

# RICOCHET

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

## Former COs meet for gallantry award

Two former commanding officers of 1 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, met recently when Governor-General David Hurley presented Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Jensen (Retd) with the insignia of his award of the Medal for Gallantry (pictured).

The ceremony was on 13 May – the anniversary of the Battle of Coral and Balmoral, Australia's largest and most sustained battle of the Vietnam War, in 1968.

Mr Jensen was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion, with the Royal Australian Regiment's mortar line during the Battle for Fire Support Base Coral in Vietnam on 13 May 1968.

On 12 May 1968 the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment with other elements of the 1st Australian Task Force deployed into Area of Operations Surfers in South Vietnam.

The enemy assaulted Fire Support Base Coral in the early hours of 13 May. The exposed mortar line was attacked by a numerically superior force and faced annihilation.

Lieutenant Colonel Jensen made a deliberate decision to stay and fight under extreme threat rather than withdraw and leave his wounded behind.



His soldiers were in close combat with the enemy and suffered serious casualties. Out of 18 men, five were killed in action, and another eight wounded.

Disregarding his own safety, and calmly relaying progress to his superiors, Lieutenant Colonel Jensen took the decision to call direct and indirect fire onto his own position and disrupt the enemy. The enemy eventually withdrew having suffered significant casualties.

The gallant actions of Lieutenant Colonel Jensen were instrumental in preventing many more Australian casualties.

The Governor-General was Commanding Officer of 1RAR in 1993 during Operation Solace in Somalia in 1993.

- Continued Page 3

## INSIDE: VIETNAM VETERANS DAY DETAILS



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)

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

**General information** Page 2.

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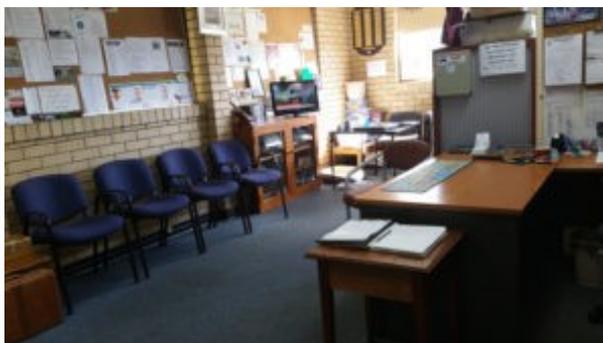
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**Office Phone 54794552 Fax. 5479 4558.**  
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**OFFICE HOURS: The Drop-In Centre hours have been extended — now open Monday to Friday 0900 to 1300 (9am — 1 pm).**



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

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

# Funeral benefit increase depends on inquiry

Any decision on an increase in the funeral benefit for earlier veterans such as those from the Vietnam War will not be made until the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is completed.

The benefit for earlier veterans is \$2000 while that for later veterans is up to \$12,491, an “inadequacy” identified by the 2019 Productivity Commission report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*, which recommended “aligning the funeral payment under the VEA with the MRCA funeral payment, albeit for a limited group of veterans”. The issue was covered in the December *Ricochet*.

Veterans Affairs Minister Darren Chester said recently: “The Government will finalise any outstanding matters from the Productivity Commission report as part of its response to the Royal Commission once it is finalised.”

“The Royal Commission will provide an important opportunity for healing and to rebuild trust, unite our vet-

eran community, and restore hope. Most significantly, it will help us understand veteran suicide more deeply and identify further steps we can all take to prevent suicide in our serving members and veterans,” Mr Chester said.

“One of their biggest concerns has been claim waiting times”

“Sadly, too many veterans have lost their lives to suicide which has a devastating effect on families, friends and communities. At the same time however, we must continue the work that we’re doing already, work that is already saving lives.”

Mr Chester said the Government invests over \$11.5 billion each year to support 325,000 veterans and their families.

“The 2021–22 Budget builds on this with an additional \$702.6 million with a focus on wellness, support, suicide prevention and ensuring the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) is ap-

propriately equipped,” he said.

As part of the success of changes made to DVA, there has been a doubling of compensation claims received between 2017–18 and 2019–20, with more than 121,000 claims received last financial year, which means more veterans are receiving support earlier.

“As I have spoken to veterans and families around the country, one of their biggest concerns has been claim waiting times and as a Government we are committed to addressing this issue, providing an additional \$98.5 million over the next two years,” Mr Chester said.

“This will support the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families as claims are processed more quickly and efficiently. DVA will also receive more than 440 additional staff to bolster capability in the year ahead.”

More information on all DVA’s 2021–22 Budget measures is available on the DVA website.

## Riflemen’s shirt in memory of General



FOR HIS funeral on 11 February retired General David Drabsch was dressed in a Rifleman’s Lunch shirt, as was his wish. He was a keen supporter of the lunch, held monthly at Mooloolaba Surf Club. About 40 lunch regulars also wore their shirts to the funeral. At the May lunch his widow, Pamela, and grandson, Chris, were presented with a shirt, which was framed and mounted with his medals and photos. They were joined at the presentation by (from left) Les D’alton, Ian Atkinson and Rick Brittain. General Drabsch was commissioned in 1952 and served in Korea and Vietnam.. He died on 28 January aged 89.

## Award for Battle of Coral-Balmoral

- from Page 1

Australia lost 25 killed, 99 wounded; New Zealand, five wounded; and the United States, five wounded. Enemy losses were estimated as 267 killed, seven wounded and 11 captured.

Units involved included: 1st Australian Task Force (Forward), 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment; 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment; A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment; C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment; 12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery; 1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers; No 9 Squadron RAAF; 161 Reconnaissance Flight; and 161 Battery Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

In 2018, “the extraordinary gallantry displayed by members” of units was recognised with the Unit Citation for Gallantry.

## From the President

Hi Everyone,

I hope that you and yours are all safe and well. Sorry that I missed last month's edition, but lately there just doesn't seem enough time through the day to get everything done. Anyway, enough of that. We have recently had out Junior Vice President, Gordon Hall (pictured) and Committee person, Chris Wessells, both in local hospitals receiving treatment for various ailments. I'm happy to report that both are now well and resting at their respective homes.



