



VETERANS TO BE UNDER ONE ACT

War veterans' compensation legislation will be amalgamated from 1 July with the current acts which were introduced in the late 1980s closing and a new improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA).

The Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) will be closed to new compensation claims.

This follows the Commonwealth Parliament passing the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2024 (the VETS Act) on 13 February 2025.

"Payments being received under the VEA and DRCA prior to 1 July 2026 will be grand-parented, meaning that those payments will continue uninterrupted," Department of Veterans Affairs says.

"Consolidating the legislation into one Act will result in a system that is easier for veterans to navigate and ensure more consistent compensation outcomes. A single Act will also be simpler to administer, benefiting veterans and families over time through more consistent and timely claim outcomes."

The Act will implement a range of improvements:

- A new Additional Disablement Amount (ADA), similar to the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) available under the VEA, will be introduced. Like the EDA, the ADA will compensate veterans who are of Age Pension age or older and who have a high degree of incapacity due to service-related conditions.

- The Repatriation Commission will be able to specify injuries and diseases that can be accepted on a presumptive basis where they are known to have a common connection with military service.

- Eligibility for household services and attendant care will be expanded.

- The higher travel reimbursement amount, regardless of kilometres, will be available to all veterans when a private vehicle is used to travel for treatment.

- The automatic granting of VEA funeral benefits will be retained, with the benefit increasing to \$3000 (*from \$2000, which Ricochet has campaigned on) and funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service-related deaths will be reimbursed.

- Allowances and other payments will be standardised, including acute support packages, education schemes, and additional compensation for children of severely impaired veterans.

- The Repatriation Commission's ability to grant special assistance to veterans and their dependants will be enhanced.

- Veterans receiving DRCA incapacity payments will automatically transition to MRCA incapacity payments on the date of commencement.

- Where the Repatriation Medical Authority updates a Statement of Principles (SOP) between the veteran's primary and reviewable decision, the version of the SoP which is most beneficial to the veteran's circumstances will be applied.

- The Repatriation Commission will be able to determine circumstances where a veteran must receive financial advice before receiving a lump sum payment, helping the veteran make the right decisions.

More information: <https://www.dva.gov.au/legislation/reform>



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

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VIETNAM VETERANS ASSN of AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

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Junior V/President	John Huxham
Secretary	John Cunnington
Treasurer	Deb Day

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

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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
------------------------	------------

Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters	54761594
---------------	----------

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.

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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.

Tunnel Rat gets to see rifle again after 58 years

A Sapper who chased a wounded enemy sniper down a tunnel in Vietnam in 1966 and came out with his rifle does not believe any credit is due just to him, but to all of his comrades.

Then Sapper Alan Christie (whose wife Margo is a regular volunteer for our sub-branch) did not see the rifle again until December last year at a ceremony at the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering (AAMME) at Holsworthy.

"He left a large blood trail for about 200m then escaped down a small trap door into the tunnel complex ... As I descended into the tunnel and into complete darkness I noticed phosphorus rain forest pieces had been laid in the lower right hand corner every few meters."

Alan came across the rifle and presumed the sniper would not last long because of the blood he had lost: though the sniper had disappeared he had left his rifle which Alan retrieved.

The rifle (a Russian Mosin-Nagant) ended up at Singleton and was recently taken temporarily so a replica could be

made at Gaza Ridge Barracks, Bandiana. The two weapons were on hand at a ceremony at the museum before the replica was put on permanent display and the original returned to Singleton.

The aim of the project was to honour the famous "Tunnel Rats", of which Alan, nickname "Sparrow", was a member. He and other "Rats" were at the ceremony including 3 Field Troop Commander Captain (now Colonel ret.) Sandy McGregor.

During Operation Crimp, the Troop, who were supporting 1 RAR, discovered what became known as the Cu Chi tunnels one of which Alan went down in pursuit of the wounded sniper.

"3 Field Troop's only casualty, Cpl. Bob Bowtell, united the troop and they became a much needed part of 1RAR in all of their ground operations," Alan said in an address at the ceremony.

"The rapid learning curve experienced by 3 Field Troop and the passing on of this experience was a main contributor to the fact there were no further KIA's in underground complexes for the remainder of Australia's commitment in



Sandy McGregor (left) and Alan Christie at December's ceremony.— ADF photo.

Vietnam right up until 1975."

