

# RICOCHET

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

## ANZAC legacy always evolving

The Anzac legacy was not etched into stone at Anzac Cove, Governor-General William Hurley said at an Anzac Day service in Darwin, but has evolved with each and every operation Australia has been involved in.

"And for well over 100 years we have seen the Anzac legacy reflected in the manner Australians go about their daily lives, particularly when faced with adversity," he said.

"In recognising that the Anzac legacy was not etched into stone at Anzac Cove, we should also recognise that the current generation of serving men and women has successfully built on that legacy in their own way.

"In saying this, I also acknowledge that many veterans have experienced difficulties as a result of their service. We must support those who serve, and those who have served and their families."

He said our Defence personnel had continued to serve in the air, at sea and on land, in a variety of theatres and on operations all around the world.

sacrifice, mateship and courage – the words we talk about as the Anzac legacy – in a way that would make our forebears proud.

"We see it in many areas of civilian life. We also see it in our wonderful Defence families.

"Let's think about those words: endurance, sacrifice, mateship and courage. They are words we associate with this legacy. They are abstract in nature, but I believe that

they can be interpreted in the following manner:

"That if you give us a job to do, we'll do our darndest to get it done.

"We'll do it in a way that makes you proud.

"While we're doing it – and afterwards – we will look after our mates.

"As a nation, we've seen examples of this recently in the way we have responded to fire, flood, drought and the pandemic."



*DAWN service at Caloundra (RSL Caloundra photo). More on Anzac Day inside.*



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

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**General information** Page 2.

Veterans & Families Counselling

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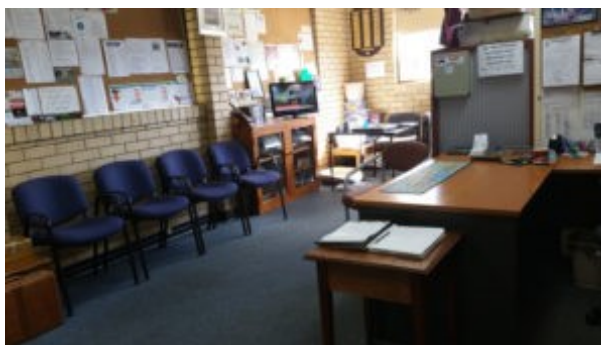
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***OFFICE HOURS: The Drop-In Centre hours  
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This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling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

## **Department of Veterans' Affairs**

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





# Anzacs helped shape identity of a nation

Anzac Day in no way glorifies war, but is about honouring ordinary people who were asked to do extraordinary things for their country, veteran and retired Colonel Gordon Hurford told the Anzac Day community service at Cotton Tree Cenotaph.

In a message specifically aimed at young people, he said they “did so to the very best of their ability and at a significant personal cost”.

“Those young men exhibited loyalty, mateship, courage and endurance because they thought that what they were fighting for was worth the sacrifice. Would you feel the same way if you were called upon to defend our freedoms and our way of life?”

“Today serves to remind ourselves that we value who we are and the freedoms we have, and to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation. Today we also acknowledge those who continue to serve at home and abroad.

“Our freedom came at a price so we honour their sacrifice.

“And please remember that our freedom only survives as long as you are willing to defend it.

“Today is our day — a day to remember with affection the courage of people and the value of friendship — to honour the dead and to acknowledge those who suffer still from the effects of war. We do not celebrate victory or glorify war — we celebrate the human spirit — the spirit of Anzac.”

Mr Hurford said later: “I quizzed my young grandchildren about what I said and they must have been listening well as they could tell me what I asked them to do. I thought that was cool.”

In his address, he also said: “Gallipoli was a battle we lost, so why do we celebrate defeat. One answer is, I believe, that we never did set out to celebrate victory, but to honour the sacrifice. Had we wanted to choose a victory, we had plenty of other opportunities in our military heritage.

“The influence of the Gallipoli campaign on the national life of Australia and New Zealand is now etched far too deeply to fade. It was at Gallipoli that the true Australian nationhood was born. We stand and dedicate Anzac Day to the memory of those who fell in all wars.”

Gordon Hurford AM, MID was called up for National Service in 1965, became a commissioned officer and joined the Regular Army. Overseas postings included Vietnam and after a 31-year career he retired as a Colonel. He and Julie live on the Sunshine Coast.

**MORE PHOTOS PAGES 14, 15**



*On Anzac Day Ian Atkinson (top) salutes as surf boat and outrigger crews pay tribute at Mooloolaba Surf Club's COVID-restricted dawn service (photo Chantelle Minter); at Cotton Tree community service (above from left) Paul Warren (retired Wing Commander RNZAF), Gordon Hurford (veteran and retired Colonel ARA) and Maroochy RSL President, veteran Michael Liddelow (photo from Maroochy RSL); and (below) Light Horse contingent at Maleny (photo Maleny RSL Facebook page).*



The royal commission into veteran suicides must occur in conjunction with the National Commissioner (for Defence and Suicide Prevention), to ensure there is scope to return and gauge whether recommendations have been implemented, GP and former Army Major Dr Kerry Summerscales said.

“Otherwise it is just another report that can be filed away with no consequences,” she said. “We need someone to ask, ‘Did you implement it? No? Why not?’,” she said in an article on the Royal Australian College of General Practice website.

Under the current plan, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide is set to compliment the newly-created National Commissioner, and examine the systemic issue of suicide of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans. It will also track the experiences of ADF members and veterans who may be at risk of suicide, as well as of those transitioning from active service.

