



RICOCHET



Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. MARCH 2022

Scooter challenge for veterans



The Scootaville motor-scooter trip, cancelled in previous years because of COVID, will go ahead in September this year.

The 16-day event is a fund-raiser for Legacy with corporate sponsorship on board and significant media coverage expected.

A number of "mature" ex-ADF men and women will each ride scooters from Brisbane to Townsville – via the inland route. The ride will take in Ipswich, Kilcoy, Kingaroy, Mundubbera, Biloela, Emerald, Barcardine, Ilfracombe, Longreach, Winton, Hughenden, Charters Towers, and finally Townsville.

Accommodation, including breakfast and lunch, will be provided and riders will have the option of alternating with another rider every hour so fatigue will never be a problem. An official welcome and entertainment will occur at each overnight stop.

The RAAF Radschool Association is co-ordinating the event and is still looking for participants. At this stage, a number of men and women have taken up the challenge

including two each from British and Canadian veteran associations.

You do not even have to be an experienced motorbike rider; only a car licence is required.

Tuition will be given on how to ride the 50cc scooters, even for those who have never been on a scooter or motorbike. Interested:

Contact the Drop-In Centre to be referred to Trevor Benneworth from the Radschool Association: <https://www.radschool.org.au/scootaville/>

Hopefully, a few members from the Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch of the VVAA will be able to join in the fun.

Also don't forget to purchase a ticket in the raffle which has a prize of a Kymco 4-stroke scooter. See: www.radschool.org.au/raffle. – by John Cunnington.

PICTURED: The Wellshot Hotel in Ilfracombe — a smoko stop; and (right) if you take up the challenge you will be on a moped like this.



INSIDE: Daughter amazed by response to inquiry about father, page 11



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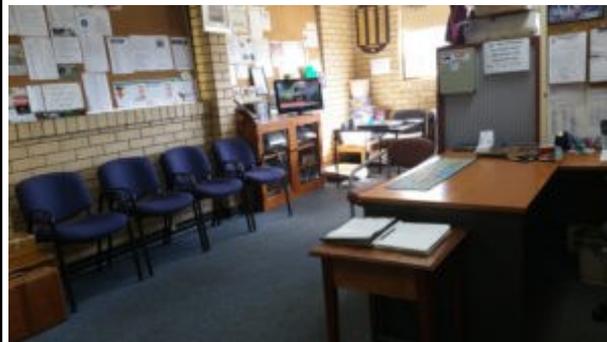
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This service provides counselling and support to all veterans of overseas conflicts. The families of Vietnam Veterans are also able to receive counselling through us. Group programmes include the Lifestyle Management Program (5 days live-in with partner)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

Chinooks used for risky Tongan repair job

The Australian Defence Force has airlifted Tongan technicians to a cloud-obscured peak on Kao Island in Tonga to repair vital telecommunications equipment.

An Australian Army CH-47F Chinook aircrew exploited breaks in the cloud to land on a plateau 3100 feet above sea level, which was near the telecommunications tower.

Operation Tonga Assist 2022 Task Force Commander, Captain Stuart Watters, said it was a great accomplishment.

“ADF aircrews are always training for challenging landings in unfamiliar areas,” Captain Watters said.

“This a good result for the Tongan people. Delivering technicians to repair a key Digicell tower will help restore telecommunications in the central islands.”

Kao Island is a 45-minute flight from Tonga’s international airport.

The pilot of ‘Aussie 993’ was Chinook detachment commander Major Richard Bremner.

“Captain Cameron Dunne, the air-



crew and I could see the tower through a thick band of cloud with some intermittent gaps,” he said.

“We climbed to 3000 feet to become level with the tower and then made our approach.”

The Chinook landed in the vicinity of the tower on a bed of thick ferns.

“The first aircrewman to get out, Corporal Mathew Wielozynski, sank up to his waist in the vegetation,” Major Bremner said.

“Sergeant John van Vegchel and Corporal Justin Keith then helped the technicians and their equipment out of the helicopter.”

A second Chinook was positioned near the island to maintain a search and rescue capability.

The aircrews returned three days later to collect the technicians, who had completed their vital work.

- story by Lieutenant Brendan Trembath, photo Petty Officer Christopher Szumlanski.