I have been working with Garry King lately to ensure that we get out applications for a variety of local and Federal Government grants forwarded to the appropriate offices and individuals. So far we have received a nega-

tive response from our local Federal Member, however we are hopeful of a better reception from some of the other applications.

It is important to note that since the sausage sizzles ceased with Bun-nings, the only income the Association receives is from our ever reliable volunteers who take the time and effort to assist your Committee during commemorative military periods when we are able to sell merchandise at various allocated locations within the Sunshine Coast area. That, together with our 'penny and jewellery' volunteers, and road marshalling at various sporting events is our sole income.

We have our Vietnam Veterans Day fast approaching and you will note that in the last 'Ricochet' magazine, we included a book of raffle tickets. All of the monies collected from the sale of the raffle tickets go towards your Vietnam Veterans Day activities,

so can you please arrange to get them back to the Drop-In Centre at your earliest convenience. Tickets for our lunch will go on sale very shortly and will only be available from the 'Drop-In' centre.

Speaking of the lunch arrangements, perhaps I should mention the fact that owing to the problems that we, (and everyone else) , currently face with respect to the Covid issue, we may very well have to restrict the number of attendees wishing to be present at the function. Our Committee is keeping in touch with organisers at the Maroochy R.S.L. regarding this particular matter so bearing all of that in mind, it would perhaps be advisable to purchase your tickets as soon as possible. First in, first served.

I would like to finish up by reminding you all that your Association needs volunteers.

- continued Page 5.



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- from page 4.

It's not that we are asking you to volunteer for every event that we attend, and it's not as though we don't have enough active members, but it's simply disappointing spending days ringing members requesting their assistance for a few hours on a nominated day. We have about 280-300 members attending the V.V. Day lunch each year. It's a shame we can't get volunteers as easily as we get attendees to the function.

Anyway, that's it for now. Remember to keep safe and if you have any ideas whatsoever that you think can improve the manner in which our Association operates, give us a call.

**Best Regards,  
Mick Howe,  
President**



## From the Secretary

Here we are in the last weeks of May enjoying the current block of cooler weather and also commemorating one of the largest and longest battles of the Vietnam war.

The battles of Coral and Balmoral remain the most costly to the Australian Task Force during the month of May 1968.

Both 1RAR and 3RAR paid dearly with their involvement in this operation which was mainly against NVA forces of far greater numbers.

Looking forward to next year, I have been asked if we would again volunteer for next year's Caloundra Triathlon and of course I replied in the affirmative.

At the moment we have two members in hospital for surgery: Gordon Hall is in Selangor Private and Criss Wessells is in Sunshine Coast University Hospital hoping to head home at midday today (24th) having had sur-

gery last week.

The sub-committee for Vietnam Veterans Day is working hard at organising our annual event and raffle tickets are moving at a pleasing rate.

Tickets for the event go on sale at the Drop In Centre from late this week – and remember cash only for tickets.

Also remember Riflemen's lunch on Friday 4 June (first Friday each month) and Vets Brekky every Thursday morning at Mooloolaba Surf Club.

General meetings are third Tuesday of the month and we would appreciate your attendance if possible to help keep advised of the day-to-day operation of the Drop In Centre.

Stay safe and stay well.

**Regards  
Garry King  
Secretary**



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# Celebration of a great life: Col Woodhouse

Colin George Woodhouse's Army career began after his father and a copper suggested a life change after a court appearance.

On 29 April 1963 he joined and 26 years later retired as a Warrant Officer Class one, "the old man was over the moon".

"Woody" (pictured) wrote about this and other life experiences for his own funeral program and eulogy. Born on 13 September 1944 he "fell of the perch", as he put it, on 13 May 2021. He was also known as Col, "Chief", or "Poppy".

His memorial service was restricted because of COVID, but included a Poppy Service done by Mudjimba RSL Sub-branch as well as poem by prominent retired Brigadier George Mansford, "A Warrior's Farewell".

Woody had written to George for permission to use the poem (They had served together). "I admire your courage and example you set in preparing for your final phase of life," he replied. "It is a lesson for all of us ...as we prepare to travel to the other side."

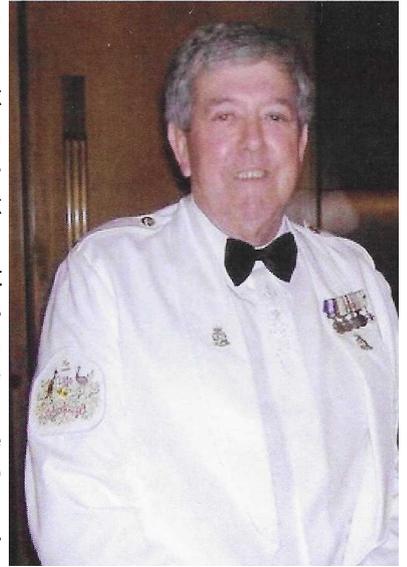
His military career after recruit training at Kapooka included stints as a member of Infantry, Service, and later Ordinance Corps with 4 RAR, Sergeant with a Civil Labour

Unit in South Vietnam, 22 Construction Squadron in Perth, General Support Squadron at Army Aviation, Oakey, as well as Townsville and Enoggera. He left the Army in April 1989.

"Yes, it's been a most interesting time, success and failure but above all a most satisfying life, the most enjoyable of which was the 26 years in the military, and yes I would do it all over again," he wrote.

He leaves behind a widow, Rhonda, two daughters from a previous marriage and two grandchildren.

He concluded his program with: "Thanks to all, thanks for your love and friendship over the years. Thanks to those whom I have been honoured to call 'MATE'. No tears, just have a few coldies with me and my family. It's a celebration of the great life I have had the opportunity to have. See you all on the other side. As for you military bastards: 'Up The Old Red Rooster!'"