The royal commission’s final terms of reference will be determined following a period of consultation with the veteran community and state and territory governments.

“It is expected to examine the systemic issues and contributing risk factors relevant to defence and veteran suicide, including: contribution of pre-service, training, service, transition and post-service issues; relevance of service, posting history and rank of the ADF member or veteran manner of recruitment into the ADF and subsequent transition; availability, quality and effectiveness of health, wellbeing and support services,” the article says.

## Royal Commission needs follow-up

“Details on how information about individuals is shared and how their mental and physical health are captured during enlistment and during and after service will also be examined.

“Importantly, the risk factors of defence members and veterans who have attempted or contemplated suicide or have other lived experiences of suicide will be a focus of the inquiry, as well as assessing the quality and availability of support services for families and colleagues affected by a suicide.

Dr Summerscales said: “Families no doubt will be happy with the announcement; however, it is imperative that the correct people are engaged. Veterans and their families need to be engaged, listened to, and open and frank discussions need to occur.

“In addition, this needs to occur with professionals and those who have knowledge and research to support their point of view to reduce ADF and veteran stress and suicide.”

“And not just deployments and PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder],” she said. “Moral injury needs to be assessed, along with a myriad of other factors contributing to suicide.”



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## From the Secretary

Firstly let me thank all who participated in the Anzac Sales promotion over the four days leading up to Anzac Day 2021.

Stocks were a little low in some areas, but we managed to gain a maximum result overall.

With an approximate sales figure of nearly \$8000 both President Mick and myself would like to congratulate all concerned.

I trust your Anzac Day Commemoration was an enjoyable one and not too restricted by the current COVID concerns.

Mick Howe and myself attended an invite-only affair at Mooloolaba Surf Club and enjoyed a gunfire breakfast with like-minded veterans from all three services.

Many thanks to Ian Atkinson and Rick Brittain for the invite.

With another long weekend coming up for Labour Day recently, the weekly roster for duty officers has been in some turmoil, but we should now see the roster settle into some normality.

If you feel you would like to volunteer in some form for the association, don't hesitate to contact any member of the committee for assistance.

We are always needing to add to our volunteer list as members continue to become unable to continue with some tasks.

Stay well and stay safe.

*Kind regards,  
Garry King*



## Premiere for new Vietnam Requiem

The premiere performance of the *Vietnam Requiem* national commemorative musical work will be presented in Canberra early in June.

It has been created by some of Australia's leading composers and will be performed by Little Pattie, Normie Rowe, John Schuman, the RMC Duntroon Band, Canberra Symphony Orchestra and choirs.

The requiem is the third in the Flowers of War series of national commemorative musical works.

It is intended to "create a deeper understanding of the Vietnam War by showing all perspectives through the power of music and imagery."

The requiem has been commissioned by DVA and AWM. More information: [theflowersofwar.org](http://theflowersofwar.org)

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# Kapyong Battle saved Seoul from China

The anniversary of one of the most famous battles involving Australian forces goes all but unnoticed, but is still commemorated annually.

It is the Battle of Kapyong during the Korean War which prevented Seoul, the Korean capital, from falling into enemy hands. On the night of 22 April 1951, Chinese forces launched a major offensive against United Nations forces defending the South Korean capital, Seoul, and positions further east.

Throughout the night the Chinese repeatedly pressed the Australian positions, attacking in waves over their own dead and wounded.

Next morning the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, which included 3 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was ordered to the valley of the Kapyong River about 60 km north-east of Seoul, where South Korean forces were being driven back.

During a night of fierce fighting and throughout the daylight hours of 24 April the Australians and a Canadian battalion, supported by a New Zealand artillery regiment,



stalled the Chinese advance before eventually withdrawing after dark.

At a cost of 32 men killed, 59 wounded and three missing (taken prisoner), the Australians had helped hold up the Chinese 60th Division and inflicted heavy casualties which totalled more than 500 killed alone.

For their contribution to this action, 3 RAR was awarded a US Presidential Citation. **Presentation parade pictured.**

"At last I felt like an Anzac, and I imagine there were 600 others like me," said Captain Reg Saunders, Officer Commanding, C Company, 3 RAR, afterwards.

Kapyong came to be the most significant and important battle for Australian troops in Korea.

The end of the war came with the signing of an armistice on 27 July 1953, three years and one month after it began.

It had been one of the bloodiest wars of the century. Nearly four million Koreans and Chinese were killed - more than half the dead were Korean civilians. Australian casualties numbered over 1500, including 340 dead.

—from **Australian War Memorial.**



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



## Our annual raffle launched

A book of raffle tickets for the Vietnam Veterans Association Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Annual Raffle is enclosed in this edition of Ricochet.

It will be drawn on 18 August in the function room at the Maroochy RSL during the VV Day luncheon.

Tickets are \$1 each or \$10 for the book. The raffle helps to augment the cost of hosting the Vietnam Veterans Day Toast to the War Dogs ceremony at Alexandra Headland, the Memorial Service at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph and the luncheon at the Maroochy RSL.

The sub-branch is fortunate to have two unique prizes for the raffle donated by two renowned artists. This is the first time the Association has been able to offer artwork of such quality.

Peter Muraay Djeripi Mulcahy is an Aboriginal artist who is based in Noosa. The painting he has donated is titled "Mirii Dhaagan" (Star Brothers). He is a descendant of the Gamilaroi people of Central Northern New South Wales and is both a cultural teacher and professional artist. His works have been sold both nationally and internationally since 1995.

