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QUEENSLAND 4021

HONOUR THE DEAD BUT FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING

# SITREP

Incorporated 31 Aug 2000

September 2016

ABN 34-392-447-046

## *Mission Statement*

*To assist all veterans, dependants and their descendants in all matters relating to health, welfare and wellbeing.*

## PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

I would like to personally thank Brian Lewis, John van Pelt, David Dowling and Michael Joyce for their professionalism in the way they organised and prepared the Vietnam Veterans' Day Service. Thanks gentlemen. It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the Post 1955 Veterans' Group Inc. for their assistance and for being part of the subcommittee. Our old mate Graham Woodward did a sterling job as Master of Ceremonies. I should add that I have been told by both members and non-members that they were quite impressed by the way Graham conducted the service. This year the Vietnam Veterans' were marched from Anzac Place to the front of the RSL under the control of a Corporal from 20EOD. I must thank the Redcliffe Police for their support in this event by stopping traffic which allowed us to cross the road in complete safety. The marches were kept in step by the Piper Joe Joyce.

A special thanks must also go to the Management and staff of the Redcliffe RSL, for their assistance in providing so much help and support for the service. Thank you ladies and gentlemen. A special mention must be made of Robert Kingston who once again hit the ground running and didn't stop until the parade was over and even then he was busy helping out the catering staff. Thanks mate!

The venues for fellowship and refreshments were the Sports Bar as well as the 'Point Café Restaurant and Bar'.

Of course, the day could not have been such a success without the assistance of the Redcliffe RSL's Board of Management and the RSL's Sub Branch. Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen from the Committee and Members of the Vietnam Veterans' Association Of Australian, Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.

It is very important that those living alone ensure their modifiable NOK details are accurate and kept up to date. The Secretary is the man to talk to there.

I will see you all at our next General Meeting

Take care one and all

Charles Parsons LM

Ich Dien



## **YADA YADA'S**

Well what an AUGUST month (get It, should I have to ask?)

First we had our highly successful Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorations on the 18<sup>th</sup> August and then our inaugural Veterans Race Day at Kilcoy on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Social Secretary covers that in his report. My reference is to the VVDC and congrats to our committee especially David Dowling for doing Secretary Duties for the committee this year.

This is a rather long winded report but when you have something to say or report SAY IT.

**MAKE SURE YOU READ MAJOR JOHN REES ADDRESS INCLUDED** long winded report to State VVAA re our commemoration.

Vietnam Veterans Day was commemorated by the Redcliffe sub-branch of the VVAA in traditional manner but with greater live ceremony. The days commemoration service was the result of 6 months of preparation by the organising committee under the chairmanship of our own Vice President, Brain Lewis.

Preparations involved liaison with Council, Police our good friends at 20 EOD at Enogerra Barracks and of course our absolutely rock solid REDCLIFFE RSL.

We are fortunate at Redcliffe to have such a fantastic location for our newly relocated Vietnam Veterans Place within the very picturesque bay side location on ANZAC Place, which in itself is located opposite the Redcliffe RSL.

The event was well publicised thanks to our great relationship with the Editor of the Redcliffe Herald. Two weeks out there was a feature article with photo of our own David Dowling and one week out a piece by our Bill Stowers also the secretary of the Redcliffe RSL. Final publicity was provided with a composite of photos and articles about VVDC the following week.

Our formal commemoration, with our own Graham Woodward bringing his strong presence to a dignified performance as Master of Ceremonies, was commenced and concluded by the mounting of the guard and flag bearers from 20EOD.

The live rendition of our National Anthem by local Melissa Mettaic and her two young daughters added greatly to the quality of the service, as did live renditions of the Last Post and Rous by our own Quarter Master Michael Joyce with his talented brother Joe providing lone piper renditions while the wreath laying ceremony was completed.

The service was well attended by approximately 200 people that included all levels of government with Luke Howarth our local federal member laying a wreath, as well as representatives for two state ministers and both our local government representatives present. Other wreath layers followed our own President Charles Parsons co laying the wreath with President of the local Post 1955 veterans, included other military organisations and charities as well as the war widows and friends. In all some 30 wreaths were laid.