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# Tragedy 25 years ago



ON 12 June the 25th anniversary of Australia's worst peacetime military aviation disaster will be commemorated in Townsville and elsewhere. On that night in 1996 18 men died near Townsville after two Blackhawks collided mid-air. Those involved were members of the Special Air Service and Army Aviation Corps. PICTURED: A Blackhawk preparing for take-off and a memorial for the tragedy in Townsville .



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## FROM THE EDITOR

IT IS many years to many people such as historians since we were involved in the Vietnam War, but to many like us – members of the Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, and those of our ilk – it could be yesterday in a variety of ways.

Sailors, soldiers, airmen and women. Some served in Phouc Tuy province, based at Nui Dat with the 1 Australian Task Force; some might have been there before that base was established in other areas; some were in all sorts of places around the country as advisers; some might have been in Vung Tau or Saigon in vital support roles; some might have been on RAN ships off the coast making a contribution in other ways; others might have been based at Ubon, Thailand; many indirectly helped the war effort from places like Singapore and Sydney.

What about nurses and doctors serving at Vung Tau and elsewhere? And entertainers, many of them making multiple trips to entertain us and maybe take our mind off war for a minute or two. One of these, the late Lorrae Desmond, was at the forefront of those forays by entertainers into the war.

Many episodes stand out in memories in many ways. Not just Long Tan or Coral/Balmoral. To many who were there, events that seem not so significant in the overall scheme of things, without doubt can be major events that are as real and as confronting as a cinema newsreel was back in those days.

These reflections have come to me as I sat down to write this after a reunion recently. On 24 May B Company of 5 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, get together on the anniversary of the death of Errol Noack, the first Nasho to die in the war, and the first from 5 RAR.

Only a dozen were there this year plus a few partners. Also there were two very important people, Kylie and Leanne, daughters of Jim Hall, a Regular who was there on that day and died in 1997. They came to pay their respects, but also to chat with Diggers who had served with their father.

So, going back to where I began, how ever long ago it might be in years or numbers, it is always with us. That is the nature of the experience we had whether volunteers or called up. Not that we should block the memories, but we should hold them and live with them in a way that gives due respect to all that died there or were wounded, or have suffered since. Lest We Forget.

**Kerry White**  
Editor

(PHOTO: Errol Noack, RIP)



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## THE SUB-BRANCH'S EVENT OF THE YEAR IS GOING AHEAD

### VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

WEDNESDAY, 18 AUGUST 2021

COTTON TREE CENOTAPH

The day will commence, as usual, with the “Toast to the War Dogs” in the vicinity of the old war dog’s memorial, Alexandra Headland. More information will be provided for those who regularly attend this event over the ensuing months.



#### Main Commemoration Ceremony

Assembly: 1045 hours at the swimming pool complex, The Esplanade,

Cotton Tree. The short march to the Cotton Tree RSL Cenotaph commences at 1055 hours.

Service: 11.00 hours—1200 hours.

Luncheon: Maroochy RSL following the service.

Welcome to guests at 1230 hours.

Event to finish no later than 1600 hours (4 p.m.).

Lunch tickets are now available from the Drop-In-Centre. Please note that due to the COVID situation, numbers will be limited. Members are encouraged to purchase lunch tickets ASAP. Once the quota is filled, the usual latecomers will not be able to buy a ticket

Cost: \$40.00 for members and partners. Non-members price is \$50.00 per head. These prices represent the first increase for years and reflect the increasing costs of hosting a function of this size.

Lunch includes a sumptuous three course meal, some subsidized beer and wine, entertainment and raffle draws.

IMPORTANT: At the luncheon there will be free seating available. However, If you would like to pre-book a table (At this stage it is 6 to a table due to COVID requirements) please notify John Cunningham on 54933513 (0415375968) or email [hookin1947@gmail.com](mailto:hookin1947@gmail.com) and arrange the bookings with him after you have purchased your tickets. Names, addresses and phone numbers are required for each person (once again COVID).

Transport: A bus will be provided to transport guests to and from the Caloundra RSL. Pick-up time will be 1000 hours. The bus will leave the Maroochy RSL at 1630 hours. Guests in the Maroochy area can avail themselves of the Maroochy RSL courtesy bus.

Special dietary requirements - leave a message with the duty officer at the Drop-In-Centre or contact John Cunningham on 54933513, or email [hookin1947@gmail.com](mailto:hookin1947@gmail.com)

Vietnam Veterans Day Raffle:- Raffle tickets have been sent out. *Please rush back your ticket butts and money ASAP.* The proceeds from the raffle assist in subsidising the costs of the luncheon.



## A few years in between ...

The last time Alan 'Bluey' Parr (left) and Barry Vassella celebrated their shared birthday, 9 May, was with 6RAR in Vietnam in 1967 when they were 22. They were with Bluey's wife, Denise, at the Boat Shed, Cotton Tree for this year's.

## Classic pianist a one-armed vet.

In December 1913 a talented pianist called Paul Wittgenstein won favourable reviews for his first professional concert in Vienna's Grosser Musikvereinsaal.

A year later, as a Second Lieutenant in the 6th Dragoon regiment of the Austro-Hungarian army, Wittgenstein was dispatched to the Eastern Front, in modern-day Poland, where he was involved in the Battle of Galicia against Russian forces – he was later cited for bravery in the campaign.

On Sunday 23 August he sustained a severe bullet injury to his right elbow. Confused and disorientated, he passed out. When he regained consciousness in hospital a few days later, he found that his right arm had been amputated during surgery.



In a POW camp in Siberia he fashioned a piece of wood into a keyboard of sorts so he could learn to play left-handed. After a series of events, he ended up making his one-handed debut back in Vienna in December 1916 beginning a new career.

When the Nazis came to power, being Jewish, he fled to the United States. Wittgenstein (photo) the rest of his life in New York with his wife Hilde, offering free piano tuition to the needy. He died in 1961, aged 73.