Peter has recently opened Giaungan Gallery in Tewantin which is a fine quality Aboriginal Art Gallery. He invites all Australians to come and share in "our ancient culture and let it bring to all a deeper sense of knowing our unique standing as Australians."

If members would like see more of Peter's work, he can be contacted via the email or phone details below or just pop into the Tewantin studio. Make sure you let him know you are a VVAASC member (for special deals).

— continued page 11.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

IN LAST month's Ricochet I wrote about a *Legends in Concert* show I had been to at Caloundra Events Centre, particularly about the appearance of legendary singer – and fellow Nasho – Normie Rowe.

I also referred to, and responded to conjecture over the years that Normie's call-up had been rigged for PR purposes and his birthday had not actually come out in the ballot.

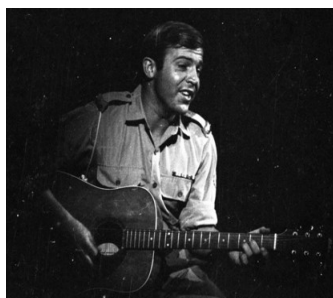
His birthday, 1 February 1947, was not in the "original" ballot for that age group, but did come out in a "supplementary ballot" on 8 September 1967 for those who were "absent from Australia when their age group was required to register". Normie had been in England recording hits in 1966, so it seemed fair enough he became eligible in the supplementary ballot.

But therein lies a tale, even a scandal. By chance an article in *The Weekend Australian* (24-25 April 2021, Alan

Howe) says that it had been "arranged" for Normie's birthday to be included in that supplementary ballot and was the work of one Colonel Beverly Smith, an Army PR officer, and others.

Apparently, Smith thought it would be a "PR coup" like the call-up of Elvis Presley was for the US. Before his death he confessed this to his son, Grant Coultman-Smith, ironically a Vietnam veteran, saying: "We fixed the dates. We got him in". He had expressed concern as to how Normie was doing.

The article also relates how Normie was detailed on his first morning in country for a PR opportunity where not only did he come across lots of dead enemy bodies from an ambush the previous day, but witnessed an "engineer's burial" when the corpses were put into a



pile up and blown up.

In later years when PTSD became apparent, the event became a "deep stressor".

Not that he is bitter. He thinks he is fortunate to call Australia home: "It is why I get so angry when people treat Anzac Day so badly," he said.

**Cheers**  
**Kerry White,**  
**Editor**

**PICTURED ABOVE: Normie recording at a US studio for a Christmas show (left); and as a newly promoted crew commander.**

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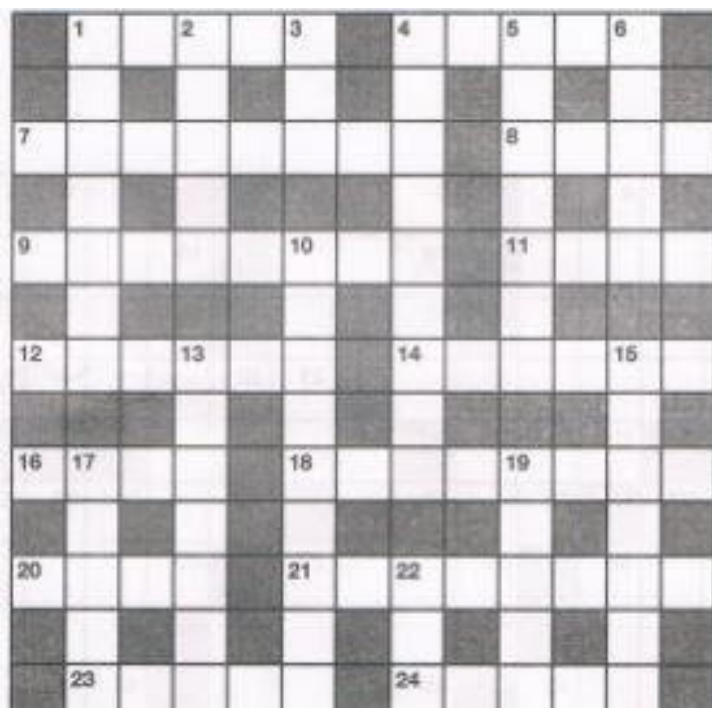
**Darren Fletcher**

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# JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE ....



## ACROSS

- |                                       |                                     |                      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Someone who wins alot (5)           | 12 Not a vegetable or a mineral (6) | 20 Opposed to. (4)   |
| 4 Speak aloud (5)                     | 14 Another word for a road (6)      | 21 Drops of sun. (8) |
| 7 An ancient wisdom (8)               | 16 Amazing (4)                      | 23 Not before. (5)   |
| 8 A challenge (4)                     | 18 An ancient communal area (3,5)   | 34 Delicious. (5)    |
| 9 Found on the ground in a forest (8) |                                     |                      |
| 11 Kill many at once (4)              |                                     |                      |

## DOWN

- |                                   |   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 The meat of any dead animal (7) | 5 Text written about a specific topic (7) | 17 Awesome black and white bear (5) |
| 2 Green, red, or yellow fruit (5) | 6 An artists stand (5)                    | 19 American network provider (5)    |
| 3 Can be sweet or savoury (3)     | 10 A singular taser (4,5)                 | 22 Squirrels eat these (3)          |
| 4 Give oxygen to (9)              | 13 A mechanical tool (7)                  |                                     |
|                                   | 15 Sad (7)                                |                                     |

