



# DEBRIEF

Patron: RADM Neil Ralph AO DSC RAN (RTD)

Edited and Published By

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

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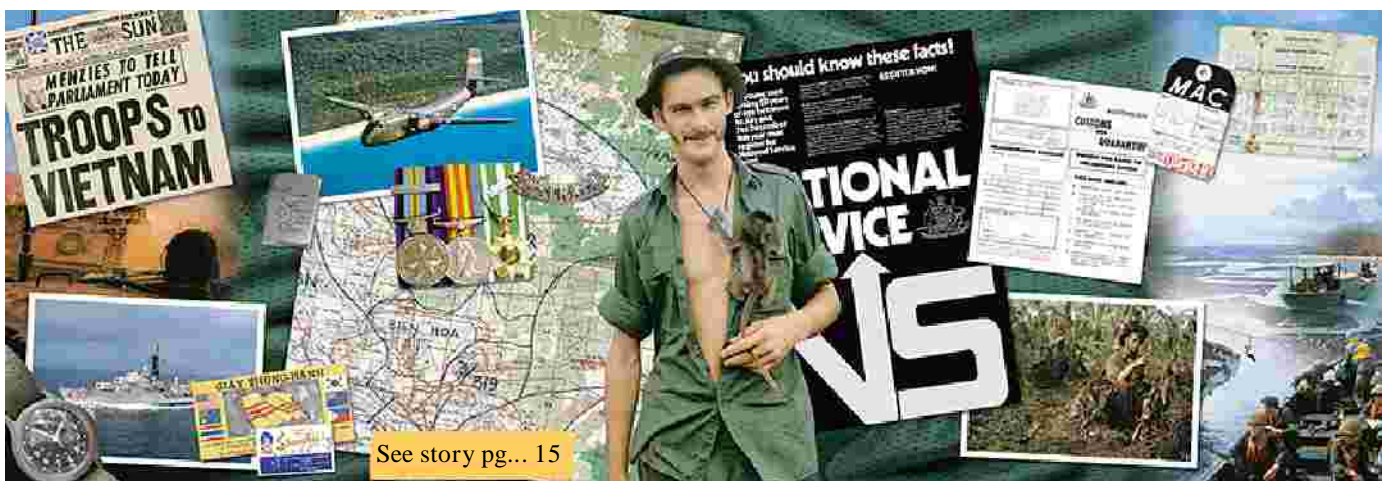
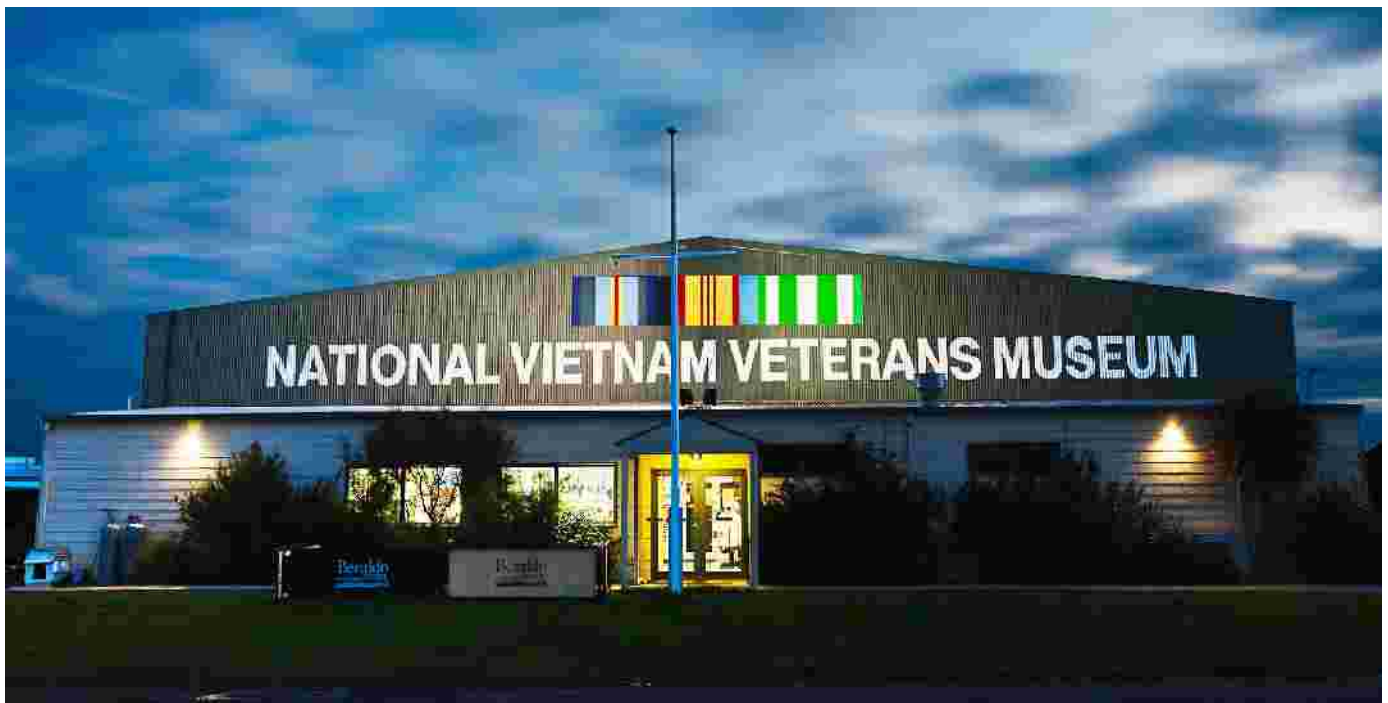
MINTO NSW 2566

ABN 19 068 073 450

**SUMMER**

**2010**

**THE MUSEUM LEGACY IS ALIVE AND THRIVING**



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## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORT



It is that time of year again when I wish all members the compliments of the season. This has been a successful year for the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) and I hope all members felt that way with their lives and are looking forward to an even better year ahead.

We must all remain positive and continue to achieve outcomes for improved lifestyles.

Since the last edition of Debrief there was an election that saw both a new Minister for Veteran Affairs, The Hon. Warren Snowdon MP and the opposition spokesperson Senator Michael Ronaldson appointed. I have had meetings with both to draw their attention to our current issues. Not in order of priority I raised the matter of proper indexation of DFRDB/DFRBF & Com-Super, Erosion of Disability Pension and findings of the various reviews that are being or have been undertaken. Among those are the review of Pharmaceuticals, BEST/TIP DVA Funded Advocacy Services and Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act. I emphasised that this association was anxious to see results from these reviews and was concerned in fact that we demand that the association is consulted in any changes to services etc that arise as a result of these reviews.

In the last week of October I was invited to participate in a two day Think Tank convened by the Centre for Military and Veteran Health (CMVH). The event subject was "Readjustment to "Normal": How can DVA and Defence Help". It all revolved around what are the re-adjustment challenges facing serving members and their families, how do they find the programs and services available, and what are the gaps. To assist in the panel discussions and workshops around all this along with a few ESOs were personnel from CMVH, service providers, Defence and DVA. Another group were a Battalion Commander and RSM, Reservist all from Army, two Officers from the RAAF and two from the RAN. They were to assist in panel discussion around retaining people in service. As well injured/impaired serving members were also in attendance to identify their experience and assist with finding gaps. These panel discussions were very interesting and went on for over half the first day.

After those workshops there was a keynote address LTCOL (Dr) Rakesh Jetly on a Canadian perspective on adjustment issues, what the current strategies are in dealing with them, and what the challenges are.

He obviously spoke on the Canadian experience from their, like Australia's, problems from operational tempo. Further discussion panels concluded day one.

Day two reviewed the work and then considered the outcomes. The most important issues were noted. Further working parties developed strategies for improving adjustment support as it related to the issues.

The main finding was that although Defence has a decompression period after a deployment because of the operational tempo the service person does not return to normal because of the expectation of the next deployment. Opinion was that they come down around half-way to a position decided to be a "new normal". CMVH will write a paper for Defence on the outcomes from this forum.

It is pleasing to see that these research bodies like the CMVH acknowledge the input this association can have in the situations now being experienced by the young servicepersons of today. So we continue to have influence and work hard to improve services to our constituents and those serving now. Along with this we are becoming the point of contact for the younger generation in assisting them with claims.

For those on the road who may be travelling near Phillip Island I recommend that you take the time to call in at the National Vietnam Museum. The changes there really show why it has won tourism awards.

Ron Coxon

<b>CONTENTS</b>	
<b>Secretaries Report</b>	<b>Pg 03</b>
<b>New Merchandise</b>	<b>Pg 04</b>
<b>New Book</b>	<b>Pg 05</b>
<b>Long Tan Medals Presentation</b>	<b>Pg 06</b>
<b>173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial</b>	<b>Pg 08</b>
<b>St Marys Outpost</b>	<b>Pg 09</b>
<b>Queensland Report</b>	<b>Pg 10</b>
<b>Victorian Report</b>	<b>Pg 12</b>
<b>The "Swannies"</b>	<b>Pg 14</b>
<b>Museum Update</b>	<b>Pg 15</b>
<b>Major "Morrie" Stanley RIP</b>	<b>Pg 18</b>
<b>VVAA Directory</b>	<b>Pg 23</b>
<b>Tasmanian Report</b>	<b>Pg 26</b>
<b>RAN in Vietnam</b>	<b>Pg 27</b>
<b>New South Wales Report</b>	<b>Pg 28</b>
<b>Vietnam Veteran Retreats</b>	<b>Pg 32</b>
<b>Northern Territory Report</b>	<b>Pg 33</b>
<b>South Australian Report</b>	<b>Pg 34</b>
<b>ACT Report</b>	<b>Pg 35</b>
<b>Western Australian Report</b>	<b>Pg 37</b>
<b>E-Health—How it works</b>	<b>Pg 39</b>
<b>Bruce Rock "Back to the Bush Reunion"</b>	<b>Pg 41</b>

## NATIONAL SECRETARIES REPORT



The National Council meeting in Adelaide on 23 October 2010 resolved a number of administrative matters that were causing some concern.

Firstly we were able to resolve the outstanding amendments to the national

constitution; many of these were needed because of the name change from Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia National Council Incorporated back to the more meaningful title of simply the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Incorporated that was registered with the Incorporation registry.

A number of new policy decisions were made, these will be distributed in the near future, and a policy handbook committee is working through a number of new policies and reviewing other original policies to bring them up to date.

It has been decided that a number of administrative instructions to be distributed in the near future will fill any gaps and can make it easier for anyone taking on the role of branch or sub branch president or secretary. A central register of advocates, pension officer and welfare officers is to be maintained that will allow referrals to be made in any area.

It was agreed that branch and sub branch membership and mailing lists should be maintained in a common format, the present procedure contributes to errors as information is manually transferred from one list to another.

Other details from the National Council meeting will be available from your branch and sub branch meetings. All in all the meeting was productive and held in a spirit of cooperation and focussed on our need to represent and support our veteran community.

Ken Foster  
National Secretary

### MESSAGE FROM \ DEBRIEF PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Since being allocated this Portfolio, a Debrief Editorial Committee consisting of an Editor, Kath Coxon, Editorial Secretary, Warwick Luttrell and member, Alan Thornton has been put in place. This committee is responsible for the preparation of Debrief ready for publication. They are answerable to the National Executive. We have also established an Admin Instruction setting out advertising costs, deadlines for submission of articles and publication and postage deadlines.

We forwarded a survey with our winter edition and I must say it was a very pleasing result with approx. 241 surveys being returned with 234 saying they were happy with the layout and format.

We also received quite a lot of suggestions and ideas so that we should be able to improve it. On behalf of the National Executive and the Editorial Committee I would like to thank you all for your responses and we are dedicated to improving Debrief where ever possible.

Remember this is your magazine and if you have any ideas as to how you would like to see it produced please advise us. Every suggestion received will be seriously considered.

### From the Editor

I would like to personally thank everyone who replied to the Debrief Survey and the many phone calls of support as well. It was encouraging to see the positive response. I have enjoyed doing the magazine and look forward to continuing in that roll. I appreciate the appointment of the committee, the support is invaluable.

One of the first improvements made to the magazine is the list of Vietnam friendly Retreats. We are also looking at having a list of Vietnam Monuments in the future.

I take onboard the few constructive criticisms that came out of the survey and as a committee we will be addressing those suggestions.

Many of our people don't use a computer, they read the book from cover to cover and thirst for the information it contains. And I know it does the rounds in the family.

To some, the ESO publications are the only way of getting veteran information/  
A perfect example of this is the National Merchandise. Many weren't aware of the many items for sale. By advertising it in Debrief they have access to them.

The feature on the Vietnam Veterans National Museum will give some idea to those who cant travel to see it, and again, don't have computer access, what a magnificent tribute and legacy to our Vietnam Veterans and the community.

Keep the poems, gags, stories of your trips etc coming, if you have read a good book send in a Book Review.

As John stated in his report, this is your magazine, we can only put in it what we get.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy & Healthy 2011 to everyone.

Kath Coxon  
Editor

# NATIONAL MERCHANDISE

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Vietnam Remembered Polo Shirts 4 Ribbon**  
Vietnam 4 Ribbons over map of Australia on front of left chest Huey on back. Sizes S to 5XL Black \$40ea

**Vietnam Remembered Polo Shirts Plain**  
Vietnam Remembered over map of Australia on left chest Huey on back. Sizes S to 5XL Black \$40ea.  
(For Veterans who cant wear all the ribbons and family & Supporters of Vietnam Veterans)



Above.  
Viet Remembered Polo Shirt

Below  
Vietnam remembered Reversible Vest

**Vietnam Remembered Vest Reversible 4 Ribbon**  
Vietnam 4 Ribbons over map of Australia on front of left chest Huey on back. Sizes S to 3XL & 5XL Black \$47ea

**Vietnam Remembered Vest Reversible Plain**  
Vietnam Remembered over map of Australia on left chest Huey on back. Sizes S to 3XL & 5XL Black \$47ea



Above. LT16  
2010 Collection Cap \$17.50



Above. LT17  
2010 Collection Giggle Hat \$17.50

Right. ST039  
Proud Army Veteran \$5.50



Right. ST038  
Proud Navy Veteran \$5.50



Above. ST035 RAAF Vietnam Veteran \$5.50



Above. ST036 Wallaby Airlines \$5.50

Right. PEN06  
Vietnam Remembered Pen \$2.50



Right. FA002  
4 Ribbon Caravan Flag \$15.00



Below. M024  
Wallaby Airlines Stubbie Holder \$8.50

Below. M023  
4 Ribbon Wrist Band. \$7.00



Right LT15  
2010 Medalion \$10.00  
Left. LT14  
2010 Lapel Pin \$5.50



### SPECIALS

Limited stock  
Left  
Sands of Gallipoli Medallion \$8.00



Sands of Gallipoli Key Ring \$8.00



Right  
Victoria Cross Set \$100... set



Above. LT18  
2010 Collection Stubbie Holder \$8.50

Above. M022  
Vietnam Remembered Stubbie Holder \$8.50

New Book  
**“Doorway in the Storm”**

By Errol Pentony

Thirty years after the Vietnam War I’m in the middle of yet another counselling session, trying to make some sense out of it when Dad makes a surprise visit. I’m still hiding from the effects of a war that remains like a poison in my system. A nightmare that won’t go away. The sound of Dad’s voice takes me to a place I haven’t been before and it’s a surprise because he died when I was six months old.

I spent 1969 on patrol in the rice paddies and jungles of Phouc Tuoy Province with the rest of my platoon. In Nui Dat we lived in a relatively safe place beneath the foliage of an old rubber plantation. There, we had sand bagged tents and sand bagged bunkers built by Australian troops before us. Most of the time however, was spent outside the wire where my only protection was my wits, my training and a thin layer of jungle green.

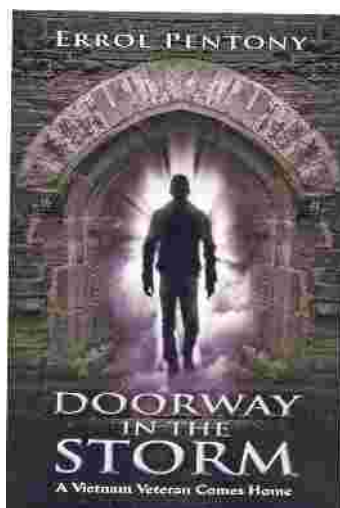
Right now, I look like a mild mannered accountant and I act like a pillar of society. But behind this façade, I’m in turmoil. Distraught by the memories and haunted by a fear of the unknown.

Despite the dramatic shift in time and space, since Vietnam, I’m still in survival mode and stumbling through a personal minefield that’s about to explode. It’s a pathway to self destruction.

My coping mechanism isn’t working as well as it used to and I can’t believe the extent to which I go in suppressing my natural instincts. I’ve got so many restrictions around what I do that I’m not being who I am. I’ve avoided this confrontation for so long, but it’s caught up with me.

One way or another my life will change forever.

The Counsellor’s questions and my search to find the truth lead me into three major battles over the next ten years. The battles with my marriage, my job and my way of living. It’s a formidable undertaking, an apocalypse even. There is no going back and in the ashes of my devastation I’m looking for my voice. It’s my essence, my spirit. My reality hangs in the balance. I must find it.

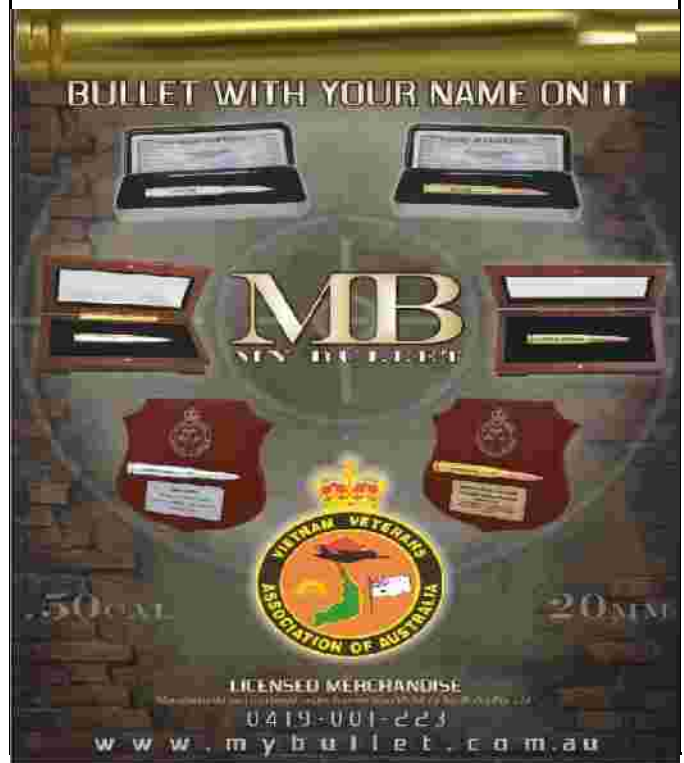


\*The book is available through National Merchandise # \$29.95.

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### Long Tan Medals Presented – Medal for Gallantry (MG) to Major Geoff Kendall (Retd)

This year, on the eve of Vietnam Veterans' Day, the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, invested two awards for actions during the Battle of Long Tan. The Governor-General had previously approved the Government's recommendations for these awards, which arose from reviews Long Tan awards.

