

DECISIVE and INDECISIVE

Recognition of a decisive act of bravery in the Vietnam War is being marred by an indecisive government. In September 2022, the Defence Honours Tribunal proposed that the Minister for Defence should "recommend to the Governor-General that Private Richard Norden should be awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia".

For his actions during the battle of Fire Support Base Coral in the Vietnam War on 14 May 1968, Pte Norden at the time was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

The Digger from Gundagai NSW would be the first soldier outside of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, and first from the Royal Australian Regiment, to be awarded a VC for the war. Four were awarded to Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) members.

The tribunal case was presented on behalf of the late deceased Digger by Lieutenant Colonel George Hulse OAM (Retd) who had been there at the time..

After discharge in April 1969, Norden served with the Australian Capital Territory Police until, on 26 October 1972, he was involved in a traffic collision while on duty, later succumbing to his injuries.

Colonel Hulse told the tribunal Pte Norden had "performed acts that transcend the award of the DCM" and were more closely aligned to the Victoria Cross for Australia.

A Regular soldier, Pte Norden arrived in Vietnam on 5 December 1967 to join 1 Australian Reinforcement



Pte Richard Norden . — from Sydney Morning Herald.

Unit. On 31 January 1968, he was posted to 7 RAR and on 10 April 1968 was posted to 1 RAR.

Colonel Hulse announced the tribunal decision during a memorial service at the National Dog Memorial, Alexandra Headland, on 18 August 2022, Vietnam Veterans Day, and it was reported in *Ricochet*.

(Editor's Note: Ricochet aims to be apolitical, and remains so by only announcing that the recommendation has been with the Defence Minister Richard Marles since 2022).

However, it was reported in *The Australian* that "Richard Marles has been sitting for nearly two years

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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 INCLUDING OFFICE NEWS.

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OFFICE NEWS

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

POSH MEETINGS: Partners Offering Support and Hope meet Friday 1- 4pm, informal gathering in the meeting room beside the Drop in Centre. Coffee/tea/chat.

MEETINGS: Return to the third Tuesday of the month: Comm Meeting and General Meeting—times, venue TBA for June.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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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.

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.

National PTSD centre on Sunshine Coast

An estimated 1.4 million Australians are directly affected by PTSD, particularly veterans and first responders, and the effects could be “completely debilitating”, University of Sunshine Coast Chancellor and retired Air Chief Marshal, Sir Angus Houston said recently.

He was commenting when the University of the Sunshine Coast launched an \$18.5 million national hub addressing this mental health issue – the National PTSD Research Centre is the first of its kind in Australia, with plans to understand, educate, advocate and treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

“Many sufferers experience terrible flashbacks, nightmares and emotions long after the traumatic event, disrupting their lives enormously,” Sir Angus said.

“A significant proportion of active and retired military personnel, as well as a significant number of emergency service first responders, are impacted by PTSD. They suffer a higher prevalence of PTSD than the general Australian population.

“People who have lived through other traumatic experiences such as domestic violence, crime, abuse or disasters may also suffer.”

Currently, patients can experience trial and error with

medication, with 60 percent of current treatments not effective past six months.

PTSD can cause debilitating symptoms and affects nearly half of Australians directly or indirectly.

Based at UniSC’s Thompson Institute at Birtinya on the Sunshine Coast, the National PTSD Research Centre features advanced neuroimaging technology, medication-assisted therapy rooms, long-stay clinical observation rooms, a clinical trials facility and a laboratory for molecular research.

There are also plans to establish a zebrafish facility and Australia’s first PTSD ‘brain bank’ allowing researchers to gather more structural information about the brain.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Helen Bartlett said it was a major step for a university that was addressing the most pressing needs of the community.

“The opening of the National PTSD Research Centre marks a major commitment to fully addressing PTSD, to understand it, find solutions and integrate them into everyday healthcare for so many Australians,” Professor Bartlett said.

By Janelle Kirkland, UniSC. More at <https://www.usc.edu.au/about/unisc-news>

VC for FSB Coral-Balmoral hero?

- continued from Page 1.

on a Victoria Cross recommendation for a soldier who served in Vietnam, sparking concerns the award will be used to ‘sugar-coat’ the stripping of Afghanistan medals...

