

RICOCHET

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

PAGE 9: VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY UPDATE



A tiger by the tail ...

A SCHOOL of Army Aviation ARH Tiger performs a spectacular departure from the Swartz Barracks runway at Oakey during a recent training exercise. — Bradley Richardson photo.

OP. OVERLORD REMEMBERED

Operation Overlord, which included the notable Battle of Long Khanh, was remembered 50 years on at a service in Canberra on 7 June.

Early on 5 June 1971, Australian and New Zealand troops were deployed in the first phase of the operation and two days later, on 7 June, the Australians were engaged in about eight hours of fighting, which ended in an enemy withdrawal – this engagement became known as the Battle of Long Khanh.

Operation Overlord ended on 14 June, with the enemy driven from base areas in Phuoc Tuy. The Australian Task Force's combat elements had been engaged for 10 days.

Units involved in the battle included: HQ 1st Australian Task Force; 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR); 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (4RAR/NZ); A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment; C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment; 1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers; 12th Field Regiment; 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force; 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight, and US units.

Veterans, their families and members of the wider Australian community gathered at the National Vietnam Memorial for the remembrance service which included a commemorative address by Governor General David Hurley.

— Continued Page 7.



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

Our website: www.vietnamvetssc.org.au

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

General information Page 2.

Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



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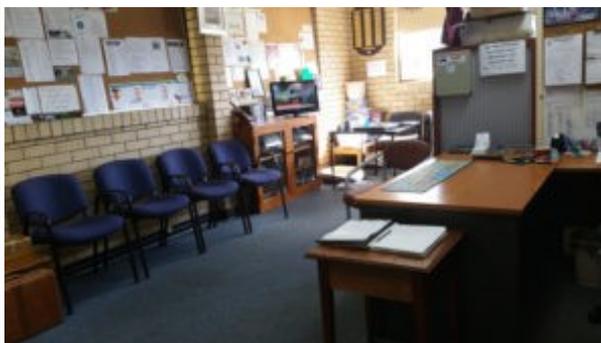
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This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling through us. Group programmes include the Lifestyle Management Program (5 days live-in with partner) 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.

REFLECTION

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

The Australian commitment consisted predominantly of army personnel, but significant numbers of air force and navy personnel and some civilians also took part.

From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 almost 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 521 died as a result of the war and over 3000 were wounded.

The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or jailed, while soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

Australian support for South Vietnam in the early 1960s was in keeping with the policies of other nations, particularly the United States, to stem the spread of communism in Europe and Asia. In 1961 and 1962 Ngo Dinh Diem, leader of the government in South Vietnam, repeatedly requested security assistance from the US and its allies.

Australia eventually responded with 30 military advisers, dispatched as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), also known as "the Team". Their arrival in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the

beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. In August 1964 the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) also sent a flight of Caribou transports to the port of Vung Tau.

By early 1965, when it had become clear that South Vietnam could not stave off the communist insurgents and their North Vietnamese comrades for more than a few months, the US commenced a major escalation of the



HMAS Sydney heads for Vietnam with troops and vehicles.

war. By the end of the year it had committed 200,000 troops. As part of the build-up, the US government requested further support from friendly countries in the region, including Australia. The Australian government dispatched the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), in June 1965 to serve alongside the US 173d Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province.

The following year the Australian government felt that Australia's involvement in the conflict should be both strong and identifiable. In March 1966 the government announced the

dispatch of a taskforce to replace 1RAR, consisting of two battalions and support services (including a RAAF squadron of Iroquois helicopters), to be based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province.

Unlike 1RAR, the taskforce was assigned its own area of operations and included conscripts who had been called up under the National Service Scheme, introduced in 1964. All nine RAR battalions served in the taskforce at one time or another, before it was withdrawn in 1971; at the height of the Australian involvement it numbered some 8500 troops.

A third RAAF squadron (of Canberra jet bombers) was also committed in 1967, and destroyers of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) joined US patrols off the North Vietnamese coast. The RAN also contributed a clearance diving team and a helicopter detachment that operated with the US Army from October 1967.

In August 1966 a company of 6RAR was engaged in one of Australia's heaviest actions of the war, in a rubber plantation near Long Tan. The 108 soldiers of D Coy held off an enemy force, estimated at over 2000, for four hours in the middle of a tropical downpour. They were greatly assisted by a timely ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from Australian artillery, and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs.

The armoured vehicles had been delayed because they had to 'swim' across a flooded creek and fight through groups of enemy on the way. When the Viet Cong withdrew at night fall they left behind 245 dead, but carried away many more casualties. Seventeen Australians were killed and 25 wounded, with one dying of wounds several days later.

— from **Australian War Memorial**. Continued next month. On website: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/event/vietnam>

From the President

Hi Everyone,
I hope that you and yours are all safe and well. Your Committee has been very busy over the past few weeks putting the final touches on preparations for your Vietnam Veterans Day activities in August. We have already commenced the sale of tickets to the lunch and they are moving along very well.

As indicated in my last report, please get in early to book your tables/seats as we may well be forced into a position of a reduced attendance this year due to COVID restrictions. Having said that, when attending the Drop-In office to collect tickets, you will need to have additional information available for the Duty Officer prior to obtaining same. You will now need to provide:

(a) Your name and/or names of persons you are purchasing tickets on behalf of;

(b) Your mobile/home telephone number and same for others you are collecting tickets for; and,

(c) Your e-mail address and same for others you are collecting tickets

for.

These firm conditions set down by the RSL Club are in context with stringent government legislation while we continue to suffer the effects of the COVID-19 virus and we, as an organisation, are solely responsible for ensuring that the above-mentioned information is available to health authorities as and if required.