## TRIVIA .....

- What is the official language of Canada? (a) English (b) French (c) English/French equally
- What is the national animal of Pakistan? (a) Peacock (b) Markhor (c) Lion
- A la Crecy is a French dish made of what? (a) Apples (b) Carrots (c) Potatoes
- Which core ingredient is important to cook a savoury dish? (a) Salt (b) Butter (c) Sugar
- How many colours in the Rainbow? (a) Three (b) Five (c) Seven
- Which is ingredient found in traditional garam masala spice? (a) Turmeric (b) Red Chilli Powder (c) Salt
- Which religion has a God specified for each (a) Rain (b) Money (C) Children and Love? . (a) Islam (b) Hinduism (c) Buddhism
- What does independence mean? (a) Permission (b) Freedom (c) Goodwill
- What is the capital city of Pakistan? (a) Lahore (b) Karachi (c) Islamabad
- How many planets in the universe? (a) Five (b) Ten (c) Nine
- Which is the closest planet to earth? (a) Mars (b) Jupiter (c) Saturn
- Which popular Hollywood actor won the prestigious best actor Oscar award in 2016? (a) Johnny Depp (b) Leonardo Di Caprio (c) Matt Damon
- Joey is the popular character of which television series? (a) How I met your mother (b) Friends (c) Rampage
- What is the term 'Lexicon' used for? (a) Dictionary (b) Book (c) Calculator
- Who won the Grammy best singer and album award in 2017? (a) Adele (b) Beyoncé (c) Lady Gaga
- In which Hollywood movie did the actor Bill Paxton portray the role of Fred Haise? (a) Apollo 11 (b) Matrix (c) Gladiator
- What is the Capital of Spain? (a) Madrid (b) Athens (c) Barcelona
- Which is the most popular social media network? (a) Facebook (b) Instagram (c) Twitter
- What is the average weight of the human brain? (a) 14 kilos (b) 14 grams (c) 4 kilos
- What is a helpful remedy for stomach ache? (a) Mint leaves (b) Green chilli (c) Hazelnuts

• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18**



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AT THE funeral for their mate, Warren Bishop, in Nambour were comrades (from left) John En-chong, who conducted the Poppy Service representing Nambour RSL Sub-Branch, Chris Sinclair (8 Platoon Commander, 8RAR), Bruce Neal, Charlie Lockhart, Paul Roberts, Len Thompson (sitting), Ian Anderson, Chad Sherrin MM (8 Platoon Sgt), Bill Watson (background), Alec Chesters, Jim Powell and Ken Falvey. Warren served in 8 Platoon. An obituary appeared in the previous Ricochet.



## Trio makes history

A Nowra-based crew has made Australian history by becoming the first all-female flight team to operate an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter. Pilot Lieutenant Rhiannon Thomson, aviation warfare officer Royal Navy Lieutenant Hannah Best and sensor operator Leading Seaman Clare Lassam, from 725 Squadron, flew the routine shift from HMAS Albatross at Nowra.



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

A letter arrives in the mail from: The Rescue Mission, 182 Elliot Street, London SW1 2BJ.

It reads: Dear Sir, Perhaps you have heard of me and my nationwide campaign in the cause of temperance. Each year for the past fourteen, I have made a tour of the North of England, including Liverpool and Manchester, where I have made a series of lectures on the evils of drinking. On the tour I have been accompanied by a young man of good family and excellent background in a pathetic example of a life ruined by excessive indulgence in alcohol and sex.

David would appear with me at the lectures, and sit on the platform, wheezing and staring at the audience through bleary bloodshot

eyes, sweating profusely, picking his nose, passing wind and making obscene gestures, while I would point him out as an example of what drinking etc. can do to a person.

Last summer unfortunately David died. A mutual friend has given me your name, and I was wondering if you would care to take David's place on my next tour.— from Mick Howe)

Apologies to the good politicians out there: A noted psychiatrist was a guest speaker at an academic function where a prominent politician happened to appear. The politician took the opportunity to schmooze the good doctor a bit and asked him a question with which he was most at ease. "Would you mind telling me, Doctor," he asked, "how you

no trouble. If the person hesitates, that puts you on the track."

"What sort of question?"

The doctor explained "Well, you might ask, 'Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?' "

The politician thought for a moment, and then said with a nervous laugh, "You wouldn't happen to have another example, would you? I must confess I don't know much about history." — from Mick Howe.

From *Larrikins in Khaki - Tales of Irreverence And Courage From World War II Diggers*, by Tim Bowden:

Two Diggers are leaning against the side of a trench, smoking and holding their .303 rifles in one hand. A senior British officer followed by a gaggle of junior officers pick their way briskly past them.

The Diggers don't shift or salute. After the senior officer has passed, a junior officer spins around and comes back. "Don't you know who that was?"

The Diggers consider the question. One answers "Nope. You ever met him Barney?" "Nah, not me."

Junior officer: "That was General Birdwood!"

The first Digger says, "Well he didn't have feathers on his arse like any other bird would."



detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?"

"Nothing is easier," the doctor replied. "You ask a simple question which anyone should answer with

habitat.