“Lieutenant Colonel (retired) George Hulse, who fought in the same battle as Norden and was principal advocate in the tribunal process, said he believed the government was preparing to use the VC award as political cover ‘for the nasty stuff about stripping medals from other people’ (regarding Afghanistan).”

The newspaper quoted Vietnam Veterans’ Association president Max Ball as saying the organisation was concerned at the government’s failure to respond to the tribunal’s recommendation in the 22 months since it was handed down.

“The veterans’ community has a high degree of confidence in the Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal. But their confidence in the final outcome of the process is clearly weakened when the recommendation of the tribunal is held up in the political arena.”

The Sydney Morning Herald has also reported on the delay under a headline: “What do you have to do to get the VC?” Posthumous award in limbo 55 years after conflict.”



Anzac Day in the Outback

HALEY came all the way from Toowoomba to join in the Anzac Day commemoration at Adavale. — photo Ted Robinson.

Photographer from Slovenia to Vietnam

The Australian Army photographer, Mike Coleridge (**right**), who took the iconic photograph used on the National War Memorial (**below**), was born in Slovenia.

He escaped to Austria with his mother when German troops occupied his hometown, and immigrated to Australia as an unaccompanied 16-year-old.

He worked in a range of manual jobs in Sydney and rural New South Wales before enlisting with the Australian Army in Darwin in 1957 and serving in Malaya with Artillery.



He privately made films for the British army using his own cameras. On his return to Australia in 1963, Coleridge had a reputation for this work and was appointed as public relations photographer.

Coleridge went to Vietnam in late 1966 and spent over a year in the country. Like other army public relations photographers, Coleridge operated quite independently, at times having to subsidise his work by acquiring his own film (especially colour films, which the army did not provide) and often making his own way around.

Coleridge was at all times remarkably resourceful: he established his own makeshift darkroom at the Australian base at Nui Dat, from where he processed photographs that would come to define the Australian experience of the Vietnam War.

In Vietnam he often worked at great personal risk, travelling with at least three cameras. He took many portraits of soldiers carefully moving through South Vietnam's landscape to provide people in Australia with a sense of the physical conditions under which soldiers operated.

He also took many photographs of Iroquois helicopters; one of which became an iconic image of the Vietnam War for Australians (**Australian War Memorial story and photos**).

- Read a special feature on Coleridge by Peter Vincent for the Daily Mail Australia here: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10737951/Anzac-Day-2022-Vietnam-War-Mike-Coleridge-Australia-diggers-7RAR-Phuoc-Hai.html>



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From the Secretary

Hi all, the preparations for Vietnam Veterans Day seem to be progressing smoothly, and judging by the way the months are flying past, August will soon be here.

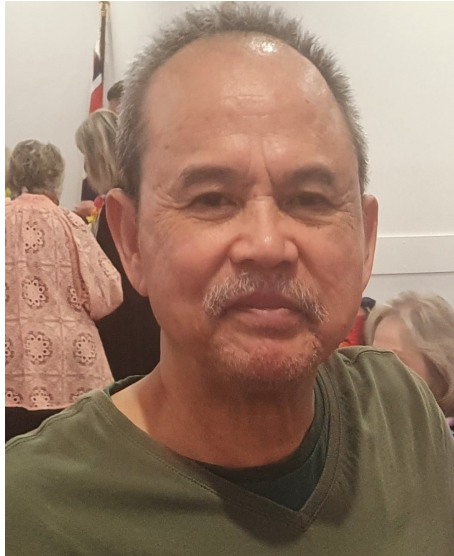
Details of the day appear on the notice in this edition of Ricochet.

Tickets are available in the Drop-In Centre from 1 June and financial members will receive a discounted price as per usual. The Duty Officers will be checking the membership register to ensure no scallywags try to wrought the rules.

Penny keyring orders from Inverell Legacy and Banyo RSL have been packaged and sent.

However, Scotty informs that it has become increasingly difficult to source pennies.

If anyone can assist in providing pennies, please advise or leave a message at the Drop-In Centre. The Sub-Branch has been making the



Digger Hat jewelry for years and has established a reputation as a reliable supplier.