Watch a 1933 performance here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02b35t2>

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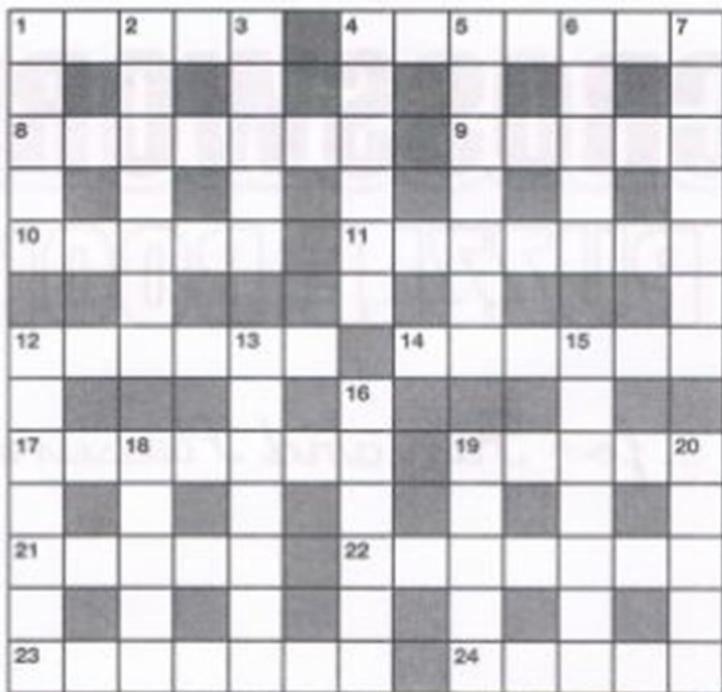
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# JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE ....



**ACROSS**

- 1 Dock (5)
- 4 Sore (7)
- 8 Rubbish (7)
- 9 Sacred song (5)
- 10 Boulders (5)
- 11 Sincere (7)
- 12 Real (6)
- 14 Blamished (6)
- 17 Ancient Japanese warrior (7)
- 19 Concur (5)
- 21 Ashen (5)
- 22 Before (7)
- 23 Least difficult (7)
- 24 Viper (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Bet (5)
- 2 Fruit (7)
- 3 Emblems (5)
- 4 Fragments (6)
- 5 Endanger (7)
- 6 Fire (5)
- 7 Restricted (7)
- 12 Relieve of blame (7)
- 13 Abbreviate (7)
- 15 Concerned (7)
- 16 Straightforward (6)
- 18 Relocates (5)
- 19 Main artery (5)
- 20 Mistake (5)

**June Trivia**

1. Sugar is classified in Chemistry as a what?  
(a) Protein, (b) Nucleic Acid, (c) Lipid, (d) Carbohydrate.
2. In Roman Mythology, who raised Romulus and Remus? (a) A Dog, (b) A Bear, (c) A Tiger, (d) A She-Wolf.
3. What was the name of Ghana before that African nation gained independence? (a) The Gold Coast, (b) The Belgian Congo, (c) The Ivory Coast, (d) Limpopo.
4. This Greek Philosopher is known for writing about the fabled land of Atlantis. (a) Plato, (b) Homer, (c) Aristotle, (d) Socrates.
5. What was Disney's second full length animated film? (a) Cinderella, (b) Pinocchio, (c) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, (d) Peter Pan.
6. Who is not an American writer? (a) Ernest Hemingway, (b) Eugene O'Neil, (c) Joseph Conrad, (d) John Steinbeck.
7. What is Japan's current form of government? (a) Socialist Monarchy, (b) Absolute Monarchy, (c) Constitutional Monarchy, (d) Parliamentary Form.
8. What is the medical term defined as the abnormal fear of darkness and commonly experienced by children? (a) Zoophobia, (b) Cynophobia, (c) Nyctophobia, (d) Nightphobia.
9. The record for the largest.....tasting event took place in NSW in 2019. (a) Cake, (b) Cheese, (c) Beer, (d) Wine.
10. In 1986 a musician famous for the recording the song Johnny B. Good was the first person inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. (a) Jerry Lee Lewis, (b) Chuck Berry, (c) Elvis Presley, (d) Bill Haley.
11. Who invented Jeans? (a) Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis, (b) Karl Lagerfeld, (c) Dolce and Gabbana, (d) Donatella Versace
12. How many prongs are on a traditional fork?  
(a) 3, (b) 6, (c) 4, (d) 5.
13. Unless you can prove yourself to be a magician, what pet is it illegal to own in Queensland? (a) Frog, (b) Rabbit, (c) Parrot, (d) Dove.
14. In what US City is the Lincoln Memorial located?  
(a) Wilmington, DE, (b) Louisville, Kentucky, (c) New York NY, (d) Washington, DC.
15. Who was the second wife of Henry V111 who was beheaded and became known as the headless ghost?  
(a) Katherine of Aragon, (b) Jane Seymour, (c) Anne Boleyn, (d) Anne of Cleaves.
16. How long does it take for the earth to circle the sun? (a) 24 hours, (b) 365 days, (c) thirty days, (d) three months.

**Conundrums For Intelligent Minds**

1. What is the answer to the sum below?

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \\
 + 1 + 1 + 1 + \\
 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \\
 + 1 \times 0 + 1 = ?
 \end{array}$$

2. Three letters are missing in the picture on the right. Find them to make an eight -letter word reading clockwise.



• **ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18**

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

Visit to an old Japanese doctor:

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Heart only good for so many beats, and that's it... Don't waste time on exercise. Everything wear out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; its like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take nap.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: Oh no. Wine made from fruit. Fruit very good. Brandy distilled wine, that means they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Grain good too. Bottoms up!

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of one, sorry. My philosophy: No pain...good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU NOT LISTENING! Food fried in vegetable oil. How getting more vegetable be bad?

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: You crazy?!? HEL-LO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming good for figure, explain whale to me.

Q: Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is also a shape!

Well... I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you had about food and diets.

Finally the Doctor summed up: "Look mister, Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Beer in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO-HOO, what a ride my life was. Eat whatever you like because you will still DIE, don't allow motivational speakers deceive you.

During the planning stages of a very large military operation, Operations HQ received a radio request for a "Time Check."