Jackie is in demand for portraits by families and especially those who want to immortalise animals. Her artwork is breathtaking and certainly affordable. Jackie can be contacted via the details below. Once again, ensure you let Jackie know you are a member of the association. Email: [jackiecoghill@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jackiecoghill@yahoo.com.au) Mobile: 0400522038

Note. Images of the paintings will be sent out via a Heads-Up where they can be viewed in colour.

It would be appreciated if raffle butts could be returned to the Drop-In Centre as soon as practicable. (PO Box 533 Cotton Tree Qld 4558). Extra tickets can be obtained from the Drop-In Centre.

— from John Cunnington.

— continued from page 7

While part of Peter's art is upmarket, he also has artwork that is very affordable. Email: [mulcahy@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:mulcahy@spiderweb.com.au) Mobile: 0401742678.

Jackie Coghill is a gifted hobby artist based in Brisbane who enjoys exploring different mediums to portray her art. She concentrates mainly on portrait work, mostly of animals, and especially elephants.

This painting is titled "TSWANA", which means 'unstoppable/the forceful one' in Bantu and is based on a tutorial from Charla Maarschalk, done mostly in acrylics, and is intended to bring awareness of the plight of these animals, along with many other species, who are facing extinction due to poaching and destruction of

# Hospital ship sunk off Sunshine Coast

On 14 May the 2/3rd Australian Hospital Ship (AHS) *Centaur* (pictured below) was off the Sunshine Coast near Moreton Island en route from Sydney to Cairns when she was sunk by a Japanese submarine. Of the 332 people on board, only 64 survived.

In the early afternoon of 12 May *Centaur* had steamed from Sydney carrying members of the 2/12th Field Ambulance. Shortly after 4 am on 14 May, while most people were asleep, a torpedo struck *Centaur*'s port side, hitting the oil fuel tank which ignited in a massive explosion. The bridge superstructure collapsed and the funnel crashed onto the deck.

Everything was covered with burning oil and a fire quickly began to roar across the ship. Water, meanwhile, rushed in through the gaping hole in her side. Many of those on board not killed in the explosion or fire, were trapped as the ship started to go down bow first, and then broke in two. In just three minutes *Centaur* was gone.

The survivors were at sea for a day and half before they were rescued. The ship's crew and medical staff suffered heavily, as did the 2/12th Field Ambulance — 178 men, from a total of 193, died. It was the nurses though, who suffered the worst. Of the 12 nurses on board only one, Sister Nell Savage, survived.

Although badly hurt herself, Sister Savage concealed her injuries and gave what help she could to the other survivors. After sharks circled their raft, and when ships and planes passed without seeing them, a sing-along was organised to help keep up their spirits. For her

"conspicuous gallantry" Sister Savage was awarded a George Medal.

The loss of the *Centaur* deeply shocked Australia, and for many Australians she became a symbol of the determination to win the war.

The attack on a clearly marked and illuminated hospital ship was taken as further proof that Australia was fighting against a brutal enemy.

*Centaur* was a merchant vessel built in Scotland on the Clyde River, and was launched in 1924. Following Japan's entry into the war and the subsequent bloody fighting in Papua during 1942, *Centaur* was converted into a hospital ship with the aim of ferrying patients be-

tween Port Moresby and Townsville.

Now the 2/3rd AHS *Centaur*, the vessel had a fully equipped operating theatre and dental surgery, and could carry 252 patients.

She was also clearly marked as a hospital ship. Around her freshly painted white hull a thick green band ran, broken in several places by large red crosses. At night, the vessel was

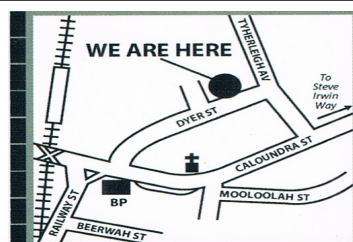


brightly illuminated by powerful spotlights. *Centaur* had kept her civilian crew, but her medical staff were all members of the army.

The men were from the Australian Army Medical Corps and the women were from the Australian Army Nursing Service.

*Centaur* had only completed two voyages with patients, before she began her ill-fated third and final voyage.

— by Karl James, Australian War Memorial 2008.



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# OUT TO LUNCH



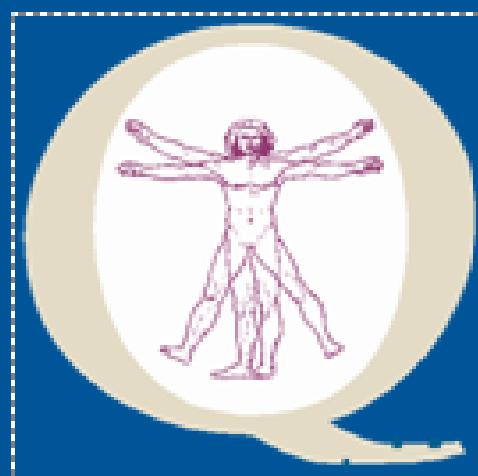
**ENJOYING** fellowship and food at the April Rifle-men's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club were (from top, from left) Jim Hardie, Ross Roberts and Les D'Alton; Kevin Lynch, Terry Lemcke and John Prince; Garry King, Mick Howe, Laurie Drinkwater with his granddaughter Eby, a serving ADF member, and Col Parkin.

## HEARD THIS ONE?

In the cemetery he saw four men carrying a coffin around and around, still going three hours later. He thought to himself: "They've lost the bloody plot."