Terrible month for Aussies: February ‘67

February 1967 was a terrible month for Australian forces in South Vietnam – included in significant losses were three of the highest-ranking soldiers Australia lost in the war. During the month 23 Australians were killed .

Five Battalion lost two company commanders: Major Donald Bourne (C Coy), who was killed on 14 February, and Major Bruce McQualter (B Coy), who was wounded on 21 February and died on 5 March.

Major Bourne, 36, was killed in action at Xa An Nhut, Phuoc Tuy, by an M26 grenade booby trap. Another Australian officer, Captain Robert Bruce Milligan, 30, and a New Zealand Army Officer, Captain Peter Williams, were also killed, and five other men were wounded.

Major Bourne, is regarded as the most senior Australian officer killed in the war. He served in Korea with the 1st and 3rd Battalions in 1954-55 and later served in Malaya.

He was a graduate of the first class of the

Officer Cadet School (OCS), at Portsea.

Major McQualter, 29, was involved in one of the worst mine incidents of the war when an APC was blown up by an IED in the Long Hais, killing most onboard. Major McQualter left his APC with the HQ element to assess the damage when a member of his team stepped on an M-16 anti-personnel mine which created further casualties, including himself. Nine were killed including Platoon Commander Lieutenant John Caruthers, 28, and 22 wounded, many seriously.

Six Battalion RAR also suffered a significant loss in the same month. Long Tan hero Warrant Officer Class Two Jack Kirby, 31, D Company CSM, was fatally wounded when misdirected artillery rounds from the 161st New Zealand Field Battery landed on the company position on 6 February during Operation Tamborine. He was awarded a DCM for his actions at Long Tan.

PICTURED (from top): Maj. Bourne, Maj. McQualter, WO Jack Kirby. Lest We Forget. (Editor Kerry White was with B Coy, 5RAR in February 1967)



From the President

Good-day to you all, hope you are feeling fit and well. On Tuesday, 22 February, we held our Annual General Meeting at the Drop-In Centre and we had a relatively poor turn-out of Members.

As you will have noticed through other pages within this Issue, nothing has changed regarding the Executive and Committee arrangements with all positions being filled and un-opposed. So, you have us for another year.

However, as I have held my current position for the past seven years, I have decided that this will be my last term as your President and I will not be accepting the Presidential nomination next year.

Things are moving along slowly, but we are getting there. It's been pleasing to note that volunteers for the up-coming Mooloolaba Tri have been responding. At the time of writing this report, we only need to fill four more positions. It appears as though our Secretary's appeals have finally found the mark, thankfully.

At our Committee Meeting I raised the issue of the (regular) Volunteers' outing. I am more than aware that we are late following through with this commitment and I can only blame the Covid situation, plus other imperative Association business for the delay. I apologise for the setback, but can assure you that it has not been overlooked.

Our Association has received an invitation from the Mudjimba RSL Club welcoming all members to their location

on Anzac Day this year to participate in the Gunfire Breakfast and later commemoration at the Mudjimba Park, and again afterwards at their club premises.

Numbers are obviously required for catering purposes on the day so I will have Garry send out another up-dated 'heads-up' and if interested, you can contact either me, Garry or the Drop-In Centre regarding same. I would point out that if you are only going to attend the actual 'March' and 'remembrance service' at the park, then there is no need to register. I hope to see you there on the day.

This will only be a short report because, as previously stated, we have a fair bit on our plate at the present time.

I will wind-up my article by once again thanking Geoff and Johno for the outstanding work they carry out every Thursday morning at the Mooloolaba Surf Club in relation to our veteran's breakfast, which is conducted on the rear balcony of the club. If you have not yet attended one, I would highly recommend taking advantage of the circumstances available.

Well that's it for the time being, in closing, I hope that you all remain safe and well.

Best Regards,
Mick Howe APM J.P. (Qual)
President



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

From the Secretary

As another year rolls around, we find ourselves still carrying the aftermath of Covid albeit not so restricting. Let's hope we can start leading an almost normal existence in 2022.

We had a less than satisfactory attendance at the recent AGM and this continues to portray the waning interest in the day-to-day running of our association. It continues to be the same nucleus of people that have any constructive input.

As Mick Howe expressed in his speech as President at the recent AGM, volunteers are the heart and soul of any not-for-profit organisation, especially VVAASC in 2022 as fund-raising becomes quite difficult to come by.

