



RICOCHET



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

**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY, 18 AUGUST
HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKET FOR LUNCH
AFTER THE SERVICE (1100-1200)**

and

GET IN AND BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS

OR RETURN BUTTS FOR ANY YOU HAVE BOUGHT OR SOLD



Day starts off at relocated National Dogs Memorial

Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 August starts with a "Toast to the War Dogs" at the National War Dogs Memorial at Alexandra Headland at 6am.

The memorial (left) was recently relocated to a new site not far from where it was previously as part of the Foreshore Revitalisation Project from the Headland to Mooloolaba.

V V Day details, page 19.



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

Email: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com **Editor:** ricocheteditor@gmail.com

General information Page 2.

Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



**VIETNAM VETERANS
ASSN of AUSTRALIA
SUNSHINE COAST**

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

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Compensation Advocates

Helena Smith JP (Qual) 0439241442

Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters 54761594

Mentor/Assessor

Helena Smith 0439241442

Mentor/Well-Being Officer

Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn 0422670080

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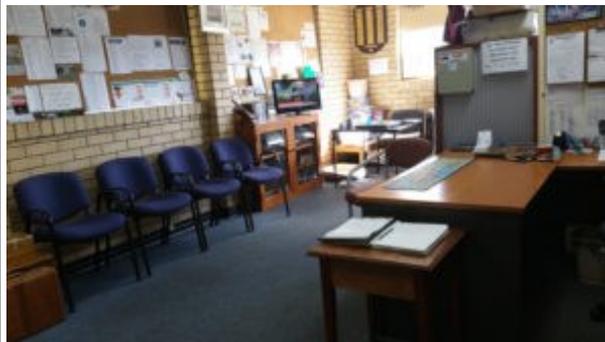
Located at the rear of the Library Complex Administration Building (upstairs) , Cnr Sixth Avenue and Beach Parade, Cotton Tree.

Office Phone 54794552

E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:

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



Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

24 Hour Crisis Line Toll Free

1800 011 046

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

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

Story behind day for Vietnam Veterans

On 18 August, the nation commemorates Vietnam Veterans' Day coinciding with the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966.

We remember the sacrifices of those who died and say thank you to almost 60,000 Australians who served during the 10 years of our involvement in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War was Australia's longest military engagement of the 20th Century.

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 marked the start of Australia's involvement in the war.

By the time the war had come to an end, almost 60,000 Australians served during a decade of conflict between 1962 and 1972. Tragically, 521 of them died and 3000 were wounded.

The Battle of Long Tan was a significant moment in Australia's war in Vietnam.

On 18 August 1966, in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan, Australian soldiers fought one of their fiercest battles of the war.

The men of Delta Company, 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, faced a force of some 2000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. The battle was fought in wet and muddy conditions during a heavy tropical downpour.

By the end of the day, 17 Australians had been killed in action and 25 were wounded, one of whom died a few days later.

This was the largest number of casualties in a single operation since the Australian Task Force had established its base at nearby Nui Dat the previous April.

On this day, we commemorate all the battles fought by Australians in Vietnam, from large-scale operations to platoon and section-level encounters.

We remember the sailors of the Royal Australian Navy who supported land operations, and members of the Royal Australian Air Force who served in combat and transport roles.

It is a day to say "thank you". On Vietnam Veterans' Day, we pause and reflect on the bravery, teamwork and endurance that Australians displayed throughout the war.

It's a day when we recognise all who served in Vietnam. We honour those veterans who:

- * lost their lives during battle
- * returned home wounded, ill or injured
- * lost their lives in the years since they returned

still carry the physical and emotional scars of their service

- * We also pause to reflect on the impact of service on our veterans' families.

The Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Service in Canberra is organised each year by the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation ACT Inc.

A Last Post Ceremony is conducted — in person or via live stream — at the Australian War Memorial at 4:55pm AEST on Vietnam Veterans' Day. The ceremony will remember the service and sacrifice of someone who served during the Vietnam War.

Some veterans didn't feel properly honoured for having served their country in Vietnam. In 1987 (photo), veterans

received the welcome home parade that some felt had been denied them when they returned from war.

Around 22,000 Vietnam veterans marched through Sydney, in front of a crowd of an estimated 100,000 Australians. A book, *Homecomings*, recounts those experiences.

The Vietnam Forces National Memorial on An-

zac Parade in Canberra was officially dedicated on 3 October, 1992.

It commemorates all the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force and associated personnel who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Vietnam veterans have helped to establish support systems for those in the ex-service community.

They include Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling; originally known as Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, Open Arms has been operating for more than 35 years. It's a life-saving service that provides those in the ex-service community with:

- * free and confidential counselling
- * group treatment programs
- * suicide-prevention training
- * a community and peer network to support mental health and wellbeing

The Long Tan Bursary scheme managed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs provides education funding to support eligible children and grandchildren of Australian Vietnam veterans. The scheme helps students to meet the cost of post-secondary education.

