

# RICOCHET

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

## Centenary for RAAF

On 31 March the Royal Australian Air Force will mark 100 years of service to the nation.

The RAAF will receive a new Queen's Colour on the day in a ceremony like that pictured in Canberra. On parade will be all of the colours, standards and banners of the RAAF and a flypast will take place. The event will be broadcast live on national television and online.

The Australian Air Corps (a temporary Army unit) was disbanded and the Australian Air Force (AAF) created on 31 March 1921. Later in the year on 13 August, following receipt of approval from the King, the Governor General signed an order authorising the use of 'Royal' making this the start date for the use of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) name.

The different ceremonial flags or 'Colours' of the Australian Defence Force hold a revered position of honour. They are the embodiment of Service traditions, achievements and history. Each military unit has its own



distinctive Colours, or flags, which were historically used in battle to signify the location of each unit. To mark a special anniversary or event in a military force's history, the Queen will occasionally present the unit or in this case Service with a new regimental flag, or 'Colour', as part of a formal ceremony. The presentation involves a parade and an inspection by the Queen, a Member of the Royal Family, or the Governor General.

On 30 March a Centenary Commemorative Ceremony will be observed at the Air Force Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Later in the year, the Australian International Airshow 2021 will be staged on 26-28 November to at Avalon Airport in Victoria. The largest air show in the southern hemisphere,

it will feature classic and modern aircraft spanning the RAAF's 100 years. A Centenary Memorial will be dedicated at Point Cook in November.

On the Sunshine Coast the centenary will be celebrated with several events including a get-together (\$10 entry) at Queensland Air Museum at 0930 on 31 March with coffee/tea at 1000 and guest speaker Group Captain David Willcox (Retd) CSC AO at 1030.

At 1200 the venue will change to Caloundra RSL where a Centenary Ceremony will be conducted from 1230 by Rev. Dr. Peter W. Hall (RAF Retd) followed by lunch in the club from 1300 (Payment of \$25/head is required by 18 March to Kawana Waters RAAF Association).

**\* Page 3: Australia's first aviator killed in war.**



OUR



MIS-



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

**Our website: [www.vietnamvetssc.org.au](http://www.vietnamvetssc.org.au)**

**Email: [secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com) Editor: [ricocheteditor@gmail.com](mailto:ricocheteditor@gmail.com)**

**General information Page 2.**

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John Cunningham	(VV Day)
Athol Johnson	(Merchandise)
Christine Wessels	(Assistant Secretary)
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Mooloolaba Surf Club	Kevin Lynch
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Army Cadets/ARES	Squizzy Taylor
Air Force Cadets	(vacant)
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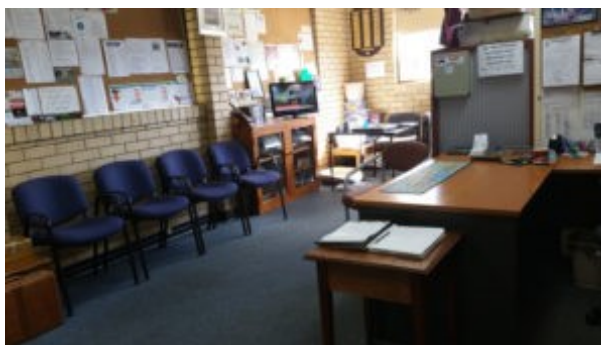
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***OFFICE HOURS: The Drop-In Centre hours have been extended — now open Monday to Friday 0900 to 1300 (9am — 1 pm).***



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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.

## **Department of Veterans' Affairs**

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



IN A letter to a military historian a father recalled how his son had wanted to go to flying school only for a break after five years studying to graduate as a medical doctor.

Less than a year after joining the first intake at the new military aviation school at Point Cook in Victoria in late 1914, that 'flying doctor' was killed by Arabs in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) after being forced down with engine trouble.

George Merz, aged 23, who had graduated with honours in medicine and was dux of his flying course – the first at Point Cook – became the first Australian aviator killed in war.

"He got his degree as a medical practitioner on the 1st Sept/14 – a few months after the Government started a flying school at Point Cook and he asked me to let him take on flying for 3 months as he had 5 years hard studying for Medicine," his father, also George, wrote of his son in a letter to war historian Charles Bean in 1922.

"He then intended going to the front as a medical man. He simply took on flying as a hobby."

When his plane was brought down, he and a passenger, fellow pilot William Burn – Australian-born but a member of the New Zealand military – were killed despite a brave fight recounted later by a witness.

Their bodies were never recovered, but they are remembered on a commemorative wall in Basra, Iraq, in the region where Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) pilots and other Australia military personnel are serving today.

Merz Senior's letter relates how the British defeated the Turks in the battle of Nasiriyah and "after the battle was

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CENTENARY 31 MARCH 2021

## First Australian pilot lost before our RAAF formed

over, they called upon my late son to assist the wounded at the hospital on account of the hospital being understaffed.

The first flight at Point Cook had been made on 1 March 1914 by Eric Harrison, piloting a Bristol Boxkite.

Before going to the Middle East, Merz had already served overseas – he was selected as one of two pilots despatched as the aviation component of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to Papua New Guinea in November 1914 to January 1915, according to the MHHV website.

Also among the first Point Cook graduates was a former Army Lieutenant, South Australian Richard Williams, who went on to command Australian and British

fighter units in Europe during the war.

In April 1917 he was awarded a Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for "conspicuous gallantry" in two actions. Williams went on to become regarded as "father" of the RAAF and was its first Chief-of-Staff after it took over the AFC from the Army in 1921. He was later Director-General of Civil Aviation in Australia and was knighted the year before his retirement in 1955.

— Extract from 'Three of a kind', by Kerry White, self-published 2015, ISBN: 9780994281425.