Onto other things. The first Friday of each month is, as many will be aware, the set day we have for the Rifleman's Lunch at the Mooloolaba Surf Club. At the last lunch we had a number of visitors, both current and retired, from 6 RAR who were celebrating their Battalion's Birthday.

When I arrived, the place was a hive of activity, people everywhere. When approaching the bar to get a drink, I said to the young female bar attendant; "Geez, there are a hell of a lot of our blokes here today." She looked around the bar and said; "Yes, it's some **Italian's** birthday, but I don't know which one he is." I didn't understand what she was talking about right then, but after the pen-

ny dropped, I informed her of the difference between a Battalion and an Italian.

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



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

From the Secretary

Here we are almost halfway through the year and we are still being chased week in week out by 'THE VIRUS'.

Most of us have now had at least one shot of a vaccine in an effort to distance ourselves from serious infection.

Having said that, we are endeavouring to maintain a normal day-to-day routine at the DIC and have seen a great return of raffle tickets for prizes set down for Vietnam Veterans' Day.

Luncheon tickets have been selling at a very satisfactory pace and we

urge all intending to attend to get in early and get your tables organised.

John Cunnington is the go-to man regarding VV Day preparations and I think I may have noticed the first sign of stress on his face only yesterday.

Seriously, a huge task is taken on by JC and his committee each year and is greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

John has negotiated great value this year for members in particular along with visitors of which there appears to be many.

Remember, when purchasing tickets at the DIC, comprehensive contact info is required at time of payment, pertaining to COVID.

On a more serious note, our long time member and advocate Ray Kryzanski remains in palliative care at Selangor Private. We wish Ray and his family comfort at this trying time.

We are endeavouring to help find, throughout our network, some accommodation for Mike Holt and his family who find themselves in a very difficult position with the weeks slipping by. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Remember the DIC is open from 0900hrs Mon to Fri and we welcome visitors during those hours.

There are a lot of members who we never see at the DIC so try to make an effort to visit and enjoy the camaraderie and lies that are told on a regular basis by any number of regular visitors.

That's about it for me until next time. Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards
Garry King,
Secretary

LEFT: Vietnam Veterans' Day 2019.



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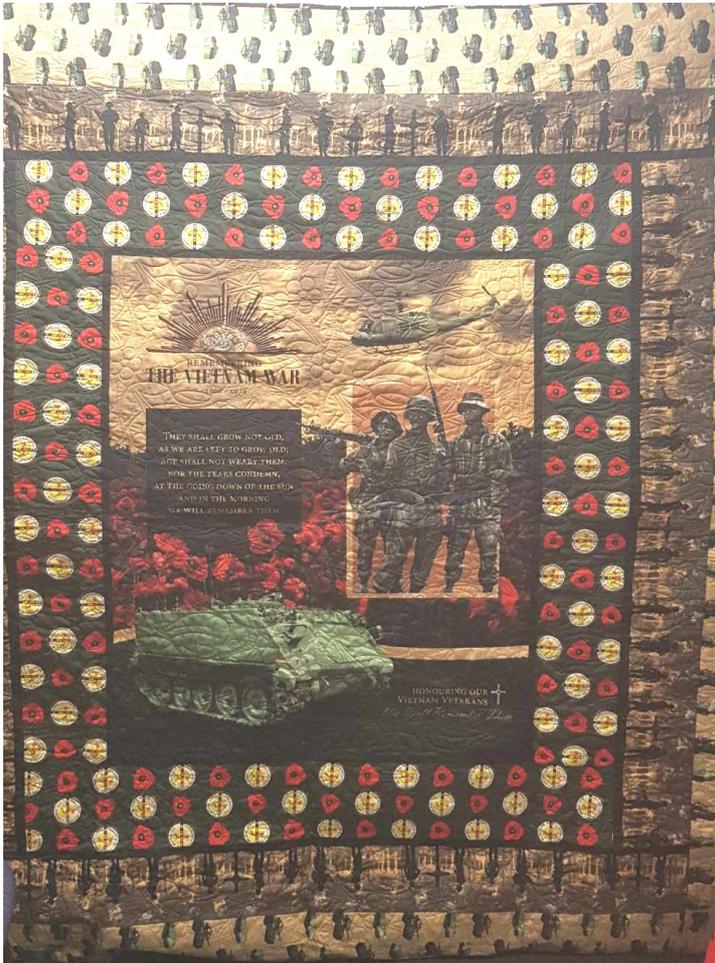
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Special soldier stood tall

Despite being born with medically diagnosed dwarfism and growing only to 145cm and 44kg, Richard J. Flaherty had big dreams and wanted to fight for his country.

After being turned down by the military several times, the Army finally allowed him in but no one ever believed he would make it through basic training.

Flaherty exceeded all expectations by graduating and eventually became an officer. He then did the impossible by becoming a Special Forces Green Beret Captain and Vietnam vet war hero .

His story has been included in a book, "The Giant Killer" available on Amazon as a paperback, eBook and Audiobook. As well an award-winning documentary, "The Giant Killer: Finding Flaherty" is available on Amazon, YouTube, Google Play, Tubi and iTunes.

COMMEMORATIVE QUILTS DONATED



Four commemorative quilts have been donated to the sub-branch by Daryl and Wendy Turner. Wendy fashioned the works of art, one of which is pictured left. The others are similar. The sub-branch is considering what to do with the quilts which are valued at \$500 each — they will probably be raffled.



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Op. Overlord remembered

— continued from Page 1

“This commemoration is an important occasion to remember and honour those who died serving our nation during Operation Overlord and the Battle of Long Khanh, and to recognise all those who served during the operation and more broadly in the Vietnam War,” he said.

