

# RICOCHET

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

## ADF continuing COVID-19 support

Australian Defence Force currently has 2546 personnel deployed nationally as part of Operation COVID-19 Assist, as of 30 September.

The deployment includes a diverse list of support roles in the three-starled COVID-19 Taskforce to coordinate ADF's internal response to COVID-19 and support the whole-of-government effort. These include supporting law enforcement agencies with mandatory quarantine arrangements.

It is supporting the Department of Health with logistics and specialist staff and has been supplying clinical and epidemiological support to the Department of Health National Incident Room since early February 2020.

Also, 188 ADF and Defence APS personnel are embedded in various Australian Government agencies, including the Department of Health and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

It is noted that the ADF will not be authorised as law enforcement officers as this remains the responsibility of the states and territories. On a state-by-state basis (incomplete):

Queensland: 385 personnel supporting quarantine compliance management efforts, including at airports



***Private Daniel Hanckel and Australian Army Nursing Officer Lieutenant Samantha Dowdney prepare COVID-19 vaccines at a Vaccination Outreach Clinic at Lightning Ridge in New South Wales. – ADF information and photo.***

and hotels; 116 supporting Queensland Police at border control points.

New South Wales: 282 personnel supporting state police quarantine compliance monitoring, reception and repatriation efforts at Sydney airport and hotels; 600 ADF personnel are supporting state police community presence and marshalling activities;

154 ADF personnel are supporting NSW Health; 72 ADF personnel are supporting NSW Health vaccine delivery teams.

Victoria: 170 personnel supporting quarantine compliance management in Melbourne.

**- Continued Page 3.**



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

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

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

**General information** Page 2.

Veterans & Families Counselling

**OPEN ARMS**

**1800 011 046**



## VIETNAM VETERANS ASSN of AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

**PATRON:** Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Junior V/President	Gordon Hall
Secretary	Garry King
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Kerry White ( <i>Ricochet</i> Editor)
John Cunnington (VV Day)
Athol Johnson (Merchandise)
Christine Wessels (Assistant Secretary)
Margo Christie (Office Manager)
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#### Suicide Prevention

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Mooloolaba Surf Club	Kevin Lynch
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Air Force Cadets	(vacant)
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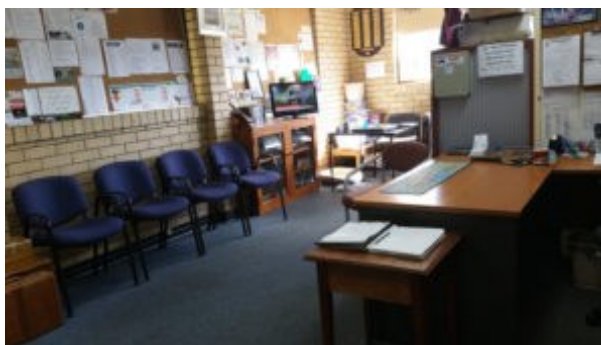
## VVAASC SUB-BRANCH DROP-IN-CENTRE

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

**Office Phone 54794552 Fax. 5479 4558.**

**E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com**

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



### Veterans & Families Counselling

## OPEN ARMS

**24 Hour Crisis Line Toll Free**

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

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

## Department of Veterans' Affairs

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

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



# Garden and plaque for last battle

A plaque marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Nui Le during Operation Ivanhoe in Vietnam on 21 September 1971, was unveiled recently at Guyatt Park in Brisbane.

The plaque has been placed in a garden newly dedicated to the battle by Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, local Councillor James Mackay and Lieutenant Colonel George Hulse OAM (Retd), who was responsible for organising the plaque and event.

It is believed it is the only plaque and garden in Australia dedicated to those who served and died during Operation Ivanhoe.

Veterans of 4RAR/NZ ANZAC attended including Bob Sace, James Baxter, Mike Gilpin, Warren Dowell, 'Sarge' Fairley, Don Mackenzie, Chris Burgess and Mike O'Neil. Colonel Hulse is a veteran of the Battle of FSB Coral/Balmoral and a vice-president of the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs



Association.

The battle during Operation Ivanhoe was the last involving Australians and New Zealanders. At Nui Le, five Australian servicemen were killed with 29 Australians and one New Zealander wounded. At least 5 Australians received decorations for their role in Operation Ivanhoe with three Mentioned in Dispatches.

The anniversary of the operation was featured in last month's Ricochet. A national service marking the 50th anniversary of Operation Ivanhoe was held on 20 September and broadcast nationally.

**PICTURED:** Some of the veterans who attended the service and (below) the plaque that was dedicated and placed at Guyatt Park, Brisbane.

## ADF's Covid support continues nationally

- from Page 1

61 personnel supporting the Victorian Department of Health Household Engagement Program: 40 ADF personnel are supporting Victoria Police at vehicle control points.

South Australia: 106 personnel supporting South Australia Police quarantine compliance management at six Adelaide metropolitan hotels; 40 ADF personnel supporting South Australia Police at border control points.

Western Australia: 32 personnel involved in quarantine assistance at hotels and at the Perth Airport.

Tasmania: 56 personnel involved in quarantine assistance in Hobart.

Northern Territory: 124 personnel supporting Australian Federal Police and Northern Territory Police quarantine compliance management.

ACT: 23 personnel assisting ACT Police at border control points.