The Operations HQ lackey asks, "Who's calling?"

"What difference does that make?"

"It makes a lot of difference," says the lackey. "If you're a Reservist Unit, it's 3 o'clock. If you're an Infantry Unit, it's 1500 hrs. If you're the Navy, it's six bells. If you're the Armoured Corps, the big hand is on the 12 and the small hand is on the 3. If you're the Artillery Corps, it's Thursday afternoon."

During the American Civil War, a soldier had lost his bayonet and whittled one from wood so he could stand inspection.

He was hoping not to be discovered until the regiment had gone into battle where he could pick up one from a dead soldier. At an inspection, an officer asked to see his bayonet. The soldier stated, "Sir, I promised my father I would never unsheathe my bayonet unless I intended to kill with it."

The Officer insisted he hand over the bayonet. Taking it out, the Soldier looked skyward and declared, "May the Lord change this bayonet to wood for breakin' my vow."

Charles, a new retiree-greeter at Bunnings, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charles, I have to tell you, I like

your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes sir, I know, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear."

"Yes sir, I understand your concern and I'll try harder."

Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment, "It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to you there if you showed up in the morning so late and so often?"

The old man looked down at the floor, then smiled. He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin,

"They usually saluted and said: "Good morning General, can I get your coffee sir?"



The first senior moment.

# Outback retreat now at Adavale

Alaric Outback Retreat has now relocated to Shepherd Street, Adavale, a Western Queensland rural town located in the Shire of Quilpie.

The retreat is about 119 km NNE of Quilpie (168 NE of Charleville) and about 1100 km from Brisbane. It is two-wheel drive accessible and is well signposted.

Alaric Outback Retreat is a not-for-profit registered charity run entirely by volunteers, who themselves are veterans. The organisation does not have any paid employees and survives entirely on donations from small businesses, corporations, RSL clubs, individuals and visitors.

The ongoing aim of management is to provide a secure and relaxing retreat and advancing the social welfare of all service people, including current and former members of the Australian and Allied Defence Forces, State and Federal Police, Fire Services, Ambulance, State Emergency Services and their respective families.

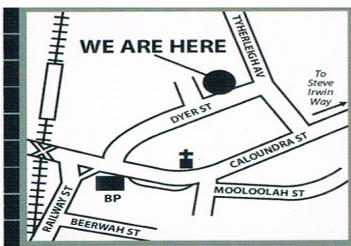
There are no organised formal activities at the retreat. Visitors are free to do as little, or as much as they wish and are welcome to stay for a day, a week, or longer if they so desire.

Accommodation is available in air-conditioned quarters with ensuite, for a modest donation.

Caravans and tents are welcome at the Adavale Community Hall and camping area just 100 metres from the retreat, where power, toilets and shower facilities are available.

Activities include bird watching, photography, bush walking, and a trip to Hell Hole National Park can also be arranged. Most visitors however prefer to just relax, sit around the fire with new found friends and tell a few yarns.

Email address is: [alaricoutbackretreat@gmail.com](mailto:alaricoutbackretreat@gmail.com)  
Also on Facebook. Information from the website: <https://alaricoutbackretreat.org/>



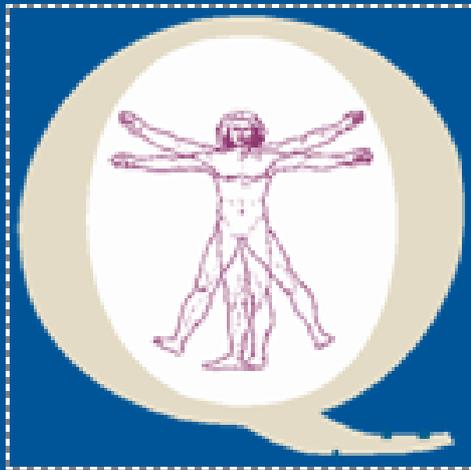
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# HMAS PARRAMATTA IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

HMAS Parramatta has joined French Navy Marine Nationale vessels FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf — operating as the Jeanne d’Arc Task Group — to complete a cooperative passage through the South China Sea.

The Sydney-based Anzac class frigate had recently completed the Japan-led Exercise Arc21 with Tonnerre and Surcouf also taking part.

The three ships conducted a range of training activities, including communication exercises, replenishment-at-sea approaches, maritime manoeuvres and joint-flying serials using Parramatta’s MH-60R and Tonnerre’s Panther helicopters (pictured).

Commanding Officer Parramatta Commander Anita Nemarich said the ship’s time sailing in-company was another great opportunity to practice core skills and maintain a commitment to both nations’ shared values, goals and security interests.

“The Royal Australian Navy and the



French Marine Nationale have enjoyed multiple opportunities to work together in the region recently,” Commander Nemarich said.

Parramatta is on a two-month deployment to South-East and north-east

Asia. Operating as a task group with HMAS Ballarat, the two vessels are conducting a number of navy-to-navy engagements with partner nations across the region.

- From Defence Website.

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## RAAF's Exercise Arnhem Thunder at Top End

The Air Force has deployed around 50 aircraft and more than 500 personnel to the Northern Territory for Exercise Arnhem Thunder 21.

As one of Air Force's largest domestic training exercises for 2021, Arnhem Thunder provides important force generation training, focusing on high-end collective training and involving multiple Force Element Groups (FEGs).

Commander Air Combat Group, Air Commodore Tim Alsop, said Arnhem Thunder focused on Air Combat Group's interoperability with other FEGs – Air Mobility Group, Surveillance and Response Group, and Combat Support Group – in an offensive counter-air environment from a deployed location.

"Exposure to large-scale, multi-FEG scenarios in an away-base environment is of vital importance to the training outcomes of all elements across Air Force," Air Commodore Alsop said.

"Operating out of RAAF bases Darwin and Tindal in the Northern Territory, Exercise Arnhem Thunder provides an excellent venue for cross-FEG interoperability, high-end air



power missions, as well as airbase activation in an austere environment.

