



DEBRIEF

Patron: RADM Neil Ralph AO DSC RAN (RTD)

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Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Inc

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Brisbane Shrine of Remembrance.

HONOUR THE DEAD, But Fight like Hell for the Living

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORT

May is the month the National Council meets and that meeting is followed by the National Congress (our AGM); this year due to the conditions in place to counter the effect of the Covid-19 virus we are distributing meeting papers as normal however the meetings will be conducted via a video conferencing link.



This is a change for our association and for some change is a challenge, I am hopeful that with the time we have for planning it will be a smooth transition from face to face to an electronic medium.

The Attorney-General's Department has recently published further information on the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention on their web-site.

You can access this information through the links below:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/About/Pages/national-commissioner-defence-veteran-suicide-prevention.aspx> (web page)

<https://www.ag.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx> (home page with priority message on NCDVSP alternating with COVID-19)

Another recent development has been the release of the Victorian coroners report into the highly publicised death by suicide of a veteran Jesse Bird. For the full report go to:

<https://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/COR%202017%203044%20Finding%20with%20inquest%20into%20the%20death%20of%20Jesse%20Stephen%20Bird.pdf>

Suicide in the veteran community has had a lot of publicity over the past years and every loss is regrettable, hopefully the lessons learned from the past can reduce the risks in the future, keep an eye on your mates.

The next months may be a challenge for many of us, I am confident Vietnam veterans and their families can rise above the challenges, be inventive and survive this as we have survived other challenges in the past.

Ken Foster OAM JP
National President

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KEEPING THE RECORDS

IF IN DOUBT DO NOT THROW IT OUT!

Mr Kel Robertson, a Canberra based post-graduate student at the University of New South Wales, and an experienced writer, has begun research into the origins and activities of the Association.

The first phase of his project will include an examination of the many Association documents held by the Australian War Memorial and the Australian National Library and, once some university procedures have been completed, interviews with members. Later, there will be a focus on State Branches and Sub-Branches.

Meanwhile, Branches and Sub-Branches are reminded of the importance of storing and maintaining their official records, including and especially newsletters, as the basis of future research by Kel and, in the longer term, other historians.

Kel will make some comments in a future edition of Debrief; at this time any queries should be asked of National Vice-President Max Ball, via email on maxball@iinet.net.au.



**A SERVICE FOUNDED
BY VIETNAM VETERANS**

1800 011 046

VOLUNTEERING

If you are located in New South Wales, Victoria or Western Australia and you're interested in supporting others through volunteering during this current crisis and future ones, please submit your details to The Centre for Volunteering database. From there, the Centre for Volunteering will pass your details onto organisations needing assistance in your area

<https://www.volunteering.com.au/covid-19-emergency-volunteering/>

Activities may include:

- Delivering supplies
- Providing essential transport (doctor's appointments)
- Urgent household maintenance
- Welfare checks (e.g., phone call or text)
- Suggest other ways you could help (optional)
- Other spoken languages (optional)

If you speak any other languages apart from English, please specify

Information from Volunteering Australia

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/coronavirus/#/>

If you are a current volunteer seeking advice or would like to volunteer please contact the Volunteering Peak Body in your State or Territory.

- Contact the volunteering peak body in your State or Territory for information about volunteering opportunities including up to date information about registering for emergency volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Visit Go Volunteer for volunteer opportunities that are currently available, both related to COVID-19 and for organisations who may have a shortage of volunteers due to COVID-19
- Check in on your neighbours and people in your local community, taking into account the guidelines around social distancing, isolating if you are unwell and practicing good hygiene.

Look after yourself during this time and reach out for help if you need it. Visit the Department of Health's Head to Health website <https://headtohealth.gov.au/> for advice and information on services available at this time.

Volunteering Australia recommends that individuals consider issues of privacy and self-care and avoid putting themselves and others in the community at risk. This means adhering to recommended social distancing guidelines and other official guidance as it emerges in the coming months

DVA SERVICES—COVID-19

DVA's Veteran Access Network (VAN) is one of our most important access points for our clients, and while we need to look at temporarily suspending our face-to-face office locations, we continue to provide enhanced online and telephone support to our veteran community and their families.

Veterans will have access to the services they need and rely on from DVA. The temporary shift in service delivery, to an online and telephone based approach, aligns with social distancing requirements due to COVID-19.

