



RICOCHET

Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc., DECEMBER 2020

Funeral benefit equality on hold



A 2019 recommendation that the funeral benefit for earlier veterans such as those from the Vietnam War be increased to align with that for more recent veterans is still to be considered by the Federal Government "in a Budget context".

This is the crux of a response from Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mr Darren Chester to a post-budget inquiry from *Ricochet* to Member for Fairfax Mr Ted O'Brien.

As Mr Chester wrote: "Under the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA), a payment of \$2000 is available for a large group of eligible veterans and, in some limited circum-

stances, their dependents ...

"The Productivity Commission in its 2019 report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*, at Recommendation 14.10, identified the inadequacy of the VEA funeral payment when compared with funeral payments offered under different legislation."

The latter is a reference to veterans covered under rehabilitation acts which came in for later veterans (generally post-Vietnam except for some other service), for whom "a reimbursement amount of up to \$12,491.46 is available but with much stricter eligibility criteria," Mr Chester wrote, "and, therefore, a

more limited group of eligible veterans. This amount is intended to cover the cost of a funeral."

The recommendation suggests "aligning the funeral payment under the VEA with the MRCA funeral payment, albeit for a limited group of veterans".

Mr Chester responds that the recommendation is being considered by the Government, but "any change to legislative provisions such as this will need to be considered by Government in a Budget context".

- The report is available here: <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/veterans/report>

INSIDE: AGM coming up; pay your fees , nominate



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.

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OFFICE HOURS: As part of the response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the Drop-In Centre will open only on Wednesday from 1000 for 2/3 hours and Thursday 0730 to 1200 (subject to change any time).



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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.

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



Time to get out of Gallipoli

In November 1915 it must have become clear to ANZAC and wider political leadership that Gallipoli was an unwinnable situation and a plan was adopted during a conference at the General Headquarters, Mudros, a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos.

This was after Lord Kitchener's visit to Gallipoli in early November, during which he told General Birdwood to start thinking about how to evacuate, and before the recommendation was approved by British Parliament. The evacuation of Gallipoli began on 22 November 1915.

Charles Bean, the official Australian historian of the First World War, wrote that the evacuation plan was divided into three stages.

The evacuation from Anzac Cove and Suvla Bay occurred simultaneously, with the final evacuation of Helles coming later, on 9 January 1916. The operation from Anzac Cove, beginning on 22 November and ending on 20 December, consisted of the preliminary, intermediary, and final stages.

The idea was that the preliminary stage (sixteen days) could begin immediately, regardless of the decision made by the British Parliament, and would involve reducing the number of men required to defend positions during winter. In the official history Bean described the

intermediary stage (ten days) as one where "the force and material would be reduced until there remained only a bare sufficiency to enable the positions to be held for a week against attack".

During the final stage all remaining men were to be withdrawn over a period of two days. The force to be evacuated involved 41,218 men, 2368 animals and 105 guns.

One of the soldiers recalled: "I was to take a party, half a dozen men, to this advanced dump. I don't know where it was but it was somewhere up the line. And we had to destroy everything, make everything uneatable. We made a pyre. Bags of sugar, tipped them up; 90 pound cases of tea whatever was on this dump, tipped it all over and mixed it all up with paraffin, and lime, anything we'd got on the dump it went on to

make it – even bacon and that was chucked out the boxes and chucked among it. Make it unusable. And we pricked the cans of bully beef so as they went bad. Of course, when it came to destroying the rum, well we didn't like the job and we saved a drop."

Half the men were evacuated in December 1915; the remainder the following January. Incredibly, only two men were wounded as a result of the evacuation. As another Digger recalled: "We left there like a lot of cattle being dumped into a lighter and just pushed to sea. And nobody cared a tinker's cuss whether we lived or died."

PHOTO: Evacuating guns and personnel from Suvla Point on rafts in daylight in December 1915. – from Imperial War Museum.

Petition on Afghanistan citation

If you disagree with the intention of the Chief of Defence Force General Angus Campbell to revoke the "meritorious group citation" for those who served with the Special Operation Task Group in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2013, you can sign a petition.

A new group called "Voice of a Veteran" established by Heston Russell, who had a 16 year career in the military including special forces and operational deployments overseas including Timor Leste, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"This decision will impact over 3000 Special Operations personnel including the families of those heroes who have died in combat." they say. The petition is at <https://www.voiceofaveteran.org/>

***** LATE NEWS: Just before printing, the CDF indicated that this revocation may not occur, "depending on the implementation plan".**

From the President

Hi Everyone,

I sincerely hope that you and yours are both fit and well. Another year has just about passed and we have achieved virtually nothing. No sausage sizzles at Bunning's; no marshalling at the various and on-going marathons; and no crowd control at swimming events. The COVID pandemic has hit us in a serious way. However, we are still financially viable and we will continue on as always.

As you would all be aware, due to this virus, we have been unable to hold any of our regular monthly meetings since last March. We have had a couple of informal Committee meeting, but that was just to clear some of the business issues that arose. We hope to start our regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month starting in February.

You will notice that elsewhere within this issue our editor has included all relevant information regarding the upcoming Annual General Meeting and has included Nomination Forms should you wish to run for office, or nominate someone else to hold a position within either the Executive or Committee of this Association.

You will also note that this edition clearly reminds everyone that your subscriptions are now due. The committee and I would really appreciate your urgent attention to this matter and you can renew your membership either by post (filling in the form at the end of this newsletter) or by calling into the Drop-In Centre on either a Wednesday morning (10am - noon) or Thursday morning (8am - noon).

Having said that, as soon as possible in the new

year the committee will be discussing the new office hours and Duty Officer duties that will re-commence in February. It is hopeful that we will remain open, with a Duty Officer each Monday to Friday, although it may be reduced to a half day only. We will see.