Arnhem Thunder will be conducted from RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal from 17 May to 15 June 2021 and will utilise the Mount Bunday Training Area, and Delamere Air Weapons Range.

Aircraft deployed to the exercise include the F-35A Lightning II, F/A-18F Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, F/A-18A/B Hornet, Hawk 127, C-130J Hercules, C-17A Globemaster, C-27J Spartan, KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport, and E-7A Wedgetail.

Arnhem Thunder will see the F-35A Lightning II operate out of RAAF Base Darwin for the very first time (pictured landing). – from **Defence website**

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



# June Timeline: From Vietnam to Hong Kong

**1 June 1963:** Advisor Sergeant William Hacking 30, single, of Farm Street, Newport, Victoria, became the first Australian to die in the Vietnam War. His death was described as accidental, but has been the subject of conjecture.

**1 June 1956:** A polio vaccine was introduced in Australia. Polio was among the most frightening diseases to affect Australians during the 20th century.

**4 June 1989:** The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing (**pictured**). The protest had started on April 16 as about 1000 students marched to mourn the death of Hu Yaobang, a pro-reform leader within the Chinese government.

**5 June 1968:** US Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. His brother, John F., had been assassinated as President in 1963.

**6 June 1944:** D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France during World War Two.

**7 June 1971:** Battle of Long Khánh takes place when 3 RAR with Centurion tanks in support attack a heavily fortified base camp during Operation Overlord. The Australians captured two bunker systems, and most of the communist forces withdrew.

**8 June 1965:** An Australian infantry battalion, 1 RAR, with an armoured personnel carrier (APC) troop, a signals troop and a logistic support company, arrives on HMAS Sydney at Vung Tau in South Vietnam.

**8 June 1969:** Australian forces destroy a large communist force after two days of heavy house-to-house fighting during the Battle of Binh Ba.

**9 June 1803:** British explorer Matthew Flinders became the first person to circumnavigate Australia. Flinders proved Australia was a single continent. By using the term 'Australia' in his maps and writings, he helped the word enter common usage.

**9 June 1928:** Australian pilots Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm, along with two US crewmen, became the first people to cross the Pacific Ocean by air in their three-engine Fokker aircraft, the Southern Cross.

**12 June 1902:** Legislation passed through both the Senate and the House of Representatives allowing women in Australia over 21 a vote in elections and ability to stand for the Australian Parliament, although many still did not have the right to do the same in their home states.

**24 June 1852:** In the middle of the night a catastrophic flood swept through the New South Wales town of Gundagai. The water rose quickly to become a raging torrent that swept whole buildings away and left people cling-

ing for their lives in trees. Only three buildings were left standing. Between 80 and 100 people died, and the disaster remains the deadliest flood in Australian history.

**24 June 1935:** The cane toad was released in Queensland to help the cane industry deal with insect attacks on sugar cane roots. It has become one of Australia's best-known introduced pests and has since spread all the way across to northern Western Australia.



**24 June 1948:** Soviet Russia began a blockade of Berlin; the Allies responded with an emergency airlift to relieve two million isolated West Berliners. American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies until September 1949.

**24 June 1978:** A small group of gay and lesbian people operating as the Gay Solidarity Group staged a day of events in Sydney. The violent police response to a night parade brought national attention and helped to establish the parade as an annual event.

**24 June 2010:** The 25th and first female governor-general of Australia, Quentin Bryce swore in the 27th and first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard.

**25 June 1950:** The three-year Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea.

**26 June 1945:** Australia, through 'Doc' Evatt, Minister for External Affairs in the Curtin and Chifley governments, had an important role in establishment of the United Nations.

**30 June 1997:** In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was replaced by a new flag representing China's sovereignty and the official transfer of power.

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)

*Military\_history\_of\_Australia\_during\_the\_Vietnam\_War*

# Vivian Bullwinkel: nurse who became survivor and hero

When remembering the sacrifices made by Anzac soldiers in the World Wars, it is important to recognise the Australian servicewomen who stood alongside them: Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel was a veteran of the Second World War and her inspiring story of struggle and survival as a frontline nurse and prisoner of war should not be forgotten.

Born in Kapunda, South Australia, in 1915, Vivian completed her General Nursing at the age of 23 at Broken Hill and District Hospital, followed by Midwifery one year later. Vivian relocated to Victoria to commence her nursing career in Hamilton, before moving to Melbourne in 1940 to aid in the war effort.

Having volunteered for the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) in May 1941, Vivian (pictured) set sail for Singapore to join 2/13th Australian General Hospital.

Vivian and her fellow nurses were confronted with a poorly equipped hospital unable to deal with the surgical cases required. The situation only worsened when Japanese troops invaded Malaya in December and quickly advanced south, forcing the Australians to evacuate the islands from January 1942.

Vivian was among the last 65 nurses to be evacuated. Along with 265 men, women, and children from the island, they boarded the final ship to depart Singapore, the SS *Vyner Brooke*, a vessel built to carry 12 passengers.

Two days into their retreat, the ship was bombed and 22 of the nurses made it to shore to surrender to the Japanese. Ordered to wade into the ocean, the nurses were machine-gunned from behind in what is today remembered as the Banka Island massacre. Struck by a bullet that passed right through her body, Vivian feigned death until the attackers departed. She was the only survivor.

After 12 days of hiding from the Japanese, Vivian surrendered and became a prisoner of war for the next three and a half years.

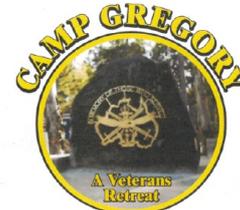
Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Vivian's lifetime is her return to nursing even after her experiences in the war. She continued to serve in Japan until 1947 when she resigned as Captain, but re-joined the Citizen Military Forces in 1955 until 1970, when she retired for good as Lieutenant Colonel.

Among her accolades were the Florence Nightingale and Royal Red Cross Medals, and her appointments as Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1973 and to the Order of Australia (AO) in 1993.

She spent sixteen years as Matron at Melbourne's Fairfield Hospital and continued there as Director of Nursing until 1977, when she married and moved to Perth.

