



Existing and previous veterans' entitlements will not be affected by a major overhaul of legislation covering the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Federal Government has pledged.

"Grandparenting all existing arrangements to ensure there is no reduction in entitlements currently being or previously received by veterans. Current payment rates are maintained and indexed normally," states one of the "core elements of the proposed framework".

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mr Matt Keogh (**pictured right**) announced recently the commencement of consultation on the legislation pathway proposal that has been developed by Government aimed at "simplifying and harmonising veterans' legislation".

"A single Act system will provide greater clarity and consistency around entitlements for veterans and their families, simplifying claims."

The proposal is for the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA), Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA), and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA)

New era looming for veteran legislation

will come under an improved act, the MRCA.

"New claims under existing schemes will cease after a transition period, from which point all new veteran claims will be dealt with under an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) as the sole ongoing Act. The MRCA currently services the majority of claims," he said.



The proposal follows the interim report in August 2022 of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide which recommended: "The Australian Government should develop and implement legislation to simplify and harmonise the framework for veterans' compensation, rehabilitation and other entitlements."

This was after : "The Report confirmed that veterans' legislation is complex and difficult."

The response was: "The Government will develop a pathway for simplification and harmonisation of veteran compensation and rehabilitation legislation on the basis of this recommendation, noting that funding will be considered in the context of budget processes and fiscal constraints. The timing of implementation will be informed by what is required for necessary consultation and the passage of legislation."

PHOTO: World War One veterans learn boot-making under a pre-DVA Repatriation Department program in 1920. More information Page 3 and here www.dva.gov.au/legislationconsultation2023



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 OFFICE NEWS.

Veterans & Families Counselling

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VIETNAM VETERANS ASSN of AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

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VVAASC SUB-BRANCH DROP-IN-CENTRE



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

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OFFICE NEWS

NEW!

OFFICE OPEN Monday to Friday 0900 to 1200 (9am — noon).

WANTED: DUTY OFFICER for Monday mornings; also one wanted available for relief (contact office).

POSH MEETINGS: Partners Offering Support and Hope meet Friday 1-4pm, informal gathering in the meeting room beside the Drop in Centre. Coffee/tea/chat.

MEMBERSHIP fees are due annually on 31 December. Renewal form on website or with mail-out Ricochet.

NEXT meeting Tuesday, 21 March 11am.

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.

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

Changes for DVA acts

- from page 1

In addition to the proposal to move to a single Act model, the Government is consulting on a number of further improvements to the veteran support system:

- providing the capacity to prescribe presumptively accepted conditions;
- making the existing Veterans' Review Board the first point of administrative appeal for all claims;
- merging the existing Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission; and
- establishing a Ministerial Advisory Council to provide advice directly to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Mr Keogh, 41, was first

elected to the House of Representatives for Burt, Western Australia, in 2016. He has been Minister since June last year.

People can get involved in the Legislative Reform Consultation Pathway process and provide feedback via:

- Webinars: Further details

about Webinars and how to register to attend will be published soon on DVA's website.

- Signing up to receive advice by emailing: legislation.reform@dva.gov.au
- Engagement through the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table and other forums.

Submissions can be made via the feedback form on the website (see Page 1); emailing legislation.reform@dva.gov.au, by fax to (03) 62216602 or by post to GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001.

Submissions can be made anonymously and will not be published without permission.

Current and proposed legislation pathway

CURRENT SYSTEM

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)

Pension based scheme

Conditions from operational, peacekeeping and hazardous service before 2004. Covers some other defence service mostly between 1972 and 1994

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA)

Workers' compensation model

Conditions from non-operational service before 2004. Also covers operational service between 1994 and 2004

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA)

Conditions from service on or after 1 July 2004

PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM

Legacy VEA and DRCA

Existing claims under the VEA and DRCA before the specified commencement date would remain under grandparented provisions of those Acts

The single ongoing Act

New claims from a specified commencement date irrespective of when and where the veteran served, or when their injury, illness or death occurred

DIGGERS TRAINING UKRAINIANS IN BRITAIN

In a section of woodlands in southern England, a platoon of Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) recruits (**pictured right**) is developing survivability skills while on a tactical exercise as part of their infantry training.