DVA's number one priority will remain the health and wellbeing of the Australian veteran community including, focussing our efforts on supporting essential services for veterans and their families.

DVA services can be accessed online through the DVA website and [MyService](#) or telephone on 1800 555 254. Skilled DVA general enquiry staff will work through your enquiry, and veterans with more complex needs will have the option to pre-book a telephone appointment with a VAN officer.

Interviews between veterans and VAN officers will be conducted by telephone in the first instance.

For the safety of both the veteran community and staff, DVA staff face-to-face service delivery at VAN offices, shopfronts and Services Australia locations have been temporarily suspended.

Service delivery will not be impacted, just provided differently. This is a short-term measure until the current COVID-19 situation eases and face-to-face service delivery can return to normal.

Members of the veteran community who require assistance should access [MyService](#), lodge an [online enquiry](#) or call 1800 555 254.



Ex Service and Allied Organisations

30 March 2020

Dear Colleague,

Notice of name change - The Remembrance Driveway Council

The Remembrance Driveway Committee has been restructured and more appropriately named the **Remembrance Driveway Council**. We are now also a charity registered with the ACNC.

The Remembrance Driveway Council (RDC) continues to be responsible for the development and maintenance of the groves, memorials and memorial plantings along the highway linking Sydney with Canberra, in honour of those who served the Australian Defence Force in World War Two and subsequent conflicts and peace keeping operations. Along the Driveway there are specific rest areas dedicated to Australian Victoria Cross recipients from World War Two onwards.

RDC is ably supported primarily by Transport for NSW in New South Wales, and by Transport Canberra and City Services in the Australian Capital Territory, through their maintenance of the Driveway plantings and artefacts, such as signage. We are an unfunded body however, and rely on donations to carry out development and renewal work on the Driveway.

We are developing a plan to revitalise the signage at VC Rest Areas, to create a new Rest Area for Keith Payne VC, AM, and a significant memorial for the Afghanistan VC recipients. I will send more information on this latter memorial shortly.

Could you please update your contact information for the RDC as appropriate.

Yours Sincerely,

Air Commodore Ian Scott AM
President, Remembrance Driveway Council

Email: ian@scottadr.com

Mobile: 0402217915

RDC contact information:

- Postal address: Locked Bag 5100, Camperdown, NSW, 1450.
- Email: rdc@rms.nsw.gov.au
- Information website:
<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/protecting-heritage/remembrance-driveway/index.html>
- Fundraising website: www.remembrancedriveway.org.au

Remembrance Driveway Council

ABN: 94 634 944 246

MEDIA RELEASE

1 April 2020

**Napier Waller Art Prize for veteran community opens from 20 April 2020**

The Australian War Memorial, the University of Canberra, The Road Home, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs encourage current and former Australian Defence Force personnel to enter the 2020 Napier Waller Art Prize, open from Monday 20 April.

The prize program, initiated in 2018, is the only one offered to current and former Defence personnel at a national level. It aims to promote artistic excellence, the transformative and healing power of creativity, and raises awareness of the experiences and talent of service personnel.

The winner will receive a \$10,000 cash prize, and their entry will be displayed at the Australian War Memorial and accessioned into the National Collection. The winning artist will also receive a two-week research residency in the Art Section of the Memorial, while a prize of \$5,000 will be awarded to the entry that wins People's Choice.

Assistant Director, National Collection at the Australian War Memorial Major General Brian Dawson (Ret'd) said the Napier Waller Art Prize, won in 2019 by Natalie Duncan with her emotive ceramic piece *You are in danger and I am far away*, continues to attract an exceptional field of work for judges to consider.

"These are challenging and uncertain times, however we believe art and creativity can play an important role in providing respite and fostering resilience during difficult times," Major General Dawson said.

"The Napier Waller Art Prize provides a unique opportunity for our current and former service personnel to share their experiences and stories through a deeply personal and revealing medium. I urge all creative Australian servicemen and servicewomen, current and former serving, to consider entering their work."

Entries open on Monday 20 April 2020 and close on Sunday 7 June 2020.

Entrants can submit any visual art medium including but not limited to: painting, photography, printmaking, drawing, sculpture, digital, decorative, and installation. Artworks may address any theme, with the winning artwork to be chosen by a panel of art experts and judges.