More on the story here: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-01-17/tale-sniper-rifle-has-double-barrelled-ending>



CENTENARY FOR SIGNALS

Army Signallers gathered at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals (RA Sigs).

The corps initially formed on February 14, 1925, consolidating technical specialist soldiers trained to operate analogue wireless and radio equipment.

Today, the corps provides contemporary digital communications, electronic warfare and cyber capabilities in support of Defence's operations around the world.

Head of the corps Brigadier Deane Limmer said the parade and commemorative service recognised the contribution and sacrifice of signallers in theatres of conflict, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Pictured: Regimental Sergeant Major of the Defence Force School of Signals, Warrant Officer Class One Benn Goulter leads the "march on".— from ADF.

From the President

Hi Everyone, Hope you are all safe and healthy.

Well, the Annual General Meeting has been completed and, once again, I don't know how, I am your President for the next 12 months. I wasn't going to stand this year but due to circumstances beyond my control, I was left with little choice.

I really think that this year should be my last, as I've been 'in the chair' now for the past 10 years and am strongly of the opinion that it's time for someone else to take the reins.

Anyway, having said that, the AGM went well and you will see all office bearers mentioned within this bulletin. Most are the same people who have been manning their positions for years past and I truly thank them for their overall companionship, diligence and loyalty to the Association over that time.

Over the past year, things have progressed as expected with minimal or very little change.

However, one of the proposed changes I raised at our last meeting was whether or not we would maintain our Drop-In Centre offices within the library build-

ing. I have recently been having discussions with the Maroochy RSL Club and have secured a large office space within the Sub-Branch Hub area, which is directly opposite the club itself.

There are many advantages to this proposed move both financially and health-related. This is not something that will happen overnight; we still need to establish many administrative matters and issues, but I can assure you that your committee is 100% in favour of the proposal and as such, I will continue consultations with the Maroochy RSL management team.

Well, that's about it from me, stay safe and look after your health.

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



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From the Secretary

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the AGM as my wife, Eileen, and I were committed to a trip across the Ditch with two other members and their wives, (Bill and Leigh Lewis and Cathy and Bevan Beitzel).

Congratulations to the members who stood up to be part of the Committee for 2025. Hopefully, it will be healthy year for all and some enjoyable social activities can be organized.

As I have been away for a while, I thought I would mention one of the highlights of the Kiwi trip (other than being led astray by my wine loving co-travelers). It was a visit to the Te papa Tongarewa Museum in Wellington which liter-

ally translates as 'Container of Treasures'.

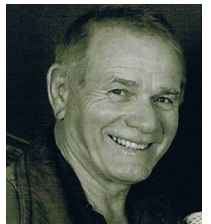
I have no doubt that many of our members have visited the museum, but for those who have not, it is a must if you visit Wellington.

The first World War display which included Gallipoli and the Western Front was stunning (**PICTURED**). The exaggerated in size characters were so lifelike right down to the finest detail. The displays were, in fact, created by the people responsible for the Lord of the Rings characters.

"A downside to the start of the year was the passing of two of our members, Adrian Schultz and Barry Forbes. Adrian was conscripted in July 1967 and served with RAASC in Vietnam. He was a long term member of the Sub-Branch, assisted with the Digger Hat Jewellery and as a Duty Officer. A good man gone too soon. Barry Forbes, also a conscript, served with 101 Field Battery in Vietnam 1966/1967. Barry had moved to Toowoomba, but remained a member of the Sub-Branch. On behalf of the Association I would like to extend condolences to Cathy Schultz and family and to the family of Barry Forbes." Well, that is all from me this month.

Regards

John Cunningham



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VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA, SUNSHINE COAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025

Meeting opened 1100hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Mick Howe. Attendees: 16. Apologies: 1.

Minutes of 2024 AGM read by President Michael Howe.

Moved Michael Howe, seconded Mike Gay. Carried.

No President report available.

The President handed over the meeting to the Patron Mr Laurie Drinkwater.

All positions declared "Vacant" by Patron Mr Laurie Drinkwater.

There being no objections the 2025 elected Members are as follows:

1.Executive Committee: President- Michael Howe, Vice President and Secretary – John Cunningham; Junior Vice President and Office Manager – John Huxham; Treasurer – Deb Day.