“We have come to ascribe four words to the Anzac legacy: endurance, sacrifice, courage and mateship ... those who served during Operation Overlord and the Battle of Long Khanh demonstrated each of these in a way that would make our forebears proud.”

In total, 10 Australians were killed during Operation Overlord, and each was named and honoured during



the commemorative service. The Commanding Officer of 3 RAR during the Battle of Long Khanh, Colonel Peter Scott DSO (Ret'd), delivered the Call to Remembrance

during the service and paid tribute to his men (photo: A 3 RAR Diggers watches a Centurion Tank).

An official launch of the Battle of a Long Khanh commemorative coin was held at the Royal Australian Mint on 8 June.

The service can be viewed here until 5 September: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/operation-overlord>. DVA Facebook page has a short video of the service.

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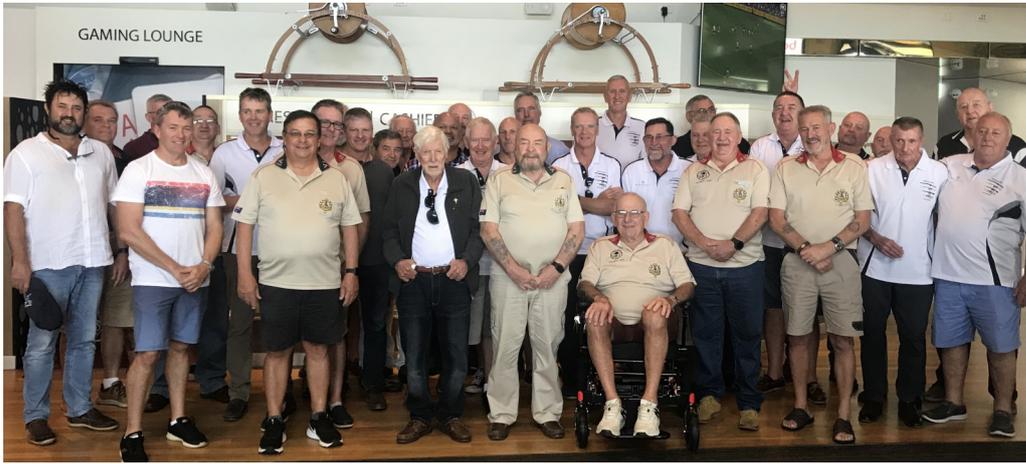


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AT THE June Riflemen's Lunch were (above left) veterans of 6 RAR celebrating their battalion anniversary; (above) association executive members Teresa Pyne, whose father Ray served two tours in 20 years with the battalion, and Mellinda McCormack, whose uncle Denis McCormack was killed at Long Tan; and (left) 9 RAR veterans Kevin Moore, Rod Slater, Kevin Lynch, Dan Penmen and John Prince.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Members attending any unit/ service or other get-togethers are invited to submit photos for inclusion in Ricochet (subject to space).

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UPDATE FOR
VIETNAM VETERANS DAY WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2021
COTTON TREE CENOTAPH



Lunch tickets are now available from the Drop-In-Centre. Please get in early. This will assist in advising the Maroochy RSL of projected numbers. Names, email addresses and phone numbers are required for each person (COVID).

It is now possible to book a table of 10 instead of the limited number of 6 as mentioned in this space in the June edition of Ricochet.

To book your table of 10 please notify John Cunnington on 54933513 (0415375968) or email hookin1947@gmail.com and arrange the bookings with him after you have purchased your tickets. Please note that free seating is also available

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.).

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.

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 Cunnington on 54933513, or email 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.

NOTE: The annual service at the National Dog Memorial, Alexandra Headland, to start Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorations is not being held this year because of council works in the area.

Our *Melbourne* saved refugees



ON THE night of 21 June 1981, while participating in international naval exercises, the crew of aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* II rescued 99 Vietnamese men, women and children from a leaking, overcrowded boat in the South China Sea (**pictured left**).

The boat had been at sea for four days, the engine was no longer working and the refugees had very little food or water.

On the *Melbourne* they were given medical attention, clothing, bedding, food and water. The *Melbourne* continued to participate in the exercises while at the same time caring for the refugees and undertaking other humanitarian roles related to injured or ill seamen from other ships.

HMAS *Melbourne* then continued on to Singapore arriving on Friday 26 June. United Nations and immigration official boarded the ship and processed the refugees before transferring them to a refugee camp run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The refugees became known as the *Melbourne* Group 99 (MG99). Commander John Ingram of the *Melbourne* took an active role in the rescue and care of the refugees on board the ship and in Singapore where he arranged for supplies of food to be sent to the camp.

HMAS *Melbourne* requested that the Australian government resettle the 77 refugees who had asked to be sent to Australia rather than Europe or the United States of America. This group arrived in Australia in July 1981. – **from AWM.**

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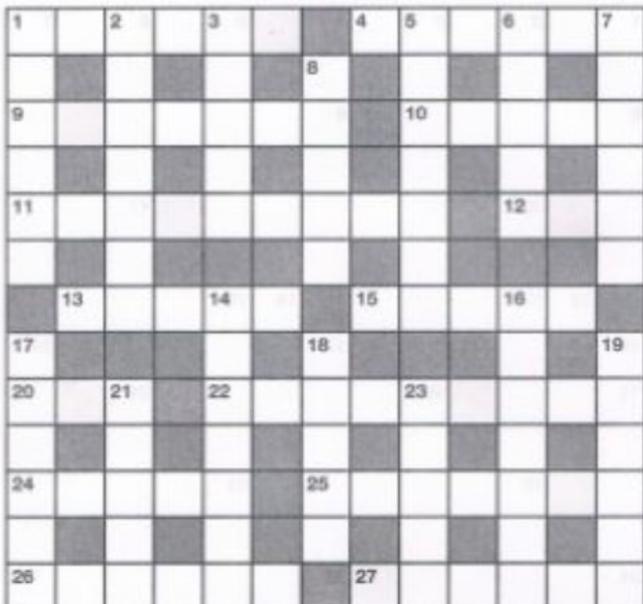
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AT THE June Riflemen's Lunch were Geoff Simmonds with his son Sheldon.

JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



Across

- 1 Pub (6)
- 4 Take for granted (6)
- 9 Weird (7)
- 10 Take Place (5)
- 11 Explanation (9)

Down

- 1 Tropical Bird (6)
- 2 Asinine (7)
- 3 Ambit (5)
- 5 Yelled (7)
- 6 Relative (5)

12 Sense

- Organ (3)
- 13 Stage
- Whisper (5)
- 15 Paragon (5)
- 20 Sphere (3)
- 22 Vortex (9)

24 Time (5)

- 25 Ameliorated (7)
- 26 Cure (6)
- 27 Extremely bad (6)

7 Mistakes (6)

- 8 Varieties (5)
- 14 Injured (7)
- 16 Foreshorten (7)
- 17 Barrel maker (6)

18 Wild and

- savage (5)
- 19 Blot (6)
- 21 Flower (5)
- 23 Part of a play (5)

July Conundrums

1. Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?
2. A man wanted to encrypt his password but he needed to do it in a way so that he could remember it. He had to use seven characters consisting of letters and numbers only (no symbols like ! or <). In order to remember it, he wrote down "You force heaven to be empty." What is his password?
3. I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness.
4. It goes in dry, it comes out wet, the longer it is in, the stronger it gets. What is it?
5. When can you add two to eleven and get one as the correct answer?

1. The name of which animal group is a collective name for a software issue? (a) Insects, (b) Ants, (c) Bugs, (d) Spiders.
2. Which planet was named after the ancient Roman's King of the Gods? (a) Mars, (b) Jupiter, (c) Saturn, (d) Uranus.
3. In what country would you find the hottest place on earth? (a) USA, (b) Australia, (c) South Africa, (d) Iran.
4. Finish this humorous remark by Mark Twain. "The report of my death was... (a) An exaggeration, (b) Based on rumours and here say. (c) Only wishful thinking, (d) A bit premature.
5. Which of the following words means "given or marked by the consumption of alcohol"? (a) Intimation, (b) Staid, (c) Bibulous, (d) Ogle.
6. This man invaded modern Day Great Britain? (a) Both, (b) Neither, (c) Alexander The Great, (d) Julius Caesar.
7. In this year the foundation stone for the City of Canberra is put in place? (a) 1909, (b) 1913, (c) 1911, (d) 1916.
8. What is the medical term used for Dry Mouth? (a) Asphyxia. (b) Hematoma, (c) Xerostomia, (d) Apnoea.
9. Which river runs through the Czech Republic and Germany? (a) The Rhone, (b) The Rhine, (c) The Elbe, (d) The Danube.
10. The term "Death Zone" refers to what altitude? (a) Above 8000 M, (b) Above 7900 M, (c) Above 7500 M (d) Above 7000 M.
11. Who invented the first working television system? (a) Benjamin Franklin, (b) Alexander Graham Bell, (c) John Logie Baird, (d) Thomas Edison.
12. What was the code name for the invasion of Japan in WW11 which was never undertaken due to the end of the war? (a) Downfall, (b) Downwind, (c) Triton, (c) Cupcake.
13. What is Pogonophobia? (a) Fear of darkness, (b) Fear of beards, (c) Fear of clowns, (d) Fear of dentists and dental Procedure.
14. How many children does Harry Potter have as revealed in the last book of the Harry Potter series? (a) 1, (b) 4, (c) 5, (d) 3.
15. Name the artist who painted the famous masterpiece titled "The Scream? (a) Edvard Munch, (b) Virginia Wolf, (c) Nora Emphraim, (d) Pablo Picasso.
16. Which company built the A6M aka Zero—the fighter aircraft that was used in the attack on Pearl Harbour? (a) Isuzu, (b) Mikayashi, (c) Mitsubishi, (d) Toshiba.
17. Canada is home to nine percent of the worlds...? (a) Gold, (b) Deer, (c) Rivers, (d) Forests.
18. What is the most popular wedding cake? (a) Lemon, (b) Chocolate, (c) Vanilla, (d) Red Velvet.
19. What is a single strand of spaghetti called? (a) Spaghetti, (b) Spaghetto, (c) Sprig, (d) Slip.
20. What is the Capital of Spain? (a) Madrid, (b) Barcelona, (c) Seville, (d) Valencia.

• ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18

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

HIS father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said: "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said: "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

Dad shot back: "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

A SCHOOL teacher was arrested at John F. Kennedy International airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, an ancient wooden device called a "slide-rule" as well as a code device called an "abacus" that he claimed was a calculator.

At a morning press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement.

He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of maths instruction.

"Al-Gebra is a problem for us," the Attorney General said. "Al-Gebra has terrorized many young people for years. They derive solutions by means and extremes and sometimes go off on tangents in search of 'absolute values'.

"They use secret code names like 'X' and 'Y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns,' but we've determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country."

As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are three sides to every triangle."

THE ABORIGINAL people in a remote part of Northern Australia asked their new elder if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was an elder in a modern community he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He walked out to the telephone booth on



the highway, called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked: "Is the coming winter in this area going to be cold?"

The meteorologist responded: "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold."

So, the elder went back to his tribe and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again: "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

The meteorologist again replied: "Yep, it's going to be a very cold winter."

