

RICOCHET

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

Our special days back on: fingers crossed

This year Anzac Day commemorations, including marches, parades, dawn services and other remembrance events are resuming after last year's hiatus caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

The VVAA Sunshine Coast has also announced that this year's Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration and luncheon will go ahead on Wednesday, 18 August, after being cancelled last year (**More detail Page 5**).

When the announcement ANZAC Day events could go ahead "as normal" was made a few weeks ago, Queensland authorities were working to "quite rapidly" return to a normal way of life from COVID-19 restrictions (As we prepare this issue for printing at the end of March, that is still the case).

Last year's restrictions saw thousands of Queenslanders stand on their driveways and light candles to pay their respects. These "Light Up the Dawn" activities are still encouraged this year.

Initially alternative venues in Brisbane were considered – including a march around the Ekka, but Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young gave the go-ahead, saying, "Everything can go ahead as per normal, as in the past".

She said, there were more than 270 active cases in Queensland in April last year — and now (February) the state has just seven.

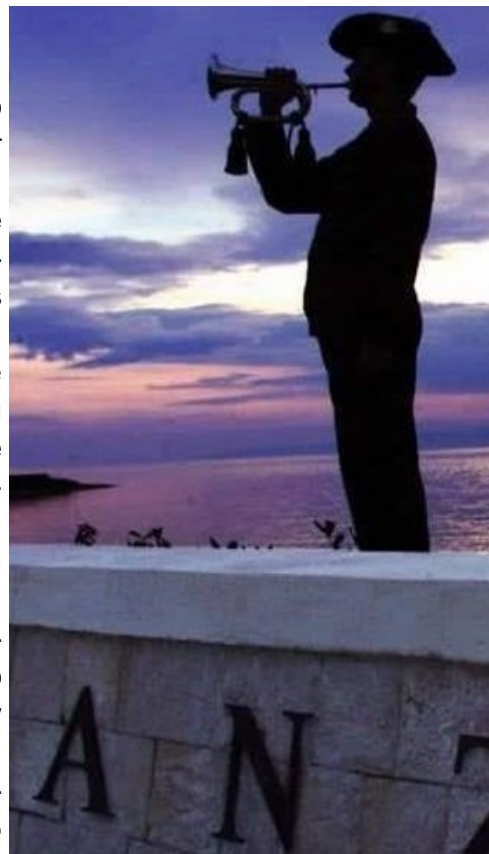
"We do not have community transmission here in Queensland today, and we probably don't have any community transmission anywhere in the country today and that's what the difference is," Dr Young said. then

RSL Queensland President Tony Ferris said: "The

communities and our veterans will now be able to step out with their comrades and continue down the path of remembering those veterans who have served, those who have given everything and those that are currently still serving."

The Australian War Memorial will welcome thousands of people to the Anzac Day Dawn Service and National Ceremony on Sunday 25 April.

This year, in line with government advice, the Dawn Service and National Ceremony will be ticketed. The usual Dawn Service and Parade will be held in Brisbane.



PIPER at Anzac Cove in earlier times. — photo courtesy Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours.

YOUR SUNSHINE COAST DETAILS, Pg 3



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

Our website: www.vietnamvetssc.org.au

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

General information Page 2.

Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



**VIETNAM VETERANS
ASSOCIATION
SUNSHINE COAST
SUB-BRANCH Inc.**

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Michael Howe JP (Qual)
Senior V/President	Garry King
Junior V/President	Gordon Hall
Secretary	Garry King
Treasurer	Glen Preston

Committee Members:

Pieter Reus	(Membership)
Kerry White	(Ricochet Editor)
John Cunningham	(VV Day)
Athol Johnson	(Merchandise)
Christine Wessels	(Assistant Secretary)
Margo Christie	(Office Manager)
Col Parkin	
John Huxham	
Bob Johnson	

OFFICE BEARERS

Digger Hat Jewellery	Scotty NFI
Thursday Breakfast	Geoff Jewell
Honorary Lawyer	Noel Woodall
Honorary Chaplain	Arthur Fry
Auditor	Frank Redpath
Advertising/Marketing	Michael Sheahan
Info. Tech. Manager	Mike Holt
Grants Officer	Michael Howe

ADVOCATE TEAM

Compensation Advocates

Helena Smith JP (Qual)	0439241442
------------------------	------------

Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters	54761594
---------------	----------

Mentor/Assessor

Helena Smith	0439241442
--------------	------------

Suicide Prevention

Helena Smith	0439241442
--------------	------------

Air Force Association	(vacant)
Tracker Dogs Assn.	Ian Atkinson
Mooloolaba Surf Club	Kevin Lynch
Buderim Hospital	Alec Chesters
Army Cadets/ARES	Squizzly Taylor
Air Force Cadets	(vacant)
Naval Cadets	Carl Britz

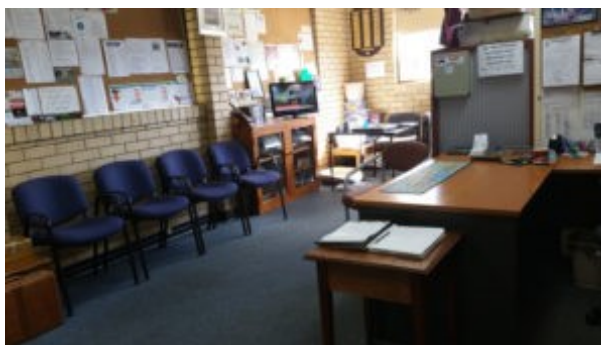
VVAASC SUB-BRANCH **DROP-IN-CENTRE**

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

Office Phone 54794552 Fax. 5479 4558.

E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

***OFFICE HOURS: The Drop-In Centre hours
have been extended — now open Monday to
Friday 0900 to 1300 (9am — 1 pm).***



Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

24 Hour Crisis Line Toll Free

1800 011 046

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

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

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)
129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.
Free call to Brisbane Office 1800 555 254

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

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

Birthdays for ADF

It has been a challenging and busy time for the Australian Defence Force since late 2019 with support for bushfire efforts, then the ongoing COVID-19 response and more recently floods.

It has also been a time of celebration where the time and personnel could be afforded to take part – the centenary of the RAAF on 31 March, the 120th birthday of the Army and RAN earlier on 1 March.

The Army and Navy were formed on 1 March 1901 through the amalgamation of the Australian colonial



forces following Federation. They were formerly known as the Commonwealth Naval Forces and the Commonwealth Military Forces, with their current titles officially granted in 1911 and 1980, respectively.

As we featured in the March *Ricochet*, the Australian Air Corps (a temporary Army unit) was disbanded and the Australian Air Force (AAF) created on 31 March 1921 with use of the “Royal” approved later in the year.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Rick Burr spoke at a Canberra event to celebrate the birthday: “Appreciate we must all work together to unlock the incredible potential of our people and strengthen the foundation of our profession so we can defend Australia and our national interest.”

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Michael Noonan said the Navy could draw strength and honour from humble beginnings 120 years ago.

“We are far from the fledgling naval force formed in the autumn of 1901. We will keep evolving, deepening our connection with the Nation and supporting our partners and neighbours.”

For the RAAF, on 30 March a Centenary Commemorative Ceremony was observed at the Air Force Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra and other events will be held through the year.

ANZAC DAY SERVICES SUNDAY 25 APRIL

Details supplied to RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District by organisations responsible for conducting these services:

CALOUNDRA: 5.00am Dawn Service, Kings Beach Amphitheatre; 8.30am-9.00am Citizens and Veterans March – Stockland Shopping Centre Carpark to Caloundra RSL Carpark; 10.00am Wreath Laying Service at Caloundra RSL Memorial Garden.

COOLUM-PEREGIAN: 5.10am Gather at entrance to sporting area for march to Cenotaph area; 5.28am Dawn service commences. No main service.

