

RIICOCHET



Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. NOVEMBER 2021

ALWAYS REMEMBERED

Thousands of people around the world, around Australia and in special places on the Sunshine Coast will come together to commemorate this Remembrance Day, as they have since 1919 when it was known as Armistice Day.

For, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare in what was called The Great War and the "war to end all wars".

One of the last battles in which Australians fought was the Battle of Hamel (**photo**), a small-scale brilliantly successful advance made by elements of the Australian Corps under the command of Lieutenant General John Monash, as described on DVA's Anzac Portal.

The purpose of the attack was to take the high ground east of the village of Hamel. This ridge was important to the Germans if they planned to capture Amiens. To the



British forces, it would help an advance further east along both banks of the Somme.

As it turned out, the Germans lost 2600 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Some 1260 Australians and Americans were killed or wounded. The battle was regarded as a model of innovative tactics, one which was repeated on a larger scale in the series of Allied advances from 8 August which ended the war.

Out of the war's devastation came the legend of the poppy; apparently red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground.

Across the Sunshine Coast from Caloundra to Yandina, services will be held to "Remember them".

- Details Page 9.

INSIDE: LADIES DAY LUNCH DETAILS ... AUSTRALIA ZOO FREE DAY



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

Our website: www.vietnamvetssc.org.au

Email: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com **Editor:** ricocheteditor@gmail.com

General information Page 2.

Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



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ASSN of AUSTRALIA
SUNSHINE COAST**

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

Office Phone 54794552 Fax. 5479 4558.
E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

**OFFICE HOURS: From 1 November 2021,
Monday to Friday 0900 to 1200 (9am — noon).**



Veterans & Families Counselling

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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.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)

129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.

Free call to Brisbane Office 1800 555 254

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.

Brisbane memorial for Afghanistan

A MEMORIAL and gardens honouring Australians was officially dedicated in Brisbane recently. The 42 for 42 Afghanistan War Memorial Gardens honours not only those killed in action but also those veterans who returned home and have lost their lives to depression, post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues.

Defence Engagement Commissioner Stuart Smith AO DSC said the 42 for 42 Memorial and Remembrance Garden is a Brisbane touchpoint for our veteran community.

“It provides a space for reflection and commemoration of all who have served in the Afghanistan conflict, but especially for the families of fallen Afghanistan veterans,” Commissioner Smith said.

“Like the Afghanistan memorial in Yungaburra, North Queensland, it is a beacon for the wider community to reflect on our values and freedoms.

“Here lies a marker for the 41 soldiers killed in action in Afghanistan and a 42nd marker for those who have died since their service.

“I want to commend the President of the non-profit organisation, 42 for 42, Sean Mulqueen, and his indefatigable tribe of volunteers for their work in bringing to life this place of pride where we can reflect on the efforts of all who served in Afghanistan and the continuing challenges many veterans face.”

42 for 42 is a non-profit organisation founded by Af-



ghanistan veterans. It is dedicated to supporting the families of fallen Afghanistan veterans, as well as those who have returned from active duty in Afghanistan and their families (Article from DVA).

More information at <https://www.42for42.org.au/>

A tribute poem by Rupert McCall is also available on the website.

PICTURED: At the memorial dedication were Afghanistan veterans Daniel Keighran VC (left) and Curtis McGrath, who was severely wounded and is now a Paralympian. — ABC photo.



Thanks to volunteers

VOLUNTEERS helped out our Association by supporting the Lake Kawana schools marathon event over both days of a recent weekend. As secretary Garry King said: “To all our volunteers who supported the above event on the weekend, a huge thank you from management. To have volunteers covering both Saturday and Sunday was a great effort.” Taking a break (left) were Scotty, Peter Bradford, Dave Oliver; at a run turn was Win Fowles. (right)



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS NOTICE AND GIVE IT TO YOUR PARTNER.

This year's Ladies Day Lunch will be held in the upstairs Function Room of the Maroochy RSL Club on Friday, 10 December, 2021, from noon to 3pm.

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

The occasion is to once again to say 'Thank You' to our long suffering partners who have been forced to endure anxiety and strain over the years, simply because they are the spouse of a veteran.

The Lunch is open to association members (ladies only), partners and widows of association members.

IMPORTANT: If you plan on attending the gathering, you must register by contacting the Duty Officer at the Drop-In Centre on 5479 4552. Your details will be recorded. Please register by 28 November to allow for catering purposes. I hope you all have a wonderful day.



Mick Howe,
President.



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From the Secretary

Well, here we are, less than eight weeks to Christmas and hoping that relatives who we have been unable to mingle with for months will finally be allowed into our state to bring some sort of normality to Christmas.

Despite restrictions, we have been pretty lucky with Covid up here and fortunately our hospital system hasn't been burdened with Covid cases, but we find our health system in Queensland is struggling with day-to-day life. Let's hope the wizards can sort it out!

We have been quite busy over the past two months with Triathlons in both September and October.

Again, I would like to thank on behalf of management those volunteers who gave up their time to assist in both events. Last weekend's two-day event was a great success although a tad warm. I will have

more to say regarding volunteers under separate cover.

As from Monday, November 1, we have decided to further limit office hours at the DIC. Those new hours are 0900hrs until 1200hrs Monday to Friday. We have taken this action after monitoring the numbers of visitors to DIC over a few months. The DIC is working well with regular duty officers manning the desk throughout the week.