In closing, I wish you and your respective families all the best over the Christmas period and into what I hope will be a better and bigger 2021. Take care over the holiday period; drive safe, eat well, thoroughly enjoy yourselves and I hope to see you all fit and well next year.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

*Best Regards,
Mick Howe,
President.*



Brisbane exploded in wartime

The streets of Brisbane's CBD were turned into a war zone for two nights 78 years ago, resulting in the death of one Australian serviceman and scores of injuries.

The 'Battle of Brisbane' refers to the mass street brawls and riots between Australian and United States servicemen on November 26 and 27 in 1942.

The usually friendly interaction, camaraderie and jocularity between the Australians and the Americans turned violent after a series of nasty incidents fuelled by alcohol, mistaken intentions, deep social divides and a toxic relationship between the high commands of the armies.



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From the A/Secretary

Hi to all, I trust everyone is well and looking forward to the back end of 2020 and hoping for a prosperous and healthy new year.

It was great to catch up with all members of our committee at our recent meeting, the minutes of which will be published in this issue of Ricochet.

I must thank Crissy Wessels for her excellent reporting as it made my job of delivery to the editor so much easier for publication.

The library is still not officially opened for business as we discovered in the meeting room last week.

However things are slowly coming back to some sort of normality in our day to day operations.

Mick Howe is continuing to man the office on Thursday, and Crissy and Margo on Wednesday mornings.

We continue to source opportunities for fundraising, however options are limited.

I have managed to gain particulars

for casual leasing at the Big Top in Maroochydore and will advise opportunities in due course.

Only four weeks until Christmas which means the "Silly Season" is about to hit.

We have no plans for any end of year celebrations, just more of what is the norm nowadays.

Thursday breakfast continues to grow by the week and also don't forget Riflemen's Lunch first Friday of the month 12 noon.

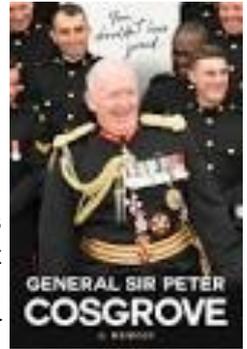
December's date is Friday the 4th, and January the 8th as the first Friday is New Years Day.

That's about it for me, stay safe and keep as active as possible.

Cheers
Garry King,
Acting
Secretary.



Cosgrove memoir



One of Australia's most significant public figures, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) has a new biography out with a title relating to his military days, *You Shouldn't Have Joined*

Publisher Allen and Unwin describes it the story of his extraordinarily full and eventful life as well as the story of those who have shared it with him, in particular his wife Lynne – "a warm, fascinating memoir of one of Australia's most popular and prominent public figures".

As a soldier he saw action in Vietnam, being awarded the Military Cross, and rose to the very top of his profession, becoming Chief of the Defence Force. In 2014, he became Australia's Governor-General.



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FROM THE EDITOR

WITH Christmas almost upon us, 2020 will certainly be remembered as a year like no other.

Who would have thought in January or February we were going to have state and international borders closing across the world with nightly statistics on the news of the number of cases and more poignantly the number of deaths.

Tragedies unfolding in hospitals and homes across the world. *Déjà vu*. A similar story had unfolded in 1918 – as the cost in lives and otherwise of World War One was being counted and its end neared, the so-called Spanish Flu spread from country to country helped along unwittingly by soldiers returning home from battlefields of Europe.

This time it is a China Flu, though most seemed to think that term might offend the country of origin, so it was initially dubbed Coronavirus and later

COVID-19 ('CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease).

For veterans, a marked difference in our normal lives was restrictions on events and catching up with mates, particularly on Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. The latter saw some easing of restrictions with services and other events held at various venues, for example, a lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club where I had the honour of being guest speaker.

As well as reflecting on the terrible cost of World War One and the reason for Remembrance Day, I also noted: “Remembrance is very much about ceremonies, parades, the Last Post, one or two minutes’ silence, laying of wreaths, catafalque parties, visits to cemeteries, reunion with veteran mates ... the list goes on. In three words: *We Forget*.”

“But for those who have lost mates or family members, we must remember it has personal moments, not just at this time every year, not just on Anzac Day even, or Vietnam Veterans Day, but at any time, maybe every day.”

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you and yours.

Kerry White

Editor, Ricochet

PHOTO: Me with fellow 5RAR Diggers New Years Eve 1966 on Route 15., Operation Canary.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Association Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. will be held in the meeting room adjacent to the Drop-In-Centre on the first floor of the Maroochydhore Library Administration Building at Cotton Tree, Queensland, on Tuesday 16 February 2021. Time 1000 hours. A nomination form for all Management Committee positions and other Office Bearer positions is on the inside back page of this newsletter. Copies of the form will also be available at the Drop-In-Centre.

THE FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY
BY 1200 (NOON) ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021
Please note a BBQ will follow the AGM
Venue Cotton Tree Park

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST SUB-BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT COTTON TREE, QLD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2020

OPENING: The President declared the meeting open at 1140 hours.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance and apologies was as per the Attendance Book, 25 Attendees 6 apologies.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: It was moved by Gordon Hall (AGM01/20) that the minutes were a true and accurate account of that meeting. Seconded by Pieter ReusCarried.

AUDIT REPORT: It was moved by Glen Preston (AGM02/20) that the Audited Financial Report be accepted as tabled. Seconded by Colin Parkin....Carried.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: The President gave his report and handed over the meeting to the Senior Vice President Garry King.