The platoon is under the instruction of Australian soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, deployed on Operation Kudu.

The operation is the Australian Defence Force's commitment to the training of UAF recruits in the UK.

Survivability depends on factors such as climate, predators, exposure and threat, but it can be learned.

The training on this exercise comprised drills, section attacks, ambushing and patrolling to help recruits support their nation's defence against Russia's illegal invasion.

"We have gone over harbour routine, making target indications, and built up from fire and manoeuvre in pairs into section attacks," one Australian platoon commander said.

One recruit, who cannot be named, worked as a television producer before joining the UAF. He is now requalify-



ing as a soldier, mastering techniques to enhance his survivability.

"I have learned a lot. How to move in a group. How to help," said the recruit, speaking through an embedded linguist.

From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all safe and healthy. Well here it is, 2023, and we are off again.

You will note that once again I am your President even though at last years AGM, I indicated that I would not be standing again this year. I think it's a simple matter of not having a choice.

Garry King, your Senior Vice President, also made it clear that last year would be his last in that office and here he is, back again for another round.

Two of the main news items from the AGM was that two of our much valued and esteemed Committee members; Treasurer Glen Preston, and Membership Officer Pieter Reus, have stood down.

Glen has given a great number of years to our organisation and his main reason for leaving is due to his current health problems. We wish Glen all the best for his future endeavours and sincerely hope that his health improves in the very near future.

As with Glen; Pieter has also done a mammoth job in his position over numerous years and although resigning his position, he has graciously agreed to remain at

his post until another suitable member can be trained. Pieter, we thank you for your on-going assistance to our organisation, and for the many years that you have contributed.

We have a new Treasurer lined up; Ms. Deb Day. Deb is currently the Treasurer at the Mudjimba RSL Club, and when learning that we were to lose our own Treasurer, Deb valiantly, courageously and fearlessly stepped forward and offered her services. Welcome aboard Deb.

Well, that's about it for the moment. Remember, if you have any ideas or thoughts on how we can improve our Association, drop us a line or give us a call at the office. We welcome all feedback, good or bad.

Best Regards,

Mick Howe,

President.



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From the Secretary

Well it has been a slow start to the year for me caused by mystery illness and total fatigue.

I am still in the process of investigation with specialists from across the spectrum. Hopefully the mystery will be solved in the near future.

As mentioned at the recent AGM, we have the Mooloolaba Triathlon coming up in the second week of March (12th).

Volunteers have been approached and it is looking promising at this point. More contacts to be made in coming days.

Poor attendance at the AGM remains a concern for our committee, however we are looking at ways to improve this in the future.

It was great to see our patron, Laurie Drinkwater attend once again.

We received a considerable donation from a local Over 50s resort in Buderim.

Natures Edge Resort donated \$340 dollars to our association which was much appreciated and our first donation for year 2023. I have forwarded an email expressing our appreciation to the treasurer of Natures Edge.

The question of Bunnings BBQ was also raised at the AGM and I advised attendees that our application is current and it could be we only receive one opportunity per rotation. Bearing in mind the amount of community groups involved.

I trust all elected members of our executive and committee enjoy the coming year and look forward to your input.

In closing, I would like to pass on our sincere gratitude to Glen Preston and Pieter Reus for their many years of service to keep our association at the top of our game. Thank you both very much.

We also look forward to Deborah Day joining us in March to take the role of treasurer.

That's it from me. See you at the DIC at some stage.

Garry King,
Secretary



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GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST**

Informal discussion in lieu of a General Meeting. Meeting opened 1125hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Garry King.

Garry reported that a donation of \$340 received from the retirement village Nature's Edge; thank you to Robyn Tith-eradge and her Team. The printer contract is to continue. All volunteers will be contacted prior to the TRI on 12 March 2023.

