

**If undeliverable please return to:
VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc.,
PO Box 533, Cotton Tree 4558.**

Your 'Ricochet' newsletter for February 2025

Your February 2025 Ricochet

Lest We Forget

SEE YOU AT THE A.G.M., 18 FEBRUARY, 11 A.M.

Contact: Office Phone 54794552 or email secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com



Application for Membership/Renewal



RENEWING MEMBERS NEED TO COMPLETE 1-6 ONLY!

1. FAMILY NAME..... GIVEN NAME.....NICKNAME.....

2. SERVICE NUMBER.....

3. EMAIL ADDRESS.....

4. RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.....P/C.....

5. POSTAL ADDRESS (If different from above).....P/C.....

6. Phone no. (.....)..... Mobile No. Partner's Name

7. Date of Birth/...../..... Date of Enlistment/...../..... Date of Discharge/...../.....

8. Did the Veteran serve under any other name Y/N if so- Family Name.....Given Name.....

9. Honours/Awards (e.g. MM,JP) Please list.....

10 Type of Membership Applying for - Ordinary, General, Associate, POSH. (Circle one please).

11. Do you have a skill that Welfare could use? If so please advise

12. If you fall ill, do you give permission for notification in the newsletter or noticeboard in the office? Y/N

13. If you are hospitalised, do you give permission for our Hospital Visitation Officer to visit you? Y/N

14. Do you give permission for your name and service details to be printed in the Newsletter? Y/N

15. BRANCH OF SERVICE— NAVY — ARMY — AIRFORCE (Please circle)

Ex-service personnel other than Australian must supply copy of Discharge Certificate and Drivers License.
Currently serving ADF personnel must supply evidence of service.

1st Tour	2nd Tour	3rd Tour
From...../...../.....To/...../.....	From...../...../.....To/...../.....	From/...../..... To/...../.....
Unit:		

New applicants for membership must have a nominator and seconder.

Nominated by:Signature of Nominator:

Annual Subscription **Payment can be made direct to: Westpac Bank BSB No. 034-198 Account No. 237008. Please enter your name, and what the payment is for, in the reference space.**

Ordinary \$25.00 (Australian and Allied Vietnam Veteran) General \$20 (Ex and Current ADF and Allied)

Associate \$15.00 (Non military personnel)

POSH Associate \$7

LIFE SUBSCRIBER

OPTION \$65

Donation \$.....\$5 \$10 \$20 Or \$.....(Please circle). Thank you!

Please make Cheque/Money Order payable to: VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc.

Post to: VVAA Sunshine Coast, PO Box 533, COTTON TREE, QLD. 4558

I, the undersigned, hereby apply to be admitted to membership of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. and, if accepted, I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of its Constitution, By-laws which are now in force and which hereafter be in force.

Signature of Applicant..... Date...../...../.....

Received by (Please Print) Receipt No.....Date/...../.....

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



Lump-sum compo payments cause issue

VETERANS with mental health issues are still at risk after receiving large compensation payments of up to six figures they cannot manage, the Department of Veterans Affairs has been warned.

RSL Victoria has urged the Federal Government to consider the issue of lump sum compensation payments for vulnerable veterans as it begins to implement recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

This comes after multiple incidents in Victoria in recent years, where veterans' physical, mental and financial wellbeing have been placed at significant risk after receiving one large payment (Usually applicable under post-Vietnam legislation).

These have included situations where existing mental health or addiction issues have been exacerbated through management of the funds, or where the influx of money has made the vulnerable veteran a target for robbery and physical violence.

The worst of these have been life-threatening involving stabbings and shootings.

RSL Victoria President Dr Robert Webster has written to the government and opposition to provide greater information and clarity on the issue and highlight its urgency, while proposing possible solutions.

"RSL Victoria is keen to work with government to better

support vulnerable veterans in rebuilding their lives," Dr Webster said.

"Assisting veterans is the number one priority of RSL Victoria. We deal with these challenges every day, and our understanding of them makes us best placed to help provide solutions.

"When a vulnerable veteran is going to receive a significant lump sum compensation payment, we believe it is vital that financial protection is afforded to that veteran.

"A scheme that would allow trustees to administer payments for vulnerable veterans is one policy suggestion RSL Victoria has put forward to government."

"RSL Victoria would continue to follow its core purpose by assisting vulnerable veterans in these situations; however, it would not seek to be appointed a trustee in these cases."

In 2023, RSL Victoria achieved a landmark decision at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) when it secured a state-appointed trustee to manage the compensation payment for a veteran who had faced significant hardship since being discharged from the Australian Defence Force in the early 2000s.

"We believe this decision can be a template for policy to better protect veterans who are most at risk. Progressing this as recommendations from the Royal Commission are implemented would make a real difference in the lives of veterans."



