

GG honours Vietnam veteran father

Giving her first Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day address, Governor-General Ms Sam Mostyn remembered her veteran father, William Mostyn, which "gives a special meaning to my every act of commemoration".

Her father, William "Bill" Mostyn, as a major in the Royal Australian Signal Corps, served in Headquarters Australian Force Vietnam (1970-71). A graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, he later rose to the rank of Colonel and served for almost 40 years in the Australian Army

"In my childhood, my father served with the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in Vietnam," Ms Mostyn said. "While he was away, my sisters and I delighted in listening to recordings of him on a cassette tape, reading our favourite bedtime stories.

"Even today, I remember the pleasure of hearing his voice during that time. But I know now that it was my mother, like so many thousands of other women, who carried the responsibility of ensuring our family continued to thrive in happiness and safety, all the while feeling the anxiety of my father's absence.

"These memories, which I share with many children of veterans, gives a special meaning to my every act of commemoration."

She reflected on a history of service, sacrifice and dedication to duty that has shaped the nation we are and reflects the very best of us.



THE Governor-General lays a wreath at the National Vietnam War Memorial.

"But it is not only here that we tell this story," she said. "Across Australia, in our naming of streets and public places, through our memorial sculptures and traditions of commemoration, we strive to honour service and preserve the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"In the words 'Lest we forget' we find a reminder and a commitment. We must always remember the generations of Australians who have answered the call to serve in defence of our nation.

- continued page 3; more on VV day including photos

INSIDE: WE HAVE A NEW LIFE MEMBER AS ONE IS FAREWELLED



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.

Veterans & Families Counselling

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SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

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

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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: Third Tuesday of the month: Comm Meeting and General Meeting — times, check office for details.

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.

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

Vietnam link through language teaching

ONE OF our great supporters, Thai Dang was reminded of events from 50 years ago when the 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit staged their reunion at Maroochy RSL around the time of Vietnam Veterans Day, 18 August.

History was recalled by Barry Smith, who served with the unit in the early 1970s when Thai Dang was a small boy and was taught English by a member of the unit, Rex Ward, who had been a teacher before being called up for national service.

"Thai Dang cycled to school every day rain, hail or shine, determined to learn English.

"After the war ended in 1975, he fled dangerously as a boatperson, initially to Indonesia, then to the United States working firstly as a janitor then obtaining a university degree, then migrating with his wife (Diamond) to Australia where his dreamed-of wish was to reunite with his former English teachers.

"Through a combination of coincidence, sleuthing and a little luck, that 40-year dream was realised when Thai Dang was reunited with Rex Ward. Sadly, his other English teacher, Neville Smith, had passed away some years earlier," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith gave the main address at the Cotton Tree service and detailed the "civic action ... program of carrying out positive projects for the local Vietnamese villages like building and equipping schools and medical dispensaries, teaching English language classes, providing daily medical



AT THE Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon at Maroochy RSL Club were (from left) Thai Dang and Diamond, Nev Smith's widow, Jacqui Smith, and her son Kim Smith.

care visits, installing windmills and water reticulation systems, providing pigs and chickens to local farmers ... all coordinated by 1st Australian Civil Affairs Units."

Thai Dang and Diamond, who now live on the Sunshine Coast, were at the service and following lunch with a group of other Vietnamese Australians.

Barry Smith was conscripted in 1965 and, in April 1966, graduated from Officer Training Unit Scheyville and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. In 1968 he undertook a 12 month Vietnamese language course at the RAAF School of Languages, Point Cook, Victoria. In June 1969 he was posted to the 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit at the Australian Task Force, Nui Dat, South Vietnam as a Liaison Officer.

During his 12-month tour, he spent most of his time working alone in villages with the local population, plus interpreting for visiting politicians and journalists, and being a go-between for local Viet Cong prisoners of war and their families in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Since the mid 1980s, Barry (**pictured**) has been involved in research on Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war.



Starting in 1990, he has been back to Vietnam more than 10 times, the last occasion being January 2024.

Between 2012 and 2018, he was Visiting Fellow at the UNSW AD-FA campus researching the Civil Affairs Unit's role in Vietnam.

Governor-General tribute

- from Page 1.

"Their sacrifice was made for us, to preserve our freedom and our way of life. We remember our veterans who carry with them the scars of service in body and spirit.