COOROY: 4.45am Dawn Service commences at the Memorial Triangle, Diamond Street, Cooroy; 10.30am Street Parade, stepping off from the Cooroy Butter Factory. No main service.

KAWANA: 5.28am Dawn Service commences at Coopers Point Cenotaph adjacent to the Kawana Waters Surf Club at 99 Pacific Blvd, Buddina; 10.20am Form up, March commences 1035 Cnr of Pacific Boulevard and Weema St, Buddina; 10.50am General Service commences with Wreath Laying.

MALENY: 4.28am Dawn Service at RSL Maleny cenotaph/hall; 9.00am Witta Cemetery; 9.45am Commemoration Service Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital; 10.15am Street March followed by main community service at 10.45 at the Hall/Cenotaph.

MAPLETON: 5.30am Dawn Service at the Village Green Montville; 8.45am March commences from Wilga Court to RSL Memorial Park adjacent to Tavern; 9.00am Commemoration Service begins. Refreshments available after service.

MAROOCHYDORE: 4.28am Dawn Service Cotton Tree Cenotaph, Esplanade; 8.00am Assembly on Memorial Av; 8.30am March commences through Memorial Av to Cenotaph; 9.00am Main Service at Cenotaph.

MOOLOOLABA: No public service this year in front of The Surf Club and Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club.

MUDJIMBA: 5.20am Dawn Service at Power Park Cenotaph; 10.30am Assembly at corner of Coolabah and Mudjimba Beach Road, march to Cenotaph, step off 10.45am; 11.00am Commemorative Service begins at Cenotaph.

NAMBOUR: 5.15am Assemble at Nambour RSL Club for march to Wall of Remembrance, Quota Park; Dawn Service to commence at 5.30am; no Main March or Service.

TEWANTIN – NOOSA: 5.30am Dawn Service commences at Cenotaph in the Town Square; 6.30am Cemetery Anzac Service at the Tewantin Noosa RSL Cemetery; 9.00am Main Parade; 9.30am Main Cenotaph Service including Wreath Laying.

WOODFORD: 5.00am Dawn Service; 10.00am, Assemble at George Street for 10.15am march-off; 10.30am Main Commemorative Service at Woodford Memorial Park.

YANDINA: No Dawn Service or March; 11.00am Main Commemorative Service to approximately 11.30am; Followed by lunch/refreshments at the hall.

(Thanks to RSL SUNSHINE COAST & REGIONAL DISTRICT for information (except Mooloolaba). Subject to Queensland Health's latest advice on COVID-19.

From the President

Hi Everyone,
I hope that you and yours are all surviving well with the current weather system that has been engulfing our area for a couple of weeks now. Fortunately, we have not had feedback from any of our members who require assistance at this time.

However, if there are any of you who have suffered, or are suffering from the onslaught of this terrible weather, and think your Association may be able to offer some form of assistance, please contact us.

Well, the Caloundra and Mooloolaba marathons went off extremely well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who once again turned up for duty, without whom the Association would suffer severe financial issues.

Those volunteers are a great mob of ladies and men. They come forward at all hours of the morning without fuss or kerfuffle; they share a

tremendous tenacity and persistence amongst themselves and appear to make the best of any situation that comes their way. Well done!!!!

Your Committee is not the only avid supporter of our volunteer staff. This is an e-mail we received from the 'Iron Man' Committee regarding our attendance and overall input into the last Mooloolaba Tri:

From: Fiona Ewington

Date: 17/03/2021 4:00:23 PM

To: Fiona Ewington

Subject: Big Moo Tri Thank You :)

Hi Team,

My goodness me what an amazing bunch of people you all are!!

Thank you so much to you and your groups for all your hard work and support at Mooloolaba Triathlon 2021 this weekend!!

Phew what a scorcher!! ☺

Despite the heat, the huge number of athletes and additional COVID safe

policies, everyone gave it their all and we are very grateful to each and every one of you!!

From the athletes and officials and the comments online, Mooloolaba Triathlon was an enormous success and is in an incredibly strong position leading into its 30th edition in 2022. We couldn't have done it without you!!

Being a volunteer group leader is an enormous task and you all did such an amazing job, not just gathering your troops but also encouraging your volunteers to register online. We appreciate how challenging new technology is for some and you all embraced it. We are also extremely grateful to you for assisting us with administering our new policies and COVID safe event plans.

If any of you would like to send us your feedback on how the event went from your point of view we would be very appreciative.

Continued opposite.



Helping our veterans

**Move
Without
Pain.®**

Dan Everson Podiatry provides effective treatments to help with a range of symptoms Vietnam Veterans may experience, including:

- Foot and ankle pain
- Lower back pain
- Leg pain
- Gait irregularities
- Hip pain
- Heel pain
- Knee pain

Visit our website to see DVA Health Card pricing.

To book call 1300 300 410 or visit daneverson.com.au.

Maroochydore | Noosa | Nambour | Caloundra | Morayfield | Deception Bay | Indooroopilly

• Continued from opposite page.

If you'd prefer to complete a form, let me know and I will send one out. I hope you have all recovered from your early start and that you are enjoying the cooler weather this week. We have started processing payments and we will be sending out invoice details very soon.

Thanks again to you all for being so amazing and for doing such an incredible job at this year's Mooloolaba Triathlon.

I look forward to speaking to you soon.

With best wishes

Fiona

Until next month, take care and stay healthy.

Best Regards,

Mick Howe,

President.



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY ON THIS YEAR

After the cancellation of the 2020 Vietnam Veteran's Day commemorative service and the luncheon, I am pleased to announce that plans are in place to hold both this year.

At this stage there are some COVID restrictions, but hopefully these will be relaxed as August approaches.

The Australian Civil Affairs Unit, Vietnam, are going ahead with a reunion on the coast this year and will be joining us at the service and lunch as will the Vietnamese Australian contingent which was warmly welcomed in 2018 and 2019. They are sure to have a few entertaining surprises in store.

The service will be once again at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph and Veterans who are able to march will congregate at the swimming pool complex at 1045 hours for the short stroll to the Cenotaph for the service at 1100 hours.

For those attending the luncheon, please be advised that the price of tickets for members has been increased from \$35 per head to \$40" (includes partners of members).

This is the first increase for years and is a result of increasing costs. Please note also that the cost for non-members will be \$50 per head. Even with the change in costing arrangements, it is still a great deal when it is considered that the cost incorporates a three-course meal, wine, beer and entertainment. A bus is also provided to convey attendees from the Caloundra area, leaving from and returning to the Caloundra RSL.

This is the Association's biggest event of the year and it is anticipated that 2021 will be a great success. Further updates will be provided each month in *Ricochet*.

John Cunningham

Chairman, Vietnam Veterans Day Sub-Committee

AVENUE DENTAL

Australias Most Awarded Dental Practice

Same Day Emergency Guarantee (if you call before 10am)

Your Best Ever Dental Experience

Extended Opening Hours (7am till 7pm)

Open Saturdays

Established for over 28 Years



AVENUE DENTAL

Maroochydore

5443 8111

60 Wises Rd

Caloundra

5491 1111

1a Ormuz Avenue

Kawana

5493 4414

114 Nicklin Way

Bli Bli

5406 0577

328 David Low Way

This photo, which resurfaced recently in the newsletter of Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia's newsletter, shows a lucky RAN sailor being carried by Naval Airmen in a stretcher aboard HMAS Melbourne.

The sailor in the stretcher is Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler) Phillip MacNevin who had been plucked from the sea only a few minutes before the image was taken in 1970.

He had been standing near the edge of the flight deck of HMAS Melbourne when he fell overboard in the South China Sea. It was witnessed by people on the Flight Deck as well as by Lieutenant Leonard Kenderdine who was on the quarterdeck.