However, penny stocks have diminished, and without pennies, the enterprise will be in real trouble.

On a positive note, I am delighted to advise that association member and great friend of the Sub-Branch

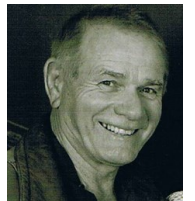
Thai Dang (**pictured**) is out of hospital and recovering at home.

As is widely known, Thai bounced back from a leukemia scare five years ago. Unfortunately, he was recently diagnosed with another tumour and spent weeks in Royal Brisbane Hospital receiving treatment.

However, there is no holding him back, and he and Diamond are planning to attend the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony and the luncheon together with a group from the Vietnamese/Australian community.

Stay safe and well

Regards
John Cunningham
0415375968



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ATTENTION MEMBERS

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SUNDAY 18 AUGUST 2024

The day will commence at around 0600 hours with the “Toast to the War Dogs” at the War Dog’s Memorial, Alexandra Headland. Breakfast, tea and coffee will be supplied.

COTTON TREE CENOTAPH

Main Commemoration Ceremony

Assembly: 1045 hours near the swimming pool complex, The Esplanade, Cotton Tree. The short march to the Cotton Tree RSL Cenotaph, commences at 1045 hours.

Service: 1100 hours—1200 hours.

Luncheon: Maroochy RSL following the service. Welcome to guests at 1215 hours. Lunch tickets are available at the Drop-In Centre from 1 June.

Cost: \$45 for members and partners. Non-member’s price is \$55 per head. *Lunch includes a sumptuous three course meal, subsidised beer and wine, entertainment, lucky door prizes, raffle draws and surprises!!!*

IMPORTANT: At the luncheon there will be free seating available. However, If you would like to pre-book a table (groups of 10 are preferable), please notify John Cunningham on 54933513 (0415375968) or email secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com and arrange the bookings with him after you have purchased your tickets. Names are required for each person.

Transport: A bus will be provided to transport guests to and from the Caloundra RSL. Pick-up time will be 0945 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 Cunningham on 54933513, (0415375968) or send an email to the secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

Photo above: Caloundra on Anzac Day, but appropriate.

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ANZAC Day commemoration at Menin Gate, one of many sacred places around the world.— Channel 9 photo.



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

Brass found around Nui Dat goes to good cause

A unique piece of Vietnam War history will be auctioned on 18 August to support the children of Nui Dat.

For decades, remnants of war have littered the old battlefields around Nui Dat in Vietnam, but thanks to a former Australian Army soldier, many have been salvaged and repurposed to change local families' lives.

For several years, Jason Fenech – the man behind Diggers Rest (not related to the veterans' retreat of the same name) – has voluntarily, and singlehandedly, maintained the Long Tan cross

By **BELINDA CROSSMAN, RSL**

memorial in Vietnam, a place he describes as "beyond sacred".

"There are only two foreign memorials in Vietnam: the French one up north and the cross at Long Tan. As Australians, we are so lucky to have that," he says.

"The cross was originally raised to remember those who died in the Battle of Long Tan, but now it's the point of commemoration for everyone – Australian,

Kiwis that served with us, plus the Vietnamese.

"That's why I clean it every day – for the veterans and families who visit."

Born and raised near Ipswich, Jason spent 18 years in the Army, joining the Reserves at 17, being promoted to Sergeant, then opting to "drop three stripes" to serve with the Regular Army in East Timor.

Medically discharged in his mid-30s, Jason didn't have it easy after Defence – but a trip to Vietnam in 2012 called him to a new duty.

"I went there as a tourist just to see the Long Tan cross," he says. "Soon after I sold or gave away everything in Australia to move to Vietnam to tell the ANZAC story, because there was nothing there."

As well as caretaking the memorial, Jason recovered a heap of war memorabilia around Nui Dat that became a (now closed) museum detailing that untold ANZAC story. He also arranged to have old Allied shell casings reforged into fund-raising keepsakes such as cross, heart, and dog-tag pendants.



BELL with certificate.

All donations and sales he's collected have gone straight towards maintaining the memorial or supporting local children and families in need.