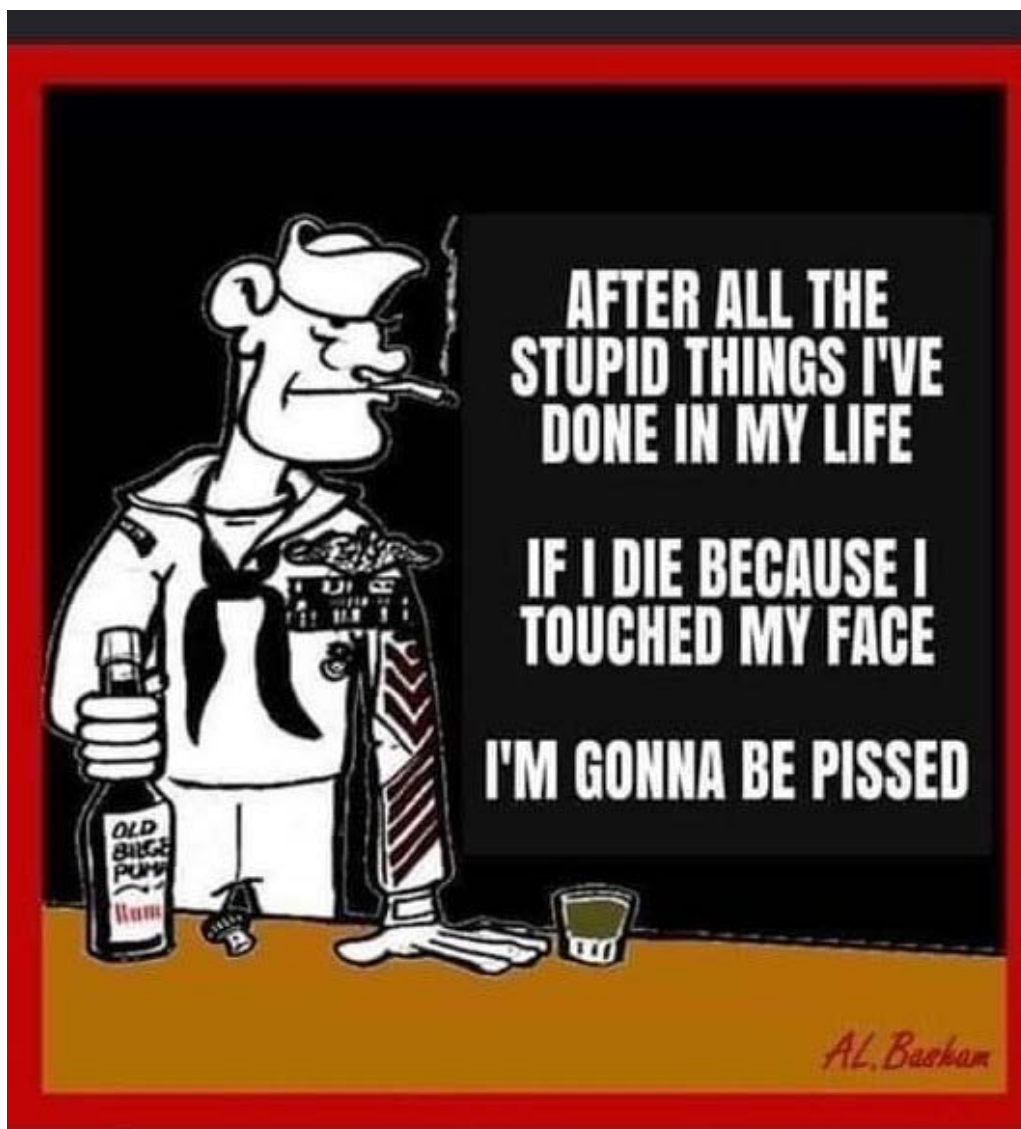
The Memorial continues to plan for an exhibition of highly commended works later in the year. An online exhibition of shortlisted entries will be featured on the Memorial's website from 17 August 2020 to 20 September 2020.

Please visit [the Memorial's website](https://www.awm.gov.au) for more information and for terms and conditions of entry.

CONTACT: Max Grieve 02 6243 4575

0409 600 038

media@awm.gov.au



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

Safe Zone Support is a free and anonymous counselling line, for veterans and their families – call 1800 142 072 (available 24/7).