Johno informed the Meeting that a new catalogue is available for the 50th Anniversary of the withdrawal of Australian Forces from Vietnam. If any members wish to purchase items please contact the Association directly for a group order.

Chips advised the assembled persons that the photo of him in *Ricochet* was indeed taken at Puckapunyal in 1954. He again thanked all members for their friendship over the years.

Scotty gave a report on the Digger Hat Jewellery status, the group still meets on the first Monday of the Month and generally there are six in attendance.

Mal Overend inquired if there would be a BBQ to thank those who had attended the AGM, suggesting that a meal at the Bowls Club could be considered. Mick Howe advised that a solution was in progress.

Laurie Drinkwater asked if the Bunnings BBQs still happen and Mick advised him that instead of Bunnings we had a successful BBQ at Cotton Tree Meats and a very generous donation of \$500 was made by a young man and gratefully received by VVAASC.

Win Fowles representing Defence Welfare League discussed the impact of combining two Compensation Acts and generously offered copies of the DWL magazine for distribution within the DIC.

Kerry White, the Editor of Ricochet offered an apology to Chips for the incorrect information attributed to the photograph. The first complaint in 12 months of publication! Ricochet will continue to be mailed to those who prefer hard copy and there is a good supply of advertisers available.

Pieter Reus informed the gathering that there are 161 financial members which includes, ordinary, general, associate and POSH. By all attendees Pieter was profoundly thanked for his 10 years of service to the Association as Membership Officer.

The informal Meeting closed at 1135hrs.

Next General Meeting will be Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 1100hrs.



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THANKS TO COATES HIRE



AT COATES Hire, Kunda Park, Maroochydore, Office Manager, Lillian and Manager Doug were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Mal Overend on behalf of Vietnam Veterans Sunshine Coast for their kind donation of hire of a cherry picker for use in erecting our new Drop In Centre Sign.

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Special presentation for significant career

MARKING his 42 years serving with the Royal Australian Regiment, Wayne Giddings (right) was presented with a certificate by Major General Shane Caughey Colonel Commandant of the Regiment. They served together in several units, significantly in 6RAR when Shane was CO and Wayne was RSM. Both started their military careers as privates. Wayne retired as a Major. The presentation was made at the monthly Riflemen's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club. Wayne was presented with a Royal Australian Infantry Corps Campaign and Battle Honours honour board.

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New vaccine for shingles

A member has recently received a letter from his GP advising that DVA is now subsidising a new shingles vaccine called Shingrix.

"As the information provided states, shingles can be a debilitating long lasting disease with some nasty side-effects, and the new superior Shingrix vaccine is recommended as a preventative measure," Lew MacLeod, a new member, said.

"Two doses of Shingrix have been shown to be 90 per cent effective in people over 50 years of age to prevent shingles and the complications from the disease.

"DVA will cover costs for the vaccine (which is around \$380 per dose) for all Gold Card holders and for specific White Card holders.

"Individuals should get Shingrix even if they have had shingles or have received the older Zostavax vaccine.

"Veterans should make an appointment with their GP to obtain the vaccine. I did find that the GP did not keep the vaccine at his surgery because of the cost of the items (around \$516 for the two shots).

"I had to get a script then go to the chemist and obtain the vaccines, they gave me one and kept the other which I will pick up in two months when I get the second dose."

On show for Navy Week in Sydney



NAVY ships (from left) Hobart, Canberra and Arunta were open to the public in Sydney on 26 February as part of Navy Week.— WO Shane Cameron photo.