**PICTURED:** George Merz climbing aboard a Bristol Boxkite at Point Cook and (inset) the young doctor and pilot.— AWM photos.



## BACK ON DECK AT CALOUNDRA TRI ...



**BACK** in fund-raising mode , more than 20 members and supporters turned up to help at the Caloundra Triathlon, for which the association is recompensed by the organisers. They included good pals Johnno and Rusty (left) and (main from left) Ray Malcolmson, Garry King, Clay Sutton, Mick Howe, Rusty Perry, Col Parkin and Bob Goodyer.

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

## From the President

Hi Everyone,

I sincerely hope that you and yours are both fit and well. Well our AGM has been and gone with not too much of a change to things. The Executive and Committee members are unchanged and a bit of good news is that our Treasurer, Glen Preston has decided to stick with us for another year. Thanks Glen, your decision has saved this Association a considerable amount of work and time in both searching for, and training a new Treasurer.

There has been a fair bit of discussion lately regarding this year's proposed Vietnam Veteran's Day. As far as we are concerned, it will absolutely be going ahead, that is both the march to the Cenotaph and lunch at the Maroochy RSL immediately thereafter. The same applies to this year's Ladies Day, although we have yet to set a definite date for that function.

Last week we had the Caloundra Triathlon and many, many thanks to

those of you who volunteered to assist. Everything appeared to go well and for that, credit must go to Garry King who not only arranged and organised the volunteers, but also provided an ample lunch bag for all involved. This is the first of the large Triathlons that we have undertaken without the organisation skills of our past Secretary, Mal Sayers. Mal seemed to have everything on a string, no fuss, no worry, and it all seemed to just fall into place. When I say 'seemed to', it is now very clear to both Garry and myself just how much effort is required to put everything into place when attempting to organise such events. Poor old Garry and I were running around like blue arse flies striving to get various things done within the time frames required. Having just got over that, we now have the Mooloolaba Tri coming up on Sunday, 14 March. Expect a phone call for assistance.

As preparing this report, I have just been informed of the passing of our

member Barry Rodgers. I am informed that Barry passed away while in hospital and little else is known at this particular time. A 'Heads Up' has been sent out by the Secretary informing all of Barry's demise and once the funeral arrangements have been settled, further information will be forthcoming.

On that sad note, I will wrap up this report. Once again it is uplifting to be your President for yet another year and you can be well assured that I, together with the other Executive and Committee members, will be looking out for you, and acting in accordance with your best interests.

**Best Regards,  
Mick Howe,  
President.**



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## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Tuesday 16 February 2021, Vietnam Veterans Association Australia, Sunshine Coast:

Meeting opened 1100hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Vice-President Garry King. Attendees as per book 18 and apologies 10 names as per book. Minutes of 2020 AGM read by President Michael Howe.

President's Report: Covid impact on VVAASC Drop In Centre; fewer General Meetings but when COVID restrictions permitted a good attendance to Committee Meetings.

Audit Report: President Michael Howe read the Audit Report for 2020.

Nominations for positions: Mr Graeme H. Scott read the list of nominations. All nominated persons gained the positions for which they were: President, Mr Michael Howe; Vice President, Mr Garry King; Secretary, Mr Garry King; Junior Vice President, Mr Gordon Hall; Treasurer, Mr Glen Preston; Membership Officer, Mr Pieter Reus; Assistant Secretary, Mrs Christine Wessels; Office Manager, Mrs Margo Christie.

The Committee of 2020 was un-opposed with one new inclusion, Mrs Margo Christie, those being John Cunningham (VV DAY), Athol Johnston (Merchandise), Col Parkin, John Huxham, Bob Johnson, Kerry White (editor of Ricochet) and Pieter Reus.

Sub Committee to continue with members from 2020: John Cunningham, Graeme Scott, and John Huxham.

The following to continue in 2021 in their current positions:

Arthur Fry (Padre), John Woodall (Legal Advisor), Alec Chesters (Hospital Visitor), Helena Smith (Suicide Prevention).

General Business: Motion passed to continue to support for the spouse/partner group known as P.O.S.H.- (Partners Offering Support & Help). The yearly stipend will continue. Meeting closed 1130hrs.

## Minutes of General Meeting held 16 February 2021:

Meeting opened 1005hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Vice President Garry King.

Attendees names as per book 18 and apologies 10 names as per book.

BBQ cancelled due to inclement weather however pizzas to be delivered.

Correspondence : sales ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day 2021, three sites : Buderim Woolworths, Chancellor Park and Spotlight. Garry King advised only two sites had replied: Buderim and Spotlight Kawana. Garry will pursue Chancellor Park.

Caloundra RSL donations: \$500 for Vietnam Veterans Day and \$1000 for printing of Ricochet. Moved Garry King, Seconded Col Parkin.

No Business arising from Correspondence.

- Continued Page 7.

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# Welcome for ADF recruits held on Coast

The Sunshine Coast was the venue for the Australian Defence Force welcome to 15 of its newest officer cadets (pictured) to the Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force in a ceremony in January.

Senior Military Recruiting Officer at the Defence Force Recruiting Centre Maroochydore Captain Tim Glen, who graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy 15 years ago, said the ceremony was a special moment in these future officers' careers.

"The friends and family who attended greatly appreciated the opportunity to be able to share this important occasion with the new cadets," Captain Glen said.

"These new officer cadets have now started military, leadership and management training at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Entry is highly competitive, with appointees



developing their leadership skills while studying to obtain their undergraduate degree from the University of New South Wales.

"These officer cadets have demonstrated the motivation, values and capabilities to be developed into the future leaders of the ADF," he said.

The Australian Defence Force Academy is the only university in Australia where students are paid to ob-

tain a degree in the fields of arts, business, science, engineering or technology before starting a leadership role on completion of their military and academic training.

An ADF Academy Future Leaders Information session was held at Kawana Waters on February 25. For more information on ADF recruiting call 13 19 01.