This service provides access to specialised counsellors, with an understanding of military culture and experience.

The service offers care without the need for individuals to identify themselves or be concerned that their call will be recorded.

This line has been created for vulnerable cohorts of veterans and their families which might not otherwise seek mental health care.

OUR MILITARY HISTORY

VIETNAM

27 May 1965 HMAS Sydney departs on first voyage to Vietnam with 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked.

24 May 1966 Private Errol Noack killed in Vietnam Private Noack, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was the first Australian national serviceman to be killed in the Vietnam War.

13 May 1968 Fire Support Base Coral attacked. The partly-constructed base, north of Saigon, was defended by Australian infantry, artillery, and air support when it was attacked by North Vietnamese troops. Eleven Australians were killed and 28 wounded before the attackers were driven back. Fifty-two enemy soldiers were killed and one was taken prisoner.

16 May 1968 Fire Support Base Coral attacked for a second time. An attack on the base by a North Vietnamese Army force estimated at three battalions was repelled by APCs and soldiers from 1st battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Five Australians were killed and 19 wounded. Thirty-four enemy bodies were found.

21 May 1968 HMAS Sydney leaves Brisbane on its tenth voyage to Vietnam with 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked.

26 May 1968 Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked. Just north of FSB Coral, was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. Three soldiers from 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, were killed and 14 wounded. Six enemy bodies were found.

28 May 1968 Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked for a second time. A second heavy assault on Fire Support Base Balmoral took place in the early hours of the morning. The attack was driven off by combined arms – infantry, armour, artillery and air support. Forty-two enemy bodies were found on the battlefield and seven prisoners were taken.

28 May 1968 D company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, receives Award of United States Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Long Tan.

6 May & 11 May 1969 Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, VC, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Chippendale, NSW, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

24 May 1969 Warrant Officer Class 2 K. Payne, VC. Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Ingham, Queensland, performs the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross in fighting in Kontum Province.

8 May 1970 Anti-war demonstrations in Australia Up to 200,000 Australians participate in demonstrations against the Vietnam War.

28 May 1970 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam awarded United States Meritorious Citation.

An extract from the book "Vietnam—Our Stories"
Copies available from www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au

DAY ONE

Graham (Woody) Woodward, Redcliffe, Queensland

We arrived in Saigon Harbour on the HMAS Sydney in September 1965. Carrying my gear down the gangway I slipped half way and looked like having a very quick tour. A sailor grabbed my arm, stopping me from heading into the drink.

'Watch it, digger,' he said, 'everything is slippery.' I hope he had a great life because he probably saved mine. Jumping into the landing craft, I made a mess of that too and sat down at the side. Half way to shore I decided to have a look around and spotted this Vietnamese bloke paddling a sort of canoe. I swear he gave me this real dirty look, so I sank down and hoped I wouldn't meet him again down the track.

We landed and the front of the landing craft went down. For a moment I was glad there were blokes in front of me as I remember the World War Two films of beach landings. But, no worries, as we were greeted by Americans and beautiful South Vietnamese in traditional dress.

Into trucks, then, and taken to a place called Bien Hoa. We were stationed on the perimeter of this giant American base. Just dust and rubber tree stumps. Nothing else.

A mate and I joined our hoochies and put all our gear inside. After stand-to we had to do two hours on and four hours off out front.

We didn't have to do our turn till nearly midnight so we decided to get our heads down. Then it rained and rained, all our gear was washed out of the tent. Bloody Hell.

When it was our turn on guard, the rain had turned the dust to mud, so I'm sitting, soaked, on a rubber tree stump looking into the darkness, getting eaten by mozzies, waiting for the enemy hordes to come barrelling through.

And I thought, Well, that's day one.



Open Arms, Veterans and Families Counselling.

24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support
and free and confidential counselling.

Phone **1800 011 046.**

DVA MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

When you may need support

Support can help you develop skills to manage:

- anxiety and depression
- stress or anger
- trauma
- poor sleep
- social isolation
- addiction
- relationship challenges
- grief and loss
- dealing with change

Options to support your mental health and wellbeing

If you have served at least one day in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), including reservists, several options are available to support your mental health and wellbeing.

