



RICOCHET



Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. APRIL 2024



From
year to
year:
Lest
We
Forget

OVER the years Anzac Day has been commemorated locally and at state, national and international levels since that dawn at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. ABOVE: Men, women and children line the streets in Brisbane to watch soldiers marching on the first Anzac Day in 1916 (from John Oxley Library). RIGHT: Veterans march at one of the many Anzac Day parades on the Sunshine Coast. Dawn services and parades will be conducted at most centres on the Sunshine Coast again this year from Bli Bli to Yandina; from Caloundra to Noosa; from Maroochydore to Maleny; and in between.



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

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



**VIETNAM VETERANS
ASSN of AUSTRALIA
SUNSHINE COAST**

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

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Junior V/President	Gordon Hall
Secretary	John Cunnington
Treasurer	Deb Day

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John Cunnington	VV Day
Athol Johnson	Merchandise
John Huxham	Assistant Secretary
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Bob Johnson	
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Michael Howe	Grants Officer
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Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters 54761594

Mentor/Assessor

Helena Smith 0439241442

Mentor/Well-Being Officer

Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn 0422670080

Air Force Association Chris Wessels

Tracker Dogs Assn. Ian Atkinson

Mooloolaba Surf Club Kevin Lynch

Buderim Hospital Alec Chesters

Army Cadets/ARES Squizzy Taylor

Air Force Cadets Chris Wessels

Naval Cadets Carl Britz

**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.

Office Phone 54794552

E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

OFFICE NEWS

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

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.

MEETINGS: Return to the third Tuesday of the month, 1000hrs Comm Meeting, 1100hrs General meeting. Next meeting April.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)

129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.

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PO Box 1797, (or 129 Horton Parade) Maroochydore, QLD, 4558

This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling through us. Group programmes include the Lifestyle Management Program (5 days live-in with partner) and the Heart Safe Program (12 month gym). Other therapeutic/ educational groups are being planned for the Sunshine Coast.

DISCLAIMER: The committee of Vietnam Veteran Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. and its individual members take no responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this newsletter, nor accept liability for any loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly from the use of information contained in this newsletter, and do not warrant that opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, this Sub-branch or the Sub-branch Committee, including individual members.

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

Have your say on veteran legislation changes

The Government through the Department of Veterans Affairs is keen to hear from veterans and their families, and other key stakeholders, about the proposed changes to legislation affecting veterans.

“Highlighted by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide in its Interim Report, and fully supported by the Government, we are simplifying and harmonising veterans’ legislation that governs compensation and rehabilitation, so veterans and their families can more easily get the support they are entitled to,” DVA has said.

“We want your feedback on the draft Veterans’ Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024.”

All the information on the proposed legislation and how to provide feedback is available here: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation>

Here you can review the proposed changes, understand what’s different and why, learn how changes may impact you, and of course, get involved and provide feedback. An information booklet and Frequently Asked

Questions are also available. Submissions can be provided until 28 April 2024.

Three webinars are being conducted to provide an opportunity to hear more about proposed legislation changes. DVA representatives will talk through the proposed changes in detail, and you will be able to ask questions and provide feedback.

Information sessions will be held in all State and Territory capitals, and Townsville. These sessions will be held with, but not limited to, ex-service organisations, individuals who have provided feedback previously and DVA’s National Consultation Framework forums.

NOTE: Separate to and before this legislation review was announced *Ricochet* has been pursuing the issue of funeral benefits – that is, the anomaly between that for older veterans (such as those from Vietnam) under the old VEA and for veterans under later legislation. The issue has been addressed to some extent under the proposed changes, that is: “An increase to \$3000 for funeral allowance for previous automatic grant categories under the VEA, and the availability of reimbursement of funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service-related deaths.”

Defence chiefs offer ‘unreserved apologies’

Two of the country’s most senior defence officers have given apologies to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide during the recent final week of public hearings.

Chief of the Australian Defence Force General Angus Campbell has issued an unreserved apology for “deficiencies” in providing wellbeing support and care for veterans during and after their service and says he is committed to “doing better”.

“Our people deserve and should rightly expect the wellbeing support and care they need both during and after their service,” he said.

“I acknowledge that this has not always been the case and has tragically led to the deaths by suicide of some of our people. I apologise unreservedly for these deficiencies.”

