



HAVE YOUR SAY ON ADVOCACY

Veterans, veteran advocates and members of the broader community are invited to have their say on how to best regulate the veterans' advocacy sector.

The purpose of the proposed reform would be to: restrict exploitative fee practices by commercial veteran advocacy providers; ban overseas hosting of veteran information by advocates; protect veterans from misleading and deceptive conduct, advertising and behaviour; and ensure advocates charging fees are properly trained, insured, and conduct themselves ethically.

"Recently the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has seen a dramatic increase in some commercial advocates engaging in unscrupulous behaviours that prioritise profits over the health and wellbeing of veterans and families of veterans," the department says.

"We recognise it's important that we don't over-regulate a largely volunteer service.

"The principle of 'mates supporting mates' will remain at the heart of veterans' advocacy.

"The Australian Government is committed to reform to better protect veterans from exploitation within the commercial veterans' advocacy sector," the DVA says.

A public consultation paper is available on the DVA website and submissions are open until 8 May 2026. We encourage you to have your say and make a submission today. You can lodge a submission on this public consultation paper using the submission portal at https://dva.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3rDZMpi22iHXsxxg

Recent reports of doubtful practices have highlighted the need for stronger regulation.

A medicinal cannabis company has been offering

thousands of dollars in financial "kickbacks" to military advocates in exchange for referring veterans to its services, an ABC 7.30 Report claimed.

It had a recording of a telephone call in which a sales representative from a telehealth company offered a military advocate a five per cent commission "in perpetuity" for every veteran who signs up to an ongoing medicinal cannabis prescription.

FAREWELL TO OUR OLDEST



OUR oldest member, Chips (Bryan Ross 13065) passed away recently. RIP. He held his own wake in 2022 and even brought along his own coffin. More pages 5, 10.



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)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Committee Members:

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

Office Bearers

(vacant)	DHJ project
(vacant)	Thursday Breakfast
Noel Woodall	Honorary Lawyer
(vacant)	Honorary Chaplain
Michael Sheahan	Advertising/Marketing
Michael Howe	Grants Officer
(vacant)	Asst Office Manager

ADVOCATE TEAM

Compensation Advocates

Helena Smith JP (Qual)	0439241442
------------------------	------------

Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters	0478213354
---------------	------------

Mentor/Assessor

Helena Smith	0439241442
--------------	------------

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

DROP-IN-CENTRE NOW RE-LOCATED

The Drop-In-Centre at the library complex is now closed and has re-opened at the RSL Hub opposite Maroochy Services Club. Opening hours Tuesday to Thursday 0900 to 1200 hours.

Inquiries: Phone 0476903132 .

Note: Monthly Committee Meetings are now held at 1000 hours and the General Meetings at 1100 hours on the third Tuesday.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)

129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.

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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.

75th anniversary of Women's Army Corps

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC). On 12 February 1951, Lieutenant-Colonel Kathleen Best was appointed the first Director of the Corps, and it was officially formed and began enlistment in April 1951.

The WRAAC provided opportunities for women to serve in non-combat roles within the Army. Members worked both in Australia and overseas, often supporting operational units. In the 1960s, women began to take on more specialised technical roles, expanding their contribution and expertise within the Army.

In 1985, the WRAAC was disbanded, and women were fully integrated into the regular Australian Army, gaining access to most roles previously open only to men. Serving women often left home for extended periods, balancing service with family responsibilities and personal relationships at a time when such commitments by women were not widely supported socially.

The WRAAC played a crucial role in normalising women's service in the military. Thank you for your service and for paving the way for future generations of women in the Australian Defence Force.

The WRAAC had its origins from the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) which had been formed in

1941 to release men from some military duties to serve with fighting units. At the conclusion of WW2 the AWAS was disbanded in 1947.

Cabinet gave approval in June 1950 for the raising of a women's Corps, WAAC (Women's Australian Army Corps), within the Australian Military Forces owing to concerns of the Korean War and for prepared readiness.

In December 1950 it was approved that there be an initial intake of 250 personnel.

February 1951 saw Lt Col Kathleen Best appointed the first Director of the Corps.

In June 1951, King George VI granted the addition of "Royal" to the Corps name in recognition of the wartime contributions of the women's services and thus WRAAC (Women's Royal Australian Army Corps) came into being.

The aim, again, was to enlist women to replace men for training and other duties required in the preparation for war. WRAAC served as Cooks, Mess Stewardesses, Draftswomen, Clerks, Signal Operators, Drivers and Psychologists to name a few.

Courses for trades and promotion in the NCO and Officer streams were taken as per our male counterparts.