ELECTION OF Committee Members and Office Bearers: All the Nominated and seconded Members were elected to their respective Nominated Positions. All of the Nominators and Seconders are Financial. The Executive and Committee Members are as page two of the March Ricochet.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Moved Michael Howe (AGM03/20) that The Financial Committee, Vietnam Veterans' Day Sub-Committee, Welfare Team and Honorary positions be ratified for this financial year.
Seconded Colin Parkin Carried
2. Moved Michael Howe (AGM04/20)) that the Auditor Frank Redpath's letter of application to remain as our Auditor be accepted and the appointment continued for the 2020 financial year. Seconded Colin ParkinCarried

CLOSURE: There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 1132 hours.

Committee Meeting 12 November 2020

Summary of Meeting discussions:

1. The insurance for the scooter has been paid by our Treasurer
2. Discussion regarding Community Grants 2021 and the need to look at our Welfare dollars spent 2020.
3. Removal of word : Acting from State titles ie an Acting Secretary will be listed as Secretary.
4. There was no concrete slab underneath the Cold Room at Alaric, thus the Cold Room was removed.
5. Thank you to Bunnings for the \$500 voucher, and we will contact Bunnings to negotiate swap for 5 x \$100 vouchers, as this is fairer for our Members in a raffle at VV Day.
6. Proposed trip to Alaric to perform a full inventory - possibly February 2021.
7. Solar Panels at Alaric discussion regarding future placement at another Veteran Facility.
8. ANZAC Day Sales - contact Centre Management at relevant sites and apply.
9. BBQ'S using the equipment in storage at Caloundra.
10. Volunteers BBQ to be held WED 9 DEC 2020 at usual place Cotton Tree. 1200hrs.

Protecting our biggest assets at the Top End

Researching ancient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tools, materials, hunting and farming methods is a passion for Corporal Brodie McIntyre, a descendant of the Warlpiri people of the Northern Territory.

Corporal McIntyre was pictured with Kesha, providing security for a C-17A Globemaster at RAAF Base Darwin.

He's not the first in his family to serve in the ADF, his grandfather is an Army veteran, and now he and his dog, Kesha, a Belgian Malinois, have become veterans themselves having served together since 2015.

"Kesha is a courageous and smart dog and I have been awestruck to be paired with her and to this point in my career she is the only dog I have had," Corporal McIntyre said.

"To me, being in the Air Force means being dedicated to the nation, my family and, with or without Kesha, being prepared to assist in peacetime or warlike operations.

"As we commemorate the formation of the Air Force 100 years ago, I feel I have had an extremely blessed career with the opportunity to participate on numerous occasions with pre-recruitment indigenous programs,



had the honour to play the didgeridoo at Gallipoli twice, at the Australian War Memorial on Anzac Day and at the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo.

"Dr Brendan Nelson (former CEO) asked me to display one of my didgeridoos in the Australian War Memorial and I have indeed agreed and have donated it to them for their collection."

- Photo Sergeant Ben Dempster



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A Digger and his wife not parted by death

EVERY story behind each of the deaths we have been publishing this year in the Roll of Honour in Ricochet is undoubtedly one of sadness, but one this month is surely even more poignant than most.

The entry in the Roll of Honour (page 21) is about the death of 22-year-old Corporal Allan Walter "Midge" Graham (43528) from Port Augusta, South Australia.

A Regular soldier, he was serving with 9 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment when he was wounded during a firefight in Bien Hoa Province on 6 January 1969. He died the following day at the 24th US Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh.

After receiving the news, his wife, Raelene, died by her own hand on 8 January 1969. They are buried together in the Stirling North Cemetery.

"When 4RAR was deployed to Malaysia in August 1965 the newly married couple found themselves living in married quarters near the garrison town of Terendak,' an Australian War Memorial tribute to the couple relates.

"The battalion was deployed to Borneo in April 1966 to face the Indonesians during the final stages of Confrontation. Private Graham, a member of A Company 4RAR, served with his company at Gumbang.

"When Confrontation ended 4RAR was transferred to Malacca until the battalion returned to Australia in October 1967. During this time the couple had a son who was born in the Military Hospital at Terendak.

"The now Corporal Graham was posted to 9RAR, which was formed at Keswick Barracks, Adelaide, for service in Vietnam. 9RAR embarked on HMAS Sydney in Adelaide on 9 November 1968, arriving in Vietnam on 20 November 1968."

Allan and Raelene were buried together in the Stirling North Cemetery, Port Augusta.

PHOTO: Allan and Raelene Graham on their wedding day — from AWM .

(Note: As per the AWM Roll of Honour Cpl Graham's "Cemetery or Memorial Details" are given as Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide – different from where he is buried. This anomaly occurs on more than one entry and AWM was asked about the apparent issue. The reply included: "We record an individual's place of official commemoration on the Roll of Honour database. This may be a cemetery, or a garden on remembrance, based on the wishes of their next of kin.")



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Denmark to Vietnam — old soldier passes on

A STALWART of the sub-branch and career soldier passed away recently.

Jens Christian Petersen (pictured) was aged 74 when he died on Remembrance Day. As he had wished, a private funeral service was held on 18 November.

He was born in Denmark on 29 November 1945 and migrated to Australia with his family in the early 1960s.

He joined the Army in 1963 (17920) and served with 6 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, on its two tours to Vietnam – 6 June 1966 to 30 May 1967 and 8 May 1969 to 16 May 1970. Jens also served in Singapore and Malaysia.

Other units he served with included 2 RAR, 49 RQR, 27 RSAR, 3 RAR, Officer Cadet School, Land Warfare Centre (Victoria Detachment).

Jens served 20 years with the Army reaching the rank of Warrant Officer Class One.

He settled at Mountain Creek on the Sunshine Coast after retirement and worked as a security officer for several years. As well as being a regular volunteer with the

association he served with the Coast Guard for a short time.

His wife, Coral, who was from Ipswich, passed away only in August this year. He is survived by a son, Chris, as well as a brother in Ipswich and a sister in Denmark.



