



Restriction on bravery recognition

War veteran organisations have attacked the federal government over proposed legislation to restrict reviews of ADF medals decisions. “regressive, repressive, oppressive piece of legislation from a government that calls itself progressive”.

The Returned Services League, Royal Australian Regiment Association and other groups, including the Opposition and independent Senators are against the legislation.

Veterans’ groups and advocacy organisations have accused the Labor Government of turning its back on the very people it claims to support. “This is a betrayal, plain and simple,” one former ADF officer said. “Medals aren’t about politics—they’re about honour, sacrifice, and the truth of what really happened. You can’t put a time limit on that.”

This publication and the organisation it represents are apolitical, but on issues such as this can hardly remain so. Only in the past few years we have supported the campaign that resulted in Private Richard Norden posthumously being awarded Australia’s 102nd Victoria Cross for action during the Battles of Coral and Balmoral in May/June 1968.

That appeal was led by retired Lieutenant Colonel George Hulse, who has led seven successful appeals at the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal, a body to which decisions to award or withhold military medals can be challenged.

He is demanding the government abandon a planned overhaul of the Tribunal, describing the reforms as a

The government is seeking to restrict the number of cases that can be brought before the tribunal for review by imposing a time limit of 20 years following the end of an operation.

In practical terms, it would mean acts of bravery could not be retrospectively considered for higher honours once two decades have passed, regardless of whether new information emerges.

Currently, decorations can be retrospectively reviewed and rewarded as far back as World War II.

“We are supposed to be the land of the fair go,” Mr Hulse, who served in Vietnam, Malaya, Papua New Guinea and Kashmir over his 32 years in the Australian Army, said recently.

“If we discover we’ve got a real hero that hasn’t been recognised, we’ve got to stand up for these people because a lot of them can’t

stand up for themselves,” he said.

All eight of the appeals he led were initially rejected by the Department of Defence, which prompted him to take each case to the tribunal.

“Of the eight rejections, I won seven (on appeal). Defence don’t like it and they want people like me silenced,” he said.

• continued page 11.



George Hulse



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

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PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

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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 from 0900 to 1200 (9am– noon).*

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

NOTE: *At a date to be advised we are moving to the Maroochy RSL sub-branch building. Expressions of interest to the Secretary are welcome for any of the items in the Drop In Centre at no cost.*

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

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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.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: LEST WE FORGET



The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – Remembrance Day – is a time not only to remember those who have given their lives in service, but also to reflect on the historical events that led to this day of international significance. Services on the Sunshine Coast include:

Coolum Peregrin RSL Sub Branch at 1100 am on 11 November 2025 and joint the Board following the Commemorative Service for a light lunch.

Tewantin Noosa RSL Sub Branch, Tewantin Cenotaph, 10:50 AM - 11:30 AM
Mudjimba Sub Branch, 43 Cottonwood Street, Mudjimba. Please arrive by 10:30am.

Maroochydore RSL Sub Branch Remembrance Day ceremony from 10.30am will include the laying of wreaths, the playing of the Last Post, and the observance of a minute's silence at 11am.

Yandina/Eumundi RSL Sub Branch Remembrance Day ceremony will include the laying of wreaths, the playing of the Last Post, and the observance of a minute's silence at 11am. Afterwards at Yandina Hotel.

Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch Remembrance Day ceremony will include the laying of wreaths, the playing of the Last Post, and the observance of a minute's silence at 11am.

Nambour RSL Sub Branch invites all community members to gather at the Quota Memorial Park, Nambour at 10:30am on Tuesday 11 November 2025 to commemorate Remembrance Day. – from RSL website.

Mooloolaba Surf Club: Luncheon after service starting at 1030am. Pre-sold tickets required. RSVP 5 November.

On 'Bravery and Betrayal'

It is about the "True Story of the SAS in Afghanistan", a documentary titled *Bravery & Betrayal*.