The upcoming Mooloolaba Triathlon is our kick start for the year and fortunately it appears we have the numbers to support this event.

I will have more to say regarding the Moo Tri in future emails. I would like to thank those members who have already put their hands up.

The management committee remains pretty much unchanged for 2022 except for Office Manager, who is now John Huxham.

The year ahead will follow the similar path to the last

three, focussing on fund-raising and major events i.e. VV Day and Ladies Luncheon at the end of year.

The day-to-day operation of the DIC remains a huge priority and we thank the Duty Officers who donate their time and energy to keep the flag flying.

The requirement for duty officers is an ongoing issue, so if you can possibly help out occasionally, it would be appreciated.

The committee is working through ideas for several social events and we intend to keep members updated regarding outcomes.

In closing, I feel it is appropriate to advise my intentions for year 2023, and that is that I will not be standing for Secretary or Vice President of our association.

This advice is intended to give somebody enough time to make a decision to commit to both or either of fice.

I trust the coming year is kind to one and all.

Kind regards,
Garry King
Secretary



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VVAASC, AGM, TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 2022

Meeting opened 1100hrs.

Ode to the Fallen recited by Garry King; Vice President.

Attendees names as per book and apologies as per book.

Minutes of 2021 AGM read by President Michael Howe.

Moved Michael Howe, seconded Glen Preston.

President's Report: Covid impact on VVAASC Drop In Centre. Fewer General Meetings however when Covid restrictions permitted a good attendance to Committee Meetings. Mr Howe advised he will not stand for President 2023.

Audit Report: Treasurer Mr Glen Preston read the Audit Report for 2022. Moved Mr Glen Preston, seconded Mr David Christie.

All positions declared "Vacant" by Patron Mr Laurie Drinkwater.

There being no objections the 2022 elected Members are as follows...

President- Mr Michael Howe, Vice President – Mr Garry King, Secretary – Mr Garry King, Junior Vice President – Mr Gordon Hall, Treasurer – Mr Glen Preston, Membership Officer – Mr Pieter Reus, Assistant Secretary – Mrs Christine Wessels and Office Manager –

Mr John Huxham.

The Committee for 2022 being John Cunnington (VV DAY), Athol Johnston (Merchandise), Col Parkin, John Huxham, Bob Johnson, Kerry White (Editor of Ricochet), Pieter Reus and Chris Wessels.

Sub Committee 2022 – John Cunnington, Graeme Scott, and John Huxham.

The following to continue in their current positions: Arthur Fry - Padre, John Woodall – Legal Advisor, Alec Chesters – Hospital Visitor, Helena Smith – Suicide Prevention, Ian (Ernie) Hartshoorn – Well-being Officer. Meeting closed at 1120hrs.



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HEADING HOME
THE END ... 50 years ago last month, Aussie Diggers about to head home on HMAS Sydney.— AWM photo.



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OBITUARY: Eric Archinal

Eric Archinal was born at Miles in Queensland on 23 September 1948. That date was one of the balloted dates for National Service and Eric was called to service our nation.

Eric (pictured) enlisted on 8 July 1969. After recruitment training at 3 Training Battalion, Singleton he was posted to 8 Medium Regiment, Holsworthy for Artillery Corps training.

On 4 December 1969 he was posted to 1 Field Regiment and on 11 March 1970 he deployed to Vietnam for a year of operational service as a Gunner. Eric returned to Australia on 11 March 1971, where he was posted to 1 Field Regiment until discharged on 7 July 1971.

With his National Service complete, he returned to civilian life where he worked in a wide range of jobs before finally settling on a 30 years career at Queensland Railway. There his job was ensuring safety of the tracks for travel. At retirement from the railway, he was in the role of Foreman Supervisor.



Eric and his wife Robyn moved to the Sunshine Coast in 2003 for their retirement.

Eric was a proud member of the RSL for 26 years, including many as a member of the Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch, where he served on the Committee and was a regular at Friday afternoon drinks. He was a member of the Sunshine Coast Sub branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and a member of 4th Field Regiment (SVN) Association.

Following a long battle with ill health, Eric passed away at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital on 25 January 2022. He loved his family and doted on his grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Robyn, daughter Kylie, sons Damien and Brendan and grandchildren Zac, Bailey, Toby, Chloe and Jessica. Vale Eric.