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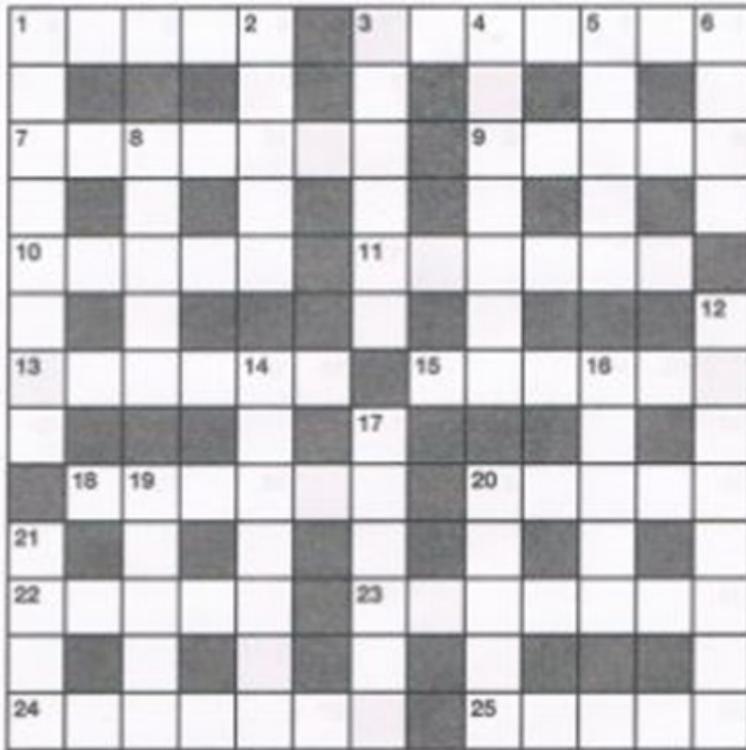
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JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



ACROSS

- 1 Large oval fruit (5)
- 3 Units of time (7)
- 7 Fished commercially (7)
- 9 Several music tracks issued together (5)
- 10 Irritated (5)
- 11 Birds of prey (6)
- 13 A business that serves other businesses (6)
- 15 Published (6)
- 18 Save from loss or danger (6)
- 20 Having three dimensions (5)
- 22 The relative magnitudes of two quantities (5)
- 23 Passage selected from a larger work (7)
- 24 School for special training (7)
- 25 Flowed back (5)

DOWN

- 1 Based on traditional stories (8)
- 2 Lubricated (5)
- 3 Happening without warning (6)
- 4 Alterations (7)
- 5 Stately (5)
- 6 Japanese form of wrestling (4)
- 8 Leg joint (5)
- 12 Enlightened (8)
- 14 Violent windstorm (7)
- 16 An earth pigment (5)
- 17 Cure (6)
- 19 Additional (5)
- 20 Periodic repeated series of events (5)
- 21 Elaborate song for solo voice (4)

Christmas Quiz

1. What was the first song ever broadcast from space?
2. What aspect of Christmas reminds children of the shepherds who visited baby Jesus?
3. In Australia's version of the song 'Jingle Bells', what mode of transportation is used instead of a 'one-horse open sleigh'?
4. What spirit is traditionally added to Christmas pudding?
5. What Christmas beverage is also known as 'milk punch'?
6. What Christmas food is good luck to eat on each of the twelve days of Christmas?
7. Christmas Island in Australia has an annual migration of which animal?
8. Who stole Christmas?
9. What Christmas tradition began in Melbourne in 1938?
10. Why is Christmas celebrated on the 25th of December?

December Trivia

1. What year was the very first model of the iPhone released?
2. What's the shortcut for the "copy" function on most computers?
3. What is often seen as the smallest unit of memory?
4. Who is often called the father of the computer?
5. What does "HTTP" stand for?
6. What is the name of the man who launched eBay back in 1995?
7. Which email service is owned by Microsoft?
8. Who discovered penicillin?
9. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (in 1903)?
10. What part of the atom has no electric charge?
11. What is the symbol for potassium?
12. Which planet is the hottest in the solar system?
13. Which planet has the most gravity?
14. How many molecules of oxygen does ozone have?
15. What is the common name for dried plums?
16. What name does deer meat go by?
17. What other name does "corn" go by?
18. What's the primary ingredient in hummus?
19. Who is often credited with creating the world's first car?

20. Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
21. Which company owns Bugatti, Lamborghini, Audi, Porsche, and Ducati?
22. What does BMW stand for (in English)?
23. What or who is the Ford Mustang named after?
24. Which car is often called the first muscle car?
25. What is your body's largest organ?
26. About how many taste buds does the average human tongue have?
27. What percentage of our bodies is made up of water?
28. Which element is said to keep bones strong?
29. What does the acronym AIDS stand for?
30. How many times does the heart beat per day?

• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18**

When you're laughing ...

AN old – sorry, veteran – pilot Peter Rogers shares some wisdom from the world of aviation:

Scientific fact: the rings of Saturn are composed of lost airline luggage.

Newton's Law: What goes up must come down. Squadron Commander's Law: What comes down better be able to go up again!

I was 14 when I wanted to be a pilot. I'm now 80 and still want to be a pilot, but I'd rather be 14 again.

Icarus could have flown if he'd picked a cloudy day.

As George Carlin said, "If black boxes survive crashes, why don't they make the whole airplane out of that stuff?"

Soldier to a pilot: "Why didn't you join the Army?" Pilot's answer, "I found out that good food and clean sheets were readily available on nearby Air Force bases."

"Roger" - a term used by pilots when they can't figure out what else to say.

Helicopter pilots are different from airplane pilots. Airplane pilots are open, clear-eyed, buoyant extroverts. Helicopter pilots are brooders, introspective anticipators of trouble. They know if something bad has not happened, it is about to.

