



# RICOCHET



Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. JUNE 2022

## VV Day commemoration returns on 18 August

VIETNAM Veterans Day will be commemorated again this year after a hiatus because of COVID restrictions.

On 18 August, a major service will be held at Maroochydore War Memorial on The Esplanade at Cotton Tree from 1100 to 1200 hours after a short march by veterans from near the swimming pool with form-up at 1045.

Commemorations will begin before that with a service at the Australian War Dog Memorial, Alexandra Headland, at a time to be advised.

Lunch will follow the main commemoration service at Maroochy RSL hosted by Vietnam Veterans Association Sunshine Coast sub-branch (Tickets for \$40 members and \$50 non-members are available at the Drop-In Centre).

A bus is being provided to bring veterans from Caloundra RSL at 1000 hours, returning at 1430 hours.

Tickets in the sub-branch's major raffle, proceeds from which held meet costs on the day are now available.

The Vietnam War will be commemorated at other centres around the Sunshine Coast and around Australia, including a national service in Canberra.

Vietnam Veterans Day is commemorated on 18 August every year. The day was originally known as Long Tan Day, chosen to commemorate the men of D Company, 6RAR who fought in the battle of Long Tan in 1966.

In 1987, following the very successful Welcome Home parade for Vietnam veterans in Sydney, then



Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that Long Tan Day would be known as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Since then, it has been commemorated every year as the day on which the service of all those men and women who served in Vietnam is remembered.

Planning is underway for a range of significant events around the country in 2023 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Almost 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War; 521 lost their lives and more than 3000 were wounded.

Details on our local commemoration, Page 19.

**PICTURED: Vietnam Veterans Day at Maroochydore in 2017.**



**OUR MISSION:** To assist ALL veterans and their dependents in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.

**Our website:** [www.vietnamvetssc.org.au](http://www.vietnamvetssc.org.au)

**Email:** [secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com) **Editor:** [ricocheteditor@gmail.com](mailto:ricocheteditor@gmail.com)

**General information Page 2.**

Veterans & Families Counselling

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**VIETNAM VETERANS  
ASSN of AUSTRALIA  
SUNSHINE COAST**

**SUB-BRANCH Inc.**

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Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn	0422670080
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Tracker Dogs Assn.	Ian Atkinson
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**DROP-IN-CENTRE**

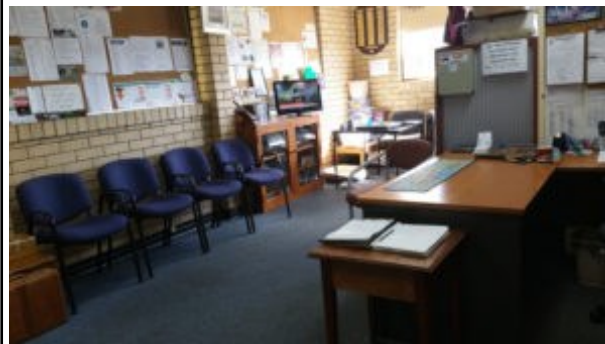
Located at the rear of the Library Complex Administration Building (upstairs) , Cnr Sixth Avenue and Beach Parade, Cotton Tree.

**Office Phone 54794552**

**E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com**

***OFFICE HOURS:***

***Monday to Friday 0900 to 1200 (9am — noon).***



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PO Box 1797, (or 129 Horton Parade) Maroochydore, QLD, 4558

This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling through us. Group programmes include the Lifestyle Management Program (5 days live-in with partner) and the Heart Safe Program (12 month gym). Other therapeutic/educational groups are being planned for the Sunshine Coast.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)**

**129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.**

**Free call to Brisbane Office 1800 555 254**

**DISCLAIMER:** The committee of Vietnam Veteran Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. and its individual members take no responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this newsletter, nor accept liability for any loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly from the use of information contained in this newsletter, and do not warrant that opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, this Sub-branch or the Sub-branch Committee, including individual members.

**OUR MISSION:** To assist all veterans and their dependents in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.

Older veterans may have reason for optimism that the new Federal Government will address the anomaly in funeral benefits compensated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In previous issues of *Ricochet* we have been following the issue of the anomaly in funeral benefit payments whereby older veterans covered under the Veterans Entitlement Act are entitled to a lesser amount for a funeral benefit than veterans covered under later legislation (up to \$2000 compared with up to \$10,000).

“Labor will address inequity in the treatment of our veterans in payment for funeral expenses – ensuing the families of our veterans are better supported,” then Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said in 2019.

“We will assist more than 84,000 veterans by increasing the amount they receive for funeral expenses by more than \$10,000 – an overall investment of \$90.4 million.

“Currently, those veterans who access support through the Veterans’ Entitlement Act (VEA) are entitled to a maximum of \$2000 to assist in funeral costs, often leaving families with the burden of out of pockets costs.

“A Shorten Labor Government will increase this amount to \$12,053.62 for these VEA veterans, who are mostly our Second World War, Korea and Vietnam era

# Anomaly of funeral benefits maybe on table with change

veterans – this is the same level that veterans’ access under the modern Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA).”

Before the recent election, *Ricochet* received a response on the issue from the Department of Veterans Affairs, but it was too late for the May issue.

“The Productivity Commission did not recommend a general increase to the funeral benefit under the VEA,” DVA said, referring to our assertion.

“Instead, the Productivity Commission recommended an increase for veterans who are severely impaired at the time of death or where death is service related.”

Member for Blair, Queenslander Shayne Neuman was veterans affairs spokesperson in opposition, but has been replaced as Minister by West Australian Matt Keogh. The issue will be followed up.

Interestingly, our national association did not mention this matter in a letter to Mr Neumann covering relevant issues before the election.

## Vet’s son is on a winner



A GRANDSON of Vietnam veteran and sub-branch member Kev Lynch has won a scholarship to Long Island University in New York.

He is Will Lynch (left) who played for the rugby First XV at Somerset College on the Gold Coast. He

is on a four-year sporting scholarship to the university and will study finance.