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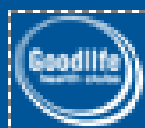
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**SALUTE** for the National Anthem at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph on Anzac Day (above left); Kate Haydock with Lisa Cotton (above) at Mooloolaba Surf Club gun-fire breakfast; at Maroochy RSL (top right) Daryl Turner, John Oxenham, Mal Overend and Mick Gay; at the Mooloolaba breakfast guest speaker Bill Ochman, who spoke about his Rwandan experience, Chantelle Minter and Ian Atkinson; Rhodesian Infantry group at Coolum (left). — photo sources here and opposite page include Sunshine Coast News, Facebook and Chantelle Minter.



**ONE** of the oldest veterans taking part in Anzac Day activities at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph was Bill White (right), 98, who served in the Navy in World War Two.



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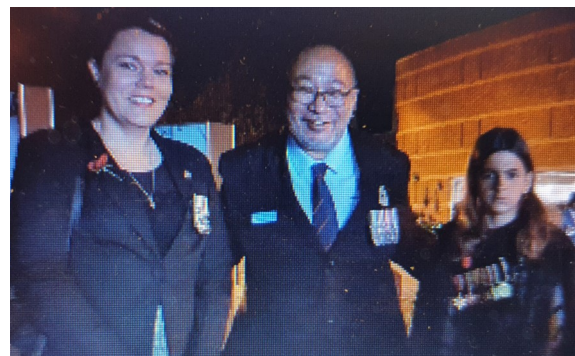
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**OUR MISSION:** To assist all veterans and their dependents in all matters relating to their health, welfare and well-being.





ON Anzac Day at Nambour, Vietnam veteran John Enchong with younger veteran Abby (left) and Kai; at Maroochy RSL after the community service (below, from left) Steve Searles, Bill Browne, Mary Martin, Jan Searles, Ray Smith.



## Lest We Forget

VETERANS on the march at Quota Park, Nambour (above) and cadets mount the catafalque party at the Coolum remembrance service.



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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  
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E: [nora@activot.com.au](mailto:nora@activot.com.au)**



# May Timeline: From U-2 incident to referendum

**1 May, 1960:** An American U-2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central Russia on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The sensational incident caused a cancellation of the meeting and heightened existing Cold War tensions.

**2 May, 2011:** U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Bin Laden had ordered the coordinated aerial attacks in the US of September, 2001, killing around 3000 people.

**7 May 1915:** The British passenger ship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, losing 1198 of its 1924 passengers, including 114 Americans. The attack hastened neutral America's entry into World War I.

**13 May, 1968:** Battle of Coral–Balmoral becomes the bloodiest engagement for Australians in Vietnam when 25 Australians are killed and nearly 100 wounded during 26 days of fighting in AO Surfers, north-east of Saigon. The operation lasts till 6 June 1968.

**16 May 1868:** In May 1868 the first Australian cricket team arrived in England for a series of matches. The tour made headlines in England and Australia and continues to be a significant moment in Australia's cricketing history, racial relations and national identity.

**17 May 1932:** Founding of the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission). it remains Australia's only advertisement-free public broadcaster, and is seen by many as an essential part of Australian society.

**18 May 1813:** Gregory Blaxland, William Charles Wentworth and William Lawson became the first European settlers to successfully navigate a path across the Blue Mountains.

**24 May 1962:** Australian Minister for Defence Athol Townley announces the intention to send 30 Army advisers to South Vietnam. Three years later, on 27 May, 1 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, leaves for Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.



**24 May 1966:** Death of Private Errol Noack, the first Australian National Serviceman killed in the Vietnam War. He was a member of 5 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, which was on its first operation since arriving. He was with B Company, which was helping clear an area where the 1st Australian Task Force base was to be built. **PICTURED BELOW: A road in the base was named after him.**

**26 May 1940:** The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by 2 June.

**27 May 1967:** After 10 years of campaigning, a referendum on Indigenous recognition in the Australian constitution was held. Nearly 91 per cent of the electorate voted to amend the constitution.

Sources included:

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\\_history\\_of\\_Australia\\_during\\_the\\_Vietnam\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_Vietnam_War)

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







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~ Onwards and Forward ~



## ***‘Those were the days, my friend, We thought they’d never end’***

Remember Lorrae Desmond? Five times she visited South Vietnam to entertain troops, particularly Australian Diggers.

Recently she was visited at her Gold Coast home by Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey for a private investiture ceremony as a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia, which was announced on Australia Day this year. She had previously received an MBE.

For those who served in Vietnam momentary relief from war service was always welcomed. One 'escape' was to attend concerts. Dozens of professional entertainers toured the war zone in concert parties.

Many famous and less-well known Australian entertainers volunteered to perform in South Vietnam. Their contribution to lifting the morale of men and women who faced a year in a war-zone was inestimable. Motivated by patriotism, or a simple desire for adventure, and willing to brave the obvious dangers one could face in Vietnam, hundreds of Australian performers made the trip, many more than once. Between 1967 and 1971 some 50 troupes left Australia for Vietnam.

Some, like Little Pattie and Col Joye, who were performing at Nui Dat on the day of the Long Tan battle, brushed up against significant military events. Mostly, however, the performances took place on less well-remembered occasions.

Lorrae Desmond had already performed in war zones for the British Foreign Office, but until Christmas 1967 had never performed for her own countrymen on active service. More important than the shows, she felt, were the less public moments when she visited men in hospital or simply spent time sharing a meal or chatting with troops.