"It all goes back to the kids," Jason says. "This school year we paid school fees for 88 children. They all received a stationery pack and we prepared and delivered 100 Christmas presents and 100 lunar new year gifts.

"We deliver food parcels to a few families weekly and to some children daily.

— Continued next page.

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- from previous page.

Like the keepsake pendants, the three bells were hand-forged by a Vietnamese metalsmith in Ba Ria: two using shells found around Nui Dat, and one – to be auctioned on Vietnam Veterans' Day (18 August) 2024 – using shells from the Long Tan battlefield and surrounds.

"Whatever is made from the auction will go towards keeping children in school," Jason says.

The first bell went under the hammer on 18 August 2023, with Mackay RSL Sub Branch placing the winning bid: \$2,700 raised through raffles, fundraising and a personal donation from Jason's friend Chris Shepherd.

"We were very, very passionate about getting that first bell," Sub Branch President Ken Higgins OAM says.

Ken says his Sub Branch is proud to continue supporting Jason's work, teaming with Jason's friend Chris to hand-deliver donated school supplies to the



kids in Nui Dat.

"The alliance between Mackay Sub Branch veterans, Jason and his good work over there will be ongoing and we'll make sure we continue to support him – not just with money, but also supplies for the kids," Ken says.

"A year ago, we were delivering weekly food parcels to the kids at school. The principal said, 'Can you go

and help this family?'. The dad had just died. He was the family's only source of income, and one of the children was going to have to leave school to work to support them," Jason says.

"Now, both children are still in school. We deliver them weekly food parcels and we pay for their utilities. That's just from a handful of generous people on my little Facebook page that love helping; they make donations, or they buy trinkets. It's incredible.

"We can't change the world, but we can change their world."

Bidding on the second bell is open until 3:40pm Long Tan time (6:40pm EST) on 18 August 2024.

All funds from the winning bid will go towards school fees and supplies for children in the Nui Dat area. To place a bid or learn more, please visit Diggers Rest on Facebook. The third (and final bell) is for sale.

PICTURED: a Vietnamese boy with an Anzac bear.



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DVA MAKES APOLOGY FOR CLAIMS DELAYS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has apologised for delays experienced by veterans in processing claims. The apology was made on the front page of the April edition of the department newsletter, *Vetaffairs*, by Secretary Alison Frame (pictured).

“As the Secretary of DVA, I want to apologise for the delays veterans have experienced after lodging claims. I recognise the delays in finalising a claim can be distressing and create uncertainty.

“We recognise that too many veterans have been waiting too long for an outcome on their claim. I want to assure veterans and their families that improving the time taken to process a claim is a key priority for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

“DVA is appreciative of the additional resources we have received which have enabled us to do more. DVA has recruited and trained more staff, improved its forms and processes, made it easier to submit and track a claim online using MyService, and implemented systems to highlight any missing information so when claims are lodged they are ready for assessment.

“This is assisting us to process claims as quickly as possible so veterans get the support they need sooner.

“You may have heard DVA has recently cleared the backlog of claims that had yet to be allocated to a DVA

officer for processing. With the claims allocation backlog addressed, we are now able to focus even more effort on processing outstanding claims as quickly as possible, and reducing the amount of time it takes for a determination to be made on all claims.

“DVA is aiming to allocate new claims (Initial Liability, Incapacity, and Permanent Impairment) to a DVA Claims Delegate or a Claims Support Officer within two weeks of receipt. We are determined to ensure that all new claims move swiftly from initial lodgement to active processing.

“Claims processing times can vary depending on the type of claim and its complexity. If you have an outstanding claim and haven’t heard from DVA recently, and you have nominated a representative to act on your behalf, please contact them to see what information they have received. You can also view the progress of your claim through MyService.

“We recognise that regular communication can alleviate uncertainty throughout the claims process and help to improve your DVA experience.

“If this has not been your experience or you have any other questions, please let us know by contacting 1800 VETERAN or through our website.”



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Special ops ... When the tough get going

For the first time, Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) has run a combined selection course, allowing ADF personnel to apply for either special forces (SF) operators or SF integrators – such as medics, signallers or engineers.