## From the President

Hi Everyone,  
I sincerely hope that you and yours are both fit and well. Well, there's another month gone and it seems that nothing has changed. We are still going well at the Drop-In Centre and happily, are having no trouble whatsoever with the Duty Officers rosters.

Over the past few months it appears that a few of our members are not quite sure as to our current situation, but I can assure you that all is well and we are functioning as normal. So, if you are in the area, call in and have a cuppa and a chat.

As you may have already heard, at our last Meeting your Committee decided in favour of holding the Ladies Day function again this year. It will be once again undertaken at the Maroochy RSL Club on the 10 December, ladies (partners of members only), no men in attendance, and the

event will consist of lunch, entertainment and drinks free of cost for those attending.

This occasion is to show that our members appreciate and support their wives/partners and it's a sort of 'thank you' for putting up with us over the years. Updates regarding the event will be sent out via 'Heads-Up' e-mails and within our 'Ricochet' newsletter.

For those of you who missed the last Meeting at the Drop-In Centre, you also missed out on receiving a small gift from Thai and Diamond Dang.

It was a coffee cup with the following inscribed on one side; "Saigon Tea for 'Cheap Charlie' Cheers to the Aussies, Thai and Diamond." Once again, we offer our many thanks to this couple for their ongoing support and friendship over the years.

Speaking of ongoing support, your Committee would once more like to sincerely thank those members who yet again volunteered as road marshals at the recent Mooloolaba Tri Event.

They do a great job and you have no idea how pleasing it is to receive a phone call, or someone dropping in, to offer their assistance.

It seems that no matter how many e-mails and 'heads-up' messages we send out asking for assistance, we always end up with the same volunteers at every event.

I can't fathom what it is that some of our members expect from your Association, but whatever it is, you won't get it, nor deserve it, unless you are prepared to assist your Committee in some small way once or twice a year.

- Continued next page.



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Let's not be selfish here and not leave everything to the handful of volunteers who regularly put their hand up to assist. I apologise in advance if my comments are upsetting to any of you but fair-dinkum, it wears a bit thin when with some 300 members we struggle (hard) to get say 20 or so volunteers to sign up for four hours of their time 2-3 times a year!

Once again, if you have any good ideas or suggestions that may assist or progress your Association in any way whatsoever, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know about it.

**Best Regards,  
Mick Howe,  
President.**



**OUR sub-branch recently helped out Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club Woman of the Year quest entrant Karina Trotter. At a cheque presentation during a Thursday breakfast were veteran Ricky Brittain, Karina and club vice-captain Ian Warburton, who is also a veteran. In 2021 the Surf Woman of the Year program, targeted at women over the age of 18, seeks to engage the most capable women from surf life-saving clubs across Queensland and develop their skills and experience to further their future careers both within and outside the Surf Life Saving movement. It also aims to assist the club's fund-raising activities and help in developing leadership skills. Other vets at the breakfast starred in the background.**



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AVENUE DENTAL



## From the Secretary

We are becoming experts at living with the Pandemic and it seems as long as vaccinations continue, it will be even easier.

We volunteered at the 70.30 Ironman in early September and I would like to offer my personal thanks for all concerned. Remuneration for this event is in the pipeline and will land in the treasurers coffers very shortly.

On a casual drive to Mooloolaba today I noticed the Dog Memorial has been settled into its forever home and final touches are pending.

I should also mention we have another event requiring 10 volunteers on both Saturday, October 23 and Sunday,



AT THE recent monthly meeting were (from left) John Oxenham, Col Parkin, Dave Oliver, Mal Overend and Mark Dolan.

October 24. I will have particulars regarding this event up on the notice board soon.

The daily duty officers' roster appears to be working very well and we welcome back the elusive J Huxham on Friday last week.

As you would be aware, Jack Cunnington has Ladies Luncheon Day under control and the date is December 10, which is a Friday – ladies only event at which Mick and I picquet for the duration.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise the ongoing support from our sponsors who advertise month after month in *Ricochet*.

We as members should check who those sponsors are each month and utilize their expertise in the fields in which they operate.

And those fields include OTs, Podiatrists, Physios Automotive repairs, dental experts in all areas such as implants, orthodontists ... and the list goes on. This type of support ensures we are able to continue to publish our *Ricochet* throughout the year.

That's about it from me for this month.

Stay safe and well.

Regards

Garry



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## Six win wine packs in our annual raffle draw



Thanks to the generosity of wine company, Get Wines Direct, six additional prizes were added to the Association's major raffle drawn in August.

Ross Hay, a local sales consultant, facilitated the donation of a dozen bottles of quality wines which were parcelled into six prizes. John presented him with a VVAASC appreciation certificate (above).

As it turns out, several of our members are clients of Ross, yours truly being one of them. (I drink wine because of its medicinal effect.)

For wine lovers, Ross can provide very affordable, quality wines delivered to your door. To find out more, contact Ross on 0458147577. He really is a good bloke, knows his wines and is a supporter of veterans. - John Cunnington.

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## APPRENTICES CELEBRATE AT R.A.A.F. BASE WAGGA



*Following a three day reunion of Ex-RAAF apprentices in Wagga Wagga, the Senior ADF Officer of RAAF Base Wagga, Group Captain Christopher Ellison, hosted the group and their partners at the base for an event during this Air Force Centenary year. Following photos and a welcome on the parade ground, the group went on a tour of the RAAF School of Technical Training (RAAFSTT) facilities and training hangars. October marked the 75th birthday celebrations of RAAFSTT.*

## Boeing unmanned plane built here

Boeing has selected Too-woomba as the preferred site to build its 'Loyal Wingman' Airpower Teaming System.