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# Veteran of two wars farewelled

Retired Major General David Drabsch AO, MBE, who passed away recently, aged 89, served in Korea and Vietnam after graduating from Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1952.

General Drabsch (235041) (inset photo) was a keen supporter of the monthly Riflemen's lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club and was dressed in a Riflemen's shirt for his funeral. About 40 lunch 'members' wore similar shirts.

Attendees included Major General Shane Caughey CSC, AM (Retired), RSM of the Army Warrant Officer Grant McFarlane OAM and 6 RAR Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Simon Croft.

The coffin was carried on exit from the chapel on a gun carriage with six RSMs as pall bearers led by WO McFarlane followed by General Drabsch's widow, Pamela, and an officer carrying his medals (pictured).

The cortege was greeted with a general salute by Diggers from 6 RAR along the driveway from Gregson and Weight's chapel, Wisers Road, Buderim. More than 150 attended.—thanks to Les D'alton.



## General Meeting Minutes continued from Page 5

Treasurers Report: As per AGM

Membership Report: Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Ricochet Report - Kerry White absent however Garry King read report. Page numbers down from 24 to 20 in March issue. Looking at printing and distribution options. Thanks to printing and folding team. Special thanks to John Cunningham. Moved Garry King, seconded Gordon Hall.

Welfare Pensions: report read by Garry King. As there are now numerous Acts covering Veterans the job of Welfare is more involved. Statistic from July to December 2020 read to Meeting. It is acknowledged by all that Helena Smith is very hardworking. Moved Garry King, seconded Gordon Hall.

Merchandise Report: It was noted that the Military Shop has been contacted for a current catalogue which will be posted as soon as available. Moved Athol Johnston, seconded Christine Wessels.

Sub-Committee Report: John Cunningham advised V.V. Day

going ahead, Forms, permits, waiver application to be followed through. At this stage V.V. Day will have seating of 6, 8 or whatever—like most things in the time of Covid. A band or music is to be organised, as Barry is no longer available. The Ladies Luncheon shall proceed later this year. Moved John Cunningham, seconded Athol Johnson. Website: Nil to report.

Digger Hat Jewellery: Scotty reported first workshop in 8 maybe 9 months, 400 keyrings were used with a remaining 300 available. It is noted that the workers are keen. Moved Scotty, seconded Gordon Hall.

General Business: Garry King advised the Mooloolaba Triathlon currently has 10 volunteers – 4 weeks out from Tri. More needed. List is in Drop In.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 1030hrs.



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## From the Secretary

As we navigate February 2021 we find ourselves with the first fundraiser under our belts and again I would like to thanks those volunteers who put their hand up for the Caloundra Tri.

Mick and I are currently negotiating our second Triathlon (MooTri) for the year and hopefully this will be set in concrete by the time you read this report.

I have reached agreement with sites for Anzac and Remembrance Sales at both Woolworths Buderim and Spotlight Kawana Central.

Vicki Burton, who looks after Kawana Central, is also allowing us to have a sales table outside Anaconda which will hopefully enhance sales in that area.

Unfortunately, Chancellor Park has continually refused my calls and despite several attempts, nothing positive as yet.

Our recent AGM held on 16 February has seen little change in management with an extended committee now to see us through 2021.

That's about it for this month — short and sweet.

In closing, I and the committee would again like to pass on our deepest condolences, to Ian Atkinson on the recent loss of his wife Heather.

**Kind regards  
Garry King  
Duty First**



## NATIONAL SERVICE DAY ON VALENTINE'S

National Service Day and Valentine's Day ironically coincided – do they always? – on 14 February. Many called up for National Service left behind loved ones – their Valentines.

During Australia's most recent National Service Scheme from November 1964 to December 1972 for 20-year-olds, around 15,300 national servicemen served in Vietnam with 200 killed and 1279 wounded.



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## Heather was a champion

Champion canoeist Heather Atkinson has been remembered as a positive and inspirational kind of person after losing a battle with cancer recently.

She and husband Ian (pictured), an association member, have been living in Mooloolaba since the 1990s. He is one of the mainstays behind the monthly Riflemen's lunches.

Heather, 74, held world titles and records during her outrigger career representing Australia at times locally and overseas in countries such as New Zealand, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tahiti and Hawaii. She continued to compete over the past few years despite battling breast cancer.

She was born at Waverly, Sydney, in 1946. Heather was educated in Fiji to where her family moved when she was three. She worked in London and Europe before moving back to Fiji and then Sydney.

She and Ian met in Mackay through yachting and later moved to the Gold Coast before moving to Mooloolaba. Between them they each have two children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Heather was involved with the Sunshine Coast Computer Club as well as Mooloolaba Surf Club and later canoeing.



## NEW VIETNAM BOOK

A new book on the Vietnam War – or its aftermath – has profiled the stories of the veterans themselves. It is *The Long Shadow – Australia's Vietnam Veterans since the War*, by Peter Yule

"This comprehensive and authoritative book is a pioneering work of history on the aftermath of war," the publishers say.

"It takes a broad approach to the medical legacies, exploring the post-war experiences of Vietnam veterans, the evolution and development of the repatriation system in the post-Vietnam decades and the evolving medical understanding of veterans' health issues.

"*The Long Shadow* sets the record straight ...."

