



Vietnam War hero honoured in home town

The current Governor-General, two former Governors-General, a VC recipient, Australia Defence Force personnel of all ranks and veterans were among dozens of VIPs at the dedication of a memorial for Vietnam War hero Richard Norden VC in his home town of Gundagai.

With Governor-General Sam Mostyn were former GGs Sir Peter Cosgrove and David Hurley, both Generals and former Chiefs of the Defence Force, and Keith Payne VC joining a tribute to the Gundagai Digger who was awarded a Victoria Cross for Australia only in 2024, having been awarded a DCM at the time.

The memorial also is a tribute to the Battle of Fire Support Bases Coral-Balmoral 58 years ago in May 1968 when Pte Norden carried out "most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action".

The new national memorial honours both Private Richard Norden VC and the Australians who fought in the battle, creating a lasting place of commemoration for both the decorated soldier and one of the Vi-

etnam War's most significant battles.

The memorial features a striking bronze statue depicting Private Norden rescuing his Section Commander, Joe Kelly, under intense enemy fire during the fighting.

The battle was the largest and longest battle fought by Australian forces during the Vietnam War, with 26 Australians killed and 109 wounded.

"From the beginning, our vision

was to create more than just a statue. We wanted a memorial that genuinely reflects Gundagai's bond with Private Richard Norden VC and honours the men of Coral-Balmoral whose courage has too often been overlooked in our national story," Gundagai RSL sub-Branch Secretary Paul Vercoe said.

- Continued page 6 with photo information.



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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Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn	0422670080
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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

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Inquiries: Phone 0476903132

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.

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

VETERANS' BREAKFAST: In front of Mooloolaba Surf Club on Thursdays.

RIFLEMENS' LUNCH: First Friday monthly at Mooloolaba Surf Club.

MEMBERSHIP: Life Subscriber option now available for General (\$45) and Associate Members (\$40). A "currently financial" General or Associate Member may upgrade to Life Subscriber by paying a one-off amount of \$25. NB: This option ceased for current financial members on 31 May 2026.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)

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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.

A new Australian's Anzac Day reflection

Last year today, I stood in complete darkness. In a place I had only ever seen in photos. It was 2am. It was freezing. No one was speaking. Thousands of people. Standing shoulder to shoulder. Completely still.

And in that moment, I realised something uncomfortable. If I had not been there. If I had not felt the cold, the darkness, the weight of that place, Anzac Day might have stayed at arm's length. Respectful, yes. Important, yes. But distant.

I thought I understood Anzac Day. I didn't.

We arrived at Villers-Bretonneux (pictured) before dawn on the 25th of April. It was 2am. Unimaginably cold. Even wearing three layers, I was shivering. The kind of cold that settles into your bones and makes you go quiet without being told.

Veterans. Families. School students. Australians. French locals. All of us, standing together in the dark. It was not just silence. It was stillness.

As the service began, images of Australian soldiers were projected onto the stone of the memorial. Faces. Names. Ages. Some of them were only a few years older than I am now.

And I stood there thinking, these events were never about numbers or battles. They were always, only ever, about people. Because those soldiers had no idea they'd become history. They were just people. Ordinary people. Doing what was asked of them.

And standing there, I realised: Anzac Day isn't about how we remember them. It's about whether we actually understand them.

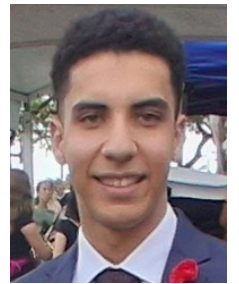
After the service, we walked into the small town of Le Hamel. The French community welcomed us as if we were their own. We had breakfast with them. We sat with local school children.

And those children, who had never met an Australian soldier, who were not related to any of them, handed us blue cornflowers. Their symbol of remembrance. And they thanked us, for soldiers who fought there more than a century ago.

Those children never said you owe us. They simply gave. A hundred years later, those kids were still showing up. Still choosing to remember people they'd never met. I didn't have words for that. I still don't.

Across those battlefields, we saw that same care everywhere. In cemeteries like Fromelles, Polygon Wood, and Tyne Cot, rows of white headstones stretched further than the eye could see. Those places are silent now.