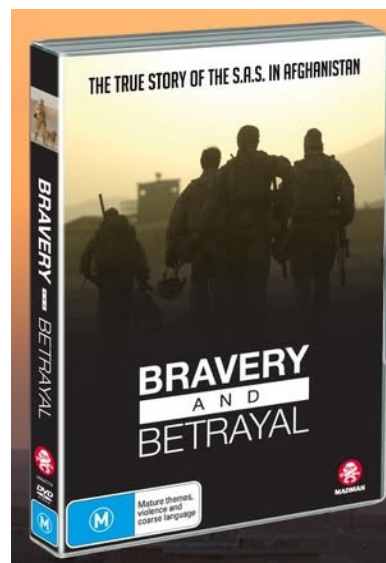
After 9/11 our Nation sent the Aussie SAS into harm's way to protect us; 25 years later, their suffering continues – the SAS tell their story of what really happened in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Featuring exclusive, never-before seen interviews with officers and soldiers of the SAS, then Prime Ministers Rudd, Howard and Abbott tell for the first time what they knew; and the brave pilots of the American Army reveal what they saw.

Most heartbreaking of all are the stories by the wives, mothers, widows, and children left behind.

This is their story, in their words, of the SAS in the "War on Terror".

You can see the movie with Q&A afterwards on November 21 and 22 from 6 – to 8:30 pm at 51 Caloundra Road, Caloundra West. You can buy tickets in advance at Wandering Warriors website <https://wanderingwarriors.org/bravery-betrayal-the-documentary>. You also buy the DVD through the website.



FINAL CALL FOR LADIES DAY LUNCH

As advertised in the October edition of Ricochet, the Ladies Day Lunch will be held in the upstairs Function Room of the Maroochy RSL Club on Wednesday 26 November, 2025 from noon to 3 pm.

This function is completely free of cost and will include a three-course meal, wine, soft drink and tea and coffee. There will be live entertainment and you are guaranteed a great day out.

The occasion is the Association's yearly 'Thank You' to our long-suffering partners. The Lunch is open to current financial Association Members (Ladies only), Partners and Widows of Association Members.

Important: If you have been a tad slow in registering, it needs to be done quickly. The Maroochy RSL has extended the cut-off date until 16 November. After that, it will be too late.

You can register by calling into the Drop-In Centre. The DIC is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 0900 hours to 1200 hours.

Unfortunately, the Drop-In Centre telephone line is not operating as it should. (Despite the promises of Telstra). To register by phone, please contact John Cunnington on 0415375968 or email: - secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com.

If you have any dietary requirements, please advise details when registering.



From the Secretary

Hi All,

I thought I would give a quick update on the relocation. Throughout October, a lot of the Sub-Branch's essential property has been moved to the allocated area in the Maroochy RSL Sub-Branch.

This will continue during November as will the general clean-up of the offices. Over the years, unserviceable and outdated equipment has been discovered in various nooks and crannies.

As it is no good to anyone, it will be officially written off.

The Council requires us to remove all our property, make good any damage, remove signage and leave the area clean and tidy.

Hopefully, this can be attended to before the end of November. The Council has also generously waived the yearly lease fee which was due in September.

Once we have moved into the new premises, phones computers and the printer will need to be connected and a plan is in place to attend to this. I will send out a heads-up when all

systems are ready to go and the new Drop-In Centre in the Maroochy RSL Hub will be open.

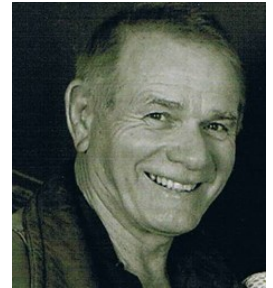
On another note, registration numbers for the Ladies Day Luncheon are increasing.

Details about the day are on page 3 in this edition of Ricochet. There is a cut-off for catering purposes, so ladies please ensure that you register.