Addressing the ceremony, the Governor-General stated "we acknowledge your actions on that day, the 18th of August 1966; and we honour your character, values and way of living that enabled those actions, and have guided and enriched your lives and countless others since. You will say that you were trained to do a job, and you did it. That's certainly true, in part. But you could never have known the job that was ahead of you that day."

The Medal for Gallantry (MG), presented to Major Geoff Kendall (Retd), of Bongaree, Queensland, was announced on 13 August 2008. Mr Kendall had been awarded the Mention in Despatches (MID) in 1967 for his role in the Battle of Long Tan, as commander of 10 Platoon, Delta Company, 6RAR. He was originally recommended for the Military Cross (MC). The Australian MG is the modern equivalent of the MC; it is awarded for acts of gallantry in action – hazardous circumstances. Also announced on 13 August 2008 were awards of the MG to former 2nd Lieutenant Dave Sabben, commander of 12 Platoon in the Battle, and the Star of Gallantry (equivalent to the Distinguished Service Order recommended at the time) to former Delta Company commander, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith (Retd). The Star of Gallantry is awarded for acts of great heroism or conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril.

Appearing in the investiture photograph are the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, with Major Geoff Kendall MG (Ret'd).



### Long Tan Medals Presented - Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) to FLTLT Cliff Dohle

On 17 August the Governor-General also presented the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) to the family of former 9 Squadron RAAF Flight Lieutenant Cliff Dohle. Mr Dohle died in February 2009. He piloted one of the two helicopters which delivered ammunition to Delta Company, 6RAR, during the Battle of Long Tan. Mr Dohle had been awarded the MID in 1967 for his part in the mission. He was originally recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

The DSM is the modern equivalent of the DFC; it is awarded for distinguished leadership in action. Mr Dohle's posthumous award was announced on 31 March 2010.

Appearing in the investiture photograph are Mrs Joan Dohle wife of FLTLT Dohle DSM, Mr Peter Dohle (son), Mrs Lisa Arrowsmith (daughter), Master Max Dohle (grandson – son of Peter Dohle).



### The Medal of Gallantry

The Medal for Gallantry – No Ordinary Piece of Tin  
I got my first close-up look at the Medal for Gallantry recently. There it was, prominent and in pride of place at the right hand of the rack of medals on David Sabben's chest.

I was intrigued, a little over-awed perhaps, and I unashamedly gawked at the medal. The colours of the ribbon bar surprised me, bright almost garish shades of orange. The official blurb says "light and dark orange alternating chevrons at a 60 degree angle forming a stylized 'A' shape pointing upwards". The medal suspender bar bears the inscription "For Gallantry", and supports a shiny, very new orb of gold plated silver.

I suspect that the wearer would have preferred the Military Cross, but for me, as someone who was removed from the emotional tug of war that went on as the final form of the Battle of Long Tan gallantry awards were being decided, the Medal of Gallantry evoked emotions in me that were surely as strong as any Imperial award could have done.

The Medal is recognition of individual bravery in the face of the enemy. But to me it is more than that, it speaks of a time when 100 odd wrote themselves into Australian military folklore, and when for over 10 years, Australians held the line.

The Australian Medal for Gallantry – no ordinary piece of tin.

Bob Elworthy

## SOUTH AFRICAN ADVENTURE

*Why would you want to go to South Africa? That was the question that confronted us continually when we had decided on our next holiday.*

Our tour commenced in Cape Town and it was a thrill to ride the revolving Cable Car to the top of Table Mountain, for outstanding views of the city and surrounds.

A visit to Robben Island Prison was a must. During this tour, ex-political prisoners from the apartheid years, spoke to us of their experiences and the influence of Nelson Mandela.



There is so much history in South Africa, from the early Dutch settlements, through the English times, to Portuguese, German and Asian influences and finally the uprising of the indigenous tribes.

There were places of interest, towns and areas where we were introduced to many historical events, including an area where Greg's grandfather had actually fought during the Boer War.

Because of the rugged southern coastline (remember your history?) there are numerous wrecks of ships, many of which will never be raised, and many never found.

South Africans are very proud of their wines and we did have the opportunity to both travel through wine country and sample a few wines. However, I think Greg preferred the beers – TUSKER being his favourite. Sue was introduced to Gin and Tonic, ostensibly because of the Quinine content! Sue's most unusual experience was riding an ostrich – feet clasped underneath, hanging on to the wings, sitting right back and going off at a trot! We ate ostrich steak that night but not the one that was ridden.

The people of South Africa and Kenya, whom we met along the way, were most hospitable. Zulus welcomed us to their village and explained their culture in Zululand, where we had our accommodation in Beehive huts. The Massai Warriors met us with a dance and invited us to join in with them. It was a fertility dance!!!

When we flew to Zambia, we stood in awe of the majestic Victoria Falls. A bigger thrill was taking a helicopter flight over the Falls, to see the might of the Zambesi River and where it entered the Falls.

During the last 12 days of our month long tour, we were up at 5am and into 4WD Safari vehicles for our morning drives on the Game Reserves of Kruger in Sth. Africa and Amboseli, Mt Kenya, Samburu and Masi Mara, all in Kenya. Evening drives were from 4pm for 3 hours. It was worth every moment.

We watched 3 different prides of lions with their kill (zebras each time), a cheetah with its kill, leopards in trees, hippos, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, warthogs, water buffaloes, and the most beautifully coloured bird



For 15 minutes we observed two herds of elephants meeting mid-stream in a river, sensing each other and finally going their separate ways



We were so fortunate that we were at Lake Nakuru for the return of the flamingoes (1.5 million of them according to the Kenyan News). And then, to top it off, we witnessed the Great Migration of the Wildebeest and Zebras. The plains were covered with thousands upon thousands of the animals and we sat mesmerized as they crossed the river, wary of crocodiles and endeavouring to climb the steep banks on the far side.

*So why wouldn't we go to Africa??*

*By Greg & Sue Norris*

**Z Special Unit International donates \$10,000 to Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation.**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, Mr Ernst Baints, Chairman of Z Special Unit International Inc presented a donation of \$10,000 to the Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation.



Some of the Z Special Unit guys and their Secretary, whose father was one of the Z Force members.

Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall, Executive Director of Hollywood Private Hospital gratefully accepted the cheque on behalf of the Foundation at a morning tea at the hospital. Members of the Z Special Unit International association and the Board of the Research Foundation were also present Vice President Rob Cox OAM a founding member of the Research Foundation, Carolyn Konzewitsch Secretary of the Research Foundation for the occasion. ‘Our Research Foundation has offered funding grants to seven research projects this year’ he said. ‘The support of the Z Special Unit has played a big part in making this possible’.



Above. L to R Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall, Dr. Terry Bayliss, Mr Ernst Baints, and Rob Cox OAM

Dr Terry Bayliss, President of the Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation, echoed these sentiments. ‘Z Special Unit International has been a major supporter of Research Foundation for many years, having donated around \$50,000 in total’ he said. This support was initiated in 2002 by the late Jack Sue, the founding Chairman of Z Special Unit International. After spending some time at Hollywood Private Hospital, he decided to donate part proceeds from the sale of his book *Blood on Borneo* to the Research Foundation.

In presenting the cheque, Ernst Baints, described the medical researchers as today’s ‘unrecognised heroes’ in their dedicated work to benefit the health of the community. This tribute typifies the generosity of spirit of the Z Special Unit

comrades, whose deeds of wartime heroism and self-sacrifice were second to none.

The Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation is not for profit organisation and registered charity which raises money to support medical research aimed at improving medical care and benefit the health of the community. At its inception the Foundation has provided over \$400,000 in research grants in areas such as prostate cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, palliative care, chronic lung disease, and orthopaedic surgery. Further details can be obtained by contacting Carolyn Konzewitsch, Research Foundation Secretary on 9346 6571.

Dr. Terry Bayliss  
Coordinator Development Projects & Research  
Hollywood Private Hospital

**173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial Dedication**

The dedication ceremony was held at Fort Benning GA USA on 1st June 2010

The monument is dedicated to the soldiers of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade including attached troops which included the 1RAR Group from Australia and also 161 Bty RNZ Arty from Vietnam plus up to and including IRAQ and Afghanistan. The 1 RAR Group consisted of 1 RAR, 1ALSC, 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse Regt, 105 Fd Bty RAA Independent 3 Fd Troop RAE, 161 Recce Flight



The Colour Party consisting of American, New Zealand and Australian personnel.

## A ST MARYS OUTPOST SUB BRANCH (NSW) EDUCATION TEAM PROJECT 2010

At the request of NSW State Branch (VVAA) St Marys Outpost Sub Branch initiated a trial Education Team Program in 2004. Unfortunately, the idea of all NSW sub branches being involved with this endeavour failed to gather any real momentum.

The Outpost Education Team (OET) Project however became the focus of attention and commitment by interested members and over the past six years very significant outcomes have been achieved.

### Notes on the OET's organisation, operation, programs and achievements follow:

U Originally developed in consultation with the NSW Board of Studies (History) and members of the History Teachers Association the OET Project is regularly reviewed and monitored by teachers to address the NSW History Syllabus Topics covering Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War.

U N.B. A National History Curriculum is pending. Currently Education Authorities in Australian States/Territories implement different guidelines. In NSW schools, Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War is a compulsory study component for Year 10 students and is part of the written assessment process for the School Certificate. For senior students Vietnam is an elective studies/assessment topic for the Higher School Certificate.

U The OET is a proactive group of Vietnam Veterans with the necessary skills required to work with and address history student audiences studying/researching the Vietnam topics.

U The OET is responsible to the Outpost Executive and Management, operates under an accepted Code of Conduct and Dress Standards appropriate for school/student interaction.

U Information flyers advertising the OET Program and presentation content are distributed to secondary schools in the Sydney Metropolitan West Area annually. Word of mouth advertising, school to school and teacher to teacher communication have promoted the OET Programs further afield. (Due to the lack of human resources Primary Schools are not directly targeted but are visited on request.)

U Generally the OET presentation format underpinned spans two hours, utilises two to four presenters and addresses the following topics using personal experiences/knowledge, AV technology, Vietnam Era Resources and Memorabilia:

*Session Introduction with Vietnam War images accompanied by 60's music.*

✓ *Only 19 song with accompanying images.*

✓ *Brief overview of the Battle of Long Tan.*

✓ *Explanation of 'Why Australia went to Vietnam'.*

✓ *National Service/Conscription Draw utilising a set of dates drawn and involving student participation.*

✓ *Role Play session involving students dressed in Vietnam War gear i.e. Infantry, Armour, Engineers, Signals, Viet Cong (see accompanying student role play photos)*

✓ *Overview of Australia's 10 year involvement in Vietnam – Events, Attitudes and Opinions.*

✓ *Impact of war on veterans i.e. PTSD, Agent Orange, VVCS and other support programs.*

✓ *General Q & A session.*

✓ *Hands on memorabilia by students.*

*(N.B. Above topics relevant to NSW History Syllabus.)*



U Currently (2010) more than eighty schools utilise OET programs annually. Additionally individual students interview team members for a variety of personal study and research assignments.

U Experienced Outpost guest speakers, male and female, are advertised for primary and secondary Anzac/Remembrance Day School Services (approx 30 schools visited annually).

U OET school invitations come from government and non-government schools, large and small and from both high and low socio-economic communities. Further, school audiences often comprise a multi-cultural / religious mix of students...many who have never met an Australian Veteran

U The annual total of students connecting, interacting, communicating and questioning OET members is currently in excess of twenty thousand. Veteran to student links are clearly valued and appreciated. Feedback from teachers, students and school communities is always very positive.

U It is worth noting that OET programs are offered free of any charge to schools/students however, school donations are regularly given in appreciation of the veterans visits and generally cover travel, administration and other associated costs.

U Equally noteworthy is the fact that the OET, or any other group, is not restricted to any particular boundaries recognised by VVA or RSL groups but rather responds to direct invitations from School Principals who have the authority and responsibility of monitoring and selecting advertised educational programs.

U OET's success and achievements are due to committed team presenters and the general support of the Outpost membership who believe 'LEST WE FORGET' includes veteran responsibility to nurture and protect, and to pass on to future generations of young Australians our military history, proud heritage, Anzac traditions and values.

Vin Cosgrove  
Education Team Co-ordinator  
VVAA St Marys Outpost Sub Branch



*Pictured above & on previous page...Both male & female students enjoy the role play/dress up sessions. Hands on with t Vietnam Era gear is something teachers cannot provide in the classroom*

#### **H.M.A.S. Melbourne Reunion.**

The Association Committee met last week and due to the promising response of emails and other promotion of the proposal, it was decided to proceed with the idea and hold the event on Saturday the 18/10/2010 in Nowra N.S.W. The venues, format and program for that weekend will be determined at a later date. The Captain of H.M.A.S. Albatross, Manager of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Fleet Air Arm Association, Shoalhaven Naval Men's Association and others have generously offered their support.

Dean Gedling.  
Vice President  
c/o H.M.A.S. Melbourne Association,  
P.O. Box 4011 Bradbury. N.S.W. 2560  
[sicambre@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sicambre@optusnet.com.au)

## QUEENSLAND

### **National Congress**

May I commence by mentioning the National Congress this year. It was a real privilege to have been able to conduct it up here. I believe the venue and staff were exceptional in their support of us and I believe they enjoyed it as much, as I gather, that we enjoyed it. It would be remiss of me not to mention 'Radio Saigon', an excellent group that really set the scene for the informal dinner. Our thoughts are with Barry and Sue West at all times and I am happy to report that Carl Boy'e survived to fight another day.

### **State Meetings**

Our away State meetings are being very well attended with over half the Sub Branches represented at meetings in Hervey Bay, Redcliffe and Townsville. Our last meeting was in Townsville with 11 Sub branches present plus in excess of 20 observers and visitors. These travelled by train, plane and vehicle to be present, one even towing a caravan who was on a trip. We had 33 present at our meeting dinner on the Saturday Night. Our next meeting is in Kingaroy over weekend 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October and our December meeting being conducted in Gympie over the weekend 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December. Our AGM will be conducted on the Gold Coast at end of February 2011

### **Vietnam Veterans Day**

Vietnam Veterans Day was very successful with many services marches etc. being conducted right across the State. Some that I can report on are the main one in Brisbane which even though the crowd was down the number of vets marching was up with an excellent turnout by the Vietnamese Armed Forces and the VVMC, Standown Park Caravan Park where I believe there were twice as many as last year, Bribie Island where there were in excess of 100 marching and attending their Annual dinner once again entertained by 'Radio Saigon' plus a very successful service conducted in Tweed Heads.\

### **Qld Main ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2011**

VVAA Qld is currently preparing for our next ANZAC Day Dawn Service Combined Committee (ADDSCC) meeting next month to start to prepare for ANZAC Day 2011. ADDSCC is a sub-committee of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee (ADCC). The current members of the ADDSCC consist of VVAA Qld, VVFA Qld, ADCC, RAR Assn. Qld, APPVA, NAA Qld, DOD and the Digger's Assn. Other members include Town Clerk, Brisbane City Council, Premiers Dept., Qld Police Service, St John Ambulance, QAS, Brisbane Boys College Choir and the Venturers. The Governor Her Excellency, Ms. Penelope Wensley, AO is our Patron. We are very ably assisted by the SES as well.

### Finances and Future

VVAA Qld finances have improved throughout the year and even though the National Congress cost us about \$8500 we are only suffering a loss of about \$330 for the year up until the middle of August. As you know we were gifted Remembrance House by the Diggers Assn. and at the moment we have had two enquiries about whether the House is for sale. Both enquiries are still ongoing. The VVAA Qld is currently investigating selling Remembrance House and developing our own HQ somewhere in the Sunshine Coast Region and also setting it up as a Veteran Support Centre (VSC). It appears at this stage that there could be about 4 or 5 other ESO that would be willing to come on board. There are exciting times ahead. Zac's Place is finally being run very well and is in a sound financial position.

### State Executive and Life Membership

Our executive is working very well at the moment with very few problems. We are still getting more members each month which is good to see. At our last State Management Committee meeting we approved two State Life memberships. The names are being kept confidential at this time so as hopefully we will be able to surprise them when they are presented. My heartiest congratulations to both and well deserved.

### National Congress 2011

At this stage it does appear that we could have some observers coming to the next National Congress to be held in the Hunter Valley in May next year.

I would like to finish off at this time wishing you are the very best for the upcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations.

John P Smith, OAM, JP (Qual)  
President

\*\*\*\*\*

### MEDIA RELEASE

**ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Brisbane now controlled by a new ANZAC Day Dawn Service Combined Committee, a subcommittee of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland.**

The AIF Legion first started conducting the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Brisbane in 1931 and then it was placed into the hands of the Diggers' Association in 1937 which has been running it up until last year. However, due to declining membership and increasing age, they passed the torch to younger veterans. They approached the VVAA Qld about four years ago for assistance which was readily provided. After ANZAC Day last year the Diggers' Association decided to formally hand over their premises situated on Grey Street South Brisbane, known as Remembrance House, and the responsibility for organising and conducting the ANZAC Day Dawn Service to the VVAA QLD.

The VVAA Qld Branch decided that the best avenue of

approach to achieve this would be to set up a committee of like minded Ex Service Organizations (ESO).

This committee is known as the ANZAC Day Dawn Service Combined Committee (ADDSCC) and consists of representatives from the VVAA Qld, Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Qld Branch (VVFAQ), Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association of Australia Qld Branch (APPVAQ), RAR Association Qld, ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee (ADCC) plus some members of the former Diggers' Association. There are representatives of both the Qld State Govt and the Brisbane City Council on the Committee as well. The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AO has agreed to remain as our Patron-in-Chief whilst she is in office.

The ADDSCC is now officially a sub-committee of the ANZAC Day Committee (ADCC) - a committee that is unique in that it is the only state citizens' ANZAC organization in Australia. It was set up by the people of Queensland on 10 January 1916 as a 'gift of the people' to commemorate deceased and honour surviving veterans. This committee is chaired by the Premier with the Deputy Chairman being the Leader of the Opposition.

The ADDSCC has conducted meetings over the last few months and is very pleased to report that everything is proceeding steadily. This year there will be number of screens set up to televise the service live. The Brisbane Boys' College Choir will be participating and BBC will also provide students in college uniform to form a guard of honour for the veterans and attending VIPs including the Governor of Qld, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AO. They will be assisted by members of the Venturers. These students will also escort the VIPs during the official wreath

laying. The Australian Army Band will provide music.

The Committee would like to extend an invitation to all veterans to attend the march and the solemn service. The veterans will march from King George Square to ANZAC Square commencing at 4.00 AM. We would also like to extend the invitation to all veterans' families, children and members of the public to be present and participate in the service. The ADDSCC has secured the use of both ANZAC Square and Post Office Square so there will be plenty of room and, although Post Office Square is some distance away, there will be large media screens available, complete with sound, so you will not miss anything.

Media Contact -

Denis Nicol Ph: 07 3408 1863

John P Smith, OAM, JP (Qual)

Chairman: Ph 54985202 or Mobile 0407 460 358

## VICTORIA

Vietnam Veterans Day 2010 at the Shrine of Remembrance was a huge success and holding the commemoration service at the Shrine is certainly a well worth public relations exercise for the Victorian State Branch. Continuing with the high level of guest speakers, Capt Ralph T. Derbidge MBE RAN (Rtd) was the guest speaker this year and a good day was had by those attending on the day.