- Consult a general practitioner (GP)
- Start by talking to your GP. Your GP can:
- refer you to the right medical professionals
- provide you with a comprehensive Veteran Health Check

Talk to a mental health professional

If you have served at least one day in the ADF, you can access free mental health care. You may be able to access professional counselling by:

contacting Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046

seeing your GP for a referral to a psychologist or other mental health professional

Try some self-help tools

AT-Ease is our health and wellbeing portal. AT-Ease helps you stay healthy, recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health issues and understand the available support to help you live your best life.

Support and services for your family

If you are supporting someone you care for, it's important to also look after your own mental health and wellbeing.

- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (formerly VVCS) provides free and confidential counselling 24/7 to partners and children of those who have served. Call Open Arms on 1800 011 046.
- AT-Ease for families provides a range of support services and self-help tools for families of the ex-serving community.
- Guidance and counselling for students provides support for students with issues affecting their study progress.
- Counselling and support for families is provided to a veteran's family to assist with managing challenging life situations.

LIFE IN TODAY'S WORLD!!

- 2019: Stay away from negative people. - 2020: Stay away from positive people.
 - The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
 - You think it's bad now? In 20 years our country will be run by people home-schooled by day drinkers.
 - This virus has done what no woman has been able to do ... cancel all sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home!!!
 - Do not call the police on suspicious people in your neighbourhood! Those are your neighbours without makeup and hair extensions!
 - Since we can't eat out, now's the perfect time to eat better, get fit, and stay healthy. We're quarantined! Who are we trying to impress? We have snacks, we have sweatpants – I say we use them!
 - Day 7 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"
 - Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands???
 - I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 10 foot barge pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
 - Me: Alexa what's the weather this weekend? Alexa: It doesn't matter – you're not going anywhere.
 - Can everyone please just follow the government instructions so we can knock out this coronavirus and be done?! I feel like a kindergartner who keeps losing more recess time because one or two kids can't follow directions.
 - I swear my fridge just said "what the hell do you want now?"
 - When this is over ... what meeting do I attend first ... Weight Watchers or AA?
 - Quarantine has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told "no" if we get too close to strangers, and we get really excited about car rides.
- (Thank you neighbour!)



Mr Ken Foster OAM JP
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Dear Ken,

Since Hon Darren Chester MP launched the partnership between Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) and the Veteran Card program, we have grown to support over 65,000 members from the defence community. This growth period has been an exciting time for us, but like all new initiatives, it has presented some challenges that we are working to overcome.

A few months have now passed since your team was invited to initial launch testing prior to the Minister's announcement. I wanted to get in contact to hear if you have any feedback or require any information from us to support Vietnam Veterans Association members and sub-branches across Australia.

Importantly, I would also like to develop a strategic relationship with you, to forge a more direct channel for collaboration and to ensure we listen and adapt based on the needs of the veteran community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on some changes we have made to improve our services. Addressing feedback from the veteran community, we have updated the APOD platform to help members quickly identify veteran-owned businesses, in-store discounts and 'show my card' offers.

In addition, we have recently added a new category for veteran concessions. This new category will assist the veteran community by providing both discounts and concession information in one place. We will continue to make improvements to support a broad range of veteran families and welcome your feedback on how best to achieve this.

As you may be aware, APOD was established by veteran spouses, so supporting the broader veteran community has always been an important part of our purpose. I'm delighted to advise that in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have been working to make spouse membership free up until 31 Oct 2020 and we will be announcing this to the veteran and defence community in the coming weeks.

Diana Jennings from our community engagement team will be in contact with your organisation over the next few days to discuss feedback and your involvement in our upcoming announcement. If you could let Diana know who is the best person to speak with on 0401 084 154 or email diana.jennings@apod.com.au it would be greatly appreciated.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself or Diana if you or would like more information. We are always happy to answer your questions and appreciate feedback from the veteran and defence community. I can be contacted on 0401 990 756 or at paul.broadbridge@apod.com.au.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Broadbridge', is positioned above the printed name.

Paul Broadbridge
Chief Executive Officer

Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) ABN 35 602 028 740
1300 00 APOD (2763) | customerservice@apod.com.au | www.apod.com.au



Most governments in the west are now handing down 'Stimulus Packages' to keep their economies going during this terrible pandemic.

Pardon? Gosh, you mean you don't understand how a 'stimulus package' works?

No worries, we'll have it fully explained below with a beautiful example.