Regards

John Cunningham

Secretary



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As it is Remembrance Day this month, it is appropriate to include an article on relating to World War One. I randomly picked out an Aussie Digger and the following is his story.

Alexander Henry Buckley VC was born on 22 July 1891 to James and Julia Buckley at Gulargambone, New South Wales.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 3 February 1916,

volunteering for overseas service. Just prior to departing Australia, he became engaged. Joining the 54th battalion on the Western Front in November 1916 at Flers, France,



Buckley served with it as it manned defensive positions along the Somme during the winter months.

Buckley took part in the fighting around Bullecourt, Polygon Wood and Broodseinde and in November 1917 he was promoted to temporary corporal.

On the night of 1/2 September 1918, at Peronne, France, during the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin, he performed the deeds that led to him being posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

His citation read: "For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice at Peronne during the operations on 1st/2nd Sept. 1918. After passing the first objective his half company and part of the company on the flank were held up by a machine gun nest.

With one man he rushed the post shooting four of the occupants and taking 22 prisoners. Later on, reaching a moat, it was found that another

machine gun nest commanded the only available footbridge.

While this was being engaged from a flank Cpl Buckley endeavoured to cross the bridge and rush the post, but was killed in the attempt. Throughout the advance he had displayed great initiative, resource and courage, and by his efforts to save his comrades from casualties, he set a fine example of self-sacrificing devotion to duty. — The London Gazette, 14 December 1918.

Alexandar Buckley's Victoria Cross is displayed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. He also earned the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Lest We Forget
By John Cunnington

PICTURED LEFT: Buckley with his fiancée c.1916.



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12 SQUADRON REVIVED TO FLY AGAIN

The Royal Australian Air Force has re-established its Number 12 Squadron at Edinburgh in South Australia as a second operational squadron for Australia's growing fleet of P-8A Poseidon aircraft.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Stephen Chappell made the announcement following the arrival of the newest P-8A Poseidon aircraft, bringing the fleet to 13.

Operating alongside 11 Squadron, 12 Squadron will contribute to Australia's anti-submarine warfare, maritime strike and maritime intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and response capabilities.

"I'm proud to announce the re-establishment of Number 12 Squadron alongside the arrival of Australia's 13th P-8A Poseidon aircraft (pictured).

"Number 12 Squadron has played an important role in the history of our Air Force and the defence of our nation; a role that it will proudly and skilfully continue from today," said Air Marshal Chappell.

In operating the expanded fleet of P-8A Poseidon aircraft, Number 12

Squadron will deliver persistent patrols over Australia's maritime approaches. The two P-8A Poseidon squadrons will also work with the MQ-4C Triton to provide Australia with one of the most advanced maritime patrol and surveillance capabilities in the world.

- from ADF news.



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NOOSA

TO MARK the impending move of the Drop In Centre to RSL House in Memorial Avenue opposite Maroochy RSL Club, we print some recollections by those who have been around a while. **Ted Robinson**, a past President, was a bit vague on the timeline, but had some interest recollections:

I was asked to be president when Brian Black resigned. I also had to do the newsletter. We didn't have a drop-in centre then.

I wanted to have a Drop-in Centre so veterans had a place to come to with no alcohol or gambling – the main vices we all suffer from. They could walk in if they were down and could get support and understanding from a fellow veteran: someone they didn't have to explain themselves to, have just have a coffee and a yarn.

I approached the Maroochy RSL to see if we could get a room to use full-time in the Sub-branch Building, the president at the time was Col Harrop. His reply was (quote): "Vietnam Veterans have to learn to crawl before they walk".

Then I approached Don Culley, the Shire Chairman, to ask if there was any space at the council-occupied premises where we could have a room and open a drop-in centre. He replied, "We are approving all these plans for the Maroochy RSL for massive extension. Why can't they supply one?" I told him what had been said to me.