As noted in the Debrief Winter Edition Victorian Report, "what is there left for us to do" will be the "hot" subject at Sub-Branch President's Forum in February 2011. As an Association we have been in existence for some years now and we need to be thinking about what is next for us – watch this space.

The grass roots welfare program and the travelling road show "are you on the radar", after being to all points in Victorian and close border points in SA and NSW, is now completed. It was certainly an experience to go around and see how many veterans, war widows etc are out there "in the woodwork" and the program can only be considered a resounding success. Again, our thanks to the RSL Victoria Headquarters and RSL Sub-Branches, DVA, VVCS, VAN Offices, PVA and Carry On for excellent assistance received for the duration of the program to summarize, the program went over two years, 33 sessions were conducted, with an average of 30 people attending the sessions, we were able to contact about 3-4 veterans at each session that had no contact with us or DVA. This was our main aim of the program and it was a very successful program.

The VVAA Victorian Education Team (E-Team) continues to work vigorously in providing presentations to schools and community groups, and with the involvement of the E-Team in local Vietnamese community festivals and the Victorian History Teachers Association, the level of work for the E-Team shows no inclination of slowing down for the years ahead. William Hacking Bursary we have one whom has just completed and a new recipient starting.

Badge Week remains to be the key fund-raising event for the Sub-Branches in Victoria – certainly a bit of hard work for Sub-Branches however the end result makes that work well worthwhile. The Sub-Branches retain all of the money they raise during Badge Week which in turn allows them to carry out the core objective of the Associations that being the provision of welfare services to our members. When available, there has been involvement local community matters/events conducted by differing entities including local Councils.

The Federal election is over (for how long though we are not sure!!) and the Victorian State election is due in November 2010. Over the past several years, we have

made great efforts to lobby politicians from all sides of the fences for the betterment of the veterans' lot and will continue to do so whether at election times or during a sitting of the respective parliament

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is holding Museum Day on 28 November 2010 and this year will include the Victorian State Branch unveiling of a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque and the RAAF Association will also be relocating a plaque from the Shrine of Remembrance to the Museum Garden of Remembrance. Vietnamese Veterans and the Vietnamese Community approached the Museum Board and asked to be permitted to place a plaque in thanks and remembrance of the sacrifice of Australian Service personnel during the Vietnam War – this is a wonderful gesture from the Vietnamese, and the offer has been accepted. It will be a great day and an invitation is extended to as many Vietnam Veterans as possible to attend on the day.

As we head towards 2011, "what is there left for us to do" will be on the discussion paper as will the subject of younger veterans – could be a number of invigorating discussions generated in those two topics alone. However as always, our main focus will remain to be the practical, useful and timely delivery of welfare services to our members.

James Coghlan  
Vice President  
Victorian State Branch  
(Bob E is away on a well earned furlough)

### **Outer Eastern Melbourne Vietnam Veterans** [the family friendly group]

"2010 What have we been up to"!  
OEM monthly meetings continue to be held, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly. Our initiative in holding meetings at various RSL's across our patch continues. Thus ensuring that as many members as possible have an opportunity to attend/input, and meet up with OEM executive

OEM wives/partners group continue to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month for a meal and chat at Mitcham RSL

OEM Wives/Partners (W/P) enjoyed a 'Yarra River Cruise with W/P members from the Frankston group

Members continue to support work projects at the Vietnam Veterans Museum P/I on a weekly basis

OEM continues to 'seek out and support' veterans in our area who may be in need of assistance, or just veteran company

Welfare continues to be a priority activity, OEM continues to progress an initiative whereby any veterans hospitalised in our area are made aware of support/

assistance and or visitations, if they request. Fridge magnets and Welfare cards with contact numbers have been sourced

Participated in a 'Welfare Presentation given by State VVAA (70+ attended)

Our Pension officer continues his busy schedule with requests local and intra state contacts

'Badge Week' was an outstanding event with sales in excess of \$16k

Family friendly 'get togethers' continue at Boronia RSL on the last Friday evening of each month

OEM again participated as 'Award sponsors' to the Knox Falcons Football teams (150 + in attendance)

OEM's large Raffle is well underway, all members have had opportunity to participate, next stage is to offer the community raffle prize opportunity when OEM members attend at local shopping centre's, major facilities etc

Our purpose 'built' BBQ trailer has arrived and been fitted out with all the necessary cutlery, tea/coffee making items. A successful 'launch' was held at our trip to Werribee zoo

OEM & family/friends trip to Werribee Zoo was a huge success, 80+ attended and enjoyed themselves. BBQ trailer tested to its maximum and passed its inaugural use with ease

OEM Wives/Partners group participated and enjoyed an all day, 'time out, shopping tour' to Mornington markets/shops

Various members have been travelling away to, Reunions, Holiday's and Grey Nomad trips across Australia and Over Seas

OEM members, Wives/Partners attend Frankston VVAA meeting and participate in refreshment/meal social atmosphere

OEM membership continues to grow with a current total of 266 of which 233 are full members

Planning and necessary arrangements confirmed for the 'combined' VVAA 'Weekend activities' at Glen Cromie caravan park (Drouin West), Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> thru to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Planning is well underway for the Children's Christmas party at the Boronia RSL, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec- from 11-00 am and; OEM members Christmas luncheon at the East-Wood Golf Club, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec- from 12-30

OEM wishes all VVAA members, family and supporters a safe, healthy and enjoyable run up to Christmas and 2011

Allan Small -for OEM Exec

## R.A.N. in VIETNAM

16 -19 August 2011

### HOBART TASMANIA

**The Tasmania Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia will mark Vietnam Veterans Day 2011 by commemorating the role of the R.A.N. in Vietnam. The city of Hobart will be the venue.**

**Guest Speaker will be VADM D.W. Leach A.C., C.B.E., L.V.O., R.A.N. (Ret).**

**An invitation is extended to all serving and ex-service RAN personnel, their families and friends, to attend the lead up functions commencing on 16 August culminating with the 18 August commemoration service. Our invitation is also extended to the families of veterans whose husband or father, or brother served in any of the R.A.N. Vietnam assets.**

**To register your attendance, please include the names of those attending, ship/unit, email address and the State travelling from. Early registration is requested to assist the planning organisers.**

**Accommodation and Flight offers are currently being negotiated and will be made available early in 2011 together with a full itinerary of events to all those who have registered.**

**RANHFV- QUEENBOROUGH-HOBART-  
VENDETTA-CDT 3-PERTH-VAMPIRE-  
QUIBERON-JEPARIT-SYDNEY-ANZAC-  
STUART-SWAN-DUCHESS-MELBOURNE-  
BOONAROO-BRISBANE-YARRA-TORRENS-  
QUICKMATCH- PARRAMATTA-RAN MEDI-  
CAL TEAMS-RAN (SHORE BASED) LOGISTI-  
CAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL.**

**To register please contact**

**Warwick Luttrell  
Tasmania Branch President  
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia  
[vvaataspres@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:vvaataspres@aussiebroadband.com.au)**

**Telephone (03) 6431 2627  
Mobile 0408 333360**

## Dear Swannies, Sponsors and Supporters

- **Asian Champs, Kaspersky Cup and media coverage**
- **Preparations for 2011 ANZAC Friendship Match**
- **Preparations for 2010 Indochina Cup**
- **Sponsorship news**  
*Honk! Honk!*

### Asian Champs, Kaspersky Cup and media coverage

As you have probably already heard, the Vietnam Swans won two of our four games at the Asian Championships in Shanghai two weeks ago. This was a significant milestone in the development of the Vietnam Swans as these victories were the first in our four assaults on the Champs.

It was a magnificent achievement by those on and off the field who have all contributed so much in many different ways. Importantly, judging from the number of congratulatory messages received from past players, the sense of success was deservedly shared. Those messages were a reminder that you can leave the country but you can't leave the Vietnam Swans.

As for the 11th Annual Asian Champs tournament itself, what a great success story! This year, 12 teams competed which is the highest number yet. Meanwhile Cambodia which returned to international football in July of this year, is champing at the bit to be the 13th team next year. Including non players, the 12 teams comprised approximately 500 people. Assuming they spent, on average, USD1,000 each for airfares, visas, accommodation, food, drink etc, that represents a rather significant investment of \$500,000. Clearly, not only is Asian footy flourishing, it's alive, thriving and growing.

The day after the Champs, we all attended the AFL's Kaspersky Cup between Melbourne and Brisbane. And it was a cracker. The double header of the Champs and the Kaspersky Cup made for an excellent celebration of footy in Asia.

The Australian media gave good coverage to the Kaspersky Cup. However, with no mention of the Dubai Heat's three-peat performance in the Champs in the Australian media, including the AFL's website, Australian punters were probably left with the impression that when Melbourne and Brisbane flew out, so did footy.

The absence of coverage on such a big story was surprising - especially when one considers the amount of media coverage Miss Australia received in 2008 when she wore a Swannies jumper (admittedly, Miss Australia looked pretty good in a Swannies jumper. But so would Buddy Franklin).

Anecdotally, people are fascinated with the footy in Asia. In related news, there's a whisper that Asian stockbrokers are quietly giving their most valued clients a "Buy" recommendation for the footy!

### Preparations for 2011 ANZAC Friendship Match

As you will be aware, the Vietnam Swans will host the Hong Kong Dragons in the 2011 ANZAC Friendship Match in Vung Tau. Prior to the Asian Champs, the Vietnam Swans and Hong Kong Dragons organised for both teams to meet on the ground after the tournament for a beer. Which we did. Everywhere, ANZAC matches have special symbolism and significance. In Vietnam, they are also intertwined with a raft of political sensitivities. Accordingly, both Club Presidents addressed the assembled teams to set the context and background for next year's ANZAC Friendship Match in Vietnam.

### Preparations for 2010 Indochina Cup

Preparations for next month's Indochina Cup are well underway. Vietnam, Thailand, Lao and Cambodia will all compete for the coveted Cup which will be held in Saigon on 27 November. Concurrently, the Saigon Shooters will also host netball's Indochina Cup.

### Sponsorship news

On 13 November, the Swannies will have a training run in Vung Tau at the Greyhound Racing Track. New sponsor, Strategic Marine, will send its own boat to Saigon to take the Swannies to Vung Tau. Thank you Strategic Marine!

Please refresh your memories and have a look at our impressive list of Club sponsors below - including our Signature Sponsor, Linfox and Pest Free. Appearing next is the list of sponsors who supported us so generously at our recent Grand Final Parties in Hanoi and Saigon - which also allowed us to raise \$2,700 for the swimming lessons in Hoi An.

Honk if you love the footy in Asia.

*Honk! Honk!*

Phil

Phil Johns  
National President

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year*



*The National Executive — Ron, John, David, Ken & Rob would like to extend their best wishes for a Merry Christmas & a Happy, Healthy & Safe New Year to the National Council & all our members & their families.*

## THE MUSEUM LEGACY IS ALIVE AND THRIVING

Since the official opening of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) on Phillip Island in March 2007, the Museum has continued to expand and develop. It seems that the message to all Vietnam veterans has been accepted – that this museum belongs to all Vietnam veterans, and even better than that, it is the legacy of us all and the legacy will live on.

Most veterans to the Museum will have been asked to check what memorabilia they have at home, work out what the kids are likely to do with it – and if there is any doubt, send it to us. What may be junk at home, when put into context and positioned in this environment, it can become a treasure.

There are two good examples of this. Someone had a small cracked rice bowl, an even smaller chipped tea cup and a very small clear medicine bottle that had a wick in it which converted it to a lamp. In a drawer it is junk but add that these were recovered from a cave in the Long Hais during Operation PINNAROO in March 1968 and placed on display in the Museum – and we have a treasure. (Donated by John Williams)

Then was the story about the 105mm Pack Howitzers from the Australian and New Zealand Batteries that fired in support of the Battle of Long Tan. These guns were replaced by the heavier 105mm Howitzers M2A2 a couple of months later. As the old guns were stripped of any reusable parts by RAEME, one the Gunners assisting kept one of the gun's firing pins. Just a small odd shaped hunk of metal – but it is of great significance when relating to both the Battle and many other battles, skirmishes, missions of the era and then packaged and presented with the story. Gunner John Godfrey did a great job with the presentation and it is now a prize in the Museum.

Occasionally people comment that they are disappointed that their unit was not better represented at the Museum. If we have it, we will display it. One person can make a real difference. That person may well be you.

A great example is 161 Recce Flight. One person got reassurance that we would display what he got for us. He contacted a couple of others from the unit and now we have a display that provides amongst the most comprehensive examples of unit coverage.

There is no reason why each of the Battalions shouldn't have a comprehensive coverage of their operational experience at that time. It doesn't matter if goods are duplicated at a heritage outfit or even at the Infantry-Centre. At this Museum the unit is on display for future

generations and is seen daily by the public.

The unit that does make this effort will be seen in years to come as the pre-eminent unit. Clearly this applies equally to every unit. ie Field Batteries, Engineer Stores or RAEME in the Field. (We don't have much on Dental Corps but the history on our Pay Corps will amaze you.)

This past year saw the expansion of exhibits pertaining to two of our more celebrated units. We were delighted that AATTV declared that the Museum was to be their permanent home and organised a representative display which was officially opened early 2010.

Were pleased to expand the exhibits on the SASR with the support of the SASR Museum.

Another example of Museum support is from the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm Museum at Nowra where we have on loan until Christmas a photographic display of the RAN's EMU Flight. This group of Iroquois pilots and crew flew with the American 135<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company and did some amazing things – many of which are described in the book 'A Bloody Job Well Done' and this is available from our shop.

We also expect to receive a complete Wessex Helicopter on long-term loan and this will happen early 2011 when the aircraft can be protected from the weather. This Wessex is presented as an ambulance / Troop Carrier and the aircraft being renovated will end up showing the Wessex in it's other main role in an anti-submarine configuration.

The extensions to the Museum finally got underway in August. As at early November, the steel frame is complete, the roof, flashings and guttering are finished and steel for the walls has been ordered. They are expected to be completed by end of November.

The extension is connected to the existing Museum and the rear of the extension, overlooking the Garden of Reflection is likely to remain open until mid-2011. This will depend on funding the extra steelwork for the rear wall.

The NVVM does not receive any ongoing funding from Federal or State Governments. The Museum depends on admission fees and funds generated from stock and Cafe sales plus some fundraising activities, occasional grants and more recently a bequest.

Bequests are likely to occur more frequently in the

future as many people that support us are not cash rich, but are comfortable with their material possessions. The Museum has been advised that it has been considered in two wills to date and as this legacy continues to grow, it is likely that we may be considered more often.

The Museum currently employs one full-time Administration Manager and two others part-time to keep the Nui Dat Cafe open. We are still a not-for-profit organisation which is open every day (except Christmas Day and Good Friday) between 10.00 and 5.00pm and run by volunteer staff.

The aim is to hire professional staff to take the Museum to new levels. While we are still in construction-mode, and therefore paying all costs, we are limited in the amount of marketing / advertising that we can do. We are busy promoting ourselves through articles to magazines etc and general P R.

In the last 12 months, the Museum was the Victorian Finalist in the ABC Radio Australia 2009 Regional Museums awards. We were then advised in August 2010 that we finished Number 1 in a Mystery Shoppers audit of 100 tourism attractions selected randomly state-wide. Over 118 categories assessed, we were the only one to receive 100%. This reflects enormously on the volunteers that are representing you.

In October 2010 the Museum was selected as a Finalist in this year's Australian Small Business Champion Awards. Later in 2010 the Australian winner will be announced – so the Museum is still in the running.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is entered into some of the prestigious awards and has won a few. This does a number of things for us:

- For all of the people who have given their time, cash or exhibits it demonstrates that their efforts were not wasted and that the Museum is in good hands;
- They add credibility when applying for grants;
- It provides good stories for press releases and promotes our name to the public; and
- Given that most of our veteran staff are flawed by PTSD, it shows that with counselling and mediation, we might take a bit longer but can still get the job done!

The NVVM has planned for future longevity by the formation of a company and the establishment of a Board of Trustees. This situation is in its final stages

and while there are currently five interim veterans appointed, the Board is about to invite leading national business entities to forward expressions of interest in taking a Board position.

Control of the Board would be maintained by veterans over an interim period of some years but it is anticipated that the Board would provide substantial sponsorship as well as overall guidance appropriate to the development of a National organisation. The day to day running of the NVVM would be provided by the Museum President / CEO.

The NVVM is a member of Museums Australia and has completed a Significance Assessment of its exhibits. This is a part of the process of museum accreditation. We catalogue all of our exhibits and library according to specification and are endeavouring to preserve and present our exhibits for maximum longevity.

It is envisaged that when the NVVM completes accreditation, has the paid core of professionals for the volunteers to support, and can meet all outgoings, then it will not be arduous for Museums Australia to take us on as an Annex. The ideal is for the Museum to be cash positive to the extent that it can be a welfare provider

In the short term however, the Museum needs some support to get us on a more stable base by positioning a permanent Marketing and Promotions Manager. This is the appointment which will most influence our step up to a higher level. While the Museum is paying for the bulk of construction costs, the staffing increases are on hold.

The Extension will complete Stage 1 by mid-2011 when the back wall is sealed and completed. The next Stage will be the pouring of the complete concrete slab. After this will come the lining of the hangar and possible mezzanine – including a disabled access lift which is required by law. So clearly the job is ahead of us but it can be managed.

The extension will be an active workshop as much as holding exhibits. It will house the restoration of the first Canberra Bomber taken on strength by the RAAF. It saw service in Borneo and Vietnam and is the last of its type (dual trainer) in existence. It will on display as a work in progress until restored to 'engines running'. It will be presented in a 'flaps down – take-off' mode

Just behind the extension is the Garden of Reflection which has developed as we had hoped. There are now some unit and commemorative plaques in situ and the Garden is well frequented. As well as individuals, many reunions visit and hold a brief ceremony in the Garden.

As this article goes to press, there is a significant ceremony conducted to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VVAA Vic Branch. At the unveiling of the plaque to mark the occasion, the Vietnamese Veterans also unveil a plaque to their fallen servicemen and the Vietnamese Community of Australia unveil two plaques; one to acknowledge the sacrifice of Australian servicemen and the other in gratitude to the Nation for 'their gracious reception to the resettlement of the Vietnamese boat people in Australia'

In a multi-cultural Australia, this ceremony is significant and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum is the appropriate place for it to be conducted.

Following that ceremony and in the Garden of Reflection, the RAAF Sub Branch are to lay and unveil their plaque dedicated to RAAF Servicemen who died and served in Vietnam.

On permanent display, commencing that day is one of the world's best collection of medals from the Republic of Vietnam (our era). These have been collected over some years on the Museum's behalf and it is perhaps the best collection in Australia.

Also new to us and in time for the busy Christmas period, is a simulator which can provide a choice of 12 'rides' including a Helicopter and a Harrier Jump Jet. In years to come we hope to have simulators specific to the aircraft / vehicles we have on display. This is expected increase our cash flow.