The Council of the Australian War Memorial endorsed the commissioning of Dr Peter Yule to write the book, which has a foreword by General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

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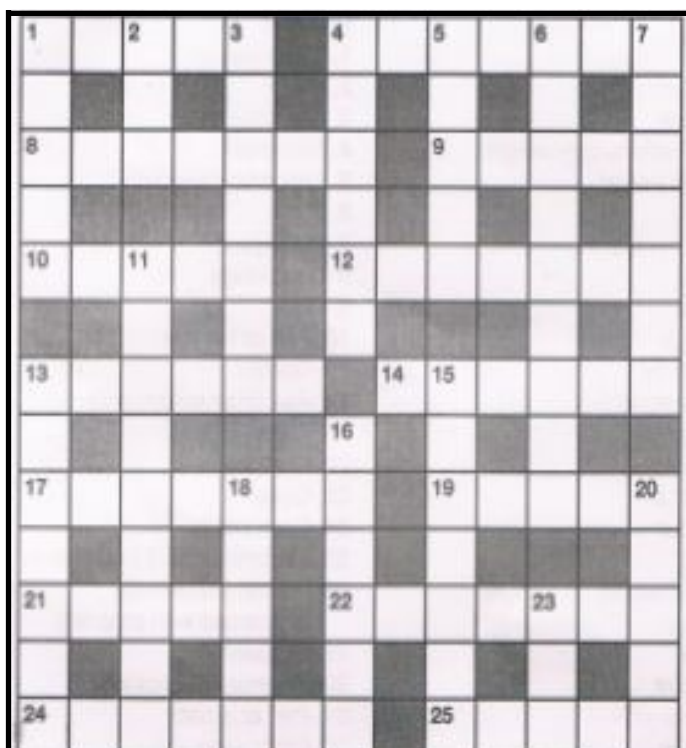
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# JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE ....

## March Trivia



### ACROSS

- |                       |   |                                 |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Prank (5)           | 13 Alter or regulate (6)                | 22 Sincere (7)                  |
| 4 Small community (7) | 14 Refuge (6)                           | 24 Latticework (7)              |
| 8 Everlasting (7)     | 17 Repossess (7)                        | 25 Herd or flock of animals (5) |
| 9 Accolade (5)        | 19 Travel lodge (5)                     |                                 |
| 10 Wear away (5)      | 21 Mound of stones used as a marker (5) |                                 |
| 12 Voter (7)          |   |                                 |

### DOWN

- |                        |                                  |                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Subject (5)          | 7 Senior (7)                     | 18 Declare invalid (5) |
| 2 Frozen water (3)     | 11 Target (9)                    | 20 Supply (5)          |
| 3 Dog houses (7)       | 13 Fruit (7)                     | 23 Self (3)            |
| 4 Smooth fabric (6)    | 15 Stuck (7)                     |                        |
| 5 Letting contract (5) | 16 Hot fragments from a fire (6) |                        |
| 6 Flat (9)             |                                  |                        |

1. What is the main ingredient in a falafel?
2. What currency is used in South Africa?
3. Port-au-Prince is the capital of which country?
4. What major movie actor's first role was in "A Nightmare On Elm Street"?
5. What was Toyota's first popular hybrid car called?
6. What did the first vending machine dispense?
7. What is the most populous city in Canada?
8. Which President of South Africa ordered Nelson Mandela's release from prison?
9. Islamabad is the capital of which country?
10. Where is the uvula located?
11. What gas makes soda bubbly?
12. Which country has a red flag with a star in the middle?
13. Who preceded Fidel Castro as the political leader of Cuba?
14. What colour dresses do Chinese women traditionally wear on their wedding day?
15. Tom Cruise considered pursuing a career in what sport before being injured?
16. What country is bordered by Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine?
17. The Da Vinci Code opens with a murder in which famous museum?
18. Which insect can indicate the air temperature?
19. What country is the band "The Cranberries" from?
20. Blueberries are native to which continent?
21. A book by Barack Obama is titled "The Audacity of" what?
22. What type of lens has a thin middle and makes objects appear smaller?
23. Rihanna banned fans from bringing what items to her U.K. concerts in 2008?
24. Who created the alien rock superstar Ziggy Stardust?
25. Which young girl helped drive the English from French soil in the 15th century?
26. What U.S. President coined the phrase "Good to the last drop," referring to coffee?
27. On every continent, there is a city named what?
28. Which name are the Sandwich Islands, better known as?
29. The traditional Wimbledon colours are green, and what?
30. "You're gonna need a bigger boat" originated in what movie?

### Brain Teasers

1. What has cities, but no houses; forests, but no trees; and water, but no fish?
2. A red house is made from red bricks. A blue house is made from blue bricks. A yellow house is made from yellow bricks. What is a green house made from?
3. There is a word in the English language in which the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four signify a great man, and the whole word, a great woman. What is the word?
4. What is harder to catch the faster you run?
5. What can be swallowed, but can also swallow you?
6. Lovely and round, I shine with pale light, grown in the darkness, A lady's delight. What am I?

• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 17**



## Special portrait presented



A PORTRAIT of a soldier killed in the Townsville helicopter accident in 1996, Glen Hagan, was presented recently to his widow Vanessa Moore and daughter Laura Hagan. The portrait is by former Sunshine Coast resident Jason Swain, now living in the United States and presented by local veteran Ian Atkinson at Mooloolaba Surf Club on behalf of Vietnam Veterans. Jason has painted portraits of other veterans, but this one was special as he went to school with Vanessa.



### Plaques for the painting read:

#### TROOPER GLEN HAGAN

Born 21 November 1965 in Victoria. Enlisted in the Army 6 July 1988. Served in the Infantry Corps in 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and in July 1993 was selected into the Special Air Service Regiment as a Trooper. On 12 June 1996 during a night training exercise, Glen was killed when two Army Black Hawk helicopters crashed.

#### TRIBUTE TO TROOPER GLEN HAGAN

This work was painted by Artist Jason Swain and presented to Glen's wife Vanessa and daughter Laura in February 2021 by members of the Sunshine Coast Veteran Community.

## Anzac Day school prizes

The 2021 Anzac Day Schools' Awards have launched for another year.

Entries for the 2021 Anzac Day Schools' Awards close Wednesday, 30 June 2021.

For more information, including about award categories, judging, criteria and how to apply, visit the [Anzac Portal website](#).