The elder went back to his tribe and ordered them to collect every scrap of

firewood they could find. Two weeks later the elder called the Bureau again: "Hey, are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the guy replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the elder asked.

The weatherman replied: "Our satellites have reported that the Aborigines in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign."

A WOMAN goes into Discount Fishing Supplies to buy a rod and reel for her grandson's birthday. She doesn't know which one to get, so she just picks one and goes over to the counter.

The salesman is standing there, wearing dark shades. She says: "Excuse me. Can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?"

He says: "Madam, I'm completely blind; but if you'll drop it on the counter, I can tell you everything you need to know about it from the sound it makes."

She doesn't believe him but drops it on the counter anyway. He says: "That's a six-foot Shakespeare graphite rod with a Zebco 404 reel and 10-lb test line. It's a good all-around combination, and it's actually on sale this week for \$44."

She says: "That's amazing that you can tell all that, just by the sound of it dropping on the counter. I'll take it!"

As she opens her purse, her credit card drops on the floor. "Oh, that sounds like a Visa card," he says.

As the lady bends down to pick up the card, she accidentally farts. At first she's really embarrassed, but then realises there is no way the blind salesman would tell exactly who had farted.

The man rings up the sale and says, "That'll be \$58.50 please."

"Didn't you tell me it was on sale for \$44. How did you get \$58.50?"

"The Duck Caller is \$11, and the Fish Bait is \$3.50."

FROM THE EDITOR

TIME flies, as they say — a thought that came to me looking back at a news item on Vietnam Veterans Day from 2019. Remember that pre-COVID time?

I certainly remember (I think) late in the afternoon at Maroochy Services Club with some fellow veterans after a great 2019 VV Day lunch. It was an awesome occasion, as they always are.

The year before was even more special, as a couple of fellow veterans from 5 RAR had joined me (one from Kilcoy and one from Kooralbyn near Beaudesert). That time and many of the remembrance events since Vietnam have been special, given that for many years after I came home I did not become involved.

Interestingly, about the first time I recall was with my then father-in-law, a WW2 Bomber Command pilot, at Roma on an Anzac Day in the mid-70s. When I have reflected years later on knowing him, since he passed on, I have realised that he no doubt suffered from PTSD – he not only had some terrible experiences in war, but also later lost his English wife in terrible circumstances back in Australia. Obviously his life was affected by these tragedies.

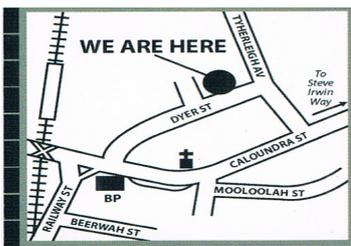
Only the other day on a Facebook page, a daughter of a veteran posted, asking if anyone knew her Dad who had served with my battalion in Vietnam. He had taken his own life just a few years back. I imagined the anguish she was going through and then finding a Facebook page to ask about him, presumably having forgiven him for 'leaving'.

Life is difficult for many people in many circumstances, but war veterans can experience some pretty difficult situations over the years after service. Imagine what Ben Roberts-Smith VC is going through (as I write this on 22 June). Whatever transpires he surely remains a hero – always.

We all have crosses to bear of varying levels of seriousness in our own worlds and in the wider perspective. So be kind to yourself and those who care about you and call someone if you need to, for example Open Arms on 1800 011 046. Or call a mate and ask if he or she is OK.

**Go well,
Kerry White
Editor**





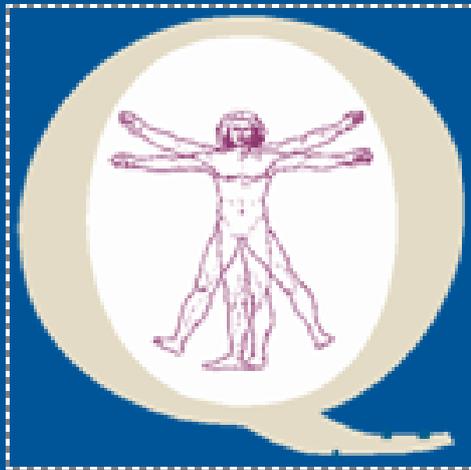
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A ROYAL Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail deployed to the United States to take part in Exercise Pacific Edge 21 with coalition partners in Hawaii. The E-7A operated by No. 2 Squadron based at RAAF Base Williamtown provided airborne early warning support in April to aviators in the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons, which are associate units of the Hawaii Air National Guard and operate the F-22A Raptor aircraft.— RAAF photo.

MALAYAN EMERGENCY A LONG COMMITMENT

On the morning of 16 June 1948 three European estate managers were murdered in two separate incidents in Perak by members of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP).

That evening, the British declared a state of emergency in several districts of Perak and Johore which were extended the following day to the whole of the two states.

On 18 June a state of emergency was declared for all of Malaya. The Malayan Emergency had begun. Australia's military commitment began in 1950 with the provision of Royal Australian Air Force transport and bomber assets to support the British.

Units of the Australian Army were involved from 1955, as were ships of the Royal Australian Navy.

The Malayan Emergency was officially declared over on 31 July 1960, but Australian units remained in Malaya as a deterrent.

Thirty-nine Australians died as a result of their service in Malaya, although only 15 deaths were as a result of operations. A further 27 men, mostly from the army, were wounded.

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Our office manager, Christine Wessels, shares the story of a veteran who was her doctor in general practice in Frankston, Victoria, in the 1970s – a “fantastic medico” who she is still in awe of all these years later.

“Like all families who went to Dr Fox when he was in practice in Frankston, it was initially through a mixture of ‘respect’ and ‘duty’; he was after all ex-Army, but he was also a fantastic medico who believed in listening to the patient – rare in the 1970s,” she said.