Museum cash flow is benefiting from a vast amount of badges and stock given to us from Medal Port Welfare Centre following the death of Don Palmer who was the stalwart of that Centre. Their kind gesture means that we now have in stock almost every badge, sticker or book that you could want that is relevant to our era.

To maintain a healthy cash flow, the Museum staff work to be a major tourist attraction within the tourism industry. However, they never forget to retain the Museum as the 'Spiritual Home of all Vietnam Veterans'.

It is handy to be able to find literature that expresses the Museum's purpose accurately. In its Code of Ethics (2004), the International Council of Museums describes a museum as:

**"A non-profit making, permanent institution, in the service of society and of its development which is open to the public, acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, the tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment."**

This is exactly what the Museum stands for. With veteran and public support, this important National Museum will continue to progressively move forward and we hope that you as veterans, your families and visiting members of the public, will be proud of it and a part of its future.

## UNSUNG

A coffee table book of powerful images and words

Australian International Award winning photojournalist, Sony Ambassador and Yahoo 7 featured photographer Steve Morenos in conjunction with the Australian Vietnam Veterans Association is producing a book featuring the Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Would you like to be a one of the 60 Vietnam Veteran participants in joining us in the making of Australian history? What would you like to say?

The project 'UNSUNG' is inspired by the untold stories of the Australian Vietnam Veterans - stories of wisdom, courage, humour, life, love, grief, conflict, loss and much more.

For more information please contact Steve on mobile 0418 833 336 or email [steve@stevemorenos.com](mailto:steve@stevemorenos.com) by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

[www.stevemorenos.com](http://www.stevemorenos.com)



## Gold Coast War Museum



42 John Rogers Rd (off the Springbrook Rd.)

Mudgeeraba 4213

Open 7 days a Week

9am to 4 pm

Phone (07) 55305222

Adults \$10 Children/Pensioners \$5

**MAJOR MAURICE 'MORRIE' STANLEY,  
MBE (Retired):  
Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA)  
Forward Observer (FO)  
161 Battery, 16th Field Regiment RNZA  
attached to D Company, 6RAR at Long Tan**



Morrie Stanley was born in March 1931 in Christchurch, New Zealand, but he grew up in Napier on the east coast of the North Island. Morrie's years at high school—until the end of 1948—were quite pleasant. He favoured science, technical subjects and mathematics and does not recall getting the cane very often. Out of the classroom he was in the second rugby team, captain of the shooting team, prefect and RSM of the school cadet unit.

In 1949 Morrie attended a selection course for entry to the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He heard nothing of the matter until just before Christmas, after he had already graduated as a sapper in the Royal New Zealand Engineers. In typical style he received an order to go to the Orderly Room, where the OC had something to tell him—what had he done now? Consequently, he felt quite relieved when told that on returning from his Christmas holiday break he should be ready to go to Australia for the four-year course at RMC with nine other New Zealanders. They were all about nineteen years old when we sailed on the MV Wanganella to Sydney.

Some of you may know something of the initiation ceremony that was conducted at RMC in those days. It is sufficient here to say that the trial was strenuous and stressful. When he was instructed to sing 'Waltzing Matilda' during the ordeal, he took exception and persisted in singing 'Maori Battalion', a well-known New Zealand marching song. After all, how could he be expected to know the words of an Australian song? No doubt he received some attention for his impudence. It was during his time at RMC that he met his wife Alva. While at RMC he still wanted to be an engineer, and in his third year the academic work was focused in that direction. In his final year, however, he was transferred to specialise in artillery and graduated into the Royal New Zealand Artillery. Incidentally, one of the infantry instructors at RMC in his time was George Chinn. Would you believe

it! When he was attached to 6RAR in 1966 George Chinn was the RSM, and he was in one of the helicopters that resupplied D Company with ammunition during the Battle of Long Tan. From 1953 until 1966 Morrie served in numerous regimental and training postings.

In January 1966 he received a telephone call in his Hamilton office from Army HQ inviting him to get ready to go to Vietnam at short notice because another officer from the first contingent had to return to New Zealand. Initially, that meant a rushed job to get himself inoculated as protection from all manner of dread diseases.

Although he had been in Papakura with 16 Field Regiment two years earlier, he was not in the original 161 Battery when they began training for Vietnam. They deployed to Bien Hoa near Saigon in mid-1965. Because he knew most of the men in the battery very well, having worked with them for some time, Morrie felt as if he was just re-joining the old team when he arrived at Bien Hoa as the replacement Battery Captain.

At that stage, the battery was in direct support of 1RAR, and they were attached to 173 Airborne Brigade (Separate).

1RAR was engaged in Operation Denver in April, near Song Be, about a hundred kilometres north of Saigon and 161 Battery had moved in by air from Bien Hoa in support of the operation. During this period the Battery Commander returned to New Zealand for a short period and Morrie took over his role. After walking with Battalion HQ and wondering what was going to happen next and what he should do about it, Morrie was relieved to find that he was not personally involved in any contacts. When Morrie returned to the nearby battery area he found it necessary to cool down a situation which arose when a padre who was learning how to play his guitar commenced playing at last light 'Stand To'. An irate (large) gunner had told the guitarist what he could do with his instrument and was about to assist him. At about the same time, unfortunately, a soldier suffered a nervous breakdown and had to be extracted for medical attention and eventual return home.

Near the end of April the battery commenced dismantling the base camp at Bien Hoa in readiness for the move to Phuoc Tuy Province to form part of 1ATF. A friend of Morrie, 'Red' Potts, had arrived from New Zealand to take over the position of Battery Captain and a month later, the Battery Commander, Don Kenning, commanded the Task Force set up for the movement of units by road from Bien Hoa to Vung Tau and Nui Dat. The force included 161 Battery RNZA, 105 Battery RAA and several ordnance, transport and police units. Morrie found that rather than moving by road, he was to move by air to Vung Tau and join D Company, 6RAR as their Artillery Forward Artillery Observer (FOO), at the ripe old age of 35 years.

1540hr 18<sup>th</sup> August 1966 D Coy 6 RAR came into contact with an enemy force of VC and NVA' For more than three and a half hours, in the pouring rain amid the shattered trees of a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Morrie Stanley radioed in more than 61 artillery fire missions and corrections in support of the 108 besieged soldiers of D Company 6RAR. Unable to see in the rain and murk exactly where the 3,500+ rounds of high explosive rounds were falling, working entirely by radio communication with the forward platoons and the artillery units back at Nui Dat, from a folded map held in his hand, constantly wiping off the mud and running rainwater, this New Zealand officer was calling in every ounce of his experience and training. His M16 rifle lay unattended next to him in the water despite the repeated reminders of his radio operator, fellow New Zealander Willy Walker to keep it in his hand.

Many, including the Long Tan veterans and military historians credit the skill, professionalism and gallantry of Morrie Stanley in keeping much of the enemy at bay whilst the front line soldiers fought off the foremost attacking waves of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. At critical points during the battle Morrie was directing artillery to within 50 metres of the Australian front line positions. The enemy forces are assumed to number approx. 3500 with something like 2500 either killed or amputees as advised by a Chinese General in 2006.

The Artillery being controlled and directed by Morrie in support of D Company during the battle comprised eighteen 105mm howitzers from 161 Field Battery (New Zealand, 103 Field Battery (Australian), 105 Field Battery (Australian) and six 155mm M109 self-propelled howitzers from 2/35th Howitzer Battalion (US Army).

In Morrie's opinion, his experience in Vietnam made him a better officer. He was more self-confident and had a better understanding of the military and the needs of soldiers in combat. As a result, he really enjoyed his brigade appointment, especially during exercises where they deployed three battalions and all the supporting arms and services. During that period Morrie was fortunate to participate in an exercise in Singapore and northern Malaya for a few months to practise cooperation between British, Australian, Singaporean, Malay and New Zealand units. His role was generally to ensure that the administrative services were operating effectively. Major Maurice Stanley who received his MBE for his actions at Long Tan took his discharge in 1976.

Morrie meet many returned servicemen and when they or anybody else express interest in the Vietnam War, he did not withhold his views or avoid discussion, and he will never be ashamed or embarrassed at having served. His parent unit and the one to which he was attached served with distinction. 161 Fd Battery RNZA was awarded the

United States Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation. Delta Company, 6RAR and his FO Team were awarded the most prestigious United States Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism.

In 1986 Morrie attended the Special Commemorative Parade at Enoggera that marked the twentieth anniversary of the battle. Before he travelled to Brisbane, he had thought deeply about his Delta Company flag and where it would be best placed for the years to come. There was no doubt in his mind that it should return to Australia and he was pleased to present it to the CO 6RAR for preservation and permanent display in the unit museum.

Of all his military experiences, therefore, the one that will always be uppermost in his mind is when he was the Artillery Forward Observer with Delta Company, 6RAR at the Battle of Long Tan, 18 August 1966.

In May 2010, Morrie Stanley along with his former radio operator at Long Tan, fellow New Zealander Willy Walker, were presented with the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) at a surprise service in New Zealand attended by his former Long Tan comrades Harry Smith, Bob Buick and Dave Sabben. In an unprecedented move, both the Australian Government and New Zealand governments fast tracked the offer from Australia of the Australian UCG to Morrie and Willy and within a few hours of receiving the offer, the New Zealand Prime Minister approved it in time for the surprise presentation on Saturday 29th May 2010.

After a short battle with cancer, Morrie Stanley passed away peacefully at his home in Campbell's Bay, New Zealand on 16th September 2010. Morrie is survived by his wife Alva and two sons plus seven grandchildren.

I am very honoured to call myself a fellow gunner and a gentlemen of the Artillery and equally proud to be able to say that I served in the same regiment, 1 FD Regt RAA along with Morrie and am very pleased to have been able to serve on the guns in response to Morrie's excellent and level headed calls for fire support on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1966 during the Battle of Long Tan and to assist in protecting and saving the lives of the majority of D Coy 6 RAR. On the 18<sup>th</sup> august 1966 the guns commenced firing at approx.. 1540 hr. and continued through until approx. 0300hr. 19<sup>th</sup> August in support of this battle.

The majority of this information has been extracted from Morrie's Biography and personal knowledge of the battle from the gun end and other written reports.

John P Smith, OAM, JP (Qual)  
Gun Number Echo Gun  
105 Fd Bty RAA  
I Fd Regt RAA

## FORTY YEARS AGO

By

Martin Newman



From July 1970 until June 1971, I was the Flight Commander, No.35 Caribou Squadron in Vietnam. This is an account of the sorties I flew on New Year's Eve 1970.

On that day, I was programmed for MSN001. That is, we were to be tasked as required. My co-pilot was Group Captain Bruce Martin, the RAAF Commander at Vung Tau. He was a very experienced pilot, but because he was not formally qualified as a Caribou captain, I who was qualified, was the captain. Nevertheless, he flew the aircraft for the whole mission from the left hand first pilot's seat and I, in the right-hand seat, looked on.

One of our first tasks on that Christmas Eve, was to take an aircraft load of newly arrived Australian diggers from Tan Son Nhut, the airfield at Saigon, to the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat, to start their tour in Vietnam. I doubt that this was the most enjoyable journey of their lives, but they had the consolation, rarely available to troops in previous wars, of knowing that they would probably be home by the next Christmas.

After the trip to Nui Dat we were tasked to take two or three cargoes of shells to isolated American fire support bases near the Cambodian border. I was always mildly surprised, when flying into these bases, which were frequently surrounded by North Vietnamese or Viet Cong, to see that instead of the Stars and Stripes Union Flag on the unit flag pole, they often flew the Confederate Rebel Flag. I wonder what the enemy thought about it.

By late morning, we were taking consignments of drums of aviation fuel to an airstrip in the Mekong Delta.

Just after we had landed and were off-loading the last cargoes of that task, a USAF C130 also landed. The front of the aircraft was painted to resemble the face of a Father Christmas, the radar dome being bright red to look like his nose. As soon as the aircraft came to a halt, a group of American nurses jumped out, unloaded a makeshift bar and started serving drinks of all sorts, free of charge. We, of course, had to limit ourselves to a can of coke.

As we were standing around having our drinks, a USAF propaganda aircraft, arrived overhead. These aircraft were equipped with very powerful loudspeakers to broadcast propaganda messages to the enemy on the ground. The aircraft flew round the airfield in circles at low level, which was dangerous because of the possibility of being hit by enemy small arms fire, but instead of the usual propaganda messages, it was playing propaganda of a different kind; namely, 'Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful'.

The whole scene was quite bizarre. It was a strange war.

Bruce Martin and I spent most of the rest of the day taking loads of ammunition and other war supplies to various places in the combat area, until late in the afternoon, when we heard the tasking agency asking over the radio for a crew to take a consignment of Christmas parcels to an American base about sixty miles south of Saigon. One after another the USAF crews were asked to take the task, but declined on the grounds that if they carried it out they would exceed their 'Crew Duty Time'. Crew Duty Time was the maximum number of hours which, ostensibly for safety reasons, we were allowed to fly in one day. Bruce and I had already exceeded it, but after all, it was Christmas, or something like that, so we offered to take the task on.

The flight taking the consignment of Christmas parcels to the American base was uneventful, and I still remember the sight of the large webbing container filled with the brightly coloured parcels where we left it in the aircraft parking area, just off the runway. When we taxied for take off, we felt that we had at least done something in keeping with the Christmas spirit by bringing a little cheer to some lonely American servicemen in what was a God-forsaken spot in the middle of nowhere.

By now it was getting dark, and we had to get back to our own base at Vung Tau. Unfortunately, armies at war don't normally pay much attention to festive seasons, and Vietnam was no exception. It was when night fell, and there were very few allied aircraft flying, that the US Army normally intensified their artillery bombardment of suspected NVA and VC positions. For any allied aircraft which were in the air, Army used to broadcast over the radio the area of the bombardments and the maximum height which the shells would reach. The pilots could then avoid the area concerned or make sure they were above that maximum height.

On the evening of Christmas Eve, 1970, artillery bombardments were taking place all along the Mekong River and its Delta, and that was right across our track back to Vung Tau. As we did not have enough fuel to go round the area of bombardment, the only way of avoiding the artillery fire was to fly above it. This we did. As we flew toward Vung Tau the larger guns went into action.

The radio messages constantly increased the maximum height the shells were reaching, and we kept climbing higher and higher to avoid them. By the time we had reached the safety of the area around Vung Tau, we were flying well above eight thousand feet, approaching the height where we should have been using oxygen. But we didn't have any. We didn't normally fly high enough to need them.

This rather interesting day ended well. Admittedly, there was a nasty cross wind on the main runway at Vung Tau, and we had to make a night landing on the short runway which, because it was over a built-up area, had a steep approach. That was thrill in itself, but Bruce and I felt good. We felt we had at least done something worthwhile. We had been a sort of Father Christmas, even in the middle of a war.

The story doesn't end there. A few days later, I had occasion to go back to the airstrip where we had left the parcels on the side of the runway, and that is where they still were. No one had even bothered to collect them. It was a strange war.

## Stronger Than Grief

By Chaplain Jim Cosgrove

Chaplain at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

Australians are all reeling and many folks are  
feeling

dismayed with all our recent soldiers' deaths  
We farewell a fallen brother then another then another

and its like we need to stop to catch our breath  
While one family is grieving another is receiving  
the news that takes their world to grief and sorrow  
There's lots of fear and tension, you can sense the  
apprehension

as we wonder if there's more bad news tomorrow.  
But the families will tell us the are so proud of their  
fellas

even as they stop to wipe away their tears  
They say they feel inside an intense and burning  
pride  
as they face the nightmare of their deepest fears  
Their courage and belief are even stronger than  
their grief

that their sacrifice is for a worthy cause  
They believe their precious sons, brothers, dads,  
beloved ones,  
have paid the price for freedom on our shores.  
They want to tell their mates to never doubt or hesitate,

to fight this fight against the reign of terror  
An untimely made decision to turn our backs on this  
mission

Would be at this sad time a costly error  
As families deal with grieving they are  
strengthened by believing  
that their soldiers gave their lives for you and me

In the history of their nation there are many  
generations  
whose sacrifice has made our country free.  
And so in this time of grief, please don't falter in belief  
that our Aussie boys are where they need to be  
They've got the guts to fight their wars, keep  
supporting them because  
They need support from their community

This poem was read by Macca on Australia all over  
(ABC Radio) 29/8/10

## THEY WEAR THE RISING SUN

They boarded for Gallipoli with thoughts of home and  
Mum,  
Their families left to wonder at the return of favourite  
sons

And the blood they shed in a land so far is proof of  
what they'd done  
And so became the reason they wear the rising sun

Then later on war came again and the boys were off to  
Lae  
A different foe but wars the same, they fought through  
night and day  
Along that trail of heroic feats they endured the Australian  
way  
And everyone remembers this on every Anzac Day

The call went out a new breed of troops were sent to  
Nui Dat  
From that horrible war and punji sticks there were  
some did not come back  
There's those that remember the terror and mates they  
left behind  
The result of this is seen today as scars upon their mind

So now the world has changed a lot but the battles still  
go on  
Leaving their home in the cause for peace in a place  
they don't belong  
It's a fight for justice and freedom and their courage  
won't be gone  
We pray God speed that they'll come home and keep  
them safe and strong

We're proud of all our Aussie troops in working all as  
one  
Relied upon to do their job until the work is done  
The sacrifice they've made for us and those as yet to  
come  
It's all in the cause of freedom, they wear the rising  
sun.

Ex SGT PJ Scott



## Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC)

we pay a visit.

Al Wood ex-4RAR Tracker Plt. SV1

Having just recently returned from a 3 week's holiday in Britain with my wife Barbara, I reflected on the highlights of our time abroad. Undoubtedly, one of our most enriching experiences was an invitation while in London for a few days, to call at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the home for over 300 years, of aged pensioners of the British Army. ([www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk](http://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk)) We've all seen images over the years, of these old warriors dressed in their scarlet tunics, wearing black tricorn hats, & bedecked in their medals. Run along military lines, the 300 residents are formed into companies, & receive all food & lodging, entertainment, & medical needs, for the rest of their lives. For this, they forgo their military pensions, & are much respected in the general community.

Throughout its distinguished & long history, the RHC has only ever permitted male veteran residents, but just in the last several years, it's been opened-up to both sexes, & not without mixed reaction from residents there. Three women veterans so far, now call the RHC their home. They will want for nothing.

Several years back, when we were last in London, we made acquaintance with an old soldier resident there, a former Sgt. Of the Black Watch, who said that when next we came, to have drinks in their bar, followed by lunch in the "Great Hall". So here we were, back again. Getting in contact with him in advance, David had asked us to be at the gate at 10:30am, for a church service in their historic chapel commencing at 11am. "Why so early", I thought. We were soon to find out. Getting to these gates right on time off the bus that Sunday morning 4 July, he was waiting there, sitting in the sun just inside, & ushered us in, & just in time to view the 'church parade' that morning, this week's in honour of the Royal Veterinary Corp. The ceremony was to last approx. 20 mins, with an inspection of the guard of honour & a select group of veterans, followed by a march-past. Though most of them now in their 80's & 90's, these old warriors still stepped-out proudly.

Then off & into the nearby chapel, a small & beautiful one built in the late 1600's by Sir Christopher Wren, for the 1 hour Sunday service, accompanied by banner carriers & the chapel choir. As this is also the parish church for the surrounding area, there were many civilians also attending.