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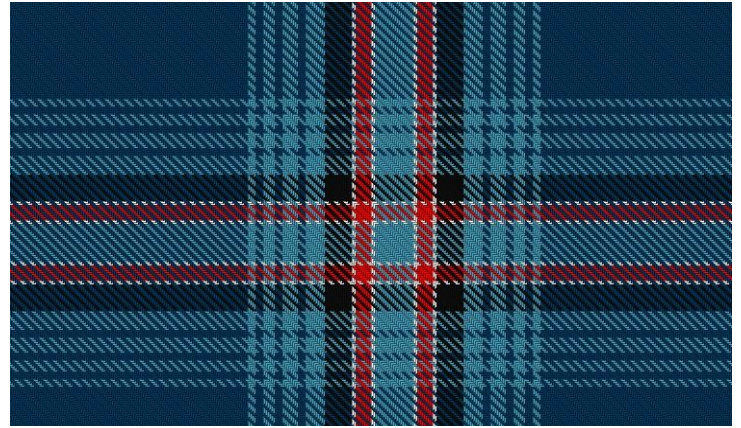
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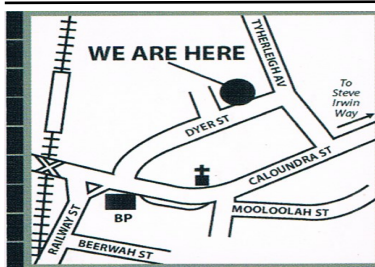
Tartan for RAAF centenary

A TARTAN has been created to mark the centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force which was celebrated in March 2021. The tartan has been registered in the official Scottish Register of Tartans and is intended for use by serving, reservist, retired and support staff members of the RAAF. As the registration notes: "The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) tartan has been created to celebrate 100 years since the Australian Air Corps became the Royal Australian Air Force, with HRH King George V approving the use of the word 'Royal' in the name in June 1921, and to honour the service of all the men and woman who have served in the RAAF for the last 100 years and to those who continue to serve.



"The colours are intended to represent those associated with the RAAF: light blue represents the RAAF Ensign; dark blue represents the Australian National Flag and the blue roundel in which is located the red kangaroo, 'in motion', facing forward to the front of the aircraft; white represents the seven pointed Commonwealth Star, the five white stars of the Southern Cross constellation and the central background of the roundel; red represents the British Union Jack and the securing & placement of the red kangaroo. Prepared for weaving by Marton Mills and Ingles Buchan."

This tartan cannot be produced without express permission from The House of Tartans Australia. A colour version can be viewed in *Ricochet* online at the VVAASC website or here <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=13136>



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Top brass on visit

U.S. General Douglas MacArthur (second from right) inspecting the artillery gun at Strathpine, on Brisbane's northside, during World War Two. It was the site of a WWII training base. The US 1st Cavalry Division occupied Camp Strathpine from July 1943 until February 1944. This included infantry battalions, artillery, ordnance and reconnaissance units. The 15,000 men of this division received jungle warfare training in the surrounding bushland, artillery range practice at Petrie and amphibious landing practice on Bribie Island. — from State Library of Queensland.



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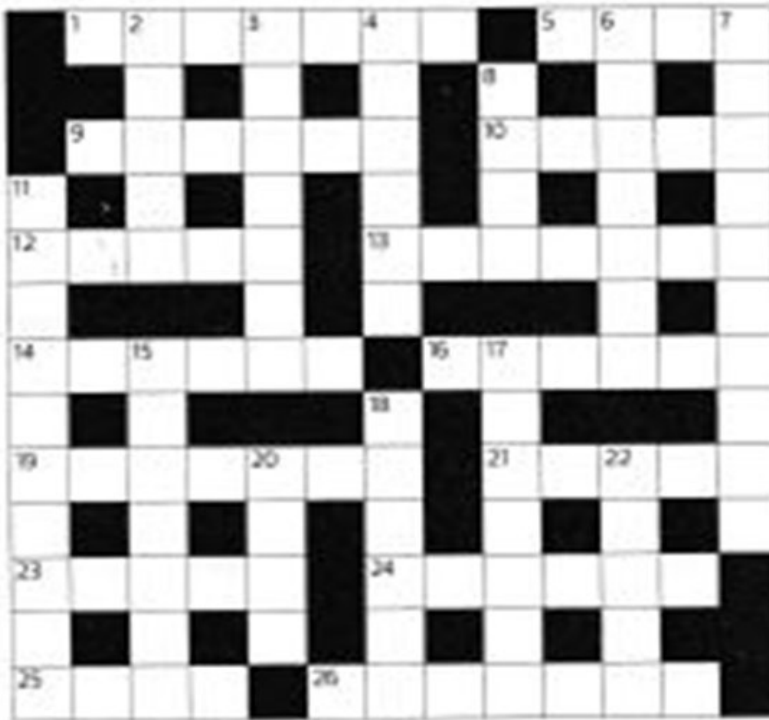
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JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



Across

1. Poultry bird (7)
5. Exhibit (4)
9. Freebooter (6)
10. Tooth (5)
12. Garret (5)
13. School subject (7)
14. Bell-tower (6)
16. Distance (6)
19. Hug (7)
21. Student (5)
22. Of the country (5)
24. Show's ending (6)
25. Fraction (4)
26. Cold-storage cabinet (7)

Down

2. Winch (5)
3. Author of the Canterbury Tales (7)
4. Country town of Devon (6)
6. Clutching (7)
7. Useful, productive (10)
8. Complacent (4)
11. London landmark (6,4)
15. Former British political party (7)
17. Cost (7)
18. Young cow (6)
20. Wheel spindle (4)
22. Regular beat (5)

Sportsmanship

The coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball player aside and asked, 'Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?'

The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?'

The little boy nodded 'yes'.

'So,' the coach continued, 'I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse, the umpire, or call him a dickhead or asshole. Do you understand all that?'

The little boy nodded 'yes' again.

He continued, 'And when I take you out of the game so another boy gets a chance to play too, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach "a dumb ass or s***thead" is it?'

The little boy shook his head 'NO'.

'GOOD', said the coach . . . 'Now go over there and explain all that to your grandmother!'

March Trivia

1. Which Spanish city is famous for its 'running of the bull' during the annual San Fermin festival? A. Barcelona. B. Seville. C. Pamplona. D. Tarragona.
2. What is the national flower of Scotland? A. Heather. B. Gorse. C. Bluebell. D. Thistle.
3. What is the capital city of Ukraine? A. Kiev. B. Vilnius. C. Minsk. D. Pristina.
4. Manitoulin Island is the world's largest island in a lake. In which of the Great Lakes of North America is it found? A. Lake Huron. B. Lake Michigan. C. Lake Erie. D. Lake Ontario.
5. What is the name of the winged horse of Greek legend? A. Centaur. B. Hippocampus. C. Pegasus. D. Unicorn.
6. What nationality was the artist Rembrandt? A. German. B. Belgian. C. Swiss. D. Dutch.
7. Who created and wrote about the fictional continent Middle Earth? A. Terry Pratchett. B. J. R. R. Tolkien. C. George R. R. Martin. D. Neil Gaiman.
8. How was American writer Samuel Langhorne Clemens better known? A. Mark Twain. B. Walt Whitman. C. Joseph Heller. D. John Steinbeck.
9. Which artist's works include "The Persistence of Memory", "The Temptation of St. Anthony", and "Lobster Telephone"? A. Picasso. B. Salvador Dali. C. Jackson Pollock. D. Rene Magritte.
10. In which novel are Ralph, Jack and Peterkin three castaways? A. Treasure Island. B. Lord of the Flies. C. The Coral Island. D. Robinson Crusoe.
11. Which classic science fiction novel begins with the line, "Behind every man now alive stand thirty ghosts, for that is the ratio by which the dead outnumber the living"? A. 2001 – A Space Odyssey. B. The Time Machine. C. Dune. D. The Martian Chronicles.
12. Pablo Picasso and George Braques were pioneers of which early nineteenth century art movement noted for its concentration on geometrical figures? A. Impressionism. B. Realism. C. Cubism. D. Abstract Expressionism.
13. Which novel begins with the line, "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen"? A. 1984. B. David Copperfield. C. The Great Gatsby. D. Ulysses.