— by Terry Dwan.



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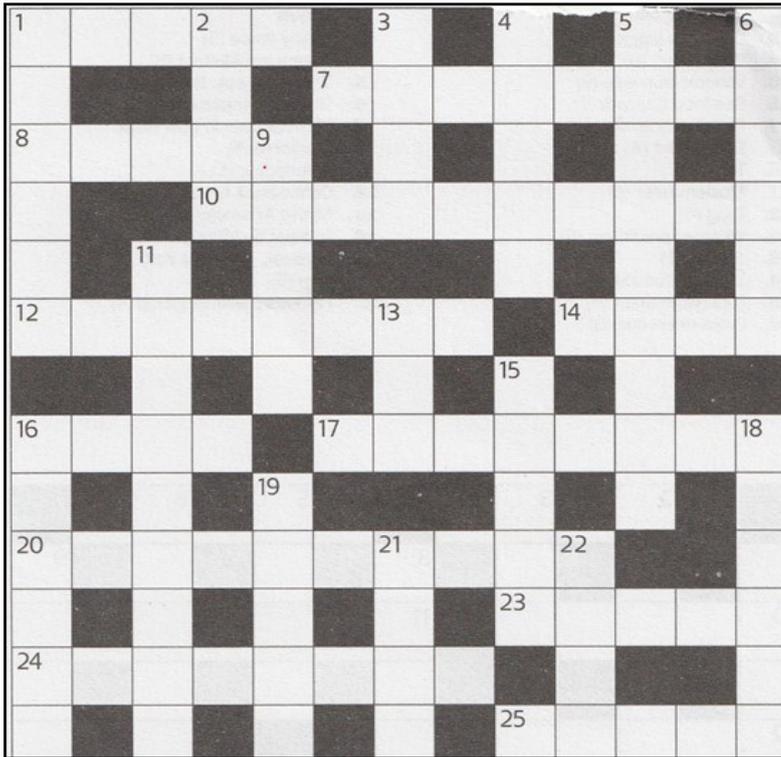
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JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE



Across

- 1. Particle of snow (5)
- 7. Cure rate (anag) (8)
- 8. Resides (5)
- 10. Defeated (10)
- 12. Jam (8)
- 14. Scuffle (4)
- 16. Hike (4)
- 17. Emphasised (8)
- 20. Amass (10)
- 23. Religious songs (5)
- Epidemic (8)
- 25. Start (5)

- 1. Stimulus (6)
- 2. Capital of Ukraine (4)
- 3. Country bordering Jordan (4)
- 4. Implied, unspoken (5)
- 5. Sanction (9)
- 6. Fatal (6)
- 9. Kept (5)
- 11. Copy (9)
- 13. Scrutinise (3)
- 15. Ships dock (5)
- 16. Lethal..., film (6)
- 18. Blue-black fruit (6)
- 19. Smug look (5)
- 21. Borrowed money (4)
- 22. Jane ..., Bronte novel (4)

Down

Quick Quiz

- 1. What two things can you never eat for breakfast?
- 2. What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
- 3. What tastes better than it smells?
- 4. What kind of room has no doors or windows?
- 5. Why did the wombat decide to cross over the road?
- 6. Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants?
- 7. Where did the two baked beans that hitchhiked around Australia end up?
- 8. The Sergeant was addressing a squad of 25 recruits: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here. Which one of you wants it?" 24 men raised their hands. One didn't. The Sergeant approached him. "Why didn't you raise your hand?"