— from <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/>



From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all well. I'm glad to say that things are moving on and we are well under way for this years Vietnam Veterans Day.

I have just recently sent out a number of e-mails to our un-financial members, asking if they intend renewing their membership and reminding them of the planned Vietnam Veterans Day activities and lunch.

I was surprised to learn that quite a few had simply forgotten their membership status and have now revived their position and obtained their lunch tickets for the big day.

If you have since renewed your membership, I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If you form part of a group and wish to book a table at the RSL for lunch on the day, you can do so by contacting John Cunningham on 0415 375 968 or by informing the Duty Officer at the Drop-In Centre when purchasing your tickets.

Once again, it's a great deal: three course meal,

drinks (wine, beer, soft drink, coffee), entertainment and raffles all for \$40 (members) and \$50 for non-members.

If you are a member of OUR Association (Sunshine Coast) and wish to attend with your wife/partner, then she/he is classed as a member on the day and will only be charged at the members only rate of \$40.

Tickets are on sale now at the Drop-In Centre but are moving pretty fast. We only have a limited number available so I suggest that you get in quick.

By the way, we now finally have an EFTPOS machine at the office so you won't have to worry about bringing cash, just use your card.

That's about it for now, I sincerely hope that you and yours all remain well and I hope to see you all on the 18 August, 2022, for our day.

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



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From the Secretary

It is with great sadness that I advise members that our very popular colleague, Col Parkin is seriously ill in SCU Hospital (as at 29 July).

I have just received a message from Joan, that the docs have put him on a 24-hour Morphine drip and he is resting peacefully.

Mick Howe and myself visited Col on Tuesday and we were fortunate to spend some time with Joan, who is obviously distraught.

Our thoughts are with the Parkin family as they navigate through the coming days.

Some of your committee attended the Bunnings BBQ briefing at Maroochy store last evening in preparation for the Sunday, 7 August event. Our previous BBQs at Caloundra store should put us in a good stead for our first at Maroochy.

We still need volunteers for this, so if you can assist please call myself or Mick for details.

Tickets for the V V Day luncheon are selling well and if you intend attending, get in quickly to ensure your seat.

We have recently been contacted by the Ironman organisers and we will once again be required as marshals for the bike leg.

This event is in September, not all that far away. Again, if you can assist I will be sending a Heads Up a couple of weeks prior.

With the introduction of EFTPOS to our association, we have found a far easier method for accepting payments from all and sundry.

Introduced at the recent Open Cockpit Weekend, it has simplified selling and taking payments on a daily basis.

We now have two machines and they will be very handy for Anzac and Remembrance day sales points.

I know our Ricochet editor reported in ill yesterday (28 July) with Covid, so spare a thought for Kerry and try to avoid contact with large groups with a mask as PPE.

In closing, I ask that we keep the Parkin family in our thoughts. I will try and keep you advised.

Kind regards
Garry King
Secretary



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VOLUNTEERS hard at work at the Qld Air Museum Open Cockpit Weekend, fund-raising for our association..— Win Fowles photos.



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AVENUE DENTAL

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

Vietnam veterans invited to march

Caloundra RSL sub-branch is inviting Vietnam veterans to march as a group for their event on 13 August to unveil three statues commemorating the significance of the Kings Beach area during World War Two.

“The statues will represent soldiers who paraded at Kings Beach Parade ground before heading north to stop the Japanese invading Australia,” Gary Phillips from Caloundra RSL sub-branch said

Mr Phillips himself served in Vietnam with 5 RAR on its first year of duty in 1966-67 as a National Serviceman.

“I would be honoured being a Vietnam Vet to have a small contingent of about 10 vets to march on the Saturday,” he said. “The location is the car park at the top of the Auditorium opposite the hotel 12.45 form up, step off 1300hrs.”

That night at the Caloundra Civic Centre there will be a re-enactment of the Victory in the Pacific Ball in Caloundra. Contact him on gary.phillips@caloundra.rslqld.net.au

Flying insect drops in ...



THIS shot of a Skycrane (CH-54 Tarhe) taken at Australia's Horseshoe FSB in South Vietnam turned up on Facebook recently. Also called the flying insect it was manufactured by Sikorsky. The nickname Skycrane derives from its heavy load cargo lifting mission. A versatile helicopter it was used for various missions including recovery, rescue, infantry transport, medical supply and even armour transport operations. It was equipped with a crane in the centre of the fuselage operated by a co-pilot or an engineer from the rear of the pilots' cabin. During the Vietnam War it was one of the safest US Army's helicopters to fly.