"We also make a commitment to the families of those who served – remembering their weeks and months of anguish, hoping and longing for the safe return of their beloved.

"These commitments cannot be fulfilled in a moment or a season. They ask of us a lifelong commitment to honour and remember every day.

"In service, as veterans, you have upheld the greatest of Australian values and demonstrated the best of our nation. To all Vietnam Veterans and your families, on this day and at this memorial, on behalf of the Australian people, thank you for your devotion to duty, to your nation and to each other. Lest We Forget."

Deserved recognition for President

Vietnam Veterans Day gives the Association the opportunity to honour a member for his or her dedication and contribution to the Sub-Branch. There are many within the Sub-Branch who are worthy of the award of Life Membership.

However, there is one person who has been the backbone of the Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch for many years.

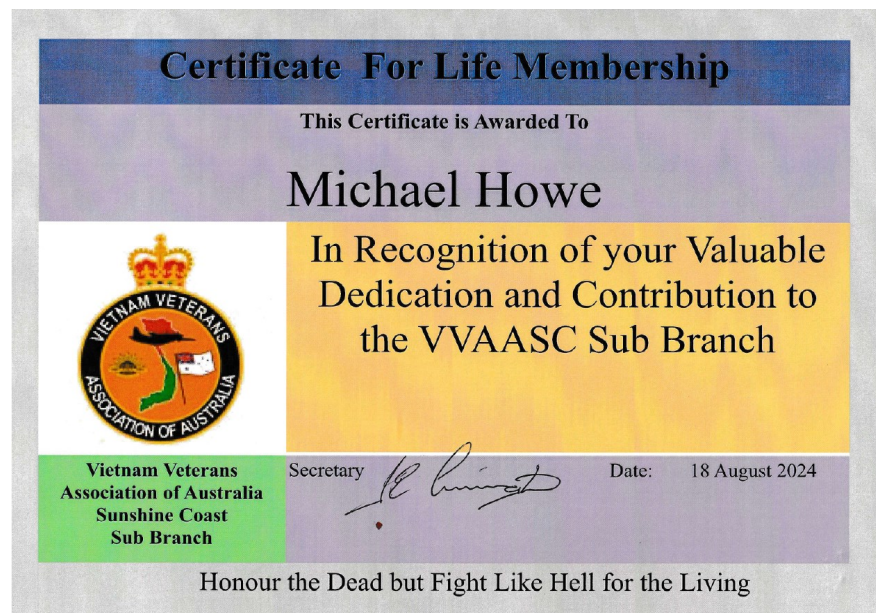
He is a Duty Officer one day a week. He organises and participates in all fund-raising activities such as marshalling the volunteers for triathlons, selling memorabilia, and arranging sausage sizzles.

He also represents the Sub-Branch, deals with issues arising, and for eight years has led the Sub-Branch as President. I think he would like to step down and have a break, but the Committee has the unique ability of coercing him into staying on.

He is also Vice President of the Maroochy RSL Sub-Branch which is another demanding role. Thankfully, Wendy is very understanding.

It is a pleasure to announce that Life Membership for 2024 is awarded to Mick Howe. **(pictured).**

— by John Cunningham at V V Day luncheon.



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From the Secretary

Well, Vietnam Veterans Day is over for another year. Hundreds of veterans, family and friends gathered at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph in perfect Queensland weather.

TGO3 Air Force Cadets provided the Drum Corp, Catafalque Party and the Flag Party and were superb. The discipline and dedication shown by these young men and women give a significant measure of hope for the Country's future.

I need to acknowledge a number of people who ensured the success of the day:

Councillor Ted Hungerford for a Sunshine Coast Council Grant to help finance the ceremony at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph. This is the second year Ted has provided a Grant.

Mark Doolan and Ernie Hartshorn who brought the Maroochy RSL Sub-Branch PA and other equipment, set it up and packed it away at the end. Last year there was a major problem with the sound system as everyone is aware. This year, we borrowed the upgraded Maroochy RSL's sound system and Ernie skillfully ensured there were no hiccups.

Guest speaker Barry Smith from the 1st Australian Civil Affairs Association, who gave a succinct and interesting address.