We have quite a few names for Ladies Luncheon on December 10 and are hoping Covid doesn't raise its head to cause problems.

Everyone is aware of the housing crisis on the coast and how desperate people are to gain accommodation, so if you know of any avenues to aid in this crisis, please let it be known.

As the year comes to an end, we

realise how much unrest and mental anguish these times have caused people over the last couple of years and our members have weathered the storm, each in his or her special way, all owing to the Aussie spirit, that admittedly has been tested somewhat.

We currently require volunteers for Remembrance Day sales and if you can assist get your name up on the notice board or ring the duty officer to do so.

The advertiser of the month is Sunshine Coast Prosthodontics. For all your dental requirements. Please support those that support you.

That's it for me this month, stay well and stay safe.

**Garry King,
Secretary**



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Commandos challenge ABC

A COMMANDO platoon from Afghanistan has written to the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) about a damaging story based on allegations from a US soldier.

The letter is to “Reporters Mark Wilcacy, Alexandra Blucher and Dan Oakes ... on behalf of November Platoon, 2012”. It reads in part:

Over a year ago, on 20 October 2020, the ABC published an article based on the account of a US Marine who alleged that November Platoon of the 2nd Commando Regiment had executed a “prisoner” in Afghanistan in “mid-2012”.

In this story, the ABC stated that, “A United States Marine Corps (USMC) helicopter crew chief says Australian special forces shot and killed a bound Afghan prisoner after being told he would not fit on the US aircraft coming to pick them up.”

This is an appalling and preposterous lie. The ABC should be ashamed of this failing of basic journalistic practice.

The entire story is based on the account of one man who insists on using a pseudonym yet, bizarrely, agrees to

have his face shown.

This ‘former Marine’ claims he saw members of November Platoon “tackle and hogtie” seven prisoners then, upon being told that a US helicopter only had room for six prisoners, “And you just heard this silence and then we heard a pop. And then they said, ‘OK, we have six prisoners’. So it was pretty apparent to everybody involved in that mission that they had just killed a prisoner that we had just watched them catch and hogtie.”

Australian Army Commando Hits Back At Allegations Of Misconduct In Afghanistan

The impact of this story has been immense, particularly given that it was published on the evening of October 20, 2020, dominating the news cycle on the following day.

That day, 21 October 2020, was the eighth anniversary of the death of Corporal Scott Smith, who was a member of the November Platoon Group, and

therefore one of the accused in your article.

This story was based on the unsubstantiated claims of one US Marine whose account cannot form the basis for the assertions made by the ABC. In the following 12 months there has been no follow up or correction to the published story.

November Platoon is calling for:

- A request a written apology from the ABC and the reporters to the men and families of November Platoon.
- A call for an independent review of the ABC story published on October 20, 2020.
- A call for the ABC to publish a full correction to this story including an unqualified, genuine apology to the members of November Platoon.

The complete letter can be read here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/9fui5dzip9t8bmjt/Letter-to-the-ABC.pdf?dl=0>



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RAN choppers toe the line



A FLIGHT of Royal Australian Navy Wessex 31A ASW helicopters makes a spectacular sight, presumably over Sydney. The Wessex's were first delivered to the RAN in September 1962. By 1980, the Wessex was no longer being used for anti-submarine operations, having been replaced by the more advanced and capable Westland Sea King in this capacity. Instead, remaining Wessex helicopters were retained to perform its secondary roles as a plane guard, search and rescue platform, and as a utility transport helicopter. It was withdrawn from service in 1989. — RAN photo.

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Special coins minted

This year the Royal Australian Mint released two commemorative collectible coins marking the anniversary of the Battles of Long Khanh and Nui Le.

Both coins retail at \$10 each and can be purchased through the Australian Mint online or by phone on 1300 652 020.

The Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program offers funding to assist local communities in honouring the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel.

The Australian Government has committed an additional \$10 million of funding to the Program over four financial years. This brings the total amount of funding in 2021–22 to \$3.5 million.

This 50th anniversary of Australia's withdrawal from the Vietnam War in 2023 presents a unique opportunity for communities around Australia to conduct projects and

Grants for saluting service

activities that commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans.

Organisations are welcome to apply for funding for projects that commemorate this significant anniversary.

Applications are also welcome for projects relating to other wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The current batch of applications closes on 8 February 2022.

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Free day for vets at Australia Zoo

On Sunshine Coast Veterans Day, Thursday 18 November 2021, entry to Australia Zoo will be free for veterans, plus one guest each all day. Veterans will simply have to show their Veteran lapel pin, White or Gold Veteran Card, or other proof of service to get free all-day entry to the Zoo.

Member for Fisher said the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs Andrew Gee would join local service men and women in touring the Zoo on the day and we will be keen to hear their feedback.

“There is no need to book, and I

would urge as many veterans as possible to come along and take the opportunity to reconnect after a difficult year of social isolation for all of us,” he said.

“There will also be the opportunity for Sunshine Coast RSLs and other veterans’ organisations to have stalls at the Zoo. Anyone interested in taking up this opportunity, please contact my office (Phone 5493 5556) or email anw.wallace.mp@aph.gov.au.