Death is God's way of telling pilots to watch their airspeed on final.

You can't fly unless you can land, but you can't land unless you can fly. So, which is it?

What is the worst thing that can happen when you are flying? - running out of airspeed, altitude and ideas all at the same time.

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"You getting athlete's foot is about as ridiculous as a coal miner with sunstroke!"

< REMEMBRANCE DAY >

AT THE service on Remembrance Day at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph (opposite) were (right) Maroochy RSL President Michael Liddelow with Commodore CSC Steve Woodhall and his wife, Amanda. Below: "Legends" Laurie Drinkwater and Nobby Clarke.—photos Les



SURF CLUB LUNCH

AFTER a service on the beachfront at Mooloolaba Surf Club, lunch followed for (from top) Brett Williams, Kate Haydock, Kev Lynch; Don Gow, Pauline and John Hickey; Geoff Jewell, Buddy Fuhrmann, Garry King. Kev Lynch and Don Gow served together with 9RAR.

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NAVY TAKES ARMY ON BOARD

HMAS Adelaide took Army vehicles on board from landing craft during Exercise SEA WADER 2020 at Cowley Beach near Innisfail. The exercise involved soldiers and officers from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) and their new Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle onto a Light Landing Craft from.

“In addition to the integration of new capabilities, the joint training will ensure the AAF is well positioned to respond to a range of contingencies, and in particular to provide support to Australia and our regional partners ahead of the 2020-21 high-risk weather season,” Exercise Director and Commander Landing Forces Colonel Kim Gilfillan said. – from Navy News.

Fellowship at monthly vets' lunch



AT THE November lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club 50 to 60 (depending who you believe) attended to enjoy a few coldies and some great company. Kev Lynch reports: “An increasing number of younger Riflemen are joining us and we welcome them with open arms. The club was under stress with many visitors, but still managed to look after our boys in a timely manner and it is much appreciated.” The December lunch will have been held when you read this, and the next one will be in January – not on the first Friday as it would be normally, but on Friday 8 January. TOP: One of several groups enjoying the occasion; (second from top) “old” Diggers who served with 6 RAR during late 70s, 80s and 90s (from left) Barry Shipway, Peter Deverall, Wayne Giddings, Ross Smith, Mark Doolan, Peter Gibbs, Arthur Campbell, Ray Black; and (above) Hayden Kenny, Greg Sawrey and David Drabsch. — thanks to Kev Lynch and Ian Atkinson for photos.



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– Onwards and Forward –

McNamara in Hanoi series ...

Because of space limitations we have held over the next instalment of the series from *The New York Times* on former US Defence Secretary Robert McNamara’s visit to Hanoi in the 1990s. If you want to read the feature article it is online at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/1997/08/10/magazine/robert-mcnamara-and-the-ghosts-of-vietnam.html>

BOOK REVIEW

Vietnam A Memoir , Saigon to Sapa, B Coy's 2nd tour – 2012 — by Wayne 'Sam' Brown MM , with Lucine.

In 2012, Association stalwart and acclaimed author and poet, Wayne 'Sam' Brown MM, together with wife Lucine, guided sixteen veterans, wives and veterans' widow on a 30 day tour of Vietnam. The proposed tour emanated from a suggestion made at a 4 RAR reunion in early 2011 which attracted immediate interest.

To organise a trip of such magnitude was a daunting challenge. However, Sam's previous sojourns to Vietnam stood him in good stead. Plus, he had an ace up his sleeve in the form of his Vietnam/Australian wife, Lucine.

The book is not just a memoir of the 2012 tour, but includes an overview of the preliminary reconnaissance trip when accommodation facilities were reviewed and booked as were tours and internal flights. Sam concludes with 'random memoirs' of his time as a medic during 1968/1969 and 'Handy hints for Traveling in Vietnam'.

For the prospective traveller, the places to visit are not only highlighted, but described in meticulous detail. The reader becomes versed in such aspects as the reputable travel companies and taxi lines, shops to visit, costs to anticipate including accommodation, food and drink and how to calculate the exchange rate.

Sam and Lucine are obviously connoisseurs of Vietnamese food and the descriptions of the culinary delights consumed by the explorers of 2012 are mouth-watering.

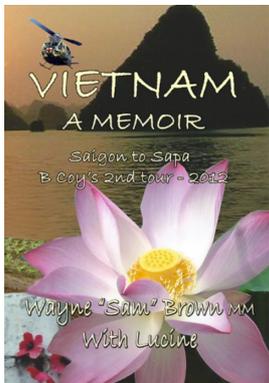
The tour included Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Hanoi, Nha Trang, beautiful Dalat, the ancient heritage city of Hoi An, the Citadel City of Hue, Vung Tau, Nui Dat and the wonders of Halong Bay.

For anyone contemplating a trip to Vietnam after the world returns to normal, this book is a must. Splendidly written by an accomplished writer, the memoir provides an insightful look into modern Vietnam and how to negotiate the highlights of the country.

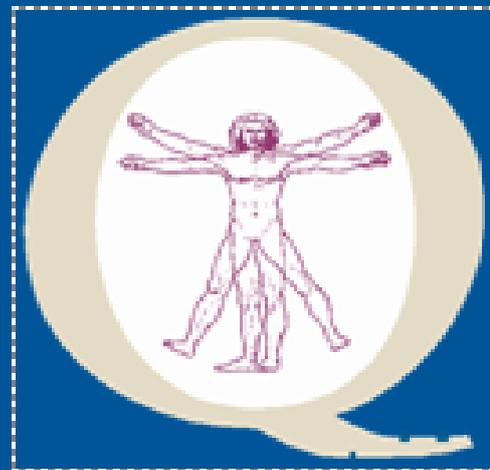
Vietnam A Memoir is available for \$29 (including postage). Email waynelucine@yahoo.com.au for bank details.