Padre Arthur Fry, who has not been travelling to well lately, was determined to be there on the day and did a great job.

Kingston Skanes, the young bugler who delivered a

wonderful rendition of the Last Post and Rouse.

Fiona Simpson MP who sang the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems; Fiona has been a long term supporter of the Sub-Branch.

Rick Brittain, the Parade Marshall.

Mike Sheahan who once again did a great job as MC (Not sure about his joke at the luncheon though).

Thanks must also go to the staff at the RSL Function Centre, **Jill, Kate and Brooke** who ensured the luncheon was a splendid success. Of course, it would be remiss to not acknowledge the support of the **Maroochy RSL**. Without its continued financial support, there is no way luncheon prices could be kept to the level they have been.

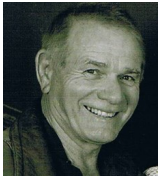
Thai and Diamond Dang and the Vietnamese/Australian Community who once again supported the event at both the Ceremony and the Luncheon. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their entertainment surprise.

Finally, to the team especially, Mick and Lew, and all the ladies and gents who helped with the raffle.

I hope I have not forgotten anyone, but it is probably on the cards.

Until next month, stay safe and well, and in the words of the late Garry King, "always take the high ground".

Regards
John Cunnington



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VALE NORM COOPER: STALWART AND LIFE MEMBER

A stalwart and life member of our association sub-branch, Norm Cooper, passed away on 23 August in Canberra aged 88. .

Norman Murray Cooper (A219149) served in Vietnam as a Sergeant photographer with Headquarters, Australian Force Vietnam (RAAF Element).

He was born in Sydney on 10 April 1936 and completed his intermediate schooling at Hurlstone Agriculture in Sydney before taking up a position in trade magazine production with a publishing company for about five years.

He completed compulsory National Service between 1955–58 and served as a Bren gunner in an infantry unit.

In 1958 he joined the Royal Australian Air Force as a photographer and served for 35 years retiring with the rank of Squadron Leader.

During his service as a photographer, he covered all aspects of the ADF serving in Malaya (1961-63), Thailand (1963), and South Vietnam. Before moving to Canberra to be near his son, he lived at Tanawha.

He was very involved with our Sunshine Coast sub-branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia including several years as office manager.

He was married twice and had five sons and one daughter; one son pre-deceased him. A sister also pre-deceased him.

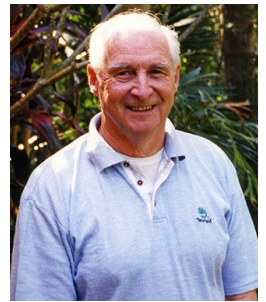
A funeral service was held on Tuesday, 3 September, at The Chapel at Gold Creek, 17 O'Hanlon Pl, Nicholls ACT.

He is one of the veterans featured on a Sunshine Coast Regional Council project in 2003 in partnership with the V VAA and the Australian War Memorial; funded by a Library Board of Queensland's Library Innovation Grant.

<https://sunshinecoast.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/1089>



NORM COOPER IN Vietnam (left) and more recently.



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V V Day lunch at Maroochy RSL



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REMEMBRANCE FOR WAR DOGS

TAKING part in a service at the National War Dogs Memorial at Alexandra Headland were (from nearest camera) Graham Smith (former CO Prince of Wales Lighthouse), George Hulse and Graham Ellis. At rear is organiser Ian Atkinson. George Hulse presented a five-year service medal to Ash with handler LAC Emma Gill who have now completed their service.



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Modern take on Glass Slipper tale



THAI, Diamond and friends always bring a bit of fun to the V V Day luncheon. This year it was a skit based on the Cinderella Glass Slipper tale. The King was none other than our own John Cunnington with his Queen (Eileen of course). Many of the ladies present lined up to try on the slipper with the eventual winner Princess Joyce Saunders presented with \$200.

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workshops, etc*

IN varied roles ADF aircraft have been busy lately with escorting two B2 Spirits (Stealth Bombers) on a visit to Amberley (right) and at Brisbane's Riverfire with an F/A-18F Super Hornet appearing to slide between buildings, and one of two Tiger ARH Helicopters. — Thanks to various photographers.