Remembrance Day services

Our list of local official Remembrance Day services as supplied by RSL Sunshine Coast District:

CALOUNDRA: 10.15am at Caloundra RSL 19 West Terrace, Caloundra; behind the RSL in the Memorial Garden. All welcome. Enquiries re wreath-laying to Caloundra RSL Sub-Branch Secretary Heather Christie (Phone 5438 5842).

COOLUM-PEREGIAN: 10.40am at Coolum-Peregian RSL Memorial Park, David Low Way. Refreshments available after the service in the Memorial Hall. Enquiries re wreath-laying to Gavin Powell (phone 5446 2588).

KAWANA WATERS: 10.45am at Kawana Waters War Memorial, Pacific Boulevard, Buddina. Enquiries re wreath-laying to Rob Hunt (phone 5493 5290).

MALENY: 10.45am at RSL Maleny Sub Branch Cenotaph. Inquiries re a tribute (phone 5435 2672).

MAPLETON: 10.30am, Mapleton RSL Memorial Park, Flaxton Drive, Mapleton (adjacent Mapleton Tavern). Enquiries re wreath-laying to RSL Secretary Matt Dykes (phone 0427263595).

MAROOCHYDORE: 10.30am, Cotton Tree Cenotaph, inquiries re wreath-laying to Michaela Warren (phone 5443 1719).

MUDJIMBA: 10.35am, Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch, 43 Cottonwood St, Mudjimba. Inquiries re wreath-laying to Graeme Wong (phone 0412 256 918).

NAMBOUR: 10.40am, Quota Memorial Park Cenotaph (Inquiries re wreath-laying to RSL Secretary Neil Friend (phone 0427 400 684).

PALMWOODS: 10.40am, Palmwoods Memorial Hall Cenotaph. Inquiries re wreath laying to Tony Lohrey (phone 0412 969 321).

TEWANTIN-NOOSA: 10.40am, Tewantin Cenotaph (Inquiries re wreath-laying to Rebecca Mjaskalo (phone 5447 1981).

WOODFORD: 10.45am, Woodford Memorial Park. Light Refreshments to follow at Woodford RSL Sub Branch at Woodford Memorial Park, Woodford. Enquiries re wreath-laying to Graham Bleakley (phone 5422 9610).

YANDINA/EUMUNDI: 10.40am, Yandina Cenotaph, Steven St, opposite the Hotel, inquiries re wreath-laying to Tracey Gil-martin (phone 5472 70560).

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The withdrawal



Part of the Australian convoy passes a group of South Vietnamese soldiers along Route 2 on the way to Vung Tau.

Photo: Australian War Memorial

The Australian Army History Unit's **Maj Ian Finlayson** reflects on the withdrawal of 1 Australian Task Force from South Vietnam.

ON FEBRUARY 16, 1971, Cabinet gave approval for the gradual withdrawal of combat and logistic elements of the task force starting in May 1971.

The first draft of a withdrawal plan had been produced by AHQ in September 1969, and on September 6, 1971, AHQ issued Operation Interfuse, the formal instructions to HQ Australian Forces Vietnam (HQ AFV) for the conduct of 1 Australian Task Force's (1ATF) withdrawal from South Vietnam.

The withdrawal was broken into three phases: Phase 1 (August 19 – October 6, 1971) would involve the gradual withdrawal of some elements to Vung Tau, with 3RAR stood down from operations and 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) to be made responsible for the defence of Nui Dat; Phase 2 (October 7 – December 4, 1971) would involve the departure of 3RAR and 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) (less one company), with the remaining 1ATF elements moved to Vung Tau; Phase 3 (December 25, 1971 – February 29, 1972) would involve the withdrawal of all remaining 1ATF elements, less a small rear party and the residual force.

With the HQ AFV General Instruction for withdrawal issued, HQ 1ATF had to translate this into its own detailed plan.

On August 19, 1971, Commander 1ATF Brig B. A. McDonald convened two planning conferences at Nui Dat.

Brig McDonald firmly made the point during the conferences that the withdrawal would not be an administrative move, but was to be conducted tactically.

According to Brig McDonald, the

tactical problem facing 1ATF was that, "We have a big base to defend and a pernicious enemy".

Brig McDonald's fundamental principle would be to keep enemy forces off balance and as far away from Nui Dat as possible and, to this end, 1ATF would continue to conduct mobile operations seeking out the enemy until the completion of Phase 1.

By September 9, HQ AFV had also issued a force level movement instruction broadly allocating all units, personnel, vehicles and stores to ships and aircraft.

The reality was that Australia had limited air and sea movement capabilities with which to conduct the withdrawal of the task force, and ships such as HMAS *Sydney* and HMAS *Jeparit* were required to do multiple trips over an extended period to evacuate the force.