An active member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, and president of the Australian College of Nursing for a number of years, Vivian returned to Banka Island in 1992 to unveil a shrine to the nurses who died there.

- By Elizabeth Heffernan, from Royal Australian Historical Society website.



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Before dawn on 14 May 1943 one of the most atrocious acts of World War Two occurred when Lieutenant Commander Nakagawa of the Imperial Japanese Navy, in command of submarine I-177, torpedoed and sank the Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur* off the coast of Caloundra with the loss of 268 military personnel, mostly doctors and nurses on their way to Papua New Guinea to care for the wounded and dying troops of that campaign.

A group formed in 1975 in Caloundra to remember those who perished, those who survived, and their families. They have commemorated that dreadful day ever since and erected a memorial on the Caloundra Headland, the Centaur Memorial.

In 2009, David Means was chosen to search for the wreck of the Centaur which was found on 20 December 2009 on the slope of a precipice in an area east of Moreton Island.

It was decided not to approach the wreck for fear of it sliding further down the underwater ravine. The wreck was named an official war grave and left alone.

Credit must be given to those who had the foresight to commence this group in 1975: Erica Costigan OAM, Bryan Costigan of the Caloundra

## Fireside with the Padre



RSL' the late Manny Comino and the late Dick Allchin of the RAN Association, and many others who saw their vision through to fruition.

After the pandemic closed a public gathering last year, this year's commemoration, hosted by Caloundra RSL with their President, Heather Christie as MC, hosted probably the largest gathering I have seen in my 15 years or so as having the privilege to officiate at the annual Centaur Remembrance ceremony.

What is so important to me was to see the number of schools involved this year, and the large number of concerned people who turned out from the community.

Families of survivors and of those who perished included the Chapman, Clegg, McCosker, Thompson, and Milne families.

The guest speaker was Max Chapman who was born two months after his father went down with the

Centaur. Yet through the sadness of that horrendous event, Max Chapman and Keith Clegg, whose father survived the horrific event, found each other and have been lifelong friends.

As the Coast Guard do each year during the laying of wreaths, Helen Smith of the Caloundra RSL announced wreath layers, the Caloundra Coast Guard laid wreaths from their vessels cruising just below the Centaur Memorial.

As family members, dignitaries and other organisations laid wreaths at the Memorial, students from Caloundra Christian College laid poppies on the walkway plaques surrounding the Memorial.

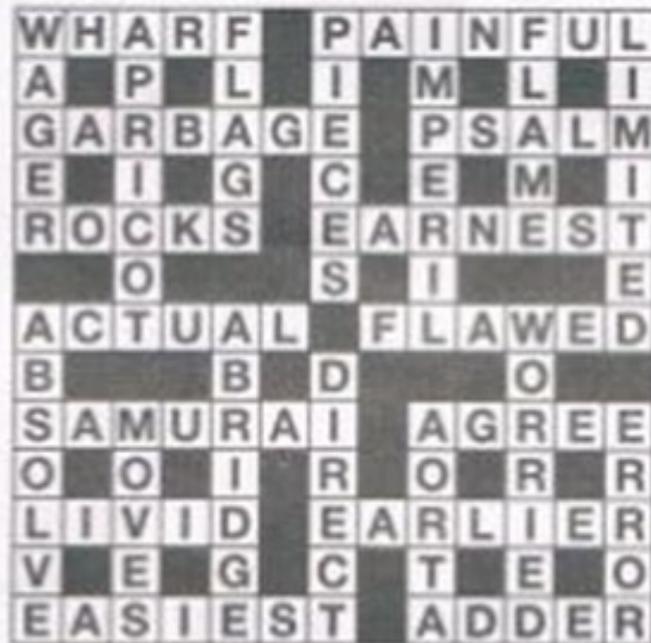
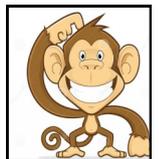
Other children from Pacific Lutheran College provided a small choir. T.S. Onslow Naval Cadets laid a wreath, while others were flag marshals.

For those of our VVAASC membership who have a Navy connection, I hope to see you next year, It will be on a Saturday, 14 May 2022. Lest we forget.

Until next month, keep well, eyes looking towards our Lord.

**Arthur Fry  
Honorary Chaplain**

# Answers from page 11



## Trivia Answers

1. Carbohydrate
2. A She-Wolf
3. The Gold Coast
4. Plato
5. Pinocchio
6. Joseph Conrad
7. Constitutional Monarch
8. Nyctophobia
9. Cheese
10. Chuck Berry

11. Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis
12. 4
13. Rabbit
14. Washington, DC
15. Anne Boleyn (pictured)
16. 365 days



## Conundrum Answers

1. Technically speaking, according to the rule of Bodmas/bidmas whereby you must multiply before you add—the answer is 12.
2. The missing letters are LAE—to spell out Evaluate or CAE to spell out evacuate,

## Scootaville – Townsville here we come

This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Australian Air Force so the RAAF Radschool Association, a charity group that was formed back in 1999 to represent the men and women that were trained by the Air Force to maintain and operate its electronic equipment, plans to celebrate the occasion in September by riding a number of 50cc Sym motor scooters (provided) from the RAAF Base at Amberley to the RAAF base in Townsville.



That's a journey of 2200kms and will take 13 days and as we'll be riding those 50cc scooters, you don't need a motor-cycle licence in Queensland – a car licence will suffice and anyone can come.

A total of 20 scooters, ridden in stages by 40 men and women, will head off on Sunday, 12 September and will travel via and overnight in Kilcoy, Kingaroy, Mundubbera, Biloela, Emerald, Barcardine, Longreach, Winton, Hughenden, Charters Towers then down to Townsville. There will be two riders to each scooter, one riding, the other following along in a bus, with changeovers every hour or so.

Kedron Wavell RSL Sub-Branch and its Services Club are right behind the adventure, with the Sub-Branch providing a mini-bus, a ute to carry equipment and their chuck-wagon which will provide meals and "on the road" snacks for the adventurers. They are also sending along a cook and a bus driver. The Services Club is providing considerable administrative support as well as their large trailer which will transport all riders' personal equipment.