Address by Karen Hooshmandi (right) from Mountain Creek State High School (Year 8) at the Maroochydore Anzac Day service. He was a winner of an RSL Premier's Anzac Prize in 2025, of which he said: "Winning this prize is very personal. I just became an Australian citizen which makes me feel responsible for learning more about Australia's culture and history, which this prize gives me the best opportunity to do." He and his family are originally from Iran.



Beautiful, even. A striking contrast from the chaos and horror that once filled them.

Many headstones were marked with ages that stopped us in our tracks. Fourteen. Fifteen. Sixteen.

At VC Corner, there were no individual headstones at all. Hundreds of Australian soldiers, buried together. Unidentified. Names carved nearby, but no place for families to kneel.

And yet, those places are peaceful now. Respected. Cared for. That doesn't happen by accident. Someone tends those graves every single day. That's not nothing.

There is one moment I will never forget. I stood before the grave of a fifteen-year-old Australian soldier. On his headstone: "Dearly loved. Sadly missed."

I did not know him. I was not related to him. But standing at that grave, I felt as though I was home. Connected to him in a way I had not expected. Not because of who he was, but because of what was taken from him.

His life was ordinary. And that is exactly why it matters. The people we remember today did not serve so that future generations would feel burdened by their sacrifice. They served so that we could have ordinary lives. So that we'd have the freedom to choose who we are.

But remembrance still asks something of us. Not to be heroes. Not to do extraordinary things. But to do ordinary things well. To show up. To be the person someone would call at 2am. Not because you have to, but because someone else once gave everything so you could choose to.

Anzac Day isn't just about what happened then. It's about how we choose to live now. Keating said it best: "He is all of them. And he is one of us."

If we carry that forward, truly carry it, then we honour them in the most meaningful way possible.

Lest we forget.



From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all safe and healthy. We are skipping through the months now and only a matter of weeks before we are all enjoying ourselves celebrating Vietnam Veterans Day.

As you will notice, in this edition we have advertised the days activities; start time, forming up location, etc.

I would ask that when booking your tickets through the Drop In Centre it is imperative that if purchasing more than one ticket, you must provide the name of any other person for whom you may be obtaining a further ticket for (e.g., if you are buying six tickets, we will expect to be provided with six names)

The lunch excursion arranged by Mick Gay in May was a very enjoyable outing. We all met at the Mooloolaba wharf as arranged and boarded our boat for a pleasant cruise around the various canals of Mooloolaba.

The boat is fully licensed so a few beers and wines were appreciated by our guests during the trip and all

enjoyed the delightful lunch that was provided.

In all, a very pleasurable and relaxing few hours was had by all. Not too long and not too short, just perfect.

We, your committee, will continue to look at future possible outings and will advise our members accordingly. When we can make suitable arrangements for another excursion,

I'm sure the association will continue to heavily subsidise the proposed outing and all details of the proposed occasion will appear in this magazine.

As I've said many times before, if you have any ideas, thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve our association, please make contact. In the meantime, please take care of yourselves, stay happy, healthy and as strong as possible.

Best Regards,

Mick Howe,

President.



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From the Secretary

The Sub-Branch hosted its first social outing for some time on 12 May. Members and wives enjoyed a seafood luncheon cruise on the Mooloolaba river. Good weather, good food, good company and an occasional lubricant. What more could you want!

The cost was subsidised by the Sub-Branch which was an additional bonus. It was enjoyable chatting with other members who one usually sees briefly only on Vietnam Veterans Day. Thanks must go to Mick Gay for organising the event, and hopefully, he will investigate further social events in the future.

Talking about Vietnam Veterans Day, it is only a little over three months away. Luncheon Tickets will be available for sale from 1 June. It would be helpful if members could purchase lunch tickets early, especially if you are coming as part of a group (maximum of 10 to a table).

This year's event promises to be bigger than ever. A group from B Company 2 RAR is holding a reunion in August and will be joining us at the ceremony and the luncheon. The First Civil Affairs Association will be returning from all over Australia for the fourth year in succession. We must be doing something right. Advertisements for Vietnam Veterans Day will appear in this edition of Ricochet (Page 8) and in the July and August editions.