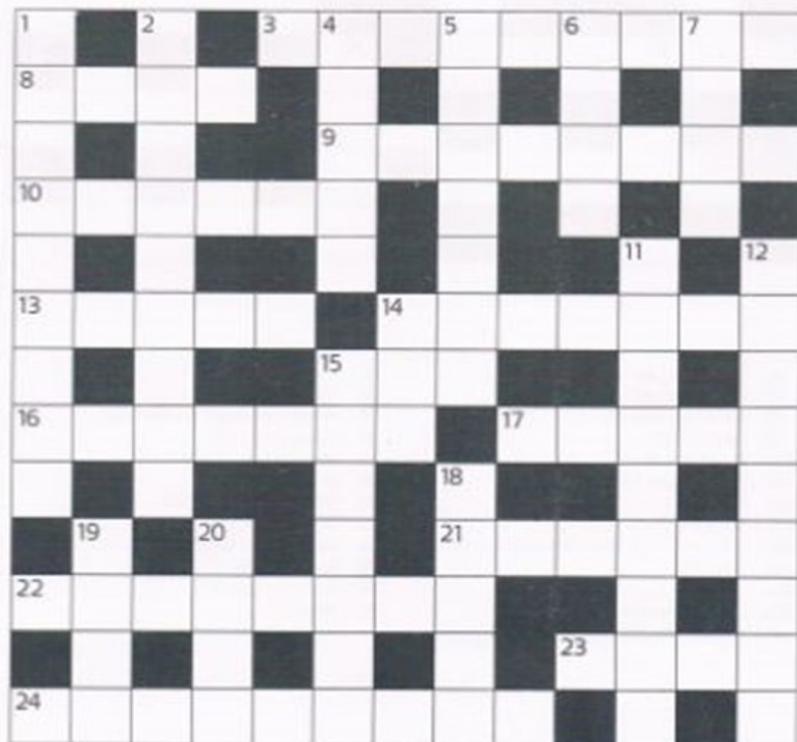
As with the initial deployment, the majority of personnel movement went by air using chartered Qantas Boeing 707 aircraft or, if you were unfortunate, a slow ride by a RAAF Hercules.

On October 6, 1971, Phase 1 was completed, and the responsibility for the security of Phuoc Tuy province was handed over to the South Vietnamese.

With the departure of 3RAR, Nui Dat was now secured by 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC), assisted by 2 Battalion, 43 Regt, of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. A little over a month later, on November 7, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) handed over Nui Dat to the South Vietnamese, marking 1982 days since HQ 1ATF had first deployed to Nui Dat on June 5, 1966.

- submitted by Mike Sheahan

JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



November Trivia

1. Who wrote: "Bring me my bow of burning gold: Bring me my arrows of desire.." ?
a) **William Shakespeare**, b) **William Blake**, c) **William Yeates**, d) **John Milton**.
2. What famous slogan was originally devised by Patrick O'Keefe for the Society of American Florists?
3. What connects the words sitcom, smog, brunch, muppet and cyborg?
4. What symbolic item did Lauren Bacall put into the urn containing Humphrey Bogart's ashes? a) **A pipe**, b) **A gold chain**, c) **A mouthorgan**, d) **A whistle**.
5. Which one of these is on the coast:
a) **Cairo**, b) **Johannesburg**, c) **Tripoli**, d) **Sarajevo**, e) **Nairobi**, f) **Khartoum**?
6. Which one of these is not on the coast:
a) **Venice**, b) **San Diego**, c) **Reykjavik**, d) **Marrakesh**, e) **Helsinki**, f) **Lisbon**?
7. A famous leader's first name of Mohandas is commonly replaced by a first name that means 'great soul'; who was he?
8. Who was the 'The Wizard of Menlo Park' who said, "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration."?
a) **Albert Einstein**, b) **Henry Ford**, c) **Thomas Edison**, d) **Mark Twain**.
9. Paul McGann, Peter Davidson and William Hartnell have each played the same famous sci-fi role. What's the character's name?
10. Months of the year that begin on a Sunday (other than February in non-leap-years) always have five Sundays. What other notable feature do they (including all Februaries) contain?
11. What connects these words?... Dram, Colon, Won, Dong, Kip.
12. Who was the famous rider of the horse -"Marengo"? a) **El Cid**, b) **Clint Eastwood**, c) **Richard III**, d) **Napoleon Bonaparte**.
13. These very old iconic symbols were responsible for what modern system? - the moon, the sun, the planet Saturn, and the Anglo-Saxon gods: Thor, Tiw, Woden, and his wife Frig.
14. Whose secret ingredient is code-named 7X? a) **Black Russian**, b) **Guinness**, c) **Pepsi Cola**, d) **Coca-cola**.
15. Why did so many sailors have a crucifix tattooed on their backs in the 1700's?

ACROSS

3. Stone carving (9)
8. Uncommon (4)
9. Conscientious objector (8)
10. Beverage (6)
13. Singer.....Springfield (5)
14. French Bean (7)
15. Female Elephant (3)
16. Gymnast's costume (7)
17. Baking ingredient (5)
- 21 Hit song for Black Lace (6)
22. Ill-tempered (8)
23. Pleasure trip (4)
24. Packaging material (9)

DOWN

1. Large reptile (9)
2. University tutor (9)
4. Managed (50)
5. Tetanus (4-3)
6. US president 1909-13 (4)
7. Danger (4)
11. Musical Instrument (9)
12. Right-hand side of ship (9)
14. Brick-carrier
15. Currency unit of Brazil
18. Mother
19. Singer....Home (4)
20. The red-eye fish (4)

November Conundrums

1. Why can't a man living in the USA be buried in Canada?
2. The more it dries, the wetter it gets. What is it?
3. What call for help, when written in capital letters, is the same forwards, backwards and upside down?
4. How many of each species did Moses take on the ark with him?
5. One family wants to get through a tunnel. Dad can make it in 1 minute, mum in 2 minutes, son in 4 and daughter in 5 minutes. No more than 2 persons can go through the tunnel at one time, moving at the speed of the slower one. Can they all make it to the other side if they have a torch that lasts only 12 minutes and they are afraid of the dark?

• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18**

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

He was a widower and she a widow. They had known each other for a good number of years, having been high school classmates and having attended class reunions in the past without fail.

On this 60th anniversary of their class graduation, the couple shared the festivities with two other senior singles. They had a wonderful evening, spirits high, with the widower throwing admiring glances across the table . . . and the widow smiling coyly back at him.

Finally, during one dance, he picked up the courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?"

After about 6 seconds of careful consideration, she answered, "Yes... yes, I will !"

Needless to say, the evening ended on a happy note for the widower. However, the next morning he was troubled. Did she say "Yes" or did she say 'No'? He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. He went over and over the conversation of the previous evening, but his mind was blank. He remembered asking the question, but for the life of him could not recall her response.

With fear and trepidation, he picked up the phone and called her. First, he explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the past evening. As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired of her, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say "Yes" or did you say "No"?"

"Why, you silly man" she replied, I said, "Yes. Yes, I will! And I meant it with all my heart!"

The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat.

Then she continued. "And I'm so glad you called. I couldn't remember who asked me!"

And these from Vietnam Veterans Federation Victoria newsletter, "Gday Mate".

"Bless me Father for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl."

The priest asks, "Is that you, little Joey Pagano?"

"Yes, Father it is."

"And who was the girl you were with?"

"I can't tell you, Father, I don't want to ruin her reputation"

"Well Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Tina Minetti?"

"I cannot say."

"Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?"

"I'll never tell."

"Was it Nina Campelli?"

"I'm sorry but I cannot name her."

"Was it Cathy Piriano?"

"My lips are sealed."

"Was it Rosa DiAngelo then?"

"Please, Father! I cannot tell you".

The priest sighs in frustration. "You're very tight lipped and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for four months. Now go and behave yourself."

Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, "What did you get?"

"Four months vacation and five good leads..."

SO, I'm in a bar and two very large women with accents are sitting across from me. I say, "Cool accents, are you two ladies from Scotland?"

One of them yells, "It's Wales you idiot." So I said, "OK are you two Whales from Scotland? I don't remember much after that.

ONE lady to another: "Your husband is now 82, and he still enjoys chasing girls? Aren't you upset?"

"Why should I be upset? Dogs chase cars, but they can't drive."

LATER: "He asked why the house isn't clean since I'm home all day. I asked why we aren't rich since he works all day.

FROM upjoke.com: War has broken out and conscription is enforced. John's birthday is called and he is summoned for basic training.

Once he completes his training, he is sent straight to the front. Upon arriving, he finds out that there is a shortage of weapons.

His commanding officer tells him that it's ok, because they have come to an agreement with the enemy, and whoever raises their finger guns first and says "bang, bang", the other soldier will fall to the ground as if they were dead.

John is surprised and concerned by this, but he has no other choice.

When given the call, he and his fellow soldiers run into the battlefield. John sees his first enemy, raises his guns and yells "bang, bang!"

The enemy clutches his chest and falls to the ground. He sees another one, raises his finger guns, yells "bang,bang!"

However, this soldier keeps coming straight at him.

"Bang, bang!" "Bang,bang!" John is yelling at his soldier, but he doesn't stop.

The soldier keeps coming at John and runs straight over him.

"Tank, tank" are the last words John heard as the soldier continued on his way.



Schoolboy's special poem

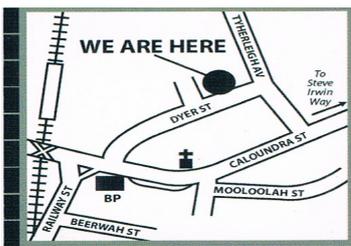
British schoolboy Joshua Dyer was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day in 2019 at the age of 14. An hour later (without any help) he produced this:

One thousand men are walking

One thousand men are walking
 Walking side by side
 Singing songs from home
 The spirit as their guide
 they walk toward the light milord
 they walk towards the sun
 they smoke and laugh and smile together
 no foes to outrun
 these men live on forever
 in the hearts of those they saved
 a nation truly grateful
 for the path of peace they paved
 they march as friends and comrades
 but they do not march for war
 step closer to salvation
 a tranquil steady corps
 the meadows lit with golden beams
 a beacon for the brave
 the emerald grass untrampled
 a reward for what they gave
 they dream of those they left behind
 and know they dream of them
 forever in those poppy fields
 there walks one thousand men



He read the poem at a Remembrance Day service in High Wycombe on Remembrance Day 2019. Josh (pictured), from Herefordshire, was a student at Tenbury High Ormiston Academy in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.