2.Committee for 2025 : Athol Johnston, Bob Johnson, Kerry White (editor of Ricochet), Chris Wessels (Assistant Secretary), Brian Earp, Mark Doolan, Mick Gay (Merchandise), Pieter Reus (Membership Officer).

3.Sub Committee 2025 – John Cunningham (VV Day Organiser) & John Huxham. Graeme Scott (DHJ Organiser),

4.The following people will continue in their current positions:

Padre, Arthur Fry; Hospital Visitor, Alec Chesters; Well-being Officer, Ernie Hartshoorn; Suicide Prevention, Helena Smith; Airforce Association/ Airforce Cadets, Chris W; Tracker Dogs Assn, Ian Atkinson; Mooloolaba Surf Club, Kevin Lynch; Army Cadets/ Ares, Vacant; Naval Cadet, Carl Britz.

10. Additional Information: As per changes to the Constitution no Audit Report is required; due to self-governance of finances. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1110hrs.

NEW life members Graeme Scott (left) with Patron Laurie Drinkwater and Athol (Johnno) Johnson (right). See next page.



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GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025

Continued immediately at the end of AGM. Start time: 1111hrs. Attendance: 18. Apologies: 1. President Mick Howe read the January Minutes. Moved Mick Howe, Seconded Kerry White. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: River Cruise social outing dropped. Insurance paid. Asset's register being finalised and an inventory of items in the Drop-In Centre. The BBQ trailer has been donated to Airforce Cadets 207 Sqn: DI Centre computers updated and follow-up on laptop for Kerry White.

Jim Muir advised the Meeting that he had attended the 207 Sqn parade and dinner December giving a speech and presenting a book to a Cadet. Mick Howe suggested the giving of a book be continued at all Cadet functions.

Win Fowles clarified the search for the Laurie Drinkwater Drill Trophy presented to 106 ACU and will follow up the situation. Mick Howe advised the meeting that Instructors are required for all 3 Services Cadet Squadrons.

An alternative source for a bus on VV Day to be investigated due to decrease in number of people coming from Caloundra. No further business arising.

Correspondence: No report available.

Treasurer Report: Deb Day advised the association is in a strong financial position and a copy of the report will be available in the Drop In Centre. Moved Deb Day, seconded Margo Christie. Carried. Deb Day asked that all expenditure be ratified. Moved Bob Johnson, seconded Win Fowles. Carried. No further business.

Membership Report: Currently 150 Financial Members across all membership codes. The first capitations for this year will be paid. Moved Pieter Reus, seconded Kerry White. Carried.

Office Manager: Thanked all Members who volunteer. Moved John Huxham, seconded Kevin Grimsey. Carried.

Merchandise: Stocktake is continuing. Would all Duty Officers keep the glass cabinet locked whilst on duty. A monthly total of sales will be calculated by checking the receipt book each month. Moved Mick Gay, seconded Brian Earp. Carried.

Digger Hat Jewellery: Scotty commenced his report by thanking Peter and Anne Ginman for their hospitality and continued use of their home for the monthly get together. He also expressed his thanks to the DHJ Crew who turn up every month and to John Cunningham for taking over the retail side of DHJ. There will be no more gold or silver plating organised. Still waiting for someone to take over the tumbling/polishing of the coins. No more lapel pins, stock is low – need someone to volun-

teer to do the welding. Would all Duty Officers taking a phone sale write down the contact details of the caller and place in the Secretary's in-box for JC to process and post. Moved Graeme Scott, seconded Mick Gay. Carried.

General Business: Mick Gay inquired re BBQ's at Bunnings, etc. Mick Howe advised these will not be happening 2025. Scotty advised the printing of labels for the DHJ is being followed up. Any label not required please place in the DHJ in-box as they can be re-used.

Mick Howe advised no recent update Chips Ross' condition. Mick then addressed the meeting with the sad news of the passing of two of our "Ordinary Members".

Barry John Forbes who served in Vietnam with 1st Field Regiment from September 1966 to June 1967, passed away on 25 January 2025. His wife Joy called the Drop-In Centre to advise of his passing. He had continued his membership of the association after moving to Toowoomba.

After a short illness Adrian Schultz passed away on 10 February 2025. Adrian served with 2 Transport Platoon in Vietnam from March 1968 to March 1969. He was a willing volunteer and always helpful. (See below).