• ALL ANSWERS PAGE 16.

Passing of Vietnam veteran

A retired senior officer in the Royal Australia Air Force and Vietnam veteran died recently on the Sunshine Coast.

He was Air Commodore (Ret.) Peter William Growder (O117122), 76, from Peregrine Beach (formerly of Brisbane) (pictured right). He passed away on 5 February after a brief illness. His funeral service on Friday, 17 February, was at Gregson and Weight Buderim Chapel, Wisers Road, Buderim, followed by a wake at Maroochy RSL.

He was in Vietnam briefly as a Navigator with a No37 Sqn C-130 Hercules on a resupply mission on 24 May 1968; later in 1969-70 he was on a one-year posting to Vietnam with No 2 Sqn (Canberras).

No 2 Sqn was based at Phan Rang Air Base in Ninh Thuan province, the unit being part of the United States Air Force 35th Tactical Fighter Wing (35 TFW). **LEFT: A Canberra in Vietnam.**

He then spent the rest of his career piloting F-111s. In October 1978, he as navigator and Wing Commander Dave Rogers had to eject in the ocean near Auckland because of a wheel-well fire. Their ejection was successful but both suffered back injuries.

In retirement he was involved with the Queensland Air Museum at Caloundra, leading their "Ultimate F-111 Experience Tour", and with Air Force Cadets. Peter 'Growdz' Growder leaves a widow, Frances.



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

TWO guys grow up together but, after graduating from Sydney University, one moves to Brisbane and the other to Adelaide. They agree to meet every 10 years in Melbourne to play golf.

At age 32, they meet, finished their round of golf and head for lunch.

"Where do you wanna go?"

"Bonkers."

"Why Bonkers?"

"They have those very attractive topless waitresses."

"You're on."

At age 42, they meet and play golf again.

"Where do you wanna go for lunch?"

"Bonkers."

"Again? Why?"

"They have cold beer, big screen TVs and starting-price betting."

"OK."

At age 52, they meet and play again.

"So where do you wanna go for lunch?"

"Bonkers."

"Why?"

"The food is pretty good and there's plenty of parking."

"OK."

At age 62, they meet again. After a round of golf, one says,

"Where do you wanna go?"

"Bonkers."

"Why?"

"Chicken-wings are half price and the food isn't too spicy."

"Good choice"

At age 72, they meet again. Once again, after a round of golf, one says,

"Where shall we go for lunch?"

"Bonkers."

"Why?"

"They have six handicapped parking spaces right by the door and they have senior discounts."

"Great choice."

At age 82, they meet and play again.

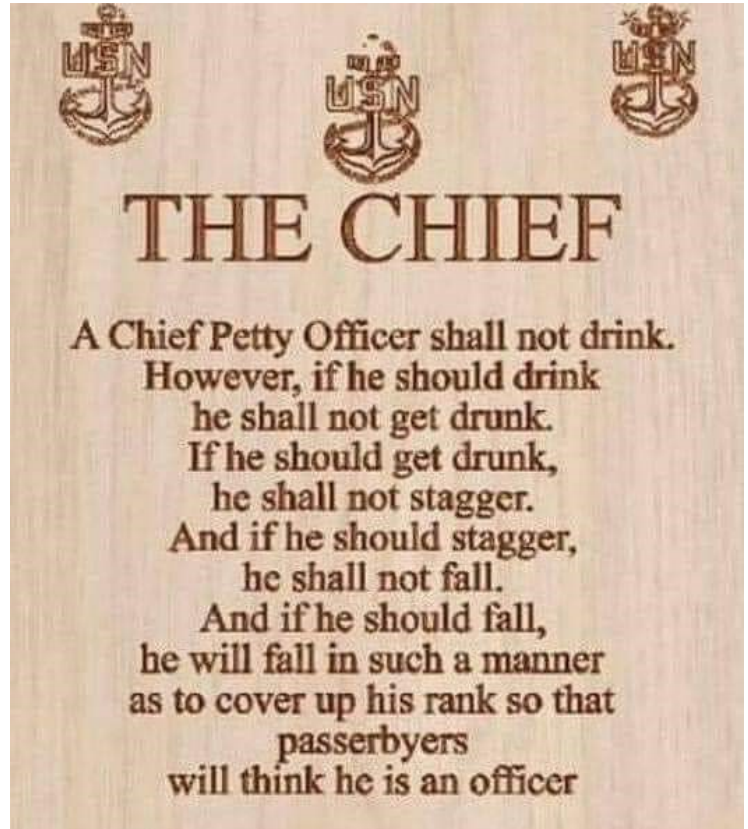
"Where should we go for lunch?"