The alarm was immediately raised and a Wessex was launched to rescue him, unharmed. The Wessex was from 817 Squadron and piloted by Lt Dave Weyland.

It was reported that MacNevin was working around "six spot" when

Sailor overboard, chopper to rescue

a starter hose came adrift and he leaped out of the way, only to lose his balance and fall over the side. The pilot of the Wessex immediately launched, apparently with his engine panels still open, and effected a rescue before the ship's boat reached him.

MacNevin was unhurt and needed only a short spell in sick bay.



A witness commented: "We were launching a winch-equipped SAR Wessex from number six spot on HMAS Melbourne.

"Six spot was a long way from the starter-air outlet and so needed an extended air hose with a join in it. The join was just a copper sleeve held in place by wraps of a few turns of copper wire.

"A number of us ground crew were standing in the nets off the starboard side. When the pilot initiated engine start, the rush of air down the hose caused it to come apart at the join.

"Those of us in the nets watched in horror as Newton's laws of motion came into play and the end of the hose arced towards us. Most of us ducked under the overhanging flight deck but one poor individual took the 40 foot drop to the water below."



sports & spinal™

- ✓ **PHYSIOTHERAPY**
- ✓ **EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY**
- ✓ **REMEDIAL MASSAGE**
- ✓ **PODIATRY**
- ✓ **DIETETICS**
- ✓ **GROUP GYM CLASSES**

**8 CLINIC
LOCATIONS
ON THE
SUNSHINE
COAST!**

**ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR ALLIED HEALTH NEEDS!
PH: 07 5476 9068 OR GOOGLE US TODAY**

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

Sugar Road Tyre And Mechanical

Best Rates In Town



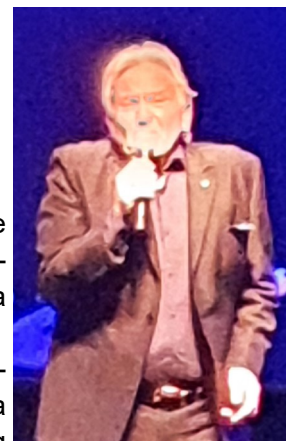
**Specialising in
Logbook servicing for
Sedans, Utes,
and 4WD Vehicles.
Brake, Clutch and
Front-end Work.**



**We are suppliers of
COOPER TYRES
STARFIRE TYRES
MASTERCRAFT
TYRES
FEDERAL TYRES**

**Call Anthony on (07) 5443 2821
102 Sugar Rd. Maroochydore 4558
Locally owned and operated and proud to
be of service to our veterans**

Normie Rowe still swinging



Vietnam War veteran Normie Rowe showed he still has it as an entertainer at a recent concert at Caloundra Events Centre.

The show, billed as "Three Legends in Concert" also featured Dina Lee and Jade Hurley. Normie sang some of his favourites, a few of them hits before he went to Vietnam, such as *Que Sera Sera*, *It Ain't Necessarily So* (both 1965), *Ooh La La*, *It's Not Easy* (both 1966, London).

Normie (in concert above) paid a tribute to all veterans, suggesting that if people come across a veteran, they should say: "Thanks for your service". He also paid tribute to the families and friends of veterans and sang a special tribute, *What Have You Done for Australia*.

He has been the subject of conjecture over the years as to whether his call-up was "rigged", that his birthday did not actually come up in the ballot.

He was born on 1 February 1947, which came up in a supplementary ballot on 8 September 1967 for those who "were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register", according to the Australian War Memorial's "Appendix: The national service scheme, 1964-72".



Lance Corporal Rowe (pictured left) served with Armoured Corps 3rd Cavalry Regiment: A Squadron, 14 January to 12 May 1969 and B Squadron, 13 May to 19 Dec 1969.

Lance Corporal Rowe (pictured left) served with Armoured Corps 3rd Cavalry Regiment: A Squadron, 14 January to 12 May 1969 and B Squadron, 13 May to 19 Dec 1969.



Queensland Medals and More



PO Box 412 Mooloolaba, Queensland 4557
Medal Mounting and Refurbishment
Replacement of Medals
Replicas and Minatures
Heritage Framing
ICB's, ACB's, Ribbon Bar & More
PLEASE CALL KYM PRESGRWE at Alexandra Headland
on (07) 5478 4830 or mobile 0402 04 1952



FROM THE EDITOR

AUSSIERS probably did not see as much of reporters during the war in Vietnam as Americans did; and certainly not so much of female reporters or camera operators.

It has been said that "Vietnam was the first truly televised war; the war and the medium through which millions of Americans experienced it were inextricable," as one commentator put it.

Another wrote: "The Tet Offensive was a turning point for public opinion. On 30 January, 1968, the Vietcong attacked 120 American and South Vietnamese locations. The U.S. regained all its lost ground, but the Tet Offensive was political defeat for the U.S., partly due to media coverage." US coverage rarely mentioned Australia and other allies, it seemed.

Media coverage was certainly groundbreaking in introducing female reporters on the front line. Of course, they had not featured in wars previously, but generally media had not got right on the front line as

in Vietnam. And there was no TV.

On Page 19 of this issue is a feature story about a new book featuring three women reporters who were in Vietnam – Frances FitzGerald, Catherine Leroy and Kate Webb. The book is *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*, by another reporter, Elizabeth Becker.

Pictured at right are Webb, a Kiwi-born Aussie, as she featured on an Australian Post stamp in a *Women at War* series a few years ago, and the diminutive Leroy.

Closer to home and on a more peaceful note, Caroline and I recently went on the *Spirit of Queensland* train to Longreach. It is a long way and took 24-plus hours, but worth it. Meals and service were excellent. We also visited Winton and Ilfracombe in a hire car and returned by plane.

All the best to you and yours for a peaceful Easter.— **Kerry White, Editor.**



Mobile + Clinic Denture Service

Repairs while you wait OR
we pick up and return



Denture Care
Professionals

- ❖ DVA Gold Card holders welcome
- ❖ Complete mobile denture service
- ❖ New full or partial dentures
- ❖ Same day reline service
- ❖ Implant retained dentures
- ❖ Over 35 years experience
- ❖ Recognised by all major health funds
- ❖ Express service available

07 5444 6116

Advance Oral Denture Clinic

1/130 Brisbane Rd, Mooloolaba
E: reception@advanceoral.com.au

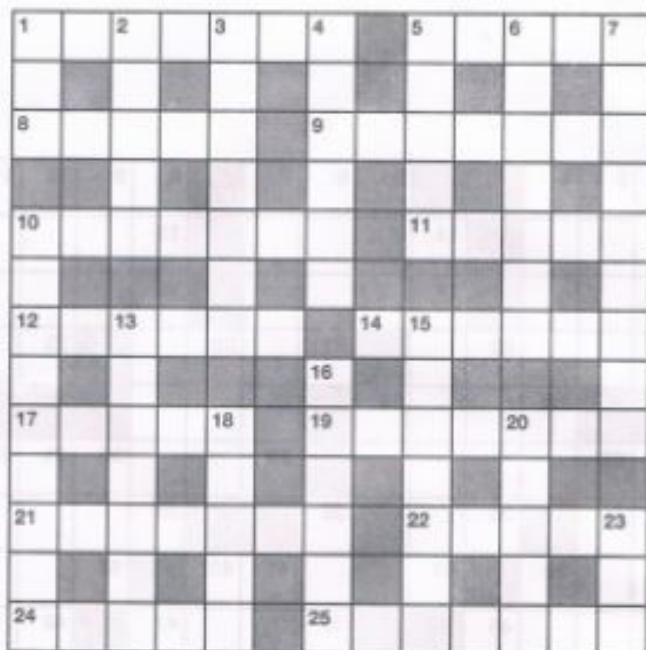
W: www.advanceoraldentures.com.au

Darren Fletcher

Dip D.T Adv Dip D.P. (Syd)