“I actually don’t recall him being in Frankston until 1971, as we had been told he was injured in Vietnam and had been recovering, thus the wheelchair. I think he was years ahead of his time and his resilience was awesome.”

Major Bruce Walter 'Doc' Fox (3101834) was born in Victoria in June 1931. His father died on active service in New Guinea in 1944 and Bruce and his younger brother Boyd became Legacy Wards (source Australian War Memorial).

Bruce was awarded a number of scholarships by Legacy, including the prestigious Gellibrand Scholarship to study medicine, specialising in surgery.

He was an enthusiastic member of the (CMF, now Army Reserve) and became first Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) of 2 Commando Company in 1955, despite heavy surgical commitments at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

He qualified as a parachutist, swimmer/canoist and

Awesome ‘Doc’ was in Vietnam

small craft handler. He was often impatient of authority and what he saw as excessive red tape.

During further surgical training in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s he served as a reservist with Royal Marine Commandos and Parachute Regiment.

He also served with a surgical team in the Belgian Congo. Back in Australia he was appointed to the regular Army with Medical Corps (RAAMC) and became the first RMO of the Special Air Services Regiment (SASR) in Vietnam.

However, less than a month later he was sent back to Australia after running foul of military authority.

He later served in New Guinea with 1 Squadron SASR during their pre-Vietnam training.

In June 1967 Fox returned to Vietnam with 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit when he proved an invaluable member of the Medical Civil Aid Programs (MEDCAPS). He spent time with 1 and 2 Squadrons SASR, including one patrol.

After his second tour Fox suffered deteriorating eyesight and a muscular condition as a result of his war service and was no longer able to practice as a surgeon.

He left the army in July 1968 and took up general practice in Frankston. He died in July 1975.

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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
M: 0435874440
E: nora@activot.com.au



Fleet Air Arm made its mark in Vietnam

July is an important anniversary for Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm. On 14 July 1967, then Minister for Defence Allen Fairhall announced that eight RAN helicopter pilots and supporting staff would join a United States Army helicopter unit in South Vietnam to provide support for allied forces, including the 1st Australian Task Force in Phuoc Tuy province.

The new flight, the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV), was to be integrated with the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) flying Iroquois helicopters in both the utility and gun-ship configurations.

A unique relationship developed between the RAN and the US Army, so the unit was officially designated 'EMU', for Experimental Military Unit. This was fitting, given that the EMU is a native Australian bird, yet amusing at the same time because of the Emu's inability to fly. The unit later adopted the unofficial motto 'get the bloody job done', which was to personify their attitude to air-mobile operations.

It was not long before EMU became fully operational, flying its first mission on 3 November 1967. By the end of November the company had flown 3182 hours in support

of the US Army 9th Infantry Division and the 1st Australian Task Force based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province.

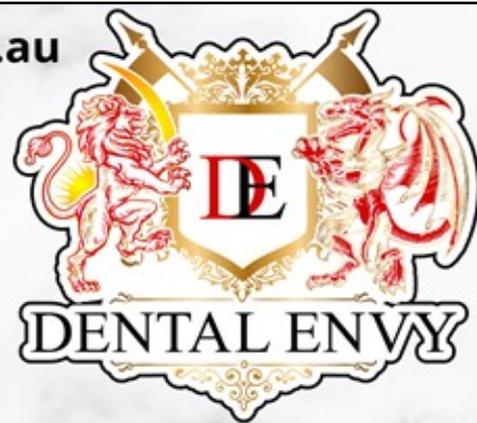
The RANHFV suffered its first casualty during a mission to lift out troops of the 18th Army of the Republic of Vietnam near Xuan Loc when Lieutenant Commander PJ Vickers, RAN, was fatally wounded while piloting the lead aircraft. He was to be the first of five naval aviators killed in action during the flight's four-year deployment to Vietnam.

The RANHFV ceased operations on 8 June 1971. During its four year deployment to Vietnam, over 200 RAN FAA personnel had rotated through the RANHFV in four contingents. – by John Perryman on navy.gov.au website.



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July Timeline: From Merinos to Henry Ford

1 July 1797: The first merino sheep were landed in Australia. Unlike earlier breeds, this Spanish variety was much better suited to the Australian environment and was a formidable wool producer. The first Australian-produced fleece was sold in England in 1807 and by the late 19th century, wool had become Australia's major export.

1 July 1841: The islands of New Zealand were separated from the Colony of New South Wales and made a colony in their own right. This ended more than 50 years of confusion over the relationship between the islands and the Australian colony.

3 July 1891: Formation of Australian Labor Party after a period of industrial action by maritime workers and shearers.

3 July 1976: A raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda occurred as an Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages on a hijacked Air France airliner which had been en route from Tel Aviv to Paris when hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas.

3 July 1988: Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after a US Navy warship, Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 passengers aboard. A subsequent US military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

6 July, 1964: Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Conway (13097), 35, an AATV advisor, was killed in action, the first Australian battle casualty of the Vietnam War. A member of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, he was attached to US Special Forces and was killed at Nam Dong, Thua Thien Province. He was from Wellington Point near Brisbane.

20 July, 1969: At a US Marine non-commissioned officer's club near Da Nang, civilian entertainer Cathy Wayne becomes the first Australian woman killed in the Vietnam War. US Marine Sergeant J. W. Killen was found guilty of her murder, having shot her accidentally while attempting to kill his commanding officer.



21 July 1969: The world watches the first ever moon walk by astronaut Neil Armstrong with the help of Honeysuckle Creek tracking station (left) and Parkes radio telescope in Australia.