"Bonkers."

"Why?"

"Because we've never been there before."

"Okay, let's give it a try."



A GROUP of seniors was sitting around talking about all their ailments at the coffee shop.

"My arms have gotten so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

Yes, I know," said another. "My cataracts are so bad, I can't even see my coffee."

"I couldn't even mark an 'X' at election time, my hands are so crippled," volunteered a third.

"What? Speak up! What? I can't hear you, said one elderly lady!"

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said one, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy!" exclaimed another.

"I forget where I am, and where I'm going," said another.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head. The others nodded in agreement.

"Well, count your Blessings," said a woman cheerfully "Thank God we can all still drive."

WHEN a plane crash seems inevitable, endeavour to strike the softest, cheapest object in the vicinity as slowly and gently as possible. — Advice given RAF pilots during WWII:



First in SVN a lucky day for 1 RAR

LUCKY STARR performing on a makeshift stage during the first Australian concert in Vietnam in December 1965. The Lucky Starr Troupe received one of the warmest welcomes the legendary performer had ever received. Born Leslie William Morrison on 29 December 1940, Lucky Starr was an Australian pioneer rock and roll, pop and country music singer, guitarist and television presenter. His most popular single, "I've Been Everywhere", appeared in early 1962 and peaked at number one in Sydney. He is still touring. – AWM photo.

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If anyone was looking for us recently, we took a last-minute deal to cruise to the South Pacific on the Carnival Luminosa. This ship was a Costa vessel re-furbished in 2017 and again when purchased by Carnival recently.

To fill cabins, they were offering ridiculously low fares, and when my 2 Cav mate, Neil, bought an incredibly low second-last-minute deal, he told us; we bought immediately and it was \$100 per person cheaper than that of a week before. You could say they were giving their balcony cabins away dirt cheap. On board, we heard that the closer it came to departure date, the carrot of on-board spending money increased exponentially.

The Luminosa is only on the Brisbane voyages until March when it sails to the Caribbean where it will be based. But there were some strings attached to the 'carrots' used to get passengers on board. Beds were not turned down at night, and in-cabin snacks were charged out at higher-than-expected prices. Entertainment was of the best we have seen on any cruise, and staff were extraordinarily friendly and jovial. But the one feature that stood out when compared with all previous cruises, was the military event, and it is to that which I want to draw your attention.

The Cruise Director hosted what we considered the most professional and best military get together, on any ship in any cruise company. It was held in the Luminosa Theatre, for military and ex-military personnel and their families, emergency services, police and fire serving and former members.

The Cruise Director identified each service as well as

Fireside with the Padre



foreign ex-member passengers, who, on his bidding and as shown on the screen, stood to the acclamation of the entire theatre, and when he also invited partners of all serving members to stand, he thanked them for supporting their loved ones in their professions, and for the time spent apart from their families.

Further, the last post, a minute's silence and Reveille were played. After the formal presentations, the attendees mingled for quite a time. Several of our VVAASC members were present. As a finale, all military, fire, police, and emergency members gathered on the stage and a group photo was taken of the event.