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EXERCISE Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022) has provided a plethora of opportunities for interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and the 25 participating nations. But it's not every day that the United States Navy contacts your ship to say "kudos to the bridge crew" for planning highly complex movements down to the exact second. Maritime Warfare Officer Sub Lieutenant Thomas Watson was officer of the watch for flying serials between HMAS Canberra and the United States Navy's MH-60S helicopters that day. — ADF information.

ADF completes flood mission

The last of the 250 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel supporting the New South Wales (NSW) government and emergency services in flood-affected communities stepped down from their tasks recently, as regions transition to recovery operations.

As several regions across NSW faced rain deluge and flooding, the ADF received a request from Emergency Management Australia and from July 2 placed two Defence helicopters on heightened readiness.

Over a period of 14 days, the ADF supported 15 local government areas Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Camden, Singleton, Central Coast and Shoalhaven.

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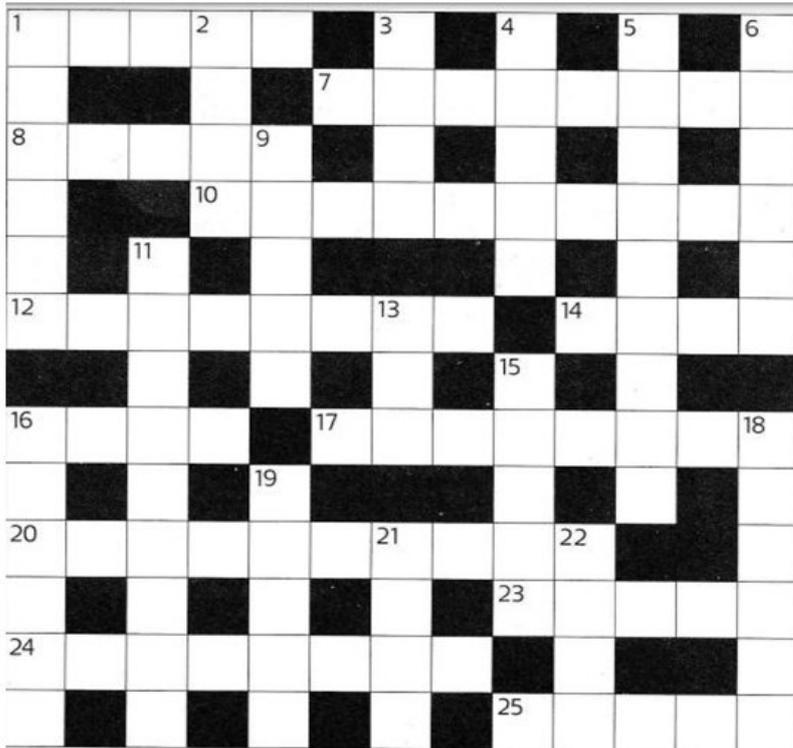
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Dental Prosthetist

JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



Across

- 1. Giant-size (5)
- 7. Rebel at Sea (8)
- 8. Dried coconut kernels (5)
- 10. Houdini's skills! (10)
- 12. Three-hulled boat (8)
- 14. Breeze (4)
- 16. Lose weight (4)
- 17. Cocktail wine (8)
- 20. Ella....jazz singer (10)
- 23. Pulled (5)
- 24. Unearth (8)
- 25. British coin (5)

Down

- 1. Goat (6)

- 2. Nude (4)
- 3. Chrysalis (4)
- 4. Piece of turf (5)
- 5. Tuneful (9)
- 6. Threadbare (6)
- 9. Dam on the Nile (5)
- 11. Farm animals (9)
- 13. Unhopped drink (3)
- 15. Young river salmon (5)
- 16. Disagree (6)
- 18. Stephen....., snooker star 96)
- 19. Plant source of tequila
- 21. Roster (4)
- 22. Unemployment benefit (4)

August Brain Twisters

- 1. The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?
- 2. I come in different shapes and sizes. Parts of me are curved, other parts are straight. You can put me anywhere you like, but there is only one right place for me. What am I?
- 3. What is unusual about the following words: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven?
- 4. Two boxers are in a match scheduled for 12 rounds. (Pure boxing only. There are no kicking or takedowns). One of the boxers gets knocked out after only six rounds, yet no man throws a punch. How is this possible?