The service closed with the singing of two verses of "God Save the Queen". "Nothing to feel uncomfortable about here" I thought. After all, our oath was taken to Her Majesty the Queen, way back in 1967 when I joined-up.

When this was at an end, & after bidding our goodbye to the chaplain Dick Whittington (no pun intended) at the exit, we moved on to a pre-arranged meeting with our friend David, already in the bar, for a pre-lunch pint or two. He was standing guard over my Guinness already waiting on the table, along with Barbara's "G&T".

Having noted on a previous occasion that the bar was resplendent with plaques around its walls, I was this time fully armed. In advance of this visit, I had asked Kathy & Ron Coxon of the VVAA in Hobart, if I could purchase a plaque from them, to present to the RHC on this visit. To my surprise, they offered me one at no cost, for which I am most grateful. To it, I added the badge of the RAR & a small ICB, making it of even more significance to me, & packed it to Britain.

Over a drink, I asked David, who I could present it to? He called the bar sect. over, which proved just a little embarrassing, as I was wearing jeans that day, (contrary to my wife's sound advice) along with a tie & jacket, but jeans are normally not permitted in the bar on Sundays. However, me being a colonial I suppose, an exception was made in my case. Just so happened, that at that time, the Adjutant : Brigadier David Radcliffe, came in with his XO Rupert Lucas, & sat down a few tables along, to chat with some of the veterans. The plaque was by now doing the rounds of the tables at that time, passing through many hands, & finally came into the hands of Brig. Radcliffe. Glancing in that direction, I noted we were being pointed-out. "Oh dear", I thought. "It must be my jeans". I'm for it now. He walked over, introduced himself to Barbara & me, & sat down for 5-10 mins chat with us, soon followed by his "off-sider", Lt-Col. Lucas. The Adjutant was more than happy to accept the plaque on behalf of the RHC, & said he would pass it on to his CO the following day.

Then to the Great Hall for Sunday lunch we went, a roast for me - *of course*. Another great architectural gem by Christopher Wren, festooned with portraits hanging high from the walls, & large plaques all around these walls, commemorating campaigns & battles of the past 3 centuries. I never before have dined in such an opulent setting.

We were finished & out by 2pm, & were permitted to take a brief look at David's quarters at the end of a long gallery wing of enclosed cubicles, soon to be enlarged & fitted each with private ablutions. It was now "quiet time" for these elderly veterans, before the grounds were opened to the general public's access for the Sunday afternoon. We walked with David in his motorised-chair back to the gates & bid our fond good-byes 'til next time. As we left the precinct of this historic quarter dripping with military history, the thought crossed my mind,. "if these walls could only speak" !

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**Any change of address is to be sent to  
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**Winter 2011 Debrief**

All articles, poems, photos, Accommodations,  
 campsites etc for the next edition of Debrief to:  
 Debrief Sec. Warwick Luttrell.  
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## TASMANIA

The Tasmania Branch would like to express its gratitude that after a seemingly endless debate on the compilation, editing, printing and distribution of the DEBRIEF magazine, a solution has been struck that by all accounts is working well. Appointment of the DEBRIEF Committee to oversee our magazine has successfully distributed the workload to a manageable level for all concerned.

A particular area of concern in Tasmania at the moment is the shrinking lists of Pension/Welfare Officers. It is proving difficult to recruit new blood into those areas as age begins to take its toll on many of the stalwarts from bygone years. The field of welfare is becoming increasingly important among an aging veteran population within the State and hopefully we will start to see representatives of the younger veterans community start to step up to the plate in the near future.

Public Housing for veterans remains an issue within Tasmania despite several representations being made to the State Government over the past twelve months. The silence from that quarter has been deafening. On Tuesday 19 October, the issue moved up a notch with a motion being moved by the State Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs in the House of Assembly questioning why the government has difficulty in even acknowledging receipt of letters let alone answering them and addressing the issue. The Minister's response was disappointing with more effort spent in avoiding directly addressing the issues government has chosen to ignore for the past twelve months.

In July at the inaugural meeting of the VVCS regional consultative forum, I proposed that at our next meeting scheduled for November, we closely examine the merits of initiating a travelling 'road show' of Pension – Welfare – and VVCS representatives to visit regional areas within the State with a view to establishing contact with the non aligned veteran population. I thank Bob Elworthy for planting that seed in my mind. The suggestion was received favourably and will be discussed at length on November 10 when the RCF next meets.

Vietnam Veterans Day throughout Tasmania was well attended at all venues despite inclement weather marring the occasion for the first time in many years. Planning and organisation for Vietnam Veterans Day 2011 (RAN IN VIETNAM) is well underway, and it is immensely pleasing to see the interest and support for this event from across all the RAN units involved. I would like to stress though that while the focus will be on the Role of the RAN, the organisers are keen to ensure that veterans from both the Army and the RAAF are also encouraged and expected to be representative at all the events being planned. Vietnam involved all

three service arms.

Publicity for the event has been wide and varied but the most efficient method is proving to be word of mouth. To all those who have registered or are planning to register, pass the word around and get as many to come along as you can.

Once the final program of events to be held over the three days is finalised, all details including accommodation and flight offers will be circulated electronically to those who have already registered to attend, well as being posted onto the VVAA National website.

Commencing in the first quarter of 2011, Sharon Briggs, The Senior Client Contact Officer of D.V.A. Hobart Office, will commence holding a series of information seminars throughout Tasmania on the many different Grants made available through DVA, their purposes and application procedures. The seminars are open to all E.S.Os and like minded veteran organisations. Further information may be obtained from the State President as it becomes available, and I encourage all interested parties to take this opportunity to support the seminars when they come to your particular district.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and everyone for their thoughts and support in July following the death of my father. That gesture makes me even more proud to be a member of the VVAA family.

As Christmas rapidly approaches I would like to take this opportunity of thanking each and everyone at both national and state for ensuring that 2010 has been a challenging and productive year with the co-operative and consultative approach realising the outcomes we all seek on behalf of all veterans. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to working towards an equally productive year in 2011.

Warwick Luttrell

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### **Finding assistance:**

#### **Phone numbers:**

Dept of Veteran Affairs	
Metropolitan area	133 254
Callers from regional Australia	1800 555 254
Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service	1800 011 046
Lifeline	131 114
Suicide Helpline	1300 651 251
Carers counselling Line	1800 007 332

#### **Web sites**

www.dva.gov.au	
VVCS	www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs
Beyond Blue	www.beyondblue.org.au

## THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY IN VIETNAM

The Royal Australian Navy's role in the Vietnam War is sometimes overlooked by comparison with the Army's larger numerical involvement. As well as serving in ships deployed to Vietnam naval personnel served in clearance diving teams, the Navy helicopter flight, in logistic support roles and in medical teams.

Australian destroyers sailed nearly 400,000 miles in the course of the war and fired more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

The converted aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney carried about 16,000 Australian troops as the famed "Vung Tau Ferry"

Australian clearance divers carried out several thousand ship searches looking for bombs and other explosive devices.

A total of eight officers and sailors of the RAN were killed and nearly 50 injured in the 10 years of our navy's involvement in hostilities

As the overall role of Australia's military increased in Vietnam so did the involvement of the RAN. In May 1966 the RAN'S underwater Clearance Diving Team 1 spent a short period in Vietnam working with USN divers. Almost a year later the Australian government announced the deployment of CDT 3 arrived in Vietnam on February 6 1967. CDT 3 was primarily employed in clearing rivers and shipping channels of mines and booby traps laid by the Viet Cong. This normally dangerous task was made especially so by the murky conditions under which the divers had to work. While the clearance divers operated as a distinct unit a number of personnel were attached for short intervals to USN diving teams. Such attachments provided the RAN team with valuable experience and exposure to other operating techniques. Perhaps the most unusual request for assistance received by the RAN divers came from the US Army 36<sup>th</sup> Evacuation hospital, they had just admitted a patient who had eaten some C-4 explosive.

In March 1967, one month after the announcement of the deployment of the diving team to Vietnam, the then minister for the Navy, Mr Don Chipp, announced that the RAN'S newly commissioned guided missile destroyer HMAS Hobart would be deployed to join the US Seventh fleet to support operations off the coast of Vietnam. Hobart departed Sydney on the 7 March 67 and joined the seventh fleet on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Her arrival at the US Naval base Subic Bay began the six monthly rotation of RAN destroyers which was to last until October 1971. During the course of these operations the destroyers fired over 100,000 rounds of ammo in support of military ops and steamed nearly 400,000 miles.

General logistic support to the Australian military forces operating in Vietnam was provided by Sydney,

supported by the merchant ships JEPARIT and BOON-AROO the latter two were initially manned by civilian crews but had to be commissioned into the RAN due to union bans.

Members of Australia's fleet air arm served with the US army's 135<sup>th</sup> assault helicopter company based at Vung Tau and with the RAAF'S 9 squadron. The first contingent of pilots and support personnel arrived in Vietnam on October 16, 1967. Throughout their service in Vietnam members of the RAN fleet air arm provided tactical airlift and gunship support to Australian and allied forces.

Members of the RAN also served at the head quarters Australian Forces Vietnam and as detached medical officers. This second group were RAN doctors who served with 1<sup>st</sup> Field Hospital and US army and navy hospitals. While serving in this capacity the navy doctors were also involved in the Medical Civil Action Program which provided medical support to the local civilian population.

During the 10 years that the RAN was involved in the war, eight officers and sailors were killed and another 46 were either wounded or suffered other injuries. The dedication and professionalism shown by members of the RAN earned the Service the respect of our allies and continued the traditions established by Australian sailors in other wars.

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### **NATIONAL SERVICE COMMEMORATION COIN**

A new fifty-cent commemorative coin acknowledges the service of Australia's National Servicemen.



More than 287,000 Australian men were called up for service in the Army, Navy and Air Force from 1951-1972. Of that number only 19,450 served in Vietnam, all with the Army. The commemorative in a new 50 cent coin, unveiled at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

### Vale

With regret this report starts on a sad note. One of our inaugural members, **Myles Halliday**, passed away after a short illness. Myles was the first Property Member of the Jervis Bay Sub-Branch and was a regular attendee at all of our functions. Myles (Doc) joined the Navy on January 14, 1953 as a boy musician and was discharged January 13, 1968 as a Leading Musician. Myles played in the band at the 1956 Olympics, Myles served on a number of ships, however enjoyed his time serving onboard the three Aircraft Carriers: Vengeance, Sydney and Melbourne. Myles saw service in both Malaya and Vietnam conflicts. In his Navy service Myles had 74 postings or movements between ships and shore depots.

Our sincere condolences go to Pam and family. May Myles rest in peace for evermore.

### Introduction

Rather than banging on about purely local NSW issues I thought that in this edition I might raise a few topical matters which concern the veteran and ex-service community as well as the Australian public. I'd appreciate any feedback to [president@vvaansw.org](mailto:president@vvaansw.org).

### Prosecuting Australian combat troops.

The issue that has caused the most concern within the veteran community in the last few weeks is that of the Director of Military Prosecutions laying charges, including manslaughter, against two Australian commanders and an officer for actions in Afghanistan.

BRIG Lyn McDade occupies a statutory office, independent of military command and politics. Senior military commanders have assured their troops and the public that the accused have and will receive the best available support, but at the same time have shut down responses by serving military personnel.

The immediate response from the veteran community was to begin a petition. While this is an understandable reaction to what the old soldiers, sailors, airmen and women see as a direct threat to our military, I can't recall a petition ever having any effect in real life.

That campaign seems to have petered out into personal attacks on McDade and her not un-expected lack of combat experience! However she's a far tougher nut to crack than the politicians who depend so much on public opinion.

Others have claimed that the charges were nothing more than a pre-emptive move to ensure that our troops cannot be brought before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Is this true or not? How can we tell?

In any event, it highlights the fact that Coalition troops are subject to all the limitations of the Geneva Convention, international human rights (IHR) law and their rules of engagement (ROE), while the Taliban and their allies are not. They consider these conventions merely as exploitable weaknesses. Callous disregard of their co-religionists is just another demonstration of this.

LT GEN Ken Gillespie, Chief of Army and a very distinguished soldier himself, has issued an explanatory email which points out to commanders and RSMs that the charges are now *sub judice* – under consideration by a court - and it is consequently inappropriate to comment or attempt to influence the course of that judgement.

He goes on to point out that the evidence which contributed to the charges being laid is not known, meaning that no-one has complete knowledge of the case and that the commentators are therefore ill-informed. He stresses that there can be no assumption that those charged will actually be found guilty.

It is my fervent hope that the Court Martial will reveal not only the true and complete facts of the fatal engagement, but also the motivations of the Director of Military Prosecutions and the politicians who claim to stand behind our troops.

**Parliamentary debate on Afghanistan.** The dearth of military experience in our elected representatives makes the parliamentary debate somewhat problematical. It's true that you don't have to be a chook in order to sit on the Egg Marketing Board, but you'd like to hope that our politicians actually understand the nature of the topic they are debating.

It was a Liberal government which committed Australian troops to the war in Afghanistan and a markedly different coalition which is undertaking the present assessment. But I am far from confident that our political masters at the time understood completely the nature of that commitment, and even less confident that their replacements are capable of making an accurate assessment of it now.

The debate commenced on the day that I began this article, and I watched that morning as Chris Uhlman, the ABC's political commentator, interviewed Senator Bob Brown. Bob Brown doesn't care about our troops. Bob Brown doesn't care about the Afghans and what happens to them. Bob Brown only cares about the Green agenda and getting Greens re-elected. On the same day, Alexander Downer came out to tell the Australian public that the time for fighting is over and we must engage with the Taliban in diplomatic discussions.

Andrew Wilkie's contribution was emotional but did

not seem to carry much weight with the public or the parliament. In the final analysis the debate accomplished precisely - nothing.

The reading I have done over the last few years - and I work hard to keep in touch with current affairs - tells me that we grossly under-estimate the religious fervour which drives Islamist militants, we under-estimate their capabilities and we over-estimate our ability to cope with them. I am very comfortable to go on record as saying that diplomacy will not settle the war in Afghanistan and that for the Islamists, democracy is not alternative to sharia law or their rabid fundamentalism.

It's difficult for those with our experience not to draw comparisons between Vietnam and Afghanistan. In Vietnam we fought with the US in support of the

corrupt and venal representatives of a failed democracy and against a totalitarian regime which was attempting to subsume it. In Afghanistan..... oh, let's not go there!

**Helicopter, artillery and armour support.** Yet another unresolved issue is the public but now somewhat subdued debate over whether our troops have adequate support by way of helicopters, tanks, mortars and artillery. The talking is over but nothing has changed.

A colleague made the claim after the death of 6 RAR LCPL Jared Mackinney, that effective mortar and close helicopter gunship support would have more quickly defeated the opposing force and saved a needless casualty.

For predictable reasons there has been no further word from the diggers who fought the battle but the generals have gone out of their way to tell the Australian public that the existing support is both adequate and appropriate. A little voice in the back of my head reminds me that similar claims were made in respect of a minefield in Vietnam.

Attitudes are VERY dependent on perspective.

An article (21 Oct 2010) in *The Australian* spoke out against the politicisation of the military who had been "forced" to toe the government's line that their support is adequate. Combining two issues, it also pointed out that the focus of the debate was on training of Afghans but that the elephant in the room was the appalling state of the overall security situation in Oruzgan province.

Oddly though, no-one seems to be speaking out about the shortfalls in the functionality of our

Black Hawk and Tiger helicopters which means they can't be effectively deployed to a war zone.

### **Politicians and Defence chiefs at funerals.**

Am I alone in wondering whether it is appropriate for the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and generals to attend military funerals?

I'm not aware that there has not been any great discussion around this topic, but I served in Malaysia with 8 RAR from late '67 to early '69 when we provided many military funerals for our Vietnam KIAs and I don't seem to recall seeing any of these sorts of folk there.

The nature of war has changed, and the numbers of casualties which western countries suffer and are prepared to suffer are greatly diminished, but I ask myself why do they feel the need to be at those funerals at all?

Some of the broader issues which I've raised in

this article lead me to wonder whether I would want to see those responsible for our involvement in Afghanistan at the funeral of my son or daughter. What do you think?

### **Indexation of DFRB and DFRDB.**

One of the continuing but unifying veteran and ex-Service issues is the indexation of Defence Force Retirement [and Death] Benefits solely by CPI. The Consumer Price Index has been thoroughly discredited as a complete and accurate measure of increases in the cost of living.

The Defence Force Welfare Association and the RSL have been at the forefront of this particular battle support is pretty much universal.

While this doesn't involve those who spent only a short time in the armed forces, it's pleasing to see that these folk generally support the improvement of the indexation measures, and haven't forgotten the nature of military service.

The really good thing of course is that this would then set a precedent for both military MSBS and for Commonwealth public servants who suffer under the same disadvantage.

Hmm – I wonder why they're known as 'civil servants' when they are often neither civil nor servile! Probably for the same reason as dignitaries and distinguished guests who are rarely dignified and often not at all distinguished! On that sad note, I'll finish up.

Clive Mitchell-Taylor –

VVAA NSW President

**All you ever want to know about Vietnam**

This site is very good for research

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>



## Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam.

In 1967 the Government announced that eight Navy pilots and supporting staff would join a United States Army helicopter unit in Vietnam to provide support for allied forces including the 1st Australian Task Force. In addition to this RAN pilots would join 9 Squadron RAAF at Vung Tau.

The first contingent arrived in October 1967, in two groups, two days apart, and consisted of 8 pilots, four observers, four aircrew, twenty-four technical sailors and six other sailors, and was quickly integrated with the 330 personnel of the U S 135th Assault Helicopter Company. They all became an integral part of the Company taking their places according to rank and seniority. As the Company was an Experimental Maintenance Unit, it soon became known as the "EMUS", and we took great delight in inform our American cousins that the Emu is an Australian bird which cannot fly. By the time the 4th Flight was withdrawn in June 1971 Australian pilots and crews had flown a total of 33,724 hours. Our casualty count was three pilots and two aircrew killed and a number wounded.

I was a member of the third contingent of the RANHFV and we arrived in Vietnam on the 10th September 1969.

We were replacing the second contingent, and the first half of their flight met us at Tan Son Nhut airport (Saigon) and quickly gave us as many tips and suggestions as they could in the short time available before boarding their aircraft for home.

The system adopted was to replace 50% of the flight, both ground crew and pilots, one month apart, thus easing the burden on the Company as a whole, and not draining all the experienced personnel at the one time.

It wasn't long before we were loaded onto a Caibou aircraft for the short flight to just outside the perimeter of "Camp Martin Cox", or more commonly known as "Bearcat", from there we were trucked to our Company area. 'Home' for the next year. Being issued with bedding, uniforms (American fatigues) and allocated a room, we quickly unpacked and settled in.

I think it was the next day that we were required to report for work. I, along with two other Australians, Barry Grainger and Dick Markwell had been assigned to the Technical Inspectors (T I ) section of the Company.

The TIs were responsible for inspecting the aircraft prior to, and after routine maintenance and repairs had been carried out to ensure correct procedures were followed and all paper work had been completed. In addition to this we were required to fly to downed aircraft positions to ascertain whether it was safe enough to fly them back to base, carry out emergency repairs in the field, or have them recovered by Chinook helicopter.