At the end of the Meeting our Patron Mr Laurie Drinkwater presented Graeme Scott, aka "Scotty", with his Life Membership Certificate and thanked him for his great work he has done over the years. Scotty thanked everyone for the recognition and honour of Life Membership and he really appreciated it.

As Athol Johnston, aka "Johnno", was unable to attend to receive his Life Membership Certificate a date is to be organised with him for presentation.

Meeting closed 1155hrs

OBITUARIES

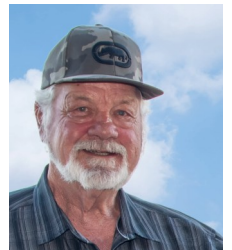
Long-term association member Adrian Dennis Schultz (1733245) was farewelled at Gregson and Weight's Caloundra chapel recently.

Adrian (pictured) helped with Digger's Hat Jewellery and served as a duty officer. Described as a "good gentle man who was always willing to offer a helping hand", he served with 2 Transport Platoon RAASC in Vietnam from 25 March 1968 to 26 March 1969.

He was born in Toowoomba on 14 May 1947 and passed away on 10 February 2025.

Barry John Forbes (1731215) was farewelled at a private funeral in Toowoomba recently.

Born in Ballina NSW, he served in Vietnam with 101 Battery RAA 1st Field Regiment from 19 September 1966 to 11 June 1967. He was 79.—see page 5.



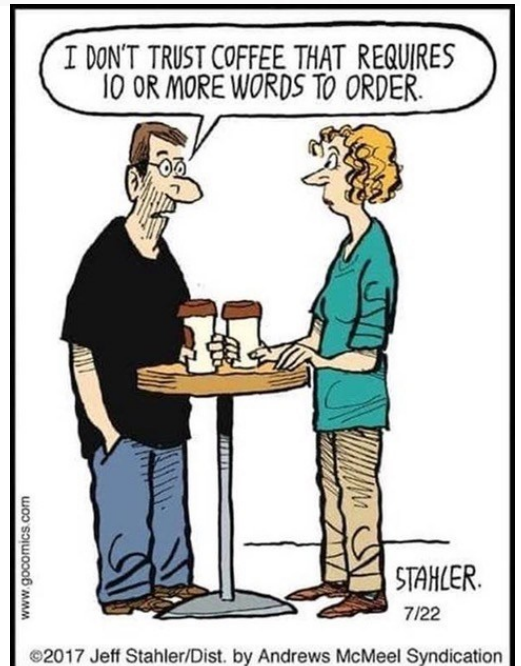
‘When you’re laughing, the whole world laughs with you’



"Nathan, there's a gentleman here trying to pay with his phone."



Thinking back to when "a new hip joint" meant someplace I wanted to go on Friday night.



Naval Association of Australia Maroochy Waters Sub Section

Once Navy - Always Navy, is the proud motto that underpins the fellowship spirit embodied in the Australian Naval Association's principles and in this same spirit, the Maroochy Waters Sub Section, extends its warm invitation to former personnel of the: RAN, RN, RNZN and the MERCHANT NAVY, to join our enthusiastic members for pleasant fellowship.

We are an accredited Not for Profit organisation committed to the support of worthwhile veteran and community welfare programmes.

If you have served in any of the above listed units, you and your family are welcome to join the comradeship of fellow, like-minded people, at our monthly social meetings at the RSL Branch office on Memorial Ave Maroochydore, opposite the RSL Club.

Enjoy, also, the quiet ambience of our museum of naval memorabilia containing a wealth of original artefacts, uniforms and models of naval ships used in conflict, all representing a worthy reminder of the contribution by the men and women in their military role of the Australian and Allied Navies through the years.

For further information on becoming a member of our association, with a proud naval heritage, please contact the Maroochy Waters Sub Section, Naval Association of Australia:

Bill Hayward, President, 0411 024 985, bloggshayward@yahoo.com
Michael Wilson, Secretary, 0457 852 122, michaelwilson1@bigpond.com



Cartoons from John Cunningham.

God Answers Prayer (Even if it takes a hundred years): A young Lebanese boy, Rizk Alexander, migrated to New Zealand over 100 years ago to live with his elder brother.

When New Zealand entered World War One, young Rizk fronted up to the New Zealand Army recruiting office and signed up to go to Europe, to make battle with the Turks, who, as the Ottoman Empire, had occupied his country.