Will is a son of Scott and Rachel Lynch. Kevin served with 9 RAR.

## Need to replace your dog tags?

Do you still have your ID tags — or to use the US term, “dog tags”?

If not, maybe you would like a replacement set to hand down to children or grandchildren.

Our long-term advertiser and supporter, Kym Presgrave of Queensland Medals and More can help you out with a set (advertisement Page 7).

The metal tags had your name, number, blood type and religion.



*THIS dedicated memorial to Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women has been unveiled in Brisbane’s Anzac Square by Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner. One of only a few memorials to Indigenous veterans in Australia it is cast in bronze and features life-size figures standing on a ‘Journey Stone’. The sculpture was done by Liam Hardy of Sculpt Studios with Indigenous artist and cultural advisor John Smith Gumbula from Griffith University. Chair of the overseeing committee was Australian Army veteran and Quandamooka Elder Auntie Lorraine Hatton OAM.*

## From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all well. Regarding our current raffle; we are getting ticket stubs sent back to us with no names on them. I don't know how you can win something if no one knows who you are!

As in my previous report, I would like to remind all that we expect this year's event to be one of the biggest yet and are receiving a number of requests from various veteran groups to be permitted to attend on the day, so when tickets go on sale, I suggest you get in early.

I want to share this with you; it's about Military service requirements in the USA. Trey Gowdy, a former Congressman, was quizzed by a reporter about the ban of transgenders from joining the US Armed Forces.

Trey responded accordingly, and didn't mince his words: "Nobody has a 'right' to serve in the Military. Nobody! What makes people think that the Military is an equal opportunity employer? It's very far from it and for good reasons. The Military uses prejudice regularly and consistently to deny citizens from joining – for being too old, too young, too fat, too skinny, too tall or too short. Citizens who are denied for having flat feet or for having missing or additional fingers. By the way, poor eyesight will disqualify you as will bad teeth. Malnourished? Drug addiction? Bad back? Criminal history? Low IQ, Anxiety? Phobias? Hearing damage? Six arms? Hearing

voices in your head? Self-identification as a unicorn? Need a special ramp for your wheelchair? Can't run the required course in the required time? Not really a 'morning person'? All can be legitimate reasons for denial. The Military has 'one' job. Winning wars. Anything else is a distraction and a liability. Did someone just scream "that isn't fair"? War is VERY unfair; there are no exceptions made for being 'special' or 'challenged' or 'socially wonderful'. YOU must change yourself to meet our Military standards and not the other way around. I say again: you don't change the Military; you must change yourself!

The Military is not about being 'fair', it's about taking advantage of others and about winning. The Military doesn't need to accommodate anyone with special issues. The Military needs to win wars and keep our country safe – "Period". If any of your personal issues are a liability that detract from readiness or lethality – Thank you for applying and good luck in future endeavours. Any other questions? (There were none)

Pity this bloke doesn't run our Military Services. That's about it for now, I sincerely hope that you and yours all remain well.

**Best Regards,  
Mick Howe,  
President.**



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## From the Secretary

As we reach the end of May and enter the winter months, it seems we need to live with the inclement weather as well as Covid.

The past month would best be forgotten as far as I am concerned. Suffering Covid and a myriad of other concerns, it best be forgotten.

The fatigue that accompanies Covid is unbelievable in that it denies any strenuous activity almost two weeks on.

The DIC has had a dramatic transformation and I must say, for the better. Good job Hux!

Raffle tickets are well underway and don't forget to put the buyers name on the butt so you are not embarrassed on VV Day.

Plans are underway for the annual Queensland Air Museum weekend sausage sizzle, with a confirming attendance meeting on site on Thursday, 26 May.

Mick Howe has also gained approval from Mooloolaba surf club for the Sappers reunion breakfast in October. Where has this year gone?

Plans are rolling along for VV Day celebrations in August and we expect a big roll up, which means tickets will be snapped up early. Get in quick!

Poor attendance at general meetings continues to disappoint your committee, so please make an effort if possible to get to at least a couple this year.

We have been advised by Bunnings that Sausage Sizzles

are once again on the agenda albeit in a different format.

Bunnings management have decided to hold the fundraiser's on weekends and public holidays only.

I have today (Wednesday, 25 May) forwarded the required relevant information to apply to Bunnings to once again be included in these fund-raising events.

I am hoping, if we are successful in our application, we will be allocated to Bunnings Maroochydhore.

The remainder of the year could be quite lucrative for our association as far as fund-raising is concerned.

In closing, I trust good health prevails for one and all for the remainder of the year.

*Kind regards*

**Garry King**

**Secretary**



**THIS bloke was wandering around the Drop In Centre looking for the manager.**



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**OUR MISSION: To assist all veterans and their dependents in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.**

One regular ritual in the army is the roll call to ensure all are accounted for. Such was the case in winter darkness at Puckapunyal when troops roused by whistle blasts, assembled on parade mid much stamping of boots, were required to answer their names when called for by a sergeant armed with torch and roll book.

I was nervous. The night before, at the end of a rare week end leave in Melbourne, a mate, madly in love, had in the last moments before we boarded the troop train, suddenly decided to stay, and asked me to cover for him at roll call, and I concurred. Now the time had come for the big test.

The sergeant bellowed name after name and then Romeo's name cut through the icy winter darkness. I came to attention and yelled "Present" and tensed. The sergeant continued calling names. Soon after with the first light of dawn, the platoon sergeant reported all correct and present. Oh joy of joy and such relief. I thought I had deceived the system; alas, I had underestimated the Company Sergeant Major, who after many years of soldiering knew every trick in the book.

## Not quite present and correct

"Count them" ordered the Sar-major. Thus In typical army fashion, the platoon was ordered to number from the right and it was then realised there was one missing. The Sergeant's obscenities were many as he issued the dreaded options . "Righto, step forward the ventriloquist, or the platoon will be route marching all night." I stepped forward and was arrested.