Soldiers march on Anzac Day



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 LATEST OFFICE NEWS

Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSN of AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Michael Howe APM JP (Qual)
Senior V/President	John Cunnington
Junior V/President	Gordon Hall
Secretary	John Cunnington
Treasurer	Deb Day

Committee Members:

Pieter Reus	Membership
Kerry White	<i>Ricochet</i> Editor
John Cunnington	VV Day
Mike Gay	Merchandise
John Huxham	Assistant Secretary
John Huxham	Office Manager
Bob Johnson	
Mark Doolan	

Office Bearers

Graham Scott	DHJ project
Geoff Jewell	Thursday Breakfast
Noel Woodall	Honorary Lawyer
Arthur Fry	Honorary Chaplain
Michael Sheahan	Advertising/Marketing
Michael Howe	Grants Officer
Margo Christie	Asst Office Manager

ADVOCATE TEAM

Compensation Advocates

Helena Smith JP (Qual)	0439241442
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Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters	54761594
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Mentor/Assessor

Helena Smith	0439241442
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Mentor/Well-Being Officer

Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn	0422670080
Air Force Association	Chris Wessels
Tracker Dogs Assn.	Ian Atkinson
Mooloolaba Surf Club	Kevin Lynch
Buderim Hospital	Alec Chesters
Army Cadets/ARES	vacant
Air Force Cadets	Chris Wessels
Naval Cadets	Carl Britz

UPDATE: NEWS ON DROP-IN-CENTRE

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

Phone 54794552 E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

OPENING HOURS: *Currently the office at the Drop-In Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ONLY (except for Public Holidays) from 0900 to 1200 (9am – noon).*

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

ACCESS: *Due to privacy and security issues, entry is no longer available via the back door, but only through the front door. However, if you need to use the lift in the main library building, you have to advise the office on phone 54794552 to arrange office entry.*

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

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)

129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.

Free call to Brisbane Office 1800 555 254

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.

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.

MESSAGES for Australia Day 2025 from two former Governors-General who had distinguished military careers.

ENORMOUS POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITY

We are a weird mob. We can be brilliant and yet we can be frustrating. We can reach great heights and yet be deeply disappointing. We are a multicultural island nation, bound, particularly when needs must, by common purpose and values and yet at times seemingly divided into an island of nations.

But amidst these contradictory and conflicting characteristics there lies enormous potential and possibility. The opportunity to watch and participate in the interplay of these characteristics over the last 20 years has reinforced in me the criticality of our freedoms and the quality of our people, and as such has made me proud to be an Australian.

Linda and I have visited too many disaster scenes. Each visit has, however, reinforced our appreciation for the many strengths that Australians possess. Similarly, in our visits to numerous institutions and organisations that are driving change through research and action in health, education,



family welfare and so many other fields, we were humbled by the passion and energy we witnessed. In my military life I have seen Australians achieve amazing outcomes through their pragmatism, down-to-earth style and humanity. You cannot have these experiences and not be proud of your countrymen and women.

I often quoted from Dorothy Mackellar's *My Country* in my speeches as Governor-General. Not from the beginning of her poem but from its conclusion.

Mackellar reminds us that for all the tribulations our country sets upon us, "she pays us back threefold". I am convinced that it is not just the natural characteristics of our country that provides a threefold return but the quality of our people. Depend on them and they will pay you back threefold.

– **General (Retd) the Honourable David Hurley AC CVO DSC, Governor-General from 2019 to 2024 (from *The Courier-Mail*).**

Looking for civility in the modern age

Do you find, like me, that your rose-coloured glasses have a warmer tint as you get older? Do you feel that in previous times, people were kinder, wiser, living in greater harmony?

The past moved in the slow lane. In this Information Age still unfolding, we are bombarded with tales, images, urgings and opinions every time we glance at a screen or hear a broadcast, whether we are seeking them or not. We are informed, misinformed and disinformed all in the same day.

Australia is a great democracy – one of the world's greatest. We are proud of that and want every Australian to know it; to absorb or inherit that sense.

We know that among those other important and understandable reasons of safety and betterment, many of those who come to modern Australia do so because of the fundamental protections and opportunities afforded by our democratic model and practices.

We want, all of us, to know that our democracy confers on all of us huge opportunities and protections but also some accompanying obligations. Some of these are common in many places around the world (the rule of law, the rights of individuals for personal safety, lawful ownership of property).

Some others of these rights and obligations are attached to our particular democratic model and indeed to our Australian character.

Notably, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and its expression, our voting franchise, almost unlimited freedom to travel within and from Australia – all of these are precious rights that most of us take for granted.

Part of those freedoms is that of expressing personal viewpoints on any issue under the sun.

But this freedom, one of the most precious available to Australians, has its limits: not limits defined in law but limits developed over centuries of the evolution of admired democracies – decency and respect from each of us to another. That's key.