About 250 candidates from across the ADF travelled to Bindoon Training Area in Western Australia for the 2024 Special Forces Common Selection Course, to be assessed for service based on personal and professional attributes.

They will then be selected for reinforcement training for SOCOMD core capabilities as SF operators or SF integrators.

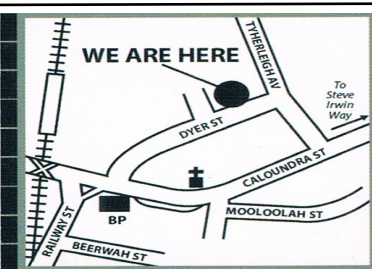
Commanding Officer ADF School of Special Operations Lieutenant Colonel A said the significant weight of effort the

command has put into orchestrating common selection demonstrated the importance it placed on finding the right people.

"We select people for service in SOCOMD using an attribute-based assessment, where the course builds in intensity and applies pressure to ensure the candidate's true character can be observed," Lieutenant Colonel A said.

PICTURED: Some of the candidates doing it tough hoping to make special ops. Not everyone does.— story and photo from ADF.





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VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST SUB-BRANCH

Minutes of General Meeting 21 May 2024.

Opening: 1115 hours. Ode to the Fallen recited by Mick Howe. Attendance/Apologies: As per attendance book.

Previous minutes: April General Minutes printed in the April edition of Ricochet had been read by all in attendance. Moved Mick Howe, that they be accepted. Seconded Bob Johnson. Carried.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report: Sub-Branch requested by State to submit a nomination for National Vice-President. Sub-Branch nominated Terry Roe. Emails received from Inverell Legacy and Banyo RSL regarding outstanding Penny Key Ring orders. Both orders have been packaged and sent. Library requested removal of VVAA sign at back steps. Sign removed. Library have allocated new time slots for Sub-Branch meetings. Times changed from 1000 hrs-1200 hrs to 1230 hrs-1430 hrs. Enquiries to be made regarding a new venue for meetings so the earlier time slot can be maintained. Moved John Cunningham. Seconded John Huxham. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: As the treasurer, Deb Day was overseas, there was no treasurer's report for May.

Membership: As at 20 May 2024 there were 195 financial members. 70 are Life Subscribers.

Esteemed member Ian (Squizzy) Taylor recently passed away and the committee earlier agreed that his recently renewed life membership be reimbursed. Moved Pieter Reuss. Seconded Brian Earp. Carried.

Ricochet: Kerry White to review the newsletters from other ESO's that appear on the website. Moved Kerry White. Seconded Pieter Reuss. Carried.

Office manager: John Huxham to liaise with Deb Day regarding the asset list. Margo Christie to resume duty officer duties in June. John will be away for three weeks in June and will organise a replacement. Moved John Huxham. Seconded Bob Johnson. Carried.

Sub-Committee: Tickets for Vietnam Veterans Day will be available from 1 June 2024. Notice to appear in June Ricochet. Mick Howe to pursue sound system hire. Moved John Cunningham. Seconded Bob Johnson. Carried.

DHJ: No report.

General Business: Mick Howe to follow up on the Honour Board situation. Back door to remain closed due to issues between library staff and some homeless people who occupy the area. Mick Howe to liaise with the carpet layers re the new carpet for the Drop-In Centre.

John Cunningham to contact the President of the NSAA re social outings.

Closure: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1145 hours.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 June. Time and venue to be advised.



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GOLFING TIPS ...

"I know I am getting better at golf because I am hitting fewer spectators." — President Gerald R. Ford

"If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball." — Jack Lemon

"I'm the best. I just haven't played yet." — Muhammad Ali

"They call it golf because all the other four-letter words were taken." — Raymond Floyd

"Give me golf clubs, fresh air and a beautiful partner, and you can keep the clubs and the fresh air." — Jack Benny

"The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing." — Phyllis Diller

- From Readers Digest



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A young Army officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible, permanent injury was that both of his ears were amputated. Since his remaining hearing was sufficient, he remained in the Army.

Many years later he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, very sensitive about his appearance. One day the General was interviewing three servicemen who were candidates for his headquarters staff.