27 July 1953: After three years of a bloody and frustrating war, the United States, the People's Republic of China, North Korea,

and South Korea agree to an armistice, bringing the fighting of the Korean War to an end.

30 July, 1863: Automotive pioneer Henry Ford was born in Dearborn Township, Michigan. He developed an assembly-line production system and introduced a \$5-a-day wage for automotive workers. He died in 1947.

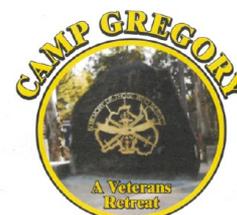
Sources included:

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_Vietnam_War

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

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



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~ Onwards and Forward ~

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IT IS always a sad occasion to attend any funeral. It is even sadder to attend a funeral of a fellow ex-serviceman or woman. It is even more close to home when you served with the deceased during your military career, but it is even more emotional when the deceased served at a unit in Vietnam when you did, or that funeral is in memory of a family member.

Such was the case recently when Annette and I attended her uncle's funeral in Gympie. To her, he was her Uncle Ray. You may have known him as Raymond Walter Brown (pictured), a former long serving SAS Regiment when soldiers knew him affectionately as 'Brownie'.

Ray had been in poor health for

Fireside with the Padre



several years. While he and our Aunt Val, the last remaining sister of Annette's mother, lived in Tin Can Bay where we visited them often. Ray took sick on the Thursday before he died.

Queensland Ambulance Service took him to Gympie Hospital, from there he was transferred to Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital where he died later that day.

His funeral was held at Gympie Crematorium on Friday 11th June 2021. I spoke with Allan Power, the SAS Regiment Association Queensland President, who passed the word around former SASR members.

At the funeral, it was a source of great pride to see so many sandy berets, of men who had served with 'Brownie' over his long career, both in the Regular Army and later, in the Army Reserve.

It was good to catch up with SAS Vietnam veteran Greg Pullin, who was immensely helpful in putting me in touch with Allan and those who could help our aunt.

Ray's son, David, and his family from Sydney attended, but his other son and his family were housebound in Victoria due to Covid-19 restrictions.

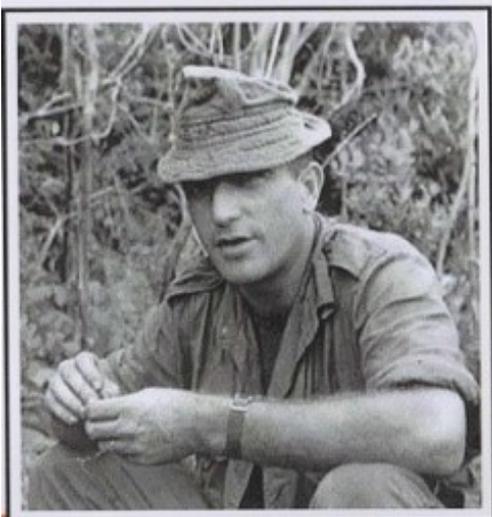
After Aunt Val was widowed while I was serving at Amberley in 1983, she took up sporting interests in golf, bowling, and darts. It was through these pursuits that she caught the eye of this charming former Army SAS fellow, who was also active in these sports. They were married 15 years ago, continuing their mutual interests in their sporting hobbies while their health allowed them to do so.

Annette and I visited them as often as we could. As Ray's visits to SCUPH grew, we were able to visit him there. For several years past, Ray had to rely on his speech machine to speak.

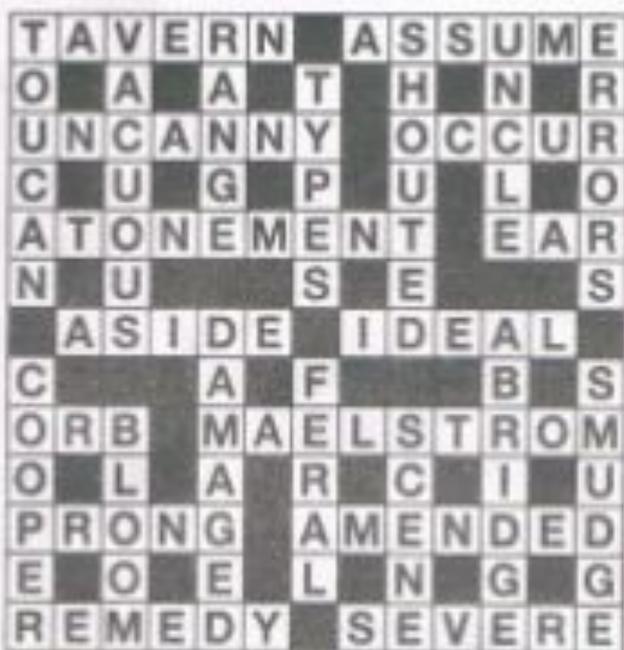
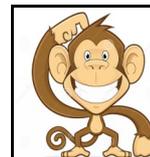
I think he appreciated that I took the time to interpret his speech through his speech box, held to his throat. We would chat for hours, mainly about our long tours with the Army and the RAAF. We did not know it then, but of our two tours of Vietnam, in 1967 we were in country at the same time.

Ray certainly had many friends both in and out of the military. He will be missed by many. Farewell, Uncle Ray. Vale, old Mate.

**Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain**



Answers from page 11



Trivia

1. Bugs
2. Jupiter
3. Iran
4. An exaggeration
5. Bibulous
6. Julius Caesar (pictured)
7. 1913
8. Xerostomia,
9. The Elbe
10. 8000 M
11. John Logie Baird
12. Downfall
13. Fear of Beards
14. 3
15. Edward Munch
16. Mitsubishi (Zero pictured)
17. Forests
18. Vanilla
19. Spaghetti
20. Madrid



Conundrum

1. Nine. Two parents, six sons, and one daughter. All of them have one sister (not six sisters).
2. Try to pronounce the sentence like these characters: u472bmt.
3. The letter S
4. A tea bag
5. When you add two hours to eleven o'clock, you get one o'clock.