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart told the inquiry: “What I want to do and to put on the record is, as the Chief of the Australian Army, past and present, I offer an unreserved and sincere apology to everyone whom we have failed.

“And if I can finish just by saying that to the point that commissioners are seeking an assurance about ownership, I can give you that assurance. I own this problem, we own this problem, and we are committed to doing something about it.”

DIGGER NEVER IDENTIFIED



THIS photograph was probably taken in Australia, pre-embarkation, sometime between 1915 and 1918. However, the Australian War Memorial has never been able to identify the Digger, despite suggestions. It is amazing that such a striking-looking man has not been identified (ID P06003.001).

From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all safe and healthy. Well March has been and gone, another month down the tube.

The Mooloolaba Tri was a great success and all of our volunteers did a great job.

I am most pleased to report that this year we had an abundance of volunteers which saved the committee a lot of work trying to ring around and beg for members to assist in some way or another. Anyway, thank you all.

John Cunnington (esq.) has been busy of late making arrangements for our Vietnam Veterans Day and up-coming Ladies Day. Apart from being in the Drop-In Centre working, he has managed to bugger-up the printer and somehow put all of the computers off-line.

Of course, he hotly denies being responsible but I have received steadfast information from a reliable source that Johnny boy is/was the culprit.

Speaking of Vietnam Veterans Day, we really don't want everyone leaving the renewal of their membership until August. Membership should be renewed in Janu-

ary of each year.

We completely understand that some of you simply forget to comply and that's why our membership officer came up with the idea of introducing a 'Life Subscription' scheme, which, I might add, has been relatively successful.

So, if you have overlooked the renewal of your membership in the past, I would recommend that you take advantage of the Life Subscription offer and you will not have to consider the issue any further.

One last thing: we are looking for volunteers to man a stall at Sippy Downs on 23-24 April selling Anzac Day items. We need two each morning and two each afternoon for both days. If you can assist, please contact the Drop-In Centre on 5479 4552 and put your name down.

Best Regards,

Mick Howe,

President.



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From the Secretary

Congratulations to the 28 volunteers who put up their hands to be Parade Marshalls at the Mooloolaba Ironman Triathlon in March. As always, these events require an early start, and with age catching up, concerns were held that our quota may not be filled.

However, that was not the case and there were even a few reserves. Ironman Headquarters have forwarded its appreciation for the Association's commitment over many years. The payment request has been initiated, and that payment should arrive in our account in the near future.

Anzac Day memorabilia sales will be held at Spotlight and Chancellor Park on 23/24 April. A roster is on the noticeboard at the Drop-In Centre, so if you can spend a morning or afternoon over these two days, please register your name. Shifts are 0900 to 1230 hours and 1230 to 1600 hours.

Vietnam Veterans Day preparations are underway and, as per previous years, the service will be at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph with the luncheon at the Maroochy RSL function ar-

ea. Once again, the Maroochy RSL have been very supportive, and it is hoped that ticket costs will remain unchanged. I will keep you updated in relation to Vietnam Veterans Day.

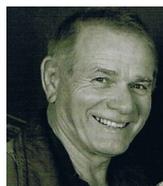
Scotty has advised that the production of Penny Hat Key Rings is grinding to a halt due to a shortage of pennies. If anyone has a boxful of pennies that they are happy to donate or sell, Scotty would be only too happy to take them off your hands.

By the way, I'm aghast at the scurrilous rumours that assign blame for recent computer/printer issues on the shoulders of this humble, hard-working secretary. The evidence is hearsay and purely circumstantial!!!

That's about it for this month. To quote Gary King, "Stay safe and always take the high ground".

Kind Regards

John Cunnington



Memorial attacked



OUR National Vietnam War Memorial in Canberra was defaced recently as part of a protest against the Israel-HAMAS conflict. It is being investigated but no one has been charged.—photo from The Australian.



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Fiji recently accepted its second Guardian-class patrol boat, RFNS Puamau, from Australia. Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy joined Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka during a handover ceremony at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia, demonstrating the commitment to closer cooperation, consultation and partnership between the two nations. Members of the new crew cross the gangway as part of the handover ceremony.