Dental Prosthetist

JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



ACROSS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Assortment (7) | 10 Unfeigned (7) | 19 Fruit (7) |
| 5 Group of insects (5) | 11 Ledge (5) | 21 Direction (7) |
| 8 Large herbivorous mammal (5) | 12 Lifted (6) | 22 Taut or rigid (5) |
| 9 Pagan (7) | 14 Appraise (6) | 24 Days of the month (5) |
| | 17 Notions (5) | 25 Embroidered (7) |

DOWN

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Chart (3) | 6 Attain (7) | 15 Abridge (7) |
| 2 Inert gas (5) | 7 Public declaration (9) | 16 Captured (6) |
| 3 Dissimilar (7) | 10 Decorated food (9) | 18 Secret agents (5) |
| 4 Reverberated (6) | 13 Imprecise (7) | 20 Invalidate (5) |
| 5 Photos (5) | | 23 Conclusion (3) |

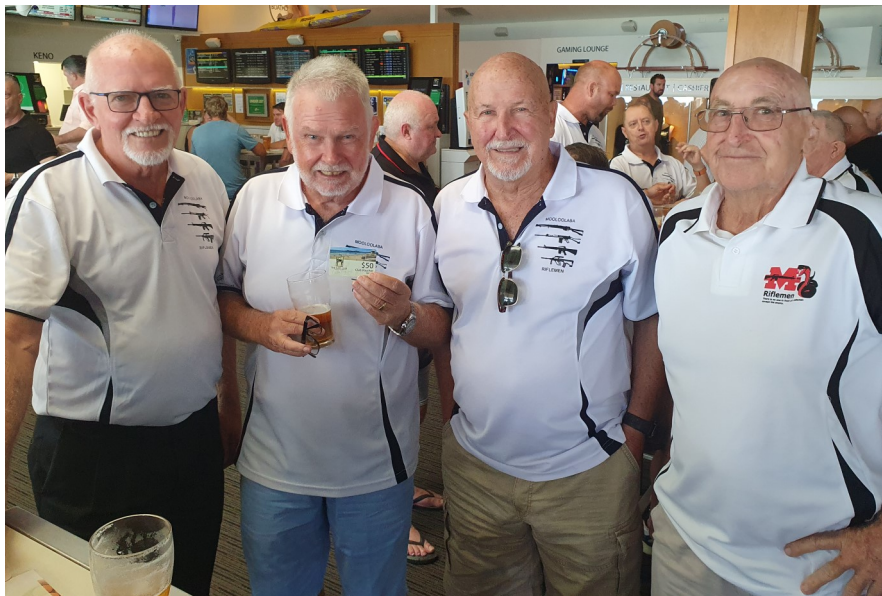
Quiz For Intelligent Minds

1. Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?
2. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
3. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J. Fox has a short one. Madonna does not use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his. The Pope never uses his. What is it?
4. Paul's height is six feet, he's an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?
5. The person who makes it has no need for it. The person who purchases it does not use it. The person who does use it does not know he or she is. What is it?
6. What word is spelled incorrectly in every dictionary?
7. What never asks a question but gets answered all the time?
8. What goes up but never comes down?
9. What starts with an e and ends with an e but has only one letter in it?
10. How do you make the number one disappear?

April Trivia

1. What African country is the central Kalahari Game Reserve located in? A Botswana B Nigeria C South Africa D Kenya
2. What is the function served by the Paris building known as the Sorbonne? A. hospital B. school C. museum D. theatre
3. Which one of the following countries is not known as one of the Baltic states? A. Albania B. Estonia C. Latvia D. Lithuania
4. Which one of the following countries was not one of Germany's allies? A. Italy B. Bulgaria C. Turkey D. Austria-Hungary
5. The Gunpowder Plot conspirators tried to kill what ruler along with members of Parliament in 1605? A. Charles I B. Elizabeth I C. Henry VIII D. James I
6. Who enters the annual Van Cliburn International Competition? A. chefs B. chess players D. squash players
7. The surrender of Germany in 1945 ended the Third Reich, when did the Second Reich end? A. 1453 B. 1871 C. 1918 D. 1933
8. By the time Nelson Mandela was freed in 1990, how long had he been in prison? A. 7 years B. 17 years C. 27 years
9. Which of the following countries does not border Israel? A. Egypt B. Jordan C. Saudi Arabia D. Syria
10. What European capital city is located at the mouth of the Liffey River? A. Amsterdam B. Copenhagen C. Dublin
11. Ulan Bator is the capital of what country? A. Madagascar B. Mali C. Mongolia
12. Austria and which other country are connected by the Brenner Pass? A. Hungary B. Italy C. Switzerland
13. Mount Erebus is what? A. an active volcano in the Antarctica B. an underwater peak off Greece that is a hazard to Mediterranean shipping C. a nearly 17,000-foot peak on the Iran-Turkey border, where Noah's Ark may have landed.
14. Who wrote some of the Flash Gordon comic strips that appeared in Europe during World War II? A. Buster Crabbe B. Charles de Gaulle C. Federico Fellini D. Hermann Hesse
15. When added together, which two countries have over 90 percent of the world's platinum reserves? A. Australia and south Africa B. Canada and the United States C. South Africa and the Soviet Union
16. What two countries border the Dead Sea? A. Israel and Egypt B. Israel and Jordan C. Jordan and Saudi Arabia
17. What industry supplies Botswana with more than 75% of its total revenue A. cattle B. coffee C. diamonds D. tourism
18. Jack the Ripper terrorized what city in the 19th century? A. Belfast B. London C. New York D. San Francisco
19. The United Nations had 51 members when it was founded in 1945. How many members does it have now? A. 59 B. 109 C. 159

• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18**



AT THE March Riflemen's Lunch were 8 RAR mates (from left) Len Thompson, Geoff Simmonds (who won the raffle), Tex Weston and Steve Searles. **RIGHT: Doing their bit for the association, volunteering at the Mooloolaba Tri** were Rusty Perry (left) and Geoff Jewell.

DVA says script service stays

The Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VAPAC) will have new staff, but the same service, according to Department of Veterans Affairs.

VAPAC is a pharmaceutical phone centre that can approve authority scripts for veteran patients via the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS).

"The service has been refreshed following the conclusion of the previous workforce contract, with a new workforce employed under a new arrangement by DVA (from 1 April).

"While this is a normal administrative change, there has been some misinformation circulating within the health care community that the change will affect the level and quality of service VAPAC provides."

"Information circulating that the new contract will be administered by Bupa is incorrect."

Sunshine Coast
Prosthodontics
Dental Implants | Oral Function | Smile Aesthetics

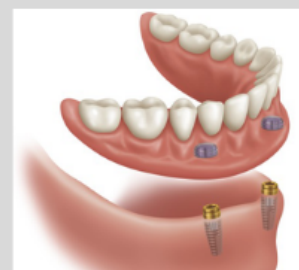
SUNSHINE COAST
DENTAL IMPLANT SPECIALISTS

Thank-you for your service

We are DVA recognised **SPECIALISTS** in dental implants...
We can complete all dental implant services you need including:

- Single tooth replacement
- Multiple teeth replacement
- Implant retained dentures (implants hold the denture still)

No referral necessary! Improve your quality of life



Located In Mountain Creek

Brightwater Shopping Centre, 10b/69-79 Attenuata Dr, Mt Creek QLD 4557

(07) 5408 0290
www.specialistdentist.com.au

Call Caitlin to arrange a consultation today or
e-mail at admin@specialistdentist.com.au

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

It's time again for the annual "Stella Awards"! For those unfamiliar with these awards, they are named after 81-year-old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued the McDonald's in New Mexico, where she purchased coffee.