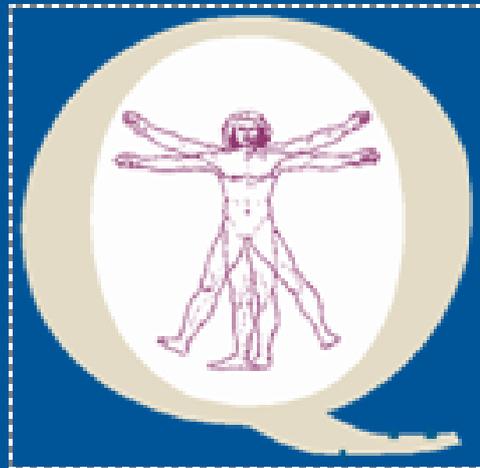
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NOVEMBER TIMELINE: Saigon coup to Holden

2 November 1963: Ngô Đình Diệm, South Vietnam's first President (1955–63), and his brother, Ngô Đình Nhu, are assassinated in a successful CIA-backed *coup d'état* led by General Dương Văn Minh of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

3 November 1957: Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

4 November 1862: Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

4 November 1930: Phar Lap won the Melbourne Cup (see below). Phar Lap won 37 races from 51 starts. His death in the United States in 1932 prompted an outpouring of anger and grief.

4 November 1942: During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after a twelve-day battle. Winston Churchill stated: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

6 November 1917: During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Aus-

tralian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

7 November 1861: About 4000 people gathered at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne to watch a horserace that would become one of Australia's most important sporting events, the Melbourne Cup. Archer was the winner.

8 November 1965: 1 RAR fights one of the first set-piece engagements of the war between Australian forces and the Viet Cong at the Battle of Gang Toi. Two servicemen, Private Richard Parker and Private Peter Gillson, are post-ed missing believed killed during the fighting. Their bodies are recovered more than 40 years later and returned to Australia for burial.

9 November 1989: The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile (45km) wall had been constructed in 1961.

10 November 1964: Selective conscription is introduced for 20-year-old Australian males by ballot under the National Service Act (1964).

11 November 1918: The Armistice between the Allied and Central Powers was signed, silencing the guns of World War I effective at 11 a.m. – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

- continued next page

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BTPhysiotherapy.com.au

- from previous page

Now, on what is called Remembrance Day, in many places a moment of silence in memory of the millions of fallen soldiers is still observed. **PHOTO: King George V on the first Remembrance Day in 1919.**

11 November 1975: After a series of dramatic events including a 1974 double dissolution and a budgetary supply crisis, the Gough Whitlam-led federal Labor government became the first (and only) government in Australian history to be dismissed by the Governor-General.

12 November 1894: Lawrence Hargrave, Australian inventor, astronomer, explorer and historian, connected four box kites of his own design. Having added a seat, he flew with the kites 16 feet (4.8m) off the ground, thus proving it was possible to build a safe, heavier-than-air flying machine. The Wright brothers achieved the first successful airplane flights on December 17, 1903.

13 November 1965: The first VC is awarded posthumously in Vietnam to Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Arthur



Wheatley who died while defending a wounded comrade.

17 November 1869: The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

22 November 1963: Lyndon B. Johnson becomes US president after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

24 November 1969: The US Army announced that Lt. William L. Calley had been charged with premeditated murder in the massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai in March of 1968.

26 November 1703: A "Great Storm" lasting two days struck southern England, flooding the Thames and Severn Rivers, killing at least 8000 people.

29 November 1948: The launch of Australia's first locally made mass-

production car, the Holden FX, was a milestone in Australian manufacturing.

Sources included:
<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/defining-moments-timeline>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_Vietnam_War
<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>

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VETERAN WHITE CARD: White Card holders with a clinically assessed need arising from a war-caused or service-related injury/disease/condition covered for under the Treatment Principles.

The application for an electric scooter or wheelchair involves a comprehensive process and may take some time as it requires prior approval from DVA. To start the application process, talk to your general practitioner (GP) or medical specialist first as they will need to complete a medical questionnaire.

Once you have medical clearance your ActivOT OT can complete the next steps. Your OT will visit you in

your home environment and assist you to work out what item will best suit your needs and make sure you have somewhere safe and secure to store it and charge it. Once approved your OT will arrange a trial of suitable electric scooters or wheelchairs to take place at your home. Then once it is delivered your OT will continue to work with you to ensure you can safely operate the scooter or wheelchair.

We are happy to assist you in accessing eligible products and services you are entitled to through the DVA RAP program. It is always our aim to work with you to help keep you living safely and independently in your home for as long as possible.

*Warmest wishes,
Your ActivOT OT
Nora*

**Nora English
Occupational Therapist
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E: nora@activot.com.au**



Three books from our Vietnam veterans

Our last surviving Vietnam War Victoria Cross recipient, Keith Payne VC, has published a book about his life – before and after the war and during the conflict.

The book, *No One Left Behind*, for the first time tells in his words the story of his remarkable life. His definitive autobiography reveals the story of a big-hearted, iconic Australian and the heart and heartaches of a man who continues to fight for his mates, say publishers Macmillan Australia.

From the battlefields of Korea, Malaya and Vietnam to the struggle for veterans' welfare, Keith Payne has never shied away from a fight. More than 50 years ago, this bravery saw him receive the Commonwealth's highest military honour - the Victoria Cross.

Keith grew up one of 13 children in the shadow of the Great Depression and the Second World War.

After seeing his father come home wounded from war, Keith joined the army. He was sent to fight in Korea at just 18 years old, the bloody beginning to decades of military service across the world.