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

Grim task returning to Gallipoli ... after three years

In November 1918, Lieutenant Cyril Hughes and his graves registration section landed on Gallipoli on a bleak day with winter storms punishing the rugged terrain.

Hughes was confronted with a landscape of broken trenches and rusted barbed wire. He could see the bones of hastily buried soldiers from a mile away as broad white streaks down the ravines.

Hughes' section joined the British Graves Registration Unit which would find, identify, record, and temporarily protect every British and dominion grave, and bury any unburied dead.

Hughes had a strong connection to Gallipoli: he landed at Anzac Cove in May 1915 and was twice wounded before being evacuated. Hughes regretted abandoning his



comrades' graves: "In 1915 we did not quite finish our job, but, by Heaven, we would see it out this time."

An immense task confronted Hughes' section. Of 12,000 Allied soldiers who had died in the Anzac sector, nearly 6000 were unburied, their remains scattered about the ridges.

Hughes' task of tracing and interring the unburied proved challenging.

The photo above illustrates the section's work, with remains of Anzac soldiers killed at Chunuk Bair having been painstakingly collected and prepared for burial. Very few could be identified.

Hughes recalled a lone Australian father arriving at the camp to search for his missing son. He spent a few days "looking for his son's grave". Realising that his search was hopeless, he "pushed off to Italy".

In September 1919, Hughes was appointed Inspector of Works, and assumed responsibility for executing the Imperial War Graves Commission's charter across all of Gallipoli.

Hughes continued the commission's work until 1937, and, in that time, rarely returning home to Tasmania.

Extract from: "The Nameless Names: recovering the missing ANZACs", by Scott Bennett 3 April 2024. Available via website <https://scottbennettwriter.com/shop/>

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Special day for 8/9RAR

EARLIER in the year 8/9 RAR paused to remember Long Hai Day (28 February) and commemorate the lives lost during Operation Hammersley in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, in 1970. Veterans who met today's Diggers on the day included our member **Tex Weston** (pictured) along with members of both the 8 and 9 RAR associations, as well as family members of those lost during the Operation. A service was held at the RAR National Memorial Walk.



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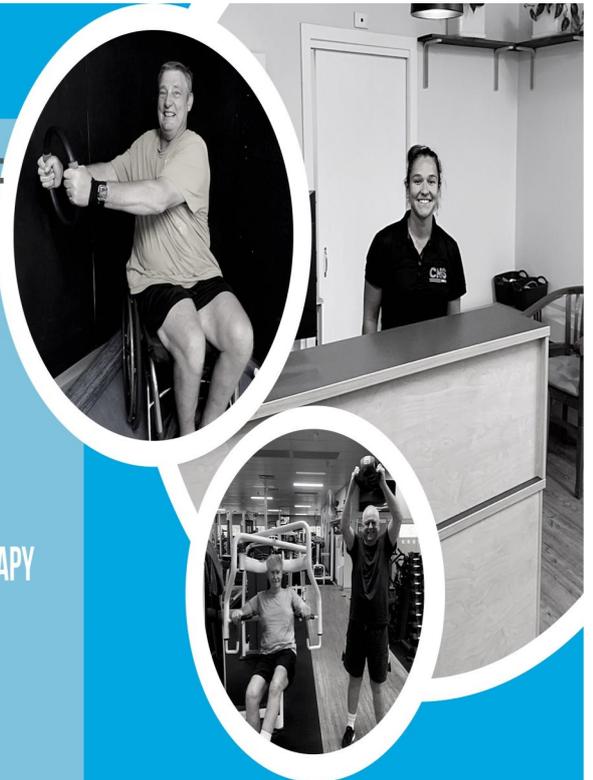
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A CH-47F Chinook helicopter is unloaded from a C-5M Super Galaxy at Royal Australian Air Force Base Townsville.— US Air Force photo by Senior Airman Faith Schaefer.



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VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST SUB-BRANCH
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 19 MARCH 2024

Opening: Meeting opened at 1107 hours. Ode to the Fallen recited by Mick Howe. Attendance/Apologies: As per attendance book.