- 1. The river Senne flows through which capital city: (a) Amsterdam, (b) Brussels, or (c) Copenhagen?
- 2. Who is the protagonist of Victor Hugo's 1862 novel *Les Miserables*: (a) Jean Valjean, (b) Jean Piaget, or (c) Jean Seri?
- 3. Who was the fourth man to walk on the moon: (a) Mr. Bean, (b) Mr. Darcy, or (c) Mr. Kipling?
- 4. Who was king during the Peasant's Revolt: (a) King John, (b) Henry III, or (c) Richard II?
- 5. Where did Disney open a resort on June 16, 2016: (a) Singapore, (b) Shanghai, or (c) Tokyo?
- 6. What was Charles Dickens' first novel: (a) *The Pickwick Papers*, (b) *The Old Curiosity Shop*, or (c) *Oliver Twist*?
- 7. In which city did poet John Keats die: (a) Rome, (b) Paris, or (c) London?
- 8. The first ever commercial bungee jump took place in which country: (a) South Africa, (b) Australia, or (c) New Zealand?
- 9. Who played Colonel Pickering in the 1964 film *My Fair Lady*: (a) Wilfrid Hyde-White, (b) Rex Harrison, or (c) Stanley Holloway?
- 10. At the time of Casanova's birth which city was the pleasure capital of Europe: (a) Paris, (b) Rome, or (c) Venice?
- 11. Who is leader of the Welsh Party *Plaid Cymru*: (a) Leanne England, (b) Leanne Stone, or (c) Leanne Wood?
- 12. Most of which African country's wine is produced in Cap Bon: (a) Namibia, (b) South Africa, or (c) Tunisia?
- 13. Who was the fourth Doctor Who: (a) Tom Baker, (b) Jon Pertwee, or (c) Peter Davison?
- 14. In 2005, a painting by artist Lucien Freud sold for £3.9 million pounds; who was the subject: (a) Marilyn Monroe, (b) Kate Moss, or (c) Kate Winslet?
- 15. Who did Helen Mirren live with in the early 1980s: (a) Liam Neeson, (b) Bob Hoskins, or (c) Peter O'Toole?
- 16. Who starred in the Academy Award-winning 1943 film *Der Fuehrer's Face* about the struggles of living in Nazi Germany: (a) Charlie Chaplin, (b) Donald Duck, or (c) Walter Pidgeon?
- 17. Which war ended in 1648 with the signing of the Treaty of Westphalia: (a) Nine Years War, (b) Thirty Years War, or (c) the English Civil War?

• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 17**



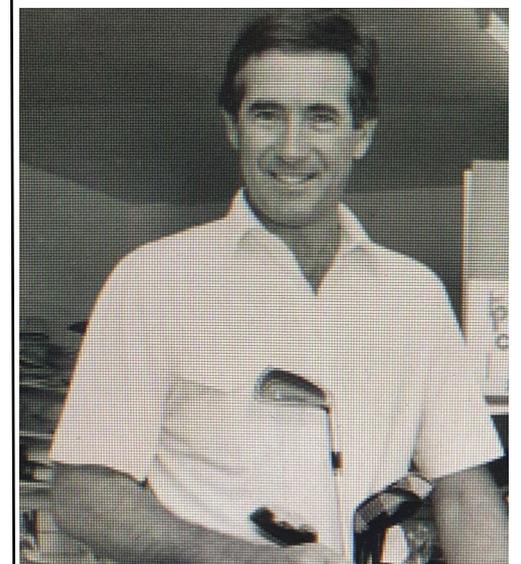
Catch-up for Scheyvillians

GRADUATES of 1 Officer Training Unit at Scheyville got together recently at a monthly Riflemen's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club. From left are Gordon Hurford, Laurie Muller, David Beasley, Peter Spoor, Lindsay Robinson, Bob Irvine. OTU Scheyville was established on 1 April 1965 to meet Army's need for officers arising from the National Service Scheme that had begun in 1964. The ending of National Service in 1972 did away with the need for the OTU, which produced 1871 officers.

Long service for golf



SUB-BRANCH member Barry Vassella (left) with Darrel Welch at a recent Queensland PGA meeting when the pair were presented with awards for long-term membership — Darrel for 70 years and Barry 60 years. Below: Barry post-Vietnam as a pro in 1971.



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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, VVAASC TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022

Meeting opened at 1015hrs

Ode to the Fallen recited by Garry King.

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

Previous Minutes read by Mick Howe, moved: Mick Howe, seconded: Glen Preston. Carried.

Business arising from minutes. NIL

Correspondence: read by Mick Howe.

Email received from Garry Phillips requesting donation to Caloundra RSL Sub-branch for the purchase of granite bases for proposed statues.

7TH August BBQ Bunnings Maroochydore, Heads Up to be emailed.

Alec Chesters continues to do Welfare Calls, 35 to 40 per month.

Col Parkin on the improve.

Thanks to all volunteers for 2 days at Air Museum, over \$1700 made.