Also, in relation to Vietnam Veterans Day, I need to acknowledge the support of Elite Nursing Care. Recently, Darryl Turner's wife, Wendy, had an impromptu conversation with nurses from Elite Nursing Care about the Sub-Branch and Vietnam Veterans Day (Darryl receives care from Elite Nursing). As a result, Ms Akon Deng, service manager with Elite Nursing,

contacted me and advised that the company would like to donate to the Sub-Branch to assist with the cost of Vietnam Veterans Day. The donation was made a few days later.

There were no strings attached and no recognition sought. However, it is only fitting that the company receives a plug for its support. The following was copied from the brochure that Akon forwarded at my request.

Elite nursing Care, (where compassion meets HIGH QUALITY CARE), provides supportive services that make a difference! The company assists in the areas of Independent Living, Hospital Discharge Accommodation and Inclusive Services. Services are provided in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and other areas. Contact numbers are 0435925366 or 0413201452.

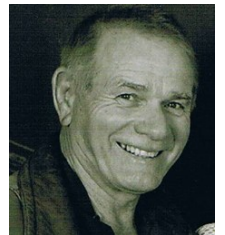
For more information on Elite Nursing Care, just jump on to google and the brochure is available for perusal.

On another note, thanks to Wasyl Malar for taking on the job of polishing the pennies so the Penny Hat Keyring enterprise can continue. It is one hell of a noisy process, and it is a wonder Scotty can still hear after all those years he has been polishing pennies. Thankfully, Wasyl is on acreage at Pomona.

That's it from me.

Regards

John Cunnington
Secretary



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Memorial for Norden VC, from Page 1

“This project has brought together veterans, families, the local council, and community to ensure that when people stand here – whether they knew Richard or are learning his story for the first time – they understand the cost of that service and the character of the man this town is so proud to call its own.”

Richard Norden (**below**) joined the Australia Federal Police and was killed in a motorcycle accident while on duty at the age of 24. The memorial was funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, RSL sub-Branched, local government, the broader community, and distinguished Australians.

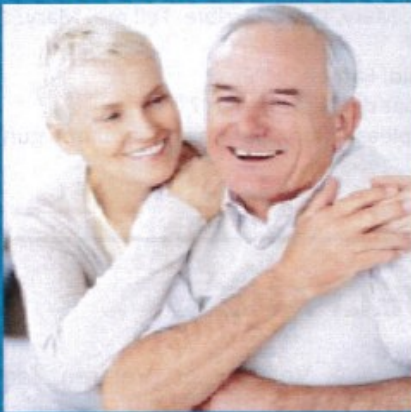


PICTURED Page 1: Veterans of the battle Jim McDonnell (left) and Tony Jensen with the memorial which depicts Richard Norden retrieving his wounded section commander Joe Kelly during the battle. (RSL NSW acknowledged)



AT THE dedication of the Gundagai memorial were two former Governors-General and retired Generals Sir Peter Cosgrove (left) and David Hurley, with current Governor General Sam Mostyn, whose father is a Vietnam veteran.

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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



CELEBRATING NURSES



INTERNATIONAL Nurses Day was marked in May, with memories like this photo: Several unidentified Australian soldiers lie strapped to their stretchers in a tiered formation inside a RAAF Hercules aircraft, while a nurse checks on them prior to their flight out of Vung Tau. – AWM photo.

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VIETNAM VETERANS DAY TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2026
COTTON TREE CENOTAPH

The day will commence at around 0600 hours with the “Toast to the War Dogs” at the War Dog’s Memorial, Alexandra Headland. Breakfast, tea and coffee will be supplied.

Main Commemoration Ceremony
Assembly: 1045 hours at the swimming pool complex, The Esplanade,
Cotton Tree. The short march to the Cotton Tree RSL Cenotaph
commences at 1045 hours.

Service: 1100 hours—1200 hours. **Luncheon:** Maroochy RSL following the service. Welcome to guests at 1215 hours. **Lunch tickets are now available at the Drop-In Centre.**

Cost: \$50 for members and partners. Non-member’s price is \$60 per head. Lunch includes a sumptuous three-course meal, subsidised beer and wine, entertainment, lucky door prizes, raffle draws and surprises! There are some great raffle prizes this year so don’t forget to bring along a few dollars.

IMPORTANT: At the luncheon free seating will be available. However, every effort will be made to fill tables of 10. if you would like to pre-book a table (maximum of 10), please notify John Cunningham on 54933513 (0415375968) or email secretaryv-vaasc@gmail.com and arrange the table settings with him **after you have purchased your tickets.** Names are required for each person.