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

Two couples were playing poker one evening. Jim accidentally dropped some cards on the floor. When he bent down under the table to pick them up, he noticed Bob's wife, Sue wasn't wearing any underwear under her dress! Shocked by this, Jim upon trying to sit back up again, hit his head on the table and emerged red-faced.

Later, Jim went to the kitchen to get some refreshments. Bob's wife followed and asked, 'Did you see anything that you like under there?' Surprised by her boldness, Jim admitted that he did. She said, "Well, you can have it but it will cost you \$500."

After taking a minute or two to assess the financial and moral costs of this offer, Jim confirmed that he was interested.

Sue told him that since her husband Bob worked Friday afternoons and Jim didn't, Jim should be at her house around 2 pm Friday afternoon.

When Friday rolled around, Jim showed up at Bob's house at 2 pm sharp and after paying Sue the agreed sum of \$500, they went to the bedroom and closed their transaction, as agreed. Jim quickly dressed and left.

As usual, Bob came home from work at 6 pm and upon arriving, asked his wife: "Did Jim come by the house this afternoon?"

With a lump in her throat Sue answered, "Why yes, he did stop by for a few minutes this afternoon." Her heart nearly skipped a beat when her husband curtly asked, "And did he give you \$500?"

Sue, using her best poker face, replied, "Well, yes, in fact he did give me \$500."

Bob, with a satisfied look on his face, surprised his wife by saying, "He came by the office this morning and borrowed \$500 from me. He promised he'd stop by our house this afternoon on his way home and pay me back."

Now that, my friends, is a poker player. — from Mick Howe.

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a tele-

gram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Sceptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor.

The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream."

She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream."

Then the old lady said she wants a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top."

So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?" — from <http://www.laughfactory.com>



"YOU WANTED A SECOND HONEYMOON, FINE...  
BUT IF YOU THINK I'M CARRYING YOU OVER  
THE THRESHOLD AGAIN, YOU'RE NUTS!"



## March Timeline: Battle of Bismarck to Georgia poll

**2 March 2, 1943:** During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began. The convoy included eight destroyers and eight transports carrying 7000 Japanese soldiers heading toward New Guinea. Four destroyers and all eight transports were sunk, resulting in 3500 Japanese drowned, ending Japanese efforts to send reinforcements to New Guinea.

**4 March 1899:** Cyclone Mahina, the deadliest tropical cyclone in Australia's recorded history, and probably one of the most intense ever recorded, hit Bathurst Island north of Darwin. More than 300 people died, the great majority of whom were divers and seamen from South-East Asia, the Torres Strait and Pacific islands who worked on the Thursday Island pearling fleet. It was anchored around Bathurst Bay, Queensland, when the cyclone struck.



**6 March 1966:** Prime Minister Harold Holt announces the Australian commitment in South Vietnam will be increased to a 4350-man task force. The 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) will include two infantry battalions, a Special Air Service squadron, combat and support logistic units and eight RAAF Iroquois helicopters (9 SQN). It will be supported by 1 Australian Logistic Support Group (1 ALSG) to be established at Vung Tau. For the first time, national servicemen will be sent to South Vietnam.

**12 March 1913:** The Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman, announced that Canberra was the name of Australia's new national capital. Its development was severely delayed by both world wars and the Great Depression, but it is now home to nearly 400,000 people.

**17 March:** Celebrated as Saint Patrick's Day, commemorating the patron saint of Ireland.

**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.

**25 March, 1807:** The British Parliament abolished the slave trade following a long campaign against it by Quakers and others.

**29 March 1975:** Australia responds to urgent requests for assistance from Governments of South Vietnam and United States with seven RAAF Hercules and two Dakota aircraft sent to Vietnam on a humanitarian relief mission. During the final weeks of the war, the RAAF was involved in movement of refugees, transport of Red Cross and UN supplies, and in early April evacuation of Vietnamese war orphans from Saigon to Bangkok during 'Operation Baby Lift'. **PICTURED: Flight Lieutenant Ian Stuart Frame with an orphan at Ton Son Nhut airport. — AWM photo.**

**31 March, 1991:** The Soviet Republic of Georgia, birthplace of Josef Stalin, voted to declare its independence from Soviet Russia, after similar votes by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Following the vote in Georgia, Russian troops were dispatched from Moscow under a state of emergency.

### Sources included:

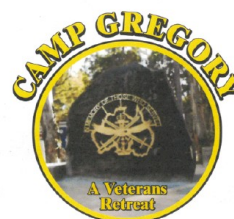
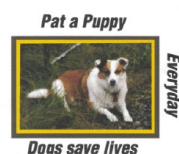
<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/defining-moments-timeline>

<http://www.vvaa.org.au/calendar.htm>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

[Military\\_history\\_of\\_Australia\\_during\\_the\\_Vietnam\\_War](#)

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



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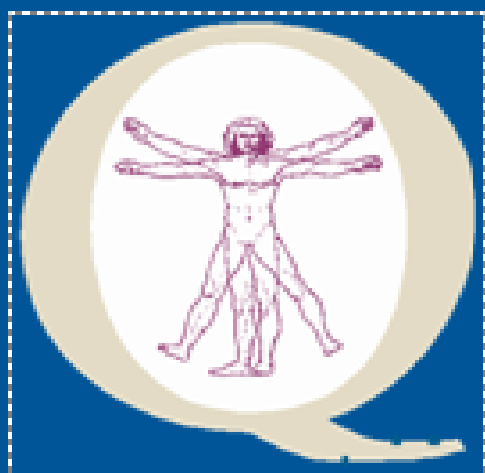
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## COVID vaccine ready in March

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally approved the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for use in Australia.

The first priority groups in Australia can start receiving this vaccine in early March.

This registration means the AstraZeneca vaccine has met the TGA's rigorous standards for safety, quality and efficacy, and will be provided for free to all Australian residents.