Moved Garry King, Seconded John Huxham. Carried. Business arising from Correspondence: NIL

Treasurer's Report: read by Glen Preston. As per data read available upon request. Moved Glen Preston, Seconded Kerry White. Carried. Business arising from Treasurer's Report: NIL

Membership Report: read by Pieter Reus. 235 financial members, between 70 to 100 non-renewals from 2021. New members ratified. Moved Pieter Reus, seconded Michael Gay. Carried. Business arising from Membership Report: NIL.

Ricochet Report: read by Kerry White. Access on internet decreasing to

below 100 reads per month. Moved Kerry White, seconded Garry King. Carried. Business arising from Ricochet Report: NIL.

Merchandise Manager Report: Gordon Hall advised NIL to report.

Office Manager Report: read by John Huxham. There will be a clean out of the office areas. New blinds for the windows, carpet to be replaced by Council. View out the window improved with removal of board. The main sign on building needs repair, Susan Barnes to be informed of process involved, at the least a Cherry Picker and 3 workers. Mal Overend informed meeting the sign needs aluminium frame. Moved John Huxham, seconded John Cunnington. Carried. NIL Business arising.

Sub-Committee Report: read by John Cunnington. Raffle tickets, lunch tickets and table bookings to be made asap. Requested Heads Up email. Moved John Cunnington, seconded Bob Johnson. Carried. Business arising: NIL.

Digger Hat Jewellery: June at new premises, July at new premises, one attendee apart from Scotty each time. Proceeding to set up at Palmwoods, Covid cancellations in past 2 years has had impact on attendance, emails sent out to remind attendees. 300 pennies donated. Recent sales have been actioned. Moved Graeme Scott, seconded Glen Preston. Carried. Business arising from report: Battery drills need upgrading.

General Business: Thanks to Ted Hungerford for Council Grant as per May Ricochet. Treasurer Glen Preston has been approached by supplier of photocopier with option to upgrade. Discussion ensued regarding replacement of photocopier. More information to be come.

There being no further General Business the Meeting was closed at 1140hrs.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2022 1100HRS

BT Sports & Health Centres

Incl. Dr. Uwe Schwiersch - Defence Physiotherapist - 10 years RAAF Base Tindal/NT



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

How to tell an Aussie:

- * most of the words you know end in "o" such as arvo, servo, bottlo, supo, garbo.
- * you know that there is a difference between thongs and underwear.
- * stubbies are things that can either be worn by blokes or drunk.
- * a place called "woop woop" is not actually a place but is very far from civilisation.
- * calling someone "mate" is a completely appropriate term to call anyone in Australia be they male or female.
- * you answer most questions by saying "no worries" or "no drama".
- * when you know the national anthem but have no idea what "girt" means.
- * you know the best place to get a cooked sausage is Bunnings.
- * you greet people by saying garn.

WHY did the golfer wear two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.

TWO men were playing a round of golf. One was just about to make his swing when he noticed a large funeral group passing by on a nearby road. The man took a step back from his ball, closed his eyes and said a quick prayer.

His playing partner said, "Wow that was one of the most beautiful things that I have ever witnessed." "Well," the other guy said, "I was married to her for 30 years."

WHAT is the difference between a fisherman and a golfer? When a golfer lies, he doesn't have to bring any proof home.

A MARRIED couple were golfing when all of a sudden the wife asks, "Babe, if I die will you marry again?"

Husband: "Of course not."

Wife: "I think you would."

Husband: "Fine, I probably will"

Wife: "Will you let her sleep in our bed?"

Husband: "Yeah, probably I guess."

Wife: "Would you even let her use my golf clubs?"

Husband: "No way, she is left-handed."

- continued next page



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BOOMERS: When life hands you lemons, you make lemonade.

Generation X: When life hands you lemons, create a business to market lemon juice as a healthy, low carb, low sugar variation to lemonade. Make millions.

Millennials: lol, as if anyone would just "hand me" some lemons.

FOUR people are sitting together on a train journey through Europe: a Kiwi fella, an Australian bloke, a small old granny and a hot Swedish lady.

The train heads on through a darkened tunnel and a moment later everyone hears the sound of a vicious slap. After the train comes out from the tunnel, the Aussie bloke has a nasty red hand print on his face. Nobody says anything...