Other publications by Wayne Brown: *Medic— Memoirs of an Australian infantry medic; Blue— The remarkable exploits of 'Blue' Reiter M.C., M.M., MID 1939-1945. Wayne also wrote the verse that appears on the War Dogs Memorial at Alexandra Headland.*

— John Cunnington.

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December/January Timeline: Holt and Churchill

1 December 1, 1990: England was connected to mainland Europe for the first time since the Ice Age as engineers digging a railway tunnel under the English Channel broke through the last rock layer.

2 December 1972: Australian Labor Party with Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister is elected to Government. On **5 December**, conscription ends, draft resisters are released from jail and pending prosecutions for draft resistance are dropped. On **8 December**, Australia's military commitment in South Vietnam ends, although controversy about the precise end date of the war continues.

7 December 7, 1941: The US Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3000 Americans dead.

8 December 8, 1980: Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

12 December 1959: At the US Grand Prix, the last race of the season, Jack Brabham became the first Australian to win a Formula One World Championship. Brabham went on to win two more world championships, in 1960 and then again in 1966.



17 December, 1903: After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights.

17 December 1967: Prime Minister Harold Holt (pictured) goes missing, presumed drowned off Portsea in Victoria. His body is never recovered. On **10 January 1968** John Grey Gorton is sworn in as Prime Minister.

18 December 1964: Australian Government, responding to requests from the US President and South Vietnam Prime Minister for 200 additional advisers, offers to send ground troops to South Vietnam.

23 December, 1948: Hideki Tojo, Japanese prime minister from 1941-44, was hanged for war crimes.

25 December 1974: Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin in the small hours of Christmas Day, killed 71 people and devastated 80 per cent of the city.

December 1859: European wild rabbits were introduced into Australia so they could be hunted for sport.

26 December 1906: *The Story of the Kelly Gang* opened at the Athenaeum Theatre in Melbourne. It was the first multi-reel, feature-length film ever produced in the world.

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- **Continued from opposite page.**

1 January 1901: Australia became a nation on 1 January, 1901 when six British colonies — New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania — united to form the Commonwealth of Australia. This process was known as federation.

3 January, 1924: British Egyptologist Howard Carter found the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor after several years of searching.

5 January, 1976: In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot announced a new constitution which legalized the Communist government and renamed the country as Kampuchea. During the reign of Pol Pot, over one million people died in "the killing fields".

24 January, 1965: Winston Churchill (1874-1965) died.

27 January 1919: Despite a swift quarantine response in October 1918, cases of Spanish flu began to appear in Australia. The Spanish flu pandemic emerged at the end

of the First World War, killing more than 50 million people worldwide. About 40 per cent of the population fell ill and around 15,000 died as the virus spread through Australia.

27 January, 1967: Three American astronauts were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

28 January, 1986: Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

29 January 1968: Communist forces in South Vietnam launched what became known as the Tet Offensive, with attacks against every major city and regional centre. Although Tet cost the Communists 45-50,000 troops, it sowed serious doubt in the minds of the Australian and American people and led to major changes in policy.

- Sources included:

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/defining-moments-timeline> <http://www.vvaa.org.au/calendar.htm>
<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>

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GOLD CARD: Gold Card holders are entitled to aids and appliances for assessed clinical need for ALL medical conditions.

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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.

We will be available over the break for emergencies. Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas, looking forward to better times in 2021!



*Warmest wishes,
Your ActivOT OT
Nora*

**Nora English
Occupational Therapist
M: 0435874440**



2020 continues to rain mortars on my friends and colleagues. I trust you are managing to dodge the incoming mortars, be it COVID-19 related, general health issues or other difficult matters that rob us of our usual serenity.

My latest check with my cancer specialist which was meant to be my fifth and final annual visit, will see me in hospital this coming Friday to prove or disprove the indicators that suggest my problem may or may not have returned. I will keep you posted.

Annette and I have been chased out of Mauritius, then Singleton, not to mention the Queensland border closures all due to this destructive little blighter.

It has prevented us from enjoying Thanksgiving with our daughter-in-law and two granddaughters in Massachusetts.

Covid-19 has changed almost everything we used to hold near and dear.

I know many of you have had your lives and travels curtailed, but we

Fireside with the Padre



cannot let this little bug destroy our Christmas. We sing a hymn / sacred song in our church, "All may change, but Jesus – never – Glory to His name!"

That is one thing we can keep close to our heart that as we celebrate the Anniversary of His birth, Jesus never changes. The well-known story of His birth never changes.

The fact that He came to this earth, and was born in a manger among the meek and lowly; He was destined to become a man, the Son of God, teach for three years; be crucified on a cross; was buried for three days, but rose again from the grave does not change; has not

changed and never will change.

I trust that this year, despite distancing restrictions, you and yours will make your way to a church of your choice, or listen via the TV or radio or internet to hear again the message of Love and Grace that Christmas means to so many people of faith throughout the world.

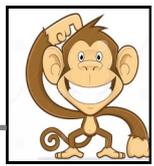
Covid-19 will come and go, it may take some time to recover economically and physically or even spiritually from its devastating effects, but the birth of Jesus, the Love of God the father, will continue on through all eternity, without change.

May God bless all our ex-military members and their families this Christmas as we look past the effects of Covid-19 and keep our eyes and thoughts on Jesus, whose birth we are soon to celebrate.