As a nation we are magnificently caring and compassionate when natural disaster or overt, urgent need affects our fellow Australians or those foreign communities beyond our shores.

We roll up our sleeves and open our homes, our hearts and wallets. Compassion and empathy are part of our national DNA.

Perhaps my concern springs from a

more insidious effect. Legend has it that King Canute sat on a beach seeking to turn back

the tide – quite unsuccessfully! One of the tidal effects of the Information Age has been the rise and rise of social media within the overall proliferation of digital information.

Infants with iPads are quite a commonplace sight. Next time you see a young person crossing the road, have a mental wager that they will be fixated on their phone screen.

If a values-led leader sees a trend, a social movement, a campaign at odds with those values the leader should, must call it out.

Civility is not dying but all too frequently it is lost, hard to find, hard to see. Australians need their leaders to help find it and keep it close.

– **General (Retd) Sir Peter John Cosgrove, AK, CVO and MC was Governor-General of Australia from 2014 to 2019 (edited extract from *The Courier-Mail*)**



From the Secretary

Well, another year is upon us. As I started to write this report, the word "hope" popped into my mind.

Hopefully, everyone had an enjoyable Christmas with family although, for some, grieving the loss of a loved one, Christmas can be a bitter-sweet time. Hopefully also, 2025 will be one where those struggling with health issues can overcome them and enjoy life to the fullest.

It is also hoped that this year may see a resolution to much of the conflict overseas and to an end to the disgraceful un-Australian behaviour that is causing so much anger and division in this country.

At the end of 2024, The Sub-Branch was in a sound financial position thanks to the professional management of our Treasurer, Deb Day. I understand that Deb will be putting her hand up again this year.

Membership stands at 110 with many members taking up the Life Subscriber membership. The Life Subscriber option was the brainchild of Pieter Reuss who will stand again as Membership Officer.

During the latter part of the year, members attended a number of Military Cadet units' Marching Out Parades. Mick Howe attended the 14 AAC BN Marching Out Parade at Nambour while Jim Muir, Thai Dang and I attended the 207 Squadron Air Force Cadet's Marching Out Parade at Nambour.

Jim also attended the dinner following the ceremony as a special guest and presented a book prize. I was fortunate to also represent the Sub-Branch at the 128 Army Cadet Unit Marching Out Parade at Yandina.

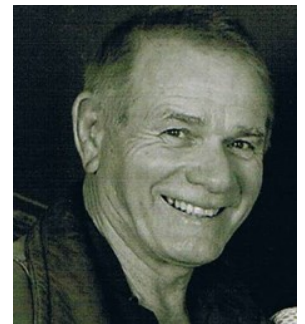
The first Committee and General Meetings for 2025 were held on 21 January followed by drinks and nibbles at the Maroochydore Bowls Club. Thanks to Mick Gay and Mal Overend for organizing the small function. Hopefully, to use the word again, there can be more social activities during the year.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 18 February at 1100 hours. HOPEFULLY, we will see a substantial member representation at the meeting.

Well, that is all from me. Take care and always take the high ground.

Regards

John Cunningham
Secretary



WE ARE YOUR DEDICATED ALLIED HEALTH TEAM

We work hard to assist all veterans and their dependants in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.



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MAN OVERBOARD!



SUBMARINERS rarely have to deal with a man overboard, but one sailor's action during the nightmare scenario was recognised with a Conspicuous Service Medal as part of the 2025 Australia Day Honours.

Petty Officer Mark was with HMAS Farncomb (pictured) transiting submerged to Hawaii for Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 when the sub started to experience a noise interfering with the sonar.

They surfaced in the middle of the Pacific so Petty Officer Mark, an acoustic warfare analyst, and his team could investigate the noise. He noticed a large wave barrelling towards the sub and, after shouting a warning to the others, sheltered behind the fin. He saw one of his sonar analysts thrown backwards and washed overboard, weighed down by a bag of tools.

He leapt into the ocean after him, steered him away from the propeller and they waited about 30 minutes to be rescued. During the wait, Petty Officer Mark remembered why he hadn't participated in a swim exercise during 17 years in Navy – a fear of sharks.

"It didn't even cross my mind. I remember the water coming towards me when I dived in and thinking 'all safety is lost', because I knew we would be alone and isolated," Petty Officer Mark said. — by Cpl Michael Rogers, ADF.

R.S.L. BAR REOPENS

Tewantin-Noosa RSL Sub-branch's Diggers Bar has reopened after being closed since early last year after a dispute between the sub-branch and the club.

"A lease renewal disagreement brought to the surface a tumultuous relationship between the club and the sub-branch," the Sunshine Coast News reported.

A Facebook post has reported: "Our membership status and voting rights have been returned, we are all welcome back into the RSL Club, but the final piece top the puzzle we have fought for is finally in place – the Digger's Bar is back."