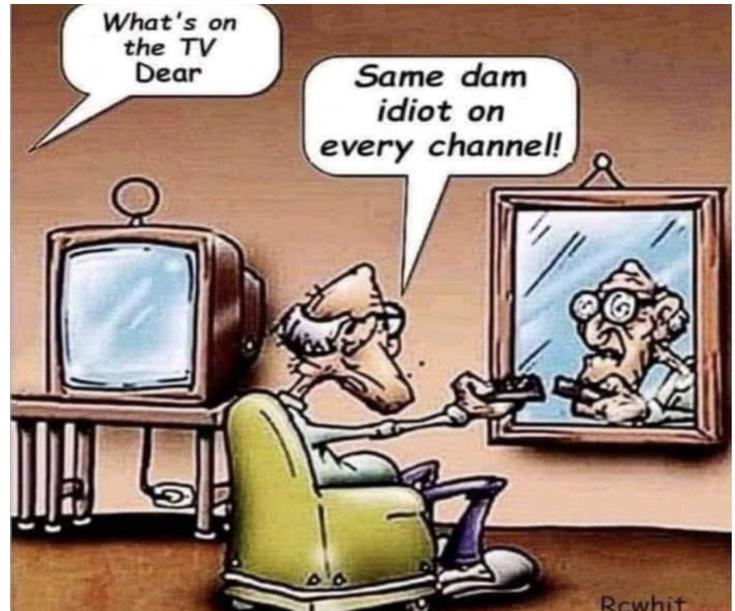
The small granny assumes: The Aussie bloke must have felt up the Swedish lady when it was dark and earned himself a slap.

The Swedish lady assumes: The stupid Aussie bloke probably tried to touch me in the dark, but he missed and touched the small granny who in turn slapped his face.

The Kiwi assumes: The Aussie must have touched the hot

Swedish lady in the dark, then she tried to hit him, but she missed and hit me in the face.

The Aussie thinks: I'm looking forward to the next tunnel so I can belt that Kiwi guy in the face once more.



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August Timeline — Training team to Diana

2 August 1945: Australia's post-war immigration drive began. Between 1945 and 1965, two million immigrants arrived in Australia. Among the new immigrants were the first government-sanctioned non-British migrants.

3 August 1962: The first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam arrive in Vietnam. Initially numbering only about 30 men, the unit's strength peaking at 227 in November 1970.

4 August 1845: Australia's largest civilian maritime disaster took place when the emigrant ship *Cataraqui* wrecked off King Island in Bass Strait, killing 400 people.

4 August 1961: Barack Obama, 44th U.S. President was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father was from Kenya, Africa, while his mother was originally from Kansas.

5 August 1962: Film star Marilyn Monroe died at age 36 from an overdose of sleeping pills. She made 29 films during her career and came to symbolize Hollywood glamour.

6 August 1699: William Dampier became the first Englishman to chart part of the Australian coastline, and the first European to undertake a scientific study of its landscape, seas, plants and animals.

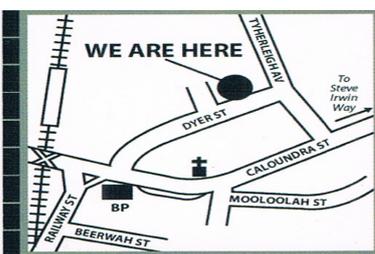
6 August 1945: The first atomic bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15am by an American B-29 bomber, *Enola Gay*. The bomb detonated about 1800ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. An estimated 100,000 persons later died from radiation effects.

8 August 1907: The New South Wales Rugby League was formed at a meeting at the Bateman's Hotel in Sydney, New South Wales. Rugby league split from rugby union over disagreements about whether to pay players.

13 August 1961: The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. It stayed until 1989-90.

14 August 1945: V-J Day, commemorating President Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

16 August 1977: Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m., at age 42. >>



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August Timeline — Training team to Diana

18 August 1966: Battle of Long Tan – an Australian victory is fought by D Company, 6RAR Regiment. Seventeen men from 6 RAR were killed, along with one from the 1st APC; 245 bodies of dead enemy soldiers were counted in the plantation and the surrounding areas. It is believed that many more were also removed during the battle. Later the company was awarded a US Presidential Unit Citation.

18 August 1971: Prime Minister William McMahon announces that 1 ATF would cease operations in South Vietnam in October, and would begin commencing a phased withdrawal after that.

22 August 1770: Lieutenant James Cook, captain of HMB Endeavour, claimed the eastern portion of the Australian continent for the British Crown in 1770, naming it New South Wales.

22 August 1872: Construction of the Overland Telegraph line between Adelaide and Darwin was completed. It has been described as ‘the greatest engineering feat carried out in nineteenth century Australia’.

26 August 1883: One of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history occurred on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa. Explosions were heard 2000 miles away. Tidal waves 120ft. high killed 36,000 persons on nearby islands,

31 August 1963: Australian troops became involved as



part of a Commonwealth force under British command in the Indonesian Confrontation, or ‘Konfrontasi’, a three-year conflict on the island of Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.

31 August 1997: Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash (**above**) occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine. Also killed in the crash were her companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul.

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

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BIT OF WOW! UH-1J of the Japan Self Defense Force doing troop insertions during an exercise

D.V.A. RELEASES REPORT ON CLAIMS DELAYS

A key report into the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) claims processing system has been made public.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said the report found 37 initiatives which would improve the department's processes, reducing the wait times for veterans and their families.