A little while afterwards, there was a function at the Maroochy RSL and Don Culley was there speaking to Col Harrop. I asked what the chances were of getting a room for the Vietnam Vets for a drop in centre. In front of the Shire chairman, Col Harrop repeated, "Vietnam Veterans have to learn to crawl before they walk."

After that, Don Culley got in touch with me and said that it was a matter of urgency for the council to find us premises. Shortly afterwards, they gave us a room, that the parking inspectors were occupying the Cotton Tree Library Complex.

RECOLLECTIONS FROM OUR YESTERDAYS



Don also arranged for us help ourselves to whatever we needed for the office from there council stores, which we did. The first meeting I chaired as President which was in the Maroochy RSL Sub Branch building we didn't have a quorum. There had been a split of members on the coast and some had broken away and formed a subbranch of the Federation. We went from this low to the largest sub-branch in Australia.

I remember the first Christmas Party I had as President, Trevor Hagen and wife offered their house as the venue. Pip (my wife) and myself were the only ones to attend. I also put out to have mateship drinks at the Maroochy RSL every Friday at 1700 hrs, after 4 weeks of me being the only one there I gave that away.

Another plan was to have a early morning Breakfast on Thursday at the Spit Mooloolaba, Paul Musk was the first cook. A regular visitor was Hayden Kenny, who would stop for a cuppa and a yarn on the way to the Surf Club. Hayden observed us with the hassle with tourists and approached the Mooloolaba Surf Club and arranged for the club to use their barbecue facilities, a practice which continues today.

Pip was concerned about the lack of camaraderie and understanding among the wives. She contacted a few and they started meeting at our house. This was before we had the drop-in centre The ladies were amazed that they were all dealing with the same common problems with their husbands. There were many stories of wives who for years had been struggling to support their husbands on their own.

• CONTINUED PAGE 12.

PICTURED: Riflemen's Lunch in 2022.

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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



10 INSULTS FROM SHAKESPEARE THAT STILL HIT HARD

1. **"Thou art a boil, a plague sore."**
— King Lear (Act 2, Scene 2)
A vivid image of someone as a festering disease.
2. **"There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune."**
— Henry IV, Part 1 (Act 3, Scene 3)
Accusing someone of being morally rotten.
3. **"Peace, filthy worm!"**
— Timon of Athens (Act 4, Scene 3)
A perfect put-down for someone beneath contempt.
4. **"You scullion! You rampallian! You fustilarian!"**
— Henry IV, Part 2 (Act 2, Scene 1)
A trifecta of deliciously obscure insults.
5. **"Thine face is not worth sunburning."**
— Henry V (Act 5, Scene 2)
Brutally implying someone's face is a waste of sunlight.
6. **"I do desire we may be better strangers."**
— As You Like It (Act 3, Scene 2)
Shakespearean for: "Please forget I exist."
7. **"Thou art as fat as butter."**
— Henry IV, Part 1 (Act 2, Scene 4)
Falstaff takes a hit — not so much fat-shaming as plain ridicule.
8. **"More of your conversation would infect my brain."**
— The Two Noble Kinsmen (Act 2, Scene 1)
The ultimate burn for someone you can't stand to listen to.
9. **"I'll beat thee, but I would infect my hands."**
— Timon of Athens (Act 4, Scene 3)
I could hit you, but you're not worth the germs.
10. **"You are not worth another word, else I'd call you knave."**
— All's Well That Ends Well (Act 2, Scene 3)
An insult and a refusal to waste breath.

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As one may suspect, advice from a Padre may well be in the ecclesiastical arena, not in the medical arena, but read on: here is some wise advice to our readers in the octogenarian, nonagenarian, and even centenarian grouping. Be careful where you walk. Falls are the greatest reason that brings a healthy, lively octogenarian, nonagenarian, or centenarian undone.

Two lovely persons very close to me had the misfortune of suffering falls recently and the result has been less than pleasant, if not downright ugly.