Young Rizk had his sights on Anzac Cove, but as his troop ship neared Gallipoli, the Anzacs were retreating and so young Rizk travelled on to fight in France and Belgium.

There, he earned a Military Medal for capturing a German outpost of 20 men, including a German Officer, and as rumour has it the officer's sword was souvenired by a member of Rizk's platoon. He continued in his service until suffering severe mustard gas poisoning, which required hospitalisation and an abrupt end to his war effort.

Rizk was repatriated to New Zealand on a hospital ship and spent a fair time in hospital on his return. He married but his life was shortened by many years and he died of his war wounds in 1923.

His wife approached the New Zealand equivalent of Australia's Department of Veteran Affairs only to be told that Rizk had no right to join the New Zealand Expeditionary Force because, as a member of the occupied Lebanon by Ottoman Forces, he was an 'Enemy Alien'.

His family fought for the right of this brave New Zealander to be honoured by having his grave in the Servicemen's Section of the Kaori Cemetery in Wellington. This was refused by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

Fireside with the Padre



The Alexander family in New Zealand and the McIvor family in Caloundra, Queensland, took Rizk's case to many people in New Zealand and Australia for over 100 years.

Military Chaplains joined in prayer for the Alexander family in New Zealand for closure and right to install a memorial to Rizk up in the servicemen's lawn cemetery at Kaori Cemetery In Wellington.

Every positive approach finished in a further refusal to allow Rizk's grave to be removed. Even appeals to leave the grave where it is and erect a headstone in the services lawn cemetery were refused.

Finally, he is no longer an 'Enemy Alien': their pleas were heard and the prayers of many were answered when the Office Manager of the Cemetery and Cremation in Wellington City Council approved the installation of a headstone up in the services lawn cemetery of Kaori Cemetery with certain conditions, which are all acceptable to the families.

This is an answer to many prayers, and we know that Rizk's remains will not be disturbed but at last he will have a headstone alongside other New Zealand veterans, a place where he will be recognized as the war hero that he was.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

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No rest for Navy

WHILE you might wonder how we are countering these Chinese Navy ships off our coast, the Royal Australian Navy has been undertaking the first regional presence deployment for 2025 during January and February, HMAS Hobart has been sailing throughout the Indo-Pacific conducting training, exercises and other engagements with regional navies. - ADF photo.

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WE'RE OUT TO LUNCH WITH THE RIFLEMEN ...



AT THE monthly Riflemen's Lunch at the Mooloolaba Surf Club they came from far and wide as usual to share fellowship and a few memories ... all true of course. It is on the first Friday every month. Thanks Bill Cochrane for photos.



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SOMETIMES you wonder what goes on at RSL clubs ... kings and queens even turn up at times, like King JC and Queen Eileen at Maroochy Services Club.



Royal Australian Air Force No. 6 Squadron EA-18G Growler ground and air crew prepare to launch for a flight during Exercise Red Flag Nellis 25-1 in the US this year.—ADF photo.



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TIMELINE FEBRUARY

1 March 1901: Naval and military forces of the States transferred to Commonwealth control following Federation and planning for the establishment of federal military forces.

4 March 1804: The Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804, Australia's first uprising, was an attempt by a group of Irish convicts to overthrow British rule in New South Wales and return to Ireland where they could continue to fight for an Irish republic. The ill-fated rebellion resulted in the death of at least 39 convicts in both 'Australia's Battle of Vinegar Hill' and the ensuing martial law punishments.

11 March 1845: British troops based in Australia were sent to suppress an uprising by Maoris who were unhappy at the continuing expansion of European settlement in New Zealand's North Island.

12 March 1913: The Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman, announced that Canberra was the name of Australia's new national capital. Just as construction of the city got underway, Canberra's development was delayed by both world wars and the Great Depression.

16 March 1942: Darwin bombed and was subject to 64 Japanese



nese air raids during the Second World War.

16 March 1968: During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five US Army officers were later charged, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.

19 March 1932: Sydney Harbour Bridge opened to the public. The event marked the end of almost a century of speculation and planning around a bridge or tunnel that would cross the harbour. In 1922 the New South Wales Parliament passed the Sydney Harbour Bridge Act and preparation for the building got underway.

20 March 1916: ANZAC Corps land in France. With Gallipoli behind them the bulk of Australia's forces were now sent to France where the terrible fighting on the Western Front awaited.