The true dignity of the event was excentuated by the Pastors blessing but especially his address. Major John Rees' words were brief but very powerful.

His address read:

“ 2016 is the year that 21 of our heroes finally came home.

Steve Hanley was 9½ at the time but remembers clearly the day the news came.

"It was Sunday afternoon. I remember the army car with the chaplain and the officer, so I knew what had happened. When mum was told she collapsed at the door."

The news was of his father, Warrant Officer Max Hanley, serving in Vietnam.

His platoon had been overrun by North Vietnam forces./cont. over

He was hit by a rocket propelled grenade. His mother was given 24 hours to decide if she could pay the £500 it would cost to bring him home.

It was 49 years late but, to the mournful sounds of a lone piper, war hero Max Hanley of Morphettville was on Thursday finally laid to rest in the earth of his country and the city of his birth. More than 200 relatives, friends and comrades who fought with the Warrant Officer.

Max's widow, Marie, representing their four children, 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, many in attendance, spoke emotionally about what it meant to finally have her husband home. "It's a blessing to have him here in his own country where he belongs," she said tearfully.

That kind of story is told 21 times.

In 2016 that injustice is put right. They finally came home. We thank you for your resilience. For not giving up.

Today the 18th August 2016 marks 50 years since the battle of Long Tan and 50 years since Australian and New Zealanders entered the Phuoc Tuy province.

On 18 August, 1966, members of D Company who were outnumbered 20 to 1, fought against enormous odds to defeat the Viet Cong in one of the most well-known Australian engagements of the war.

For half a century, many of the men have received no official recognition of their courage, despite sustained campaigning from D Company commander, retired Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith.

In April last year the recommendation for 13 gallantry awards was refused.

In 2016 that injustice will be put right. Thank you for your comradeship. For not giving up.

Defense records show 106 ADF members are suspected to, or are confirmed to have, died by suicide since 01 January 2000. There is a battle to be fought on home soil, For justice, For fairness, For our mates.

A battle that requires courage - commitment - and great skill.

And to all in uniform today we say Thank you for stirring us up.

For not letting us forget.

For showing us renewed courage - eternal optimism - and dogged perseverance.

And, to all family members and committed friends.

Thank you for your love in action. For your comradeship.

You are the reflection of the love and justice of our God.

We come together today - in solidarity.

Those who have served and those who have not.

Together we give thanks for the memories past,

Together we enjoy and share bonds of friendship.

May faith, hope and love be renewed in each of us.

And may God be with you today."

Those words still bring a tear to my eye.

At the end of the ceremony Police provided road closures for a short period to allow for a formal march of veterans behind 20EOD from the ceremony site to the REDCLIFFE RSL, where veterans and friends enjoyed refreshments of light food and drinks (of choice) at the Break and Sportsmen Bar.

The author of these few words enjoyed these refreshments very much (too much????) and cannot remember much after thiiiiiiiiiiiis.....!

Much love

Gomer

## SOCIAL REPORT

Still no lotto result, that is the bad news. The good news was the success of the bus trip to the Kilcoy Veterans Race Day. We had 44 people attend what was a great entertaining day. Some were dressed in their finery, while others took the casual look. The bookies did well, with the usual winners & losers & the bar also got a good workout. Thanks to Peter Parrish, was organised three marquees with seating & shade, which made for a comfortable day. It was pleasing to have a number of Post 55 people attend with & lets hope our two groups can get more involved at such events in the future. It was agreed by all those who attended, we should make this an annual event. A reminder that our last bus trip for the year is to the Chung Tian Buddhist Temple on Wednesday 21st September. The bus will leave the RSL at 8 am sharp. Lunch will be at the Springwood Tavern & return the Redcliffe about 2 pm. At the time of writing, there are 15 starters, I need names at the next meeting. Don't forget, to start getting your names in for our Xmas party on 26th November, it is not that far away. Also, a reminder, there will be a light lunch in The Point Restaurant after our meeting on the 14th September. Members, again, would you try & have the correct meeting money (\$2.00) to make Mike & Rod's job easier at the door. That's all for this month. Take care one and all.