We visited Mystery Island, Li Fou Isle and Noumea, packed into this seven-day get-away-from-it-all cruise. It was terrific, and on arrival home some three hours ago, I received the invitation to have my March column into Kerry. What else would I write about while this magnificent, relaxing cruise was still so fresh in my mind?

Until next month, when we will look at what Easter means to us, have a good month, and if you can swing a reduced fare on the Carnival Luminosa, good luck to you!

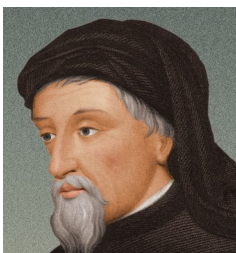
Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

Answers from page 12



Crossword Solutions

Across: 1. Chicken, 5. Show, 9. Pirate, 10. Molar, 12. Attic, 13. English, 14. Belfry, 16. Length, 19. Embrace, 21. Pupil, 23. Rural, 24. Finale, 25. Half, 26. Freezer.



Down: 2. Hoist, 3. Chaucer (pictured), 4. Exeter, 6. Holding, 7. Worthwhile, 8. Smug, 11. Marble Arch, 15. Liberal, 17. Expense, 18. Heifer, 20. Axle, 22. Pulse

Trivia Answers

1. C. Pamplona
2. D. Thistle.
3. A. Kiev.
4. A. Lake Huron.
5. C. Pegasus
6. D. Dutch.
7. B. J. R. R. Tolkien.
8. A. Mark Twain.
9. B. Salvador Dali (pictured)
10. C. The Coral Island.
11. A. 2001 – A Space Odyssey.
12. C. Cubism.
13. A. 1984.



March Timeline

1 March 1901: Naval and military forces of the States transferred to Commonwealth control.

2 March 1943: Battle of Bismarck Sea begins. A Japanese convoy of eight transport ships and eight escorting destroyers was almost annihilated by Allied air attacks as they attempted to reinforce the garrison at Lae. Of the 6000 Japanese troops bound for Lae only 2890 survived.

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

4 March 1899: Cyclone Mahina was the deadliest tropical cyclone in Australia's recorded history, and probably one of the most intense ever recorded. More than 300 people died, most of them divers and seamen from South-East Asia, the Torres Strait and Pacific islands who worked on the Thursday Island pearling fleet.

12 March 1913: The Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman, announced that Canberra was the name of Australia's new national capital. Development was delayed by both world wars and the Great Depression, and it did not really begin to grow until after the Second World War.

16 March 1942: Darwin bombed. The city was subject to 64 Japanese air raids during the Second World War.

19 March 1932: The Sydney Harbour Bridge opened to the public. The event marked the end of almost a century of speculation and planning around a bridge or tunnel that would cross the harbour.

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

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

21 March 1918: The Second Battle of the Somme began as German General Erich von Ludendorff launched an all-out drive to win the war. Allied and German casualty figures for both battles approached 500,000.

27 March 1977: The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

31 March 1921: Negotiations between Army, Navy and Defence officials from 1917 to 1921 resulted in the Australian Air Force being formed, with approval to use the 'Royal' prefix granted on 13 August 1921.

Sources include:

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/defining-moments-timeline>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_Vietnam_War

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/mar>

<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>



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Link between Space Shuttle and a horse's arse

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads. Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used. So, why did 'they' use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England. You see, that's the spacing of

the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And what about the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore, the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with this?', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' asses.)

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.

The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel.

The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's arse.

And you thought being a horse's arse wasn't important? Ancient horse's asses control almost everything!

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Once upon a time ...



LOOKING BACK: Arrival in South Vietnam (top left in Saigon, and below at Phan Rang); life goes on for the locals as Diggers cross their path (top right); Dustoff: helicopter evacuation played an invaluable part in the war; and (right) HMAS Sydney became known as the Vung Tau Ferry for good reason. - photos from Australian War Memorial.



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

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) AATTV, 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: Vietnam War Memorial Washington.



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

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