VETERANS'
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Veterans' Health Week Free Event

Mudjimba RSL Sub-Branch

43 Cottonwood Street Mudjimba

Saturday 12th October 2024

We Welcome all Veterans, Partners and Members

RSVP: secretary@mudjimba.rslqld.net.au – by 9th October 2024



| | |
|------------|---|
| 0800-0820 | Light Breakfast |
| 0820-0830 | Welcome, General Admin, VHW Theme – Graeme Wong - Lew MacLeod |
| 0830-0900 | Social Connection and Brain Health – Patty Shaw Psychologist |
| 0900-0930 | Relaxation Methods – Qi Gong – Julie Allen- Lifeforce Wellbeing |
| 0930-1000 | Relaxation Methods – Guided Meditation – Julie Allen - Lifeforce Wellbeing |
| 1000-1030 | Morning Tea |
| 1030-1100 | The Role of Food in Influencing our Social and Emotional Wellbeing – Zoe Marten Accredited Practicing Dietician |
| 1100-1130 | Group Exercise and the Connection to Wellbeing – David Barnes-Exercise Physiologist |
| 1130-1145 | Keeping Connected – with mates: Mates4Mates – Jack Halling |
| 1145-1200 | Keeping Connected- as a Volunteer: Disaster Relief Australia |
| 1200-1215 | Keeping Connected with the Community: Buderim Men's Shed- Doug Forsyth- Veteran |
| 1215-1220 | Closing remarks – Graeme Wong – Lew MacLeod |
| 1220 -1320 | Sausage Sizzle |

As promised at the VVAASC luncheon, I will write my 108th edition of this column. When I sat down to look at it, it is my 109th column that I will present to you in September. Having cleared that up, let us get on with the fireside chat, you in your warm and comfortable home, and I in mine.

Was not this latest Vietnam Veterans' Day the best attended and surely among the very best we have put on; and was not the input from our Vietnamese lady friends superb? And who could ever forget 'King John' in his regal get up, to oversee the contest to find the lady who fitted the lost slipper?

While on that note, applause and acclamation were not enough to that "King John," or as we know him, John Cunningham, for the excellent thought and preparation he put in to make the day as memorable as it was. Thank you, John.

Last month, I told you the story about Miss Van in Phan Rang in Vietnam. She subsequently was sentenced to one month in jail, without any Australian or American witnesses, as several of the National Police had witnessed her throw the brick, the size of our Besser Block, at the group as we walked towards our jeep.

On her release, she walked up to me holding a parasol. As she approached me, she turned the parasol on its side, to prevent our eye contact.

She spoke to me, in Vietnamese, saying that she was very sorry that she had thrown a brick at the three of us which struck me. I responded that her apology is welcomed as there are many times in life when we do things out of the ordinary, in anger or whatever.

Then she asked if we were still friends, I replied that I am

Fireside with the Padre



glad we are friends and would be friends, for that is the reason we came to Vietnam. As quick as a flash, she said "Now do I get my job back?" I replied "No.", She flung her parasol around the other way so that I never saw her face and stormed away.

I received a letter written by the local street interpreter who charged heavily for writing letters to people on the Base, yet I speak, read and write Vietnamese.

It read, "All Vietnam has heavy eyes waiting for the day you return to your country ... My children are dying because they have no food, because you took their food away from me."

It hurt, for that was not the memory I wanted the people of Vietnam to have of me or any of my colleagues. But she never saw that it was her actions that caused her to be dismissed. I only carried out the 'paperwork'.

Until next month, may our God be with you watching over you and yours and keep you safe.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain



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YOUNG bugler Kingston Skanes left a wonderful impression with his playing of the Last Post and Rouse.



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At Riflemen's lunch



REMEMBER the Riflemen's Lunch is on the first Friday each month at Mooloolaba Surf Club. The Riflemen's began in 2003 after the idea was borrowed by Ian Atkinson from Ex 2RAR gentleman who would invite all the 2RAR Section Commanders to a monthly luncheon. Ian returned to the Sunshine Coast and sat down with Lou Pattle, Bob Bury and Hayden Kenny and formulated the plan to do something similar at the Mooloolaba Surf Club. So, there we are — enjoying a good time each month as the recent photos by Bill Cochran show.