Firstly, when my dear wife Annette arrived home from her five weeks in the United States of America, I met her in the meeting area at Brisbane's International airport being pushed in a wheelchair by a friendly United Airlines hostess, with her two arms held high as the hostie managed to wheel her and pull her baggage behind them.

Four days from coming home, she had gone into the garden at our daughter-in-law's home to pick cherry tomatoes in a garden bed she had built up on our last trip to the US four years ago.

As she stepped out of the bordered garden bed she tripped and fell backwards on her hands, breaking the right arm and tearing a ligament in her left wrist. Under medical supervision here, she has another three weeks to keep the arm in plaster, while the left wrist is slowly coming good. She is restricted in much of her home and personal duties and I have stepped into those previously personal tasks and have become remarkably adept at doing so.

This has forced me to cancel my trip to Wangaratta to attend the Headquarters 1 Australian Task Force Reunion in November. I mean,

Fireside with the Padre



flying into Melbourne and fronting up to the Hertz rent-a-car counter with both arms bound up, would hardly implore them to hire a person a motor car to drive up to Wangaratta. As Annette has been our sole licensed driver for 22 years, we had to make some alterations to our plans. So, I am recording my parts for the reunion and forwarding them down to the President by u-tube.

Secondly, my friend Max Wheat, who took the ecclesiastical role this year at Vietnam Veterans Day in Maroochydore, left a train at Beerwah and due to an unfortunate and extremely dangerous kerfuffle, saw his sole depart from the upper leather of his shoe and he went base over apex.

He was conveyed to hospital for about five days where they found he had broken his T-10 vertebra in three places. Max is now at home, and taking things very slowly as, unlike Annette's damage, there is no way to put his upper body in plaster.

So, back to my role as a Chaplain, would all members place Annette and Max on their prayer lists for a full and total recovery, while watching where each one of you walk. I do not want to hear of any more broken bones. Stay well and may God bless you and your family.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain.

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The Last Flight Out

A Story of Heroism, Family, and Resilience During the Vietnam War

In 1975, as the Vietnam War reached its devastating conclusion, Nguyen Van Ba—a South Vietnamese Air Force Chinook pilot—made a courageous decision that would define his legacy. With Saigon on the brink of collapse, he piloted his helicopter to safety, ensuring the survival of his family and crew in an act of bravery that inspired all who heard it. Now, 50 years later, *The Last Flight Out* shares this heroic journey, weaving together themes of sacrifice, survival, and the enduring human spirit.



If you were ever curious to know more about this man after seeing the 2015 Oscar-nominated film “*Last Days in Vietnam*” by Rory Kennedy, this is the book for you as all the stories, including “The Ditch” Moment, were written by him [*CNN’s Ba-dass*]. Get to know the details of his life leading up to April 1975 and what happened to him and his family after resettling in America. Though Nguyen Van Ba passed away more than ten years ago, his legacy lives on through these personal stories that have touched lives and inspired others.

From Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc. News Bulletin (September 2025)

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ISSUES WITH RESTRICTIONS PROPOSED ON AWARDS

The Victoria Cross could not have been awarded posthumously to Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean in 2020 under legislation proposed by the Federal Government (see page 1).

Neither could the more recent VC to Richard Norden posthumously in 2024 for action during the battle of Fire Support Base Coral in Vietnam in 1968.

"The legislation enforces a 20-year cut-off period for considering acts of valour or distinguished service for military medals," according to Defence Force Blog. "Veterans say this arbitrary restriction not only dishonours past sacrifices but also flies in the face of recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide."

It would also have precluded the review of awards for Long Tan won by 6RAR D Company commander on that day in 1966, Major (later Colonel) Harry Smith. Many were ungraded as a result.

"Veterans also argue that the 20-year restriction is both impractical and unjust. In many cases, mission details and classified operations are not declassified until decades after they occur," according to Defence Force Blog.

"Furthermore, the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal itself can take up to 30 years to process a recommendation — making the new policy not only unfair but also fundamentally flawed."