And this will be my last word / writing for 2020. May 2021 usher in a better prospect for each one of us.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

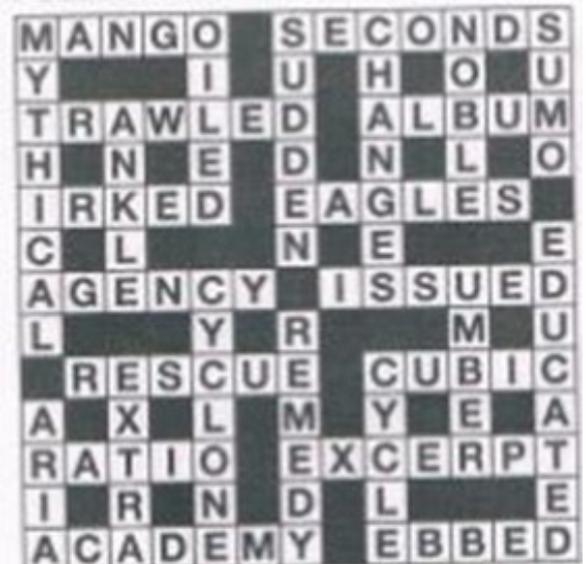
Answers from page 11



December Trivia

1. 2007
2. ctrl c
3. kilobyte
4. Charles Babbage
5. HyperText Transfer Protocol
6. Pierre Omidyar
7. Hotmail
8. Alexander Fleming
9. Marie Curie
10. Neutron
11. k
12. Venus
13. Jupiter
14. 3
15. Prunes
16. Venison
17. Maize

18. Chickpeas
19. Karl Benz
20. Horse
21. Volkswagen
22. Bavarian Motor Works
23. A fighter plane from WWII
24. The Pontiac GTO (pictured)
25. The skin
26. 10, 000
27. 60-65%
28. Calcium
29. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
30. More than 100 000



Christmas Quiz

1. Jingle Bells, in 1965.
2. Candy Canes — they resemble the shepherd's staff.
3. A rusty Holden ute.
4. Brandy
5. Eggnog

6. Mince Pies.
7. Crabs
8. The Grinch
9. Carols by Candlelight
10. Pope Julius I, in 350 AD, declared that the 25th of December is the official date to celebrate the birth of Christ

Roll of Honour – Vietnam, months of December /January 1962-75

December 1965

Fotheringham, Alexander Henry T (36543), 28, 1RAR, Cpl, Inverell Cemetery, NSW.



Simpson, Thomas (36205), 27, 105 FldBtry, Gnr, Terendak Military Cemetery, Melaka, Malaysia.



December 1966

Lithgow, Colin Thomas (214752), 27, 6RAR, LCpl (TempCpl), Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.



Sullivan, Paul Charles (3786696), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



December 1967

Birse, Robert Graham (215349), 23, 4FidRegt, Lt, Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park, Palmdale, NSW.



Fewquandie, Francis John (1411181), 23, 2RAR, Pte, Walkerston Cemetery, Walkerston, Qld.



Henderson, Malcolm Austin (51286), 36, AATTV, WO2, Karrakatta Cemetery, Karrakatta, Perth.



Hyland, Francis Arthur (6708488), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Wynyard Cemetery, Tas.



Robertson, Arthur James (2411510), 30, AATTV (Att.RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery, Sydney.



Seiler, Ronald (212909), 28, AATTV (Att.RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.



December 1968

Cox, Raymond John (2787020), 22, 1RAR, Pte, Goulburn Cemetery, NSW.



Gaffney, Ronald James (3793157), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Mudgee General Cemetery, NSW.



December 1968 continued

Garrigan, John (310089), 40, RAA (Att AATTV), WO2, Sale War Cemetery, Vic.



Hannaford, Michael John (3791920), 21, CSqdn, 1ArmRegt), Trp, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Kalma, John Henry (215637), 22, 1RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.



Rands, John Milton (2787069), 22, 1RAR, LCpl, Temora General Cemetery, NSW.



Roost, Christopher William (5715153), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.



December 1969

Brown, Allen Roy (3794895), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.



Buchan, Robert (55613), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Perth (Ashes later sent to relatives in in Scotland).



Cassano, "Nick" John (5716427), 22, 5RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.



Donald, Barry Creig (29745), 29, 161 (Ind) RecceFlt, Capt., Ipswich, Qld.



Evans, Thomas Arthur (3794256), 21, 1ATF, Pte, Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland, Sydney.



Fitzpatrick, Bryan Francis (A34167), 37, 2SqdnRAAF, Cpl, Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park, Melbourne.



French, Vivian Albert (1202185), 19, 3CavRegt, Trp, Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane



Roll of Honour – Vietnam, months of December /January 1962-75

December 1969 continued

Gould, Eric George (55890), 22, 8RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, War Cemetery and Annex, Perth.



Greene, John Gerard (2791447), 21, 1FldSqn, Spr, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.



Jellie, Alan Douglas (39510), 22, 161 (Ind) RecceFlt, 2Lt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Marks-Chapman, Peter Robert (38801), 25, 6RAR, Lt, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Robertson, Malcolm Robert (3793978), 21, 1ALSG, Pte, Lilydale Cemetery, Melbourne.



Stanford, Gregory Ian (2790070), 22, 6RAR, LCpl, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington, NSW.



Voyzey, Douglas James (2137680), 22, 3CavRegt, Trp, Evergreen Memorial Park, Tamworth, NSW.



Woolley, Ivan Alfred (A118435), 22, 2SqnRAAF, AC, Mount Gravatt Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.



December 1970

Galvin, Wallace James (214101), 32, Hq 26 CoyRAASC, Sgt, Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Matraville, Sydney.



Knight, Peter Raymond (A318937), 36, 1OSU, LAC, Brighton General Cemetery, Melbourne.



Lloyd, Allan (3797086), 20, 7RAR, Pte, Traralgon Cemetery, Vic.



Moss, Allan Brian (4410968), 22, Det52, SuppPlt (RAASC), Cpl (TempSgt), Evergreen Memorial Park, Enfield, Adelaide.