It is a slow day in the small Saskatchewan town of Pumphandle, and streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit.

A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night.

As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op.

The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything.....

However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that,.. Ladies and Gentlemen, is how a Stimulus package works



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

AVCAT scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of Australian Veterans to study at university or TAFE

Every donation helps our young people achieve their dreams and build a better future

It's easier than ever to donate, visit our website to click the DONATE button now

www.avcat.org.au



02 9213 7999 avcat@dva.gov.au
PO Box K978 Haymarket NSW 1240



A service started by Vietnam Veterans

1800 011 046

OUR HISTORY

Recent research has identified a loss of records from our associations past.

If there are copies of V.V.A.A. National Congress minutes prior to 1996 please forward to;

president@vvaa.org.au

or

secretary@vvaa.org.au

YOUR ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN DEBRIEF

States and sub branches are encouraged to contribute reports on their activities, particularly an opportunity to let others know what is happening in your area.

The life and times of feeding soldiers by a Vietnam Veteran

This book is about feeding soldiers. It is written by those who served with the Australian Army in the Vietnam conflict. Three meals a day, piece of cake. Not when you live in a foreign land. Someone has to provide. Some interesting facts to ponder:

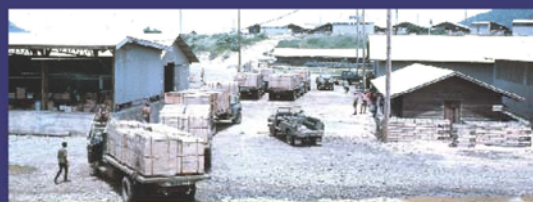
- quality control at the Class I (rations) Yard at the Long Binh logistic depot was the responsibility of the US Army's 4th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services),
- on 11 May 66 (quite early days) 1 COY RAASC at Vung Tau received 50 tons of fruit cake from Oz (based on the average weight of a fruit cake [1.5 lb] and the AFV ration strength at the time [3,800], that works out to 17½ fruit cakes per man!)
- DoD set up three full sized dairies in VN to provide milk and ice cream, however, to augment the ice cream provided by the milk plants, 40 additional small size ice cream plants were brought into country to provide ice cream as far forward as possible.
- on 29 May 66 1 COY RAASC received an unexpected and un-requested "forced issue" of 67,000 eggs which had to be immediately issued out and used as quickly as possible as most unit messes did not have adequate refrigeration (extra eggs at breakfast and lots of custard tarts at dinner time? - the Oz Army's daily egg ration allowance at the time was 1% eggs per man per day),
- the US Army did not have enough covered storage space for its ration stocks until late in 1970
- in 1966 bread received from Long Binh was unfit for consumption and 1 ALSG was forced to turn to bartering with local bakeries to get decent bread (I have no idea what they used for barter).

Join us on the journey and found out more. You will not be disappointed. "Jacks Platoon" can do anything-they were and are Equal To The Task!



PEAS BEANS AND BULLETS

PEAS BEANS AND BULLETS



AUSSIE DIGGERS SUPPORTING THE COMBAT FORCE IN VIETNAM



21
518

25
518

52
518

Recognising the service of Australian Supply Platoon Soldiers in the Vietnam war
by Russ Morison on behalf of those who served their country

by Russ Morison on behalf of those who served their country

I have been selling the book to fellow Veterans for \$30. It is not much but as a mini fund raiser, I can sell for my net cost \$25/book to your organisations. I have pre-positioned copies in the major centres of Brisbane, Sydney (VVF and VVA) Melbourne and here in Canberra. Postage otherwise is \$11/book.

Many Thanks to those organisations that have accepted books already on consignment.

Russ Morison
Canberra ACT
0408947935
0262927567

ARE YOU DRUNK?

☐ YES
☐ NO

X

WE'LL ALWAYS
BE BEST FRIENDS
BECAUSE YOU
KNOW TOO MUCH

REUNIONS

21 Engineer Support Troop 2020 Reunion

The reunion will be held at Forster/Tuncurry NSW from 31 Aug-4 Sept. All who served with 21 EST in Vietnam and those from other units who worked with the Troop are welcome along with partners and any family members. The main purpose of the reunion is to reconnect mates. About 200 are expected to attend. Further information at: www.21est.org or contact: Ian McLean 0412431297 jaim@homemail.com.au, or Phil Hincks 0414761032 phil.hincks@gmail.com, or Stan Monkley 0411506787 stan21est@gmail.com.