She took the lid off the coffee and put it between her knees while she was driving. Who would ever think one could get burned doing that, right?

These are awards for the most outlandish lawsuits and verdicts in the U.S., you know, the kinds of cases that make you scratch your head. So keep your head scratcher handy.

Here are some of the Stella's for this year from Mick Howe:

Fifth: Terrence Dickson, of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just burglarized by way of the garage. Unfortunately for Dickson, the automatic garage door opener malfunctioned and he could not get the garage door to open. Worse, he couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the garage to the house locked when Dickson pulled it shut. Forced to sit for eight, count 'em, EIGHT days and survive on a case of Pepsi and a large bag of dry dog food, he sued the homeowner's insurance company claiming undue mental anguish. Amazingly, the jury said the insurance company must pay Dickson \$500,000 for his anguish. We should all have this kind of anguish.

Fourth: Jerry Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas, garnered 4th Place in the Stella's when he was awarded \$14,500 plus medical expenses after being bitten on the butt by his next door neighbour's beagle - even though the beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. Williams did not get as much as he asked for because the jury believed the beagle might have been provoked at the time of the butt bite because Williams had climbed over the fence into the yard and repeatedly shot the dog with a pellet gun.

Third: Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania because a jury ordered a Philadelphia restaurant to pay her \$113,500 after she slipped on a spilled soft drink and broke her tailbone. The reason the soft drink was on the floor: Ms Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

Second: Kara Walton, of Claymont, Delaware sued the owner of a night club in a nearby city because she fell from the bathroom window to the floor, knocking out her two front teeth. Even though Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the ladies room window to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge, the jury of a night club in a nearby city because she fell from the bathroom window to the floor, knocking out her two front teeth. Even though Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the ladies room window to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge, the jury said the night club had to pay her \$12,000....oh, yeah, plus dental expenses.

First: This year's runaway First Place Stella Award winner was: Mrs. Merv Grazinski, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who purchased a new 32-foot Winnebago motor home.

On her first trip home, from an OU football game, having driven onto the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go to the back of the Winnebago to make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Also not surprisingly, Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not putting in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually leave the driver's seat while the cruise control was set. The Oklahoma jury awarded her--are you sitting down?--\$1,750,000. PLUS a new motor home.

Winnebago actually changed its manuals as a result of this suit, just in case Mrs. Grazinski has any relatives who might also buy a motor home



A new camp commander was appointed and while inspecting the place, he saw 2 soldiers guarding a bench. He went over there and asked them why do they guard it.

"We don't know. The last commander told us to do so, and so we did. It is some sort of regimental tradition!"

He searched for last commander's phone number and called him to ask him why did he want guards in this particular bench.

"I don't know. The previous commander had guards, and I kept the tradition."

Going back another 3 commanders, he found a now 100-year old retired General.

"Excuse me sir. I'm now the CO of your camp you commanded 60 years ago. I've found 2 men assigned to guard a bench. Could you please tell me more about the bench?"

"What? Is the paint still wet ??!"

- above from a post on Facebook page of Australian Vietnam Veterans and Families Group.

Passing of veteran, served twice in Vietnam

A veteran who played a leading role in establishing the original Long Tan Cross in Vietnam died recently. He was Allan Charles McLean, MID.

A long-serving VVAA sub-branch member, Sergeant McLean (14429) was on his second tour when he oversaw design and construction of the Cross by Diggers from the 6RAR-NZ Anzac Battalion's Assault Pioneer Platoon.

Allan served in Vietnam with 5 RAR, deploying as a corporal with Anti-Tank Platoon, from 10 May, 1966 to 22 February, 1967 and with 6 RAR as Pioneer Platoon Sergeant from 8 May 1969 to 16 May 1970.

Before that tour a long-time connection began in Townsville with his platoon commander, Kevin Leadbetter, who spoke at the funeral service

about a friendship that still thrived until Allan's death. Kevin is also a long-term sub-branch member.

After 20 years' service which included SAS, Malaya and Singapore postings, he discharged in June 1977 as a Warrant Officer.

The original Long Tan Cross was removed and later retrieved to be placed in the Dong Nai Museum in Bien Hoa City. It is now on display at the Australian War Memorial, loaned by the museum. **Allan is pictured at the AWM with the Cross.**

Allan was born in Toowoomba on 26 October 1946 and passed away from cancer on 17 March. A funeral was held for Allan on 24 March at Gregson and Weight's Chapel, Caloundra. He is survived by Betty, children Rod and Vicki and three grandchildren.



R.I.P FOR MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO SUB-BRANCH

A long-term member of our sub-branch, Barry Rodgers, who passed away recently, instigated a project that raised tens of thousands of dollars for the organisation – the Digger's Hat jewellery.

The jewellery is made from pre-decimal currency pennies, half pennies and six-pences hand-crafted by sub-branch volunteers. Barry originally purchased the set-up and gifted it to the sub-branch. He was known as the "Penny King".

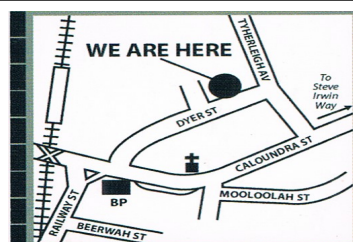
He also supported the association over many years in other ways including the running of Vietnam Veterans Day.

He served with the Royal Australian Naval Reserve in the early 1960s before joining the Regular Army in 1966, serving in Band Corps until 1986.

Barry (162938/1201002) served as a musician, assistant instructor and band sergeant major, retiring as a Warrant Officer Class One.

He was in Vietnam in September/October 1970 and in Papua New Guinea in September 1985. He was born in Brisbane on 16 August 1943.

Barry (**RIGHT**) founded the Buderim Concert Band in 1998.



D & F Auto Care
Shed 1,
11 Dyer Street,
Landsborough
QLD 4550

Mob: 0432 215 628

Ph: 5494 1222

Fax: 5494 1224

Email: lee-ann@dfautocare.com.au

Full log-book servicing, roadworthy certificates, air-con repairs and servicing, brakes, clutches and all mechanical repairs.



Locally Operated Funeral Directors
Serving the Sunshine Coast Since 1972

Caloundra Chapel and Crematorium 54911559

Buderim Chapel 54439953

Nambour Chapel & Crematorium 54762866

Noosa Chapel & Crematorium 54702664

www.gregsonweight.com.au

April Timeline: Smallpox epidemic to Saigon's fall

1 April 1789: 15 months after the First Fleet arrived to establish a penal colony in NSW, a major smallpox epidemic broke out. The outbreak did not affect the British colonists, most of whom had been exposed to the disease during their infancy. Without previous exposure to the smallpox virus, Aboriginal people had no resistance, and up to 70 per cent were killed by the disease.

2 April 1982: The beginning of the Falkland Islands War as troops from Argentina invaded and occupied the British colony located near the tip of South America. The British retaliated and defeated the Argentineans on June 15, 1982, after 10 weeks of combat, with about 1000 lives lost.

3 April 1954: Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov, Soviet spies who were masquerading as diplomats in Canberra, defected to Australia. The defection and the information that the Petrovs passed on to Australian authorities had global implications.



9 April 1865: After more than 500,000 deaths, the American Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House.

15 April 1912: In the icy waters off Newfoundland, the luxury liner Titanic with 2224 people on board sank after striking an iceberg. Over 1500 persons drowned while 700 were rescued.

25 April 1915: Australian soldiers landed at what is now called Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. For most of the 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders who landed on that first day, this was their first combat. By that evening, 2000 of them had been killed or wounded.

25 April 1916: The first Anzac Day commemorations were held at towns and cities around Australia and have been every year since, though last year's were different because of the COVID-19 epidemic.

26 April 1879: Australia's first national park — (now Royal) National Park — was created in 1879 just south of Sydney. It was only the second in the world.