It has been provisionally approved in Australia for people 18 years and older.

Two doses will be required.

The TGA, from a regulatory perspective, has reviewed all the available evidence and determined that the AstraZeneca vaccine can be safely administered 4-12 weeks apart.

Drawing on the advice of the TGA and also from the implementation of the program internationally, our Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation has determined that to create the very best immune response, ensure the most effective clinical protection and maximise broader community coverage, the vaccine should be administered 12 weeks apart.

The approval is subject to strict conditions, and AstraZeneca will be required to continue providing information to the TGA on the safety, efficacy and quality of the vaccine.

The AstraZeneca vaccine will be distributed through many more locations, including general practice clinics, GP respiratory clinics, vaccination clinics and pharmacies.

The National Rollout Strategy details how the vaccine will be distributed more widely over the coming months.

The next steps in the process will include batch testing of all doses, establishing cold storage facilities for the vaccine, training health providers to administer it, and finalising distribution sites.

**Check with your doctor for more information or call the helpline 1800 020 080 for information about COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccines or help with the COVIDSafe app. This number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**



# Last days at Gallipoli: satisfaction, regret?

An article published on 4 January 1916 looked back on the changed landscape of Anzac following the evacuation. The headlines: DESERTED ANZAC. WHAT THE TURKS FOUND. HONEY-COMBED HILLS. (By Melbourne "Argus" Reporter. Recently at the Front).

"In leaving Anzac our troops must have experienced mingled feelings of satisfaction and regret. No one in his right mind could have been anxious to remain there a moment longer than duty demanded. Yet there were ties binding all ranks to the zone which had been bought with so much Australian blood. Of course, it will have been generally understood by this time that our hold on Gallipoli was always most precarious. It was as if a desperate man climbed up over the edge of a precipice, and stood there defying all efforts of opponents to shove him off. Now the Australians have stolen away from Anzac, after an eight months' occupation. It is remarkable that they were able to stay there so long.

Probably no other military force could have accomplished what our men did at Anzac, and none could possibly have done better. The bitterness of it all is that the effort has been wasted — that one of the most heroic exploits of history has ended in nothing. It seems to have been a prophetic coincidence that only a few weeks ago what was originally known as the Mediterranean expedition, was renamed.

"When the Turks swarmed over the deserted territory, which had been the uncomfortable home of our soldiers, they would have found much that must have been interesting, even to such battle-scarred veterans. The maze of trenches, communication saps, and tunnels that honeycombed the hills would reflect more than anything else the tireless energy of the Australians. Scarcely a square yard of the Anzac area had escaped pick, shovel or axe, and on all sides high explosive shells from the Turkish guns had torn gaping craters in the loosened soil...

"Surveying the scene of the Gallipoli Sphinx, the Turks will look down on half a dozen masts sticking above the waters of the Aegean Sea, where mine-sweepers and pinnacles have gone down in action; and the relics of the bivouacs will be found scattered everywhere. It will be a desolate scene and, even the most vivid imagination will be unable to reconstruct the picture of throbbing activity that was its order during the Australian occupation. In a few weeks the rains and snow will come and wash away the signs of our soldiers' hard work; and in the spring, the rhododendrons, the holly, the olives, the scarlet pimpernel, and the wild poppies, and the hundreds of other varieties of vegetation will burst forth once more, and indications of battle will disappear."

Extract taken from <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2626189084317964/permalink/2790544974549040/>

Appeared in Darling Downs Gazette' (Queensland), 4 January 1916.

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## War at our front door

Mainland Australia came under attack for the first time when Japanese forces mounted two air raids on Darwin on 19 February 1942. Pictured is one damaged area in the city.

The two attacks, which were planned and led by the commander responsible for the attack on Pearl Harbor 10 weeks earlier, involved 188 attack aircraft which were launched from four Japanese aircraft-carriers in the Timor Sea, and a second raid of 54 land-based bombers. The carrier battle group consisted additionally of two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, seven destroyers, three submarines, and two other heavy cruisers on distant cover.

The two raids killed 235 people with a further 300 to 400 wounded. Thirty aircraft were destroyed, including nine out of the ten flying in defence, nine ships in the harbour and two outside were sunk, and some of the civil and military facilities in Darwin were destroyed. The Japanese lost four aircraft, one crash-landing on Melville Island; its pilot captured by a local man.



He was the first prisoner of war on Australian soil.

The air attacks across northern Australia, centring on the Territory, continued until November 1943, totalling more than 200. Bombs were also dropped on Townsville, Katherine, Wyndham, Derby, Broome and Port Hedland. – sources Australian War Memorial and National Archives of Australia.

## ASK YOUR ACTIVOT OT

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Your ActivOT OT can work with you to assess your clinical need and prescribe many aids and appliances that will help you. Your ActivOT OT will order items, trial them with you as necessary, and provide education and training in their use based on your treatment goals, helping you achieve what is important to you.

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**WHITE CARD:** White Card holders are entitled to aids and appliances for assessed clinical need for their accepted disabilities that are caused by war or service.

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*

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I trust you are all coping with the 'Great-coats on – Great-coats off' situation by avoiding the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have raced back to Queensland twice prior to the closure of the Queensland border due to hot spots appearing, concerning this vicious bug. The same bug has robbed us of gathering for all our usual military commemorations. Well, not all. We had a limited gathering for both Victory in the Pacific Day as well as Remembrance Day, social distancing and numbers attending, fulfilling the law.

Now that the local Council has lowered the Covid-19 gavel on our Anzac Day celebrations, we look with hope that we will be allowed to commemorate this particularly important date with some dignity and comfort to us all.