Please feel free to call me anytime to discuss.

Kind regards

Ian McLean (LtCol Retd)

President of the Organising Committee

2 RAR B Coy, 67-68 Reunion.

In August 2020 between the dates of 16th-20th Gympie will become the hub for the 2RAR B Coy, 67-68 Vietnam Veteran's Reunion.

There will be approximately 60 Veterans and their partners from throughout Australia gathering together to enjoy fellowship, friendship and memories. It is expected that this number will increase, which can be confirmed closer to the event. Every Veteran attending is either a member of a reciprocal RSL or member of Vietnam Veteran's Association from their home towns and there are some Gympie Members also attending. We are also currently speaking to Members from V Coy (NZ) who have expressed an interest in attending.

Veterans will be attending the Gympie Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service in Memorial Park on Sunday 16th August, with a 'Meet and Greet' to be held at Gympie RSL afterwards. The week will conclude on Thursday 20th with a farewell dinner. During the week they will be enjoying what Gympie has to offer including a visit to the Gympie Mining Museum, a trip on the Mary Valley Rattler and attending Standown Park on Vietnam Veteran's Day, where they will be involved with the Memorial Service being conducted. They have also invited to attend 150ACU Gympie Army Cadets.

An approximate cost per person for activities planned is \$240. This includes entry, activity, meals and some transportation throughout the reunion.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Leonie Millard (Schwarz) 0408015815, leonieschwarz@bigpond.com or Ros Kirkpatrick (daughter) 0429 942528 ros.acugympie@gmail.com

**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT****FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072**

Hosted by

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS

Safe Zone Support is a free and anonymous counselling line, for veterans and their families – call 1800 142 072 (available 24/7).

This service provides access to specialised counsellors, with an understanding of military culture and experience.

The service offers care without the need for individuals to identify themselves or be concerned that their call will be recorded.

This line has been created for vulnerable cohorts of veterans and their families which might not otherwise seek mental health care.

VETERAN FRIENDLY RETREATS

Future listing of these facilities should be available on the various VVAA State branch web sites and these can be accessed through the web site www.vvaa.org.au



THE VIETNAMESE MUSEUM- AUSTRALIA



For more information and to see a visual concept of the project go to;
www.vietnamesemuseum.com.au

If you would prefer to have “Debrief” emailed directly to you please forward your email address to the National Secretary at secretary@vvaa.org.au.

ADVOCACY CORNER.



Advocacy Training and
Development Program

The provision of advocacy support by individual members and their supporting V.V.A.A. Branch or Sub Branch can be a challenge, numbers of volunteers, resources, need for ongoing training all add to the challenges.

We now have an added component, the need for social isolation, how do we access the files we need in offices we always expected would be open and available?

How do we service our clients where we are part way through a process of support or preparing claims?

At times like this our networks become an important tool in managing and solving problems, talk to each other, solve the problems and when things back to some type of normal we may have improved the way we do business.

Consider use of Video conferencing services to keep in touch with each other and clients, a useful tool to help provide a professional service.

The ATDP updates on their website www.atdp.org.au are worth reading as they give us the latest thinking and guidelines to providing a better service, I would recommend all advocates register to receive these updates.

Stay well and look after yourselves first.

Veterans and Veterans Families
Counselling Service



IS CHANGING TO

**OPEN
ARMS**
Veterans & Families
Counselling

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SAME:



Professional
service



24/7
support



1800 011 046
helpline

A service founded by Vietnam Veterans



HAVE YOUR SAY— LETTERS TO DEBRIEF ARE WELCOME

The subject matter should be generally of interest to Vietnam Veterans and their families. Brief, to the point letters have a better chance of publication. Photographs should be of good colour, quality and subject matter, in jpg or similar format. Text should be submitted in Word format with minimum formatting. Vietnam Veteran writers must identify themselves by name, state, Vietnam Unit and Tour dates. Email: debrief@vvaa.org.au

NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

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Membership enquiries welcomed



THE WAR WIDOWS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

"We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life."



A strong part of the Guilds History is the origins of its Logo.

The kookaburra was adopted as the Guilds Logo from its early inception and remains today.

The Kookaburra is also present on all War Widows' Guild Badges.