26 April 1976: The first boatload of refugees fleeing Vietnam sailed into Darwin Harbour (**pictured**), heralding a series of arrivals over the next few years. Most Vietnam refugees, however, arrived by plane. The 2011 census showed that 185,000 people were born in Vietnam.

26 April 1986: At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, an explosion caused a meltdown of the nuclear fuel and spread a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere, eventually covering most of Europe.

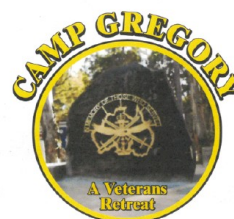
28 April 1996: 35 people lost their lives and at least 18 more were injured when a lone gunman went on a shooting rampage in Port Arthur, Tasmania. Within four months of the tragedy, tighter gun laws came in across Australia.

30 April 1975: Communist forces capture Saigon as the last Americans leave in scenes of panic and confusion. Australia had closed its embassy on 25 April.

Sources included:

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

[Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_Vietnam_War](https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar)
<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>



Without goodwill you have nothing more to achieve in life

VETERANS RETREAT NOW AVAILABLE

HOT SHOWERS AND TOILETS

40 ACRES RURAL PROPERTY ADJACENT TO GREGORY RIVER
— FISHING AND CRABBING

OPEN FIRES ALLOWED
(WHEN PERMITTED)

ADDRESS: 168 Darville Road,
Woodgate, Queensland.

PHONE: ROGER DWYER - 07 4129 4030
CARETAKERS - 0499 728 800

FREE TO ALL VETERANS TRAVELLING WITH THEIR FAMILIES

MAXIMUM STAY 2 WEEKS
(DONGAS 2 NIGHTS)

Camp Gregory Veterans Retreat Incorporated 1-A-54644
<http://www.campgregoryveterans.com>

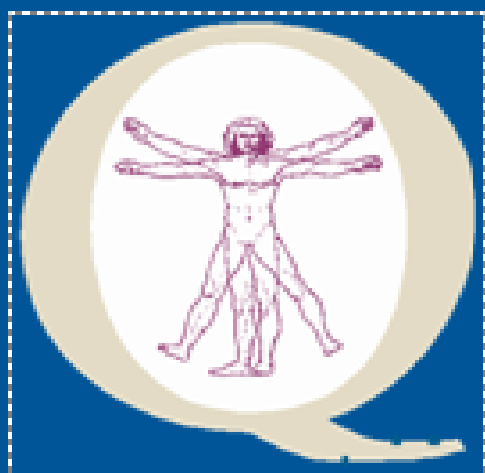
~ Onwards and Forward ~

Passing of veteran's wife

Long-serving hospital visitations officer Alec Chesters' wife, Elaine Margaret, died recently. She was born in 1948. Her funeral service was at Gregson and Weight, Nambour, on 31 March. Alec served in Vietnam in 1970 with 1 ARU.

HERE TO HELP YOU WITH:

All Aches and Pains
 Spinal and Sports Injuries
 Pre and Post Surgical Care
 Cardiac Rehab/Diabetic Control
 Weight Management/Breathing Difficulties
 MVA, Work Cover and Insurance Claims
 DVA-Veterans Care
 Pre and Post Natal Care



quantum
 REHABILITATION

Health fund REBATES APPLY TO ALL appointments.
 No referral needed
 Hicaps enabled.

Phone: (07) 5452 7538
 Email: quantumrehab@aol.com

www.quantumrehab.net

LOCATED AT

Caloundra



Maroochydore



Noosa

THIS poem was submitted by Daphne Gillooly on behalf of her husband, Mike, an association member. He has been ill for some time in hospital and only recently came home.

I Heard a Soldier Crying

*I heard a soldier crying in the softness of the night
 sobs so deep and painful, mere symptoms of his plight.
 He'd seen his mates fall dying, he among them stood
 alone,
 not in wonder or in hate, but in sadness – carved from
 stone.
 He had known that this could happen, or that he might
 die as well,
 but left alive, alone, amid his comrades as they fell,
 how could he know this scene would on his mind
 remain?
 To return, unasked, so often, and reignite the fires of
 fear and pain.*

*I heard a soldier crying in the stillness of the dawn,
 his tears, not for himself but for those as yet unborn.
 Who in their turn will suffer from the hatred and the
 spite
 caused by greed and envy; and he still sees soldiers
 dying every night.
 That soldier cries for all of those whose eyes have
 never seen
 the carnage of a battlefield, torn bodies dying on the
 green
 of someone else's land; someone to whom we owed a
 hand
 in some time past, now paid in full, in blood, still
 flowing in the sand.*

*I heard a soldier crying in the brightest part of day
 He cried for wasted time and men, for lives turned
 back to clay.
 For the futility of battle and the sombre future that it
 brings,
 for crosses in another land where a foreign anthem
 rings.
 I've heard that soldier crying on a moonlit night of late,
 his sorrow seems unbearable, yet he must dream, and
 wait
 his turn to stand and fall in step, in that final call to
 arms;
 to join the dead for whom he cries, in the only sleep
 that calms.*

Copyright © Mike Gillooly 19 April 2005 (amended 2/11/07, 13/06/08 and 22/03/10)

Medic hit the wall, then helped fellow vets

A Vietnam War veteran who provided support and help to countless fellow veterans through a retreat he established in the Sunshine Coast hinterland died recently.

Warren Bishop (2791581) served in Vietnam with 8 RAR from 17 November 1969 to 12 November 1970. His funeral service was held at Nambour on 27 March after he died on 14 March while visiting family at Parramatta, Sydney. He was born there on 10 December 1948.

As Warren (pictured) told the ABC in 2008, he had suffered an “indescribable breakdown” in 1990.

His doctors were at a loss to explain what was wrong with him until, eventually, a psychiatrist named Ian Gibb diagnosed him with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Warren’s experience led him to convert his Eudlo house into a retreat for returned veterans, somewhere they could heal the deep psychological wounds inflicted by war.

He named the retreat Ian Gibb House, in honour of the man who encouraged him to chase his dream. Over 14 years until 2008 he helped veterans on “the brink of suicide and gave them a future.”

Before volunteering for National Service Warren worked as a clerk in a solicitor’s office and as an ambulance officer, the latter leading to him being made a “medic” in Vietnam. Local veteran Len Thompson served with Warren: “He saved my life when I was shot

and he had to contend with three other guys, mates, wounded in that particular action”.

Despite a move to Queensland, his marriage broke down so he completed the planned house and opened its doors to other veterans who had similarly fallen on bad times.

For 14 years, he ran *Ian Gibb’s House* personally picking up veterans

out of parks and pubs to give them a place to recover and get back on their feet – veterans from World War Two, Korea, Malaya, Malaysia, Vietnam, Somalia, Rwanda, Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Len Thompson became a neighbour.

In 2008 Warren had to close the doors of *Gibb House* because he had a heart attack.

Warren provided a chapter in the book “Medic”, authored by Wayne “Sam” Brown.



BT Sports & Health Centres

Incl. Dr. Uwe Schwiersch - Defence Physiotherapist - 10 years RAAF Base Tindal/NT



Physio - Fitness - Dietitian & Podiatry for Veterans

All treatments & classes are FULLY COVERED by Dep. Veterans Affairs (Gold Card)

State of the Art Equipment | NASA Technology | Computerised Rehab & Fitness

- Physiotherapy • Surgery Rehabilitation • Arthritis • Hip Pain/Injuries • Sprains
- Sports Physiotherapy • Fitness/ Gym • Neck, Back & Shoulder Pain • Headaches
- Pilates • Hydrotherapy • Weight Loss • Lower Limb Injuries • Knee Pain/Injuries
- Diabetes • Nail Surgery • Orthotics • Bursitis • Women's & Men's Health etc.