"We must reduce this claims backlog. It simply isn't good enough to have people who have put on a uniform and served our country wait for such a long time to access the support they are entitled to," he said.

In September 2021 DVA commissioned independent consultants McKinsey & Company to examine the claims processing system. McKinsey worked closely with the department, ex-service organisations and other members of the veteran community and considered submissions in their investigation.

The full report can be read on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website.



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As you read this, it will only be a few days until we can once again gather at the Cenotaph in Maroochydore to commemorate Vietnam Veterans' Day. I know we are all looking forward to meeting each other again, after two and a half years of dodging Covid which controlled our lives.

We will be focusing on that horrendous battle at Long Tan; a battle that, although we lost 18 troops killed and 25 wounded, Australian Defence Force members showed their skills and audacity to be far superior to the enemy. We will never forget the bravery of those at Long Tan, both Army and Air Force.

This month, I would like to share with you another huge battle, similar in name and execution to Long Tan, the Battle of Long Khanh. During an ammunition re-supply, on 7 June 1971 at 11 a.m., a No. 9 Squadron (RAAF) Iroquois helicopter piloted by Flight Lieutenant Everitt Murray (Lofty) Lance was shot down. 'Lofty' and a crew member were killed. 'Lofty' was a veteran of four Air Forces.

At the same time, Australia's Minister for the Army, the Hon. Andrew Peacock, and his wife, Susan, were visiting No. 1 Operational Support Unit at Vung Tau. No. 1 OSU's Commanding Officer had asked the Assistant Provost Marshal, FLG OFF Neville Clarke, to keep him informed of any extraordinary events coming in about the Battle of Long Khanh.

As I was the interpreter attached to the RAAF Police, I had the privilege of being the 'hanger-on-er' to the Assistant Provost Marshal, for wherever the Police were needed, it usually involved speaking to a local Vietnamese. So, whether I was needed or not, that was the role of the interpreter.

Mr Peacock had an unusually large diplomatic entourage with him, which made it difficult to speak with our Com-

Fireside with the Padre



manding Officer without someone overhearing our updated reports. Somehow, we kept the news of our losses away from the Minister of the Army's large party.

I can remember thinking that on that fateful morning, 'Lofty' would have awoken and had breakfast before starting his day flying. Neville awoke to start his day as the Police Chief for our two RAAF bases in South Vietnam. I awoke and enjoyed a great breakfast in a cosy Mess Hall and started my day jabbering in one language or another. Our Commanding Officer awoke and began what Commanding Officer's do to fill their day. But that night, the CO, Neville, and I all curled up into our beds and slept. 'Lofty' did not.

This Vietnam Veterans' Day, let us remember afresh all the 521 Australian young men and women, who fought a good fight, but like 'Lofty', did not return to their beds/bunks/stretchers, one night.

May God keep these departed, and their families in His protection,

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

(By coincidence, last month's Ricochet included an article about Lofty Lance, pictured.)



Answers from page 9



Brain Teaser

1. This is the only number that includes all the digits arranged in alphabetical order.
2. A puzzle piece
3. Take the first letter of each word and place it at the end. It will spell the same word backwards.
4. Both the boxers were female

Across: 1 Jumbo, 7. Mutineer, 8. Copra, 10. Escapology, 12. Trimaran, 14. Wind, 16. Diet, 17. Vermouth, 20. Fitzgerald, 23. Towed, 24. Excavate, 25. Penny.

Down: 1. Jacket, 2. Bare, 3. Pupa, 4. Divot,

Crossword

5. Melodious, 6. Frayed, 0. Aswan, 11. Livestock, 13. Ale, 15. Smolt, 16. Differ, 18. Hendry, 19. Agave, 21. Rota, 22. Dole.

Trivia

1. Brussels
2. Jean Valjean
3. Alan Bean
4. Richard II
5. Shanghai, China
6. The Pickwick Papers
7. Rome
8. New Zealand
9. Wilfrid Hyde-White



10. Venice
11. Leanne Wood
12. Tunisia
13. Tom Baker
14. A nude painting of Kate Moss
15. Liam Neeson
16. Donald Duck (pictured)
17. Thirty Years War



Veterans honoured at Devonport Memorial

On The Bluff at Devonport in Tasmania is a Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Park, which was visited recently by our member, John Cunningham.

The park includes a Memorial Avenue (**left**) and is dedicated to Tasmanians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

On the top of each avenue monument is a plaque depicting the name, unit and brief background details of each veteran.

“The plaque commemorating Private Albert Frederick McCormack will hold special memories for our Long Tan veterans,” John said.