On 4 September 2025 the Senate referred the provisions of the Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Bill 2025 to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 30 October 2025.

BELOW: Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC (left) and Private Richard Norden VC.



Subject to Senate inquiry

- continued from page 1.

"(Defence Minister) Richard Marles carried the Victoria Cross (for Richard Norden) from the UK to Australia and told me how proud (he was) to carry that Victoria Cross," Mr Hulse said.

"Well, I'm telling you something Mr Marles, had this legislation been in vogue two years ago, you would never have picked up that Victoria Cross. You would never have felt so proud as you did that day."

The Bill passed the House of Representatives last month and is currently being examined by a Senate inquiry which is due to report on 30 October. The inquiry received 63 submissions, including from veterans, their families and advocates. Of those, 62 argued against; only the Department of Defence argued in favour of the reforms.

DHAAT Chair Stephen Skehill told an inquiry hearing last week there is "not a single provision in this bill that would generate any benefit for any ADF member or veteran, any of their ADF families or any of their supporters".

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AS TIME GOES BY— RECOLLECTIONS OF OUR SUB-BRANCH

- continued from page 7.

They called their group POSH which means Partners Offering Support and Hope. However, it quickly became [behind our backs] "Partners Of Shit Heads". Posh went on to have many trips, guest speakers and a strong support network was formed. And is still going today.

Alex Chesters 'volunteered' to do the hospital visiting; he made the job his own and is still doing, it a fantastic effort. You couldn't put a price on how many veterans Alex has quietly help over the years.

Norm Cooper turned up and I asked him if he would be the office manager, he then ran the office with military precision, even if it was RAAF precision. Norm also built up the library with unit histories, these were used by welfare to help with information for their clients.

Peter Henzler was the welfare and pensions officer; as the drop-in centre

was used more the number of welfare and pension officers grew to 14.

At the monthly meetings they would report on the number of gold cards they had got in the month and sometimes it was in the double digits. When we opened every day there was a pension officer on duty to handle not only his appointments but walk ins.

Ian Atkinson, the founder of the rifle-men's luncheon at the Mooloolaba Surf Club, took it upon himself to put up a memorial to the war dogs, receiving donations for his idea he thought he had better involve the club to legitimise the donations, so the club became involved.

He bought together so many handlers that Trackers and War Dog Association was formed; now the dogs are brought home after their service.

I was very proud of my son Grant, owner of Superior Plumbing, for donating his time and materials for a bowl and water so the passing dogs could have a

drink on us.

Unfortunately, at the opening of the memorial our resident Long Tan Veteran Laurie Drinkwater was there with his little pooch; when another dog barked at it pooch rolled down a bank, put his hips out and Laurie rushed him to a vet who had to put him down.

Trevor Hagen became the social director and organised a function every month: a Chinese restaurant, a Kentucky Chicken luncheon in a park, a weekend on a houseboat at Noosa, lots of barbecues, a day fishing on the Maroochy River, bus trips, to name just a few.

Trevor also ran a raffle at every meeting: some of his prizes were famous, you might get a scratchy or a stone he picked up on the way to the meeting.

- MORE RECOLLECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

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Another view on the Battle of Long Tan

SOME may think enough books and articles have been written about the Vietnam War, particular the Battle of Long Tan, but yet another has recently been published, "LONG TAN: Memories, Myths and Reality".

In his foreword, author Kevin O'Brien writes: "I have tried to understand how some serious distortions may have crept into the history of the Battle of Long Tan."