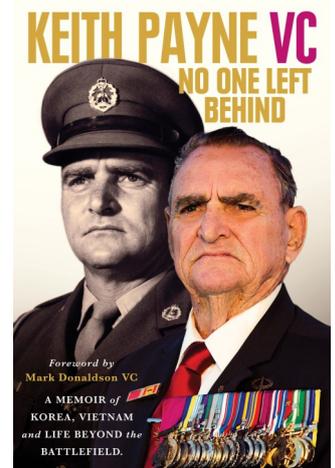
Keith's life was defined by one night in 1969. In the dark jungle of Vietnam, under heavy enemy fire, Keith

returned to a fled battlefield to rescue 40 of his soldiers.

Keith spent decades in the public spotlight while struggling with his own demons, then found new purpose as an advocate for others. In a lifetime of service, he has helped not only veterans of foreign wars, but also Indigenous diggers and communities left behind by civilian and military bureaucracy.

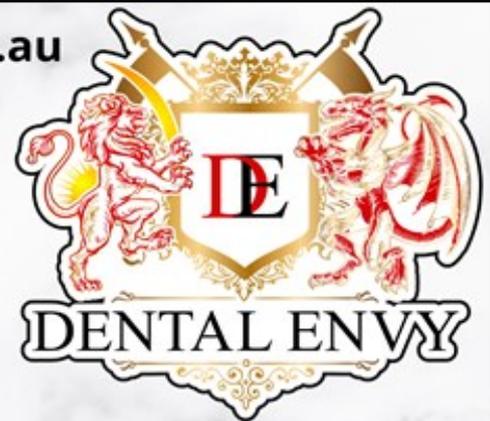
Former Governor-General and fellow Vietnam War veteran Sir Peter Cosgrove said: "I first met Keith Payne in Vietnam and was in awe of this understated hero whose lifesaving actions in combat became a treasured Australian legend. This book shows over time how that legend became the man. In my long military career, it may be said that my friendship with Keith and Flo was part of my firmament as an Australian General."

- Continued next page



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Their stories told ...

- From previous page

Afghanistan veteran Mark Donaldson VC said: "In his own words Keith tells, humbly, how he not only saved 40 of his soldiers in Vietnam, but how he went on to help many, many more veterans in the years to come, while also striving to get on top of his own problems. I can't think of a better example to set ... take care of yourself, but never forget to look after your mates."

Books featuring the Vietnam War continue to appear regularly nearly 50 years after it ended.

Another is *Down From the Mountain – The Path of a Baby Boomer*, by Brian Vickery, a National Serviceman who stayed on in the Army for 23 years (Published by Xlibris).

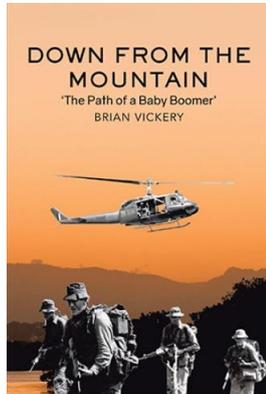
The book was written to record the history of Brian's father and his uncles. They all joined the Second World War together and Brian thought that their service should not go unrecorded.

It was intended to be a short history but led itself into Brian's life when he unexpectedly found himself drafted into an Army that he had no interest in joining, according to the book description.

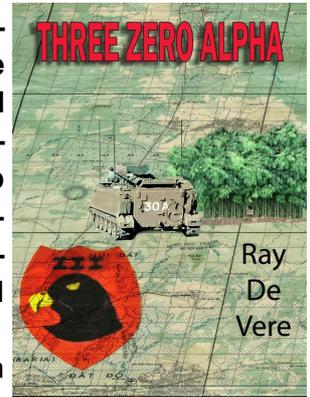
The Army however provided a dimension for Brian that he had never visualized and provided the experiences and friendships that can only be achieved through hardship and common deprivation.

These experiences were thought worthy of being included in the book for the purpose of providing a more complete history of Brian's family with particular emphasis on the way he viewed a 13-month tour of Vietnam and how it affected him.

Brian came from near Murwillumbah where his parents owned a banana plantation. He lives with his wife of 53 years on the Gold Coast.



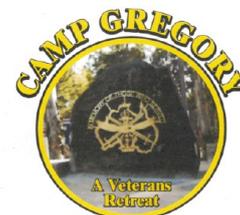
A third book released recently is *Three Zero Alpha*, the story of 3 Troop, an armoured cavalry unit (Armoured Personnel Carriers) and its Troop Leader, Ray De Vere MC, during the Vietnam War. Three Zero Alpha was Ray's radio call sign.



Arriving in Vietnam, the men are rapidly introduced to the taking of human life and the horror of dealing with it, according to the book description. There is a tragic tale of a river ambush (Book published by Smashwords).

Vietnam was not a war with declared front lines, and the enemy was everywhere. The farmer with a hoe in his hand, who waved to armoured vehicles going down a track, might put down the hoe and pick up a rocket propelled grenade to fire at a passing APC.

In June 1969, the troop was involved in one of the most significant battles of the Vietnam War. The Battle of Binh Ba was fought in a built-up area against two battalions of a North Vietnamese Army regiment. Supporting the troop, tanks and an under strength infantry company made up the Australian component.



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Remembrance Day is upon us. Allow me to remember, with you, my grandfather, whose name I carry. I am his eleventh grandchild of thirty-three grandchildren.