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8a/1 Edwards Terrace
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AVENUE DENTAL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11AM TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025

I, (FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)

Being a financial member of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. (VVAASC), hereby nominate:

(name in capitals)

For the position of (please tick only one box, use separate form for each position):

- ☐ **PRESIDENT**
- ☐ **SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT**
- ☐ **JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT**
- ☐ **SECRETARY**
- ☐ **TREASURER**
- ☐ **MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**
- ☐ **COMMITTEE MEMBERS (up to five positions)**

OTHER OFFICE BEARERS:

- ☐ **ASSISTANT SECRETARY**
- ☐ **ASSISTANT TREASURER**
- ☐ **OFFICE MANAGER**
- ☐ **MERCHANDISE OFFICER**
- ☐ **RICOCHET EDITOR**
- ☐ **SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER**

(NOTE: Nominations for the above positions will be accepted from the floor at the AGM if a nomination has not been lodged by the return date for nominations)

NOMINATOR: (PRINT NAME)

(signed) (date)/...../.....

SECONDED: (PRINT NAME)

(signed) (date)/...../.....

NOMINEE: I, (print name)**Being a financial member of the VVAASC hereby accept this nomination**

(signed)(date)/...../.....

THIS FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY BY NOON ON
TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2025

(NOTE: Please use a separate form for each nomination for each position. Either photocopy this form or pick up additional forms at the Drop-In Centre).

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch

Minutes of General Meeting, 21 January 2025

Opening: Meeting opened at 1105 hours.

Ode to the Fallen recited by Mick Howe

Attendance/Apologies: As per attendance book.

Previous minutes: There was no General meeting in December. The November General Minutes were read out by Mick Howe. Moved Mick Howe. Seconded John Huxham. Carried.

Business Arising From Minutes:

Social activities: John Huxham to follow up his investigations into a possible Mooloolaba/Maroochy river cruise in 2025.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report -

Incoming:

- * Advice from Fair Trading that the form relating to the Constitution Change required a signature to be witnessed by a J P. This was attended to and the form lodged with Fair Trading.
- * Advice that the amendments to the Constitution had been registered.
- * Insurance Renewal Advice from Pinnacle Insurance re Office cover. Matter referred to the Treasurer.
- * A current Personal Liability Insurance Form received from State.
- * Advice from Council that the Sub-Branch can use the main meeting room on 21 January and 15 April. (Up to June).
- * Merchandise request from Briagolong RSL.

Outgoings:

- * Letter to Auditor advising that a yearly audit would not be required.
- * Dispatch of a merchandise order to Briagolong RSL
- * Constitution amendments sent to Fair Trading.

Moved John Cunningham that Inwards and Outwards Correspondence be endorsed. Seconded Pieter Reuss. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mick Howe read Deb Day's Report. The Sub-Branch is in a sound financial position. The full Report together with Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement is available for perusal on the notice board. Moved Mick Howe on behalf of Deb Day. Seconded Brian Earp. Carried.

Membership: Current financial membership stands at 110. The majority of the ordinary members have opted for Life Subscriber status. Pieter Reuss thanked Chris Wessels and Brian Earp for the phone-around to Life Subscribers to ensure details had not changed. Moved Pieter Reuss. Seconded Mark Doolan. Carried.

Ricochet: There was no Ricochet in January. The Feb-

ruary edition will be the first in 2025. Mike Sheehan to clarify the situation regarding advertisers. Moved Kerry White. Seconded Mal Overend. Carried.

Office Manager: John Huxham thanked Margo Christie for updating the Duty Officer Roster. John is not on the current roster, but will be available as a fill-in. Asset register held up due to a computer glitch. Moved John Huxham. Seconded Mark Doolan. Carried.

Sub-Committee: Vietnam Veterans Day has been confirmed for 2025 as has the ladies function. The 1st Civil Affairs Unit will again be joining the Association on V V Day. Mick Howe to investigate the possibility of a courtesy bus from the Maroochy RSL being available for Caloundra attendees. This would reduce cost and the declining numbers from Caloundra. Moved John Cunningham. Seconded Win Fowles.

Merchandise: No report

Diggers Hat Jewelry: Last workshop was in December with five to six of the crew in attendance. The sausage sizzle BBQ was successful and production will recommence next month. Moved Graeme Scott. Seconded Kerry White. Carried.

General Business:

- * BBQ Trailer currently in the container at the Air Museum will be donated to 207 Sqn. Air Force Cadets.
- * The Air Museum will dispose of the container on its grounds after the Sub-Branch removes the contents.
- * \$2500 has been left to the Association from the Estate of C E Ebner. Completion of legal documents are in hand.
- * Mick Gay will be the new Merchandising Officer.
- * 'Chips' Ross is in hospital. Awaiting details of his condition.
- * The Computer Geeks will be contacted regarding office computer issues
- * Chris Wessels brought up a number of concerns Athol Johnson has regarding property left in the office and membership. Mick Howe to contact Athol.
- * Win Fowles distributed copies of the Defence Welfare Association's magazine.
- * Win advised that a number of trophies were stolen from the 106 Air Force Cadet's H Q on the Air Museum grounds. He has donated a Junior Leadership Trophy to the cadets.