BT Physiotherapy
Nambour

2/22 Mapleton Rd

ph. 5441 6355

BT Physiotherapy
Bli Bli

2 Bli Bli Rd

ph. 5448 6552

BT Physiotherapy
Mudjimba

679 David Low Way

ph. 5448 8755

BTPhysiotherapy.com.au

ILLUMINATING A CLASH OF PERCEPTIONS

American Ambassador to Poland John Gronouski waited in the office of the Polish Foreign Minister, Adam Rapacki, but the Vietnamese envoy did not show up (December 1966). For 30 years this has been interpreted as a rebuff.

But at the conference, a retired Vietnamese diplomat, Nguyen Dinh Phuong, gave another version. He had been dispatched from Hanoi to Warsaw for the meeting, he said. He had arrived on Dec. 3 (a day that bombing was resumed) and waited with his ambassador at the North Vietnamese Embassy on Dec. 6. "We waited the whole day," he said, "but the U.S. Ambassador did not show up. On the 7th, the U.S. bombed more forcefully in downtown Hanoi. We concluded that the U.S. did not want to have negotiations."

Other answers were much less specific than the historians had hoped for but vividly illuminated the clash of perceptions. The Vietnamese doubted the sincerity of the negotiating offers, which they saw as propaganda ploys to mollify domestic and international criticism, to picture the Johnson Administration as peacemaker and Hanoi as war-monger. McNamara pounded the table and insisted that "many, I would say most" overtures were not "primarily" for

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. 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).

propaganda. But how was anyone at the time to know? The men in Hanoi had been as ignorant as the American public of McNamara's growing doubts in 1966 and 1967 that the war could be won. They interpreted the use of intermediaries, as opposed to direct contacts, as part of the public-relations campaign to convince other countries of Washington's supposedly peaceful intentions. "We used intermediaries because we couldn't get to you," Cooper countered. But the suspicion was heightened by the Administration's failure to take up Vietnamese initiatives, including a four-point negotiating plan from Prime Minister Pham Van Dong.

• Continued Page 17.

ASK YOUR ACTIVOT OT

WOULD YOU BENEFIT FROM AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR?

If you have a condition that impacts your mobility you may be eligible for an electric wheelchair or electric scooter through the DVA RAP program. To be eligible you must have the following:

VETERAN GOLD CARD: Gold Card holders with a clinically assessed need that is due to a condition that affects mobility.

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

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

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

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

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

**Warmest wishes,
Your ActivOT OT
Nora**

**Nora English
Occupational Therapist
M: 0435874440
E: nora@activot.com.au**



No negotiations under pressure of bombing ...

• From Page 16.

Alert to what Washington did rather than what it said, the North Vietnamese interpreted each bombing halt as a "smoke screen" hiding further escalation. "For these peace initiatives to be convincing," Co remarked, they "should not have been conducted in the context of escalating war, in the context of increasing bombing against the north and massive introduction of U.S. troops in the south. We interpreted those peace initiatives as war efforts, not genuine peace efforts." When President Johnson proposed aid for reconstruction as part of a peace plan, the North Vietnamese felt he was trying to "buy our surrender" by giving sweets, Luu Doan Huynh said. "If you don't like these sweets, you'll be eaten!"

McNamara pressed the Vietnamese on why they showed no interest in a 1967 offer of a cease-fire, an American withdrawal and reunification. "Was anything better than that obtained in 1973, six years later, after hundreds of thousands more killed?" he asked. "I think not." Thach replied: "We could not enter into negotiations under the pressure of bombing."

The North Vietnamese felt bludgeoned and blackmailed and dishonored by the bombing, but rather than weakening their will, the officials and generals at the table said, it had actually forged resilience. Yet they demanded a permanent bombing halt as a precondition for negotiations, and once they got it in the fall of 1968, they opened the Paris talks in 1969 with the Nixon Administration, which led to the 1973 agreement on American withdrawal. Negotiations result when "either party realizes it cannot win on the battlefield," commented Nguyen Khac Huynh, a former Deputy Foreign Minister.

That was why two of the American historians, George C. Herring of the University of Kentucky and Charles E. Neu of Brown, were skeptical that negotiations could have succeeded in the mid-1960's. Outside the conference room, Neu noted that anyone who pushed negotiations then was marginalized by the Johnson White House and that McNamara became the ultimate example. Herring agreed. "We need Walt Rostow here," he said, "because he would correct McNamara's view about where negotiations could go, which is way too optimistic."

Could negotiations have been successful when the United States had not yet resigned itself to a reunified Vietnam under Hanoi's control? "No," Cooper said. "I think they would have been long, heart-rending, ulcer-producing, frustrating." As for McNamara, "I don't know if he's revising history, but he's asking a lot of history."

But McNamara stuck to his conviction that had he known what he now knew, and had President Johnson grabbed the issue of Vietnam as insistently as he had the civil-rights issue, a negotiated solution could have been found.

Lyndon Johnson stayed in Vietnam largely because he feared the reaction from the right if he lost the war, his aide

Francis Bator explained. The "central mission of his Presidency," Bator said, was getting the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Medicare and other Great Society programs through a dubious Congress, and he did not think he could risk being seen as irresolute on Communism. "He was deeply gloomy about the war throughout," Bator told the Vietnamese on the final day. "I believe that during 1966-68 he would have happily accepted a negotiating process." Bator was struck by the symmetry of error. "Our mistakes and your mistakes caused both of us to suffer dearly."

At the end, the Americans were taken to a frustrating meeting with General Giap, the short, gray-haired master military strategist, who gave a propaganda lecture lasting more than an hour, ignoring McNamara's pleas for answers to substantive historical questions submitted beforehand. "You're certainly winning the war of words," McNamara said through a brave smile. The same thing happened three days earlier with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, who had stonewalled questions in favor of a polemic about American misdeeds. This so annoyed Cooper that he scribbled a note: "This gives me *deja vu*: 1954, 1961, 1970. Enough already!" But on balance, Cooper said later, "I'm awfully glad I came. It closes the loop for me. I admire their guts."

By the end of the conference, McNamara pronounced the meetings a successful first step in examining the war. It was hard not to admire his relentless spirit of inquiry. But his attractive trait of self-criticism and his faith in the power of knowledge weigh against the memory of what he did, the criticism he screened out at the time, the facts he refused to consider in his policy making. Now he was willing to accept blame, but he also sought to spread the guilt around, to extend the circle of error to the North Vietnamese. They were not ready to play that game. "Of course," Co countered at the closing news conference, "the opportunities were missed by the U.S. side, not by the Vietnamese side." McNamara came back: "I don't think they were all missed by the U.S."

On that discordant note, and immediately after the unsatisfying session with General Giap, McNamara rushed to catch a plane. He was flying to New York for a meeting to discuss anticorruption efforts in Africa. "I'm tilting at windmills all over the world," he chuckled. Then he planned to go mountain climbing in Colorado.

"I think McNamara is a delicate personality, despite his mountain climbing," Cooper said. "He's running fast so the ghosts don't catch him," said another American, paraphrasing an observation made by others who have watched him.

In the streets of Hanoi, McNamara's lean frame, slightly bent, looked sinewy or fragile. One could not be certain. He is 81, and he is hurrying through the twilight. (CONCLUDES)

• **Robert Strange McNamara died on July 6, 2009 in Washington DC. His books include *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam* (1995). Giap died in 2013, believed to be aged 102.**



Giap and McNamara.

Confession time from your Padre! When I wrote the March article, it did not dawn on me that Easter would have occurred before the April issue of 'Ricochet' was published. Sorry about that.

If ever a Padre should encourage the members of any organisation, it is at Easter time for Easter brings the faithful of the Christian faith together to remember the death of Jesus Christ on the cruel cross of Calvary, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight years ago.

