

MARCH-APRIL 2021



# DEBRIEF

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ANZAC DAY 2021

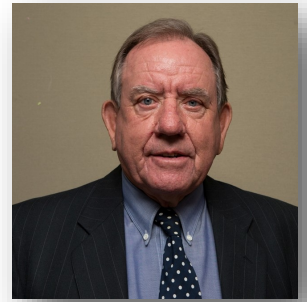
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA



# NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I am pleased to advise that we received a reply from the Prime Minister regarding our concerns over the Brereton Report. Shortly after, when allegations of unsatisfactory conduct were made against a senior government Minister we were also pleased to note that the government was quick to advise the media that the person concerned should be considered innocent until such time as the allegations were investigated and a legal process determined an outcome. A further letter was sent to the PM supporting this view and noting that veterans would also expect this approach to be followed by the government in respect to any further reports on alleged incidents involving members of the ADF in Afghanistan.



You will be familiar with the Report of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into DVA, presented in late June 2019. Many of the recommendations of the Commission are yet to be responded to by the government and we are advised it is intended that these responses will be part of the budget, to be delivered in May this year. As a member of ESORT I have participated in discussions with the department over the outstanding recommendations. In addition, I have submitted the Association's views directly to Minister Chester and we now await the outcome.

With travel restrictions eased slightly, the National Executive was able to have a productive face to face meeting in Canberra on 18 March. Being in Canberra also allowed me to meet with the Executive of the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal to discuss several matters including the Inquiry into Recognition for Members and Families of Members of the ADF who are Injured, Wounded or Killed in or as a Result of Service. Submissions for the inquiry were required at short notice and it has been lodged.

The National Secretary, Terry Roe, and I were also able to meet with Minister Chester's staff in Parliament House to discuss issues of concern, including the delays veterans are experiencing in the determination of claims submitted to DVA.

A notable event of that week was three announcements in the Senate, one being the passing of a resolution sent to the House of Representatives calling for a Royal Commission into veterans' suicides, two a Senate inquiry into aspects of the TPI/Special Rate of Disability Pension and three, another inquiry into information provided to members of the ADF who were retiring under the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDBF).

Your National Executive is watching closely for a response from government re the call for a Royal Commission and we will be lodging a submission to the Senate re the TPI/SRDP rate of pension. I am also involved in a submission re DFRDBF being developed by the Australian Defence Force Retiree's Association (ADFRA).

Finally, on Friday 9 April, we were all saddened by the news of the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. While we will all remember him and his career and his many and varied interests it is also appropriate for us to recall that he was a true veteran with active service and a distinguished career in the Royal Navy.

*Max Ball*  
National President

# **HAVE YOUR SAY—SENATE INQUIRIES INTO PENSIONS**

**SHAYNE NEUMANN MP (MEMBER FOR BLAIR)  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE PERSONNEL**

**SENATOR KIMBERLEY KITCHING (SENATOR FOR VICTORIA)  
DEPUTY MANAGER OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS IN THE SENATE  
CHAIR OF THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES  
COMMITTEE**

## **VETERANS ENCOURAGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON SENATE INQUIRIES INTO TPI AND DFRDB SERVICE PENSIONS**

Veterans are being encouraged to provide input to two parliamentary inquiries into the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) veteran pension and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) military superannuation scheme.

Many veterans have raised these longstanding issues with Labor MPs and they feel the Morrison Government has completely ignored them.

The Government's 2019 reviews of the TPI pension rate and DFRDB commutation arrangements were a slap in the face for ex-service men and women, particularly many older and disabled veterans.

Labor has listened to the concerns of these veterans and in March, we referred these issues to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for open and independent inquiries so veterans can have their say.

We are calling on TPI veterans and DFRDB scheme members, and ex-service organisations, to make written submissions to the inquiries. The committee will also hold a public hearing later in May.

The TPI inquiry will examine the adequacy of, and indexation arrangements for, the TPI payment (Special Rate of Disability Pension) and the case for an increase in the pension.

The DFRDB inquiry will run in parallel and will look at the accuracy of information provided to DFRDB members about the effects of commutation (exchanging part of their pension for a lump sum) on future retirement pay, and what remedial action could be taken.

Once the consultation process has ended, the committee will consider all of the submissions and evidence from public hearings, and deliver reports on both issues by 24 June 2021.

More information is available on the Parliament House website and veterans should check this regularly for updates:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/  
Foreign\\_Affairs\\_Defence\\_and\\_Trade](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade)

Submissions can be posted to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee at PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, or emailed to [fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fadt.sen@aph.gov.au)

The committee secretariat can be contacted by phone on (02) 6277 3535, fax on (02) 6277 5818 or by email at [fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fadt.sen@aph.gov.au). Labour is on the side of Australia's veterans and we want to allow all voices to be heard.

**WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY 2021**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**CHRIS CONDON (NEUMANN) 0422 018 616 & JORDAN HENG-CONTAXIS (KITCHING) 0431 487 353**

# MINISTER MATTERS



## **Office of the Hon Darren Chester MP**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 21 April 2021

#### **CONSULTATION OPEN FOR ROYAL COMMISSION**

VETERANS and their families, ex-service organisations, states and territories, peak bodies and other interested stakeholders are being encouraged to provide their input for the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide announced yesterday.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said it was vital that all those involved in the Defence and veteran support system had their say through the Royal Commission.

“Over the coming weeks I will be undertaking a public consultation process to ensure the Royal Commission is focused and based on the experiences and perspectives of those who have been impacted by Defence and veteran suicide,” Mr Chester said.

“Any member of the community or any organisation is able to provide their input regarding the broad themes released on Monday 19 April and I would encourage them to provide their feedback. “As part of this process it is important that all state and territories are involved and I have written to my counterparts in each jurisdiction to seek their assistance in consulting with the community.

“We must all work together to ensure that this Royal Commission can start promptly and put us on the path to a better understanding of suicide in the serving and ex-serving community, and importantly, how we can continue to improve the supports available to service men and women, and their families.”

Following consultation, all feedback will be provided to the Attorney-General's Department which will lead the drafting of the Terms of Reference. Interested individuals, groups, peak bodies, ex-service organisations and community members are able to review the broad themes for consultation on the [DVA website](#) and can contribute to the consultation process by emailing [royalcommission@dva.gov.au](mailto:royalcommission@dva.gov.au).

Mr Chester said the Government was committed to ensuring ADF members, veterans and their families had access to the support they need, when and where they need it, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk.