20 March 1917: Lieutenant F.H. McNamara VC, originally from Rushworth, Victoria, becomes the first Australian airman to win a Victoria Cross for rescuing a downed comrade in Palestine. **He is pictured above.**

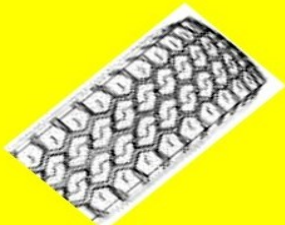
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TIMELINE FEBRUARY

20 March 2003: Australian military forces, as part of the US-led coalition, commence operations as part of the invasion of Iraq.

21 March 1918: During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as Germany launched an all-out drive to win the war. The offensive lasted until April 6th and resulted in the Germans gaining about 35 miles of territory. Allied and German casualty figures for both battles approached 500,000.

21 March 1942: Air battle for Port Moresby begins. The Japanese had hoped to occupy Port Moresby as a base from which to cut off shipping to Eastern Australia. Their defeat in the Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the planned naval attack and invasion against Port Moresby. Port Moresby was bombed on 24 March. Bombings continued until 20 September 1943.

26 March 1992: Soviet Cosmonaut Serge Krikalev returned to a new country (Russia) after spending 313 days on

board the Mir Space Station. During his stay in space, the Soviet Union (USSR) collapsed and became the Commonwealth of Independent States.

27 March 1977: The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting

in 570 deaths.

31 March 1921: Negotiations between Army, Navy and Defence officials resulted in the Australian Air Force being formed with approval to use the 'Royal' prefix granted on 13 August 1921.

BELOW: Bombing of Darwin.



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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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Defence support for floods

CHINOOK and other support was on hand for ADF assistance in floods which hit North Queensland in February.—photos by PO Bradley Darvill.



Roll of Honour — Vietnam, March 1962-75

March 1966

BAXTER, Lionel James (1200128), 28, Pte, 1 RAR, Warwick (RSL) Cemetery Qld

McDONNELL, Leslie Charles (54026), 28, Cpl, 1 RAR, Karrakatta Cemetery WA

PHILLIPS, Thomas Dudley (42352), 38, Sgt (Temp.WO2) AATTW, Woden Cemetery ACT

March 1967

BRACEWELL, Dennis Hampton (2782525), 21, Pte, 6 RAR, Rookwood Crematorium NSW

HART, Peter Richard (2781944), 22, Pte, 6 RAR, Woronora General Cemetery NSW

LOGAN, Barry Arthur (38324), 19, Sig., RA Sigs, 552 SigTrp (att 11 US Armoured Cavalry Regiment), Garden of Remembrance, Springvale Vic.

McQUALTER, Malcolm Bruce (235136), 29, Capt. (Temp. Maj) 5RAR, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood NSW

March 1968

COLES, Kevin George (55294), 21, Pte, 3 RAR, Kalgoorlie Cemetery WA

COOMBS, Geoffrey John (6708750), 22, Spr, 1 Fld Sqdn, Smithton Cemetery Tas.

FRASER, John (1731113), 23, 2LT, 3 RAR, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium Qld

LYONS, Peter James (2276248), 24, Pte, 2 RAR, Junee Old Cemetery NSW

PLAIN, Douglas Brian (3789448), 22, Pte, 1 ATF, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Vic.

RAPP, John Robert (1201087), 22, Pte, 3 RAR, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood NSW

TOBIN, Vincent John (55251), 24, Spr, 1 FldSqdn, Karrakatta Cemetery WA

March 1969

DAWSON, Peter (38077), 24, Cpl, 4 RAR, Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park Vic.

GILBERT, George Geoffrey (14900), 29, Cpl, 5 RAR, Liverpool New Cemetery NSW

MANICOLA, Joseph George (3793137), 22, Pte, UL S Comd EX 1 Aust Rft Unit (RA INF), Springvale Garden Remembrance, Vic.

SCALES, Grantley James (4719367), Pte, 20, 9 RAR, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide SA.

SMITH, Bernard Lyle (42252), 29, Sgt, 5 RAR, Wallaroo Cemetery SA

March 1970

ANTON, Ross David (218193), 19, Temp. BDR, 4 FldRegt, Crematorium, Chatswood NSW

Roll of Honour information 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.



SPRINGVALE Garden of Remembrance, Dandenong, Victoria. — Virtual War Memorial website photo.

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