Previous minutes: Read by Mick Howe. Mick informed that the vacuum cleaner had been purchased, the DIC biscuit issue had been resolved and that the carpet matter was ongoing. Moved Mick Howe, seconded Pieter Reuss. Carried.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report: The Mudjimba RSL has invited a representative from the VVAASC to attend ANZAC Day ceremonies and lay a wreath. Mick and Deb Day will clarify the name of the attendees. John Cunnington will accept the invitation from Caloundra State High School to attend the school's ANZAC Day ceremony. The Annual Fair Trading Return had been completed and posted. Moved John Cunnington, seconded Mick Gay. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mick Howe presented the report in the absence of Deb Day. The Australia Post apparent duplicate charge has been resolved. The Telstra white pages annual cost of \$451 is an issue that needs to be considered before charges are due again in February 2025. Deb to investigate opening a Macquarie Cash Management account for the VVAASC. Deb will also pursue the Suncoast Hosting direct debit issue. Moved Mick Howe that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, seconded John Huxham. Carried.

Membership: Currently 150 financial members, 47 of those are Life Subscribers. Moved Pieter Reuss, seconded Win Fowles. Carried.

Ricochet: No report this month.

Office manager: Vacuum cleaner working well. Other issues previously covered. Moved John Huxham, seconded Margo Christie. Carried.

Sub-Committee: John Cunnington advised that the sponsorship applications for Vietnam Veterans Day and the Ladies Function have been approved by the Maroochy RSL. Moved John Cunnington, seconded John Huxham. Carried.

DHJ: Two volunteers turned up at the latest workday; almost out of coins. Scotty having trouble finding pennies. Moved Scotty, seconded Chris Wessels. Carried.

General Business: It was agreed that the Association go ahead with ANZAC Day Sales at Spotlight and Sippy Downs for two days instead of the previous three. Mick to contact Spotlight and John Cunnington to follow up with Sippy Downs. Poppys to be ordered. (four red, two purple).

Mick advised that under Fair Trading legislation, the Association, which is categorized as a small not-for-profit organisation, does not require an auditor's report. Before next AGM an amendment will be made to the constitution to reflect Fair Trading requirements.

Drop-In Centre to be closed from Friday 29 March to 3 April.

Laurie Drinkwater and Chris Wessels to follow up on the request by the army cadet unit for a donation to purchase much needed equipment.

Closure: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1100 hours.

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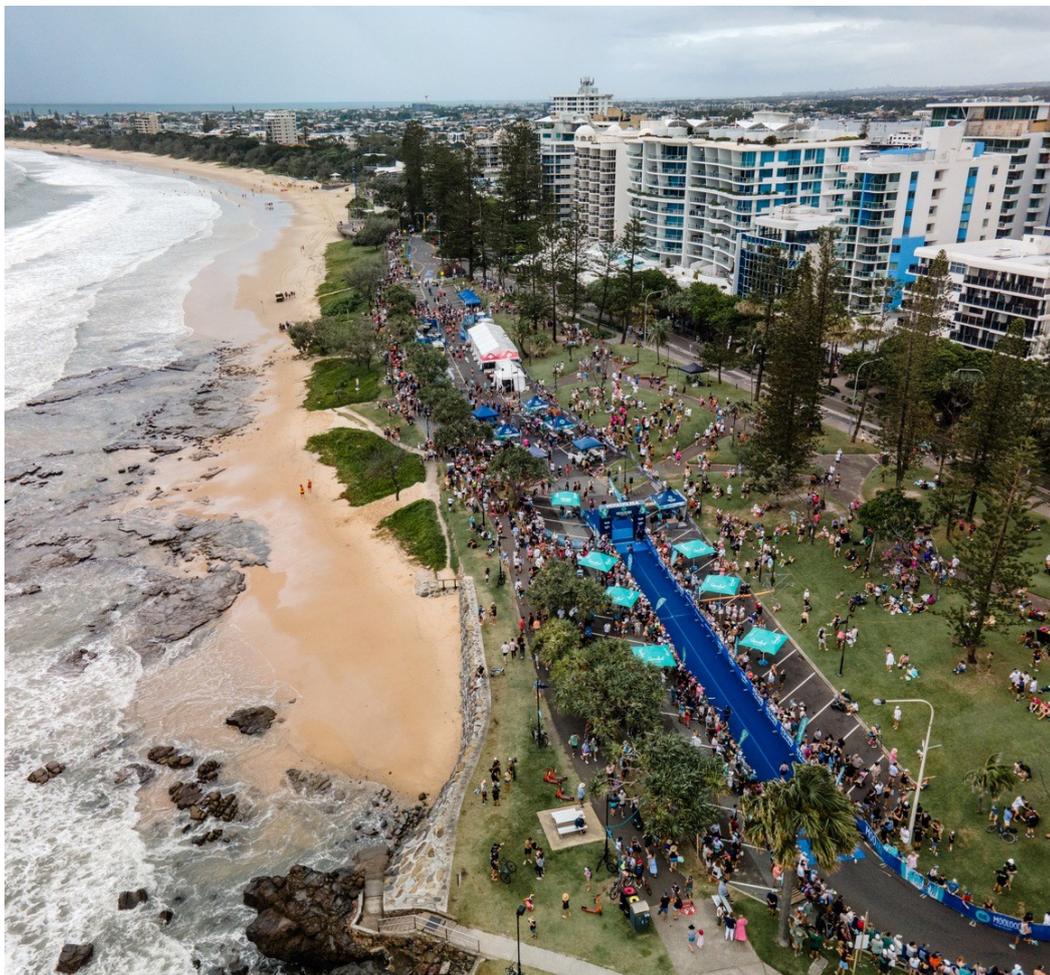
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Our members help at the Tri