- 1. What does a funambulist walk on?
- 2. On a dartboard, what number is directly opposite No. 1?
- 3. Which Australian Aborigine appears on the fifty dollar note?
- 4. What geometric shape is generally used for stop signs?
- 5. How many colors are there in a rainbow?
- 6. TRUE OR FALSE - A scientific study on peanuts in bars found traces of over 100 unique specimens of urine.
- 7. TRUE OR FALSE - The Lego Group was founded in 1932.
- 8. What is the name of Poland in Polish?
- 9. Which restaurant's mascot is a clown?
- 10. What is Cynophobia the fear of?
- 11. TRUE OR FALSE - Vietnam's national flag is a red star in front of a yellow background.
- 12. The Flag of the European Union has how many stars on it?
- 13. Who is the author of Jurassic Park? What item is the werewolf most afraid of?
- 14. What is the world's most expensive spice by weight?
- 15. TRUE OR FALSE - The sum of all the numbers on a roulette wheel is 666. Answer: TRUE
- 16. TRUE OR FALSE - There are 86400 seconds in a day.
- 17. What is a "dakimakura"?
- 18. TRUE OR FALSE - An eggplant is a vegetable.
- 19. What is the unit of currency in Laos?
- 20. What alcoholic drink is mainly made from juniper berries?
- 21. Which Italian automobile manufacturer gained majority control of U.S. automobile manufacturer Chrysler in 2011?
- 22. What is the last letter of the Greek alphabet?
- 23. What was the soft drink Pepsi originally introduced as?
- 24. When did the website "Facebook" launch?
- 25. TRUE OR FALSE - "Santa Claus" is a variety of melon.
- 26. What was the original name of the search engine "Google"?
- 27. Where did the pineapple plant originate?
- 28. What year was Queen Elizabeth II born?

• ALL ANSWERS PAGE 17

Has Vietnam veteran found legendary Lasseter's Reef?

Vietnam War veteran and explorer Bill Decarli believes he has found the fabled gold deposit of Lasseter's Reef, to the east of the MacDonnell Ranges near the Northern Territory-Queensland border.

Since early in the 20th-century gold prospector Harold Bell Lasseter publicly and vaguely claimed that an enormous gold-bearing quartz reef existed somewhere in Central Australia, hundreds of treasure hunters have scoured the area in vain.

While watching a 1979 documentary, *The Legend of Lasseter*, presented by Mike Willesee, Bill had a mind-blowing

epiphany, according to *Australian Geographic* (Kristin Lee, 2 February 2022). With his navigational skills, he realised Lasseter certainly knew about the reef's existence, but somehow got his bearings muddled.

"The army uses a technique known as a reverse or reciprocal bearing," Bill explains. "When something or someone needs to remain hidden or safe, its actual location is in the exact opposite direction."

In 1991 he and his nephew Michael Valle made their maiden pilgrimage intent on locating the reef.

"After following the Tropic of Capricorn to the east of Alice Springs, to our amazement we found a giant milky-white quartz outcrop, also known as a quartz blow," Bill (pictured) says.



"They appear to be standing at the end of the approximately 16km-long quartz reef, while a Quaker hat formation is located 56km to the south-east. These features can only be seen when approached from the west, something Lasseter had indicated."

"After following the Tropic of Capricorn to the east of Alice Springs, to our amazement we found a giant milky-white quartz outcrop, also known as a quartz blow," Bill says. "From there, we could clearly see what Lasseter described as the 'three hills that could not be mistaken', which he also referred to as the 'three sisters'."

"They appear to be standing at the end of the approximately 16km-long quartz reef, while a Quaker hat formation is located 56km to the south-east. These features can only be seen when approached from the west, something Lasseter had indicated."

With another nine trips to the reef during the following 30 years, and the use of more sophisticated Google Earth maps, other notable landmarks have been identified from Lasseter's diary.

According to Bill, surface samples taken from the reef that he's found have so far proven to be gold-positive. With COVID putting his exploration activities on hold for now, more investigation is needed to determine just how rich the reef really is.

[Footnote: DVA's Nominal Roll lists a Dullio Decarli (1203145), born Trieste Venetia Giulia, Italy, 1 February 1947; served in Vietnam as a Trooper with A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 24 February 1971 to 18 November 1971.]



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A Vietnam veteran's daughter was surprised by the response she received to an inquiry about her father as he nears the end of life.

"I am currently in the process of arranging the last chapter of my Dad's life, as he is in care in the final stages of Alzheimer's Dementia," she has written on Facebook.

"My Dad is a Vietnam Vet, Flight Sergeant, 35 Sqdn R.T.F.V (RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam), an original 'Wallaby Airlines' member, and one of the people who undertook Caribou training in Canada and the US in 1963/64.

Daughter amazed by response on Dad

"I was at a loss as to how to proceed 'correctly' with arrangements and protocols for a VV funeral so contacted Wallaby Airlines – 35 Squadron, for guidance.