Rod P, Mike O & Rod B



# **Doug Morris**

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### VVAA Day Redcliffe



L to R Charles Parsons & Peter Cummings, Graham Woodward & Nev Cullen

**Vietnam Veterans Association of  
Australia  
Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.  
VVAA Redcliffe Committee**

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All correspondence to be addressed to the:

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VVAA Redcliffe Sub Branch  
PO Box 38  
KIPPA-RING QLD 4021

Unless otherwise notified in the 'Sitrep' newsletter, all meetings of the VVAA Redcliffe Sub Branch are held at 11:00am on the second Wednesday of each month at the Redcliffe RSL, Irene Street, Redcliffe, in the Redcliffe RSL Meeting Room. All VVAA members, members' partners, Members' guests and prospective members are welcome to attend.



*I accidentally gave my wife a glue-stick instead of chapstick.  
She's still not talking to me*

## Birthdays

**Bruce Anderson, Des Harper**

**(If you haven't been mentioned in the birthday list, please let me know, if you have been mentioned in the birthday list and it is not your birthday, please let me know. Ed.)**

## LAUGHTER PARADE

### **You Swindled the Wrong Guy!**

**After a thorough investigation, a rich gangster finds out that his bookkeeper has cheated him out of 10 million bucks. His bookkeeper is deaf and that was the reason he got the job in the first place. It was assumed that a deaf bookkeeper would not hear anything that he might have to testify about in court.**

**When the mobster goes to confront the bookkeeper about his missing \$10 million, he brings along his attorney, who knows sign language.**

**The Godfather tells the lawyer 'Ask him where the \$10 million bucks he embezzled from me is'.**

**The attorney, using sign language, asks the bookkeeper: "Where is the money?"**

**The bookkeeper signs back: 'I don't know what you are talking about'.**

**The attorney tells the gangster: 'He says he doesn't know what you're talking about'.**

**The gangster pulls out a pistol, puts it to the bookkeeper's temple and says, 'Ask him again!'**

**The attorney signs to the bookkeeper: 'He'll kill you if you don't tell him!'**

**The bookkeeper signs back: 'OK! OK! You win! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo's backyard in Queens!'**

**The Godfather asks the attorney: 'Well, what'd he say?'**

**'He says you don't have the guts to pull the trigger.'**

### **My weekend**

**A balding, white haired man walked into a jewelry store this past Friday evening with a beautiful much younger gal at his side. He told the jeweler he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.**

**The jeweler looked through his stock and brought out a \$5,000 ring.**

**The man said, 'No, I'd like to see something more special.'**

**At that statement, the jeweler went to his special stock and brought another ring over. 'Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000the jeweler said.**

**The lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement.**

**The old man seeing this said, 'We'll take it.'**

**The jeweler asked how payment would be made and the man stated,**

**'By check. I know you need to make sure my check is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds; I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon.'**

**On Monday morning, the jeweler angrily phoned the old man and said 'Sir...There's no money in that account.**

**'I know,' said the old man...'But let me tell you about my weekend.**

*A guy walked up to me on the streets and gave me a bag of old dirty coins for no reason. So I took it to the dry cleaners to get them all washed clean. Next day, I got arrested for money laundering.*

## POETS CORNER

### New Generation Veterans

We honour our old veterans, we honour them with pride  
And read of all the horrors they have carried deep inside.  
We know they served in Asia or New Guinea's highland rains  
Vietnam or in Africa where many men were slain.

We know that fateful landing on Gallipoli's dark shore  
Wherever Aussies fought, we know there are so many more  
But now a new young generation needs our help as well  
They too have been to war and suffer with their private hell.

Though losses are not classed as great their fears are just the same  
Those electronic hidden bombs, still injure, kill or maim.  
They fight against an enemy they find so hard to see  
Who mingle in the market place, then cause much tragedy

Insurgents in Afghanistan hide in the rough terrain  
Or roaming in Iraq, where, wearing robes they look the same.  
The suicide stealth bombers, don't care who they hurt or kill,  
Then with their own beliefs, they try to break our forces will.

Our fighting Aussie spirit shows on any foreign land  
They're in the skies, they're on the sea, or on the desert sand  
Now many are returning with the horrors they still see  
And living with their nightmares, suffering bureaucracy.

I know on ANZAC day, we all remember with a tear  
But all vets young or old, they need our help throughout the year  
Support and listen to their stories, when they do get told  
Lets honour our new veterans, just like we do our old.

David J Delaney

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## **Veterans' Health Week**

**Veterans' Health Week (VHW) this year will be held from Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October 2016. This year's theme is Social Connection.**

**The week is an opportunity for veterans, war widows, widowers, current and ex-Australian Defence Force members and their families to participate, connect and influence the health and wellbeing of themselves and their friends.**

**DVA will be partnering with Ex-service organizations' (ESOs) and community groups to develop a program of fun and interactive events and activities at a local level**

**How can I get involved?**

**DVA encourages a range of organisations, including ESOs, Day Clubs, Men's Health Peer Education volunteers and community groups to organise activities throughout VHW. As an individual, you can either encourage organisations you are involved with to organise a VHW event, or you can take the lead in organising a VHW event yourself.**

**Canvas friends, family and acquaintances to assist and come along to events planned in your local area and take part in the fun. Note that all members of the veteran and service communities, their friends, carers and families are encouraged to participate. This year DVA is hoping that members of the veteran community will make a special effort to come along with friends, family and acquaintances who don't normally get involved in veteran activities.**

**Where can I go for more information?**

**For more information call 133 254 or, for Regional callers: 1800 555 254 and ask to speak with your nearest Veterans' Access Network office or contact the VHW team via e-mail to: [vhw@dva.gov.au](mailto:vhw@dva.gov.au)**

## **Honouring Malaya and Borneo veterans**

**On Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan paid tribute to the Australians who served in the post-Second World War campaigns. Mr Tehan today honoured the Australians who served during the Malayan Emergency (1948–1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation (or Konfrontasi, 1962–1966). "Australians should reflect on the service and sacrifice of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force personnel who served in these two conflicts," Mr Tehan said. "The Malayan Emergency was declared on 18 June 1948 when the Malayan Communist Party launched an insurgency against the British colonial government. Australia's military involvement commenced in June 1950 and continued until the Emergency was declared officially over on 31 July 1960, but Australian forces, as part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve, continued to conduct anti-insurgency operations in Malaya until 1963.**

**Fifty-one Australian servicemen died in the Malayan Emergency, 15 of them as a result of operations, and 27 were wounded.**

**"During Australia's 13-year military involvement in Malaya, Australian military personnel played an important role in bringing the long-running Communist insurgency in the region to an end.**

**"Australian troops first became involved in the Indonesian Confrontation in 1964, in defence of the newly established Federation of Malaysia. In 1965 the Australian Government agreed to the deployment of Australian troops for service in Borneo. The Indonesian Confrontation formally ended with the signing of peace accords by Adam Malik and Tun Abdul Razak in Jakarta on 11 August 1966."/cont. over**

Twenty-three Australian servicemen died during Confrontation, seven of them as a result of operations, and eight were wounded.

In 2011, the Department of Veterans' Affairs designated 31st August as the official date of commemoration for two historical campaigns involving Australian Defence personnel – The Malayan Emergency (1955–1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation (or Konfrontasi, 1965-1966).

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### No. 9 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force

9 Squadron was posted to Vietnam with the specific task of operating in direct support of the 1st Australian Task Force which was based at Nui Dat, a rubber plantation situated in the centre of Phuoc Tuy Province, about eighteen miles due north of the Vung Tau air base.

9 Squadron's helicopters carried out a variety of roles in Vietnam. Most important were the transport of infantry and logistic support, but the helicopters were also used to drop leaflets over enemy territory. Some were also used in aerial spraying to rid the base of mosquitoes and, more aggressively, to kill vegetative growth around the base and to destroy agricultural plots in Viet Cong territory, denying the enemy a source of food.