The site, developed in partnership with the Queensland Government in the Wellcamp Aerospace and Defence Precinct at Wellcamp Airport, Too-woomba, will be the company's first aircraft assembly facility of its kind outside of North America. The unmanned plane made its first flight in February 2021.

It is expected the project could generate up to \$1 billion dollars for Queensland's economy over 10 years, with more than just defence industries to benefit.

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**Darren Fletcher**  
Dip D.T Adv Dip D.P. (Syd)

Dental Prosthetist



## FROM THE EDITOR

On Page 3 of this Ricochet is a story about the dedication of a plaque marking the Battle of Nui Le during Operation Ivanhoe 50 years ago involving Australian Diggers and Kiwis with 4 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and other units. It was the final battle of the Vietnam war for Australian and Kiwi forces.

The plaque is at Guyatt Park, where Brisbane City Council has dedicated an Operation Ivanhoe Garden (The Guyatts were an early European family in the area of St Lucia).

Interestingly the park is just up the road from the University of Queensland, source of so many anti-Vietnam War protests, even in the same year that Operation Ivanhoe was waged.

I have not-so-fond memories of that place myself. After I came home with 5RAR in 1967 and finished National Service a few months later, I went back to my former employer, the Commonwealth Bank. When I was called up I was working in my hometown branch at Toowoomba.

On my return, the bank or some

unempathetic person in Staff Department, posted me to guess where: the branch at University of Queensland. Mentally, perhaps or arguably, I went through a more difficult time there than in Vietnam.

It was difficult anyway to settle down and get back into normal life, as it was for many of us, whether Nasho or Regular. Though the war was still in the news, as were the protests, no one was really interested if you happened to be game enough to say you

had been 'there'.

Often, as I went out at lunch, rallies were under way with speakers and posters against the war. One day, when I was working as a teller, a bloke came in asking how he could send money to Hanoi; my response to him ended up in the manager telling me my customer relations need improvement.

Too many drinks after work at the RE pub at Toowong only seemed to help. Anyway, I have never forgiven the bank for posting me there. After a couple of years, I got a transfer to the 'new' computer centre of the bank in Sydney. But that's another story. Stay well.

**Kerry White**  
Editor



## Applications for bursaries due

Applications close on October 31 for applications for Long Tan Bursaries which help eligible children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans gain qualifications and skills to follow their dreams by providing financial support for their tertiary education.

The bursary is worth up to \$12,000 over three years' continuous study. Visit [avcat.org.au/scholarships/](http://avcat.org.au/scholarships/) to find out more.

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# One man spoke, but he was not alone

For the average person in an Australian city, there aren't many places that are seen as being sacred. There are only a few places that can give you goosebumps and make you feel a lump rise in your throat when you see them.

Sacred sites around Australia are places that have special meaning. In Aboriginal culture, they could be defined as places within the landscape that have a special significance in their traditions. In cities, this can also be true. Sacred sites are places that transcend differences, that unite and inspire people, and which have a special significance in our shared history.

The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne is one of those places.

It is a very special place; full of spirits and meaning. Whatever direction you approach it from, it seems to loom out of the ground; a giant, imposing granodiorite tomb for the fallen. It is silent, sombre, and it casts a heavy shadow over the immaculate grass that surrounds it.

For those who know it, the long walk up the ceremonial avenue bordered by memorial trees to the forecourt can be a humbling experience.

This memorial is Victoria's tribute to those who have served and a place that is revered by all Australians. Or at least, it should be.

In Melbourne, we have seen widespread protesting since Monday. On Wednesday, we saw them gather at the Shrine of Remembrance to occupy the forecourt and the steps leading to the sacred sanctuary.

Protesters have crowded the streets for days, some in high-vis jackets and work boots, others in black with balaclavas and face coverings. Their numbers are composed of a varied mass. Notionally, the protests are led by members of the construction unions, protesting about vaccination mandates and the construction industry being

shut down. Others are protesting lockdown more generally and some are there because they just want to riot and fight the police.

By Wednesday afternoon, they had massed on the Shrine steps, climbing the plinths and flying the national flag upside down. They unfurled banners criticising Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, the unions and the lockdown. They chanted and sang. And as they did so, the police began to close in around them.

The protesters massed at the Shrine were almost universally condemned. They were condemned by



**MELBOURNE Shrine of Remembrance. Article by Eamon Hale, Vice President of the Hawthorn RSL Sub-branch in Victoria, having served in the Australian Army as a cavalryman for 16 years. Eamon is a regular contributor to Australian Veteran News where this article first appeared.**

the government, politicians, the RSL, the media, the public and even the Shrine itself. From all, statements flew thick and fast, the overarching theme being that this is a sacred place that should never be used for protest.

A minority defended the protesters' actions. They stated that they were standing for freedom and that the Shrine, as a memorial to those who fought for freedom, was the perfect place to express that.

Their arguments were not supported by the majority.

Australians across the country watched the footage on TV and social media. Melburnians, still stuck in lock-

down, watched in disbelief as hundreds climbed all over this sacred memorial to the fallen.

A man named Wade was one of those watching. He was deeply moved by what he saw. A proud Indigenous Australian, he is Dja Dja Warrung, Yorta Yorta, Taungurung and others through his bloodline. He is also a veteran, having served as an artilleryman and deploying on operations. Wade understands the importance of service and honour, having been taught it by his family, a family with a long history of serving Australia in war and conflict.

Wade was so moved by these images that he put on a suit, pinned his own medals and those of his grandfather to his jacket, and marched down to the Shrine.

He didn't do it to join the protest. He didn't pick a side. He did it to ensure that those who had assembled there understood the significance of the sacred place where they were waving their flags and chanting their slogans.

He stood alone among hundreds of protesters, distancing himself and wearing a sombre dark mask to match the sombre feeling of the Shrine.

Wade asked to speak on an organiser's megaphone and waited patiently for his turn to do so. When he did get the opportunity to address the massed crowd, he was hit by his own emotions and it became a simple message:

"I'm here by myself. The only thing I'm asking you is can you just respect the Shrine?"

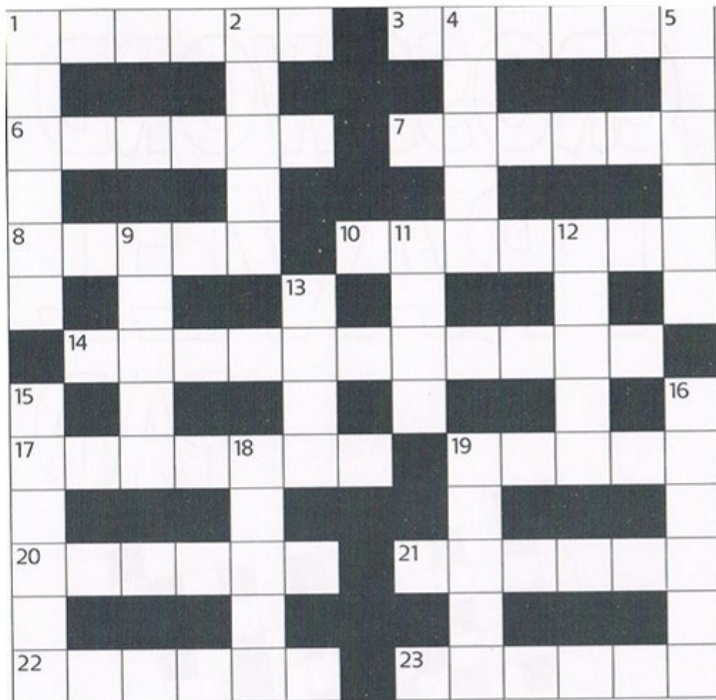
He spoke to those standing on the plinths carved with the names of theatres where Australians have fought, "Can you stand down from there please? Can you get off there?"

"Everyone is entitled to their own peace... I stand here alone, with no one behind me. All I'm asking is just respect the soldiers and the fallen."

- continued page 17.



# JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE ....



## ACROSS

1. Elizabeth \_\_\_\_, Hollywood star (6)
3. Supplies (6)
6. Firework (6)
7. Tobacco-user (6)
8. Praise (5)
10. Mobile home (7)
14. Praiseworthy (11)
17. Curt (7)
19. Group (5)
20. Sir Isaac \_\_\_\_, physicist (6)
21. Wrinkle (6)
22. Wood (6)
23. Amalgamated (6)

## DOWN

1. Country bordering Syria (6)
2. Unconcealed (5)
4. Stop-watch (5)
5. Dwindle (6)
9. Reserved (5)
11. Assistant (4)
12. Personal servant (5)
13. Actress, \_\_\_\_ Simmons (4)
15. Baby's hat (6)
16. Protective plate (6)
18. Unaccompanied (5)
19. Canal-boat (5)

## October Conundrums

1. Turn Me On My Side And I Am Everything. Cut Me In Half And I Am Nothing. What Am I?
2. I Am Heavy And Hard To Pick Up, But Backwards I Am Not. What Am I?
3. If You Have Me, You Want To Share Me. If You Share Me, You Don't Have Me. What Am I?
4. How Can  $8 + 8 = 4$ ?
5. A Cowboy Rides Into A Town On Friday, Stays For Three Days, And Leaves On Friday. How Does He Manage This?
6. Two Scientists Walk Into A Bar. One Asks For H<sub>2</sub>O, The Second Asks For H<sub>2</sub>O, Too. Which Scientist Die
7. David's Father Has Three Sons: Snap, Crackle, And \_\_\_\_?
8. You're In A Dark Room With A Candle, A Wood Stove, And A Gas Lamp. You Only Have One Match, So What Do You Light First?
9. Try this :  $6 + 4 = 210$ ,  $9 + 2 = 711$ ,  $8 + 5 = 313$   
 $5 + 2 = 37$ ,  $7 + 6 = 113$ ,  $9 + 8 = 117$ ,  $10 + 6 = 416$ ,  
 $15 + 3 = 1218$ ,  
 $?? + ?? = 123$