PRELUDE TO MINE TRAGEDY 60 YEARS AGO

SIXTY years ago this month (14 February) Operation Beaumaris (cordon and search of the village of Xa An Nhut) saw a tragedy when the C Company, 5RAR, HQ group pictured here were photographed just prior to a mine explosion.

Robert O'Neill in his book *Vietnam Task* explains: "The company commander had held a conference of his officers and senior NCOs' close by the fence. At the conclusion of the conference, someone, while getting to his feet, must have set off a mine which had been perfectly concealed. The effect of the explosion was devastating and particularly tragic for it killed three of the company officers and wounded another five men.

"The officers killed were Major (Donald) Bourne, the company commander; Captain (Robert) Milligan, the second-in-command; and captain (Peter) Williams the artillery forward observation officer attached from the New Zealand 161 Battery.

Major Bourne had just taken over command from Major Miller who was about to lead the battalion advance party back to Australia."

Major Bourne can be seen rubbing the back of his neck whilst Captain Milligan rests a leg on the barbed wire and Captain Williams stands between them. Brian Budden is at left in brown

jacket and John Bilston is bottom right; Bruce Schmidtchen is sitting left of the picket and Bill Czekaj (now Crystal) is kneeling behind the picket.

Only a week later on the afternoon of February 21 B Company, riding in armoured personnel carriers hit mines and booby traps killing nine and wounding 22 others.



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2026

ODE: MICK Howe. Meeting opened: 1120hrs. Meeting closed: 1150hrs. Attendees: 12. Apologies: 4.

President Mr. Michael Howe advised that the February General Meeting 2026 had opened and immediately suspended the meeting to progress to the Annual General Meeting. Patron Mr Laurie Drinkwater declared all positions vacant.

One nomination was received for President, that post being filled by Mr Michael Howe. Mr Drinkwater passed the meeting over to Mr Howe who thanked Mr Drinkwater; a round of applause followed.

Mr. Michael Howe read the following positions filled to the meeting: President Mr. Michael Howe; Senior Vice President, Mr. John Cunningham; Junior Vice President Mr. John Huxham; Secretary Mr. John Cunningham; Treasurer Ms Deb Day; Membership Mr. Pieter Reus. Committee: Mr Mark Doolan; Mr Michael Gay, Ms Chris Wessels, Assistant Secretary Ms Chris Wessels; Assistant Treasurer vacant; Officer Manager Ms Chris Wessels; Merchandise Mr. Michael Gay; Ricochet Mr Kerry White. Digger Hat Jewelry/Keyrings: Mr. Graeme Scott advised it is not a position that is nominated and he did not accept the position. It was to be discussed in General Business at the General Meeting.

A Motion allowing for VVAASC to no longer be externally audited and all audits to be done by the VVAASC was proposed by Mr John Cunningham and seconded by Mr John Huxham. There was no further business regarding this motion, and it was carried.

There being no further business regarding the AGM it was then declared concluded by the President Mr Michael Howe at 1125.

Mr. Howe advised that the General Meeting was then resumed. The February General Meeting continued as follows:

Business arising from January Meeting: Discussion re: Appreciation Certificates to be processed and be handed over. Cleaning and general procedures of new DIC explained.

Correspondence- Inwards and Outwards: Emails from State regarding the 2026 AGM and the future of Remembrance House. Emails re: DHJ order from Rocky Hill War Memorial and Museum at Goulburn NSW. Email from Barry Hockey advising that he will go back into hospital on 9/02/2026 for more chemo which hopefully will be the last. Barry wished the Committee and Members all the best for 2026. Various Heads-Up to Members. Moved Mr. Cunningham, seconded John Huxham. Carried.

Membership Report: The offer of "Life Subscriber" to General and Associate Members was discussed. Currently there are 147 financial members. 16 Life Members, 101 Life Subscribers, 10 General Members and 3 Associates. Discussion progressed re: Life Subscriber for General and Associate Members. Moved Pieter Reus, seconded Mark Doolan. Carried.

Ricochet Report: Kerry White discussed the situation re: cancellation of one advertiser in Ricochet and the cessation of Arthur Fry's monthly Fireside chat in Ricochet. He will follow up how many current advertisers are renewing. Moved Kerry White, seconded Win Fowles, Carried.

Sub-Committee: John Cunningham informed the Meeting that the organising for the VV Day Lunch and Ladies Day lunch was completed. Moved John Cunningham, seconded Pieter Reus. Carried.