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

TIMELINE SEPTEMBER

- 1 September 1906:** The young nation of Australia became a colonial administrator when it assumed responsibility for the external territory of Papua – the southern half of what is now Papua New Guinea.
- 1 September 1951:** A Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America (ANZUS) was signed to ensure peace and safety in the Pacific region.
- 5-6 September 1972:** Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army.
- 6 September 1940:** 2542 'enemy aliens' from Britain disembarked HMT Dunera in Melbourne and Sydney, most being Jewish refugees who had fled Nazi persecution in Germany and Austria.
- 7 September 1936:** Only two months after the species was granted protected status, the last known thylacine died from exposure at Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart.
- 7 September 1943:** A Liberator crashed on take-off at Port Moresby hitting five trucks carrying men of the 2/33rd Battalion: 15 were killed instantly, 44 died of their injuries, and 92 were injured but survived.
- 11 September 2001:** Four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3000 people. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the US, boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft; two were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center.
- 15 September 2000:** Aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman lit the Olympic flame in the spectacular opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games. Ten days later she won the gold medal in the women's 400 metres race, achieving her greatest goal.
- 21 September 1971:** The Battle of Nui Le takes place in Phước Tuy Province, South Vietnam. A tactically inconclusive encounter between troops from the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and the NVA 33rd Regiment north of Nui Dat, it proved to be the last major battle fought by Australian forces in the war. Five Australians are killed and 30 wounded.
- 26 September 1983:** Off the coast of Rhode Island, the yacht Australia II crossed the finish line to win the America's Cup. It was the first America's Cup race in 132 years that a country other than the USA won.
- 27 September 1956:** With the agreement of the Australian Government, Britain began testing atomic weapons at three sites on Australian territory: the Montebello Islands off Western Australia, and Emu Field and Maralinga in South Australia.

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, September 1962-75

September 1965

Scott, Ronald Allan (213006), 37, AATTV (attached RAI), Sgt (Temp. WO2), Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

Smith, Francis John (37003), 25, 1RAR, Pte (Temp. Cpl), Ouyen Cemetery, Vic.

September 1966

Blanck, Wayne Allan (38033), 28, AATTV (attached RAI), Sgt (Temp. WO2), Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

September 1967

Brett, William John (2785150), 21, Pte, 2RAR, Armidale General Cemetery, NSW.

McDuff, Peter Edward (2782440), 22, LCpl, 2RAR, Darlington Point Cemetery, NSW.

Nelson, Dennis Edwin (4718427), 21, Pte, 2RAR, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Radomi, Stanley Edwin (43573), 22, Pte, 2RAR, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Twomey, John Warren (1200750), 33, Sgt, 2RAR, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Weston, Leslie James (1731955), 22, Pte, 2RAR, Atherton Cemetery, Qld.

September 1968

Abraham, Dennis Eric (4718946), 22, Sig. 104 SigSqn, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Burns, Robert (4718097), 22, LCpl, 4RAR, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Le Bherz, Norman William (18395), 22, Spr, 1Fid-Sqn, Brisbane General Cemetery.

Rhodes, Maxwell Lachlan (2796378), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Smith, Robert Stanley (1/4209), 2RAR, WO2, died Brisbane (no other details).

Muc, Michael (2787512), 21, 4RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

Noonan, Michael James (2787793), 21, 4RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Sukmanowsky, Michael (4719573), 21, 1ARU, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Williams, Archibald Stanley (5715189), 21, 1RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

September 1969

Fisher, David John E (2787344), 23, 3 SqnSASR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Kingston, Ian William (1734754), 20, 6RAR, Pte, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Rennie, Brian (312641), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

September 1970

Mowbray, Brenton George (53657), 36, HQ AFV (AA Psych C), Capt. (Temp. Maj.), War Cemetery and Annex, Perth.

September 1971

Beilken, Brian Charles (5718195), 21, 4RAR, Pte, War Cemetery and Annex, Perth.

Duff, James (3799449), 20, 4RAR, Pte, Mitta Mitta Cemetery, Vic.

Kingston-Powles, Keith Michael (56226), 24, 4RAR, Pte, Woongarra Crematorium, Townsville, Qld.

Niblett, Ralph James (3798081), 21, 4RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Sprigg, Roderick James (5718122), 21, 4RAR, Pte, Mukinbudin Cemetery, WA.

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 ...'