“Importantly, I want to assure the Defence and veteran community that the Government will continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families,” Mr Chester said.

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# MINISTER MATTERS

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“For anyone who may find this process difficult, help is available and can make a difference. Current serving members can access support through their local Garrison Health Centre or by contacting the All Hours Support Line available 24/7 on 1800 628 036.

*Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit [www.OpenArms.gov.au](http://www.OpenArms.gov.au)*

“Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides support and counselling to current ADF members, veterans and their families and can be contacted 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

“Those who wish to remain anonymous can also contact Safe Zone Support on 1800 142 072. This is a free and anonymous counselling line established for veterans and their families who may have concerns about anonymity.”

**ENDS**

## **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Rachel Tharratt or Cedric Szigeti: 02 6277 7820**

**DVA Media: 02 6289 6466**

**Office of the Hon. Darren Chester, Canberra ACT.**

## **Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide** **Themes for consultation**

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Terms of Reference will be determined in consultation with the defence and veteran community and states and territories. We expect that it will cover the following themes:

**Systemic issues** and analysis of the contributing risk factors relevant to defence and veteran death by suicide, including:

- \* Contribution of pre-service, service (including training), transition and post-service issues
- \* The relevance of issues such as service, posting history and rank of the defence member or veteran
- \* The manner of the recruitment of the person into the Australian Defence Force
- \* The manner in which a person transitioned from the Australian Defence Force
- \* The availability, quality and effectiveness of health, wellbeing and support services
- \* How information about individuals is shared by and within the government
- \* How matters of individuals' mental and physical health are captured during enlistment and during and after service.
- \* The quality and availability of support services for families, friends and colleagues affected by a defence and veteran death by suicide.
- \* The risk factors of defence members and veterans who have attempted or contemplated suicide or have other lived experiences of suicide.

**Protective and rehabilitative factors** for defence members and veterans who have attempted or contemplated suicide or have other lived experiences of suicide.

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# MINISTER MATTERS

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## **Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide** **Themes for consultation—Continued.....**

**Engagement of defence members** and veterans with Commonwealth, State or Territory Governments about support services, claims or entitlements.

The Royal Commission will be asked to make any recommendations, including recommendations about any policy, legislative, administrative or structural reforms.

The Royal Commission will be asked to have regard to:

- \* Previous relevant reports and inquiries.
- \* The work of the interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.
- \* The support available to members and veterans of other defence forces, particularly in Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- \* The role of government and non-government organisations

**Support services** for families and others impacted by defence and veteran death by suicide

**Opportunities** to promote the understanding of suicide risks and protective factors in the defence and general community.

The Royal Commission will not be required to inquire into matters that it is satisfied have been dealt with by other inquiries, investigations or criminal or civil proceedings. Further, it will not be required to make findings of civil or criminal wrongdoing or findings about individual defence and veteran deaths by suicide.

The Royal Commission will be asked to focus on systemic issues, recognising that they will be informed by individual experiences and may need to make referrals to appropriate authorities.

The Royal Commission will be asked to recognise that its inquiries, including its findings and recommendations, will provide a foundation for the future work of the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.

### **DVA GOLD CARD FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS OVER 70 YEARS OLD**

Members and readers are reminded that veterans aged 70 years or more who have qualifying service are eligible to receive a DVA Gold card for medical treatment.

To lodge a claim go to the DVA web site and search firstly for Gold card and then “How to get your Gold Card”. This will bring up the form “Application for a Gold card for Veterans of Australia’s Defence Force” DVA form D3057.

When completing the form you can ignore Question 16. We believe that this question is irrelevant and inappropriate and we have requested the department to remove it.

# MINISTER MATTERS



## Office of the Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

### MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

#### **VETERAN FOUNDED ORGANISATION DELIVERS FIRST ASSISTANCE DOG**

THE first Psychiatric Assistance Dog trained by veterans, for veterans, has moved home with her veteran handler in Canberra.

The veteran founded not-for-profit specialist service, Integra Service Dogs Australia, helps veterans manage their post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and has delivered its first dog under the Federal Government's Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester welcomed Belle to the ranks of these amazing assistance dogs who are helping change the lives of veterans and their families.

"Belle will be an amazing help to her veteran handler, Ben Jones," Mr Chester said.

"The dogs provided through this program, like Belle, play an important role for veterans and their families living with PTSD as they are trained to the individual needs of their veteran and perform specific tasks to help them with their recovery and general wellbeing."

As Belle and Mr Jones have completed their intensive training program and passed the Public Access Test, they will now spend each day together. The bond formed during Integra's training program means that Belle has insight into Mr Jones' condition and knows his unique triggers allowing him to reclaim his place in the community and rebuild his life.

"I have greatly appreciated the professionalism and support provided by Integra. They have worked closely with me to match me with a highly suitable and intelligent Labrador and developed us as a bonded team," Mr Jones said.

Mr Chester said this was a life changing program for so many veterans managing PTSD as part of their ongoing mental health plan.

"These dogs have such a profound impact on the day-to-day lives of our veterans and it is so encouraging to hear the stories of success and of veterans overcoming challenges with their dogs by their sides," Mr Chester said.

"Thank you for your service Ben. I wish you and Belle all the very best on your journey together."

Integra joined three other organisations as a provider of psychiatric assistance dogs in early August 2020 and they have since supported veterans through the matching, placement and training of these amazing companions. Belle is the first of four Integra dogs to pass their Public Access Test and take up residency with their veteran handlers this month.

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# MINISTER MATTERS

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## **VETERAN FOUNDED ORGANISATION DELIVERS FIRST ASSISTANCE DOG**

**Continued.....**

Twenty-one psychiatric assistance dogs have now passed their intensive training program across the four providers and are helping veterans every day, and an additional 89 dogs are in training across Australia.

Eligible veterans who have a diagnosis of PTSD can access the Psychiatric Assistance Dog program, by contacting the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Veterans currently accessing treatment for PTSD may wish to speak to their mental health professional to see if a psychiatric assistance dog would be a suitable adjunct to treatment. For more information, visit the Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program page on DVA's website at [www.dva.gov.au/dogs](http://www.dva.gov.au/dogs). END

### **Mobile Service Centre May to July 2021 Desert Rose Itinerary**

**DVA DC.NSW AND ACT**

**30 April 2021**

DVA has partnered with **Services Australia** to give veterans and their families in rural and remote areas face-to-face access to DVA and Services Australia services through the Mobile Services Centre (MSC) pilot.