VOLUNTEERING again at the Mooloolaba Tri this year were some of our members including *Rusty Perry* (below). Yeah, I know, we had a photo of him being “arrested” last year. **RIGHT:** An aerial shot from the organisers of the finish by the beach.



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IN AUGUST 1945 a patrol from the Australian 2/9th Infantry Battalion returning to Headquarters in Borneo—AWM photo.

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TEST YOUR HISTORY KNOWLEDGE

1. When is the only time in English history that a daughter has succeeded her mother as ruler?
2. What was unusual about the ships Kormoran, Komet and Orion?
3. What were Jewish converts to Christianity during Inquisition era Spain called?
4. Which of these countries was ruled by a monarch for the shortest period? Germany, Denmark, Japan, Sweden.
5. What were the Phoenicians best known for?
6. Which conflict was Operation Bagration part of?
7. When was the first photograph produced?
8. In which of these Cold War conflicts was Australia involved — Korea, Malaya, Vietnam?
9. Which of these historic films was released first: Frankenstein, Casablanca, 12 Angry Men, Spartacus?
10. How long elapsed between the reign of Henry V and the Shakespeare play about his life?

- Answers page 16



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

When a fellow piano tuner was ill, I took over his assignment of tuning a piano in a girls' boarding house.

While I was at work, several of the girls strolled casually through the room in various states of undress. The climax came when a young lady in startling deshabille appeared to pay the bill.

As I was writing the receipt, she suddenly gave me a bewildered look, then fled, screaming, "That's not our regular man!" Their regular man is blind.

My nephew, a flight attendant, split the back of his pants one day during a flight.

To save embarrassment, he decided to work in front of the beverage cart, facing forward.

The arrangement worked perfectly until he got to the last row and a passenger leaned over to him and said in a low voice, "Your fly is open."

A frightened man goes to the secret police and says, "My talking parrot disappeared."

"Why did you come here? Go to the regular police."

"I will. I'm just here to tell you that I disagree with whatever that parrot is going to say."

I tried having my mother's phone disconnected, but



"I figured you should have breakfast in bed on your birthday. Can you reach the stove OK?"

the customer-service rep told me that since the account was in my dad's name, he'd have to be the one to put in the request.

The fact that he'd been dead for 40 years didn't sway her. Then a solution hit me: "If I stop paying the bill, you can turn off the service, right?"

"Well, yes," she said reluctantly. "But that would ruin his credit." —Jeannie Gibbs

This man walks around talking to himself using only figurative language. We call him the Village Idiom.

Did you hear they arrested the devil? Yeah, they got him on possession.—all from rd.com

An Alabama pastor said to his congregation, "Someone in this congregation has spread a rumor that I belong to the Ku Klux Klan. This is a horrible lie and one which a Christian community cannot tolerate. I am embarrassed and do not intend to accept this.

Now, I want the party who said this to stand and ask forgiveness from God and this Christian family."