1. What is the color of Donald Duck's bowtie? a) Red b) Yellow c) Blue d) White
2. Which animal does *not* appear in the Chinese zodiac?  
 a) Dragon b) Rabbit c) Dog d) Hummingbird
3. Which planet is the hottest? a) Venus b) Saturn c) Mercury d) Mars
4. Holly Golightly is a character in which film?  
 a) *Breakfast at Tiffanys* b) *Pretty In Pink*  
 c) *Funny Face* d) *Singing In The Rain*
5. How many bones are there in the human body?  
 a) 206 b) 205 c) 201  
 d) 209
6. Fe is the chemical symbol for... a) Zinc  
 b) Hydrogen c) Fluorine d) Iron
7. Who wrote *The Scarlett Letter*? a) Shakespeare  
 b) Stephen King  
 c) Nathaniel Hawthorne d) Ernest Hemingway
8. Who painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling?  
 a) Picasso b) Da Vinci c) Michelangelo  
 d) Van Gogh
9. In which city were Anne Frank and her family in hiding? a) Paris b) Amsterdam c) Brussels d) Frankfurt
10. In the Bible, how does the Virgin Mary learn of her pregnancy with baby Jesus? a) God tells her b) the angel Gabriel tells her c) she has a dream about it d) a doctor tells her
11. Who, in the *Harry Potter* series, is Tom Riddle?  
 a) a student in Harry's class b) a professor at Hogwarts c) Harry's birth father d) Voldemort
12. Which biblical narrative is connected to Palm Sunday? a) Jesus' entry into Jerusalem  
 b) Jesus' resurrection c) Jesus feeding the thousands d) Nothing, it just means to go to church on Sunday/the day of rest
13. As an adult, how many teeth should you have in your mouth? 35 b) 32 c) 30 d) 42
14. How many keys are on a piano?  
 a) 86 b) 87 c) 88 d) 89
15. What was the name of the Greek mythological woman who had snakes for hair? a) Pandora b) Helen c) Cassiopeia d) Medusa
16. "I see dead people" is a line from which horror film... a) *The Sixth Sense* b) *The Grudge*  
 c) *The Shining* d) *The Exorcist*
17. Who founded Microsoft? a) Bill Hader  
 b) Steve Jobs c) Bill Gates d) Mark Zuckerberg
18. In which movie does Anne Hathaway play a poor, homeless woman? a) *The Devil Wears Prada*  
 b) *Les Miserables* c) *The Princess Diaries* d) *Ella Enchanted*
19. The movie *10 Things I Hate About You* was based on which play by Shakespeare:  
 a) *Taming of the Shrew* b) *Hamlet* c) *Romeo and Juliet* d) *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
20. Trivia Question: In 2016, a musician won the Nobel Peace Prize for Literature. Who was it?  
 a) Lenny Kravitz b) Eric Clapton c) Bob Dylan  
 d) Elton John

• ALL ANSWERS PAGE 18

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

SHERLOCK Holmes and Dr Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend: "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

"I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes."

"And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson ponders for a minute: "Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. But what does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes is silent for a moment: "Watson, you idiot! Someone has stolen our tent!"

AN AUSTRALIAN Combat Field Engineer Sergeant and a US Marine were on exchange duty and were sharing the latrines.

The Aussie Sergeant finished first and walked out without washing his hands.

The US Marine watched in disgust, finished his squirt, washed his hands and walked up to the Aussie Sergeant and said: "In the Marine Corps we were taught to wash our hands after a leak."

The rather large Aussie Sergeant replied: "In the Australian Army mate, we were taught not to piss on our hands ...!"

A DRILL sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets, and as he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said: "I guess when I die you'll come and dance on my grave."

The cadet replied, "Not me, Sarge...no sir!

I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another line!"

THROUGH the pitch-black night, the captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship.

He sends a signal: "Change your course ten degrees east."

The light signals back: "Change yours, ten degrees west."

Angry, the captain sends: "I'm a Navy captain! Change your course, sir!"

"I'm a seaman, second class," comes the reply. "Change your course, sir."

Now the captain is furious. "I'm a battleship! I'm not changing course!"

There's one last reply: "I'm a lighthouse. Your call."

BY THE time a Marine pulled into a little town, every hotel room was taken.

"You've got to have a room somewhere," he pleaded, "Or just a bed, I don't care where."

"Well, I do have a double room with one occupant, a Navy guy," admitted the manager, "and he might be glad to split the cost. But to tell you the truth, he snores so loudly that people in adjoining rooms have complained in the past. I'm not sure it'd be worth it to you."

"No problem," the tired Marine assured him. "I'll take it."

The next morning the Marine came down to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

"How'd you sleep?" asked the manager.

"Never better."

The manager was impressed: "No problem with the other guy snoring, then?"

"Nope, I shut him up in no time," said the Marine.

"How'd you manage that?" asked the manager.

"He was already in bed, snoring away, when I came in the room," the Marine explained. "I went over, gave him a kiss on the cheek; said, 'Goodnight, beautiful,' and he sat up all night watching me."

THESE for John Cunningham (see Page 7):

Me: "I love you."

Other: "Is that you or the wine talking?"

Me: "It's me talking to the wine."

I told my wife that a man is like a fine wine ... I always get better with age. The next day, she locked me in the wine cellar.

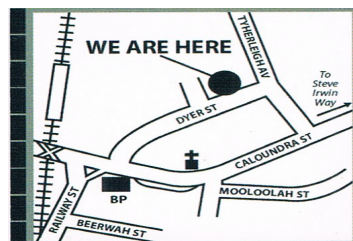




## I've got a crush on you ...



**THOUSANDS** was raised recently for Legacy at an open day at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville. Activities to entertain a large crowd included a “big crush” on this poor car — no it did not have anyone in it, did not belong to a member of the crowd, or did not belong to the RSM. The M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank (also below) weighs 62,000 kilograms.



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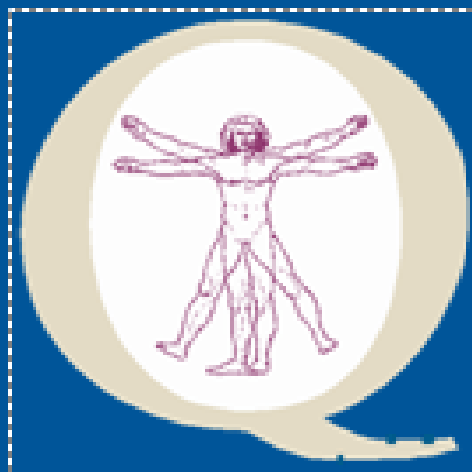
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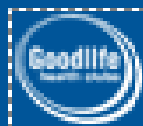
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# OCTOBER TIMELINE: Our first university opens

**1 October 1850:** Founding of the University of Sydney, Australia's first university and among the first public, non-denominational and secular universities in the British Empire. In 1881 it admitted female students on an equal basis with men, one of the first universities in the world to do so.

**1 October 1908:** Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time in the United States.

**1 October 1949:** The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

**4 October 1957:** The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership resulting in US efforts to be the first on the moon.

**8 October 1993:** The UN General Assembly lifted economic sanctions against South Africa following the end of racial apartheid. The sanctions had been imposed since the 1960s.



**13 October 1884:** Greenwich was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

**14 October 1968:** John Zarb is the first person to be found guilty of failing to comply with his call-up notice during the Vietnam War. He is convicted in Melbourne and sentenced to two years in jail.

**16 October 1971:** Australian forces hand over control of the Australian base at Nui Dat to South Vietnamese forces (photo). At its peak the base at Nui Dat was home to about 5000 Australian personnel.

**17-25 October 1944:** The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 US warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese battleship *Musashi*, one of the largest ever built.

**18 October 1973:** Australian Patrick White was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. White's work explores some of humankind's great existential questions in a distinctly Australian environment.

- continued next page.

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



**20 October 1973:** Opening of the Sydney Opera House, one of the 20th century's most iconic buildings. It broke new ground for design and engineering around the world. Since its opening it has become a symbol the world immediately associates with Sydney and Australia. The story of the Opera House is a drama that for more than 15 years grabbed national headlines and pitted the artistic vision of the architect Jorn Utzon against the politics and budgets of the New South Wales Government and the limits of architecture and construction (photo).

**24 October 1889:** Henry Parkes delivered a speech at the Tenterfield School of Arts on the need for the Australian colonies to federate into one nation. The Tenterfield Oration is significant because, although politicians had been discussing federation for some time, this was the first direct appeal to the public.

**24 October 1945:** The United Nations was founded following the Second World War with 51 countries as members.

**26 October 2019:** The Uluru (Ayers Rock) climb was permanently closed after a ceremony at Uluru on this day, exactly 34 years after the government officially returned the lands to the Anangu people.

**28 October 1916:** A referendum to determine public sup-



## October Timeline continued

port for conscription was held and failed by a slim margin; a second took place in December 1917 and again most Australians voted against it. Throughout 1916 Australia had experienced problems meeting the troop supply commitments it had made to the British Government.

**28 October 1962:** The Cuban Missile Crisis ended with the announcement by Soviet Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev that his Soviet government was halting construction of missile bases in Cuba and would remove the offensive missiles. President Kennedy immediately accepted the offer then lifted the US naval blockade of Cuba.

**31 October 1940:** The Battle of Britain concluded. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," said Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Sources included:

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

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

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

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



# ANNIVERSARY FOR PEACEKEEPING

Australian Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Day was commemorated on 14 September, marking the anniversary of the nation's first peacekeeping operation when four Australian military observers entered the field as part of the United Nations Good Offices Committee to Indonesia in 1947.

The Australian War Memorial says the day recognised and remembered the tens of thousands of Australians who have served as members of peacekeeping forces and the 16 whose names are listed on the Roll of Honour.

About 15,000 Australians have taken part in nearly 40 peacekeeping operations, helping to lessen the effects of around 25 different conflicts. Our largest commitment was in East Timor; the smallest was Guatemala, where we sent one observer. Seven Australians have commanded or led multinational peacekeeping operations.

Generally, peacekeepers are not a target them-



selves, but the areas in which they operate are dangerous: fighting may still be taking place, or the leftovers of fighting, such as landmines, may create their own dangers.

More than 1600 personnel from other countries have been killed in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Causes of death have included landmines, one in a plane crash, vehicle accidents, rifle accidents, sickness or disease, and one accidentally drowned.

**ABOVE: Timorese around a medical clinic during the mission there in 1999. — from AWM.**



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## Seahawk reaches milestone on deployment

HMAS Anzac's embarked MH-60R who had become stranded 670 nautical miles off the coast of Western Australia. Seahawk 'Berserker' has reached a milestone of 2000 flight hours while deployed in Southeast Asia.

"This milestone of 2000 flight hours

The helicopter and ship (pictured) was reached supporting a wide variety of different missions, which demonstrates the essential capability of the aircraft," Commander McPherson of Anzac said.

"The flight deck is particularly exposed to the harsh environmental conditions in the region we are operating, and the maintainers have excelled in ensuring the essential capability is available to command."

The MH-60R Seahawk, from 816 SQN, has been attached to Anzac since August 2020, and recently supported the ship's three-month regional presence deployment, as well as the rescue of 20 Indonesian fishermen



Chief Petty Officer Aircraft Technician Avionics Mary-Ann Slavik is the first female flight senior maintenance sailor to lead an MH-60R flight on deployment.

"It's always a team effort and I have a great group of maintainers," she said.

"I think Navy has gone beyond genders and it's about the right team for the job, and that's how it should always be."

### • continued from Page 10

That was it. Short and sharp. His emotions got the better of him and he quickly ducked out of the crowd. He headed for the police line where he put his mask back on, bowed his head and let his tears flow.

But Wade wasn't alone. Behind him stood people across Australia who understand how special and sacred the Shrine is. Who understand the importance of honouring and respecting it, like other sacred sites around Australia.

After the protest had finished, when the crowds had dispersed and the police had been dismissed, a bunch of Wade's mates were waiting, including veterans from my own RSL sub-branch. They had come to do some exercise as one of the five reasons they're allowed to leave home. It was a different form of exercise to the usual joggers and cyclists in Kings Domain though.

With black garbage bags in hand they began cleaning, picking up the trash and detritus the protesters had left behind alcohol cans, cigarette butts, bottles, clothing, food; all manner of rubbish. It all disappeared from the stairs and forecourt into their garbage bags.

Adam Hegarty from Channel 9 asked what they were doing. They replied, "We will not let our house be dirtied in this manner". To them, like Wade, it is more than just a building.

I'm proud to know them. Men like Wade and others who see the world like they do. Who understand the importance of sacred sites like the Shrine of Remembrance to all Australians, regardless of race or creed. They are an inspiration to me.

I love the saying "We walk in the footsteps of giants". On days like today I am reminded that we are sometimes lucky enough to walk beside them too.



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~ Onwards and Forward ~

I BELIEVE that everyone is tired of all the restrictions associated with Covid-19 threat and it is not wrong to ask ourselves, 'When will it all end?'

When can we get back to normal? Where should we stand on the vaccination question?'

As William Shakespeare would have asked, "To jab or not to jab, that is the question!"

As some of you know, for the past five years I have had the honour of serving 1 Australian Task Force and D. E. Platoon Association as their Honorary Chaplain.

The President, John Verhelst, had to cancel our 2020 gathering at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Canberra.

His committee then planned for the reunion to take place in November this year, but with the lockdown situation in NSW and the ACT, that has now been postponed to March 2022.

We are most fortunate at the Dickey Beach Church of Christ to have three ministers. The lead minister is a former senior Army Chaplain, Colonel Peter Willis.

Last Sunday, Peter must have had this topic on his mind, when, in his sermon, he issued the challenge to go out and encourage others during these uncertain days.

## Fireside with the Padre



One of the most practical ways to encourage others is by telephone.

But a personal visit to a fellow member of VVAASC with maybe a small edible morsel in hand, would be most appreciated.

I decided to plagiarize his sermon of last Sunday and encourage fellow VVAASC members to encourage one another.

Annette and I would also like to thank all of you who passed your condolences by message, phone call or card to us on the tragic loss of our little great-grandson who drowned last month on his family's property at Yelarbon, one week short of his fifth birthday.

As his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and many aunts, uncles, and cousins are practicing Christians, our faith assures us that little Ezra is in Heaven, and as we believe, 'safe in the arms of Jesus'.

Amid the heartache and grief of the loss of this beautiful young boy, we can give thanks to God that this

was not a double tragedy, as his 3-year-old brother, Seth, was pulled out of the dam, after floundering in the water, almost to complete exhaustion.

Amid the sorrow, we can say, "God is good!"

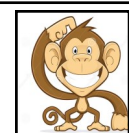
We have been out to Goondiwindi twice since the tragedy happened, once for his funeral, where no church out there was large enough to hold the mourners for his service. 300 family and friends, sadly, without NSW and Victorian families, gathered in the Goondiwindi Botanical Gardens to farewell little Ezra.

We heard what a lovely boy he was, always seeking to help his parents and brothers with his stated aim of wanting to grow up to help his father on the family sheep and cattle property. He is greatly missed.

Until next month, may God bless you all, as you encourage others.

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

## Answers from page 11



### CONUNDRUM

- The number 8.** The number 8 looks like an infinity symbol if it's turned sideways. Cut in half, the digit looks like two zeros
- A ton** is equivalent to 2,000 pounds, but if you spell the word "ton" backwards you get N-O-T
- A secret.** If you share a secret, then it's no longer secretive.
- Thinking in terms of **time**: 8 AM plus 8 hours equals 4 PM.
- He rides his horse**, whose name is Friday
- The second scientist.** Both scientists asked for water but the bartender thought the second scientist asked for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (because he said H<sub>2</sub>O, too). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is actually hydrogen peroxide, which is deadly when ingested
- David**
- The match**
- Split the resulting number "123" into 2 parts - 1 and 23. Those numbers will be 2 results. "1" will be result of "first number minus second number". "23" will be result of "first number plus second number". So it's easy to see that those 2 numbers will be 12 and 11; 12 - 11 = 1 ... 12 + 11 = 23 ... Write them together and you get 123. So the answer is 12 + 11 = 123.