#### **What is the Mobile Service Centre (MSC)?**

The MSC is essentially an 'office on wheels' that travels to rural and regional locations throughout Australia. The Services Australia staff on board the MSCs have been trained by DVA and can provide information about DVA services as well as assisted access to online services. Booked appointments are not required, clients can turn up during the advertised hours and they will be assisted.

#### **What do I need to know?**

During late April, May, June, and early July 2021, the Desert Rose MSC will be travelling across NSW. I have attached the current itinerary showing the dates and towns it is scheduled to visit.

The location for the upcoming visits can be found on the following Services Australia link or will be updated closer to the date of the visit: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/mobile-service-centres/when-and-where-find-us>.

#### **We would love your support**

Letting your members know when the MSC is arriving, helps us provide services to more members of the veteran community. You can distribute the attached factsheet to your members, which explains the types of services offered. Further information on the service is also attached.

Please let me know if you would like Services Australia to contact you with any additional information on how your organisation can assist with promoting this service.

Thank you for your assistance and ongoing support to the veteran community.

**Amy Azzopardi**

**A/g Executive Officer to Deputy Commissioner NSW/ACT**

**Client Benefits Division Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)**

**Ph: (02) 9213 7425 (Ext: 417425)**

*Desert Rose Timetable next page*



# **MINISTER MATTERS** **DESERT ROSE Timetable**

Desert Rose – Timetable for May, June & early July 2021

Please note: In the event of a natural disaster, the MSC may be required to change its itinerary

Date	Day	Town	From	To
04-May-2021	Tuesday	Collarenebri 2833	10:30 AM	3:00 PM
05-May-2021	Wednesday	Wee Waa 2388	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
06-May-2021	Thursday	Wee Waa 2388	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
07-May-2021	Friday	Baradine 2396	10:30 AM	4:00 PM
10-May-2021	Monday	Coonabarabran 2357	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
11-May-2021	Tuesday	Coonabarabran 2357	9:00 AM	3:30 PM
12-May-2021	Wednesday	Coolah 2843	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
13-May-2021	Thursday	Coolah 2843	9:00 AM	2:30 PM
14-May-2021	Friday	Crew Change Over		
18-May-2021	Tuesday	Brewarrina 2839	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
19-May-2021	Wednesday	Brewarrina 2839	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
20-May-2021	Thursday	Nyngan 2825	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
21-May-2021	Friday	Nyngan 2825	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
24-May-2021	Monday	Coonamble 2829	10:30 AM	4:00 PM
25-May-2021	Tuesday	Coonamble 2829	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
26-May-2021	Wednesday	Gilgandra 2827	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
27-May-2021	Thursday	Gilgandra 2827	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
28-May-2021	Friday	Crew Change Over		
31-May-2021	Monday	Crew Change Over		
01-June-2021	Tuesday	Cobar 2835	10:00 AM	4:00 PM
02-June-2021	Wednesday	Cobar 2835	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
03-June-2021	Thursday	Warren 2824	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
04-June-2021	Friday	Warren 2824	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
07-June-2021	Monday	Trangie 2823	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
08-June-2021	Tuesday	Trangie 2823	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
09-June-2021	Wednesday	Narromine 2821	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
10-June-2021	Thursday	Narromine 2821	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
11-June-2021	Friday	Crew Change Over		
14-June-2021	Monday	Public Holiday		
15-June-2021	Tuesday	Crew Change Over		
16-June-2021	Wednesday	Peak Hill 2869	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
17-June-2021	Thursday	Wellington 2820	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
18-June-2021	Friday	Wellington 2820	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
21-June-2021	Monday	Gulgong 2852	10:00 AM	4:00 PM
22-June-2021	Tuesday	Gulgong 2852	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
23-June-2021	Wednesday	Rylstone 2849	9:30 AM	4:00 PM
24-June-2021	Thursday	Kandos 2848	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
25-June-2021	Friday	Crew Change Over		
28-June-2021	Monday	Crew Change Over		
29-June-2021	Tuesday	Oberon 2787	9:30 AM	4:00 PM
30-June-2021	Wednesday	Oberon 2787	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
01-July-2021	Thursday	Blaney 2799	9:00 AM	3:00 PM
02-July-2021	Friday	Blaney 2799	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
05-July-2021	Monday	Molong 2866	10:00 AM	4:00 PM
06-July-2021	Tuesday	Molong 2866	9:00 AM	3:30 PM
07-July-2021	Wednesday	Forbes 2871	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
08-July-2021	Thursday	Forbes 2871	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
09-July-2021	Friday	Crew Change Over		

# Australian Government Mobile Service Centres



**If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, we're bringing them to you and your community.**

Mobile Service Centres travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia and also to disaster affected areas to provide help and support.

Staff from Services Australia travel with the Mobile Service Centres and can help you with Centrelink and Medicare payments and services. Our Mobile Service Centres also have disabled access.

Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Wi-Fi is available for visitors to the Mobile Service Centre and staff will be able to help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Our staff will provide you with friendly face-to-face service, information and support. From time to time, representatives from other government agencies also travel with the Mobile Service Centres.

## Information and help you can access on board the Mobile Service Centres

We provide information, help and support to rural and regional communities, including:

- families
- older Australians
- students
- job seekers
- people with disability
- carers
- farmers
- self-employed people.

We can assist you with:

- registering and using the agency's online services
- new claims for Centrelink payments
- updating and confirming Centrelink and Medicare information
- information on how financial matters may impact on payments
- assistance with payment and service options
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- non-cash Medicare transactions
- enrolling for and issuing new Medicare cards
- updating and re-issuing Medicare cards
- social work support and referrals.

## More information

To view the latest itineraries for the Australian Government Mobile Service Centres, visit

**[servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)**

The stopping locations for Mobile Service Centres are promoted in each town and on social media before each visit.

## Disclaimer

This information is intended as a guide only.

The information is correct as at February 2020.

If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are current.



## RSL wants Karrakatta war graves restored

The Nedlands RSL sub-branch has called for the granite headstones of World War 1 veterans more than 100 of which have been taken out and some destroyed to be restored at Karrakatta Cemetery.

“We’re very disgusted that the headstones of Gallipoli veterans have been removed.” Nedlands RSL president Kim Roberts said this week. “This shouldn’t be happening to war graves – they should be held in perpetuity.”

Headstones of many diggers who succumbed to their war injuries, including suicide, have been removed by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board (MCB) in a process known as “renewal”.