" 'Sambo'(RFTV-35 Sqdn.org) contacted me by email and phone, and posted about my situation on the website, as well as contacting people in his own network.

"OH...MY...GOODNESS!

"In the last three days I have had an absolute avalanche of emails, calls,

and messages from people who either knew my Dad, or offered me the support and guidance I needed," she wrote on 13 February.

"I am in a constant state of humbled goose-bumps with the volume of support and memories offered. The

words 'Thank you' are just not enough.

Along with the words have come photos – absolutely priceless!

I would like to share here one of them, along with the description.

Names have been removed as per the request of the owner, who wrote:

"Photo was taken at Alice Springs just before we departed in A4-140 for Richmond on the last leg of the first Caribou ferry flight from Toronto, Canada – the date was 22 April 1964.

Bill (my Dad, far right – overalls) had been one of the maintenance party that was sent up to Butterworth to service the Caribous on their way to Richmond; the chap next to him is a Rad Tech, who had come with us all the way from Toronto.

"This was the first RAAF Caribou to land in Australia; A4-134 should have first but was slightly delayed at Jakarta so we were first in to Darwin (So Dad was in the first Caribou to land in Australia)."— photo AP.



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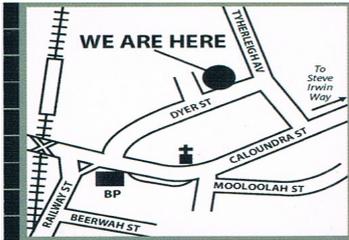
BTPhysiotherapy.com.au



Special guests at lunch



AT THE February Riflemen's Lunch Laurie Drinkwater had special guests, his grandson Lawrence with wife Zakiya. Lawrence has since been sworn in to the Army and left for recruit training at Kapooka on 7 February. Also at lunch (above left), Kev Lynch took a selfie with a couple of 9 RAR mates.



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Confucius did not say...

1. Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.
2. Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent.
3. Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.
4. Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.
5. Man who eats many prunes get good run for money.
6. War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.
7. Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.
8. Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.
9. Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.
10. Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.

... and, Confucius did not

say: "A lion will not cheat on his wife, but a Tiger Wood!"

OUT shopping with his grandpa, a boy got lost at the shopping centre. He approached a security officer:

"I've lost my grandpa!"

"What's his name," the officer asked.

"Grandpa."

The guard smiled and asked, "What's he like?"
"Crown Royal Whisky and women with big boobs."

WIFE texts husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with a hammer."

Wife texts back 10 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."

WHO said to whom? "I never called you stupid, but when I asked you to spell 'orange' and you asked me 'the fruit or the colour', it sort of caught me off guard.

WIFE: I have a bag full of used clothing I would like to donate.

Husband: Why not just throw it in the trash? That is much easier.

Wife: But there are poor starving people who could really use these clothes.

Husband: Honey, anyone who fits into your clothing is not starving.

Husband is recovering well from a head injury. >>>

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The application for an electric scooter or wheelchair involves a comprehensive process and may take some time as it requires prior approval from DVA. To start the application process, talk to your general practitioner (GP) or medical specialist first as they will need to complete a medical questionnaire.

Once you have medical clearance your ActivOT OT can complete the next steps. Your OT will visit you in

your home environment and assist you to work out what item will best suit your needs and make sure you have somewhere safe and secure to store it and charge it. Once approved your OT will arrange a trial of suitable electric scooters or wheelchairs to take place at your home. Then once it is delivered your OT will continue to work with you to ensure you can safely operate the scooter or wheelchair.

We are happy to assist you in accessing eligible products and services you are entitled to through the DVA RAP program. It is always our aim to work with you to help keep you living safely and independently in your home for as long as possible.

**Warmest wishes,
Your ActivOT OT
Nora**

**Nora English
Occupational Therapist
M: 0435874440
E: nora@activot.com.au**



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

- from previous page

AN AMERICAN General and Viet Cong General were discussing who would have won if the war had continued. Unable to agree they decided to hold a competition between the US Army, the Green Berets and the Vietcong.

The competition was simple, whoever could catch a rabbit the fastest in the jungle would be declared the winner.

The US Army went in first, and for over a week all that could be heard from the jungle was the sound of machine guns and mortar fire. Eventually they came out and admitted defeat.