There were several ways by which Australian entertainers could get to Vietnam. Commercial agencies contracted performers, volunteers could make the journey through government sponsored Forces Advisory Committee on Entertainment (FACE) or the Australian Forces Overseas Fund.

They received a daily allowance, transport, accommodation (often rudimentary indeed) and a security guarantee. The latter, of course, was a serious concern and the possibility of coming to harm in a country where violent death was commonplace sufficed to deter many performers from visiting Vietnam.



One Australian entertainer was killed. Cathy Wayne died performing at the United States Marine Corps base at Da Nang when she was shot in the chest. The sergeant accused of the killing was convicted, but served just two years before being released, leaving the identity and motive a mystery.

Many other Australians also found themselves performing for American audiences. After auditioning in Sydney, Don Morrison's band, Xanadu, were contracted to play a series of shows at US bases. Ironically the band felt that they had no choice but to go overseas when two of their members became eligible for national service – 'running away to a war to avoid one' is how Morrison later described it.

Most entertainers endured a gruelling schedule of performances in a hot, humid, uncomfortable environment.

Three shows of more than an hour each per day was not an unusual schedule.

Whatever motivated entertainers to be there, performing a series of shows in Vietnam lacked the glamour that might have been associated with playing in Australia. But the musicians, dancers, comedians and others who put on shows for military personnel in Vietnam brought an hour or two of normality to men and women whose lives were consumed by war.

— Vietnam information from <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/>

**PICTURED:** *Lorrae Desmond dances with a Digger on stage at Nui Dat (above) and the Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey presents Lorrae with her Australia Day award, an AM.*



*Page heading:  
Acknowledg-  
ement Boris  
Foman/ Gene  
Raskin.*

Many of you know, Trevor Benneworth invited me to write Page 12 for the Radio School Magazine at our Vietnam Veterans' Day luncheon two years ago. It has been my privilege and blessing to do so ever since.

As you know if you follow my ramblings, that I have included a segment for those who have influenced me during my military service. If I have not mentioned you yet, your turn is coming.

When I was at No. 1 Flying Training School for three years where I was the Admin and Air Force Law instructor, one of my tasks was to crank up the ground school program each week to ensure all students – Army, Navy and Air Force – received their full number of tutorial sessions before they moved on to the flying segment of their course.

Traditionally, over the years, certain businessmen from the community were invited to speak on their profession and if they obtained business from the students, more luck to them. I made good friends with one of these businessmen who continued our friendship for many years after I

## Fireside with the Padre



was posted from 1 FTS.

My friend wrote a book about his parent's Italian heritage. His book was called 'A Shoe in My Cheese,' which is explained within the pages. He gave his book to Annette and me on our 25th Wedding Anniversary.

I decided that our long friendship, coupled with the fact of where we met, qualified him to fill the category of 'someone who influenced me in my RAAF career'. So, I started a search where he is now located. Horror of horrors, I discovered my friend was buried in the Werribee Cemetery after his death in 2000.

As the sleuth I believe I was, I traced his daughter and phoned her office. She was not in, but I left my phone number, to seek permission to

use his photo and to tell his story in the Radio School Magazine.

The following week, I received a phone call – from the gentleman I was seeking. I sat in my chair shaking for fully 10 minutes, spluttering, "But you are dead!" My friend explained the confusion that both he and his cousin were named after their great-uncle. It was his cousin who died in 2000 and is buried in the Werribee Cemetery.

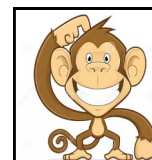
I will leave the rest of this yarn to allow you to read Rino's story in the Radio School Magazine. I do not know if any of our readers have had a similar call 'from the grave', but I can assure you, it truly shook me up.

What has this tale to do with Chaplaincy? His cousin was a Cardinal, twice a contender for Pope, but without success. We had many intriguing 'in-depth' conversations!

It was great to talk with my friend and his wife for some time. But best I stop my chat here and wish you all God's blessings for the month ahead.

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

## Answers from page 9



1. (c) English/French equally
2. (b) Markhor
3. (b) Carrots
4. (a) Salt
5. (c) Seven
6. (a) Turmeric
7. (b) Hinduism
8. (c) Goodwill
9. (c) Islamabad
10. (c) Nine
11. (b) Jupiter

12. (b) Leonardo Di Caprio



13. (b) Friends
14. (a) Dictionary
15. (a) Adele
16. (a) Apollo 11
17. (c) Barcelona
18. (b) Instagram
19. (c) 4 kilos
20. (a) Mint Leaves





*The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour, Victoria, lays claim to being the only one of its kind in Australia dedicated to all Vietnam Veterans. The walk has been created to represent and commemorate the sacrifices of the 60,000 service men and women who devoted their service in Vietnam. The names of each man and woman who served are inscribed across 106 digiglass panels, superimposed upon which are many vivid photos that capture various aspects of daily life in-country. Rows of spotted-gums represent a rubber plantation and tussock grasses the rice paddies. Around the wall grounds are a replica Luscombe Bowl stage housing interpretive maps and signage, a Centurion tank, Huey, artillery pieces, an M1A1 APC and a replica Long Tan Cross crafted by the very maker of the original. — from 'Viet Nam Heritage - Healing Through History' Facebook page.*



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

*On the next page is our monthly Roll of Honour. 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. Lest We Forget.*



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

## May 1966

Noack, Errol Wayne (4717546), 5 RAR, 21, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

## May 1967

Bartholomew, Glen Trevor (2782555), 1 FldSqn, 22, Spr, Memorial Gardens, Lismore NSW.