No one moved.

The preacher continued,

"Do you have the nerve to face me and admit this is a falsehood? Remember, you will be forgiven and in your heart you will feel glory. Now stand and confess your transgression."

Again, all was quiet.

Then, slowly, a drop-dead gorgeous blonde with a body that would stop a runaway train rose from the third pew.

Her head was bowed and her voice quivered as she spoke,

"Reverend there has been a terrible misunderstanding.

I never said you were a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

I simply told a couple of my friends that you were a wizard under the sheets."

The preacher fell to his knees, his wife fainted, and the congregation roared.

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GETTING TOGETHER AT THE RIFLEMEN'S LUNCH



A visitor from the United States at the lunch was artist Jason Swain, whose art is well known and includes portraits of Afghanistan Diggers. At left he is with Barry Vassella and at right with Laurie Muller.



AT THE Riflemen's Lunch (clockwise from centre left) Rick Brittain, Jim Connolly and Ian Atkinson; happy foursome (from left) Graham Ellis, Mark Doolan, Bill Licorice and Steve Jerome; 9RAR boys Bill Cochrane, John Prince, Rod Chandler, Peter Stammers and Kevin Lynch. and (above) Peter Stammer (again) and Hayden Kenny in "deep conversation. (PS: At the end of the year we might have to nominate the person who has had their photo in the most to shout the bar).

I am home, having had Silver Chain Nurses in for a few weeks, and am now under out-patients care at SCUH once a week, but otherwise, my brilliant wife is allowed to dress my toe every other day, and the good news is that I am progressing.

On Easter Saturday, I will take my last antibiotic and from then on, we will see. This antibiotic stuff has gone on since I came home, which means my Dear One must set her watch for 4am to wake me and then I take three pills. Then we try to go back to sleep. But the doctors said to rest the foot, so apart from trips to SCUH, that is what I do.

I am grateful to our association for sending me a visitor while in hospital, bearing plenty of reading material, I was incredibly pleased. Thank goodness we have a team of hospital visitors who do an excellent job. I had several visitors from my church, but a visitor from the VVAASC was really a welcome relief.

Now that I am home, and although Easter is gone for another year, I thought it appropriate to re-tell the reason we take Easter so seriously. As you all will tell me, it covers the last few days in the earthly life of, for many of us, our Saviour, the Lord, Jesus Christ, who suffered a cruel death upon the cross at Calvary.

I have just come through a fair amount of pain, but that was nothing to what Jesus suffered at the hands of His accusers. He was abused from the time he set out towards the cross. He had to bear His own cross, except when another was forced to carry it for Him, when He was too exhausted. He had a crown of thorns pushed onto his head.

Fireside with the Padre



The soldiers cast lots for his garments. He was abused on the cross. His side was pierced by a soldier's spear. And He died on that cross.

But that is not the end of this gory yarn, for on the third day, He arose from the borrowed tomb where they laid Him. He appeared to His disciples in many ways and places. He appeared to his disciples, some knew Him not, and in their presence, He was taken up into Heaven. Wow, what a powerful ending to the Easter story. Some will believe it; others will reject it. But all who receive the truth of that time, will be waiting for His return.

And I hope and pray that many of our readers will be in that category, I am. I trust that I am surrounded by many others who rely on the facts of the Easter story. Jesus is alive. Amen to that.

Until next month, take care, and, oh, pop into your local church of your choice and discover the reality of the Easter story.

Arthur Fry

Honorary Chaplain

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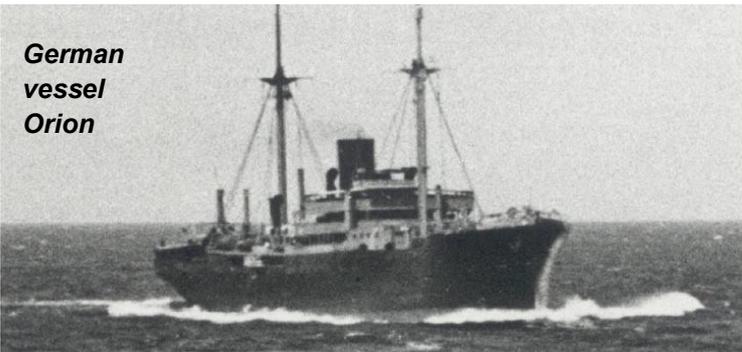
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Quiz answers from page 12