With the US Army system of servicing, accounting and structure being completely different to ours it was a very sharp learning curve for all of us. We were fortunate to have two Australian T Is, Murray (Woody) Herrmann and Kevin Camm still there for our first month in the job, and they were able to show us some of the "tricks of the trade".

I can remember being in the "office" (TI shack) one day, only a few days after we arrived, and Woody Herrmann came in to say that a number of choppers had been hit and we had to fly down to see what damage had been done. "Out there"?! I can remember saying, "but there are bad people out there who would take great delight in doing damage to my body". Woody reassured me that it would be alright and I should go to the armoury and draw a weapon. It was then I realised that this was serious. I think I came back with half of the armoury. I must have looked like "Rambo"....minus the muscles, torn shirt and bandana. We all boarded the Maintenance ship and were soon on our way. I had my eyes glued to the altimeter and sighed with relief when we reached 1500 ft....a safe height from small arms.

The Maintenance ship was an Iroquois UH1H, commonly called a "slick". It was the work horse of the Company, used to transport troops and equipment to trouble spots. it was manned by a pilot and co-pilot along with a crew chief and door gunner, both of whom were experienced maintainers and also manned the m60 machine guns which were mounted on either side of the aircraft. In addition it carried an arrangement of tools and some emergency spares.

On the flight down I can remember thinking how beautiful the country looked. Green patch work of paddy fields all around dotted with farmers trying to scratch out their meagre existence while the war raged around them. Passing over the towns and villages people could be seen going about their daily lives. The only reminder from up here that we were in a war zone was the bomb craters which peppered the landscape. Finally we could make out the downed aircraft in the distance. As we circled around the Fire Support Base we could see the choppers parked along a make shift landing zone and crews in defensive positions around it.

Once on the ground Murray and I, with the assistance of the crew chiefs, started inspecting each aircraft to

ascertain how many hits had been sustained. Making notes as we went along we quickly had a comprehensive list of all damage. We then conferred with the Engineering Officer/Pilot who had flown us down and Woody was saying that if we took a section of tail rotor drive shaft out of this one and put it in this one then that one can be flown out. I immediately had a panic attack and thought to myself, I cannot do this, it is all too hard, and I wanted to go back to quiet old 723 Squadron at Nowra, from where we had formed up and completed our basic training. I then inquired about the paper work. Murray answered by saying not to worry as we can fix all of that up when we get back to the base.

The Australian Navy was pedantic about completing paper work after any maintenance or repairs had been carried out and prior to the aircraft being released to fly. As these procedures were strictly adhered at home, Murrays suggestions were going against everything we had been taught. I soon learnt that combat situations changed many things.

After the necessary repairs and reshuffling of components had been completed we still had about two or three aircraft which had to be retrieved by Chinook. As the last one was being hoisted into the air on the underside of the Chinook we boarded our aircraft and headed back to "Bearcat".

Upon arrival the damaged ships were delivered to our maintenance area, where the ground crews went to work and completed all repairs and a thorough examination of all choppers.....including all paper work, a then, and only then, could we release them ready and serviceable for combat duty once more.

I had received a valuable lesson and although very daunting at first we soon became accustomed to handling the unexpected and dealing with each situation as it was presented to us.

**Petty Officer Bill Barlow RANHFV 1969 - 70**

## OLD SAILORS

Old sailors sit  
And chew the fat  
About things that used to be,  
Of the things they've seen'  
The places they've been,  
When they ventured out to sea.

They remembered friends  
From long ago,  
The times they had back then,  
The money they spent,  
The beer they drank,  
In their days as sailing men.

Their lives are lived  
In the days gone by  
With the thoughts that forever last.  
Of the bell bottom blues,  
Round white hats,  
And good times in their past.

They recall long nights  
With the moon so bright  
Far out into the lonely sea.  
The thoughts they had  
As youthful lads,  
When their lives were wild and free.

They know so well  
How their hearts would swell  
When the flag fluttered proud and free.  
The underway pennant  
Such a beautiful sight  
As they plowed through an angry sea.

They talked of the scran  
O! cookie would make  
And the shrill of the bos'n pipe.  
How salt spray would fall  
Like sparks from hell  
When a storm struck in the night.

They remember old shipmates  
Already gone  
Who forever hold a spot in their heart,  
When sailors were bold,  
And friendships would hold,  
Until death ripped them apart.

They speak of nights  
Spent in bawdy houses  
On many a foreign shore,  
Of the beer they'd down  
As gathering around,  
Telling jokes with a busty whore.

Their sailing days  
Are gone away,  
Never again will they cross the brow.  
They have no regrets,  
They know they are blessed,  
For honoring the sacred vow.

Their numbers grow less  
With each passing day  
As the final muster begins,  
There's nothing to lose,  
All have paid their dues,  
And they'll sail with shipmates again.

I've heard them say  
Before getting underway  
That there's still some sailing to do,  
They'll say with a grin that their ship has come in,  
And the Good Lord is commanding the crew.

## VIETNAM VETERANS FRIENDLY RETREATS

### Queensland

**Standown Park:** 91 Radke Road, Kia Ora (halfway between Gympie and Tin Can Bay). Power, water, pets, open fire, showers, toilets, disable facilities, coin laundry, secure off the highway, restful surrounds. No cabins/onsite vans. Discount for veterans.

Contact owners Rod (ex 9RAR) and Pam Elkington (07) 5486 5144 or 0417 718 127

**Cockscomb Veterans Camp:** Located only 23km from Rockhampton, camp kitchen, showers, toilets, no power, \$ 5 donation.

Contact Allan Evans (07) 4934 4941 for directions

**Pandanus Park:** Follow the three red stripes from Mareeba, no facilities, take all and remove your rubbish. This is an isolated retreat in Cape York

**Sapphire Gemfields:** Located behind the post office at the RSL, power, toilets, showers, water, and barbecue. The Club bar is open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. \$5.00 per night  
Contact Peter Johnson (ex 6RAR) 0439 797 175

**Alaric Homestead Veterans Retreat at Quilpie:** The Homestead is fully furnished and managed by a Veteran Duty Officer. Very low nominal fee charged per day. Caravans and camper trailers can be parked at a low daily fee.

Booking essential for the Homestead (not necessary for caravans/campers) Contact the Duty Officer (07) 4656 4740. Email:alaricretreat@activ8.net.au C/O PO Quilpie Qld 4480

**Rocky Creek War Memorial Park:** This camp spot is located at Tolga. The Atherton Shire Council maintains it. There is a 72-hour limit and a gold coin donation. There are toilets, barbecue, and non-potable water. It is a memorial site to all soldiers, who trained on the tablelands before being sent overseas. There is a caretaker on site.

**Zac's Place:** Located on 715 Ross River Road, Kirwan, Townsville, run by VVAA Qld Branch. There is accommodation for up to 11 people with all facilities. Tariff is \$25.00 Accommodation, Breakfast and Light Lunch. Contact manager Mrs Margaret Standfast

Ph. (07) 4773 6980 or A/H (07) 4723 7022

**Homestead Caravan Park:** , located along the Landsborough Highway at Barcaldine Queensland Every day in the late afternoon during winter your hosts Ben and Th h prepare the campfire with damper and billy tea proved e-  
pared the old bush way. Entertainment nightly. They always have something special on for Vietnam Veterans Day 18<sup>th</sup> August. Cabins available.

For Reservations ph. Ben or Thanh on (07) 4651 1308

### South Australia

**Bubblagowrie Vietnam Veterans Village:**

Located between Stansbury and Giles Point Yorktown. Three Veteran Museums - \$5.00 admission. Cabins \$40.00 per night, vans \$8.00 per night. There is power, water, restaurant, and vets memorial plot.

Contact owner Chris Soar (ex vet of Malaya) (08) 8853 4379 or 0419 853 294

**Camp Andrew Russell:** in South Australia is located 35km Sth East of Loxton along the Murray Bridge Road, turn left (or right if coming from Adelaide) onto the m-  
eroo Road, taking the right fork along the road. The e e  
is marked with a cream tractor tyre, just past a road sign.

You will need a key for access and thus need to contact [John Hough](mailto:John.Hough@vvaanvp2@gmail.com) mobile 0409 098 093

### New South Wales

**Raymond Deed Retreat:** This retreat is located at Dareton. There is power, water, pets for \$10.00 per night. Phone the caretakers Col and Robyn Dunkley (03) 5027 4983

**Murraguldrrie Veterans Retreat:** It is situated on the edge of the Murraguldrrie State Forest about forty minute drive from Wagga Wagga, and approximately seven kilometres from the Hume Highway turn off point to Tumbarumba on the Tumbarumba Road. It is only a new enterprise and the group are still working on the venue.

Contact Barbara Davie (02) 6922 3855

### Tasmania

**Tasmania Veterans Retreat:** Offers House accommodation in the remote Central Highlands area, 20 minutes from Bothwell. \$30.00 per double + \$5.00 per extra person. Bookings made through the State RSLA Headquarters, Hobart.(03) 6224 0881

### Western Australia

**Camp Hart:** Camp Hart is a combination of private and crown land vested with the Shire of Kulin. It is situated 3.5 hours south east of Perth, 14kms east of Kulin, Camp Hart is a memorial park located next to Lake Jilakin and in the shadow of Jilakin Rock. It offers shade, ablution block, sheltered barbecue and bush kitchen. Donations are welcome. Open to all ADF Veterans. All inquiries are to be made to Roger Lingard (08) 9527 8000 or 0419 944 627.

### Northern Territory

**Roper Retreat:** Same as for Pandanus Park, take only Photos. Leave no footprints, Located 31 Klm along the Northern territory Highway turn north at Eisey Station sign. 3 Klm along you pass the Manger's House and just 5km you reach the Roper. PH Tony 0401 100 514 or Jimbob 0419 414 209

**Coral House:** Located 107 Bagot Rd, Ludmilla run by VVAA NT, shared kitchen facilities, laundry and bathroom, linen, TV in common room three shared bedrooms providing seven beds. Contact manager Jack Hamilton on Ph. 8948 0050.

**Darwin Retreat:** about 1.5 hours' drive from Darwin is a place called Pioneer Beach, western side of Cox Peninsula. The actual site used by the Vets is back from the beach about 5Km in from the turn off that continues to Mandorah

**Bruce Rock:** situated 254 Km from Perth in the wheat belt. Vets always welcome but each year in November they conduct a Vietnam Veterans activity. Most stay at the Bruce Rock Caravan Park Ph. (08) 9061 1070

For any further information on any of these retreats please visit our website [www.vvaa.org.au](http://www.vvaa.org.au) and follow the prompts  
If members know of any other veteran friendly retreats notify John P Smith, via email [vvaanvp2@gmail.com](mailto:vvaanvp2@gmail.com) with details

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

Our local newsletter, Territory Footprint, has now been published under its new name for a year and the name change has been welcomed by all.

This years' Top End Vietnam Veterans Day was as usual a great success with the Vietnam Veterans contingent being cheered by the many local and interstate people who attended the ceremony. The main speech was given by Commodore David Gwyther, RAN Commander Northern Command.

Membership is the largest ever with membership reaching the 90 mark as we go to print.

Once again in the month of July the Royal Darwin Show was held and members of the association manned information stall within the Defence Recruiting Area to handout information on the Vietnam Veterans Association, DVA and VVCS. This was a great success with many inquires received not only from older veterans but many younger veterans and their families also.

Coral House is running well and continues to have maximum occupancy. Funding is still being used to improve the living conditions of the residents and to assist them to find more permanent accommodation and full time employment. The Standing Operating Procedures have been presented to the State Branch Executive Committee and will be published shortly.

The last of the Rural Associations outdoor Veteran's get-togethers was held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. There were a record number of people attending. Everybody had a good time and enjoyed the meal which was a baked dinner cooked to perfection on one of our two new spits. With the likelihood of an early onset of the wet we moved inside for the last get-together for the year apart from the Christmas Party. Once again this year's monthly BBQ's were a great success. We hosted many Veterans who were visiting the Top End, all of them will remember the hospitality we gave them and will hopefully return on their next visit.

Fund raising has been excellent this year, with members backing up each week selling raffle tickets at the various locations around Top End and working the BBQ's at Bunning's and other sites.

The State President and the Rural Sub Branch President accepted the challenge of being in a veteran big BBQ cook off against 6 other teams. The teams consisted of veterans and current members of the Defence Force. The event was staged at the Darwin North RSL club to celebrate veterans' health week. Chef Richard Sager was the MC. It was well run and organised by

the Dept. of Veteran Affairs. The teams had no idea of what they were to cook and the recipes were only issued at the commencement of the cooking. The ingredients were placed on the teams tables prior to the event, similar to Master Chef on TV. The recipe for our boys was a Kangaroo salad and the look on their faces was a joy to behold. We all enjoyed a great afternoon with many Vietnam Veteran's and supporters in attendance. After they had finished cooking all the spectators were required to taste the teams finished product and to vote on which was the best. At the end of the day all votes were counted and the Vietnam Veterans' team run out the winners. Not only were they surprised but their wives were too. (Article by Gloria Hill)

A number of our members have also participated in the VVCS Heart Health Program and has one member said "I used to think my get up and go, got up and went, but after participating in this program I feel better and am much healthy". So if you think you need to improve your health there is still time to join others in this program.

Since April 2010 our Pension and Welfare Officers, have completed the following work.

Pensions:	
Interviews	67
Pensions lodged	2
Pensions finalised	2
Hospital visits	2
VRB reviews lodged	3
VRB decisions	2
Welfare related contacts:	10
Hospital visits	4

**D.T.MEREDITH** President

### From 1 RAR TVL:

On completion of MRTF-2 a high quality tour book was produced. This piece of modern history has been on sale or the past months mainly to MRTF-2 personnel however, 1 RAR are now in a position to release the MRTF-2 Book for purchase by all - price ONLY \$10.

The book is A4 Landscape, has a hard cover & contains 254 pages of high quality pictures including general descriptions and task graphics of operations conducted. The full colour photos give an excellent snapshot of the terrain and the people of Uruzgan Province.

The book can be purchased by chq or (cash if paying in person) from 1 RAR, Australia Post postage may be extra.

MRTF-2 BOOKS  
C/O CAPT PEET  
A COY, 1 RAR  
CORAL LINES  
LAVARACK BARRACKS  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4813

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan (Vietnam Veterans Day), which was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2010, despite the inclement weather, was a good day for all and sundry. The unusual small crowd of Veteran participants were thoroughly entertained by Lucky Star and the other entertainers.

We have to give a special thank you to Eblen Subaru for their \$5,000-00 sponsorship, which without it, would have meant a financial loss on the day.

Currently there is review of all ESO operations being conducted by D.V.A. We disagree with their proposal for paid Pension officers working alongside unpaid volunteers. Another point that came out of this review was that Rent and Utilities be paid out of B.E.S.T. funding. It appears that some States are currently undertaking this practice and we feel, what is good for some should be that same for all.

With the current Mental Health situation in this State fragmented, there is a push from this Association to set up an after-hours Supported Accommodation System, to look after Veterans and their families with Supported Accommodation and Clinical Services, which currently does not exist.

All the E.S.O.'s are in unison with a "Fair Go" public awareness campaign, which supports the following:

1. Fair indexation of military veteran's disability pensions because pensions for Service men and women has been losing its value.
2. Fair indexation of military superannuation pensions because unlike age pensions and other welfare and superannuation pensions, the purchasing power of military super is not protected.
3. Certainty in Military Compensation – because ongoing indecision and uncertainty is stressful, unnecessary and unacceptable.
4. Veterans' Health Care: because mental health and residential accommodation for younger Veterans in particular are issues that are increasing in frequency and severity.

Servicemen and women, and those they too often leave behind, are not second class citizens – they deserve a Fair Go!

Pension work is steady, but we need to concentrate on the welfare of our members and their families.

Relationship with both sides of politics, in this state especially is good with the new Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Honourable Jack Snelling MP, who attended our National Council Meeting, held in

Adelaide between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2010, at the Torrens Parade Ground, in the Combined Mess.

On the Federal Government front, with a hung Parliament, due to the result of the resent elections – we cannot negotiate with either side until a clearer outcome eventuates.

Financially the Association is in good health, helped along with a successful badge day appeal on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010. A big thank you to all the helpers on the day, especially the students from Immanuel College.

Membership has been down a little this year from previous years, so please continue to support the Association through your membership and get your mates who may have allowed their membership to lapse to become financial once again.

Remember that helping Veterans and families with Pensions and Welfare is the grass roots of our existence, and we will never lose sight of that.

Michael Benyk JP  
State President

### TWO DIFFERENT DOCTORS SURGERIES

*Boy, if this doesn't hit the nail on the head, I don't know what does!*

*Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.*

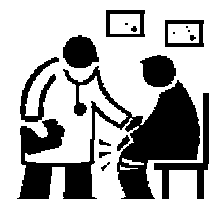
*The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.*

*The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.*

*Why the different treatment for the two patients?*

*The FIRST is a Golden Retriever.*

*The SECOND is a Pensioner.*



## ACT

New growth on Canberra's trees signals the end of what passes for winter here in the National Capital and despite the weather the ACT branch continues to deal with the health, welfare and well being of our people.

Just ten weeks ago we witnessed a most moving Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorative service at the National Australian Vietnam Forces Memorial on ANZAC Parade.

A key element of this service was the unveiling by family members of the final two "Home at Last" plaques at our Memorial.

These plaques are on the MIA seat of FLG OFF Michael Herbert and PLT OFF Robert Carver, the crew of Canberra bomber, call sign *Magpie Nine One*, that failed to return from a bombing mission, 03 Nov 1970. Their remains were recovered from where their aircraft crashed in Quang Nam province and returned to Australia 01 Sep 2009.

These unveilings, witnessed by a congregation some 450 strong including more than 100 Vietnam Veterans from 2SQN RAAF, Mike Herbert and Bob Carver's Vietnam unit, finalized the Operation Aussies Home project that saw all six Australian MIAs found and returned to Australia.

A RAAF F111 strike aircraft over flew the service during the unveilings. The time on target was perfect.

Ms Quentin Bryce, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia was the principal guest at the service and was accompanied by Mr Michael Bryce.

Her Excellency and Mr Bryce were joined by AM Mark Binskin, who attended in his own right as Chief of Air Force as well as representing CDF, ACM Angus Houston, and the remainder of the official party and Herbert and Carver family members, to inspect the newly unveiled plaques after the service concluded

The Governor General and Mr Bryce then spent more than half an hour mingling with the Vietnam Veterans and their families. Among these was entertainer Sylvia Raye who travelled from Sydney for the service and was a guest of the organisers. Sylvia was part of an entertainment troop, in Phan Rang, and watched the Canberra Bomber take off on the fateful mission with Herbert and Carver on board. Sylvia had met the boys during her tour and was pleased to be able to talk to their families on Vietnam Veterans Day.

Keith Payne, VC and Mrs Flo Payne also attended the service as did Jim Burke and Peter Aylett from Operation Aussies Home.

Jack Thurgar, who was a key member of the Army History Unit that played a significant role in searching for our MIAs, attended the service as did RAAF search team members who found Mike Herbert and Bob Carver.

While 18Aug2010 dawned clear, the icy grip of winter was never far away but fortunately the threatening rain held off until just as their Excellencies entered their vehicle.