Special dietary requirements - leave a message with the Duty officer at the Drop-In Centre or contact John Cunningham on 54933513, (0415375968) or email secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

CALOUNDRA TRANSPORT: It is hoped that a courtesy bus will be available for those requiring transport from Caloundra RSL. This is yet to be confirmed as numbers from Caloundra have shrunk noticeably over the years. More information on this issue will be provided as soon as possible. It would be helpful if anyone requiring transport from Caloundra RSL could mention this when purchasing luncheon tickets. At this stage, the provision of a courtesy bus cannot be guaranteed. It all hinges on numbers!

Bullecourt: Defining moment for Australian forces

The Battles of Bullecourt, fought in April and May 1917, stand as pivotal yet tragic episodes in the history of World War I. These engagements, involving Australian and British forces against the German army, were characterised by fierce fighting, significant casualties, and the challenges of modern warfare.

The battles formed part of the larger Battle of Arras and were aimed at breaching the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line, a network of defensive positions designed to resist Allied advances.

The First Battle of Bullecourt commenced on 11 April 1917 with the objective was to break through the Hindenburg Line and create an avenue for further Allied operations. Australian troops, who had recently arrived in France, were assigned a central role in this assault.

The battle marked one of the first attempts to integrate tanks into a co-ordinated attack. Unfortunately, the tanks, a new and untested technology, arrived late and were largely ineffective.

Despite these setbacks, the Australians managed to penetrate parts of the German defences. However, the assault quickly faltered. The troops faced relentless machine-gun fire, and the lack of timely armoured support left them exposed.

Outflanked and overwhelmed, they were forced to retreat. Casualties were severe, with about 3000 Australian soldiers killed or wounded, underscoring the high cost of an inadequately planned operation.

The Second Battle of Bullecourt took place on 3 May, 1917, a date now commemorated for the sacrifices made during the engagement. Learning from the earlier encounter, commanders attempted a more structured assault, though the fundamental challenges remained.

Australian forces again bore the brunt of the fighting, encountering

fierce German resistance in well-prepared positions. The intensity of combat led to over 7000 Australian casualties. Despite the bravery shown by the troops, gains were limited, and the operation did not achieve a decisive breakthrough.

Both battles were characterised by a combination of courage and misfortune. In the first battle, the promise of tank support failed to materialise, leaving infantry exposed to devastating fire.

The Australians' ability to breach the German lines demonstrated remarkable determination, yet poor co-ordination and insufficient artillery support negated their efforts.

In the second engagement, although planning and preparation were improved, the fundamental difficulties of attacking a fortified line remained. German defences were formidable, and the Allies struggled to consolidate any captured ground.

The high casualty rates contributed to a growing sense of frustration and disillusionment among Australian troops, many of whom questioned the competence of British leadership.

The Battles of Bullecourt illustrate several broader lessons from the First World War. They highlighted the challenges of introducing new technology, such as tanks, into large-scale operations. Mechanical failures and logistical delays revealed the limitations of

early armoured warfare, a factor that commanders would continue to grapple with in subsequent campaigns.

Strategically, the battles did not produce significant territorial gains or a decisive shift in the course of the war. Nevertheless, they underscored the importance of morale, leadership, and coordination in modern warfare.

For the Australian forces, the engagements at Bullecourt became a defining moment, shaping their identity and reputation as resilient and determined soldiers, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

The Battles of Bullecourt remain a poignant chapter in the annals of the First World War. They serve as a testament to the courage, endurance, and sacrifice of the Australian Imperial Force, whose members faced near-impossible odds in attempting to breach one of Germany's most formidable defensive lines.

While the strategic outcomes were limited and the human cost was immense, the memory of these battles endures. Commemorated each year, particularly on 3 May, the legacy of Bullecourt reminds us of the harsh realities of war and the extraordinary resilience of those who fought on the front lines.

BELOW: Diggers with "trench foot" are evacuated from the frontline at Bullecourt.—photo from AWM. Article submitted.



Families of Veterans Guild's Call on Budget

Recently, the Federal Government handed down a budget that failed to commit any funding to supporting Australian veteran families, according to Renee Wilson, chief executive officer of the Families of Veterans Guild.