General Business: John Cunningham opened a discussion about Life Member ratification for 2026. The proposal was moved John Cunningham, seconded Win Fowles. Carried. Win Fowles gave an overview of current issues being reviewed and/or supported by the Defence Welfare League. Scotty: Reiterated his declaration made at the AGM. He is stepping down 100% from this date. As previously he has requested someone to take over the coin polishing etc and no one has stepped up he is left with no choice but to completely stand down. He will hand over the DHJ/K Petty Cash to the Treasurer Deb Day and the unwashed pennies to the Merchandise Officer Mick Gay. Mick Howe thanked Scotty for his time doing Pennies.

Next General Meeting: 1100hrs Tuesday 17 March 2026

From the President

Hello all, hope you are all feeling well, safe and happy. Unfortunately, I start this report with some very bad news, that being the passing of Bryan 'Chips' Ross, aged 96, the oldest member of the Vietnam veteran's community here on the Sunshine Coast.

We received the news last Friday afternoon from Gretchen, his wife, that 'Chips' (pictured) had passed away in his sleep about 8.30am last Thursday while in hospital, where he had been for a number of months.

Bryan — known affectionately to many as "Chips" — was a familiar and much-loved face at the Thursday morning veterans' breakfast at the Mooloolaba Surf Club.

Though he lived in Brisbane, he would make the trip by train just to be there with his mates. That

dedication says a lot about the kind of man he was. 'Chips' was part of the heart and soul of our gatherings on the Sunshine Coast. He loved nothing better than to just sit down with his mates, share a laugh, swap stories and keep that special bond between veterans strong.

He was one of those blokes everyone looked forward to seeing. There was always a warm greeting, a bit of humour, and genuine care for the people around him. Chips was not just attending — he was part of what made those mornings matter.

Right to the end, he remained an active volunteer and a steady presence in the veterans' community. He gave his time, his friendship, and his spirit generously, and that's how many of us will remember him — sitting at the table, enjoying the company, and being one of the great characters among us.

Chips was truly an icon and a good mate to many. He'll be missed at the breakfasts, missed in the community, and missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

**Regards,
Mick Howe,
President.**



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From the Secretary

The AGM was held on 17 February, and it was over in a blink. Those nominated for positions on the committee (being the team from 2025) were elected.

Other than the committee members, there were only two other attendees at the AGM (Win Fowles and Scotty). It can only be assumed that most of the membership has every confidence in the current gang, which is comforting.

The committee of the sub-branch has not changed a great deal over the past five years although there have been murmurings from some each year that this may be their final year.

From my perspective, being on the committee has been rewarding. At meetings, different views are expressed, but always respectfully. Some tough decisions had to be made last year such as the relocation of the Drop-in Centre to the RSL Hub. This decision was made in the best interests of the sub-branch, bearing in mind that the welfare and advocacy needs of Vietnam veterans has decreased significantly.

Our membership officer, Pieter Reus, introduced the Life Subscriber membership fee which, as far as I am aware, is a first for a Vietnam Veterans Sub-Branch. Most ordinary members are now Life-Subscribers, which means no more concerns about being unfinancial (Of

course, this is motivation to ensure you survive at least three years to get your money's worth).

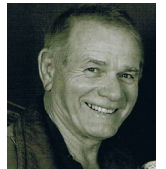
Two long-term members have stepped back from their duties this year, the first being our Padre, Arthur Fry, and his retirement from official duties was covered in the last issue of *Ricochet*. The second is life member, Graham Scott, affectionately known as Scotty. Scotty, the bare-foot warrior, has been the mainstay of the Digger Hat Jewelry enterprise since the passing of Barry Rogers 10 years ago. DHJ has been the lifeblood of the Sub-Branch for many years, due mainly to Scotty's dedication and the dedication of his crew. For over a decade, Scotty was also an active member of the Vietnam Veterans Day Sub-Committee. Thanks for all you have done, Scotty.

The Committee is looking at ways to ensure that the DHJ enterprise continues as orders for penny hat key-rings are still arriving.

Well, that is it for me. Until next month take care, and in the immortal words of the late Garry King, "always take the high ground".

Regards

John Cunningham



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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



OUR APPRECIATION



In February Secretary John Cunningham, presented Graham Baker, proprietor of Diamond Mine Jewelers of Pelican Waters, with a Certificate of Appreciation. Graham is a great supporter of the VVAASC and recently raised \$400 for the association through the sale of Digger Hat Jewellery. If you are ever in the Pelican Waters Shopping Centre, say hello to Graham and let him know that you are a member of the VVAASC.

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THREE GENERATIONS GETTING TOGETHER

MORE than 60 Riflemen including these groups turned up for their get-together on the first Friday of February. They included Matt Moore, who enlisted in the Australian Army recently, son of Jamie Moore (right) and grandson of Jim Moore (left).