Because the men died after 1922 the MCB has been granted the green light by the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) to clear the headstones, allowing it to free up space for additional burial plots – which fetch almost \$1500 at Karrakatta main cemetery.

The agreement is longstanding, but Mr Roberts said Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s recent announcement of a royal commission into veterans’ suicides raised hope for a rethink of the practice.

“It’s inconsistent to hold a royal commission into veterans’ suicide and, on the other hand, not to see there is a

problem with the removal of veterans’ graves from World War 1 – particularly those who committed suicide.” he said.

The fate of many original war graves at Karrakatta was brought to light by Claremont resident Gavin Wilkinson. In the course of his own family research two years ago, Mr Wilkinson went to visit the grave of a great uncle and Gallipoli veteran, only to discover a vacant patch of dirt where his headstone was supposed to be.

With the assistance of the local MP Celia Hammond, Mr Wilkinson was able to have his uncle’s headstone, that of Private James Burrows, reinstated.

He said that the restoration of his uncle’s headstone set a precedent – and the recent announcement of the royal commission should only give added impetus to the importance of re-establishing lost headstones.

“Both the MCB and the OAWG should hang their heads in shame,” Mr Wilkinson said.

A short walk from the grave of Mr Wilkinson’s great uncle lie the two war veterans who committed suicide – John Nightingale and Walter Cahill.

Newspaper reports from the period describe the mental and physical demise of the

men in uncomfortable detail.

In announcing the royal commission on Monday, Mr Morrison said that “suicide prevention is a key priority for the Federal Government”.

“In recognising the sacrifices made by our serving members and their families on behalf of the nation, we owe it to members, veterans and their families to continue to take action,” he said.

Ms Hammond’s office said it would continue to work with Mr Wilkinson.

We are pleased that local sub branches of the RSL are now involved in this, and we look forward to working with them and Mr. Wilkinson,” a statement from



*Pic: Post Newspaper*

**Note:** *VVAA has approached the local Minister Ms Celia Hammond requesting that all Vietnam KIA be reinterred in the Perth War Cemetery.*

*A response has not yet been received.*



## **SERVICE IN NORTH RUSSIA WINS TWO AUSSIES THE VICTORIA CROSS!**

**By Max Ball**

Recently I found in my bookshelves a copy of *ANZACS IN ARKHAENGEL*, written by Michael Challenger. As the author notes, “This book is about a strange and little-known chapter of Australia’s military history” about Australians who went to fight Bolsheviks in North Russia as members of the North Russia Relief Force.

In early 1918, after Russia withdrew from World War I, the UK Government decided to despatch a military mission of about 560 persons to North Russia to instruct and lead Russians (Whites) who were loyal to the Provisional Government and opposing the Bolsheviks (Reds), to secure military stores at Murmansk and, perhaps, re-establish an Eastern Front. Designated “Elope Force” it included 21 Canadians, four New Zealanders (of whom two were born in Australia), and nine Australians. All were volunteers. A second force, code named “Syren”, of 600 British troops, was sent to Murmansk.

Twelve months later matters had not gone well. The Bolsheviks (Reds) were prevailing over the White Russians and reinforcements were needed to support Elope in Arkhangel; indeed, the British Government was concerned that its troops may need to be rescued.

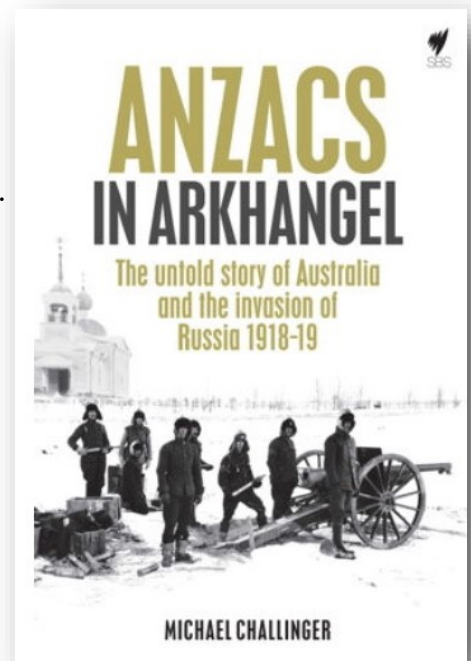
In April 1919 recruiting posters were displayed in London calling for volunteers from trained soldiers, who were fit and over the age of 19, for the North Russia Relief Force. They would all be enlisted in the British Army if not still serving British soldiers.

At the time some 70,000 AIF volunteers were in Britain, waiting for transport home. Some had enlisted in the AIF in 1918 and had not seen action in France and wished to prove their mettle. Some may have been attracted by the generous pay offered by the British Government and some, after the adrenalin rush of being in action, may have been bored. For whatever reasons, up to about 150 Australians volunteered to serve in the Relief Force. To do so, they had to request their discharge from the AIF and enlist in the British Army.

**Samuel George Pearse** was born in Penarth, Wales and enlisted in the AIF in Melbourne in July 1915, aged 18. Assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Bn, 2870 Private Pearse was awarded the Military Medal in France.

Now 133032 in the British Army, Private Pearse was assigned to the 45<sup>th</sup> Bn Royal Fusiliers and distinguished himself on operations south of Arkhangel. On 29 August 1919 Sergeant Pearse’s unit was assaulting an enemy battery when under heavy fire he cut his way through barbed wire and charged an enemy blockhouse single-handed, killing all the occupants with bombs, but met his death minutes later. The citation records that “it was due to him that the position was carried with so few casualties. His magnificent bravery and utter disregard for personal safety won for him the admiration of all troops.”

**Arthur Percy Sullivan** was born in Crystal Brook South Australia and enlisted in the AIF in Port Pirie on 27 April 1918, aged 21. He arrived in Britain in September 1918 and commenced training in the artillery, but was still in training when peace was declared so was not sent to France.



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## SERVICE IN NORTH RUSSIA WINS TWO AUSSIES THE VICTORIA CROSS!

*Continued from page 12*

As 133033 in the British Army, Sullivan was also assigned to the 45<sup>th</sup> Bn Royal Fusiliers. A successful offensive action against the Red Army along the banks of the river Dvina, (flowing south east of Arkhangel) reached its end point at the village of Komichka and the British force found itself at risk of being encircled by the Red forces. At the hamlet of Sluda, the British force found themselves cut off by Russian sailors (from river gunboats) and were forced to withdraw through a swamp, walking on planks. 20 year old Lieutenant Charles Gordon-Lennox (real title Lord Strettington) was hit in the chest by a bullet. Corporal Sullivan plunged into the swamp and passed him up to others still on the planks. Three more fusiliers were hit and Sullivan helped them in a similar way. The citation records "Without hesitation, under intense fire, Corporal Sullivan jumped into the river and rescued all four, bringing them out singly." And "It was a splendid example of heroism as all ranks were on the point of exhaustion, and the enemy less than 100 yards distant."