As the government touted a record \$53 billion commitment to Defence over the next decade, the families who provide the bedrock of our national security have once again been left in the shadows.

For a community that hasn't seen a substantive policy update since 1986, this budget was a confirmation that we aren't seen as a priority.

We are seeing millions of dollars allocated to disparate causes, yet as war rages in the Middle East, the families of those who serve our nation are being told to keep waiting.

The message we continuously promote, that was acknowledged by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, is that supporting families is a direct investment in Defence capability.

You cannot build a high-tech, future-ready force on the backs of families who are quietly breaking under the

strain of service life.

The government may argue that veteran and veteran family community groups will receive support through the establishment of the new Veteran Wellbeing Agency.

While we welcome future-state planning, the reality is that this agency will not be ready to allocate funding for at least 12 to 18 months.

Our modest request for \$5.17 million, funding that

would have provided trauma-informed crisis support, career development for partners, and maintained our vital War Widows Program, was ignored.

The Families of Veterans Guild will never stop advocating for our

community, but we must be clear about what this funding gap means:

We are asking for an investment in the people who make service possible. Until the minister is at the cabinet table and funding is shifted from bureaucracy to the front lines, the "record investment" into Defence will remain a hollow promise to those who serve.

(Read the complete article at rarnational.org.au)



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For more than 15 years, the Veterans Retreat has been a cherished haven for veterans and first responders across the Quilpie Shire. What began as a humble idea and generosity of utilising the Alaric Homestead, the Alaric Veterans Retreat was formed.

As its popularity grew, so did the vision and with an acre of land and a century-old corrugated iron hut purchased by a small group of veterans the Alaric Outback Retreat became the Adavale Veterans Retreat. From humble beginnings, this vision grew into a vibrant retreat offering rest, recovery, and connection in one of Australia's most stunning outback landscapes.

Over time, the retreat transformed into a fully fenced facility featuring eight ensuite rooms, a commercial kitchen, dining room and bar. It became a place where service men and women could relax, recharge, and feel supported by a grateful community.

In 2025, the retreat was significantly impacted by flooding. President Ted Robinson and his wife Pip were evacuated by helicopter during the peak of the event, witnessing the damage first hand.

"The flood had a devastating impact on our retreat, but the heart of what we built together lives on," Ted said. "So much volunteering and generosity went into creating the retreat, and we wanted to ensure that legacy continues."

The Quilpie community has long honoured the dedication, courage, and sacrifice of Australia's Defence Force personnel, including their own Lance Corporal Stjepan

Another step for Adavale

'Rick' Milosevic. This deep respect has inspired ongoing support for veterans and their families.

In that spirit, the Adavale Veterans Retreat has made an extraordinary contribution to the future of veteran support in the region. Land adjoining Quilpie Shire Council's fully occupied 17-unit independent living village has been generously donated, along with a financial contribution to help expand the village and provide additional independent living duplexes for veterans and retirees.

Mayor Ben Hall praised the donation as a powerful continuation of the community's longstanding connection with the Australian Defence Force.

"I remember when Bob Young was raising funds through meat tray raffles to help construct the first two units through the RSL," Mayor Hall said. "This donation strengthens that legacy and ensures our community can continue supporting veterans well into the future."

Ted said: "It's incredible to hear this all started through the RSL and supporting veterans. This donation allows that mission to continue, and we're proud to be part of it."

Quilpie Shire Council will now seek financial support from State and Federal Governments to bring this vision to life, progressing detailed design and construction of new units that will offer comfort, dignity, and community for veterans and retirees in their later years **(submitted)**.

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Royal Australian Navy destroyer HMAS Brisbane sailed into the city itself recently and personnel marched through the central business district, exercising the ship's Freedom of Entry to the city.

"It is an honour for the crew of HMAS Brisbane to march through the city and demonstrate our connection with the Brisbane community," Commander David Mason said.

"Opportunities such as this allow us to thank the community for their continued support and strengthen the relationship between Navy and the Australian people."

The visit included a ship open day, giving the public a rare opportunity to experience Navy life and learn more about its role in protecting Australia's interests. – from RAN media.

