to part with the originals. Remember your negatives and photos are slowly degrading. These items will be available to view and be appreciated by all who visit historical collection.

Ex members, relatives of these members, current and future members will be able to appreciate and view these items knowing they are at their home at 2 RAR. The museum is funded by donations, sponsors and grants, if you are an individual or business that would like to be a "friend of the 2 RAR Historical Collection" please contact the curator.

The museum is looking to completely upgrade and refurbish the Historical Collection display in the near future. If you would like to visit or donate to the collection please also contact the curator. The curator (CPL J Harrison, soon to be Mr) can be contacted on PH 0419749198 or email 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com. I am very keen to get in touch with any original 66BN members

with thanks,

Jason Harrison

jason.a.harrison@gmail.com

2RAR.Museum@gmail.com

2RAR(AMPHIB) Museum's PH : (07) 4411 1370



NOTES ON OUR MERCHANDISE

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

We offer our merchandise as a means to secure those extra needed funds that allow the Association to bring a quality of delivery in our mission toward those who serve and have served in defence of Australia. That's all we do. Our highly skilled and qualified Compensation Advocates and Welfare Advisors provide these services totally free of any charges.

You can help us in our mission by; making a donation, purchasing raffle tickets, and by buying some of the merchandise we have on offer, from NSW State Branch Granville, one of our Interstate Branches, or any of our Sub-Branches, as well as, by direct order from our website. Although some of the heavier and bulkier items may incur a delivery fee when posted from our Granville HQ we will keep this cost to a minimum wherever possible. Usually, this will be \$5.00 per order with the exception of the Number Plate Surrounds (items 1115 & 1116) - for eg. When ordering from the website your delivery fee will be calculated at checkout, so no surprises there.

We now have the benefit of Direct Funds Transfer through the PayPal portal available on the website, effective late 2018. As such there has been an unavoidable (small) price increase to reflect our costs in providing this service. We hope this does not impact on your generosity or impede your valued custom when considering a purchase through this method. We thank all those who have supported, and continue to support, our endeavours by purchasing our products.

NSW BRANCH HEAD OFFICE

NSW State Branch recently added the acronym "VVPPAA NSW" to its business registration to facilitate easier forms, cheques, and money orders completion. This became necessary as financial institutes introduced measures to secure correct pathways of moneys transferred to accounts, in light of the recent review of banking and the financial institutions.

You may now use the acronym on cheques and money orders, as well as for all mail intended for head office, NSW Branch. Simply write "VVPPAA NSW" on your 'pay' line on cheques and money orders. And address future mail to:

The Secretary
VVPPAA NSW
PO Box 170
Granville NSW, 2142

PRICING POLICY

Although we take great care in providing goods at the advertised price we are not responsible for changes to prices between our Newsletter publication dates and those on offer via the website portal. Indeed, there may be a difference from time to time between those published and actual pick-up or walk in purchases which may save you money.

Any and all discrepancies will be attended to at the time of your order placement/purchase, and we will endeavor to satisfy any claim to the advantage of the purchaser, if at all possible.

Due to time constraints we may not be in a position to amend pricing when offering specials. However, we guarantee that if this should occur we will always revert to the lower price while such specials are available and ex-stock.

STICKER INFORMATION

All stickers have a special permanent adhesive that will not leave bubbles when applied properly. They will stick very well to car paint and enamels, painted surfaces and glass without damage. They will NOT stick well to unpainted plastic bumpers. The adhesive and print should survive for up to 5 years or more, when applied correctly.

(IMPORTANT) When applying the stickers, once in place, they must be pushed hard against the surface to activate the glue. Do not simply place them on the surface without pushing down hard, as they will not adhere firmly to the surface. Technically speaking, at least 6kg of force is required along the total sticker surface to ensure it adheres firmly. Try pressing your hand on a set of scales to measure and get the feel for 6kg of pressure. That's about 13 ¼ pounds for those with older scales.

NUMBER PLATE SURROUNDS

ITEM 1115 – LARGE SURROUNDS suit vehicle number plates that measure 380 X 130 mm and probably better suited for older NSW plates.

ITEM 1116 – SMALL SURROUNDS suit vehicle number plates that measure 380 X 120 mm and probably suit most modern plates available nationally. (Let us know).

The surrounds may be split by pairs, so that those with alternating plates front and back are able to purchase either one of each or both.

Walk in purchase prices, at October 2018, are \$8.00 each. Ordering on-line will increase this price to \$8.30 each. However, with the need for adequate packaging to avoid breakages, we are obliged to include a fee of \$14.00 for P&H. When included with other items and packaged together, for delivery, there will be only the one delivery charge. We are currently investigating quality packaging materials that could reduce this extra cost in the future and we will keep you posted of any changes on our website and in future Newsletters.

Please note that due to artwork and re-moulding costs we are unable to provide additional surround sizes on an ad-hoc basis. However, with confirmed quantity orders in excess of 100 pairs per size we may be able to liaise with our supplier and obtain requested sizes at reasonable pricing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All written enquiries in relation to merchandise should be addressed in the first instance to:
The Secretary VVPPAA NSW PO Box 170 Granville NSW, 2142

Other general enquiries re pricing, delivery, order confirmation etc., may be referred by phone directly to our Admin Manager, Granville, on 02 9682 1788 during office hours. Otherwise, by email to secretary@vfvagranville.org and through our enquiry form on the Contacts page of our website <http://www.vfvagranville.org>

We are also on the look out for any other promising ideas that readers think may be of value to include in our merchandise sales bag. Remember that often, items such as specific stickers and such may have a copyright against them, and we would be obliged to supply them from a sponsored retailer, thus negating any real saving compared to wholesale pricing. However, any idea will be given due consideration so don't hesitate to ask at any time.

BRANCH LISTINGS NSW SUB-BRANCHES

BRANCH LISTINGS OTHER STATES

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



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

JUST CALL 1800 011 046

If overseas call +61 8 8241 4546

Veterans and Veterans Families
Counselling Service

FORMERLY KNOWN AS



Call
24/7

A service founded by Vietnam veterans



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

1300 924 522

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

Our programs

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

Veterans services

91 Milton Street,
Ashfield NSW 2131

&

7 Blake Street,
Kogarah NSW 2217



Last Post





Last Post



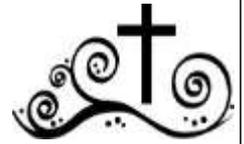


Last Post





Last Post



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

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

PLEASE NOTE

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

Please consider leaving a bequest in your will

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operation Life



Register Now!!

CALL 1800 011 046



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

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

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

FORMERLY



MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