US warship gets 'Canberra' name



The US Navy has christened a new warship *USS Canberra*, the only American naval vessel named after a city outside the US.

Australian ambassador to the US Arthur Sinodinos attended the christening ceremony of the ship in Alabama.

The *USS Canberra* — a 125-metre long littoral combat ship (LCS) — is armed with guns and missiles, and is capable of carrying helicopters.

USS Canberra is the only US navy vessel named after a non-American city. Designed to operate close to shore, the LCS vessels are capable of countering submarines, mines and small enemy craft.

The new warship continues a long and unique naval connection between Australia and the US.

The *USS Canberra* is the second US Navy vessel named after Australia's capital city.

The first *USS Canberra*, built in

1941, was originally known as the *USS Pittsburgh*. It was renamed *Canberra* on October 15, 1942 in honour of the Australian heavy cruiser *HMAS Canberra*, which sank during World War II.

- by Richard Wood, Channel 9.



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Roll of Honour – Vietnam, month of July 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 those who lost their life. We will continue to publish a monthly roll without the photos. Lest We Forget.



July 1964

Conway, Kevin George (13097), 35, AATTV, Sgt (Temp.WO2), Cleveland Cemetery, Qld.

July 1965

Nalder, William Lynn (2412151), 19, 1RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

July 1966

Holland, Tony (3786634), 21, 1APCSqdn, Tpr, Mulwala Cemetery, NSW.

Knight, Gordon (2782226), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Botany General Cemetery, Sydney.

Lubcke, Robert John (42720), 23, 5RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Norris, John William (17693), 25, 6RAR, Cpl, Cairns Cemetery, Qld.

Prowse, Leslie (18409), 21, 1FIdSqdn, Spr, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Purcell, Anthony Thomas (3787580), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Tomas, Marian (5713739), 21, 5RAR, LCpl, Nannup Cemetery, WA.

July 1967

Briggs, David John (215144), 26, 32 Small Ships Sqdn, Cpl (Temp.Sgt), died Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, Sydney (no further detail).

Wride, Donald Spence (18665), 23, 1FIdSqdn, Spr, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.

July 1968

Borlace, Douglas Graham (42809), 24, 3CavRegt, CFN, Stirling Cemetery, SA.

Mitchell, David (1201249), 28, 1ARU, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Murray, Peter Eris (2788524), 21, 1RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

O'Connor, Patrick Shane (217350), 19, 4RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

July 1969

Abraham, Richard John (4719565), 23, 9RAR, LCpl, Whyalla Cemetery, SA

Adamczyk, Bruno Adam Joseph (43326), 22, 9RAR, LCpl (Temp.Cpl), Centennial Park Cemetery, Edwards,

Beresford Paul (218041), 23, 9RAR, Pte, St Mary's Cemetery, Sydney.

Hayes, Robert Max AFC, MID (O51626), 37, 9SqdnRAAF, SqdnLdr, Karrakatta Cemetery/Crematorium WA.

Hines, Peter Aubyn (214348), 27, 6RAR, Lt, Sandgate General Cemetery, Newcastle NSW.

Kermode, Raymond Charles (1733818), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Loughman, Matthew (3794096), 21, HQ 1 Aust. LogSptGrp (RA INF), Pte, Finley General Cemetery, NSW.

McMillan, James Clyde (3794377), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Moore, Raymond John (39923), 23, 9RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Muller, Hans Leonhard (2788085), 24, 5RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Rookwood, Sydney.

Needs, John David (55119), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Woongarra Crematorium, Qld.

O'Hanlon, Robert Melville (O16657), 27, 2Sqdn RAAF, FlgOff, Albany Creek Memorial Park Cemetery/Crematorium, Brisbane.

Pettit, Leslie James (217961), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.

Smillie, Ronald George (39281), 19, 1FIdSqdn, Spr, Albury Cemetery, NSW.

Smith, John (3794831), 21, 1FIdSqdn, Spr, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Smith, Paul Leslie (135494), 19, 5RAR, LCpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

July 1970

Bain, John (16667), 26, Catering Corps (att. 1FIdRegt), Cpl (Temp.Sgt), Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Bullman, John Harold (2794031), 22, 1ARU, Pte, Wellington General Cemetery, NSW.

Doyle, David Gerard (219663), 19, 3CavRegt, Trp, Belmont Cemetery, NSW.

Foster, Graham Leslie (1202992), 22, 1ARU, Pte, Allambe Garden Cemetery, Nerang, Qld.

McNair, Duncan Glen (A317006), 27, 9Sqdn RAAF, LAC, Springvale Cemetery, Melbourne.

July 1971

Lowes, Noel (14574), 31, ASqdn, 1ArmRgt, WO2, Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Victoria.

Pengilly, Bernard Michael (5717657), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Perth War Cemetery, WA.

Weston, Raymond Bruce (A17233), 29, 1Op.Spt Unit, RAAF, Cpl, Mareeba Cemetery, Qld.

Wilkinson, Alan Charles F (61560), 33, 4RAR, Cpl, Comelian Bay Public Cemetery, Hobart.

Wilson, Robert Barclay (1201940), 23, 1FIdSqdn, Spr, Ravenshoe Cemetery, Qld.

July 1972

Gibson, Arthur John (218450), 29, 7RAR, Pte, Liverpool Cemetery and Crematorium, NSW.

— From *Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces. PHOTO: RAR Memorial, Sydney.*

'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.