After the service a good number of the congregation adjourned to the Canberra Services Club for the traditional camaraderie afternoon.

Ten weeks on from that memorable day, it's business as usual for the ACT branch.



*Pictured above ..Sylvia Ray and Ms Quentin Bryce, Governor General at the Vietnam Veterans Day Service.*

At the AGM, members elected a new committee with fresh faces filling key roles in the branch administration. The exceptions are the President who was re-elected unopposed and likewise for the treasurer who also will act as secretary, pro tem.

While the AGM was adjourned until the audited books were ready to be presented to members, there was a very healthy attendance, well in excess of a quorum, at both convenings of the AGM.

Finances remain in a healthy state with a new crop of volunteer fund raisers helping out at a major fund raising last month.

Membership numbers continue to grow in excess of forecasts. A number of these new and returning members have taken an active role in administering the branch. Surely this indicates a healthy state of affairs in the ACT.

Pensions' claims and enquiries for welfare assistance remain as our core business. We are seeing an increasing number of Veterans with service other than Vietnam seeking pension's advice and assistance with welfare issues.

At Council 2010, the ACT presented a number of issues of concern to members. These dealt with the content of national reports, a briefing on the e-health programme, a change to the structure of the heart health programme, travel concessions, an issue with Home Medicine Reviews, the illegal possession of war medals, ANZAC Parade facilities, a more open reporting on the merchandise account management and a clarification on cost sharing for travel to national meetings. Generally, we had a most satisfactory response to these initiatives.

Following the Federal election, the ACT has two new members of the House of Representatives. One is the daughter-in-law of a Vietnam Veteran. While it is with a heavy heart that we farewell the retiring members, Annette Ellis and Bob McMullen, we wish them well in their retirements and are assured that their support for our people will continue.

Soon we will farewell another stalwart supporter of our local Veteran community when His Excellency, Dr John Larkindale, the New Zealand High Commissioner and Phillipa return to New Zealand next month. We

look forward to welcoming their replacements from across the "ditch".

The 12<sup>th</sup> of November will see ACT members join others from the local ex-service community to plant "Lone Pine" pines in a commemorative grove in the Canberra Arboretum. This Arboretum will grow to be yet another major attraction in your National Capital and the VVAA ACT will have been there at the beginning.

While the ACT never really hibernates in winter, we are all too soon gearing up for the festive season and the arrival of 2011. No doubt the New Year will bring with it to the National Capital many challenges, but hopefully only of the type that involves the health, welfare and well being of Veterans and their families.

Pete Ryan BA LLB, ACT President.

Issues presented by the ACT Branch at the 2010 Adelaide Council meeting were discussed in general terms only as statutory requirements for inclusion on the national agenda had not been complied with. Any conclusions drawn on the outcomes of those discussions are the sole opinion of the ACT and may not accurately reflect the general mood of Council.

### **HELP NEEDED – IDENTIFYING VIETNAMESE MIA**

While the Vietnamese Government and Armed Forces were helping Australian veterans to find, identify and repatriate our Australian MIAs, Dr Bob Hall (ex-8 RAR) and his research team from UNSW@ADFA were identifying from our military records the burial sites of some 3,700 VC/PAVN Killed in Action against Australian troops, linking grid references of IATF contacts in which a VC/PAVN soldier was killed, to Google Earth maps.

In March this year, Bob took his team's research to Vietnam where the Vietnamese government and veteran organisations were delighted to see and test the proof of concept and they've established strong links with Bob's team. The team seeks your assistance in taking the next step - helping the Vietnamese to identify by name those KIA so their families will gain the

closure that has been so important to us.

We don't imagine that they'll be recovering the remains, but the comfort for the NOK is in knowing where their loved ones are buried.

More information and a feedback form are at <http://www.vvaansw.org/VMIA.html> and you can check out Bob Hall's bio [here](#).



### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY HELICOPTER FLIGHT VIETNAM 1967-1971

Terry Brooks was a Leading Seaman (Underwater Control) who changed his rating to become a Leading Seaman (Aircrew) flying in Wessex Helicopters as a sonar operator and Iroquois Helicopters.

In August of 1967, Terry along with 49 other's—Pilot's; Observers; Maintenance personnel a Cook; Steward; Writer and Sick-bay Attendant were all informed that they were to join what was termed an Experimental Military Unit (EMU), a full integration between what was now the first RAN Helicopter Flight (Vietnam) and the 135th United States Army, Assault Helicopter Company in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Terry was always cheerful and had a quick witty sense of humour so much that one early morning while awaiting the arrival of the CO and Senior Pilot the level of noise in the room was growing, so Terry boldly walked up to the front of the room calling for "Quiet", when he had achieved this he then said "Thanks for that; I've got a hell of a headache" and went back to his seat, we all knew we had what all units like this need, a "joker".

Terry was assigned as a door gunner on gun-ship's upon his arrival in Vietnam (Taipan's), he flew 880 actual hours of combat flying in eleven months; losing several very close friend's in that time. This is Terry's story told in two poems, with a little story to end.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August Vietnam Veterans, family and friends gathered at the Vietnam Memorial, in Kings Park for the 2010 Vietnam Veterans Day Service. The 2010 Service was dedicated to the RAAF, to acknowledge the Air Force contribution in support of the Australian forces in Vietnam.

The Reading was delivered by Group Captain Jeanie Harrison ARRC. RAAF Nurse, during the Vietnam War. The Memorial Day Address was delivered by Wing Commander Wayne Parsons, who flew Medivac flights from Vietnam to Australia, prior to serving as a 9 Squadron helicopter pilot.

Following the Kings Park Service, Anzac Cottage was opened, with the Westralian Great War Living History Association, in Vietnam era kit, mounting a display of weapons, communication and other equipment from the Vietnam conflict.

At 8.00am on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, a group of Veterans gathered at the Perth War Cemetery to visit the grave sites of 39 of the 52 Western Australian soldiers, killed in Vietnam and laid to rest in within the precinct of the War Cemetery and the adjoining Karrakatta Cemetery. The Mandurah Murray Veterans Group held their Vietnam Veterans Day Service at 11.00am, with Veterans from Perth, Mandurah and Country regions attending.

In September a change of venue for the General meeting was made, using the Officers Mess at the Army Museum, Fremantle. I believe this to be a positive move, to a more spacious meeting place, than Anzac Cottage for these meetings. While not immediately successful, in the future I expect that more members will support these meetings.

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November to the 7<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to the Bush Reunion will be held at Bruce Rock. I hope to be able to include a brief report on this event, elsewhere in this Debrief edition.

The V.V.A.A. W.A. will be represented at a number of Remembrance Day Services in Perth. To coincide with Remembrance Day, Anzac Cottage will be opened to the public on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

A members family Xmas Social gathering will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, in the outdoor BBQ area, at the Fremantle Army Museum. The BBQ/Picnic, will commence at 12.00am, it will be a BYO day, all members are invited to attend. Further information will be available on the web site and in the State newsletter

Richard Williams.  
State President.

## V V C S - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

### Group programs

#### What are VVCS group programs?

VVCS group programs aim to improve the quality of life of veterans and their families and complement counselling and other services that promote recovery through prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

All group programs are provided at no cost to eligible participants.

VVCS Group programs can:

- Help improve your physical health – Try [Heart Health](#)
- Develop your quality of life – Try [Residential Lifestyle](#)
- Help with transition from the ADF – Try [Stepping Out](#)
- Help with emotional regulation – Try [Doing Anger Differently](#), [Beating the Blues](#) or [Mastering Anxiety](#)
- Help you get a better nights sleep – Try [Sleeping Better](#)
- Be in charge of your alcohol intake – Try [Changing the Mix](#)
- Improve your relationships – Try [Building Better Relationships](#)
- Help you take care of your mates – Try [Operation Life](#)
- VVCS offers programs specifically for [partners](#)

#### Program structure and availability

The content and duration of group programs may vary and be delivered in different formats (1/2 day, 1-day, 2-days or 2-3 hour sessions over a period of weeks). Short programs generally have larger numbers and cover information and awareness about the topic, whereas, longer programs have smaller numbers and give participants the opportunity to learn and practice new skills with the support of other group members.

Every effort is made to ensure advertised groups are run, however, a minimum number of participants are needed to make the group viable. We encourage you to let other veterans, peacekeepers and their families know about VVCS programs.

#### How do I register for a program?

##### To register by phone

Contact VVCS by calling 1800 011 046.

Any articles, poems, stories, correspondence etc re Debrief to:

Debrief Sec. Warwick Luttrell.

Email: [vvaataspres@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:vvaataspres@aussiebroadband.com.au)

Or Editor Kath Coxon:

Email: [rkcoxon@netspace.net.au](mailto:rkcoxon@netspace.net.au)

## NEW RULES FOR THE GAME OF SOLDIERING

*George Mansford © October 2010*

Oh for the days when the CO was God and enforced the law  
A proven system that worked in both peace and war  
There were times when God stuffed up and got it wrong  
But justice was seen to be done despite soldier's alibi and song

In training, recruits were required to act quickly and bold

Cos in war, its kill or be killed, they were constantly told

If there is an enemy seemingly dead then give him a prod

These were some of golden rules taught by the disciples of God

Soldiering has never been easy and that will always be  
But gawd, when Pollys get involved and change the rules

And timid civilians in legal cloaks decide right from wrong

When not so long ago the accused would be given a gong

There is no doubt the digger is between a rock and a hard place

If he refuses to go, it's a court martial he will certainly face

And if he fights, there's legal strife if he hesitates or is too slow

Yet shooting to save a mate could mean to court martial he will go

It seems common sense, trust and the old rules are no more

Stuff the diggers' survival; its been thrown out the political door

Cos those who have never been on ops which often can be hell

Insist on written Queensbury rules or else they ring the bell

Soldiers who kick a corpse just to make sure as they were trained

Now face court-martial for ignoring rules of the new game

Who cares about fear, moving shadows, and a split second to act?

Nah, soldiers must think twice or else they could be on the legal rack

Politicians started the new game and a PM sounded the call

But now it's weary soldiers at the sharp end caught holding the ball

Safe and secure in another world, legal referees debate rules of the game

Can we have back the old days when soldiers thought Oz was sane?

And another point while before I have a rest

The Pollys quite rightly claim our Army is the best  
Don't they understand that's not because of magic pills taken each night

But tough training, sound leadership and realistic rules for when they fight

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE BROTHERHOOD

No matter what war, soldiering can be Spartan and grim  
Enduring hardships with him, him and him  
Him being Blue, Jed, Snow, Gazza, Moff and Bill  
And other wonderful bastards who trudged from hill to hill  
Didn't matter the genes, black, white or in between  
Micks, Proddys, Atheists; even those who voted green  
What ever your origins; the old world, bush or big smoke  
If you wore the proud cloth, you were one of the blokes

You huddled together shivering in icy rain

Even shared spare socks, again and again

The last of water or a rusty tin of meat for a stew

Not forgetting risks and dangers more than a few

How often did you swap letters as well as dreams too?

Caring and protecting each other and showing new blokes how

Holding a dying mates hand or cooling a fevered brow

It wasn't the Queen or Canberra suits that made you fight

The reasons were the mates beside you, by day and by night

What ever the odds, more often than not, you stood fast

And when it seemed a few of your mob couldn't last

There were some who thought God had forgotten for others

Yet his greatest gift was that he had made all of you brothers

That helping hand or comforting word, a shared smoke and tea

A wag who cracked a joke and tension gone while mirth ran free

And so the question often asked is why such mateship never dies?

Well, I guess you have to be one of the mob to understand why

**George Mansford © August 2010**

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Isn't the english language interesting?

A. Did you know that the word "race car" spelled backward still spells "race car"?

B. Did you know that "eat" is the only word that if you take the 1st letter and move it to the last, it spells its past tense "ate"?

## E-Health, what it is and how you will benefit

From the NEHTA - National E-Health Transition Authority web-site

E-health is the electronic collection, management, use, storage and sharing of healthcare information instead of using paper records. One of the key foundations for a national approach to e-health will be a standard process across the health sector to accurately identify everybody involved in a healthcare transaction. This includes the person receiving healthcare, the person providing healthcare, and the place where the care is given.

E-health will greatly enhance both the quality and timeliness of healthcare information, delivering substantial benefits to healthcare consumers, healthcare providers and the Australian health sector as a whole. Australian governments are committed to implementing e-health around existing electronic health initiatives to transform the way information is used to plan, ‘

manage and deliver healthcare services. NEHTA is the lead organisation supporting the national vision for e-health in Australia.

A national e-health system will ensure that health information is safely and securely stored at all times. The added benefit will be the ability for health care providers to much more accurately identify patients / clients / consumers. It is not unusual to have several people who have the same surname on a hospital ward or in the same medical practice, and even the same first initial or name. The safety that comes with a national Individual Healthcare Identifier Service will be reassuring to both the receivers and providers of health care.

Another benefit of the E-Health system is the recording of medicines in one system. Many hospital admissions of older people can be attributed to mismanagement of medicines. This system will assist with the reduction of hospital admission due to medicines mismanagement.

In mid 2010, the **Healthcare Identifier Service** will come into operation with three different types of healthcare identifiers:

- **Individual Healthcare Identifiers (IHIs)** will be given to all Australian residents and others seeking healthcare in Australia
- **Healthcare Provider Identifiers – Individual (HPI-Is)** will be assigned to healthcare professionals and other health personnel involved in patient care

- **Healthcare Provider Identifiers – Organisation (HPI-Os)** will be assigned to organisations where healthcare is provided.

Australian governments are equally committed to the principles that reflect the strong value Australians place on controlling who has access to their health and other personal information and the circumstances in which that information can be used.

An interview with David Batch, Principal Privacy Officer of NEHTA highlights the seriousness that he attaches to the privacy and security of health information. Through the Healthcare Identifier Service (HIS) – which is to be the backbone of any future electronic health record – every Australian seeking healthcare is to be issued with a unique Individual Health Identifier (IHI) which will be used to identify you in certain healthcare communications. Through the Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) process they have determined that some information that was originally to be assigned to this IHI was actually unnecessary and as a result the IHI will now have only four identifying fields; name, date of birth, address and gender.

### e-Medication Management

Through e-Medication Management prescriptions may be securely transmitted direct from the GP's desktop to the dispensing pharmacy. Medication information is then securely available in a wide range of healthcare settings from hospitals to community health centres and pharmacies. This will result in an improved use of medicines and a reduction of the number of adverse medication events

Major benefits of a nationwide e-Medication Management system include:

#### More appropriate prescriptions

e-Medication Management systems can track what medications an individual is currently taking, and what medications have been prescribed in the past. This ensures that doctors can be confident the prescription they write will work appropriately with the individual's other medications.

#### More efficient dispensing

A pharmacist will no longer have to decipher handwritten prescriptions and will save time in dispensing medications because the required dosage and strength, as well as any other specific information, will all be contained in the electronic prescription.

#### Greater empowerment of patients

Individuals will also have access to details of the medications they are currently taking and all the medication they have been prescribed in the past. This affords a

greater sense of control over their health records.

**Avoid hospitalisation or death due to adverse effects**

As doctors will be aware of all the medications an individual is taking, the opportunity to diagnose adversely affecting medications will be dramatically reduced.

**The e-Medication Management Program**

We will work with healthcare organisations to understand the technologies and processes currently used for e-Medications, and determine what projects are the most effective. Once the most effective solution is established, the e-Medication Management program will create recommendations to bring existing projects in line with national standards and establish a blueprint for future e-Medication Management projects.

Further information may be accessed at

[www.nehta.gov.au](http://www.nehta.gov.au)

Long Tan Medals Presented – Medal for Gallantry (MG) to Major Geoff Kendall (Retd)

This year, on the eve of Vietnam Veterans' Day, the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, invested two awards for actions during the Battle of Long Tan. The Governor-General had previously approved the Government's recommendations for these awards, which arose from reviews of Long Tan awards.

Addressing the ceremony, the Governor-General stated

**DVA Closure times**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will close at 4.45 pm on Thursday 24 December 2010 and will reopen on Monday 3 January 2011 at 8.30am.

Key services will still be available during the shutdown including:

\* **Crisis counselling** - VVCS offers 24-hour crisis counselling through Veterans' Line. This service is available toll free to Veterans of all conflicts, including members of peace operations, and their families - **call 1800 011 046.**

\* **Transport** - if transport is not booked before the shutdown, it should be paid up-front and a reimbursement sought when DVA reopens.

\* **Hospital admissions** - doctors can admit DVA patients into hospital and, if required, request admissions approval when DVA reopens.

Please note that these times are applicable nationally.

Ah, the Irish are so logical!

The Irish Millionaire

Mick, from Dublin, appeared on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and towards the end of the program had already won 500,000 euros.

"You've done very well so far," said Chris Tarrant, the show's presenter, "but for a million euros you've only got one life-line left, phone a friend. Everything is riding on this question. Will you go for it?"

"Sure," said Mick. "I'll have a go!"

"Which of the following birds does NOT build its own nest?"

a) Sparrow b) Thrush, c) Magpie, d) Cuckoo?"

"I haven't got a clue." said Mick, "So I'll use last life-line and phone my friend Paddy back home in Dublin."

Mick called up his mate, and told him the circumstances and repeated the question to him.

"Fookin hell, Mick!" cried Paddy. "Dat's simple it's a cuckoo."

"Are you sure?"

"I'm fookin sure."

Mick hung up the phone and told Chris, "I'll go with cuckoo as my answer."

"Is that your final answer?" asked Chris.

"Dat it is."

There was a long, long pause and then the presenter screamed, "Cuckoo is the correct answer! Mick, you've won 1 million euros!"

The next night, Mick invited Paddy to their local pub to buy him a drink.

"Tell me, Paddy? How in Heaven's name did you know

it was da Cuckoo that doesn't build its own nest?"

"Because he lives in a Fookin clock!"



**Back to the Bush Reunion.  
Bruce Rock, W.A. 2010**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to the Bush Reunion, organised by the Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group, was held from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> on November.

This years reunion was attended by an estimated 5,000 plus veterans, family and friends. The Reunion is considered to be the largest annual gathering of veterans in Australia, other than Anzac Day celebrations



*The march being led by Richard Williams, State President VVAA*

All the weeks usual activities were held, culminating in the Street March and Church Service at St Peter’s Anglican Church, on Saturday afternoon, with the re-lighting of the candle in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Peace Window. As an indication of the importance of this Reunion and Church service, Anglican Bishop Tom Wilmot, travels to Bruce Rock, to participate in the Service.

Saturday concludes with a night of friendship and good behaviour at the Bruce Rock Recreation Ground, with a BBQ and Concert. The main entertainment for the evening was Normie Rowe, with one arm in a sling and still putting on a great performance.

From a humble start in 2001, when it was expected that about 90 people would turn up for the Dedication of the Peace Window, 400 people turned up. The Reunion has grown from what was to have been a one of event in 2001, to become an annual event attracting thousands of Veterans each year.

This year a number of unit reunions are being held in W.A. to coincide with the BTB Reunion, those holding Reunions include HQ 1ATF and 102 RAEME Workshops.



**A Memorial to the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels**, was unveiled and Dedicated at Bruce Rock on Sunday the 7th of November 2010, the Service was attended by approximately 1,000 people.

Guest of Honour was Mr. Faole Bokoi, one of the few surviving Fuzzy Wuzzies, Mr Bokoi was accompanied by his son and carer Saii.