Sullivan sailed from England before he had been presented with his VC and returned to his previous employer, the National Bank. In 1937 he was the manager of the Bank's branch in Casino, New South Wales and was selected to be a member of the Australian Coronation Contingent to attend the coronation of King George VI in May 1937. He accepted, but to do so had to re-enlist in the Australian Army, this time as a gunner, as all members of the contingent were to be.

The members of the Contingent received many invitations to many reunions and receptions. On 9 April 1937, returning from a reception, Sullivan stepped off a footpath into the path of a cyclist and was downed. He was rushed to hospital and found dead on arrival from a fractured skull.

The body of Arthur Sullivan VC was taken to Wellington Barracks where it lay in state, with his medal and plumed slouch hat. His funeral was attended by General Birdwood and a dozen British VC winners and a band of the Grenadier Guards led the funeral procession. When the Australian Coronation Contingent marched in the coronation parade the Australians deliberately left a gap in their ranks.

In North Russia eight Australians also received the Distinguished Conduct Medal, five won the Military Medal and three won bars to the Military Medal they had won in the AIF.

During a recent visit to the Australian War Memorial I was pleased to see that Samuel Pearse VC and Arthur Sullivan VC have their place in the Hall of Valour with the other 97 Australian recipients.

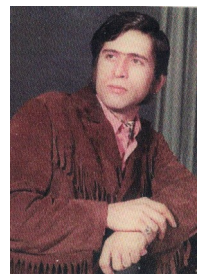
*Max Ball*

**From:** [dv52@libero.it](mailto:dv52@libero.it) <[dv52@libero.it](mailto:dv52@libero.it)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:27 AM  
**To:** [debrief@vvaa.org.au](mailto:debrief@vvaa.org.au)  
**Subject:** To Mr. Director of Debrief VVAA Magazine

Dear Mr. President, An Italian friend of mine - Luciano "Laurie" Simeoni, born in Trieste (Italy) 1939 - is a Vietnam Veteran as an Australian citizen, today he lives in Venice (Italy), but he lost in a fire everything related to his past in Vietnam in the First RAR Battalion, arrived in Saigon (and then transferred to Bien Hoa Base) on June 1st, 1965.

I would like to surprise him by tracking down some of his comrades who have photos taken in Vietnam with him. Could you publish a small story with photo in your beautiful magazine? I would be very grateful for your kind cooperation. I am attaching a photo of Luciano (phonetic pronunciation in English "Loochanoh").

Sincerely, Diego Verdegiglio, Roma, Italia



# Navy mates reunited

**T**WO mates have been reunited after searching for each other for more than 50 years.

A 25-year-old Dennis Stone and 17-year-old Phil Carter met at the HMAS Cerebrus on the Mornington Peninsula in 1967. Both from Adelaide, Dennis was an aircraft handler and Phil worked in naval logistics but it was their mutual love of the speedway that saw them form a friendship.

Phil recalls being at the recruit training base one day and seeing a red FEK Holden ute with a speedway sidecar on the back driving out.

"I thought, gee, that's pretty cool so I said g'day mate."

When Dennis noted that he hadn't raced it yet as he required a passenger and asked if Phil would be interested, he jumped on the opportunity. As he hadn't turned 18, Phil needed permission from his parents back in Adelaide to ride the speedway. With permission granted, the pair started riding at the Brooklyn speedway in the western suburbs of Melbourne. While no longer there, it was the biggest speedway in Victoria.

"We started riding speedway together and had a great time for a couple of seasons," Phil said.

But when he was drafted to the HMAS Melbourne, Australia's only aircraft carrier, in 1968 the two friends lost contact.

"Back then there were no mobile phones, no emails or Facebook so it was very difficult to stay in contact with someone," Phil said.

When he left the navy and returned to Adelaide in 1973, he would check the phone book every now and then to see if Dennis was listed.



**FRIENDSHIP:** Former Navy personnel Dennis Stone and Phil Carter reunited this year after 53 years. Photo: Adam Trafford

## Chance reunion

Not seeing each other for 53 years, it was a chance phone call that reunited them. Phil, a pension advocate with the Ballarat RSL Sub Branch, received a call from the secretary of the Ballarat Vietnam Veterans Association, Gordon Hunt, about a month ago.

Mr Hunt asked if Phil could assist a veteran named Dennis Stone, who had been injured after a fall at home. When Phil asked if he was ex-navy and Mr Hunt said he was, Phil's hopes rose.

Giving him a call and hearing the laugh on the other end of the line, he "knew straight away that it was the Dennis Stone [he] had been looking for all these years".

Funnily enough, both have been living in the Ballarat region for over a decade. Phil has been living in the region since 2005 and Dennis bought a block out near Beaufort in 2000.

"If it wasn't for Gordon's phone call we never would have met again," Phil said, adding that while they might have run into each other at the RSL, they both look very different to what they did five decades ago. "You don't imagine these things are going to happen but maybe things are meant to happen sometimes."

Their reunion comes ahead of ANZAC Day, where veterans will this year be able to march again and mark the day with services across the nation.

Dennis said reconnecting after such a long time was "special" and the pair have wasted no time in catching up about all that has happened in their lives since the early 70s.

"You can't make up those years, we'll never make it up," Phil said, noting that they would simply focus on their friendship and looking after Dennis' health.

"So all you can do now is

just make sure to fill in the gaps," Dennis added.

"Time is really precious when you think about it. You don't realise it until something like this happens, where that time goes. You can't fill it in or change it. It's like a time warp. The time is gone so you just have to make good of the time you've got left and that's what we'll try to do now," Phil said.

## Tragedy in the navy

Joining in 1963, Dennis spent almost 12 years in the navy. But it was an incident that occurred just after he completed his training that haunts him to this day.

Dennis had been drafted to aircraft carrier H.M.A.S Melbourne when a tragic accident involving the H.M.A.S destroyer Voyager occurred in 1964.

A refit of the ship had just been completed and the two were out doing flying exercises near Jervis Bay.