I am so pleased to know that many of you will have attended Easter services in the Church of your choosing. Also, that many of our members make it a regular habit to be in God's House of a Sunday.

Most of you would know St. John 3: 16 by heart: "For God so loved the world...." Following on from this, the church should be the foundation of love in our community. In most cases it is, and from that love, we should find the source of peace and joy that the church holds because of what Jesus did as He died on the Cross, His resurrection from the grave, and then

Fireside with the Padre



His ascension into Heaven.

Thinking on this, my mind took me back to an occasion in my early preaching days that rocked me to the core. During my study year in Vietnamese at the RAAF School of Languages, followed by a year on staff in the Vietnamese Department, I belonged to a Preachers' Society in Victoria. Being a younger man, with a car, I was given a circuit of three churches in Central Victoria.

On my first visit to one of the churches in my circuit, Annette and I arrived rather early as we had not known how long the drive would take from Laverton. I was met by the Secretary who chose to fill in the time before the service started by giving me a tour of the church and its history.

As we moved to the front of the

church, he pointed out a broken-down building down the road, an abandoned and neglected old Church.

He proudly said, "That was the Welsh brand of this particular denomination, but we drove them out of town!"

Certainly, this was not what Jesus meant by 'love one another as I have loved you'.

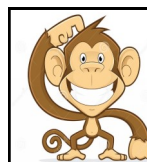
While I was posted to Vietnam for my first tour, I took leave from that Preachers' Society. Five years after I returned home, and was no longer in that circuit, I was invited to preach there again.

My topic, as I remember, was 'Love'. I should add, I have never been invited back to that church since, but they are possibly still glowing in the knowledge that they drove their Welsh brethren 'out of town'.

That is not what Christianity is about. Keep up your love for each other by supporting your mates and those around you, in the spirit of the Easter message.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

Answers from page 9

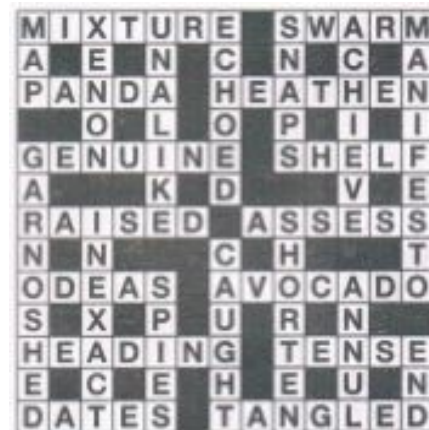


Trivia Answers

1. A. Botswana
2. B. school
3. A. Albania
4. D. Austria-Hungary
5. D. James I
6. C. pianists
7. C. 1918
8. C. 27 years
9. C. Saudi Arabia
10. C. Dublin
11. C. Mongolia
12. B. Italy
13. C. a nearly 17,000-foot peak on

the Iran-Turkey border, where Noah's Ark may have landed.

14. C. Federico Fellini (pictured)
15. C. South Africa and the Soviet Union
16. B. Israel and Jordan
17. C. diamonds
18. B. London
19. C. 159



Answers to Quiz

1. Nine—two parents, six sons, and one daughter
2. Short.
3. Their surname.
4. Meat.
5. A coffin.
6. The word spelt incorrectly in every dictionary is "incorrectly".
7. Although it never asks you a question you answer your phone every time it rings
8. Your age
9. The word is envelope
10. Add the letter "g" to the front of the word, and "one" is now "gone".

THREE WOMEN WHO CHANGED WAR REPORTING

A New Zealand-born Australian is one of three female war reporters from the Vietnam War era featured in a new book by journalist Elizabeth Becker, *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*, which tells the story of Frances FitzGerald and two other women in Vietnam—the French photographer Catherine Leroy and the Australian Kate Webb.

Webb (pictured with refugees) was in flight from a very dark past. The daughter of intellectual New Zealanders, raised in Australia, she was implicated in the suicide of her best friend in high school and nearly tried for homicide. A few years later, her parents were killed in a car accident. Like FitzGerald and Leroy, Webb went to Vietnam in her mid-20s without any assignment or relevant experience, out of sheer curiosity and will.

In Saigon, she cut her hair short, bought her own combat gear, and convinced UPI agency to give her a chance. She worked harder than anyone and, like FitzGerald, grabbed a beat that men had left more or less uncovered: South Vietnam's military and government. She refused any notion of being different from male colleagues, including the condescending compliments. "Webb hated being called a girl reporter; she felt it was a way to dismiss her accomplishments," Becker writes. "Whenever she was asked, Webb replied: 'I don't believe in women's liberation.'"

Some journalists are lucky enough to find a subject that takes over their life. No story is more consuming than war. Webb stayed on in South East Asia for almost a decade, covering the war's spread to Cambodia, and being kidnapped by enemy troops twice, before the power imbalance in journalism finally caught up with her. She quit after her boss in Hong Kong, his advances rebuffed, planted a negative report about her work at higher headquarters. (Webb resumed her career fitfully through the rest of the century.)

FitzGerald was the unlikeliest of war correspondents—born into immense privilege, a daughter of the high-WASP ascendancy. Her father, Desmond FitzGerald, was a top CIA official; her mother, Marietta Tree, a socialite and liberal activist. FitzGerald was raised with servants and horses, and she had to fend off advances from the likes of Adlai Stevenson (her mother's lover) and Henry Kissinger. Her family contacts got her through the door of feature journalism in New York, but as a woman, she was denied the chance to pursue the serious work she wanted to do. She escaped this jewelled trap by making her own way to

Saigon at age 25, just as the American war was escalating.

"She was looking at things in a completely different optic, like she was from a different country—a whole new meaning to the phrase foreign correspondent," Ward Just, *The Washington Post's* correspondent in Vietnam and FitzGerald's sometime lover, told Becker.

Leroy was utterly without experience on arrival in Vietnam. She was diminutive and brave to the point of recklessness, and she won respect by outdoing the men. She accompanied the marines into battle and made herself so inconspicuous that her camera caught the face of combat with unprecedented intimacy and pathos: "Few photographers got closer to soldiers than Leroy, who crawled in the mud alongside them if necessary, aiming for the eyes and subtle shifts of expression. She was a silent presence; soldiers were rarely aware of her." When she showed her close-ups to a medic who had cradled the body of a marine during the battle of Hill 881 at Khe Sanh, he exclaimed, "Where were you? I didn't see you."

Becker is a former correspondent in Cambodia and the author of *When the War Was Over*; she was the first journalist to interview Pol Pot, and barely escaped the Khmer Rouge alive. Her theme in *You Don't Belong Here*—conveyed, with controlled anger, in a riveting narrative using unpublished letters and diaries—is that women reporters changed the way the war was covered.

Leroy forced her way onto helicopters and then made herself invisible. Kate Webb's tactic was to defeminize herself. Whereas FitzGerald went to Vietnam to get

away from a controlling society mother and to impress an absent father, and Leroy rebelled against her petit bourgeois French Catholic upbringing,

Leroy never found another subject that came close to equalling Vietnam. She and Webb both died of cancer in their 60s, relatively obscure. FitzGerald went on to write many other books in a prominent career. She is now 80.

Women no longer face the barriers that confronted Becker's Vietnam reporters, but they are still less likely than men to gain easy admittance to the insular world of US military officers and national-security officials.

• Abridged version of an article by GEORGE PACKER in *The Atlantic* available at

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/vietnam-baghdad-women-who-changed-war-reporting/618215/>



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

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



RIGHT: Vietnam War Memorial, Canberra

April 1967

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

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

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

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

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

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

April 1968

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

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

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

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

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

April 1969

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

April 1970

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

April 1971

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

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

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

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

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

April 1972 – 75 nil

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

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