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COMPLACENCY MAIN THREAT TO NATION – FORUM

The main threat to Australia is complacency, a former Deputy Secretary Strategy with Defence and a former Executive Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Peter Jennings said recently on the Sunshine Coast.

He was speaking at a Defence and Security Forum sponsored by Member for Fisher, Andrew Wallace MP attended by about 200. Member Win Fowles submitted a report on the forum and said the other main topics of interest were:

- Our boutique defence force's expenditures are not prioritised.
- The rules-based international situation is dead.
- Australia does not have a truly national security strategy.
- Fuel rationing mid-year is possible if the Iran situation is not resolved soon.
- China recently sacked five of six senior leaders. Is this a sign of "late-stage authoritarianism"?
- Authoritarian countries seek to destabilise Australia and the West from within.
- We have lost our ability to be resilient in the face of a threat.
- The time taken to build new naval vessels is now much longer.

Submarines took around six years to build in 2000 but around ten years in the 2020s. Should we buy two squadrons (20 aircraft) of B-21 bombers?

- Is the future of AUKUS in uncrewed submarines and aircraft?

While ADF recruiting and retention issues are well known, Mr Jennings said he was impressed by recruits and staff on a recent visit to the Army's Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka, NSW.

No defence-related forum is immune to controversy these days. This writer arrived early for a front row seat. A few minutes later a large man sporting a well-worn red MAGA baseball cap sat on the adjoining seat, prompting a move and an unoccupied seat between us. Just as well because he then began flossing his teeth while awaiting the forum's start.

Later, a speaker mentioned Israel. That triggered an attendee at the back of the hall to declaim, loudly and at a high pitch and continuously, really a screech, that Palestine should be freed.

The MAGA man, now with freshly flossed teeth, acted apoplectically. The Free Palestine person eventually departed under escort and, with feathers slowly unruffling, discussions resumed.

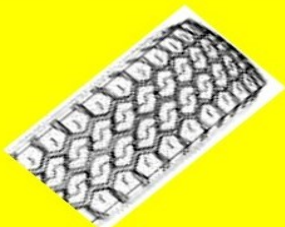
The two main takeaways from the forum were that the state of our military preparedness is, in the words of one speaker, "between terrible and woeful" and that Australia's main threat is our national complacency. Readers may want to consider others.

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VETERANS CRUISING

MANY members and partners enjoyed a Coastal Cruises trip on the Mooloolah River recently. They enjoyed lunch and views, plus a couple of social drinks. No doubt Michael Gay will be organising another similar outing.

VETS AT LUNCH



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This will be an evening of dining, dancing and reflection.

WHEN: Saturday 15th August

LOCATION: Queensland Air Museum

Gates open at 5:30pm

Dress code: evening wear with 60s, 70s optional dress.

Tickets include:

Two course dinner and canapes

Entertainment throughout the evening including appearances by

The Royal Australian Navy Band

Golden Beach State School Choir

Brisbane band 'Tune In' playing 60s and 70s music

Surprise Guest Compere

Special Guest Speakers

Tickets are

\$105 General Admission

\$85 for Veterans



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Note this event is over 18s only






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

John Clarke on Kiwi war humour

When people ask me where the Fred Dagg humour came from, I'm reminded of an old army story. In 1945, the 2nd New Zealand Division fought a costly street-by-street battle against the retreating German army to take the city of Trieste, in northern Italy. Once the city was secured, the Americans decided a victory parade was in order, to be headed by the elite US Marines. It was pointed out that the Americans had arrived after the battle had finished and that the fighting had been done by the New Zealanders. The Italian campaign

was nevertheless being run by US Army command and the parade went ahead as planned. In front came the US Marines, with a large banner bearing their emblem and the words "US Marines. Second to None." Behind them marched the New Zealanders, carrying a large sheet on which was written the word "None".

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John Clarke as Fred Dagg.

My wife went with her friends to see "Fifty Shades Darker" I went to bed at 11pm.

She came home walked into the bedroom with a leather strap in one hand and a chain in the other!

I thought, this looks interesting...

She said, "Here, you forgot to walk the dog!"

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Roll of Honour — Vietnam, JUNE 1962-75

June 1963

Hacking, William Francis (36448), 30, AATTV, Sgt, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

June 1965

Bourke, Michael Alwyn (37867), 19, 1 RAR, Pte, Cheltenham New General Cemetery, Melbourne.