Next in were the Green Berets who spent ages in the jungle laying trip wires and surveillance cameras. But they too couldn't see a rabbit never mind catch one.

Finally the Viet Cong went in, the Americans scoffed at the ragtag bunch, thinking, if we couldn't catch a rabbit, these guys haven't got a hope in hell.

About an hour later the Viet Cong emerge from the jungle holding a flying squirrel by the ears and declare themselves the winners. The Americans confused say: "But that's not a rabbit!"

The Viet Cong puts a gun to the squirrel's head and it starts shouting: "I'm a rabbit, I'm a rabbit!"



TWO Aussies are drinking together. One says, "When I die, will you promise to pour a beer on my grave?"

The other replies, "No worries mate, but I'll have to pass it through my kidneys first."

HISTORIANS in Ireland have discovered what they believe to be the headstone (above) of the world's oldest ever man ... He was 193 and his name was Miles from Dublin.

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Australia's darkest hour — 80 years ago

The fall of Singapore on February 15, 1942 and the first Japanese bombing of Darwin four days later tower over any other political, cultural or military event in Australian history.

The horror of those few days puts even the 1915 Anzac landing at Gallipoli into context as a symbol of emerging national identity rather than a portent of impending doom for this still free, youthful, British-inspired, liberal democracy in the Asia Pacific.

In February 1942, Australia was a weak and vulnerable home to just seven million people, still looking anxiously to Britain for not merely -military protection, but trade, immigration inflows and cultural cues.

Yet when the British lost Singapore, even then prime minister Winston Churchill, who had used Britain's colossal military disaster at -Dunkirk almost two years previously as an inspiration for his rallying "we shall fight on the beaches" speech, nearly lost his nerve.

The British leader was reliably reported as being "stupefied" at the enormity of the British loss while in Australia, a federal government led by prime minister John Curtin was painfully aware Australia had not the resources, manpower or possibly even the will and courage to fight the expected Japanese invasion.

When Darwin was bombed on February 19, the nation

Forget Gallipoli. Singapore had fallen, Darwin was bombed, and Australia was convinced Japanese hordes were advancing on our helpless country. By Michael Madigan, The Courier-Mail, 15 February 2022.

(contrary to popular myth) was told about it in front-page news headlines, even if the number of casualties was repressed.

In the days following, the twin calamities of Singapore and Darwin fused into a genuine existential -horror, which was not a virus, not a threat of environmental -destruction at an unspecified future date, not some crisis of confidence in an elected -government, not even some natural disaster costing scores of lives.

Rather, Australians believed themselves to be facing utter destruction at the hands of an aggressively expansionist and rapidly modernising Japanese nation, which still believed in a God king and was prepared to fight a form of holy war for global dominion, all aided and abetted by Nazi Germany.

More than 22,000 Australians were suddenly in Japanese hands, 8000 would die, British dominion in South-East Asia had collapsed and Australians were convinced Japanese divisions were descending down through the Torres Strait to ravage the northern half of the nation. >>>

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• from previous page.

That Japan was planning a bombing campaign rather than a land invasion and merely using Australia as a strategic pawn on its global chess board made little difference.

“He’s coming South,” was the headline of one propaganda poster released by the Curtin government, featuring a giant rifle-wielding Japanese soldier (pictured), whose left foot appeared to cover most of Western Australia.

Yet Australians – as our dwindling population of World War II era seniors such as 90-year-old Brisbane man Everald Compton recalls – held their nerve, unified as a nation, obeyed harsh new laws rationing food and clothing, saved every last drop of petrol and grimly dispatched 7000 sons northward to die in the New Guinea Campaign as Australia turned its military focus from the Middle East to “our” war.

This was “ordinary” life for years on end – death, deprivation, fear, horror and an air raid shelter in the back yard – and all of it endured without counselling, mental health centres or even post-traumatic services for returning soldiers.

Almost no one today, living out our safe, abundant, climate-controlled lives, can comprehend it, yet 80 years

ago, ordinary Australians not merely endured it, but transcended it. The then youthful generation who held the line in -Australia’s war years came home, tended their wounds, dried their tears and went on to build one of the most - successful, prosperous, tolerant and sophisticated nations on Earth.



Like the Great War Diggers a generation ago, the heroes of Singapore and Darwin are almost all gone. Those lucky enough to survive imprisonment by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore had ongoing health issues and a reduced life expectancy.