The 21-year-old from Launceston was killed at Long Tan. Another Digger with that surname was also killed at Long Tan — Private Dennis James McCormack from Adelaide. They had consecutive service numbers — Albert 1730993 and Dennis 1730994 (Queensland intake).

BELOW: Part of the Vietnam War Memorial at Devonport.



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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 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

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, August 1962-75

August 1966

Aldersea, Richard Alfred (551206), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Checkley, Thomas William (311534), 28, 131 DLB, Gnr, Buxton Cemetery, Derbyshire, England.

Clements, Peter Edward (54570), 21, 1 APC Sqdn, Trp (Temp.Cpl), Moora Cemetery, WA.

Drabble, Glenn Alfred (1730929), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Gant, Kenneth Howard (1730941), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane.

Grant, Ernest Francis (3411673), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Albury Cemetery, Albury, NSW.

Grice, Victor Roy (1730947), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Houston, James Michael (43893), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Jewry, Jack (2781847), 21, 6 RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Kennedy, Raymond John (16196), 26, 5 RAR, Pte, Redcliffe Cemetery, Qld.

Large, Paul Andrew (2781704), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

McCormack, Albert Frederick (1730993), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas.

McCormack, Dennis James (1730994), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Mitchell, Warren David (1731013), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Salveron, Douglas Javing (1731040), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Sharp, Gordon Cameron (2781465), 21, 6 RAR, 2Lt, Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Tamworth, NSW.

Thomas, David John (38712), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Kangaroo Flat Cemetery, Bendigo, Vic.

Topp, Francis Brett (1200265), 19, 6 RAR, Pte, Helidon Cemetery, Queensland.

Wales, Maxwell Ray (216559), 22, 6 RAR, Pte, Moree Cemetery, NSW.

Whiston, Colin Joseph (3787607), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Crib Point Cemetery, Vic.

August 1967

Aylett, Donald Raymond (38110), 22, 7 RAR, Pte (Temp-Cpl), Tatura Cemetery, Vic.

Baudistel, Karl William (17073), 28, AATTV (attached RAI), Cpt, Albany Creek Crematorium, Qld.

Brophy, Edward Francis (2412450), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Gulgong Cemetery, NSW.

Cutcliffe, Timothy Joseph (2785238), 21, 2 RAR, Pte, Orange Cemetery, NSW.

Donnelly, Denis John (216445), 21, 104 SigSqdn, Sig (TempCpl), Garden of Rem., Rookwood, Sydney.

Harstad, Barleif Alfred (38939), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hayes, James Francis (213834), 27, 7 RAR, Cpl, Kenmore Roman Catholic Cemetery, Goulburn NSW.

McGarry, Peter Shaun (2412362), 19, 2 RAR, Pte, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

Milford, David Geoffrey (3411862), 22, 7 RAR, Pte, Harcourt Cemetery, Vic.

O'Connor, John Martin (16327), 25, 7 RAR, Pte, Redcliffe Cemetery, Qld.

Siggers, Anthony Peter (216455), 35, AATTV, Sgt (TempWO2), Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

Woolford, Richard Mervyn (4718082), 21, 2 RAR, LCpl, Wirrabara Cemetery, SA.

August 1968

Campbell, John Alexander (2787278), 21, 3 RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

Carroll, Ronald Thomas (14208), 31, 3 RAR, Sgt, Perth War Cemetery and Annex, WA.

Casadio, Anthony Austin (O2361), 22, RAN HeliFit, Lt (SL), Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Gillard, Robert James (3790395), 22, 3 CavRegt, Trp, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Grist, Robert Maxwell (39426), 19, 1 RAR, Pte, Traralgon Cemetery, Vic.

McGoldrick, William (217762), 26, 1 ARU, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

Moss, Graeme John (1200817), 22, 1 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Phillips, O'Brian Cedric Ignatious (R56859), 32, RAN HeliFit, POACM, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

August 1969

Banfield, David John (6709107), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Carr Villa General Cemetery, Launceston, Tas.

Hards, Edward William George (515835), 20, UL W Comd ex 1 ARU (RA INF), Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Hoare, Frederick William (15705), 29, 6 RAR, Cpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Smith, Baron Fredrick (3793566), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

August 1970

Moore, Sydney Thomas (3175954), 20, 110 Sig Sqn, Sig, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Penneyston, Peter Lawrence(6709611), 1 FldSqn, Spr, Mersey Vale Memorial Park Cemetery, Devonport, Tas.

Raffen, Francis Lindsay (4186), AATTV (att. RAI), Sgt (Temp WO2), Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Richardson, Neil Thomas (218697), 22, 7 RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Thompson, Donald Leslie (1202729), 20, 2 RAR, Pte, Mount Basset Cemetery, 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 ...'

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