*Mr Bokoi is seen below (almost obscured by his son) laying a wreath*



The building of the Memorial and the Unveiling Service was organized by Mr. John Schnaars, President of the Honouring Indigenous War Graves Inc Group. Following the Unveiling, the Papuan New Guinea Cultural Dance Group, performed a number of traditional PNG dances.



*Bottom left. The oval was home for many who attended the weeks celebrations.  
Bottom right. The shire hall on Saturday morning.*

# A Journey of Remembrance

**Long Tan Day at Standown Park.....WOW**  
 what an amazing time was had by all!

The day started with the Standown Mini Games, co-ordinated by Ex RSM Noel Huish OAM, Ernie Jarvis and Landers Crosby. Kicking off at 9am, there were over 90 of the usually dozy little soldiers participating in the 15 minute segment games of quoits, darts, marbles, golf, balloon racing, tape measure pin pong rolling, disc bowls, croquet, and bouncing ping pong into a billy.

The laughter was infectious and kept up right to the final event which was a sausage balloon race for everyone.

After such an unusually active morning for most, they went off for lunch and a Nanna Nap before 67 Veterans formed The Mini Games Balloon Race Line Up up at the front gate to march, lead by Terry Grigson from Perth.

The Veteran's have started a tradition that will only snowball, as this is more than double the number who marched last year and by the number of bookings for next year, it's only going to get bigger.

The service was conducted by New Zealand, Australian Vietnam Veteran, Clarence Ormsby who bestowed the honour of the wearing of the 'Korowai – Cloak of Tears' to Sue Grigson who cares for her husband, Terry who is in a wheelchair. The Korowai Cloak is a traditional New Zealand Maori garment worn by Maori Chiefs and Kuia ( dignified, deserving, women) and invited guests.



The March led by Terry Grigson of Perth

Noel Huish then gave a very interesting and informative overview of the Battle of Long Tan. During the Minutes silence a the sound of a Huey Helicopter taking off rang out through the surrounding trees, which to some Veterans was a bit startling, but to most very memorable.

After the Service, happy hour gave everyone the opportunity to mingle and tell a few yarns. This was followed by a delicious roast dinner prepared by our

regular visiting Army cooks, Keith Abernathy, Paul Reed and Owen Corry and helpers.

After dinner, entertainment was provided by Clarence who sang and hand picked a team of well endowed Veterans to perform the Haka. Maybe this segment of his performance should be left to the Kiwis!

The \$3000 raised through the proceeds of the raffles, dinner and mini games was donated to the Agent Orange Fund of Australia of which Clarence is the World Patron.



The next day, Clarence showed a documentary on Agent Orange which was very informative and also very startling. This was to raise the awareness of the effects Agent Orange has had on so many of our Veterans and how it is now proven to have had follow on effects on our children and grandchildren.

Everyone brought along a plate of food to share for lunch then Clarence announced his Humanitarian Aid CD 'Real Live Hero's Sing for Kids'. He sang a couple of the tracks on it and then had Vic Lanyon and Gary from The Bobkatz also perform for the large crowd.

The CD will be released at Standown Park during a Tribute Concert in May next year.

This was an amazing couple of days where Veterans and friends from all over Australia shared a lot of laughs a few tears and a huge amount of mateship.

**MENS HEALTH PEER EDUCATION**

The latest version of the men's health magazine can be accessed or downloaded at the following link

[http://www.dva.gov.au/health\\_and\\_wellbeing/physical\\_health/mhpe/mag/Pages/vol9no3.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/physical_health/mhpe/mag/Pages/vol9no3.aspx)



**Assisting families and their members experiencing intergenerational impacts from military service to grow stronger and participate socially through networking, support and understanding by providing education, research and advocacy.**

In 2007 the Children & Grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans Network (the Network) was formed to provide understanding through culturally-appropriate social support to families affected by the Vietnam War from dioxins to PTSD.



It gradually grew as word spread and it held several public seminars and lectures on the heritability of PTSD. In August of 2009 the Network held the world's first International Convention for children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans, bringing together people with astoundingly similar stories for the first time.

This convention was live-streamed over the internet to a global audience and hosted many influential and prominent speakers from political, mental health and military fields. The Network is currently planning its next international convention for 2011.

However, word rapidly spread about the effectiveness of the Network and families affected by other military situations enquired about our specialised support who reported highly similar problematic symptoms plaguing their family for several generations. We found the ability for this Network to be heard in the right places was severely restricted due to its structure, scope and vision. Thus the Families After Trauma Foundation (the Foundation) was formed.

The Foundation emerged in 2009 out of a need to formalise the voluntary work of several individuals and families adversely affected by significant life-long and multi-generational psychological trauma caused by military experiences. Much of this work includes high-level research, representation on State and Federal think-tanks, advocacy, welfare and counselling, training and facilitation and conferencing.

Now, a charitable, not-for-profit research, training and support organisation, the Foundation is run by volunteers and families affected by psychological trauma caused by military experiences. As a true Consumer



## Defending The Families That Defend Us

Operated Service, our primary goal is to assist and re-empower other families experiencing the destabilizing effects of military trauma, especially the inherited aspects of this social and personal issue.

The Foundation represents the issues, concerns and needs of many military families affected by the inter-generational impacts of PTSD. We offer culturally appropriate support, understanding, strength, and unity to an extended family of brothers, sisters and cousins all related by experience.

We boast an Advisory Board of high profile, recognised and respected key figures from military and mental health communities. Each provides specialized and specific insight and guidance to optimise the impact and effectiveness of our work.

You can read a full description of our work including a comprehensive description of who we are and what we do, including research, training, courses, peer support, projects, publications, media appearances and promotions, dioxins used in the Vietnam War and their inter-generational genetic impacts, tips and advice for effective parenting of grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans, and the first of many books on the epigenetics of trauma, at our webportal at:

[www.familiesaftertrauma.org](http://www.familiesaftertrauma.org). This site is frequently updated, so make sure you add it to your favourites list and check it regularly.

For those avid Facebook users you can also plug into our online support network at: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=795939777#!/group.php?gid=5335153204>

### Apply for lost medals

Click on the website below and apply for any medals which you may be entitled to and have not yet received.

<http://www.lostmedalsaustralia.com/>

### The Australian War Memorial has recently upgraded its Second World War galleries.

Go to the links below:

YouTube tour of our new galleries at <http://bit.ly/aya4Qo>

<http://www.awm.gov.au/visit/visit-mustsee-second.asp>

## VIETNAM I WAS THERE ~

by Terry Brooks ~ ex R.A.N. R57441

IT WAS 1967 AND I DIDN'T WANT TO GO,  
I WAS "VOLUNTEERED" LIKE OTHERS IN THAT POLITI-  
CIANS' SHOW;  
WHEN I HAD JOINED THE R.A.N. SOME SEVEN YEARS  
AGO  
'T WAS JUST A JOB TO TRAVEL...FOREIGN PLACES SO  
TO GO.  
KITTED OUT IN UNIFORM AND SEVENTEEN YEARS  
OLD,  
THE WORLD WAS ONE BIG OYSTER THAT WAS WHAT I  
HAD BEEN TOLD;  
HONG KONG, JAPAN AND OTHER PORTS IN CLIMATES  
HOT AND COLD,  
GOOD MATES, GOOD FUN, AND TRAVELLING...ON  
THESE I HAD BEEN SOLD.  
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW I FELT TO HEAR MY NAME  
CALLED OUT?  
THIS I SAID, "FAIR DINKUM, MATE..WHAT IS THIS ALL  
ABOUT?  
I DIDN'T JOIN TO FIGHT OR PUT AN ENEMY TO  
ROUT!?"  
THEN "BLOODY 'ELL!" IT DAWNED ON ME..I'M OFF TO  
WAR NO DOUBT.  
OTHER BLOKES WERE ALSO TOLD, I WASN'T ON MY  
OWN,  
AND STOICALLY THEY HID THEIR THOUGHTS THEIR  
FACES WERE LIKE STONE;  
I TOLD MYSELF, "THIS CAN'T BE TRUE, AMIDST THIS  
SAFETY ZONE  
I'M MARRIED AND I'VE GOT ONE KID. THEY CAN'T BE  
LEFT ALONE."  
ONE DIDN'T WHINGE OR WHINE, YOU KNOW, WE  
TOOK IT IN OUR STRIDE...  
I'LL TELL YOU THOUGH MY HEART BEAT FAST..I  
FOUND THAT HARD TO HIDE;  
I SUFFERED FROM ANXIETY FROM FEARFULNESS AND  
PRIDE;  
WE'LL SOON BE THERE..YOU BETCHA LIFE..WE'LL  
TURN THE BLOODY TIDE!  
A MONTH TO TRAIN AND TO SURVIVE AND SECRETS  
NOT TO LEAK,  
IN JUNGLE AND IN ARID LAND I LEARNT TO HIDE-AND-  
SEEK;  
AND I WAS TOLD THAT WE WERE RIGHT AND  
'COMMIES' RAPED THE MEEK...  
SO, LET'S GET OVER THERE AND SO PROTECT THE  
FLAMIN' WEAK.  
NEXT THING I KNEW I HAD ARRIVED, SWEET  
THOUGHTS HAD I OF HOME,  
AND WONDERED WOULD I LAST THIS TOUR OF 12  
WHOLE MONTHS OR SOME;  
AND BIG BLACK CLOUDS, WHICH SOON I LEARNED  
FROM BIG BLACK BOMBS HAD COME,

THEN TO A BASE IN FUNNY LAND A FIXTURE I'D BE-  
COME.  
AND FROM THAT BASE I THEN ENGAGED IN FLYING  
OPERATIONS,  
SO MANY FLIGHTS THAT I LOST COUNT OF LOW AND  
HIGH ELATIONS;  
I SAW SOME MATES AND ENEMY IN DEATHLY SITUA-  
TIONS...  
TO I BLESSED MY GOOD LUCK CHARM I HAD AND  
PRAYED FOR MY SALVATION.  
AND THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I'D FORGET THE REA-  
SON I HAD GONE THERE,  
AND THERE WERE TIMES THAT I WOULD CURSE THE  
LOCALS WHO WERE SO SCARED;  
TO ME THEY DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT AND COULDN'T  
GIVE A DAMNED CARE...  
BECAUSE OF THIS SOME BITTERNESS WAS BORN INTO  
ME SOMEWHERE.  
I FOUND IT VERY DIFFICULT ACCEPTING LIFE WAS  
CHEAP,  
AND ONCE I STRUGGLED DEEP WITHIN WITH MEMO-  
RIES I STILL KEEP;  
BUT COMMON SENSE AND HUMOUR AND THE  
KNOWLEDGE THAT I REAPED  
SOON OVERCAME THE AWSOMENESS UPON MY  
SHOULDERS HEAPED.  
I LOST SOME MATES AND SAW A LOT OF THINGS I  
WON'T FORGET,  
I DID SOME THINGS, I DON'T KNOW WHY, SOME  
THINGS I STILL REGRET;  
I FEEL I AM EXPERIENCED IN LIFE AND WHAT YOU  
GET...  
BELIEVE ME..I AM JUST THE SAME AS ANY NORMAL

### Australian Army Aviation and The Museum of Australian Army Flying



The Museum of Australian Army Flying is situated 3 kilometres north of Oakey on the Darling Downs in Queensland. The location is adjacent to the civil air terminal on the eastern side of the Australian Army Aviation Centre.

**MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN ARMY FLYING  
ARMY AIRFIELD  
OAKEY QUEENSLAND 4401**

**Phone: 07 46917666**

**Fax: 07 4691 7675**

**E-mail: [AustArmy.FlyingMuseum@defence.gov.au](mailto:AustArmy.FlyingMuseum@defence.gov.au)**

**Web Page:**

**<http://www.army.gov.au/history/museums.htm>**



## The RAN in Vietnam

### Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Commemoration Reunion 2011

The Tasmania Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia will host a special commemorative event highlighting the role of the Royal Australian Navy during the Vietnam War as it pays tribute to all servicemen who fought and fell. Vietnam Veterans Day 2011 will be Thursday 18 August 2011.

The broad and varied role of the R.A.N. is little known or understood and inevitably as the years begin to slip by with increasing rapidity, a valuable and important part of our heritage is gradually in danger of being lost.

While Vietnam Veteran's Day has been set-aside in the calendar to remember and pay tribute to our fallen comrades, we must never lose sight of the fact that our losses were incurred across all the service arms.

The largest single commitment by the Royal Australian Navy to Vietnam was the provision of a destroyer on a rotational basis to the United States Navy's Seventh Fleet for service on what became known as the 'gunline'. RAN warships provided naval gunfire support from March 1967 to September 1971. They also participated in *Operation Sea Dragon*, the bombardment of North Vietnamese military targets and the interdiction of supply routes and logistic craft along the coast of North Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone to the Red River Delta, from April 1967 until it was suspended in November 1968.

The first RAN destroyers to deploy to Vietnam were the *Perth* class guided missile destroyers (DDG) *Hobart*, *Perth* and *Brisbane*. The Australian DDG's were well suited for the task of providing Naval Gunfire Support. Armed with two 5 inch 54 calibre gun mounts that fired a standard 76 lb High Explosive shell, they were capable of bringing down accurate 5 inch gunfire at a rate of 40 rounds per minute on targets at ranges beyond 14 nautical miles in most conditions.

The *Daring* class destroyer HMAS *Vendetta* was also deployed for service on the gunline. Her main armament consisted of six 4.5 inch guns that were capable of providing accurate and rapid fire to a range of nine nautical miles at a rate of 16 rounds per gun per minute. In good conditions *Vendetta's* six guns were capable of expending up to 100 rounds per minute.

HMAS *Hobart* was the first DDG to join the US Seventh Fleet on 15 March 1967 beginning the six monthly rotation of RAN destroyers for service on the gunline. *Hobart* and *Perth* deployed three times to Vietnam, *Brisbane* twice and *Vendetta* once. The destroyers carried out NGS missions in all of South Vietnam's four military regions and *Hobart* and *Perth* were actively involved in *Sea Dragon*. *Hobart* and *Perth* attacking North Vietnam and came under fire on many occasions. *Perth* was hit once during her first deployment and *Hobart* suffered two killed and seven wounded when she was mistakenly hit by missiles fired from a United States Air Force jet aircraft.

### *Operation Sea Dragon* –HMAS Hobart and HMAS Perth 1967-1968



*Operation Sea Dragon*”-Fire From the Sea

*Operation Sea Dragon* occurred during the Vietnam War and was a series of naval operations conducted along the coastline of North Vietnam beginning in 1966 to interdict sea lines of communications and supply going south from North Vietnam to South Vietnam, and to destroy land targets with naval gunfire.

The primary purpose of *Sea Dragon* forces was the interception and destruction of water borne logistic craft, which ranged in size from large self propelled barges down to small junks and sampans. Ships of the USN and the RAN operating in North Vietnamese waters were often colloquially referred to as the *Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club*.



The badge of the *Tonkin Yacht Club*

Steaming generally in pairs, the two to four American and Australian destroyers and one cruiser worked with carrier-based spotter planes, such as A-1 Skyraider and Grumman S-2 Tracker, to find, identify, and destroy infiltrating vessels and shore targets. Often, North Vietnamese coastal batteries fired back and ships engaged in counter-battery before withdrawal.



**AA Control Personnel take cover during counter battery North Vietnam 1967**

(Image Bevin Stringer)

Several of the 19 ships that served in Operation Sea Dragon were hit by enemy gunfire this included HMAS Perth and required repairs at shipyards in the Philippines, no vessel was sunk during the two-year long Sea Dragon operation. Damaged ships were quickly replaced on the gun line and the coastal deployment was maintained. Periodically, this group reinforced the Seventh Fleet cruisers and destroyers providing naval gunfire support to allied forces in South Vietnam. The combined USN-RAN naval surface group conducted the Sea Dragon effort until the end of October 1968, when combat operations in North Vietnam ceased.



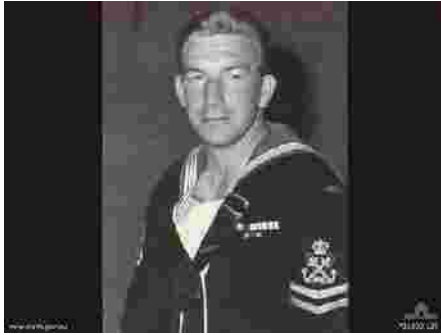
CPO Cox'n Vince Driscoll calling the fall of enemy shot whilst under fire North Vietnam 1967 (Image Bevin Stringer)

The role undertaken by key crewmembers stationed on the bridge wing and on AA Control was to report the range and bearing of the fall of enemy gunfire. This allowed the command to make key decisions related to evasive action required. During one protracted gun duel with coastal batteries near Dong Hoi reporting the range and bearing of gunfire splashes proved a bit much for Vince Driscoll with Hobart repeatedly straddled with some landing a short 3 metres from the ship. Vince could report that the range and bearing of enemy gunfire was “f...ing everywhere” and as such provide a lighter moment in what was a deadly exchange.

*Hobart* was awarded the US Navy Unit Commendation in recognition of her service in during *Sea Dragon* while *Perth* received both the US Navy Unit Commendation and the US Meritorious Unit Commendation. This honour allowed both ships to fly distinguishing pennants known as 'burgees' from their masthead when alongside for the duration of their commissions. Crew members serving on these ships at the time are permitted to wear the distinctive citation ribbon.



Ordinary Seaman Ray Butterworth one of two RAN casualties of “friendly fire” onboard HMAS *Hobart* 1968 (Image AWM)



**Petty Officer WJ Young DSM HMAS Perth 1967**  
(Image AWM)

As a Leading Seaman Weapons Mechanic and Gun Captain of Mount 52 on HMAS Perth he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for bringing the mount back into operation and rallying the gun crew after being hit by North Vietnamese gunfire during *Operation Sea Dragon*.



HMAS Perth straddled by enemy fire during Operation Sea Dragon



Inspecting damage from enemy fire to Mount 52 deck and turret of HMAS Perth during Operation Sea Dragon.

All you ever want to know about Vietnam  
This site is very good for research  
<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

**RTFV/35 Squadron Association**

Graham Barnett has tirelessly pursued DVA about chemical exposure during the C130 wing repair program.

To progress any further he is required to collect details from as many C130 AMWKR/ASTFITT members as possible.

Please help by providing answers to the questions listed below.

Your response may help out both yourself and those whom DVA have rejected. The aim is to at least obtain a Gold Card for affected personnel.

Please return information to Barny at the following email address: [bargt@bigpond.com](mailto:bargt@bigpond.com)

Cheers & Beers Whitey

1. Are you a holder of a Gold Card, give major illnesses/conditions?
2. Are you the holder of a White card, what conditions covered?
3. If no card, what disease/illness/disability are you suffering from since the C130WRP?
4. What claims have DVA refused as not service related?
5. Were you involved in the Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP)?

Defence have admitted that we were exposed to the same or similar chemicals as the F111 DSRS, but claim minimum exposure and "open" working conditions. We will dispute this. Also DVA have broadened the range of accepted conditions.

John Sambrookks

07 3851 0624

Email [johnsambrooks@optusnet.com.au](mailto:johnsambrooks@optusnet.com.au)

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