**Lyndon Broome, Services Club Manager, Trevor Benneworth, John Lunn and Peter Cairnes, Vice President, KWRSL Sub-Branch with the ute and chuck wagon.**

Along with those actually riding the scooters, there are a number of support staff travelling with the group as well as others (hangers-on) travelling with their vans and/or motor homes who just want to experience the event.

Trevor Benneworth, the organiser, says he's amazed at the amount of support he received when planning the event, he says Woolworths and IGA stores all up the track have generously offered food for breakfasts and on road snacks and local Councils have opened their show-ground pavilions to enable everyone to overnight. RSL Sub-Branches in every town through which we'll pass have thrown open their doors for us, some providing lunches, some organising events and all will make us feel most welcome.

Prior to setting forth on the Sunday morning, when a hearty breakfast will be provided for all those taking part as well as for their friends and families who will see them off and wish them well, Motorcycling Queensland will hold a training day on the Saturday where everyone will get to know and be proficient on the scooters.



Benneworth says there are still a few spots available for anyone interested in being part of this fabulous adventure, you don't have to be ex-Radschool, just young at heart and you can be either a rider or a supporter – more information is available here [www.radschool.org.au/Scotaville](http://www.radschool.org.au/Scotaville)

- submitted

## Roll of Honour – Vietnam, month of June 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. Lest We Forget.***

### *June 1963*

Hacking, William Francis (36448), 30, AATTV, Sgt, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

### *June 1965*

Bourke, Michael Alwyn (37867), 19, 1 RAR, Pte, Cheltenham New General Cemetery, Melbourne.

Carroll, William Thomas (37010), 21, 1 RAR, Pte, Warnambool Cemetery, Vic.

Van Valen, Arie (54320), 21, 1 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

### *June 1966*

Arnold, Kevin John (35956), 31, 2 Comp. Ord. Depot, Cpl, Albury Cemetery, NSW.

Brown, Ian Robert (54157), 26, 1 Div. Provost Coy, Cpl, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Coupe, Brendan Francis (15358), 23, 5 RAR, Cpl, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Ryde, Sydney.

Farren, Leslie Thomas (3786921), 20, 5 RAR, Pte, Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park, Melbourne.

Hood, Ronald Dean (4410911), 23, 1 ARU, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Ruduss, Arthur (3410295), 29, 1 ATF, Pte, Springvale War Cemetery, Melbourne.

Sweetnam, John Robert (215958), 19, 5 RAR, Pte, Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland, Sydney.

### *June 1967*

Cox, James George (1731426), 22, 7 RAR, Pte, Crematorium and Garden of Remembrance, Rockhampton, Qld.

La Grasta, Gaetano (A222023), 20, Base Support Flight, LAC, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

### *June 1968*

Barnett, Stuart John (5715206), 21, 4 RAR, Pte, Shepparton Cemetery, Vic.

Butterworth, Raymond John (R66558), 18, HMAS Hobart, OS QMG, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Hunt, Raymond Henry (R54257), 27, HMAS Hobart, Chf Elect Wpns Radio, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

### *June 1969*

Banks, Lindsay Ronald (19220), 52, 17 Const Sqdn, WO2, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

Brennan, David John (2184013), 22, 9 RAR, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Dewar, Keith Ivan (5715633), 21, 3 Cav Regt, LCpl, Collie Cemetery, WA.

Jackson, Peter Joseph (2789790), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Binalong Cemetery, NSW.

James, Barry (1201885), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Kennedy, John Joseph (216304), 29, 5 RAR, Cpl, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.

Sorrensen, Gordon Dennis (2790417), 24, 9 RAR, Pte, Gympie Cemetery, Qld.

Teeling, Wayne Edward (2790880), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Botany General Cemetery, Sydney.

Turner, Timothy Charles (4720253), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Kingscote Cemetery, Kangaroo Island SA.

Walsh, Brian (214468), 29, AATTV, Sgt (Temp. WO2), Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

Waring, Anthony Edward Loughran (5716163), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Young, Robert George (1733547), 22, 3 Cav. Regt, Gatton Cemetery, Qld.

### *June 1970*

Cashion, Garry Owen (62036), 19, 7 RAR, Pte, Cornelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Dickson, Stephen Warwick (2792089), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Beresfield Crematorium, NSW.

Larsson, Stanley Gordon (4720583), 23, 7 RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Morgan, John Leslie (3795756), 22, 2 Adv. Ord. Dep., Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Navarre, Paul John (2792729), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Beechworth Cemetery, Vic.

Scott, Ian Neil (1735424), 21, 1 Fld Sqd., Charleville General Cemetery, Qld.

Waldock, David John (58625), 30, 198 Wks Sect., Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Wojcik, Bogdan Kazimierz (R62713), 23, CDT 3, RAN, AB CD, Rookwood RC Naval Cemetery, Sydney.

### *June 1971*

Attwood, Trevor James (2794278), 23, 1 ATF, Pte, Uralla Cemetery, NSW.

Boardman, Kenneth James (218336), 22, HQ Task Force (RAAC), Cpl, Woronora General Cemetery, Sydney.

Driscoll, Roger William (2794265), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Coonamble Cemetery, NSW.

Dubber, David John (A317809), 28, 9 Sqdn RAAF, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hill, Donald Cameron (2794350), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Lance, Everitt Murray (O316996), 43, 9 Sqdn RAAF, FltLt, Woden Cemetery, Canberra.

Mathers, Ian George (2794496), 22, 12 Fld Regt, 2Lt, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

McCarthy, John Noel (3112702), 26, 3 Cav. Regt, L/Cpl, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Tebb, Peter (1203166), 20, 1 ATF, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Towler, Michael (2792254), 22, 1 ATF, Pte, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

### *June 1972*

Hewitt, Ronald David (A118817), 22, 2 Sqdn RAAF, LAC, Albany Creek Crematorium, Qld.

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

**'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.**