As some members know, at our 2019 Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon, Trevor Benneworth offered me to write for the RAAF Radio School Magazine. Since then, I have written 'Page 12' every quarter. I am a former student at RAAF Radio School, firstly in Ballarat, and later in Laverton, Victoria. Trevor does a tremendous job in covering as many military and ex-service functions as his time allows.

## Fireside with the Padre



After I wrote about my time at Radio School, Ballarat, a lady who was in the Orderly Room as a young WRAAF member contacted Trevor and ultimately, me.

She announced that I had written in her Autograph Book back in those days (You will be showing your age if you remember that every young lady had an Autograph Book in those days). She quoted the message that I had written. That confirmed our earlier meeting, for I wrote the same passage in every young lady's Autograph Book.

When Annette asked me to write in her Autograph Book, after my usual message, I wrote, "Roses are red, Violets are blue; Honey is sweet. And so are you!" No wonder I won her hand in marriage with my smooth poetic verbiage!

In Audrey's book, I wrote Adam Lindsay Gordon's famous quote, "Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone. Kindness

in another's trouble, Courage in your own."

What did Gordon mean by 'froth and bubble'? Some say he meant, "Don't sweat about the small stuff..." making clear that the small stuff has little or no substance.

Gordon is clear in this: 'be there for others when they are in need and summon the courage to live our lives to the fullest'.

If he were here today, would he group the COVID-19 pandemic in the 'small stuff' basket or the important stuff? In these days of dodging COVID-19 avoidance limits and border closures with accompanying disruption rife, Gordon's quote is very appropriate. We all need that 'courage'.

As your Padre, it is my privilege to show you where to find that 'Courage'. Best wishes as you find it.

Until next month, be kind to each other, and do everything you can to keep that bug at bay.

**Arthur Fry**  
**Honorary Chaplain**

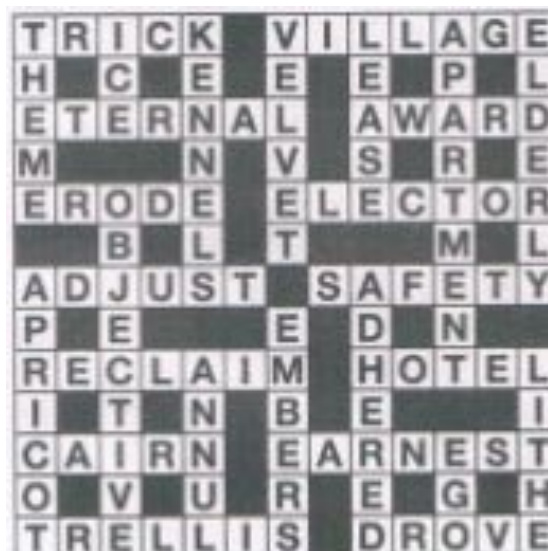
## Answers from page 10



1. Chickpea
2. Rand
3. Haiti
4. Johnny Depp
5. Prius
6. Holy Water
7. Toronto
8. De Klerk
9. Pakistan
10. In The Throat
11. Carbon Dioxide
12. Morocco
13. Fulgencio Batista
14. Red
15. Wrestling
16. Poland

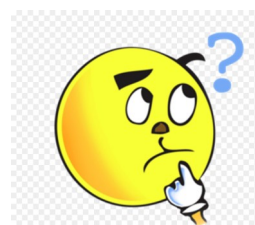
### Trivia Answers

17. Lourve
18. Cricket
19. Ireland
20. North America
21. Hope
22. Concave
23. Umbrellas
24. David Bowie
25. Joan of Arc
25. Theodore Roosevelt
27. Rome
28. Hawaii
29. Purple
30. Jaws



### Brain Teaser Answers

1. A map
2. Glass
3. Heroine
4. Your breath
5. Pride
6. A pearl



# 'WE SUFFERED A THOUSAND TIMES MORE'

During the war he was so impressed by the logic of statistics that he tried to calculate how many deaths it would take to bring North Vietnam to the bargaining table. Now he wanted to know why his reckoning had been wrong, why the huge casualties that he had helped inflict had failed to break the will of the men in Hanoi. He came and left with the most durable stereotype between enemies: that the other side is a people not sufficiently swayed by loss of life.

His ruminations about this began at the Americans' April meeting in Washington, where he, Cooper and General Vesser agreed that casualties did not seem to weigh heavily with North Vietnam, either in diplomacy or military planning. "Was there any consideration of the human cost in Hanoi as they made these decisions?" McNamara asked. "Is the loss of life ever a factor?" He noted that while 58,000 Americans had been killed, the most authoritative estimate -- in a September 1995 article by General Uoc -- put the number of Vietnamese deaths at 3.6 million. "It's equivalent to 27 million Americans!" McNamara exclaimed.

To explain this to himself, he remembered seeing, during World War II in China, a worker fall and get crushed by a huge roller flattening earth for an airfield. The Chinese laborers laughed. There were some people to whom life was not the same as to us, he reasoned as he stood one evening in the hotel lobby. "We'd better understand that and write it down."

"Were you influenced by that loss of life?" he asked in the conference. "Did it move you to probe the negotiations?" Considering that a man responsible for so many casualties was accusing his enemies of caring less, the Vietnamese responded with exceeding courtesy. At first, when McNamara asked Thach the question over lunch, "the answer was, They paid no attention whatever to the casualties," McNamara reported triumphantly. "What I thought was -- and I was wrong -- that a very high rate of casualties would lead them to be interested in trying to find a less costly way of achieving their objectives -- i.e., negotiations." But all he had got was the standard line that the cause was worth any sacrifice, based on the often-quoted mantra of Ho Chi Minh: "There is nothing more precious than freedom and independence."

If a second question was asked -- did you do anything to minimize casualties? -- the conversation suddenly opened onto a different level, beneath the propaganda. A colonel at the Army Museum in Hanoi, for example, explained to me how he had lived for months in narrow tunnels underground, how units would attack where the enemy was weak, fall back where it was strong, use the fewest men and weapons possible for the task and "hold you by the belt," which meant staying so close to American troops that they could not call in air strikes or artillery without risking self-inflicted casualties.