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Peacetime disaster for Australian navy

On the night of 10 February 1964, 20 nautical miles south-east of Jervis Bay, the Royal Australian Navy's aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne collided with the destroyer HMAS Voyager.

The smaller ship was cut in two with the forward section sinking in the 10 minutes following the 8.56pm collision. The after section sank by midnight.

Despite the frantic rescue efforts that followed, and acts of great bravery and heroism, 82 men from the Voyager crew lost their lives. Melbourne picked up the majority of the 232 survivors, while 34 were rescued by the search and rescue boats HMA Ships Air Nymph and Air Sprite, launched from HMAS Creswell.

Melbourne and Voyager had been conducting routine night flying exercises. Voyager, lying to the starboard (right) side ahead of Melbourne, received a signal to take up a position behind the aircraft carrier as plane guard.

This position would allow Voyager to recover crew of any aircraft who may not make a safe night landing on the carrier. Initially turning to starboard to loop behind the carrier, Voyager then turned sharply to port (the left).



Last-ditch evasive action by both ships came too late to avoid a collision. Melbourne struck Voyager amidships. All the senior officers on the bridge of Voyager were killed by the impact.

There were two royal commissions into the accident, the first criticised the Melbourne officers for not questioning Voyager's course change until it was too late; the second exonerated them.

The reputations of both captains were called into question, and Navy's public standing suffered.

Survivors and their families from both ships have lived with the legacy of the accident for decades. They have regularly gathered on the anniversary to remember their lost crewmates.

With many new crew members aboard, HMAS Voyager had sailed from Sydney to Jervis Bay on 6 February for a series of post re-fit trials and exercises with HMAS Melbourne. It was a moonless night on 10 February and both ships had only navigational and operational lights in use. — from AWM



CREW members of HMAS Melbourne (top) at a memorial service on the ship as it transported injured crew from Voyager after the incident; (above) Voyager (rear) and Vendetta with Melbourne in better days; (right) the damaged Melbourne on its way to Sydney Harbour.

FAREWELL CHIPS



OUR 'Old Mate' Chips Ross was a regular at Vietnam Veterans Day activities whether at a Dog Memorial service or later at the service and lunch. He is with wife Gretchen at top right).

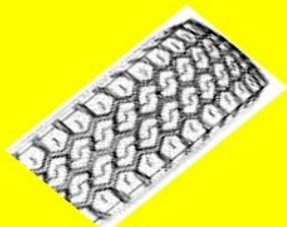


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LOCAL M.P. HAS PETITION PROTECTING OUR FLAG

Shadow minister for foreign affairs and Member for Fairfax Mr Ted O'Brien has a petition active on his electorate website calling for burning of the national flag to be criminalised.

"The increasing scenes of protesters burning the Australian National Flag are deeply disturbing, disrespectful, and entirely out of step with the values we share as Australians," he said.

"Our flag is more than cloth and colour. It is the symbol worn by members of the Australian Defence Force on their shoulders and draped over the coffins of our fallen.

"When individuals choose to burn or deliberately

desecrate it, they show contempt not only for those who serve and have served, but for every Australian who takes pride in our country."

People are encouraged to sign the petition at <https://tedobrien.com.au/protect-our-flag/> and show support for "protecting our National Flag and the values it represents".

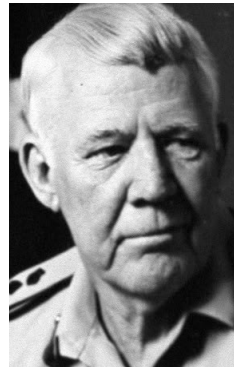
In December our President Mick Howe wrote to Mr O'Brien calling for action on the flag: "To honour those who gave us this nation, to safeguard our communities from harmful provocation, and to close a legal loophole that erodes respect, we must make flag desecration a criminal offence."

RIP 'a soldier's soldier'

Tributes have flowed for a "soldier's soldier" Brigadier George Mansford AM, who died on 19 February, aged 91.

An Australian War Memorial tribute was among many: "He served Australia for nearly four decades (1951-1990), including in all conflicts Australia was involved in from Korea through to Vietnam.

"He also served extensively elsewhere, including Singapore, Papua New Guinea and along the Thai border, and answered the call at home in aid to the civil power, including the response to Cyclone Tracy. Brig Mansford (pictured) established the Jungle Training Centre at Tully."



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'When you're laughing, the whole world laughs with you'

THREE men are sitting stiffly, side by side, on a long commercial flight.