"We were practising flying at night and they'd land and takeoff - touch and go practice," Dennis recalled. "When they got the call to come back, the Voyager was supposed to come back behind us to its station - the port quarter, that's left hand back - and go along as they were flying. But instead, she decided to cut across in front of us."

He vividly recalls the loud "crunch" as the two collided. Voyager was sliced in half by the aircraft carrier, killing 81 of her crew and one civilian, and within hours had completely sunk into the ocean.

Phil joined as a junior recruit in 1965. Several years after Australia had joined the Vietnam war, it was extremely controversial for teenagers to have been recruited to fight in the war.

"It was because there was a shortage of navy personnel. It filled the gap but it should never have

happened," Phil said. "But it did and it is what it is and we are here to tell the story."

When he was drafted to H.M.A.S Melbourne in 1969, similar scenes played out to what Dennis had experienced years before.

Phil had been involved in an accident and was taken off the ship just prior to the incident.

The aircraft carrier Melbourne had been conducting exercises with US ship Frank E Evans, when the latter sailed under Melbourne's bow and she was cut in two. In scenes reminiscent of those years before, 74 of Evans's crew were killed.

"To think that the same thing could happen twice is just so bizarre," Phil said.

But Dennis's experience and Phil's near-traumatic experience have strengthened their bond.

## Assisting veterans

As a pension advocate, Phil said that in addition to the more recent veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq, there were also those from Vietnam and Korea that were still experiencing issues. He said what people saw when serving "doesn't go away", but it was friendships like his and Dennis's that could help.

"The issue I'm worried about now is the suicide issue. I have a lot of young veterans that I look after from Iraq and Afghanistan."

"We've just got to get this right because they join up to serve their country. So, we've got to make sure that if they serve their country when they come back no matter what happened that they get looked after. People maybe don't want to think about it but they need to."

- Hayley Elg



# STORIES

It's been all systems go lately for Canberra artist Margaret Hadfield and historian Dr Kathryn Spurling, who are now being dubbed - what else but? - The Artist and The Historian.

They are also proving age is no barrier to creativity. One is "over 60" and the other is "over 70". They're not letting on who is who.

They have been long-time collaborators, but 2021 is proving to be particularly productive - with even a film of their endeavours completed and selected for showing at a short film festival in the United States.

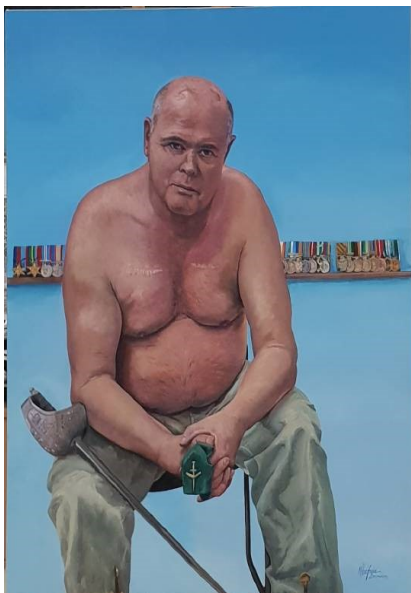
In 2019, the pair opened a new art gallery, The Artists Shed, in Fyshwick, celebrating their "mutual love of art, history and the under-dog". Spurling and Hadfield had already collaborated before then.

For her book *Inspiring Australian Women*, Spurling interviewed Helen Reddy, Natasha Stott Despoja, Matilda House, Geraldine Cox, Fiona Wood and Lauren Jackson, over four years. Each of the women then sat for Hadfield and their portraits were included in the book. Their creative endeavours are continuing to be recognised.

Margaret Hadfield been named a finalist in The Gallipoli Art Prize with painting of Canberra veteran, Anthony John. Hadfield has again been named a finalist in The Gallipoli Art Prize. She was the inaugural winner in 2006 and has also been finalist numerous times, with The Gallipoli Legion Club purchasing several her paintings.



*Pic supplied by  
Dr Kathryn Spurling*



*Veteran Anthony John  
Pic supplied by  
Dr Kathryn Spurling*

This year, her painting is of Canberra veteran, Anthony John. His grandfather served with the Australian Army during WWII, and his father won a Military Cross during the Vietnam war.

"AJ" had a distinguished SAS career, including in Afghanistan. The 58-year-old has Parkinson's disease and, like many ADF veterans, suffers from service injuries.

Hadfield's artwork is called ***Duty Done***. The winner of the Gallipoli Art Prize will be announced on Wednesday, in the lead up to Anzac Day. The finalists' works will be on exhibition at Merrylands RSL in Sydney from April 15 to May 17.

A virtual exhibition will be available through [www.gallipoliclub.com.au](http://www.gallipoliclub.com.au)

*Dr Kathryn Spurling*

# AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

## Australian War Memorial Development - Community Engagement Forums

As part of our continued program, we are now offering interactive national forums to provide a platform for engaging discussion with the Memorial's curatorial team. Participants in the forums will hear some early ideas for new exhibitions and the opportunity to have a say on the stories, objects and experiences to be considered in our expanded galleries.

### **Register for our National Forums**

We ask that you continue to help us tell the stories of Australia's contemporary defence forces, by sharing this community consultation opportunity among your network and encourage veterans and defence personnel to visit our website to [register](#).

Over thirty community forums are being offered throughout March to ensure a national discussion that is relevant, authentic and representative of the Australian community. Most of the forum sessions will be held online, however, two face-to-face sessions will be hosted at the Memorial in Canberra on Thursday 18 and Saturday 27 March.

### **National Survey Update**

In February, the Memorial received more than 1,000 completed surveys. Responses were from a large cross-section of Australians on proposed exhibition content, desired visitor experiences and public program offerings to be considered as part of our Development Project.

While detailed survey feedback is still being reviewed, initial analysis has revealed that a remarkable 52 per cent of general public respondents have visited the Memorial. There was strong public interest (67 per cent) in hearing from current or former service members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as well as from the communities where Australians have served (64 per cent). Three in four public respondents said they viewed the use of digital and multimedia technology in a museum experience as very important and around half of the respondents showed a strong interest in the galleries exploring difficult content including PTSD, impacts on family, veteran's suicide and moral conduct within war.

Kantar Public Australia Pty Ltd is still conducting field work on behalf of the Australian War Memorial, which includes the national forums, six focus groups and targeted advisory groups. Once field work has concluded and detailed findings are analysed by Kantar, the Memorial will share these findings on our website.