Closure: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1140 hours. **Next meeting including the AGM will be held in the Conference Room at the Maroochy RSL Sub-Branch on Tuesday, 18 February 2025 at 1100 hrs.**



ROBBO THEN AND NOW

OLD MATE Ted Robinson has been made famous (again) in a publication called "The Huntly Herald". The publisher/ editor is Steve Lewis who happened to serve with Ted in Vietnam. So he published the photo of Ted then, with the nickname "The Saint" on his helmet, and one more recently being another Saint (Nicholas) Santa at his beloved Adavale Veterans Retreat. Steve paid tribute to Ted and his wife, Pip.

Coast team bowls at Dubbo



BEACH Boys bowls team from Sunshine Coast acquitted themselves well at the recent National Diggers Carnival at Dubbo. At the carnival after finishing third were (from left) Mark Payne (Club Maroochy), Roy Howard (Pelican Waters), Mal Overend (Club Maroochy) and organiser Eric Chamberlain. Twelve coast bowlers competed in the event which was won by the RAAF team. Money raised was for the Starlight Foundation. – from Qld RSL News.



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MAROOCHYDORE

MOOLOOLABA

NOOSA

LETTERS came from King Charles and the Queen, from Governor-General Ms Sam Mostyn and her husband, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Governor of Queensland Mrs Jeannette Young and her husband, Premier of Queensland David Crisafulli and his wife, Deputy Premier of Queensland Jarrod Bleijie and his wife, and the Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Mrs. Rosanna Natoli.

Now before you write me off as a nitwit, I'll put in my defence that I have been your Chaplain for over 13 years and am not given to telling 'porkies'. What I should have said before I mentioned the host of letters we received in December is that Annette and I have been married for 60 years, or that is what was on the T-shirt that my dear little daughter made me wear on the day, 'Just Married', (then in smaller print below that,) 'sixty years ago.'

She had also press-ganged several of our granddaughters to write letters to Buckingham Palace and all levels of Government, and letters to all our known friends, (apologies if they missed you out)

Our thanks go to Ian Harrison, President of the Caloundra RSL, who allowed us use of the members' room. The RSL provided a splendid afternoon tea for the 60-odd guests they had rounded up who knew us during our sixty-years together.

The afternoon was emcee-ed by our one-time son-in-law, but always a friend, Grant Couchman, father of seven of our grandchildren, who took time out of his showtime on the stage to get the afternoon going.

A quiz about us was presented by a long-time friend, Eliza-

Fireside with the Padre



beth Wylie, wife of 'my 2 Cav mate', Neil Wylie. No secrets were opted out and people came away knowing a lot more about us than when they arrived. Here is a question for all readers. "Where is the one place where Arthur won't go with Annette?" The answers were unanimous, as I am sure yours was too. The answer was, 'Shopping'.

My old friend from School of Language days in 1969, Ray Debnam, proposed a toast to us and, as expected, I thanked him in Chinese.

It was a most memorable day, and we can thank all those who made it so perfect, and a Holy God who we serve. I mean, how else does an old reprobate like me have the care, love, and support throughout those 60 years otherwise.

It makes all men want to give their wives a huge hug and thank them for the years they have served, loved, and cared for us old servicemen. Excuse me, I'll just go and hug Annette again and thank her for those 60 wonderful years. All she can say is, "Where have the years gone?"

Until next month, may God, who gives us the ability to love, bless you all.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

BT Sports & Health Centres

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‘When you’re laughing, the whole world laughs with you’

COUPLE in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. for a moment: “Where’s my toast?”

During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they are physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair: “Want anything while I’m in the kitchen?” he asks.

“Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?”

“Sure.”

“Don’t you think you should write it down so you can remember it?” she asks.

“No, I can remember it.”

“Well, I’d like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?”

He says, “I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.”

“I’d also like whipped cream. I’m certain you’ll forget that, write it down?” she asks.

Irritated, he says, “I don’t need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!”

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate

AN ELDERLY couple had dinner at another couple’s house and after eating the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, “Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly.”

The other man said, “What is the name of the restaurant?”

The first man thought and thought and finally said, “What’s the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that’s red and has thorns.”

“Do you mean a rose?”

“Yes, that’s the one,” replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, “Rose, what’s the name of that restaurant we went to last night?”

A LITTLE old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool...

After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, “Crushed nuts?”

“No,” he replied, “Arthritis.”

- from Mick Howe

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CARTOONIST Johannes Leak's view on the Victorian Government decision to allow the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance to become more "commercial" - from The Australian.