The first was a Captain, a tactical helicopter pilot, and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the General asked him, 'Do you notice anything different about me?'

The young officer answered, 'Why, yes, Sir, I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears.'

The general was displeased with his lack of tact and threw him out.

The second interview was with a Navy Lieutenant, and he was even better. The General then asked him the same question,

'Do you notice anything different about me?' He replied sheepishly, 'Well, sir, you have no ears.' The General threw him out also.

The third interview was with an old Sergeant Major, an Infantryman and staff-trained NCO. He was smart, articulate, fit, looked sharp, and seemed to know more than the two officers combined.

The General liked this guy, and went ahead with the same question, 'Do you notice anything different about me?' To his surprise the Sergeant Major said,

'Yes, sir, you wear contact lenses.'

The General was very impressed and thought, 'What an incredibly observant NCO, and he didn't mention my ears.' He asked, 'Sergeant Major, how do you know I wear contacts?'

'Well, sir,' the soldier replied, 'it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no f*****g ears.'

Many of you would not have known Bryan Costigan who held many positions here on the Sunshine Coast in RSL and Surf Life Saving circles, in particular, the role he played in the AHS Centaur memorial services every 14 May for the past 40-odd years.

In fact, I met him only on my retirement move to Caloundra 21 years ago. But we 'clicked' on meeting at the RSL, Caloundra, mainly through the bond of Bryan having served in RAEME; at that time, our son Ash was starting his 14 year-career in RAEME.

There is a bond with RAEME members, whether they knew each other or not, or if they served years apart; if you were in RAEME, you had a certain kinship unlike any other.

Bryan and Erica were founding members of the AHS Centaur committee at the Caloundra RSL. Erica receiving her Order of Australia medal in 2013 for the fine work she put into hallowing the area on the Caloundra headland, and for observing that fateful day in 1943 when a Japanese submarine under the command of Lieutenant Commander Nakagawa, sunk the Australian hospital ship.

I learned that the memorial walk up at the Headland was Bryan's suggestion to the RSL, while Erica suggested that a number of plaques be kept reserved closer to the AHS Centaur monument for those who lost their lives and later, the survivors of that tragic event when they passed away.

Bryan's son, Michael, phoned me with the sad news that Bryan had passed away, and invited me to give his eulogy, despite the fact that I had only known him since I had been in Caloundra.

Fireside with the Padre



I was most honoured to do so and Michael took me up to Opal Nursing Home to talk with his mother to gain the first 70 years of Bryan's life.

I gave the eulogy of Bryan's funeral. Heather Christie, the former long-term Secretary and President of the Caloundra RSL took the poppy service. In all, it was a very fitting farewell for a great man who had given many years to the RSL and other organisations here on the coast.

Bryan and Erica had been married for 68 years, and even when Erica was in Opal, Bryan would visit her regularly, and phone her every day.

At the funeral, my wife, Annette walked me up to the pulpit then escorted me to lay a poppy, for I am still very unsteady on my feet without my wheelie walker; at least, I can still talk.

Walking may be a problem, without the wobbles, but talking is still as good as it ever was.

So, until next month, when I write my 107th edition of 'Fireside with the Padre', I will keep on talking. That is the spirit. May God bless all VVASC members as we fight through the problems in our daily lives.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

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Fiction on Vietnam

A new book tells the story of a mutiny in the Vietnam War towards the end of the war – of course it is fiction.

'The Mutiny at Long Phuoc Hai' is a novella set in Australia and Vietnam in 1971. It follows the lives and loves of five Australians from different parts of the country who are conscripted to serve in the war.