Soon after, I was standing to attention in front of our well-respected company commander, Captain Reg Saunders (pictured), the first indigenous soldier to become an officer. To my



utter amazement, he tore the charge into shreds and gave me a tongue lashing. It went something like this. "The army has been calling the roll forever and a day and it's not for amusement. Not only do we check to see who has returned from leave, we check whenever necessary, such as after a withdrawal, assault, attack, or a bloody fire. It works; now a young smart bXXXXd like you turns up and wants to change the whole bloody system. Who do you think you are? Bloody Julius Caesar? As extra training, for the next month you are going to call the roll whenever I decide, plus duty runner including auditing the roll books. Make one mistake and you're finished " I wasn't even game to blink.

So, it came to pass. Calling the roll and checking here and everywhere during field training and as well as auditing roll books. I am always reminded of that wonderful warrior whenever I heard the order "Call the roll." Such a magnificent mentor and it was not to be the only time I was to experience his leadership. — by Ted Chitham on RAR website.



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### Baringa

8a/1 Edwards Terrace  
5329 4616

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## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, VVAASC TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022

Meeting opened at 1110hrs

Ode to the Fallen recited by Mick Howe.

Attendance: as per book. Apologies: as per book.

Previous Minutes read by Mick Howe, moved: Mick Howe, seconded: Bob Johnson. Carried.

Business arising from minutes: No business arising from previous minutes.

**Correspondence:** read by Mick Howe. Business arising from Correspondence: Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings to be considered at Maroochydore. BBQ 10 OCT Breakfast Reunion for Sappers. VV Day Funding obtained from Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Moved: Mick Howe, seconded: Bob Johnson. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Glen Preston read current financial report. Thanked all who volunteered for Sales ANZAC Day. Moved Glen Preston, seconded Bob Johnson. Carried.

**Membership Report:** read by Chris Wessels; four new members. Business arising from Membership Report: NIL. Moved: Chris Wessels, seconded: Bob Johnson. Carried.

**Office Manager Report:** read by John Huxham. Proposed moving covering from window in Drop In. New blinds to be organised. Moved John Huxham, seconded Mal Overend. Carried.

**Sub-Committee Report:** read by John Cunnington. VV Day sorted and tickets for sale in June. No refunds on tickets, sold in Office only. Moved John Cunnington, seconded John Huxham. Carried.

**Digger Hat Jewellery Report:** given by Graeme Scott. Relocated to Palmwoods. Thanks to Peter and Anne Ginman for allowing use of their home. Sales to NT \$3900, and recent sale \$850 to WA. VV spouse from Mackay sent pennies, still need more pennies to continue operation. Moved: Graeme Scott seconded: John Huxham. Carried.

**General Business:** The sign is now permitted to be placed out the front of the building. No Covid restriction in place. The back door must be checked at COB as it has been found open at end of day by Council staff.

**The Meeting was closed at 1145hrs. Next meeting 20 July.**

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The advertisement features several images: a large crest at the top left, a collection of various medals and ribbons on the left, a framed portrait of a soldier with medals on the bottom left, and a large framed display of a soldier's uniform, medals, and other memorabilia on the right.

## WHEN OUR ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN WARTIME

Australian federal elections have taken place during peace time and times of conflict. Even two world wars could not stop Australians casting their ballots, whether at home or on the battlefield.

The election held on 5 May, 1917 saw Australian personnel spread across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa as well as on the high seas. In order to record all eligible votes Commonwealth officials allowed for ballots to be cast before Election Day.

The 1943 election was the second held during World War Two. The first, in 1940, posed only minor logistical challenges for electoral officials as a relatively small number of service personnel had been deployed overseas at the time of the election, primarily concentrated in Europe.

By 1943 there were more than 800,000 service men and women in Australia and overseas whose vote needed to be collected and counted. Military officers were appointed as electoral officers in the field to preside over the casting and counting of ballots.

This election was the first time that those over the age of 18 were able to cast their vote in a Federal election but only if they were serving, or had served, overseas. The

voting age for those serving in Australia remained at 21, the same as for the general population (see below). — **Blake Singley AWM.**

This Australian War Memorial article does not touch on the elections held during the Vietnam War, but there were several, and Diggers did vote.

And, as the National Museum notes: "Since Federation in 1901, the voting age for those eligible had been 21. An exception related to members of the defence forces serving in a war zone outside Australia; under special provisions they could vote in federal elections even if under the age of 21."

The eligible age was reduced universally to 18 in 1973.

**PICTURED: Voting near the frontline in New Guinea during World War Two. — AWM photo.**



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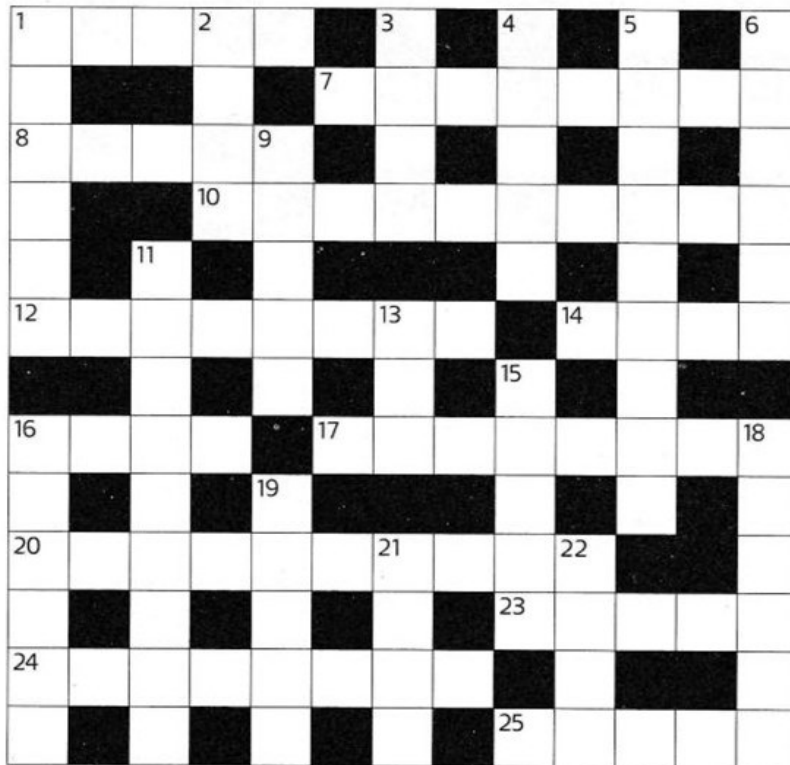
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**Darren Fletcher**  
Dip D.T Adv Dip D.P. (Syd)

Dental Prosthetist



# JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE ....



**ACROSS**

- 1. Party drink (5)
- 7. Queen hit, \_\_\_ Rhapsody (8)
- 8. Fruit (5)
- 10. Funeral attendant (4-6)
- 12. Doing well (8)
- 14. Crumple (4)
- 16. Torso (4)
- 17. Seductive (8)
- 20. Static (10)
- 23. The Friendly Islands (5)
- 24. Immensity (8)
- 25. Hold responsible (5)

**DOWN**

- 1. Stacking frame (6)
- 2. Chicken pen (4)
- 3. Hen (4)
- 4. Jemmy (5)
- 5. Bitter, caustic (9)
- 6. Caught (6)
- 9. Inexperienced (5)
- 11. Time-honoured custom (9)
- 13. Nought (3)
- 15. Caller (5)
- 16. Type of warplane (6)
- 18. Spin (6)
- 19. Punctuation mark (5)
- 21. Tardy (4)
- 22. Spirit (4)

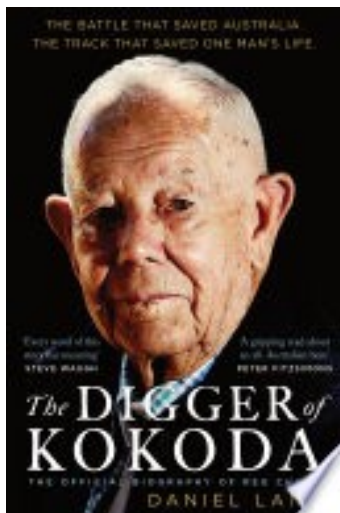
## Do you know?

1. What is the biggest participant sport in the world?
2. Who is the Roman Goddess of Flowers and Spring?
3. Which three European countries were neutral during World War 2?
4. What is the length of the blood vessels in the human brain?
5. What is the national sport of Japan?
6. How long is the brain capable of surviving if it doesn't get oxygen?
7. What word can go before "personality", "decision" and "second"?
8. What term is used to describe food that has been prepared according to Jewish dietary laws?
9. What does the H stand for in the medical abbreviation ADHD?

1. Which planet rotates the fastest?  
a) Jupiter b) Mars c) Uranus d) Saturn
2. Which club is the richest in the world?  
a) Manchester United b) Real Madrid c) Barcelona d) Liverpool
3. Which NBL team has won the most championships?  
a) Melbourne United b) Cairns Taipans c) Perth Wildcats d) Sydney Kings
4. Which country has the most rivers?  
a) Bangladesh b) Brazil c) India d) China
5. An estimated 50-80% of all life on earth is found under the ocean surface and the oceans contain what percentage of the living space on the planet?  
a) 99% b) 95% c) 79% d) 89%
6. What is the Earth's lowest land point with an elevation of 396 m below sea level?  
a) Devis sea b) Mediterranean sea c) Arctic Ocean d) The Dead Sea
7. Where do the highest tides in the world occur?  
a) Bothnian Bay b) Bay of Biscay c) Bay of Fundy d) Cam Ranh Bay
8. What year was Wimbledon boycotted by the Association of Tennis Professionals?  
a) 1971 b) 1973 c) 1975 d) 1977
9. Who was the youngest tennis player to ever be ranked number 1 in the world?  
a) Martina Hingis b) Lleyton Hewitt c) Roger Federer d) Cori "Coco" Gauff
10. Which planet rotates the slowest?  
a) Earth b) Venus c) Mars d) Mercury
11. Permanent snow and ice cover about what percentage of the Earth's land surface?  
a) 12% b) 6% c) 21% d) 24%
12. How much time does it takes for light to travel from the sun to the earth?  
a) 8 minutes b) 1 minute c) 7 minutes d) 12 minutes
13. Baseball bats are made out of the wood of which tree?  
A) Llangernyw Yew b) Willow c) Hickory d) Oak
14. The brain is much more active at night than during the day. True/ False?  
a) True b) False
15. Women's hearts beat \_\_\_\_\_ than men's.  
a) double b) equal c) slower d) faster
16. Relative to size, the strongest muscle in body is the  
a) Tongue b) Jaw c) Arm d) Thigh

• ALL ANSWERS PAGE 17

**BOOKS**



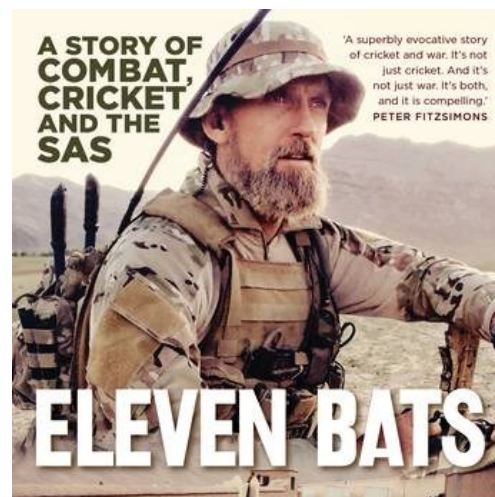
Reg Chard endured hell as an 18-year-old Australian soldier who fought in 1942 on the infamous Kokoda Trail.

Now 98, he is one of the last surviving diggers of Kokoda.

Publishers Pan Macmillan Australia describe this book (cover left) as a “deeply moving, healing and inspiring biography”.

Author Daniel Lane writes about Reg's war in the jungle and how, 80 years after the battle that saved Australia, Kokoda still lives within him.

Lane has been a sports journalist for over 30 years, and has written 18 books, but this is his first on a military theme.



The story of Anthony 'Harry' Moffitt, who spent more than 20 years in the SAS, is told in his book, *Eleven Bats* (part of cover above).

His decades of service and his multiple tours in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan made him one of the regiment's most experienced and recognised figures.


Alongside the SAS, Harry's other lifetime love is cricket. An improvised game of cricket was often the circuit-breaker Harry and his team needed after the tension of operations. He organised matches wherever he was sent. (Publisher: Allen and Unwin).



“From Afghanistan to gold -- an extraordinary tale of tragedy, resilience and triumph” - that is publisher Harper Collins’ description of this book by Curtis McGrath.

He was wounded and lost both legs, but rose above that to become a 10-time world champion gold medallist.

He stormed to victory at the Tokyo Paralympics to bring home two more Paralympic gold medals for Australia.



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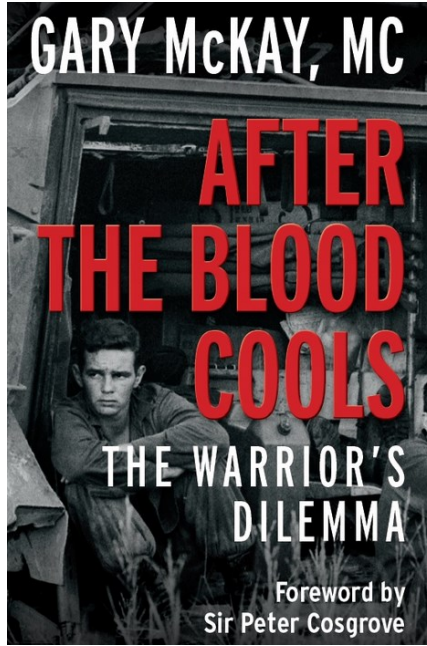
**BOOKS**

Gary McKay served as a rifle platoon commander in Vietnam in 1971 and was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry during the Battle of Nui Le, the last major battle fought by Australian and New Zealand forces in South Vietnam.

Fifty years on, Gary looks back on his distinguished military career and shares his gripping story in *After the Blood Cools – The Warrior’s Dilemma*.

From being conscripted and training for war, to the sudden violence of combat in Vietnam. From being wounded at the Battle of Nui Le through the long road to recovery. And the unexpected demons that haunted him decades after the fighting had stopped.

Reflecting on his experiences, Gary explores *The Warrior’s Dilemma*: how do ordinary people cope with the overwhelming mental and physical challenges of combat? How does it change them, and what emotional



baggage do they carry from the battlefield?

This important book sheds new light on what it really means to go to war, and asks the essential question: how can we better support our frontline fighters, our men and women in

uniform and our first responders?

After 30 years military service, Gary retired from the army. He has continued to share his experiences and provide support to other veterans and their families through his work as a battlefield guide leading tours to Vietnam, and as a historian and non-fiction writer.

Gary’s previous best-selling books include *In Good Company: One Man’s War in Vietnam*, *Bullets, Beans and Bandages*, *Delta Four* and his book with Bob Buick, *All Guts & No Glory*. His latest book acts as his memoir recapping his full military experiences.

Sales of this book support Legacy which assists families of Australian Defence Force men and women who have lost their life or health while serving our country. **From living historytv.com Information on the author at <http://www.garymckay.com.au/>**

- More on Harry Smith’s Long Tan book, Page 16.

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# When you're laughing, the whole world laughs with you

Quotes from British military annual personnel reports:

His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity. This officer can be likened to a small puppy – he runs around excitedly, leaving little messes for other people to clean up.

This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, more of a definitely won't-be. When she opens her mouth, it seems only to change whichever foot was previously in there. Couldn't organise 50 per cent leave in a two-man submarine

He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction. He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle. Technically sound, but socially impossible. When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.

This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar. This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope, always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.

Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig. She sets low personal standards and

then consistently fails to achieve them. This Officer should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better.

The only ship I would recommend for this man is citizenship. Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming. Has two brains; one is lost and the other is out looking for it. Got into the gene pool while the life-guard wasn't watching.

When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell. He's so dense, light bends around him. Some drink from the fountain of knowledge; he only gargled. Takes him one and a half hours to watch 60 minutes.

- continued next page.



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## *When you're laughing, the whole world laughs with you*

### - from previous page

IN A crowded city at a busy bus stop, a woman who was waiting for a bus was wearing a tight leather skirt. As the bus stopped and it was her turn to get on, she became aware that her skirt was too tight to allow her leg to come up to the height of the first step of the bus.

Slightly embarrassed and with a quick smile to the bus driver, she reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little, thinking that this would give her enough slack to raise her leg.

Again, she tried to make the step only to discover she still couldn't. So, a little more embarrassed, she once again reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little more.

For the second time she attempted the step, and once again, much to her chagrin, she could not raise her leg. With a little smile to the driver, she again reached behind to unzip a little more and again was unable to make the step.

About this time, a large Australian who was standing behind her picked her up easily by the waist and placed her gently on the step of the bus.

She went ballistic and turned to the would-be Samaritan and screeched, "How dare you touch my body! I don't even know who you are!"

The Australian smiled and drawled, "Well, ma'am, normally I would agree with you, but after you unzipped my fly three times, I kinda figured we was friends."

A TEACHER at a West Australian University reminded her pupils of tomorrow's final exam.

"Now listen to me, I won't tolerate any excuses for you not being here tomorrow. I might consider a nuclear attack, a serious personal injury, illness, or a death in your immediate family, but that's it, no other excuses whatsoever!"

A smart-arsed teenager at the back of the room raised his hand and asked: "What would happen if I came in tomorrow suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?"

The entire class was reduced to laughter and sniggering. When silence was restored, the teacher smiled at the student, shook her head and sweetly said: "Well, I would expect you to write the exam with your other hand."



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## June Timeline — from Vietnam to Hong Kong

**1 June 1963:** Advisor Sergeant William Hacking became the first Australian to die in Vietnam when his weapon accidentally discharged after being caught in vegetation.

**4 June 1989:** The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The Chinese government later claimed only 300 died in the attack. US estimates put the toll at over 3000. Following the massacre, over 1600 demonstrators were rounded up and jailed, with 27 being executed.

**6 June 1969:** Over three days, Australian forces including 5th Battalion, RAR destroy a large communist force in heavy house-to-house fighting during the Battle of Binh Ba.

**7 June 1971:** Battle of Long Khánh takes place when 3rd

Battalion, RAR with Centurion tanks in support attack a heavily fortified base camp during Operation Overlord.

**8 June 1965:** HMAS Sydney arrives at Vũng Tàu, South Vietnam, carrying the bulk of the Australian force comprising 1st Battalion, RAR.

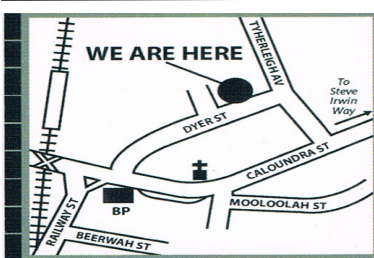
**9 June 1803:** Matthew Flinders arrived in Sydney on HMS Investigator nearly a year after leaving Port Jackson and after a remarkable feat of navigation. Flinders, his crew and their two Aboriginal passengers were the first people to circumnavigate the entire continent, which he names 'Australia'.

**9 June 1928:** Australian pilots Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm, along with two US crewmen, landed in Brisbane and became the first people to cross the Pacific Ocean by air in their three-engine Fokker aircraft, the Southern Cross (photo next page).

**11 June 1994:** After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany.

**12 June 1902:** After lobbying by suffragists and some progressive politicians, the Commonwealth Franchise Act was enacted, allowing women in Australia over the age of 21 a vote in national elections and to stand for the Australian Parliament.

- Continued next page.



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<p style="font-size: 10px;">Rehab &amp; Safety</p>	<p style="font-size: 10px;">Continece</p>
<p style="font-size: 10px;">Dementia</p>	

## June Timeline — from Vietnam to Hong Kong

- from previous page.

**24 June 1852:** In the middle of the night a flood swept through the New South Wales town of Gundagai. Only three buildings were left standing when the water receded. Between 80 and 100 people died, and the disaster is the deadliest flood in our recorded history.

**24 June 2010:** Australia's first female governor-general, Quentin Bryce, swore in Australia's first female prime minister, Julia Gillard.

**26 June 1945:** Australia played an important role in the establishment of the United Nations. The countries involved hoped that the UN's formation would prevent a repeat of the Second World War, the horrors of which were still very fresh in their minds.

**28 June 1880:** Victorian police captured bushranger Ned Kelly after a siege at the Glenrowan Inn. The other members of the Kelly Gang – Dan Kelly, Joseph Byrne and Steve Hart – were killed in the siege. The gang had been outlawed for the murders of three police officers at Stringybark Creek in 1878. Ned Kelly was tried and executed in Melbourne in November 1880.

**28 June 1919:** The Treaty of Peace at Versailles was signed following the Armistice ending the First World War coming into effect at 11am on 11 November 1918. After



*Southern Cross arrives in Brisbane.*

four years of fighting, Germany and its allies were defeated. Tens of millions of people had been killed or maimed.

**30 June 1971:** The 1971 Census of Population and Housing was conducted and was the first time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were included.

**30 June 1971:** Third and final large anti-war rally in Australia with 110,000 demonstrating in Australian cities; in August Prime Minister William McMahon announced that a phased withdrawal would begin later in the year.

**30 June 1997:** In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was officially lowered at midnight and replaced by a new flag representing the official transfer of power.

Sources include:

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/defining-moments-timeline>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\\_history\\_of\\_Australia\\_during\\_the\\_Vietnam\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_Vietnam_War)

<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>

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## D Coy 'fitted up' on intelligence before battle

Australian Task Force Commander Brigadier David Jackson "unintentionally fitted up" D Company, 6 Battalion RAR, "for a possible death sentence" at Long Tan on 18 August 1966, according to the prelude to the book by the company commander.

The prelude was written by journalist Toni McRae, a friend of then Major Harry Smith, in *Long Tan – the Start of a Lifelong Battle* (Big Sky Publishing 2015). She helped with the book until losing a health battle in 2014. This preview continues from last month's *Ricochet* which included the sad story of lack of proper recognition for those involved in the battle.

Smith had radioed his CO, Colonel Colin Townsend, suggesting that despite tracks to the north, east and south, his gut feeling was to patrol east, McRae recounted.

"But at that fateful moment, Harry Smith did not know the unpromising truth," she wrote. "In fact no one from Nui Dat knew the truth other than ... Jackson and just three of his officers ... incredible Jackson had already been given crucial information ... It was, Jackson was told from Morse code radio intercept, more than likely the 5<sup>th</sup> Division's 275 Regiment and support units were resting in jungle just east of the Long Tan rubber plantation, with another major force, Regiment 274, somewhere to the north.

"And more ... that (local) D445 battalion was probably

near Xa Long Tan to the southeast of the rubber plantation ... for 275 Regiment when it arrived from the far northeast on 14 August – and all this was reported promptly to OD Jackson sitting pretty at Nui Dat.

"But what did the brigadier respond with? 'Oh, the radio is probably just a 275 Regiment HQ doing a reconnaissance'. 'Reconnaissance for what Brigadier?

"So Jackson ignored the critical information available ... chose to tell only three fellow officers.

"Thus in a heartbeat, in dispatching Harry and his 108 men of Delta Coy and NZ Artillery to Long Tan that risky day of Operation 'Vendetta', the brigadier had unintentionally fitted them up for a possible death sentence.

"But what the enemy was to discover was that the indomitable Harry Smith and his courageous soldiers were unerringly programmed to win."



**HARRY Smith (centre) with Laurie Drinkwater (right, who served under Smith) and Tim Weir, who played Laurie in the Long Tan movie, Danger Close. They are holding a movie poster.**



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Breaking news! “Arthur Fry announces his retirement, again!” – I retired from the RAAF in February 1986. That did not last long. In fact, I commenced my civilian life as the CEO of a church Nursing Home on 10 February 1986. I returned to Amberley on 14 February 1986 for discharge, so in fact, that first retirement ended before it started.

My second retirement from paid employment followed an occipital stroke which removed my driving licence, consequently removing my double employment as the General Manager of a church Nursing Home in Laidley and the Pastor of a church in Ipswich.

As Work Cover closed my paid working life, we transferred to Caloundra where it was not long before I became involved in voluntary work both in the Justice of the Peace world and in the church, as did Annette in church circles and in the Partners of Veterans arena. These commitments spiralled over the next 18 years.

When I studied Chinese in 1969, at the RAAF School of Languages, we learned quotations from Chairman Mao Tse Dong’s ‘Little Red Book’. We learned, ‘Wei ren min, fu wu! (Serve the people,) which I altered to ‘Wei tai tai, fu wu! (Serve the wife!) So, serve the people, I attempted in my voluntary roles. I had finally found success in serving my wife.

Time has brought with it many infirmities in my body, with cancer coming, and now in remission, seven years ago, and macular degeneration making a mess of my sight three years ago. Thanks to my cancer surgeon and Vision Australia, I have battled on but now believe this is the time to start to slow down having reached 80 years of age, a few months ago.

## ***Fireside with the Padre***



As a retired minister, one calling I will not, cannot, retire from, and that is my service as an Honorary Chaplain, and any other positions I hold within the church and in several ex-Service Organizations as an Honorary Chaplain.

So those positions will continue until the organizations no longer need my services or until I pass from this life, when because of the faith I have lived by, I know I will be in Heaven the moment my days on earth end.

As I enter my third attempt to enjoy retirement, Annette and I have a glimpse of more ocean cruises, more train travel, and more flights to the United States of America to see our daughter-in-law, Joy, and our two lovely granddaughters, Mackenzie, and Addison.

We look forward to joining our members in those areas where we once met prior to Covid-19 pushing us behind closed doors. Hopefully, that will be Vietnam Veterans Day this year at the Maroochydore Cenotaph and later in the Maroochydore RSL, as we begin the changes that come with our third attempt at retirement.

Until next month, may God bless our association and all its members.

**Arthur Fry**  
**Honorary Chaplain**

# Answers from page 9



### **DO YOU KNOW?**

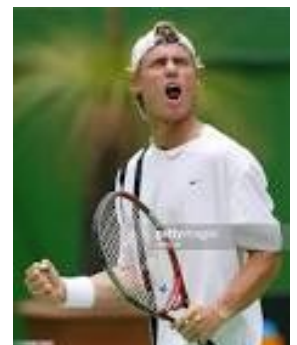
1. Fishing
2. Flora
3. Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland
4. Approx. 161 kilometres
5. Sumo wrestling
6. 5 to 6 minutes
7. Split
8. Kosher
9. Hyperactivity

### **CROSSWORD**

- Across:** 1. Punch, 7. Bohemian, 8. Lemon, 10. Pall-bearer, 12. Thriving, 14. Fold, 16. Body, 17. Alluring, 20. Motionless, 23. Tonga, 24. Enormity, 25. Blame.
- Down:** 1. Pallet, 2. Coop, 3. Fowl, 4. Lever, 5. Vitriolic, 6. Snared, 9. Naïve, 11. Tradition, 13. Nil, 15. Guest, 16. Bomber, 18. Gyrate, 19. Comma, 21. Late, 22. Soul.

### **TRIVIA**

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A Jupiter      | 9. B Leyton Hewitt (photo) |
| 2. C Barcelona    | 10. B Venus                |
| 3. C Perth        | 11. A 12%                  |
| 4. A Bangladesh   | 12. A 8 minutes            |
| 5. B 95%          | 13. C Hickory              |
| 6. D The Dead Sea | 14. A True                 |
| 7. C Bay of Fundy | 15. D Faster               |
| 8. B 1973         | 16. A Tongue               |



### Brekky crew trio



OUR much-appreciated Thursday breakfast crew members Scotty, Geoff and Johnno with Chantelle at the seaside venue, Mooloolaba Surf Club.

## MORE FROM ANZAC DAY



MORE photos from Anzac Day ... on Mooloolaba Beach and (below) groups among the huge crowd at Maroochy RSL Club.

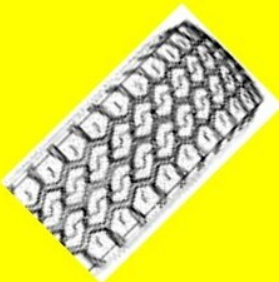
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**THE SUB-BRANCH'S EVENT OF THE YEAR IS GOING AHEAD:**  
**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY THURSDAY , 18 AUGUST 2022**



The day will commence, as usual with the “Toast to the War Dogs” at the War Dog’s Memorial, Alexandra Headland. More information will be provided for those who regularly attend this event over the ensuing months.



**Main Commemoration Ceremony**  
**COTTON TREE CENOTAPH**

**Assembly: 1045 hrs, swimming pool complex, The Esplanade, Cotton Tree. Short march to Cotton Tree RSL Cenotaph, 1055 hours**

**Service:** 11.00 hours—1200 hours.

**Luncheon:** Maroochy RSL following the service.

Welcome to guests at 1230 hours.