After they're airborne and the plane has levelled off, the man in the window seat abruptly says, distinctly and confidently, in a loud voice, "Admiral, Royal Navy, retired. Married, two sons, both surgeons."

After a few minutes the man in the aisle seat states through a tight lipped smile, "Admiral, Fleet Air Arm, retired. Married, two sons, both Judges."

After some thought, the fellow in the centre seat decides to introduce himself. With a twinkle in his eye he proclaims, "Chief Pretty Officer, Australian Navy, retired. Never married, two sons, both Admirals."

DURING training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel.

"Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside. "Certainly not," replied the Colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

OFFICER: "Soldier, do you have change for \$10?"

Soldier: "Sure, mate."

Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again!"

Do you have change for \$10?"

Soldier: "No, SIR!"

Q: HOW do you know if there is a fighter pilot at your party?

A: He'll tell you.

A SERGEANT and a General were sitting in the barber's. They were both just getting to the end of their shaves, when the barbers reached for some after-shave to slap on their faces

The General shouted, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a brothel!"

The Sergeant turned to his barber and said, "Go ahead and put it on me. My wife doesn't know what the inside of a brothel smells like."

"WELL," snarled the tough old Navy boss to the bewildered sailor, "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave."

"Not me, Sir!" said the sailor. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in a queue again!" - **from JC.**

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A PADRE'S REFLECTION ON SERVING IN SOUTH SUDAN

OUR long-term Padre Arthur Fry wrote his final column, his 125th, last month. For now his "Fireside" column will be replaced by occasional reflections like this by UK Padre Richard Hall (Pictured) on Operation Trenton in South Sudan.

The key to chaplaincy is engagement with soldiers. Through simple presence, relationships are formed, and trust is built.

One of the privileges of chaplaincy in the Army is that soldiers are never surprised to encounter a padre — in a Sangar, out on a task, in an office or a cookhouse. My experience suggests that, having had those regular encounters, soldiers are more likely to seek your support when life gets difficult.

In whichever location I found myself, the overriding and simple task was to find out what was going on — and to join in. I found myself pouring concrete in the early hours of the morning, helping with the construction of accommodation units, accompanying soldiers who were sick and playing sports with soldiers in their spare time. In all of these instances I had the privilege of listening to the soldiers' niggles, gripes, hopes and fears.

A young infantryman said to me as we gazed out from his Sangar at semi-naked children playing in a stinking drainage ditch, "it makes you realise how much you take for granted back home".

During the Mission I divided my time between Malakal and Bentiu to ensure that each location had a church service two weeks out of three. In each of the two main locations I had congregations for Holy Communion that varied from around 6–15 personnel, with a core of loyal attenders in each. Each location also benefitted from group prayer, worship and reflection provided by a regular Eucharist.

I was honoured to be asked to preach at the Ghanaian Battalion's service in Bentiu, and also led a service for the Ghanaians in the Leer temporary operating base — utilising

one of our newly constructed accommodation units as a church.

Accompanied by other soldiers, I attended a variety of worships: with both Ghanaian soldiers and Ghanaian police, with UN civilians in Juba, and, most movingly, in a Roman Catholic church in the Malakal POC site. At the last location a small group of us also led some children's activities during a Sunday morning service.

In South Sudan the context of the deployment has been the main difference. The political situation means that there is the potential for great instability but nonetheless, here it has felt that the main threat has been from the environment rather than from any enemy. On previous tours chaplaincy has involved dealing with deaths of and life-changing injuries to our soldiers. On this tour the potential risk from accidents with vehicles and machinery, and from disease, was relatively much greater. This, I think, has impacted on the pastoral conversations that I have had with soldiers.

Here, most of those have related to bereavement, with the deaths of parents, grandparents and friends at home, and to difficulties and breakdowns in relationships

with partners.

On former tours, where comrades were getting killed and badly injured on a regular basis, those other pastoral issues perhaps were pushed aside to be dealt with on return home.

The UK Task Force in Malakal conducting vocational skills training with the locals.

Another part of the context here has been working alongside other Troop Contributing Countries and UN civilians. For the Task Force, this has been both interesting and challenging at times. What will remain with me is the intensity and scale of the poverty suffered by our close neighbours here. For all my experience in other warzones I had never seen anything like this.



Last batch of M1A1 Abrams delivered to Ukraine



A contingent of Australian Defence Force tank specialists, logisticians, mechanics and support staff travelled to Poland in late November, as part of Operation Kudu, to prepare the final 12 tanks for handover to Ukraine in December — 37 tanks were delivered in July.—ADF photo.

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.

BELOW: Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium in Sydney.



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