December 1970 continued

Nichols, Raymond Kevin (1797), 39, 106 FldWksp, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne. December 1971



Luff, Neville Francis (28325), 36, 3CavRegt, Pinegrove Memorial Park, Minchinbury, Blacktown City, NSW.



January 1966

Bade, Kenneth Wilfred (17071), 27, 105FldBtry, Capt, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.



Bowtell, Robert Walter (213151), 33, 3FldTrp, Cpl, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney.



Clark, Christopher (215214), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.



Coxon, Ronald Edward (38012), 27, 1RAR, LCpl, Shepparton Cemetery, Shepparton, Vic.



Horne, Neville Wayne (215217), 19, 1RAR, Pte, War Cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney.



Lees, Ronald Victor (26182), 37, RAA (AttAATTV), Sgt (TempWO2), War Cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney.



Penn, Desmond Hugh (5411479), 26, 1RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.



Petersen, Bror Ola (5411305), 25, 1RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.



Wilson, Mervyn Arthur F. (213780), 29, 1RAR, Pte, War Cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney.



January 1967

Tweedie, Geoffrey Lawrence (3787416), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Roll of Honour – Vietnam, months of December /January 1962-75

January 1968

Bell, Alec Ernest James (5714453), 21, 7RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.



Binning, Raymond Paul (4410704), 21, 2RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Davison, Walter Johnston (3 11546), 27, 8FldAmb (att.2RAR), Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Morrison, Dayle William (1732186), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.



Norley, Graham Leonard (43058), 23, 2RAR, LCpl (Temp.Cpl), Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Trzecinski, Paul Zigmund (216115), 21, 7RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.



January 1969

Cock, John Raymond (42564), 29, 9RAR, Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Duroux, Jeffrey Max (15230), 28, 9RAR, Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Graham, Allan Walter (43528), 22, 9RAR, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Graham, Samuel (2787716), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.



Harris, Ronald Arthur (5410968), 26, 2SASSqdn, LCpl (Temp.Cpl), Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.



Huelin, Antony Jeffrey (O27710), 25, RAN HelFlt, A/SubLt, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.



January 1969 continued

Key, Robert MacDonald (39493), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.



Malone, Peter Anthony (215983), 21, 3CavRegt, Trp, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.



Meredith, Thomas Frederick (2788798), 22, 9RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.



Musicka, Harold Robert (4717754), 23, 9RAR, Cpl, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.



Nagle, George (39565), 23, 9RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Phillips, Reginald Arthur (4719545), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Murray Bridge Cemetery, SA.



Plane, Bruce James (4719981), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Ardrossan Cemetery, SA.



Ramsay, Joseph Steven (1733037), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.



Smith, Peter Charles (2788912), 24, 9RAR, Pte, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.



Sykes, Arnold (55431), 25, 9RAR, Pte, Bunbury General Cemetery, WA.



January 1970

Clifford, Laurence Ian (42132), 39, ASqdn3CavRegt, Centennial Park Cemetery, SA.



Engstrom, Ronald John (18797), 22, 1FldSqdn, Cpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.



Roll of Honour – Vietnam, months of December /January 1962-75

January 1970 continued

Hollis, Anthony Edward (2786682), 23, 1FidSqn, Spr, Woronora General Cemetery, Sutherland, Sydney.



Stevens, John George (313122), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.



Wagstaff, Victor Neil (312756), 20, 8RAR, Pte, Maryborough Cemetery, Vic.



January 1971

Clark, Ross Tasman (3793971), 24, 1FidSqn, Fawknr Memorial Park, Melbourne.



Craig, Peter (2782049), 5RAR, 25, 5RAR, Pte, Wagga Wagga Lawn Cemetery & Crematorium, NSW.



January 1971 continued

Duffy, Milton Raymond (2792150), 22, 7RAR, Pte, West Kempsey Cemetery, West Kempsey, NSW.



Halkyard, Eric (311620), 27, 7RAR, L Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Hartney, Gilbert John (34854), 39, 102FidWksp, WO2, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.



Sheriff, Peter James (A119739), 20, 1OpSptUnit (att.9SqnRAAF), Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, Toowoomba, Qld.



- Information and photos from Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces; Find A Grave.

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

When travel is back on your agenda,
Ricochet recommends

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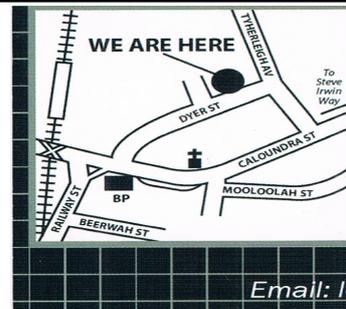


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NOMINATION FORM FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

I, (print your full name),

being a financial member of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. do hereby nominate

(name)

for the position of (please tick only one box, use a separate form for each position):

- PRESIDENT**
- SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT**
- JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT**
- SECRETARY**
- TREASURER**
- MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER (up to five positions)**

OTHER OFFICE-BEARERS:

- ASSISTANT SECRETARY** **ASSISTANT TREASURER** **OFFICE MANAGER**
- MERCHANDISE OFFICER** **RICOCHET EDITOR** **SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBER**

(Nominations for the above positions will be accepted from the floor at the AGM if a nomination has not been lodged by the return date for nominations.)

NOMINATOR: (signed) Date: / /

SECONDER: I, (print name), being a financial member of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. second this nomination:

(signed) Date: / /

NOMINEE: I, (print name), being a financial member of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. hereby accept this nomination

(signed) Date: / /

**THIS FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY BY 1200 (NOON) ON
TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021.**

(Note: Please use a separate form for each nomination for each position. Either photocopy this form or pick up additional forms at the Drop-In Centre).