McNamara did not travel more than a few blocks from the Hotel Metropole, or he would have seen that virtually every village has a monument to the fallen; indeed, one junior Government official, pointing to a new monument

*Continuing from the November issue, a feature article by David K. Shipler about a visit by Robert McNamara to North Vietnam after the Vietnam War. During the war McNamara was United States Secretary of Defense (1961 - 1968) under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson (pictured with McNamara) The article titled 'Robert McNamara and the Ghosts of Vietnam' was in The New York Times on 10 August 1997 (The article has American spelling).*

under construction, complained that the money could be better spent supporting survivors of the slain. And a major topic of press coverage and conversation is the belief that Agent Orange caused birth defects in children of soldiers.

When the Vietnamese officials across the table tuned in to what McNamara was trying to say, they parried firmly. "If Mr. McNamara thought that the leaders of Vietnam did not pay attention to the losses and suffering of the Vietnamese people while continuing the war," Co said, "this is a mistake, a misunderstanding by the United States, which is terribly wrong. The war did happen on Vietnamese soil. We suffered a thousand times more than the U.S. did." Then he delivered a final thrust: "I thank you, Mr.

McNamara, for giving us more understanding of your country."

McNamara remained baffled by Hanoi's failure to respond to Washington's negotiating probes, which included at least seven feelers put out by the Johnson Administration from 1965 to 1968 through Norwegian, Canadian, Polish, Soviet and other intermediaries, and at direct American-North Vietnamese meetings in Paris, Moscow and Rangoon. Usually these were accompanied by halts in the bombing of North Vietnam, during which the White House made known its expectation that Hanoi

would curtail the flow of troops and weapons to the south. But the flow, not easy to control precisely, seemed to continue or to increase. And on the American side the bombing was sometimes resumed at inopportune moments -- either because the weather cleared and permitted previously approved targets to be hit (as McNamara reports in his book) or because the White House refused to postpone a strike (as Cooper complained).

The Americans were intensely curious to know why Hanoi had not taken up the negotiating offers. In one instance it seemed as mundane as a misunderstanding over an appointment in Warsaw. The American version has been widely published: on Dec. 6, 1966, the American Ambassador to Poland, John Gronouski, was scheduled to meet with the North Vietnamese Ambassador to receive a reply to a proposal for talks.

- **Concludes in next month's Ricochet.**





## Roll of Honour – Vietnam, month of March 1962-75

**Over the past 12 months we published an Australian Roll of Honour on a monthly basis for the Vietnam War (1962-75) with a photo of each person. We will continue to publish a monthly roll without the photos.**

*Vietnam War Memorial, Canberra*



### *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.**

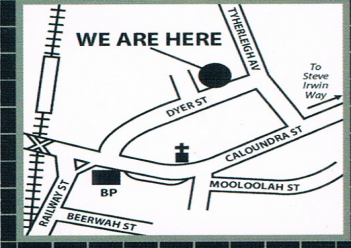
**SCALES, Grantley James (4719367), Pte, 20, 9 RAR, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide SA.**

**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**

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



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# Application for Membership/Renewal



**RENEWING MEMBERS NEED TO COMPLETE 1-6 ONLY!**

1. FAMILY NAME..... GIVEN NAME.....NICKNAME.....
  2. SERVICE NUMBER.....
  3. EMAIL ADDRESS.....
  4. RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.....P/C.....
  5. POSTAL ADDRESS (If different from above).....P/C.....
  6. Phone no. (.....)..... Mobile No. .... Partner's Name .....
  7. Date of Birth ...../...../..... Date of Enlistment ...../...../..... Date of Discharge ...../...../.....
  8. Did the Veteran serve under any other name Y/N if so- Family Name.....Given Name.....
  9. Honours/Awards (e.g. MM,JP) Please list.....
  - 10 Type of Membership Applying for - Ordinary, General, Associate, POSH. (Circle one please).
  11. Do you have a skill that Welfare could use? If so please advise .....
  12. If you fall ill, do you give permission for notification in the newsletter or noticeboard in the office? Y/N
  13. If you are hospitalised, do you give permission for our Hospital Visitation Officer to visit you? Y/N
  14. Do you give permission for your name and service details to be printed in the Newsletter? Y/N
  15. BRANCH OF SERVICE— NAVY — ARMY — AIRFORCE (Please circle)
- Ex-service personnel other than Australian must supply copy of Discharge Certificate and Drivers License.  
Currently serving ADF personnel must supply evidence of service.

1st Tour	2nd Tour	3rd Tour
From...../...../.....To ...../...../.....	From...../...../.....To ...../...../.....	From ...../...../..... To ...../...../.....
Unit:		

**New applicants for membership must have a nominator and seconder.**

Nominated by: .....Signature of Nominator: .....

**Annual Subscription**      **Payment can be made direct to: Westpac Bank BSB No. 034-198 Account No. 237008. Please enter your name, and what the payment is for, in the reference space.**

Ordinary \$25.00 (Australian and Allied Vietnam Veteran)    General \$20 (Ex and Current ADF and Allied)

Associate \$15.00 (Non military personnel)

POSH Associate \$7

Life \$14

Donation \$.....\$5    \$10    \$20    Or \$.....(Please circle). Thank you!

Please make Cheque/Money Order payable to: VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc.

Post to: VVAA Sunshine Coast, PO Box 533, COTTON TREE, QLD. 4558

I, the undersigned, hereby apply to be admitted to membership of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. and, if accepted, I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of its Constitution, By-laws which are now in force and which hereafter be in force.

Signature of Applicant..... Date...../...../.....

Received by ..... (Please Print)    Receipt No.....Date ...../...../.....