Brady, Gregory Vincent (2782812), 1 FldSqn, 22, Spr, Goondiwindi Cemetery, Goondiwindi Qld.

Brooks, Dennis Lindsay (3787889), 1 FldSqn, 22, Spr, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Deed, Ramon John Peter (3788300), 1 FldSqn, 21, Spr, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Mathieson, Kenneth Frank (37175), UL S Comd ex 6 RAR, 21, Pte, Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park, Melbourne.

O'Hara, John Laurence (2782779), 1 Fld Sqn, 22, Spr, Wollongong Crematorium NSW.

Renshaw, Terrence James (3788172), 1 FldSqn, 22, Spr, Wangaratta Cemetery Vic.

Ruddy, James (214360), Unit Detachment 55 Advanced Engineer Stores Squadron (RAE), 32, Cpl (Temp Sgt), Beresfield Crematorium NSW.

## May 1968

Abbott, Dal Edward (2786017), 1 RAR, Pte, 21, Terendak Military Cemetery, Malaysia.

Bailey, Errol John (2786313), 1 RAR, 23, Pte, Beresfield Crematorium NSW.

Brown, Lindsay Noel (3790530), 3 RAR, 22, Pte, Benalla Cemetery Vic.

Constable, George Alfred (235125), 161 Recce Flt, 32, Maj., Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery, Sydney.

Cooper, Alan John (4411171), 3 RAR, 20, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Dawson, Ian Kenneth (215063), 1 RAR, 24, Cpl, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

Desnoy, John Walter (3791033), 3 RAR, 22, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Durrington, John Thomas (36485), AATTV (Att. RAI), 29, Sgt (Temp. WO2), Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hamersley, Frederick George (54828), AATTV, 38, Sgt, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Hickey, Robert Bernard (215745), 1 RAR, 24, Cpl, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

Lewis, Peter Edward (43423), 3 RAR, 24, Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Martin, William Henry (1731467), 1 RAR, 22, L/Cpl, Winton Cemetery, Qld.

McNab, Robert Leo (39354), 1 RAR, 20, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Nisbet, Christopher Robert (1201338), 1 RAR, 20, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

O'Brien, John Alfred (2786748), 1 RAR, Pte, 21, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney.

Pearce, John Gregory Stinson (2784043), 1 RAR, Cpl, 22, War Cemetery, Rookwood, Sydney.

Sawtell, Christopher James (216970), 12 FldRegt, 19, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

Scott, Ian James (3791583), 12 FldRegt, 21, Gnr, Camperdown Civil Cemetery, Vic.

Sheppard, Laurence (aka Lawrence) Rodney (3790506), 1 RAR, 22, Pte, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Thomas, William Malcolm (4718911), 3 RAR, 21, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Trimble, Bevan Maxwell (3791291), 1 RAR, 21, Pte, Bendigo Cemetery, Victoria.

Wallis, Alan John (2787255), 1 RAR, 21, Pte, Sandgate General Cemetery, Newcastle NSW.

Watson, Richard Christopher A (39403), 1 RAR, 20, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

White, Harry Winston (216009), 1 RAR, 23, Pte, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney.

Whitton, John Hunter (311532), 1 RAR, 28, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Worle, Jeffrey Thomas (3790789), 3 RAR, 21, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Young, Alexander Henry (1732408), 104 SigSqn, 21, Sig., Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Young, Brian Thomas (1733095), 1 RAR, 21, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

## May 1969

Bramble, Peter John (2789684), 1 FldSqn, 21, Spr, Forster Cemetery, Forster NSW.

Davies, Ronald Edward (38530), 1 FldSqn, 24, Spr, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Drummond, Andrew (55537), 5 RAR, 27, Pte, Carnarvon Cemetery WA.

Gill, Michael William Thomas (14667), RAS (att. AATTV), Sgt (temp. WO2), Garden of Remembrance, Toowoomba, Qld.

Kerr, James Kelly (218508), B Sqn, 1 ArmRgt, 19, Trp, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Lee, Errol John (235328), 5 RAR, 22, Lt, Woden Cemetery, Canberra.

Locke, Geoffrey Robert (39161), 9 RAR, 22, 2/Lt, Garden of Remembrance, Launceston Tas.

O'Neill, John Barry (39457), 1 Div. Supply/Transport Workshop, 20, Cftsm, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Reidy, Paul Francis (3793403), 9 RAR, 21, Pte, White Hills Cemetery, Bendigo, Vic.

Shipp, Noel Ervin (R59629), RANHFV, 24, LAC, Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery, Sydney.

Yule, Robert James (218491), 9 RAR, 20, Pte, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

## May 1970

Ahearn, Alan William (214287), 8 RAR, 25, Sgt, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney.

Crouch, Noel Valentine (5716239), 7 RAR, 22, Pte, Katanning Public Cemetery WA.

Earle, Philip (45104), 8 RAR, 23, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Goody, Phillip Raymond (1734847), 8 RAR, 22, L/Cpl, Monto Cemetery Qld.

Neal, Dennis William (1735386), 2 RAR, 22, Pte, Gympie Cemetery Qld.

Tully, Desmond John (2792375), 2 RAR, 21, Pte, Lismore Crematorium NSW.

## May 1971

Mills, Noel Reginald (1200423), RAA Chaplains' Dept, no age, Chaplain, died Repatriation General Hospital, Concord NSW (no funeral details).

• From Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces.