

RICOCHET

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

PAGE 9: VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY UPDATE

Déjà vu feel about Afghanistan

No doubt the withdrawal of American, Australian and other forces from Afghanistan will bring feeling of déjà vu for many Vietnam War veterans and others who remember the “end” of that conflict on April 30 1975. And much is already being written on that theme.

“At a press conference on 8 July, US President Joe Biden unequivocally refuted the suggestion that there was any comparison between America’s withdrawal from Afghanistan and its humiliating retreat from Vietnam in 1975,” US academic Mohammed Ayoob wrote for The Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

“He asserted that the Afghan military was far better equipped and far more capable of withstanding an imminent Taliban takeover of the country than Saigon’s forces were in confronting the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong armies almost half a century ago. Biden stated that it was ‘highly unlikely’ that ‘there’s going to be the Taliban overrunning everything and owning the whole country.’” We can only wait and see.

Gary Ramage reported from Kabul for NCA News-Wire: “There was no marching band, no pomp and no ceremony ... **More on Page 6.**



PICTURED: Australian Diggers pack up their flag as they leave Afghanistan (top) - News Corp Australia photo; (right) in November 1971, the Australian 4RAR and Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment flags at Nui Dat base are lowered for the last time.—AWM photo.



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

Our website: www.vietnamvetssc.org.au

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

General information Page 2.

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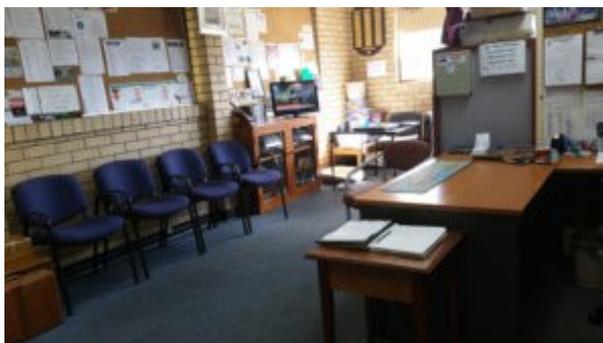
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This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling through us. Group programmes include the Lifestyle Management Program (5 days live-in with partner)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

From last month, continuing a brief account from the Australian War Memorial of our Vietnam War involvement ahead of Vietnam Veterans' Day on 18 August.

The year 1968 began with a major offensive by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, launched during the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday period, known as "Tet". Not only the timing but the scale of the offensive came as a complete surprise, taking in cities, towns, and military installations throughout South Vietnam.

While the "Tet Offensive" ultimately ended in military defeat for the communists, it was propaganda victory. US military planners began to question if a decisive victory could ever be achieved and the offensive stimulated US public opposition to the war.

For Australian troops, the effects of the offensive were felt around their base at Nui Dat, where a Viet Cong attack on targets around Ba Ria, the provincial capital, was repulsed with few casualties.

By 1969 anti-war protests were gathering momentum in Australia. Opposition to conscription mounted, as more people came to believe the war could not be won. A "Don't register" campaign to dissuade young men from registering for conscription gained increasing support and some of the protests grew violent.

The US government began to implement a policy of "Vietnamisation", the term coined for a gradual withdrawal of US forces that would leave the war in the hands of the South Vietnamese. With the start of the phased withdrawals, the emphasis of the activities of the Australians in Phuoc Tuy province shifted to the provision of training to the South Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces.

At the end of April 1970 US and

South Vietnamese troops were ordered to cross the border into Cambodia. While the invasion succeeded in capturing large quantities of North Vietnamese arms, destroying bunkers and sanctuaries, and killing enemy soldiers, it ultimately proved disastrous.

By bringing combat into Cambodia, the invasion drove many people to join the underground opposition, the Khmer Rouge, irreparably weakening the Cambodian government. When the Khmer Rouge came to power in



April 1975, it imposed a cruel and repressive regime that killed several million Cambodians and left the country with internal conflict that continues today.

The extension of the war into a sovereign state, formally neutral, inflamed anti-war sentiment in the United States and provided the impetus for further anti-war demonstrations in Australia. In the well-known Moratorium marches of 1970 and 1971, more than 200,000 people gathered to protest against the war, in cities and towns throughout the country.

By late 1970 Australia had also begun to wind down its military effort in Vietnam. The 8th Battalion departed in November (and was not replaced), but, to make up for the decrease in troop numbers, the Team's strength was increased and its efforts became

concentrated in Phuoc Tuy province.

The withdrawal of troops and all air units continued throughout 1971 – the last battalion left Nui Dat on 7 November, while a handful of advisers belonging to the Team remained in Vietnam the following year.

In December 1972 they became the last Australian troops to come home, with their unit having seen continuous service in South Vietnam for ten and a half years. 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 (this was withdrawn in June 1973).

In early 1975 the communists launched a major offensive in the north of South Vietnam, resulting in the fall of Saigon on 30 April. During April a RAAF detachment of 7–8 Hercules transports flew humanitarian missions to aid civilian refugees displaced by the fighting and carried out the evacuation of Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift), before finally taking out embassy staff on 25 April.

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 3,000 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 some soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

— *Pictured: An iconic photo by Mike Coleridge of Diggers about to board choppers at Nui Dat (edited). The photo has been used for a backdrop in the National Vietnam War Memorial in Canberra. Looking back, pages 14-15.*

From the President

Hi Everyone,

I sincerely hope that you and yours are both fit and well. This will be direct, short and to the point.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED.

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The Secretary will shortly be posting a 'Heads-Up' message to all indicating that we will be in need of volunteers for two upcoming events. How about it? Do we really need to keep on imploring you to put your hands up for a few hours once or twice a year for these fund-raising events! How about this time we make it just a bit easier on your Committee.

1st Event: Thursday, 9 September, 2021. 1300-1600. Packing food/drink bags for athletes.

2nd Event: Sunday, 12 September, 2021. Manning Bike Positions for Mooloolaba Tri.

If available, contact Duty officer at the Drop-In Centre on 54794552 .

Best Regards,

**Mick Howe,
President.**



Fourth novel from our member

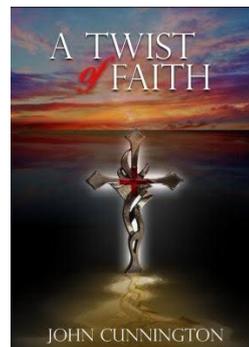
OUR hard-working member John Cunnington has somehow found time to publish a fourth novel, *A Twist of Faith*, all written since 2000.

A prologue is set on Ikan Pari Island in the Southern Singapore Strait on April 1, 1942: "An eerie silence hung, like a London fog, over the diminutive island." Part 1 follows: "In the beginning. Two Years Earlier – Monday April 1, 1940 Ipswich, Queensland". We are introduced to Sophie Shaw.

She is described as being orphaned at a young age and placed in a Brisbane girls home run by the sadistic Matron Rooney. Later she meets an Ipswich larrikin, Chad Wrightson.

Chad enlists for the war and goes overseas; Sophie is alone but obsessed with a plan. The story follows a journey of self-discovery during the dark days of World War Two. The question is: will luck, faith and hope be enough?

Published in Queensland by Whispered Words Publishing; can be purchased directly from author at hookin1947@gmail.com, or by phoning 0415375968, or via Facebook: J Cunnington Writer. (Price \$20, personally signed if required).



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From the Secretary

Hope you are all coping well in these sometimes-trying days that appear to be our near future.

Preparations for VV Day are well under way and we are very much aware of pending lock-downs interstate. Decisions need to be made promptly by those interstate visitors intending to attend our VV Day function, as Sydney visitors have no hope of attending with the recent extension of restrictions.

Refunds will be organized by our treasurer as we become aware. We would appreciate bank details attached to any correspondence relating to cancellations.

We have been requested to volunteer for the *Ironman 70.3* event to take place in September 2021.

Our role in this event would be twofold: 5 – 10 volunteers required on Thursday, 9 September to pack athletes' kit for the race on the Sunday and will be in the afternoon for around three to four hours.

The major task will be on the Sunday morning to man the bike course as we have done on numerous occasions in the past. Around 15 – 20 volunteers will be required for about five hours. Easy money for the Association.

I have committed to this event and require a commitment from members to make this happen. Your com-

mittee have struggled in recent times to get volunteers, so let's dig deep for September and once again see some funds injected into the coffers and keep Glen Preston smiling.

I am advised by Geoff and Johnno that breakfast is back on from Thursday next and remember Riflemen's Lunch on Friday, 6 August.

Hope to see you there.
Stay safe and stay well

Kind regards
Garry King



Seeing double

Identical twins, Air Force's personnel capability specialist Sergeant Ron Koenig and supply Sergeant Greg Koenig, are for the first time serving together at RAAF Base Amberley since joining the ADF 26 years ago.— ADF photo



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AVENUE DENTAL

As Gary Ramage reported from Kabul for NCA NewsWire: "There was no marching band, no pomp and no ceremony as the six remaining Australian soldiers left Afghanistan on July 11," he wrote. "After 20 long years, it was the end of Australia and America's longest war, sparked by the shocking September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001." Here is more of his report:

The troops departed much earlier than flagged by (Prime Minister) Scott Morrison when he addressed journalists in Sydney back in April.

The day of Australia's withdrawal on June 18 was like any other in Kabul as the final six Aussie troops boarded a Royal Australian Air Force C130 aircraft to fly out.

They carried large army trunks to the waiting plane, where RAAF personnel helped them strap the heavily laden boxes to the aircraft floor.

With all their equipment loaded and secured, the group stopped and posed for a final photograph with the Australian flag.

The looks on their faces told of the

- from
Page 1

Getting out of Afghanistan

anxiety of serving their country and of the anticipation of what waits for them back home in Australia.

After the United States announced it would pull out of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister committed to end the mission and bring the remaining troops home by September 11, in line with other allies and partners. But the withdrawal comes amid a Taliban resurgence, with dozens of districts captured since May.

Given that, Defence Minister Peter Dutton was asked: "What was the point?"

"People desperately want to see peace, we want to see girls educated, and we want to see terrorism thwarted, and the contribution of our troops over a long period of time has contributed to a period of stability," Mr Dutton told Sky News, acknowledging Afghanistan remained "a precarious part of the world".

"Importantly ... there has not been an attack the scale of 9/11 for over 20 years and we want to make sure that

that remains the case."

Mr Dutton suggested it was a damned if you do, damned if you don't situation, where withdrawing nations were either accused of being "involved in a never ending war" or "cutting and running". "In a sense, there's no way to satisfy that answer," he said.

But Australia had made a very significant contribution. "I want those Diggers to hear very clearly the message that because of their efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, in the region and otherwise, they have stopped terrorist attacks from taking place in our country in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, in Europe and elsewhere," Mr Dutton said.

"And we are incredibly eternally grateful for that."

Of the 39,000 Australian soldiers who served in the war-torn nation over the past two decades, 41 were killed while serving their country.

- Continued next page.



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Many more were injured and carry visible scars of their duty. And then there are the invisible scars. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were 419 suicides in serving, reserve and ex-serving Defence Force personnel from 2001 to 2017. That's one every two weeks – a shocking figure that added to mounting calls for a royal commission, which the federal government officially launched this week.

“They kept us safe and that they have provided a life and a future for many of those young (Afghan) women who have been educated now, maybe even left the region

and gone to other parts of the world to tell the story, and they will do that for their lives,” Mr Dutton said.

“And there are many individual examples that you could look at ... that they should be incredibly proud of. Many of them carry the injuries and the scars as we recognise, and we want to provide every support to them to help them live out, you

know, their lives in the best way possible.”

While the overwhelming feeling among the departing Australian troops was relief at going home to their family after tours of duty lasting six to nine months at a time, there was certainly also a lingering sense of unfinished business.... hopes of achieving a democratic Afghanistan seem like a distant memory.

PICTURED: Australia's most highly decorated soldier in Afghanistan, Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG.



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AUSTRALIA'S DARKEST DAY

In the Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916, Australia forces endured what has been described as “the darkest day in Australian war history”, maybe in our history generally.

Australian and British soldiers assaulted over open ground in broad daylight and under direct observation and heavy fire from the German lines. Over 5500 Australians became casualties.

Almost 2000 of them were killed in action or died of wounds and about 400 were captured. This is believed to be the greatest loss by a single division in 24 hours during the entire First World War. Some consider Fromelles the most tragic event in Australia's history.

It was the Australians first major battle on the Western Front. It was a feint designed to prevent the Germans reinforcing their troops on the Somme, where the Allies had launched a major offensive on 1 July. The ruse, however, was unsuccessful.

Over two years after the battle, on the day of the Armistice of 11 November 1918 when the guns of the Western Front finally ceased firing, Australian official war correspondent Charles Bean wandered over the battlefield of Fromelles and observed the grisly aftermath of the battle: “We found



the old No-Man's-Land simply full of our dead”, he recorded, “the skulls and bones and torn uniforms were lying about everywhere”.

PHOTO: 53rd Battalion Diggers ready to go. Only three of these men survived and they were wounded. - AWM story and photo.

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**UPDATE ON
VIETNAM VETERANS DAY WEDNESDAY
18 AUGUST 2021
COTTON TREE CENOTAPH**



Lunch tickets will be closing soon as final numbers must be given to the Maroochy RSL Function Centre team
There will be no tickets available after the closing date

Service: 11.00 hours—1200 hours. The March from the Cotton Tree Swimming Complex will commence at 1055 hours. (need to be there by 1045 hours). **Please bring a mask. At this stage COVID requirements are still up in the air.**

Luncheon: Maroochy RSL following the service.
Event to finish no later than 1600 hours (4 p.m.).

Lunch includes a sumptuous three course meal, some subsidized beer, wine, entertainment and raffle draws. The raffle on the day incorporates over 15 draws so you may need to include a few dollars in the wallet.

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 at the latest. 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

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.

BELOW: Vietnam Veterans Day 2019.



Champion for veterans: Ray Krzyzanski



Ray Krzyzanski (pictured) was born in Melbourne on 20 December 1950 and was one of four brothers. He joined the Army shortly after leaving school and was posted to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He served in Vietnam with 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit from 26 November 1970 to 13 May 1971.

Following his military service, Ray worked in a range of different jobs. When his service-caused injuries finally made him stop formal paid work, he started a new career as a volunteer

Pensions and Welfare Officer.

He helped veterans with the preparation and submission of claims on DVA at both the Vietnam Veterans' Association at Cotton Tree and the Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch. Ray worked his way through the TIP training skill set and achieved level 3 which saw him advocate for veterans at the Veteran's Review Board. He was also a Mentor to other Pension Officers at Cotton Tree and a Justice of the Peace.

Ray was deeply immersed in help-

ing veterans, devoting 24 years to the cause of veteran advocacy. His favourite saying to his advocate colleagues was, "It's all about the veteran". In 2016 he was awarded Life Membership of the Vietnam Veterans' Association in recognition of his significant contribution. In 2020 he received an Australia Day Certificate of Achievement Award, recommended by the RSL.

He based himself in the Mudjimba office for the last third of his advocacy years, where he led a team of three advocates. One of those advocates loved to call him "Boss", for his leadership; another called him "Grunt" (for infantry) and he was also known as "Crazy", playing on his surname.

Ray's reputation as an advocate spread far and wide. In the latter years, it is estimated that Ray helped well over 1000 veterans across the years.

Ray joined the Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch in 1993 and served four years on the Committee.

When advocacy training and assessment transitioned from the TIP program to ATDP five years ago, Ray reluctantly decided that he did not want to go down the new pathway. By 2019 he had stopped preparing claims and had become an advisor to the team at Mudjimba.

He remained an advisor until last September when the diagnosis of a brain tumour forced his retirement. He dealt bravely with the prognosis and invasive treatment.

He pushed on quietly until passing away on 19 July 2021. Consistent with his modest approach to life and not wanting recognition, his wish was for an unattended cremation.

Ray leaves behind his partner of 29 years, Lyn and his brother Peter.

Vale Ray Krzyzanski.

- by Terry Dwan

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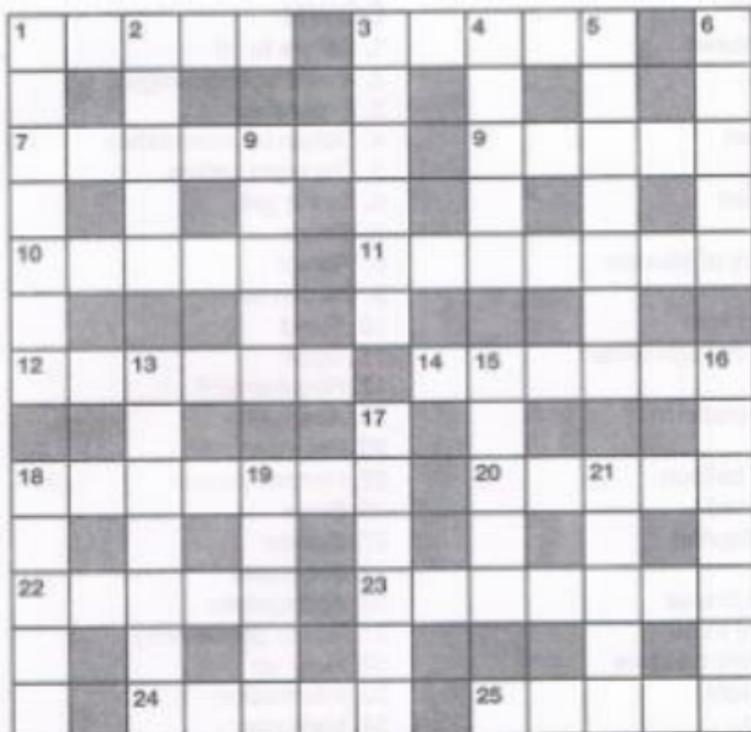
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JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



Across

- 1 Utensil (5)
- 3 Path (5)
- 7 Disregarded (7)
- 9 Send out (5)
- 10 Military Command (5)
- 11 Mystical Beast (7)
- 12 Taste (6)
- 14 Movie House (6)
- 18 Bet (7)
- 20 Deduce (5)
- 22 Awkward (5)
- 23 Roamed (7)
- 24 Finished (5)
- 25 Small Boat (5)

Down

- 1 Mariners (7)
- 2 Possessed (5)
- 3 Boredom (6)
- 4 Legal excuse (5)
- 5 Svelte (7)
- 6 Beer Mug (5)
- 8 Relating to country life (5)
- 13 Tycoon (7)
- 15 Dialect (5)
- 16 Condense (7)
- 17 Worshipped (6)
- 18 forgo (5)
- 19 Graded (5)
- 21 Criminal (5)

August Conundrums

1. I stay in the corner, but travel around the world. What am I?
2. 16, 06, 68, 88 ? 98. What is the ?
3. I am the first on Earth the second in Heaven. I appear twice in a week, though you can only see me once in a year. What am I?
4. Two girls ate dinner together. They both ordered iced tea. One girl drank very fast and had finished five in the time it took the other to drink one. The girl who drank one died while the other survived. All of the drinks were poisoned. How did the girl who drank the most survive?

1. What was Elvis Presley's second Number 1 hit? (a) Love Me Tender, (b) Heartbreak Hotel, (c) Hound Dog, (d) Don't Be Cruel.
2. In which of these colours do Sapphires come? (a) Blue, (b) Green, (c) Yellow, (d) All of these.
3. At what temperature is the Farenheit temperature equal to the Celsius temperature? (a) 4 degrees, (b) -40 degrees, (c) 0 degrees, (d) -4 degrees.
4. A mixture of honey and water can be used for? (a) greasing a muffin pan, (b) cleaning silver, (c) Antifreeze for cars, (d) furniture cleaner.
5. What is the national flower of Vietnam? (a) Jasmine, (b) Rose, (c) Daisy, (d) Lotus.
6. Sugar, a naturally occurring nutrient that makes food taste sweet is classed in chemistry as what? (a) Protein, (b) Nucleic Acid, (c) Carbohydrate, (d) Lipid.
7. Which of these terms means Fear of Pins and Needles? (a) Barophobia, (b) Belonophobia, (c) Batophobia, (d) Batrachophobia.
8. Before 1577, clocks did not have what bon them? (a) Second Hands, (b) Face, (c) Minute Hands, (d) Alarm Bells
9. A person who is afraid of heights suffers from what disorder? (a) Arachnophobia, (b) Acrophobia, (c) Agoraphobia, (d) Anglophobia.
10. It is considered bad luck to mention which Shakespearean play by name whilst inside a theatre? (a) Hamlet, (b) Othello, (c) King Lear, (d) Macbeth.
11. This great inventor loved the number 3 and would only stay in hotel rooms with a number divisible by 3? (a) T A Edison, (b) M E Knight, (c) E Howe, (d) N Tesla.
12. Who is Popeye's Nemesis? (a) Rufus, (b) Pluto, (c) Jesk, (d) Bluto.
13. What is the capital city of Austria? (a) Gram, (b) Salzburg, (c) Innsbruck, (d) Vienna.
14. In Malawi, Nigeria and Botswana, the official language is (a) English, (b) French, (c) Portuguese, (d) Spanish.
15. The first volume of this novel was published on September 30 1868? (a) The Pickwick Papers, (b) Little women, (c) Three Men in a Boat, (d) The Hunchback of Notre-Dame.
16. Which character in F.R.I.E.N.D.S has a song called 'Smelly Cat'? (a) Ross, (b) Phoebe, (c) Chandler, (d) Monica.

• ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18

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

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defence attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the police officer's credibility.

Q: "Officer, did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

A: "No, sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away."

Q: "Officer, who provided this description?"

A: "The officer who responded to the scene."

Q: "A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?"

A: "Yes, sir. With my life."

Q: "With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?"

A: "Yes sir, we do!"

Q: "And do you have a locker in the room?"

A: "Yes, sir, I do."

Q: "And do you have a lock on your locker?"

A: "Yes, sir."

Q: "Now, why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?"

A: "You see, sir, we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room."

The courtroom exploded with laughter, and a prompt recess was called. The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's "Best Comeback" line -- and we think he will win.

ANOTHER officer: In an interview, General Norman Schwarzkopf was

asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwarzkopf. The General said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function... OUR job is to arrange the meeting."

AND a seal: Dana Perino (FOX News) describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries that he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages?

"Oh, no ma'am. We don't go there to talk."

AND a pilot: Conversation overheard on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai.

Iranian Air Defence Site: "Unknown aircraft, you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself."

Aircraft: "This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace."

Air Defence Site: "You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace, we will launch interceptor aircraft!"

Aircraft: "This is a United States Marine Corps FA-18 Fighter. Send 'em up, I'll wait!"

Air Defence Site: (... Total silence).
— above from Mick Howe.

THE government recently noticed that it had too many gener-

als in the army and offered an early retirement bonus.

They promised any general who retired right away, his full annual benefits plus \$10,000 for every inch measured in a straight line along the retiring general's body between any two points he chose.

The first general accepted. He asked the pension man to measure from the top of his head to the tip of his toes 6 feet.

He walked out with a check for \$720,000.

The second general asked them to measure from the tip of his outstretched hands to his toes 8 feet.

He walked away with a check \$960,000.

When the third general was asked where to measure, he told the pension man, "from my index finger to the thumb, that's it."

The pension man said that would be fine but "My God!" he said, "where is your thumb?!"

The general replied, "Back in Iraq!"

(This is a US joke, but interestingly there was discussion recently about the top-heavy situation in the Australian military).



"I FEEL LIKE I JUST DON'T KNOW YOU ANYMORE, RICHARD!"

Diggers all at sea ...



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, on board an Australian Army LCM-8 landing craft depart HMAS Canberra for beach landing serials in North Queensland during Exercise Sea Explorer. The training was in preparation for Exercise Talisman Sabre. – ADF photo by LAW Jacqueline Forrester.

FROM THE EDITOR

As another Vietnam Veterans Day approaches, here's hoping we make it — that is, we get to remember those we lost and all who have suffered since.

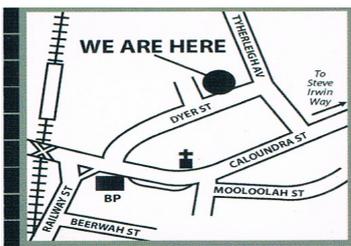
Of course last year the China (that is COVID-19) virus did not allow commemoration in the form of the service at the Cenotaph at Cotton Tree and elsewhere. The Maroochy RSL lunch was also cancelled.

A couple of people I know from Melbourne, one of whom I served with in 5RAR, have plans to be here on holiday at the time, and want to attend our lunch. They are waiting to see what transpires.

In this newsletter is an article on the World War One Battle of Fromelles which has been described as our darkest day. As well there is an article on the Afghanistan pullout which will no doubt stir memories for us. Déjà vu.

**Go well, Lest We Forget,
Kerry White, Editor**





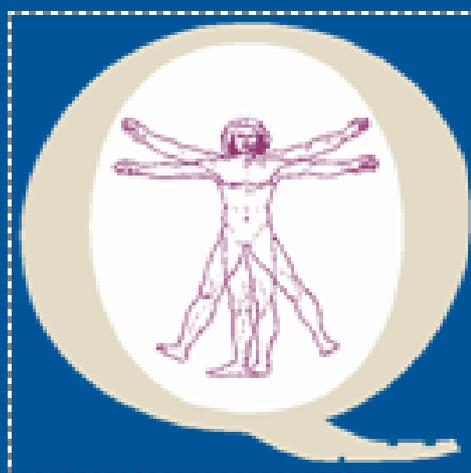
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VETERAN WHITE CARD: White Card holders with a clinically assessed need arising from a war-caused or service-related injury/disease/condition covered for under the Treatment Principles.

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**



Major exercise over big area

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021 (TS21) has been running through July and August in Queensland involving Australian and United States personnel and equipment.

TS21 exercise activities are planned to occur in inland Queensland including Hughenden, Charters Towers region, ADF Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA), Atherton and Mareeba, coastal locations including Bundaberg, Stanage Bay peninsular, ADF Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), Bowen, Proserpine, Ingham region, Lucinda, Forest Beach, ADF Cowley Beach Training Area (CBTA), Innisfail, Cairns and RAAF Scherger, as well as Evans Head in NSW.



Townsville will see increased military presence over this time, mainly at Lavarack Barracks and RAAF Townsville, and on the roads between there and Charters Towers. Addressing the COVID-19 issue, Defence has worked with relevant State and Territory authorities – including Chief Health Officers – to design an exercise that achieves its

objectives while being safe for the Australian community and participating forces.

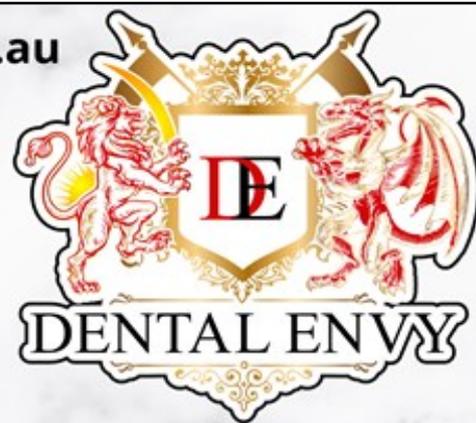
Extensive engagement has also occurred with business and environment groups.

PICTURED: Australian Army soldiers from 2nd Commando Regiment load an all-terrain vehicle on to a RAAF C-27J aircraft.



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August Timeline: From Blue Poles to Diana RIP

1 August 1973: The Australian Government, through the National Gallery of Australia's acting director, James Mollison, bought Blue Poles by Jackson Pollock. The painting cost \$1.3 million – the most ever paid for an American painting in the world at that time.

August 3 1962: The first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam arrive in Vietnam

August 4 1961: Barack Obama the 44th U.S. President was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father was from Kenya, Africa, while his mother was originally from Kansas.

August 6, 1945: The first atomic bomb was dropped over the centre of Hiroshima, Japan, at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay (**pictured**), killing more than 105,000 people and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.



August 7 1858: Students from Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar competed against each other in several games of football. These matches are credited as the first organised games of Australian Rules football.

August 8 1907: The New South Wales Rugby League was formed on 8 August 1907 at a meeting at the Bate-man's Hotel in Sydney when Rugby league split from rugby union over disagreements about whether to pay players.

August 12 1829: Perth was founded by Captain James Stirling on Whadjuk country as the capital of the Swan River Colony. It was the first free-settler colony in Australia established by private capital. From 1850, convicts began to arrive at the colony in large numbers.

August 14, 1945: Following the two atomic bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms.

August 16 1977: Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital aged 42.

August 21 1943: Enid Lyons became the Member for Darwin (in Tasmania) in the House of Representatives and Dorothy Tangney was elected to represent Western Australia in the Senate, becoming the first women to be elected to the Australian Parliament, 41 years after equal suffrage.

August 31, 1997: Princess Diana died aged 36 in a high-speed car crash shortly after midnight inside a Paris tunnel. Also killed in the crash were Diana's companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul.

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>

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~ Onwards and Forward ~

Certain places trigger a memory - be it a pleasant or a grieving memory, for example, 'Kangaroo Pad', 'SAS Hill', 'Ba Ria' brings to memory the former Australian Base at Nui Dat. To some, a very sad memory. To others, a sense of pride that many of our members served their country during those uncertain and trying days.

But the name, 'Long Tan' brings memories of one of the greatest losses to our Defence Force in the Vietnam campaign. Stories of bravery, coupled with sheer determination to make every ounce of training received in Australia in all too short a time to prepare our soldiers for the worst scenario of the 18th of August 1966 that any trainer could have ever foreseen.

It was only in recent years that the 18th of August was given the name, 'Vietnam Veterans Day'. Prior to that, it was called 'Long Tan Day' in honour of that black day in Australia's defence force history.

Many of us have been back to Phuoc Tuy province, when the local

Fireside with the Padre



cadre collected the original plaque from the first Long Tan cross which was erected by 6 RAR during their second tour of Vietnam in 1969, to honour those who participated in this terrible battle in which Australia lost so many skilled infantrymen.

I will never forget the effect the simple ceremony had on me at the Long Tan memorial. We not only placed a yellow rose for the Australian dead, but we were given a lit joss stick to place at the memorial for the Vietnamese soldiers, regular and local militia, who were killed in that awful fray.

As we walked away from that simple, but beautiful man-made memorial to that horrendous night, I remember saying to my wife and our travelling companions, Elizabeth, and Neil, (my 2 Cav mate,) "There, but for the

grace of God, go I ! ! "

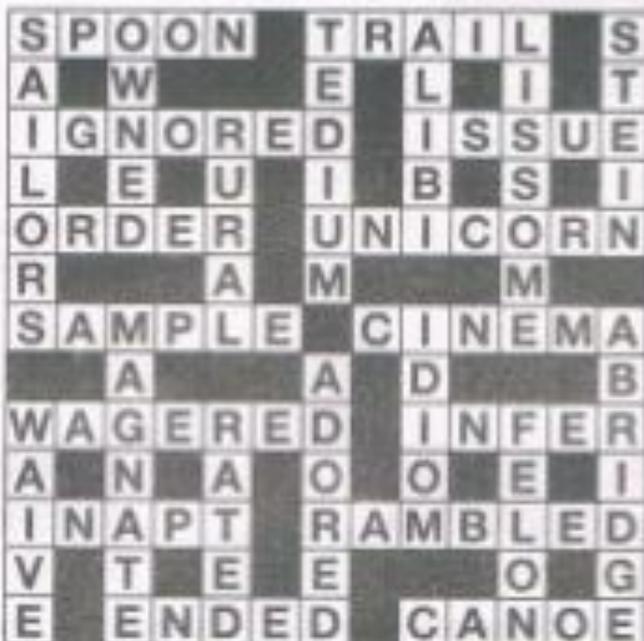
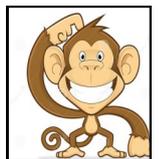
Again, this year, our thoughts turn to the 521 members of the Australian Defence Force who went to Vietnam, just as we did, but did not make it home alive, but thankfully, unlike previous campaigns, their remains now repose in Australian soil, except one.

For the remainder of us who served one, two or three tours of duty, God brought us home and although the road for many who served their nation has not been an easy one, we still turn to our creator, God, and thank Him for our care and protection and for allowing us to celebrate our participation in improving the lives of many Vietnamese people today.

Lest we forget. I hope to see you all at the Maroochydore Cenotaph. Until next month, I'll keep this cosy fire stoked and burning, almost forgetting how cold it can become here on the perfect Sunshine Coast.

**Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain.**

Answers from page 11



Trivia Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Don't Be Cruel | 9. Acrophobia |
| 2. All of these | 10. Macbeth |
| 3. -40degrees | 11. N Tesla |
| 4. Anti-freeze for cars | 12. Bluto |
| 5. Lotus | 13. Vienna |
| 6. Carbohydrate | 14. English |
| 7. Belonephobia | 15. Little Woman |
| 8. Minute Hands | 16. Phoebe |

Conundrum Answers

1. A postage stamp
2. The answer is 78. All of the numbers when read upside down are 86-91.
3. The letter "e".
4. The poison was in the ice. As she slowly drank her one drink, the melting ice released the poison.

OUR KOREA COMMITMENT ONGOING

Signaller Elizabeth Barnes (pictured) writes about her times with Australia’s Operation Linesmen contingent assisting Headquarters, United Nations Command and the UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) in Korea. With her Korean heritage, and insight into the local culture and fluency with the language, she has been vital to the team.



Operating in the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea, the four-person team supports initiatives from the Comprehensive Military Agreement signed by the two Koreas in September 2018.

Monitoring the implementation of specific projects borne from the Comprehensive Military Agreement and upholding the terms of the Korean Armistice Agreement, Commander of the Australian contingent Squadron Leader Tim Lowther said the time invested in forging strong and effective working relationships across all levels of each Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) Task Force had been critical to mission success.

“Working directly with ROKA personnel, the team has built a reputation of being approachable, helpful and reliable,” Squadron Leader Lowther said.

“It has been this cooperative reputation that has enabled the observer team to effectively facilitate the ROKA mission whilst upholding the strict requirements of the armistice.”

The ADF contingent and the Republic for Korea Army members on task in the Demilitarised Zone, Korea.

The team’s second-in-command, Lieutenant Eren Ulusoy, said working and developing strong professional relationships with the ROKA had been the most satisfying part of the job.

“I am certainly grateful to be working alongside the ROKA. One can quickly see that they are a professional workforce who hold themselves to a high standard,” he said.

“I count myself lucky for the opportunity to work in a tri-service team within the wider umbrella of the United Nations Command. It has been a fantastic learning experience to get exposure from so many different elements within the multinational and multi-service environment.”

BELOW: Australian and South Korean troops at the DMZ.



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Roll of Honour – Vietnam, month of August 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.



August 1966

Aldersea, Richard Alfred (551206), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.
 Checkley, Thomas William (311534), 28, 131 DLB, Gnr, Buxton Cemetery, Derbyshire, England.
 Clements, Peter Edward (54570), 21, 1 APC Sqdn, Trp (Temp.Cpl), Moora Cemetery, WA.
 Drabble, Glenn Alfred (1730929), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Gant, Kenneth Howard (1730941), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane.
 Grant, Ernest Francis (3411673), 20, 6 RAR, Pte, Albury Cemetery, Albury, NSW.
 Grice, Victor Roy (1730947), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Houston, James Michael (43893), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Jewry, Jack (2781847), 21, 6 RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Kennedy, Raymond John (16196), 26, 5 RAR, Pte, Redcliffe Cemetery, Qld.
 Large, Paul Andrew (2781704), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 McCormack, Albert Frederick (1730993), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Tas.
 McCormack, Dennis James (1730994), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Mitchell, Warren David (1731013), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Salveron, Douglas Javing (1731040), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Sharp, Gordon Cameron (2781465), 21, 6 RAR, 2Lt, Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Tamworth, NSW.
 Thomas, David John (38712), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Kangaroo Flat Cemetery, Bendigo, Vic.
 Topp, Francis Brett (1200265), 19, 6 RAR, Pte, Helidon Cemetery, Queensland.
 Wales, Maxwell Ray (216559), 22, 6 RAR, Pte, Moree Cemetery, NSW.
 Whiston, Colin Joseph (3787607), 21, 6 RAR, Pte, Crib Point Cemetery, Vic.

August 1967

Aylett, Donald Raymond (38110), 22, 7 RAR, Pte (Temp-Cpl), Tatura Cemetery, Vic.
 Baudistel, Karl William (17073), 28, AATTV (attached RAI), Cpt, Albany Creek Crematorium, Qld.
 Brophy, Edward Francis (2412450), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Gulgong Cemetery, NSW.
 Cutcliffe, Timothy Joseph (2785238), 21, 2 RAR, Pte, Orange Cemetery, NSW.
 Donnelly, Denis John (216445), 21, 104 SigSqdn, Sig (TempCpl), Garden of Rem., Rookwood, Sydney.
 Harstad, Barleif Alfred (38939), 21, 7 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hayes, James Francis (213834), 27, 7 RAR, Cpl, Kenmore Roman Catholic Cemetery, Goulburn NSW.
 McGarry, Peter Shaun (2412362), 19, 2 RAR, Pte, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.
 Milford, David Geoffrey (3411862), 22, 7 RAR, Pte, Harcourt Cemetery, Vic.
 O'Connor, John Martin (16327), 25, 7 RAR, Pte, Redcliffe Cemetery, Qld.
 Siggers, Anthony Peter (216455), 35, AATTV, Sgt (TempWO2), Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood, Sydney.
 Woolford, Richard Mervyn (4718082), 21, 2 RAR, LCpl, Wirrabara Cemetery, SA.

August 1968

Campbell, John Alexander (2787278), 21, 3 RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.
 Carroll, Ronald Thomas (14208), 31, 3 RAR, Sgt, Perth War Cemetery and Annex, WA.
 Casadio, Anthony Austin (O2361), 22, RAN HeliFlt, Lt (SL), Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.
 Gillard, Robert James (3790395), 22, 3 CavRegt, Trp, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.
 Grist, Robert Maxwell (39426), 19, 1 RAR, Pte, Traralgon Cemetery, Vic.
 McGoldrick, William (217762), 26, 1 ARU, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.
 Moss, Graeme John (1200817), 22, 1 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Phillips, O'Brian Cedric Ignatious (R56859), 32, RAN HeliFlt, POACM, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

August 1969

Banfield, David John (6709107), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Carr Villa General Cemetery, Launceston, Tas.
 Hards, Edward William George (515835), 20, UL W Comd ex 1 ARU (RA INF), Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.
 Hoare, Frederick William (15705), 29, 6 RAR, Cpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.
 Smith, Baron Fredrick (3793566), 21, 5 RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

August 1970

Moore, Sydney Thomas (3175954), 20, 110 Sig Sqn, Sig, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.
 Penneyston, Peter Lawrence(6709611), 1 FldSqn, Spr, Mersey Vale Memorial Park Cemetery, Devonport, Tas.
 Raffin, Francis Lindsay (4186), AATTV (att. RAI), Sgt (Temp WO2), Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.
 Richardson, Neil Thomas (218697), 22, 7 RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.
 Thompson, Donald Leslie (1202729), 20, 2 RAR, Pte, Mount Basset Cemetery, Qld.

— 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 ...'

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