Just two months after the squadron's arrival in Vietnam, the crews of two Huey's; A2-1020 - Riley, Grandin, Collins & Stirling and A2-1022 - Dohle, Lane, Harrington & Hill, were called on to drop ammunition to the beleaguered troops of D Company, 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, in the Battle of Long Tan. Flying in appalling weather at tree-top height; they dropped ammunition to the soldiers on the ground through driving rain and under intense Viet Cong fire. Seven 9 Squadron Huey's operated again that night along with a Huey from the United States Medical Company (Air Ambulance), after the battle, to retrieve the wounded, guided only by the light emanating from the open hatches of Armoured Personnel Carriers.

In the later part of 1967, the RAAF began to replace 9 Squadron's UH-1B aircraft with the larger and more powerful UH-1H variant. At the same time the squadron's strength was to be doubled from eight to sixteen helicopters. Due to the RAAF's other commitments in Vietnam, Malaysia and within Australia, this decision resulted in a severe shortage of airforce pilots and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was asked to fill the gap temporarily. Consequently, eight RAN Fleet Air Arm pilots were assigned for duties with 9 Squadron in 1968.

The last members of 9 Squadron left Vung Tau on 17 December 1971. Six squadron members were killed on operations in the Vietnam War, and another man, attached to the squadron from No. 1 Operational Support Unit, was also killed.

## Van For Vets

Cockatoo Rise, VOLUNTEER AND NOT FOR PROFIT war veterans retreat at Bairnsdale ( Gippsland Lakes Victoria ) has just established a caravan at their retreat, to house a homeless war veteran in need of immediate accommodation or one that needs respite or just time away from their normal living circumstances .

The facility is provided free of charge to any veteran in need.

The first vet to use the facility this week is ( PIC ATTACHED ) Peter Doherty. Peter served with 110 Sigs in Vietnam during 1970-71. He was an electronics tech on mobile communications . His tour of duty took him to many parts of South Vietnam servicing and fixing radios etc used by Australian troops in the field .Peter is seen enjoying some of the local produce from patties pies , who are also donating food for these veterans.

Some background if needed.

Homeless agencies and support groups for veterans are warning of a growing number of former soldiers in crisis as they struggle to adapt to civilian life after their traumatic experiences on the front line.

Entire families are being affected by this and I think if the Australian public knew that we had young soldiers with war-caused mental illness sleeping in cars with their wife and daughter, they'd be justifiably outraged. But that is what is happening.

In 2009, when the last national Homeless Veterans Survey was conducted, there were 3,000 veterans without a home.

Since then, up to 40,000 troops have been deployed to the Middle East in various capacities

Most [Vietnam] veteran cases didn't present to the Department of Veterans Affairs until they were in their late thirties and early forties, and they all went to war when they were in their early twenties.

So there can be a time lag of 15 to 20 years and that doesn't mean people aren't suffering. It just means it takes that long for them to fall over completely before they reach out for help.

Early intervention is crucial with mental health but for so many, far too many, it's already too late.

Most people in Australia know what happened to the Vietnam generation in terms of mental breakdown, mental health, alcoholism [and] suicide.

## Rare and weird facts about World War II

*The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese.*

*Over 100,000 Allied bomber crewmen were killed over Europe.*

*More U.S. servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps.*

*In World War II, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day.*

*Americans got 22.*

*In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin*

*Graham - age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy*

*Adolf Hitler's nephew, William Hitler, served in the US Navy during World War II*

*Total casualties for World War II totaled between 50 - 70 million people,*

*80 percent of which came from only four countries - Russia, China, Germany and Poland.*

*Over 50 percent of the casualties were civilians, with the majority of those being women and children.*

*The Siege of Stalingrad resulted in more Russian deaths (military and civilian) than the United States and Britain sustained (combined) in all of World War II.*

*Last night I was sitting on the sofa watching TV when I heard my wife's voice from the kitchen, 'what do you feel like for dinner my love . . . chicken, beef or lamb?' I said, 'chicken please.' She replied, 'You're having soup you fat bastard, I was talking to the cat!'*



**TROPHY WORLD**  
" If it's worth winning .... We made it !"

---

**Mark Tonkin**

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**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD  
IN THE R.S.L. MEETING ROOM  
AT 1100 Hrs on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**DISCLAIMER:**

*None of the contents of this newsletter necessarily state the views of the Redcliffe VVAA Sub Branch or that of the Editor, or the VVAA unless otherwise stated.*