- Red
- Hummingbird
- Venus
- Breakfast at Tiffanys
- 206
- Iron
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Michelangelo
- Amsterdam
- the angel Gabriel tells her
- Voldemort

### TRIVIA .....

- Jesus' entry into Jerusalem
- 32
- 88
- Medusa
- The Sixth Sense*
- Bill Gates
- Les Misérables
- The Taming of the Shrew
- Bob Dylan

### CROSSWORD

**Across:** 1. Taylor, 3 Stores, 6 Rocket, 7. Smoker, 8 Exalt, 10. Caravan, 14 commendable, 17. Offhand, 19. Batch, 20. Newton, 21. Crease, 22 Timber, 23 Merged.

**Down:** 1 Turkey, 2 Overt, 4. Timer, 5. Shrink, 9. Aloof, 11 Aide, 12. Valet, 13. Jean, 15. Bonnet, 16. Shield, 18. Alone, 19. Barge.



# HMAS Sydney lost boat crew off Queensland

Fifty seven years ago this month aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney lost a whaler with five crew during an exercise in the Whitsundays.

The whaler (a 27-foot sail/row boat) failed to return from an exercise involving junior officers independently navigating their boats on a course that would circumnavigate Hook Island before returning to the ship.

The exercise took place over several days and was to prove much more difficult than anticipated due to strong currents, varying sea states and tides coupled with strong winds. The last boat to leave Sydney set off about 5am on Thursday, October 17, 1963, carrying a crew of five. When it failed to return that evening a motor cutter was sent out to search for it, but no trace could be found.



also experienced difficulty with some being towed back to Sydney while the crew of another spent a night camping ashore.

A search for the missing boat, involving several ships, was subse-

quently mounted and it was discovered by *HMAS Anzac* dismasted and swamped about 100km away four days later.

Two years later HMAS Sydney made the first of 27 voyages in support of the Vietnam War.



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



*Over the 11 editions 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. Since, we have continued to publish a monthly roll without the photos. Lest We Forget.*

**LEFT: Cavalry Memorial, Tongala, Victoria.**

### October 1965

Field, Ronald Eric (214479), 22, 1RAR, Pte, War Cemetery, Rookwood, NSW.

Hansen, Allan Robert (214329), 25, 1 RAR, Pte, Crematorium, Rookwood, NSW.

Ross, Thomas (212612), 25, 1 RAR, LCpl, War Cemetery, Rookwood, NSW.

### October 1966

D'Antoine, Gordon Henry (54865), 20, 5 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Warburton, Graham Francis A (3786978), 21, Pte, 5 RAR, Warnambool Cemetery, Vic.

Womal, Norman James (15170), 28, 5 RAR, Cpl, Bowen General Cemetery, Qld.

### October 1967

Freeman, John William (2226078), 21, 1 DivIntel Unit, Pte (Temp. Cpl), Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney.

Harald, Noel Stuart (16141), 30, 2 RAR, Pte, Yeppoon Cemetery, Qld.

O'Shea, Geoffrey (18490), 20, 1SqnSAS, Mulumbimby Cemetery, NSW.

### October 1968

Brewer, Kevin Frederick (6708915), 22, 4 RAR, Pte, Ulverstone Cemetery, Tas.

Byrne, Basil Eric (53741), 32, AFV Amenity & Welfare Unit (RA INF), Cpl (TempSgt), Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Davidson, Barry Norton (2788283), 22, 3 RAR, Pte, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney.

Evans, Paul (1732701), 22, 1 RAR, LCpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Houston, Kenneth Raymond (2787776), 23, 3 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

McInerney, Neil Anthony (217514), 20, 1 RAR, Pte, Gundagai Cemetery, NSW.

Shaw, Keith Charles (55358), 21, 4 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Slattery, John Michael (2787079), 22, 1 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Stahl, Donald Matthew (21934), 44, RAE, att AATT, 1965-66, died PNG 1968), WO1, Forrest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington, NSW.

Thomson, Ian James (2786038), 22, 3 RAR, Pte, Thirlmere Cemetery, NSW.

Tinkham, John Richard (3791207), 21, 4 RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Van Rijsewijk, Paul Richard (5715180), 21, 3 RAR, LCpl, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

### October 1969

Binder, Bernd George Fritz (134994), 21, 9 RAR, Pte, Wangaratta Cemetery, Vic.

Casey, Albert Lesley (218715), 20, 3 CavRegt, Trp, Batlow Cemetery, NSW.

Connors, Ronald Francis (218554), 26, AACC (Att 5 RAR), Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

Duncuff, Alan Leslie (5716228), 21, 1 FldSqn, Spr, Allambie Park Cemetery, Albany, WA.

Hansen, Peter Roy (511317), 23, 6 RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Holloway, John Wallace (3794544), 22, 9 RAR, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

O'Neill, Allan Leslie (36547), 22, Cpl, 2SqnSAS (RA INF), Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Prior, Kevin John (1734329), 22, ( RAR, Pte, Rockhampton Crematorium, Qld.

### October 1970

Davies, Rex William (422514), 25, 7 RAR, 2Lt, Stirling North Garden Cemetery, Port Augusta, SA.

### October 1971

Hall, John (243015), 30, 12 FldRegt, SSgt, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Parker, Roderick Thomas Ross (218346), 27, 12 FldRegt, Sgt, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Scott, Terence Ronald (38649), died 18 Oct 1971 aged 24, served 7 RAR 1967-68, Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Vic.

Schuit, Martinus Jacobus M (4720852), 23, 17 ConstSqn, Spr, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Willoughby, Garry Ian (3797671), 22, 2 RAR, Pte, Lilydale Cemetery, Melbourne.

• *Information and photos from Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces; Find A Grave.*

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

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