1. When is the only time in English history that a daughter has succeeded her mother as ruler? Ælfwynn succeeding Æthelflæd – Æthelflæd, eldest daughter of Alfred the Great, was born around 870 at the height of the Viking invasions of England. Æthelflæd ruled the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex from 911 until her death in 918.
2. What was unusual about the ships Kormoran, Komet and Orion? They were all warships disguised as neutral merchant vessels – these ships were German Auxiliary commerce raiders, active at the beginning of WW2. Between them they sank or captured 62 ships, including sinking HMAS Sydney with all hands on 19 November 1941.
3. What were Jewish converts to Christianity during Inquisition era Spain called? Conversos – Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella of Castile argued that they needed to examine the piety of Jewish and Muslim converts in their realm, known as Conversos and Moriscos respectively.
4. Which of these countries was ruled by a monarch for the shortest period? Germany – 47 years, 1871 to 1918. Denmark – 1314 years, 770 to now. Japan – 2683 years, 660 BCE to now. Sweden – 1053 years, 970 to now.
5. What were the Phoenicians best known for? Maritime trade, especially their use of the bireme – Phoenicia was an

- ancient Semitic-speaking civilization that originated in the Levant region of the eastern Mediterranean, primarily located in modern Lebanon At its height between 1100 and 200 BCE, Phoenician civilization spread across the Mediterranean, from the Levant to the Iberian Peninsula.
6. Which conflict was Operation Bagration part of? World War Two – This offensive, fought between 22 June and 19 August 1944, saw around two million Soviet soldiers against the German Army Group Centre, destroying 28 of its 34 divisions, the biggest defeat in German military history.
 7. When was the first photograph produced? 1826 – The oldest known photograph was created by Nicéphore Niépce, entitled ‘View from the Window at Le Gras’.
 8. Which of these Cold War conflicts did Australia commit combat troops to: Korea, Malaya, Vietnam? All three. Australia has a long and deep history of involvement in the Cold War. (A conference, Game of Dominoes: Australia’s Security and the Cold War, is being held in Melbourne on 13-14 April.)
 9. Which of these historic films was released first? Frankenstein 1931, Casablanca 1942, 12 Angry Men, 1957, Spartacus 1960.
 10. How long elapsed between the reign of Henry V and the Shakespeare play about his life? 177 years – Henry V died in 1422, the play was first performed in 1599, during the reign of Elizabeth I.

- From <https://historyguild.org/quiz/>



German vessel Orion

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TIMELINE APRIL

5-10 April 1896: At the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in Athens, Edwin Flack, an accountant and Australasian champion runner, was considered Australia's first Olympian. He won the 800-metre and 1500-metre sprints, took part in the marathon and won a bronze medal in doubles tennis.

8 April 1918: Repatriation Department (now DVA) established with responsibility for veterans' rehabilitation and return to civilian life.

20 April 1915: First half-flight, Australian Flying Corps, sailed for the Baghdad expedition, marking the first use of Australian aircraft and aircrew in war.

25 April 1915: Australian soldiers landed at what is now called Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. For the vast majority of the 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders who landed on that day, it was their first experience of combat. By that evening, 2000 of them had been killed or wounded. The Gallipoli campaign was a military failure. However, the traits that were shown there – bravery, ingenuity, endurance and mateship – have become enshrined as defining aspects of the Australian character.

26 April 1916: On the first anniversary of the landing, Anzac Day was observed around Australia and wherever Australian soldiers were posted. Australians have commemorated the day ever since. The Sydney Morning Herald noted: "Australia's great heart is throbbing today as it has never throbbed before. For April 25 – 'Anzac Day' – is a day that will live in our hearts and in our history as long as Australia lasts."

26 April 1976: On 26 April 1976 the first boatload of refugees fleeing Vietnam sailed into Darwin Harbour, heralding a series of arrivals over the next few years. The vast majority of refugees from Vietnam arrived by plane after selection by Australian officials in refugee camps established throughout South-East Asia. Since 1976 Australia has become home to a thriving Vietnamese community. The 2016 national census showed that 219,357 people in Australia were born in Vietnam.