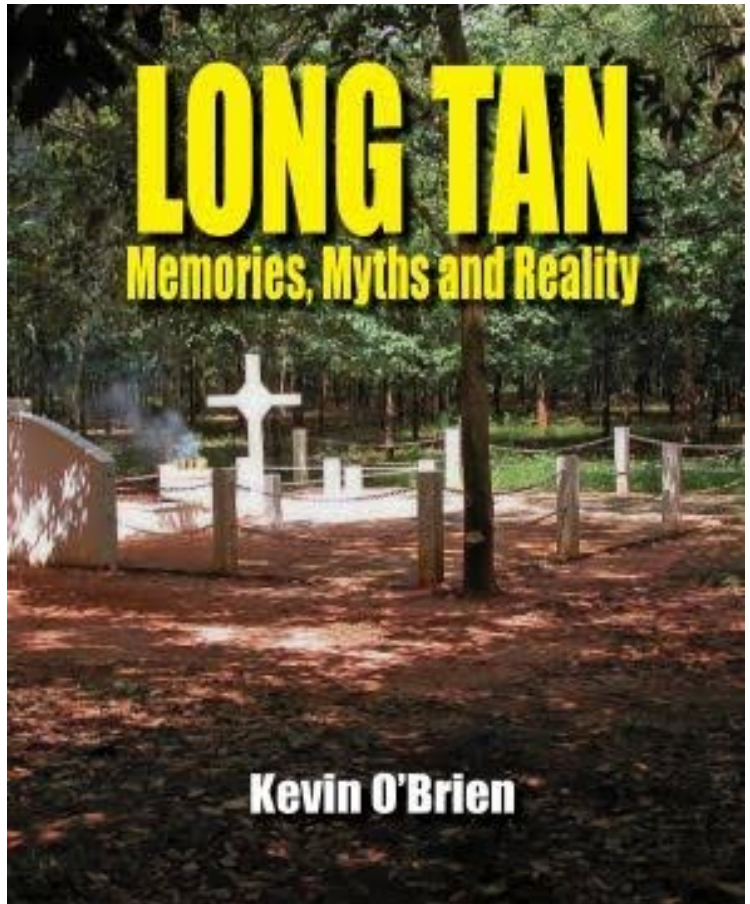
"The story that is told needs to be accurate and in context. The truth is important ... What follows is an examination of the memories, myths and reality of the Battle of Long Tan."

The author retired as a Brigadier after 33 years service including graduation from RMC Duntroon and Vietnam service in 1970-71 with 4th Field Regiment. He has served on the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal.

In its concluding pages, the book includes this: "The reasons for our involvement were misguided. A wise government should ensure similar mistakes are not repeated. A full reconciliation with our former enemies is needed. This will only be achieved when Australian veterans understand and accept the reality of the war and the reality of the battle of Long Tan."

"Now is the time for respectful commemoration, not to seek to glorify our military heritage."

Harsh words. It then goes on to awards and citations with some implied criticism of the OC of D Company 6RAR at Long Tan, Major Harry Smith RIP (a former member of our sub-branch) and citations for awarding of DSOs to 6RAR CO Lt Col Maurice Townsend and Task Force Commander Brig David Jackson. (Our patron, Laurie Drinkwater, was also at Long Tan).



This book has the advantage of history on its side in that many of the protagonists have left us; the battle was after all nearly 60 years ago.

It emphasises the role of national servicemen including officers. No doubt this was a fruitful angle at the time for the government spin doctors back home.

Another angle raised by the author is that of the role of RMC Duntroon graduates, at times perhaps suggesting an acknowledgement of superiority. When Harry Smith apparently discovered official records on award recommendations: "This information led to several conspiracy theories developing including that the RMC Generals Club had colluded to deny him recognition in favour of Brigadier Jackson and that they were also opposing any review ..."

The book is extensive to say the least, and needs to be read in full by anyone interested to grasp the complete gist for and against.

It may be available at your local council library or by inquiring through the website: <https://www.longtanbook.com/>

PICTURED LEFT: After the battle. — AWM photo.
ABOVE: The cover of the book.

- By Kerry White, Editor, who joined 5RAR in Vietnam in 1966-67 after the Battle of Long Tan.