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Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch, Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 20 February 2024

Meeting opened 1016 hours. Ode to the Fallen recited by Mick Howe. Attendance names as per book and apologies as per book.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the 2023 AGM were read by President Michael Howe. Moved Michael Howe, seconded Mal Overend. Carried.

Audit Report: The Audit Report for 2023 was read by John Cunningham in the absence of Mr Frank Redpath, the independent auditor. Mr Redpath deemed that the financial re-cords show that the association has bookkeeping processes in place to adequately re-cord the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

The association is in a sound financial position. The full report is available on the Notice Board for those interested in reading it. Moved John Cunningham, seconded Dave Oliver.

Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers: President Michael Howe stepped aside and Patron Laurie Drinkwater declared all positions vacant. There being no other nominations, Michael Howe was elected as president.

The 2024 elected members are: President Michael Howe, Senior Vice President John Cunningham, Junior Vice President Gordon Hall, Treasurer Deb Day, Secretary John Cunningham, Membership Officer Pieter Reuss, Office Manager John Huxham, Assistant Secretary John Huxham.

The Committee 2024: Athol Johnson (Merchandise), Kerry White (Ricochet Editor), Bob Johnson, Mark Doolan.

Closure: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1055 hours.

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workshops, etc*

TIMELINE FEBRUARY

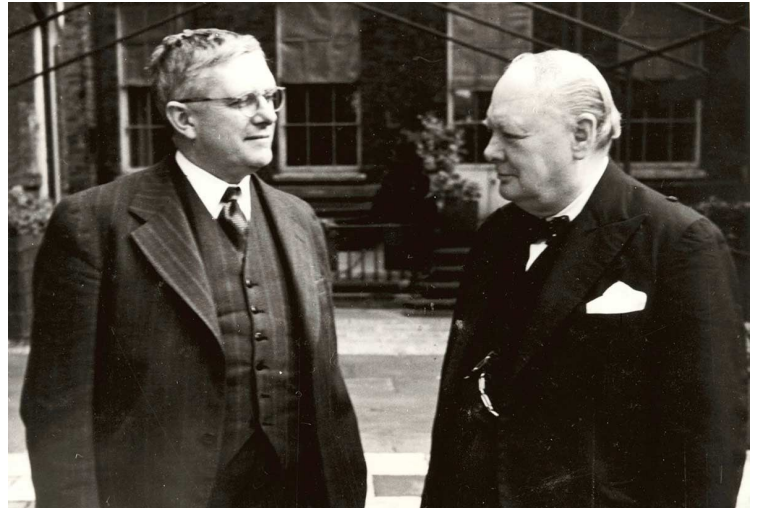
2 February 1968: 3 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, recaptured Baria after the Tet offensive with few casualties but apparent heavy enemy losses.

3 February 1943: In the icy waters off Greenland a US Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. With not enough life jackets, four US Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship.

3 February 1967: Ronald Ryan became the last person hanged in Australia. He had been convicted of murdering a prison guard while escaping from jail and was sentenced to death under Victoria's mandatory sentencing legislation. While the Victorian Cabinet usually commuted death sentences, it refused to do so in this instance.

6 February 1851: On 'Black Thursday', European settlers in Victoria faced their first catastrophic bushfires, which burnt a quarter of the colony with 12 known deaths. It was the hottest day the European settlers could remember – 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) in the shade. On **7 February 2009**, 173 people died in what was called 'Black Saturday' fires.

12 February 1851: The discovery of gold in the 1850s



AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister John Curtin (left) and British counterpart Winston Churchill (see next page).

started a series of rushes that transformed the Australian colonies. The first discoveries of payable gold were at Ophir in New South Wales and then at Ballarat and Bendigo Creek in Victoria. The gold rushes greatly expanded Australia's population, boosted its economy, and led to the emergence of a new national identity.

- continued next page.



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TIMELINE FEBRUARY

14 February 1954: What is now the Australian national flag was created soon after Federation in a competition in which nearly 33,000 people took part; but only replaced the Union Jack as our official flag on this date when the Flags Act came into effect.

14 February 1966: Australians woke to a brand-new currency when we changed from the Australian pound to a decimal currency – the Australian dollar.

19 February 1942: The first Japanese air raid on Darwin. The city was bombed 64 times between February 1942 and November 1943.

19 February 1943: The Citizen Military Forces (CMF) or militia would be required to fight overseas under legislation passed under prime Minister John Curtin. In November 1939 Prime Minister Robert Menzies had announced that the CMF would be bolstered by conscription but not required to fight overseas.

21 February 1907: The first surf lifesaving club was founded at Bondi in February 1907 and several others were established soon after. They soon spread around the country and it is estimated that lifesavers have res-

cued more than 800,000 people.