Grandfather was born in Cheltenham, County of Gloucester on May 27, 1882. He completed a carpentry apprenticeship under his father. He married my grandmother, Agnes Fannie Reeman, in Leeds in 1907. In 1911, together with their first son, they migrated to Australia on the S.S. Otway, sponsored by my grandmother's brother, for a better life in Brisbane.

Three more children followed in their new idyllic paradise, the third of which was my father. The First World War began in 1914, when my grandfather was working as a carpenter on the Roma Street Railway Station. Loyalty to his homeland, or sheer stupidity, saw him leave his wife and four little children in Brisbane while he joined the First Australian Imperial Force and went to defend his homeland, England, in Europe.

He enlisted in the 1st AIF, 26th Infantry Battalion, on January 6, 1917, aged 34 years and 8 months, as a Private, with regimental number 6677. He embarked with the 19th Reinforcement Batch in Sydney on

Fireside with the Padre



HMAT A18 Wiltshire on February 7, 1917. After kitting, he had less than a month for training to become conversant with a weapon.

He disembarked at Devonport in England on April 11, 1917 and proceeded to the 7th English Battalion at Rolleston Army Camp on Salisbury Plains. On October 23, 1917, he went from Southampton, England arriving Le Have, France, on October 24. On November 10, 1917, he was taken on strength in Belgium. A year later, he was hospitalised with influenza. While at 17 AB Unit, he was wounded by mustard gas,

On February 14, 1919, three months after Armistice Day, he was granted leave with pay to work as a ship's carpenter at Camwell, Laird & Company Limited at Birkenhead, Cheshire.

There are 80 letters held in the records of the Australian War Memorial when my grandmother advised of changes of address or enquired about her husband's progress from the mustard gas. Finally, when

he would be coming home. Meanwhile, letters from Camwell, Laird asked the Australian High Commission in London, to extend the period that this 'excellent worker' could stay with their shipyard.

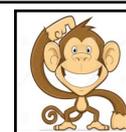
Grandfather returned to Australia on August 1, 1919 on board the HMAT Argyllshire, long after his unit had returned home.

Settling back into civilian life, my grandfather was given a 'Soldiers Settlement' at Glass House Mountains, where the family lived for a time, adding five more children to the family. Sadly, although both girls were born healthy, of their three sons, one died at birth and the other two had birth defects due to the mustard gas.

Grandfather died in Brisbane on August 7, 1944 knowing that, against all reasoning, he returned to England to serve his country. R.I.P.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

Answers from page 11



Trivia Answers

1. William Blake (1757-1827,
2. "Say it with Flowers."
3. They are all 'portmanteau' words, ie., combinations of two different words. (Sitcom is derived from situation and comedy; smog from smoke and fog; brunch from breakfast and lunch; muppet from marionette and puppet; cyborg from cybernetic and organism.
4. A whistle (the gold whistle was engraved with the words "If you need anything, just whistle" - reference to Bacall's lines spoken to Bogart in their first film together To Have And Have Not, released in 1944.
5. Tripoli (Libya).
6. Marrakesh (Morocco)
7. Mahatma Gandhi (Mohandas

- Karamchand Gandhi, 1869-1948
8. Thomas Edison (1847-1931,
9. 'The Doctor', or 'Doctor'. (Not Dr Who. Dr Who is the name of the series. The character is called The Doctor).
10. Friday the 13th.
11. They are currencies (as at May 2005), specifically: Dram (Armenia), Colon (Costa Rica, El Salvadore), Won (North Korea, South Korea), Dong (Vietnam), Kip (Lao People's Democratic Republic, formerly Laos).
12. Napoleon Bonaparte.
13. The days of the week.
14. Coca-Cola.
15. In the hope that the ship's captain would be merciful in the event of having to administer punishment by whipping.

Crossword Answers

Across:- 3. Sculpture, 8. Rare, 9. Pacifist, 10. Coffee, 13. Dusty, 14 Haricot, 15. Cow, 16. Leopard, 17. Flour, 21. Agadoo, 22. Petulant, 23. Tour, 24. Cardboard.

Down:- 1. Crocodile, 2. Professor, 4. Coped, 5. Lock-jaw, 6. Taft, 7. Risk, 11. Accordion, 12. Starboard, 14. Hod, 15, Cruzado, 18. Mater, 19. Lena, 20. Rudd.

Conundrum Answers

1. You cannot bury a living man.
2. A Towel.
3. SOS.
4. None. Moses wasn't on the ark, Noah was.
5. First mum and dad – 2 minutes. Dad comes back – 3 minutes, both children go to mum – 8 minutes. Mum comes to dad – 10 minutes and they both get to their children – 12 minutes.



OVER RIVERFIRE

A C-17A Globemaster III aircraft from No. 36 Squadron, Amberley, flies over the Brisbane CBD during the city's recent Riverfire festival. A large bird (framed) seems unperurbed by the intrusion. — RAAF photo.



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Roll of Honour – Vietnam, month of November 1962-75

Over the 11 editions to February we published on a monthly basis an Australian Roll of Honour for the Vietnam War (1962-75) with a photo of each of those who lost their life. We continue to publish the monthly roll without the photos. Lest We Forget.

November 1965

Gillson, Peter Raymond (37857), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Faw-kner 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, AATTV (attached RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Wheatley, Kevin Arthur (29890), 28, AATTV (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, Faw-kner 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 and photos from Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces; Find A Grave.

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

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