### **Keep up to date with the Development Project**

Please follow the Australian War Memorial's social media, to share future consultation opportunities and project updates with your members and networks, and subscribe to [Our Next Chapter](#) to keep informed on future development updates.

Facebook: [@AWMemorial](#)

Twitter: [@AWMemorial](#)

Instagram: [@AWMemorial](#)

You may also get in touch with us here at the return email [gallerydevelopment@awm.gov.au](mailto:gallerydevelopment@awm.gov.au) if you have any specific queries or comments.

On behalf of the gallery development team we look forward to your participation and feedback.

Kind regards

Bliss

**Bliss Jensen**

Director | Gallery Development

t 02 6243 4449

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

<https://filetransfer.awm.gov.au/filedrop/bliss.jensen@awm.gov.au>

## Fellow Coral Balmoral Veterans... Lieutenant Anthony “Tony” Howard Jensen

*“On 27 August 2020, having reviewed the decision by the Chief of the Army of 30 October 2019 **to not** support the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant A.H. Jensen for his actions on 13 May 1968 - the Tribunal decided to recommend to the Minister for Defence Personnel that he recommend to the Governor-General that Lieutenant A.H. Jensen be awarded the Medal for Gallantry for acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as the officer commanding the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment’s mortar line during the Battle for Fire Support Base Coral in Vietnam on 13 May 1968.”*

*(Extract from DHAAT Report)*

This award was not listed in this years Australia Day Awards HOWEVER as things turn out, Tony will be inducted with his award on the afternoon of 13 May this year by the Governor General at Government House Canberra. Exactly 53 years to the day after the event.

I would encourage all of you to organize maximum publicity for this event if you can.  
Coral Ceremony Canberra 13 May 2021

Mick Bindley and Ray Curtis are planning to hold a short ceremony at the **Vietnam Memorial, on ANZAC Parade, from 1000h on the 13 May** and would like as many of our vets from the local area attend.

The aim is to get as much publicity as possible for Tony’s investiture and the 53th anniversary of Coral.

We also intend to retire to the **Ainslie Pub** on Limestone Ave after the ceremony.

Cheers and Stay Safe  
**'Rest Easy!!'**  
Jack Parr/Ray Curtis

## SUB-BRANCH LIFE MEMBER



At the recent Annual General meeting Salvatore “Sam” Vecchio received the Life Member Award for the Vietnam Veterans Association St. Marys Outpost Sub Branch.

Sam has been a dedicated member and currently serves as the Sub-Branch Secretary as well as New South Wales Branch President.

Congratulations Sam





*It is with great sadness we announce the passing of  
217842 Peter James DODD  
on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021*

*Peter served in Vietnam with  
17th Construction Squadron from 23/4/1969 to 23/4/1970  
17th Construction Squadron from 23/6/1971 to 7/3/1972*

*On behalf of VVAA Victoria we extend our deepest sympathies  
to family, veterans and friends of the late  
Peter James DODD.*

*'MAY HE REST IN PEACE'*



# SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE

## BACK TO THE BUSH VETERANS REUNION

BRUCE ROCK, WA 6418

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**Saturday 5 or Sunday 6 June 2021**  
**1.30pm to 4.15pm**  
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Tickets on sale in early 2021

For more information please visit  
[theflowersofwar.org](http://theflowersofwar.org)



## REUNIONS

# 2 RAR/NZ South Vietnam 1970/71 50th Anniversary Reunion 30th May to 6th June 2021



## **2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) BATTALION**

The Reunion for 2020 has had to be cancelled however we are now on for 2021.

PLEASE NOTE - ALL Activities LIMITED TO 300 people due to COVID

Mon 31 May - RSL 4pm Meet and greet (\$15pp)

Tues 1 June - Back to the Battalion 10 am (\$25pp)

Wed 2 June - RSL 11am Reunion Luncheon (\$35pp)

Thu 3 June - Coy Platoon Activities

Fri 4 June - Coy Platoon Activities

Sat 5 June—Reunion Dinner (\$70pp)

[2RAR.Reunions@gmail.com](mailto:2RAR.Reunions@gmail.com)

If you have any question please Email the above  
Email or Ring

Jason Harrison - 0419749198

Mal Gray - 0428588431

Rick Avery - 0419415365



## REUNIONS



# **HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972**

### **HQ1ATF ASSOCIATION REUNION**

*In Memory of our D&E losses at Long Khanh (12 June 1971)*

**CANBERRA 18-22 NOVEMBER 2021**

#### **RESCHEDULED DATES**

**Capital Country Holiday Park**

**47 Bidges Road, SUTTON NSW 2620 Ph:(02) 6230 3433**

**Email: [bookings@capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au](mailto:bookings@capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au)**

**Web: [www.capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au](http://www.capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au)**

Due to the ongoing Corona Virus situation our 2020 Reunion of Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force / D & E Platoon (Nui Dat, South Vietnam 1966-1972) has now been rescheduled to 18-22 November 2021 and will still be held at the Capital Country Holiday Park which is located just off the Federal Highway, some eight km north east of Canberra.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war from 1965 – 1972 has had a lasting impact on all the servicemen and women who served there. HQ1ATF and its sub-unit Defence and Employment (D&E) Platoon, the longest continually serving Infantry Platoon in South Vietnam, served from 1966 – 1972 and encountered much enemy action during those years.

Each two years HQ1ATF Association holds a reunion and the rescheduled 2021 event will remember 50 years since we closed the gates of Nui Dat. It is anticipated that some 70 Veterans and 60 wives/partners (a total of 130 people) will participate in the four day event. The reunion is an important part of the Association's efforts in the healing process which is achieved through the continual networking of members and also importantly their partners and carers. With objectives to improve health and well-being and to reduce social isolation, the reunion plays a significant role.

The Commemorative Dinner will be held on Saturday 20 November 2021 at the Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy). The dinner will be preceded by a Memorial Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Anzac Ave, Canberra.

For details contact: John Verhelst: 0437212121 or [jeverhelst@gmail.com](mailto:jeverhelst@gmail.com) [www.hq1atf.org](http://www.hq1atf.org)

### **85th Transport Bi-Annual Reunion 2021**

Anyone interested in attending the 85th Transport Bi-Annual Reunion for 2021 in Bendigo between Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th August 2021 please contact the people below for more information.