Roll of Honour — Vietnam, NOVEMBER 1962-75

November 1965

Gillson, Peter Raymond (37857), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Fawcner Crematorium & Memorial Park, Melbourne.
 Hillier, Reginald Hedley (42774), 26, 1RAR, Cpl, Adelaide River War Cemetery, NT (originally Terendak, Malaysia).
 Parker, Richard Harold J (213963), 24, 1RAR, LCpl, Woden Cemetery, ACT.
 Swanton, Ronald James (13841), 29, AATT (attached RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Wheatley, Kevin Arthur (29890), 28, AATT (attached RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

November 1966

Hendle, Terence Edward (18256), 20, 6RAR, LCpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Kirkwood, John Lynden (A113169), 19, Base Squadron Ubon (RAAF), AC, Ipswich, Qld.
 Nilsen, Erald Herman (1200083), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Dunwich Cemetery, Qld.
 Pracy, Noel Arthur (216044), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Watson, Bryan Phillip (5713748), 21, 5RAR, LCpl, Karakatta Cemetery, WA.

November 1967

Allen, Norman George (2784699), 21, 7RAR, Sydney War Cemetery, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Bell, Ronald John (5714249), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Allambie Park Cemetery, Albany, WA.
 Cullen, Bryan Thomas (217314), 20, 7RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Fallon, Barry Edmond (216906), 31, 7RAR, Pte, Southport Cemetery, Qld.
 Hawker, Norman Victor G (3789232), 22, 7RAR, Pte, Kaniva and Lillimur Cemetery, Vic.
 Hutchison, Maurice John (1200455), 28, 1FldSqn, Spr (TempCpl), Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Moore, Barry John (242811), 30, 1 ED Sqn (RAE), SSG (TempWO2), Urunga Cemetery, NSW.
 Pettitt, Noel Charles (3790094), 21, 2RAR, Pte, Merbein Public Cemetery, Vic.
 Rivett, Jeffrey Clive (4410710), 24, 2RAR, Pte, Murray Bridge Cemetery, SA.
 Tregear, Barry (2412508), 29, 4FldRegt, Gnr, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

November 1968

Annesley, Frederick John (2784162), 22, 1RAR, Cpl, Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, Botany, Sydney.
 Donnelly, William Wayne (217898), 19, 1RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.
 Gibbs, Ian James (5715657), 21, 1RAR, Pte, Wandering Cemetery, WA.
 Hughes, Rodney Donald (1201350), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Bowen, Qld.
 Langlands, Terrance Edward (2786939), 23, 1RAR, 2Lt, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Quigley, Anthony Vincent (4719160), 21, 3RAR, LCpl, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

November 1969

Bink, Martin (2275420), 25, 9RAR, LCpl, Woden Cemetery, ACT.
 Convery, Robert Tom (38627), 22, 9RAR, Lt, Fawcner Memorial Park, Moreland City, Vic.
 Linton, Matthew Philip (1734491), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Lisle, Anthony (2791437), 23, 1 FldSqn, Spr, Rockhampton Cemetery, Qld.
 Suttor, Henry Edward (218006), 26, 5RAR, LCpl (TempCpl), Canobolas Orange Crematorium, Orange, NSW.
 Troy, Kevin John (22696), 47, AATV (attached RAI), WO2, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 White, Michael Paul (217191), 20, 5RAR, LCpl, Dawson Cemetery, Taree, NSW.

November 1970

Carver, Robert Charles (O119223), 24, 2Sqn RAAF, Pilot Officer, (remains retrieved 2009) Pinnaroo Cemetery, Brisbane, Qld.
 Herbert, Michael Patrick John (O44310), 24, 2Sqn RAAF, Flying Officer, (remains retrieved 2009) Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.
 Fleming, Robert (38129), 24, 1ARU, Sgt, Rookwood Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Sydney.
 Black, Barbara Frances (F35135), 25, 1Field Hospital (RAANC), Lt, (died of illness in Australia), Burwood General Cemetery, Melbourne.

- 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.

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