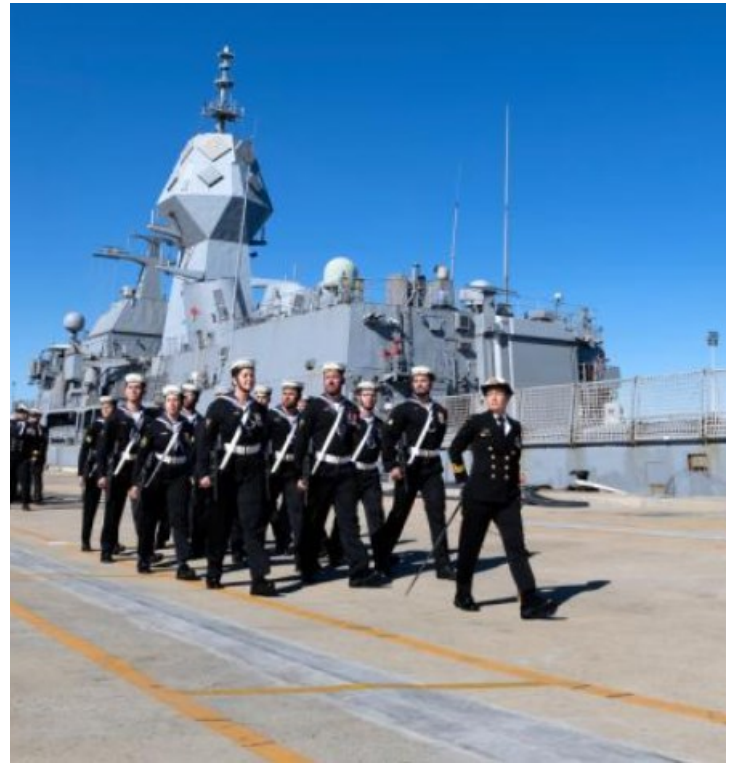
One of them becomes an officer and is posted to the war as a platoon commander. The other four come under his control and for different reason, each develops a serious dislike for their young commander.

"As the unpopular war comes to an end for Australia, tensions between the officer and his men reach flashpoint on their last day outside the wire," says the blurb for the book.

"Although the story is set in the Vietnam War, it raises questions about Australia's involvement in controversial wars since World War 2."

"Jack Twist is a former soldier and teacher. In 1970 he was conscripted into the Australian Army and the following year posted to serve in the Vietnam War. Incidents and attitudes from that experience have served to inform the narrative of 'The Mutiny at Long Phuoc Hai'."

The DVA Nominal Roll has a Jack Twist serving in Vietnam in 1971 in 85 and 86 Transport Platoon.



End for HMAS Anzac

MARCH -off on completion of HMAS Anzac's recent decommissioning ceremony at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia. HMAS Anzac was commissioned in May 1996. She served from East Timor to the Middle East.
— ADF photo.

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TIMELINE JUNE

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 1,600 demonstrators were rounded up and jailed, with 27 being executed.

6-8 June 1969: In the Battle of Binh Ba 5 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment defeated a combined force only 5km north of the Australian HQ at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province. The battle involved fierce close-quarter house-to-house fighting, although the majority of enemy killed was through heavy artillery and air-bombardment. One Australian was killed and 10 wounded, while enemy losses included at least 107 killed, six wounded and eight captured.

8 June 1965: HMAS Sydney arrives at Vũng Tàu, South Vietnam, carrying the bulk of the Australian force including 1 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

9 June 1803: British explorer Matthew Flinders (**right**) became the first person to circumnavigate Australia. Flinders charted much previously unknown coastline, and the maps he produced were the first to accurately depict Australia as we now know it.

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

10 June 1838: In a massacre at Myall Creek near Inverell in northern New South Wales 30 unarmed Indigenous Australians were killed by twelve colonists at Myall Creek. Seven men were publicly hanged at Sydney Gaol, the first British subjects to be executed for massacring Aboriginal people.

12 June 1902: The Commonwealth Franchise Act was enacted meaning women in Australia over the age of 21 could

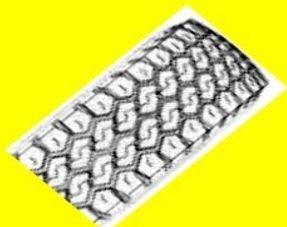


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now vote in national elections and stand for the Australian Parliament, despite many not possessing the right to do so in their home states. The right to vote in federal elections was not granted to First Nations women or men until 1962.

28 June 1918: The Paris Peace Conference took place from 18 January to 28 June 1919, when the Treaty of Versailles was signed resulting in the end of World War on 11 November, what was called Armistice Day, now Remembrance Day.

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.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>
<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>



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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, Kingstote 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 ...'