Bruce Wilson - Chairman 0412 405 600 or

Catriona Bruce - Secretary 0419 559 348

Terry Hornbuckle (0408 519917)

# REUNIONS

## **1ALSG EX-VIETNAM - 8-13 NOVEMBER 2021 HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

1st Australian Logistic Support Group—*Ex-Vietnam*

The reunion will be from November 8, till November 13, 2021 and will be held at:

**Lake Hume Discovery Park,  
33 Boathaven Road, Ebdon VIC 3691** via Albury/Wodonga  
For details of the Reunion and Accommodation Bookings

Contact Tony Brown on:

Mobile: 0428 852 736

Email: [tr4950@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tr4950@optusnet.com.au)

## **21 Engineer Support Troop Reunion**

The Troop Reunion is to be held from 30 August to 3 September 2021 at Forster—Tuncurry on the NSW coast.

All accommodation, venues and activities will remain prior to the change of date due to COVID19. Any changes will be posted on the website and sent out by email. Please make sure that we have your current email address. For further information contact Ian (below), Phil Hicks 0414 761932 [phil.hicks@gmail.com](mailto:phil.hicks@gmail.com) or Stan Monkley 0411 506787 [stan21est@gmail.com](mailto:stan21est@gmail.com).

Contact Ian McLean (0412 431297)

[jaim@hotmail.com.au](mailto:jaim@hotmail.com.au)

Website: [www.21est.org](http://www.21est.org)

## **2 RAR B Coy, 67-68 Reunion**

### **B Company Reunion**

Plans are underway for the Reunion to be held in Gympie Queensland, mid-August 2021. Exact dates haven't been decided but would incorporate Vietnam Veterans' Day, the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Please ensure your email address is up to date and if you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Leonie Millard (Schwarz) 0408015815, [leonieschwarz@bigpond.com](mailto:leonieschwarz@bigpond.com) or Ros Kirkpatrick (daughter) 0429 942528 [ros.acugympie@gmail.com](mailto:ros.acugympie@gmail.com)



## **104 Sig Sqn National Reunion 2021**

20-22 July 2021, Twin Towns Service Club, Gold Coast.

55th Anniversary Reunion for all ex members and families of 104 Sig Sqn, SVN and later. Other RASigs most welcome. Meet and Greet, Dinner, Memorial Service and Farewell Lunch.

Contact: Denis Hare—0419334535

[reunion@au104.org](mailto:reunion@au104.org) <http://2021.au104.org>

Facebook Page: 104 Sig Sqn National Reunion 2021

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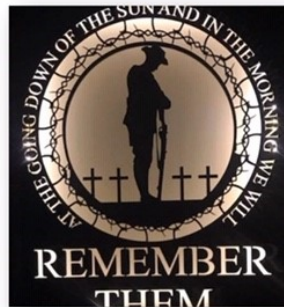
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Some VVAA State branches have retreats on their websites.

Under the current COVID restrictions, check before you travel



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# MERCHANDISE

## VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA ST MARYS' OUTPOST SUB-BRANCH



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VVAA St Marys Outpost PO Box 3049 South St Marys NSW 2760



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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.



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## OUR HISTORY

Recent research has identified a loss of records from our associations past. If anyone has  
copies of VVAA. National Congress minutes prior to 1996 please forward to:

[president@vvaa.org.au](mailto:president@vvaa.org.au) or [secretary@vvaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vvaa.org.au)

## TELL OTHERS ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES

VVAA States and sub branches are encouraged to contribute reports on their local activities for  
publication in Debrief.

Don't miss this opportunity promote your group; it may give others ideas of what they can do for,  
and with, members and their families.

The preferred method is to attach to an email the article in Word format and photographs in JPG  
format for better quality, to [debriefeditor@gmail.com](mailto:debriefeditor@gmail.com)

## Has your Email Address Changed?

Please advise your new email address to the VVAA National  
Secretary at [secretary@vvaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vvaa.org.au).



# NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Phillip Island VIC 3925

[www.vietnamvetmuseum.org.au](http://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org.au)

Membership enquiries welcomed—application form next page



## AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS Incorporated

*(formerly 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 inception and remains today.

The **kookaburra** was the mascot of the 7th Division of the 2nd AIF, commanded by Mrs Jessie Vasey's husband, Major-General Vasey.

## DEBRIEF NEXT EDITION IS MAY-JUNE 2021

The deadline for articles to be included in DEBRIEF is the first day of every even month.

When submitting articles with photographs please include the photographs separately as an attachment in JPG or similar format. Also identify each photo i.e., Photo 1 – SA President laying a wreath; Photo 2 – Cenotaph gates etc.

*Debrief Editor [debriefeditor@gmail.com](mailto:debriefeditor@gmail.com)*

# Become a Friend of NVVM

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The Friends of NVVM program unites people committed to supporting the mission of this unique museum: to remember, interpret and understand the experience of Vietnam War veterans and the enduring impact of the war on society.

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- ♥ 10% discount on admission cost for immediate family.
- ♥ 10% discount in NVVM shop & Nui Dat Cafe.
- ♥ Exclusive "Friends" only private viewing & events.
- ♥ Regular newsletters.
- ♥ Discounts for guest lectures, film nights, conference and other special events.
- ♥ Single vote at AGM.

Payment:	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Individual	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$65 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$95 <input type="checkbox"/>
Concession	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$45 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$65 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$70 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$130 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$190 <input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate	\$200 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$350 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$500 <input type="checkbox"/>
Life: Aged 60 yrs+			
Individual	\$800 <input type="checkbox"/>	Concession \$600 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Life: Aged under 60 yrs			
Individual	\$1200 <input type="checkbox"/>	Concession \$800 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Direct payments can be made to:

NVVM Ltd Trading Acct

Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000

Account: 149738577

## Primary Members Details (please print)

Company name: .....

Title: ..... Surname .....

First Name/s: .....

Address: .....

State: ..... Postcode: .....

Email address: .....

@ .....

Phone: .....

Signature: .....

Date: ...../...../.....

Immediate family in Friend's household.  
(Please provide given name and surname).

**Concession** applies to veteran card holders, full time students & pensioners, does NOT include Senior Card. Benefits as per individual member.

**Family** allows for 2 adults and up to 4 children. Benefits as per individual member.

**Corporate** allows for four adults and up to 10 children. Benefits as per individual member.

**Post:** Friends of NVVM Association  
PO Box 318  
San Remo VIC 3925

**Email:** office@vietnamvetmuseum.org

**phone:** 03 5956 6400

**Website:** www.vietnamvetmuseum.org

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Phillip Island VIC

☐ Cheque ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card holder's name: .....

Card number: .....

Expiry date: ...../...../.....

Signature: .....

Date signed: ...../...../.....