Event to finish no later than 1600 hours (4 p.m.)

**Lunch tickets are now available from the Drop-In-Centre. Cost: \$40 for members and partners. Non-members price is \$50 per head. These prices represent the first increase for years and reflect the increasing costs of hosting a function of this size.**

**Lunch includes a sumptuous three course meal, some subsidised beer and wine, entertainment and raffle draws.**

**IMPORTANT:** At the luncheon there will be free seating available. However, If you would like to pre-book a table please notify John Cunnington on 54933513 (0415375968) or email [hookin1947@gmail.com](mailto:hookin1947@gmail.com) to arrange the bookings after you have purchased your tickets. Names, addresses and phone numbers are required for each person (Some COVID protocols still apply at this time).

**Transport:** A bus will be provided to transport guests to and from the Caloundra RSL. Pick-up time will be 1000 hours. The bus will leave the Maroochy RSL at 1630 hours. Guests in the Maroochy area can avail themselves of the Maroochy RSL courtesy bus.

**Special dietary requirements** - leave a message with the duty officer at the Drop-In-Centre or contact John Cunnington on 54933513, or email [hookin1947@gmail.com](mailto:hookin1947@gmail.com)

**Vietnam Veterans Day Raffle:-** Raffle tickets have been sent out. *Please rush back your ticket butts and money ASAP.* The proceeds from the raffle assist in subsidising the costs of the ceremony and the luncheon.

## Roll of Honour – Vietnam, June 1962-75

### June 1963

Hacking, William Francis (36448), 30, AATTV, Sgt, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

### June 1965

Bourke, Michael Alwyn (37867), 19, 1 RAR, Pte, Cheltenham New General Cemetery, Melbourne.

Carroll, William Thomas (37010), 21, 1 RAR, Pte, Warnambool Cemetery, Vic.

Van Valen, Arie (54320), 21, 1 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

### June 1966

Arnold, Kevin John (35956), 31, 2 Comp. Ord. Depot, Cpl, Albury Cemetery, NSW.

Brown, Ian Robert (54157), 26, 1 Div. Provost Coy, Cpl, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Coupe, Brendan Francis (15358), 23, 5 RAR, Cpl, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Ryde, Sydney.

Farren, Leslie Thomas (3786921), 20, 5 RAR, Pte, Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park, Melbourne.

Hood, Ronald Dean (4410911), 23, 1 ARU, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Ruduss, Arthur (3410295), 29, 1 ATF, Pte, Springvale War Cemetery, Melbourne.

Sweetnam, John Robert (215958), 19, 5 RAR, Pte, Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland, Sydney.

### June 1967

Cox, James George (1731426), 22, 7 RAR, Pte, Crematorium and Garden of Remembrance, Rockhampton, Qld.

La Grasta, Gaetano (A222023), 20, Base Support Flight, LAC, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

### June 1968

Barnett, Stuart John (5715206), 21, 4 RAR, Pte, Shepparton Cemetery, Vic.

Butterworth, Raymond John (R66558), 18, HMAS Hobart, OS QMG, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Hunt, Raymond Henry (R54257), 27, HMAS Hobart, Chf Elect Wpns Radio, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

### June 1969

Bancks, Lindsay Ronald (19220), 52, 17 Const Sqdn, WO2, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

Brennan, David John (2184013), 22, 9 RAR, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Dewar, Keith Ivan (5715633), 21, 3 Cav Regt, LCpl, Collie Cemetery, WA.

Jackson, Peter Joseph (2789790), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Binalong Cemetery, NSW.

James, Barry (1201885), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Kennedy, John Joseph (216304), 29, 5 RAR, Cpl, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.

Sorrensen, Gordon Dennis (2790417), 24, 9 RAR, Pte, Gympie Cemetery, Qld.

Teeling, Wayne Edward (2790880), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Botany General Cemetery, Sydney.

Turner, Timothy Charles (4720253), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, King-scote Cemetery, Kangaroo Island SA.

Walsh, Brian (214468), 29, AATTV, Sgt (Temp. WO2), Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

Waring, Anthony Edward Loughran (5716163), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Young, Robert George (1733547), 22, 3 Cav. Regt, Gatton Cemetery, Qld.

### June 1970

Cashion, Garry Owen (62036), 19, 7 RAR, Pte, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Dickson, Stephen Warwick (2792089), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Beresfield Crematorium, NSW.

Larsson, Stanley Gordon (4720583), 23, 7 RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Morgan, John Leslie (3795756), 22, 2 Adv. Ord. Dep., Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Navarre, Paul John (2792729), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Beechworth Cemetery, Vic.

Scott, Ian Neil (1735424), 21, 1 Fld Sqd., Charleville General Cemetery, Qld.

Waldock, David John (58625), 30, 198 Wks Sect., Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Wojcik, Bogdan Kazimierz (R62713), 23, CDT 3, RAN, AB CD, Rookwood RC Naval Cemetery, Sydney.

### June 1971

Attwood, Trevor James (2794278), 23, 1 ATF, Pte, Uralla Cemetery, NSW.

Boardman, Kenneth James (218336), 22, HQ Task Force (RAAC), Cpl, Woronora General Cemetery, Sydney.

Driscoll, Roger William (2794265), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Coonamble Cemetery, NSW.

Dubber, David John (A317809), 28, 9 Sqdn RAAF, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hill, Donald Cameron (2794350), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Lance, Everitt Murray (O316996), 43, 9 Sqdn RAAF, FltLt, Woden Cemetery, Canberra.

Mathers, Ian George (2794496), 22, 12 Fld Regt, 2Lt, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

McCarthy, John Noel (3112702), 26, 3 Cav. Regt, L/Cpl, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Tebb, Peter (1203166), 20, 1 ATF, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Towler, Michael (2792254), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

### June 1972

Hewitt, Ronald David (A118817), 22, 2 Sqdn RAAF, LAC, Albany Creek Crematorium, Qld.

- *From Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces.*

**'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them ...'**