29 April 1965: Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies addresses Parliament: "It is our judgement that the decision to commit a battalion in South Vietnam represents the most useful additional contribution we can make to the defence of the region at this time. The takeover of South Vietnam would be a direct military threat to Australia and all the countries of South and South East Asia. It must be seen as part of a thrust by Communist China between the Indian and Pacific Oceans."



Menzies and US Secretary of State Robert McNamara.

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>

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

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Roll of Honour — Vietnam, April 1962-75

April 1967

Ashton, William John (1730888), 6 RAR, 22, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Badcoe, Peter John (41400) AATTV, 33, Maj., Terendak Military Cemetery, Malaysia.

Copeman, Russell James (215989), 3 Sqd, SAS, 20, Pte, Wolongong Crematorium.

Lloyd, Richard Edward (2784015), 5 RAR, 21, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Rinkin, Kerry Patrick (217479), 5 RAR, 21, 2Lt, Dawson Cemetery, Taree.

Stone, John Maxwell (53326), AATTV, 27, Sgt (Temp. WO2), Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

April 1968

Danilenko, Anatoly (235250), AATTV (attached RAInf), 24, Lt (Temp. Capt.), Parkes General Cemetery, Parkes, NSW.

Fisher, Roger Leon (4718368), 3 RAR, 23, L/Cpl, Mintaro Cemetery, SA.

Gollagher, Peter James (172377), 1FIdSqn, 22, Staff Sgt, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Nicholson, Kenneth Roy (2412486), 1FIdSqn, 23, Spr, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

Polglase, Garry Robert (38763), 3 RAR, 20, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

April 1969

Black, Trevor Ralph (1734408), 9 RAR, 21, Pte, Bowen, Queensland.

Bond, John Albert (21977), AATTV, 29, WO2, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

George, Barry Randolph (2789508), 9 RAR, 21, Pte, Rylstone Cemetery, Rylstone NSW.

McPherson, Lyall Hugh (5715701), 9 RAR, 21, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Petith, Trevor Graham (A319010), 22, AC, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Pike, Geoffrey Anthony (218421), 5 RAR, 26, Pte, Macquarie Park Cemetery/Crematorium, Ryde NSW

Remeljej, Alexander (4719818), 5 RAR, 21, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

White, James Mungo T (5715978) 5 RAR, 21, Pte, Collie Cemetery, Collie, WA.

April 1970

Fitzgerald, Jack (27974) AATTV, 41, WO2, Wagga Wagga General Cemetery, NSW.

Garland, Bernard Anthony (235324), 4 Fld Regt, 23, Lt, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Hughes, Robert Edward (44897), 7 RAR, 19, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Hurst, Harold Walter (2791326), 1 Fld Sqn, 22, Spr, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Kavanagh, Graham Robert (4720992), 7 RAR, 21, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

McQuat, John Leonard (5716533), 8 RAR, 21, Pte, Allambie Park Cemetery, Albany WA.

Pettit, John Gordon (13824), AATTV, 33, WO2, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Pothof, Robin Christiaan (235354), 7 RAR, 21, Lt, Woden Cemetery, Canberra.

Poulson, Daryl (3795605), 8 RAR, 21, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Smith, Ronald Keith (2257880), 7 RAR, 21, Pte, Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney.

Stanczyk, Henry John (44679), 7 RAR, 21, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Tognolini, Michael Peter (218453), 3 Cav.Regt, 19, Trp, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

April 1971

Blackhurst, Thomas Douglas (19983), AATTV (attached RAInf), 24, Cpl (temp.), Belmont South Cemetery NSW.

Chapman, Rodney Stewart (4721369), 2 RAR, 22, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Gillespie, John Francis (3170244), 8 FldAmb, 24, L/Cpl, Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Melbourne.

Jones, Brian Richard Alan (55780), 2 SAS Sqn (RAInf), 22, 2Lt, Memorial Cemetery, Alice Springs.

Salzmann, Ronald Wayne (1732899), 3 RAR, 24, L/Cpl, General Cemetery, Bundaberg.

April 1972 – 75 nil



PART of Terendak Military Cemetery, Malaysia, site of the gravestone (right) of Peter Badcoe VC.



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

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