Carroll, William Thomas (37010), 21, 1 RAR, Pte, Warnambool Cemetery, Vic.

Van Valen, Arie (54320), 21, 1 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

June 1966

Arnold, Kevin John (35956), 31, 2 Comp. Ord. Depot, Cpl, Albury Cemetery, NSW.

Brown, Ian Robert (54157), 26, 1 Div. Provost Coy, Cpl, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Coupe, Brendan Francis (15358), 23, 5 RAR, Cpl, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Ryde, Sydney.

Farren, Leslie Thomas (3786921), 20, 5 RAR, Pte, Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park, Melbourne.

Hood, Ronald Dean (4410911), 23, 1 ARU, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Ruduss, Arthur (3410295), 29, 1 ATF, Pte, Springvale War Cemetery, Melbourne.

Sweetnam, John Robert (215958), 19, 5 RAR, Pte, Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland, Sydney.

June 1967

Cox, James George (1731426), 22, 7 RAR, Pte, Crematorium and Garden of Remembrance, Rockhampton, Qld.

La Grasta, Gaetano (A222023), 20, Base Support Flight, LAC, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

June 1968

Barnett, Stuart John (5715206), 21, 4 RAR, Pte, Shepparton Cemetery, Vic.

Butterworth, Raymond John (R66558), 18, HMAS Hobart, OS QMG, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Hunt, Raymond Henry (R54257), 27, HMAS Hobart, Chf Elect Wpns Radio, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

June 1969

Bancks, Lindsay Ronald (19220), 52, 17 Const Sqdn, WO2, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

Brennan, David John (2184013), 22, 9 RAR, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Dewar, Keith Ivan (5715633), 21, 3 Cav Regt, LCpl, Collie Cemetery, WA.

Jackson, Peter Joseph (2789790), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Binalong Cemetery, NSW.

James, Barry (1201885), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Kennedy, John Joseph (216304), 29, 5 RAR, Cpl, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.

Sorrensens, Gordon Dennis (2790417), 24, 9 RAR, Pte, Gympie Cemetery, Qld.

Teeling, Wayne Edward (2790880), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Botany General Cemetery, Sydney.

Turner, Timothy Charles (4720253), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, King-scote Cemetery, Kangaroo Island SA.

Walsh, Brian (214468), 29, AATTV, Sgt (Temp. WO2), Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

Waring, Anthony Edward Loughran (5716163), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Young, Robert George (1733547), 22, 3 Cav. Regt, Gatton Cemetery, Qld.

June 1970

Cashion, Garry Owen (62036), 19, 7 RAR, Pte, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Dickson, Stephen Warwick (2792089), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Beresfield Crematorium, NSW.

Larsson, Stanley Gordon (4720583), 23, 7 RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Morgan, John Leslie (3795756), 22, 2 Adv. Ord. Dep., Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Navarre, Paul John (2792729), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Beechworth Cemetery, Vic.

Scott, Ian Neil (1735424), 21, 1 Fld Sqd., Charleville General Cemetery, Qld.

Waldock, David John (58625), 30, 198 Wks Sect., Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Wojcik, Bogdan Kazimierz (R62713), 23, CDT 3, RAN, AB CD, Rookwood RC Naval Cemetery, Sydney.

June 1971

Attwood, Trevor James (2794278), 23, 1 ATF, Pte, Uralla Cemetery, NSW.

Boardman, Kenneth James (218336), 22, HQ Task Force (RAAC), Cpl, Woronora General Cemetery, Sydney.

Driscoll, Roger William (2794265), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Coonamble Cemetery, NSW.

Dubber, David John (A317809), 28, 9 Sqdn RAAF, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hill, Donald Cameron (2794350), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Lance, Everitt Murray (O316996), 43, 9 Sqdn RAAF, FltLt, Woden Cemetery, Canberra.

Mathers, Ian George (2794496), 22, 12 Fld Regt, 2Lt, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

McCarthy, John Noel (3112702), 26, 3 Cav. Regt, L/Cpl, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Tebb, Peter (1203166), 20, 1 ATF, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Towler, Michael (2792254), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

June 1972

Hewitt, Ronald David (A118817), 22, 2 Sqdn RAAF, LAC, Albany Creek Crematorium, Qld.

- *From Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces.*

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