22 February 1942: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill insisted Australia's 7th Division should be deployed to Burma while the Australian Prime Minister John Curtin argued they should return immediately to defend Australia. A diplomatic feud ensued, but Curtin brought the troops home.

27 February 1902: Just before the end of the Boer War, lieutenants Harry 'Breaker' Morant and Peter Handcock were executed by a British firing squad for murdering 12 Boer prisoners of war.

28 February 1994: NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45-year history when four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.

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>

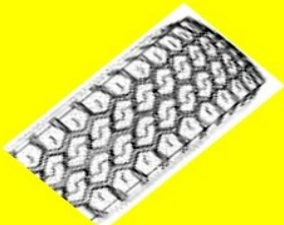
<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>

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Vietnam honour for its 'heroic' unit



THIS MONUMENT was recently erected to commemorate 445 Battalion (Tiểu đoàn 445) which was established on 19 May 1965 in Đất Đỏ District of Bà Rịa, Vũng Tàu Province, Vietnam, a Vietnam veteran and linguist Ernie Chamberlain reported.

"Both sides of the monument formally memorialize the names of 762 (sic) of the 445 Battalion's martyrs who died. 1500 were wounded.

"Former soldiers visited the victory park on its inauguration day, commemorating the Bình Giã Victory on 2 December 1964, and the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces – 22 December 1944 to 22 December 2024."

It reads: "... 445 Battalion directly confronted the American forces, their lackeys and vassals ... and the puppet forces in hundreds of battles killing and wounding thousands of the enemy. ... 445 Battalion achieved many excellent victories, participating in 1,000 battles, and defeating many strategies and tactics of the enemy. In April 1975, the

445 Battalion coordinated closely with the 3rd Yellow Star Division to attack and liberate Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu, contributing significantly to the Spring Victory of 1975. With its excellent special achievements in the Resistance War against the Americans, the 445 Battalion was honoured by the Party and the Nation by the confirmation of the title of Heroic People's Armed Forces in June 1976."

(As one Australian veteran commented: "I guess in the end they won the war so they get to write their own history (or so the story goes!!!)."

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FESTIVE SURVIVORS OUT TO LUNCH



A VARIED assortment of former servicemen and women turned out for the first Riflemen's Lunch of the year on the first Friday of the year including patron Laurie Drinkwater (top right) and "ringleader" Ian Atkinson (busy Googling some vital information), above left. First Friday each month for lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club.



.... AND BREAKFASTS EACH THURSDAY FRONT OF CLUB

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

Roll of Honour — Vietnam, February 1962-75

February 1966

Andrews, John Harker (211090), 40, AATTV (att. RAI), Sgt (Temp. WO2), Albany Creek Crematorium, Brisbane.

Belleville, Graham Rhodes (54956), 32, AATTV (att. RAI), Lt (Temp. Capt.), Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Grills, Edward Anthony (215418), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Stroud Cemetery, NSW.

MacDonald, James Alexander (53283), 27, RAE (att. AATTV), Sgt (Temp. WO2), Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Seipel, Raymond Douglas (15985), 24, 1RAR, Cpl, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Suter, Thomas (17665), 20, 1RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

February 1967

Arnold, Peter John (2781363), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Inverell Cemetery, NSW.

Birchell, Michael James (2781899), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Evergreen Memorial Park, Tamworth, NSW.

Bourne, Donald Mackenzie (23916), 35, 5RAR, Maj., Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

Carruthers, John (36911), 28, 5RAR, Lt (provisional), Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Clark, Donald Murray (5713804), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Perth War Cemetery and Annex, WA.

Cliff, Richard William (1411047), 21, 1FIdRegt, Gnr, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane.

Green, George Bruce (2782127), 21, 5RAR, LCpl, Pinegrove Memorial Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney.

Hanley, Maxwell Powell (43593), 31, AUSINT, Cpl (Temp. WO2), Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Kelly, Barry Walter (6410158), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Kirby, John William (27758), 31, 6RAR, Sgt (Temp. WO2), Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Milligan, Robert Bruce (29635), 30, 5RAR, Lt (Temp. Capt.), Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney.

Mitchinson, Kevin Leslie (4717751), 21, 3Cav.Regt, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Pomroy, Victor Ian (3786644), 21, 3Cav.Regt, Trp, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Poole, Michael Damien (342916), 20, 5RAR, Pte (Spec. List Bandsmen), Dromana Cemetery, Mornington Peninsula, Vic.

Powter, Douglas Roy J (2782783), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Parkes General Cemetery, NSW.

Rich, Adrian William (38728), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Hazelwood Cemetery, Vic.

Riley, Wayne Maurice (5411599), 19, 6RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Rooney, Kerry Michael (15561), 24, 6RAR, LCpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane.

Sandow, Richard Wayne (43496), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Albany Creek Crematorium, Brisbane.

Waters, Brian David (5713981), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Tambellup Cemetery, WA.

Webster, David Raleigh (5713986), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Perth War Cemetery and Annex, Perth.

Webster, James Clifton (5713751), 22, 5RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Wilsen, Robert Peter (4717841), 21, 3CavRegt, Trp, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

February 1968

Ayres, Marvin Walter (216920), 23, 7RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

Baines, George Terence (214230), 28, 1Sqn SAS, Sgt, Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland, Sydney.

Caston, Robert John (4719003), 21, 3RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

De Vries Van Leeuwen, Thomas J. (4718756), 22, 3RAR, Pte, Mount Barker Cemetery, SA.

Doherty, John Alexander (3789770), 23, 3RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Garrett, John Edgar (1200473), 20, 1FIdSqn, LCpl, East Ballina Cemetery, Ballina, NSW.

Godden, Guy Richard (6708763), 21, 3RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas.

Grose, Thomas Joseph (61582), 20, 2RAR, Pte, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Mathews, Geoffrey Francis (5714739), 21, 3RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

McLachlan, Colin William (13053), 38, 1FIdSqn, Sgt, Canungra Cemetery, Qld.

McMillan, Ross Charles (2785033), 22, 7RAR, LCpl, Uralla Cemetery, NSW.

Menz, James Leslie (38838), 22, 1DivLocBtry, LBdr, Marysville Cemetery, Vic.

Parrello, Antonio (36337), 30, AATTV (att. RAI), Sgt, Botany General Cemetery, Botany, Sydney.

Pattison, Allan Graham (44042), 19, 1FIdSqn, Spr, Kadina Cemetery, SA.

Perrin, Robert Graham (3789447), 22, 7RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

- Continued next page.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will

Roll of Honour — Vietnam, February 1962-75

Rogers, John (4718449), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Steen, David John (4719232), 21, 1FIdSqn, Spr, Penola New Cemetery, SA.

Taylor, Leonard Alexander (3787987), 22, 3RAR, 2Lt, Box Hill Cemetery, Melbourne.

Vickers, Patrick John (O1622), 32, RAN HFV, LtCdr, Queensland Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Wilson, Kevin Ronald (3411951), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

February 1969

Archer, Gary Alex (2788583), 22, 9RAR, Pte, Sydney War Cemetery, Sydney.

Byrne, Robert Alan (2786525), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

Chant, Peter Allan (44265), 239, 9RAR, LCpl, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

McConachy, Malcolm Ross (1201200), 21, 9RAR, LCpl, Belgian Gardens Cemetery, Townsville, Qld.

McGuire, Raymond Alfred (2787478), 23, 4RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Petersen, Victor Neils (1733375), 23, 4RAR, Pte, Queensland Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

February 1970

Baker, Douglas Alfred (43555), 27, 8RAR, Sgt, Happy Valley Cemetery, Happy Valley, SA.

Barrett, James Joseph (1200097), 24, 8RAR, LCpl (tempCpl), Mount Gravatt Lawn Cemetery, Brisbane.

Carlyle, Hugh (43941), 21, 3CavRegt, Trp, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Hoban, William Joseph (15400), 39, 8RAR, Sgt, Queensland Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Hubble, Rodney Noel (55566), 19, 1FIdSqn, Spr, Perth War Cemetery and Annex, WA.

Jackson, Robert James (2783512), 25, 8RAR, Cpl, Greta Cemetery, NSW.

MacLennan, Larry James (3795935), 21, 8RAR, Pte, Keilor Cemetery, Melbourne.

Maza, Reginald Nelson (15142), 39, 32SmlShpSqn, LCpl, Botany General Cemetery, Sydney.

Munday, Barry John (3795712), 22, 8RAR, Pte, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Pesonen, Timo Esko A (7154), 20, 8RAR, Pte, Queensland Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Richter, Philip Mackay (3796110), 21, 8RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

Thompson, Barry John (2789920), 22, 5RAR, Pte, Gunning Cemetery, Gunning, NSW.

West, Garry Maxwell (61912), 19, 8RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Whiston, Barry John (1202024), 23, 3CavRegt, LCpl, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Holland Park, Brisbane.

February 1971

Kowalski, Peter Francis (1735712), 23, 2RAR, Pte, Nudgee Cemetery, Brisbane.

Lyddieth, Trevor (26832), 38, RAASC (att AATTV), WO2, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

Lyon, Terance Edward (52503), 35, 2AOD, WO2, Springvale Cemetery, Springvale, Melbourne.

Patten, Raymond Brian (2141115), 20, 7RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Rookwood, Sydney.

Ross, Grant Stuart (17101), 27, HQ AFV RAAOC, Capt., Queensland Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Talbot, Alan (3797623), 21, 7RAR, Pte, Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park, Melbourne.

• **Information and photos from Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces; Find A Grave.**



Queensland Garden of Remembrance, Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery at Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane .

‘At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them ...’