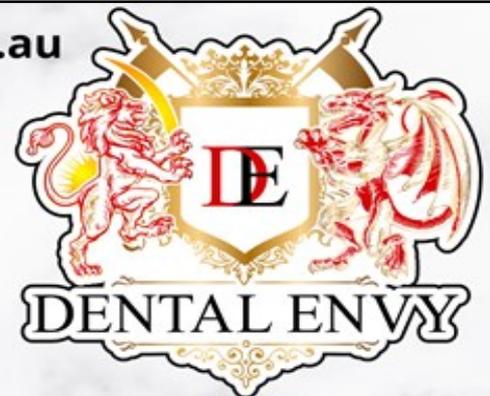
Their numbers have grown small, but our debt to them is large. We’d do well to take at least some instruction from them. They demonstrated an admirable capacity to face a chaotic world with grim determination and fortitude, absorbing the slings and arrows of a genuinely outrageous fortune without buckling and breaking under the pressure.

And they soldiered on for decades after the war’s end -before bequeathing to their children a world, which had it materialised before them in those dark “bread and dripping” years, would have appeared as some sort of strange paradise of unimaginable luxury and privilege, all being enjoyed by their sons and daughters amid relative peace, security and prosperity.



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Have you ever wondered how Chaplains are recruited into the ADF? In my era, (1960 to 1986.) Padres, or Chaplains, were chosen according to the percentages of members who nominated a particular religion when they enlisted.

If there were, say, 10 per cent claiming they were Anglicans, then 10 per cent of the Chaplaincy force had to be Anglican. Chaplains were selected from three major sub-sections – Roman Catholic, Anglican and OPD (Other Protestant Denominations,) being Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Churches of Christ ordained pastors and priests.

I am reliably informed that, for at least the past 20 years, this practice no longer exists. In fact, the preponderance of OPD Chaplains is the norm these days. In an Army comparison of personnel with a faith in 2003 and in 2015, showed a decline in all ADF personnel who professed a Christian belief, during that 12-year period.

In 1977, the Uniting Church was formed in Australia from Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.

Most Methodist Churches went into the Uniting Church while some Presbyterian and Congregational churches did not.

Presbyterians who did not called themselves 'the Continuing Presbyterian Church' and successfully operate that way today.

Many Congregational Churches did not join in Union but continued by State affiliations, which later joined with the New South Wales body, 'Fellowship of Congregational Churches' and became the Australian representative of the former Congregationalists who did not enter into Union. As most of you know, I was a continuing Congregational minister, who attends a Churches of Christ Church locally with my wife.

The greatest change in Defence Force Chaplaincy came with the formation of the Religious Advisory Commit-

tee to the Services (RACS) in 1981. The Committee is made up of representatives from Catholic and Protestant denominations, and includes non-

Christian groups, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, and Hindu representatives. This committee included non-Christian faiths due to the changing demographics in our nation.

There are 10 members on the RACS under the Chairmanship of Monsignor Peter O'Keefe, AM who is a former Air Force Chaplain. The FCC Secretary advised me that he had applied to the ADF requesting that I be appointed to the RACS. With my resignation from pastoral work in my last pastorate, due to injury, this application was withdrawn.

The RACS does not include current uniformed personnel, nor does the RACS have any input into enlistment of Chaplains. Nor does the representatives on that committee reflect the numbers of followers of their faith in the ADF.

For example, one Buddhist representative who has one vote out of 10, represents only 0.30 per cent of the ADF uniformed members. Each committee member's vote has the same value, meaning this committee is not percentage based.

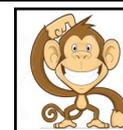
Until next time, may God bless us as we approach the Easter season, and prepare ourselves to acknowledge Jesus' death, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. I encourage all who have served our nation to take the family with you to a church of your choosing this Easter.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

Fireside with the Padre



Answers from page 9



Trivia Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A Tight Rope | 15. TRUE |
| 2. 19 | 16. TRUE |
| 3. David Unaipon (photo) | 17. A body pillow |
| 4. Octagon | 18. FALSE |
| 5. 7 | 19. Kip |
| 6. FALSE | 20. Gin |
| 7. TRUE | 21. Fiat |
| 10. Polska | 22. Omega |
| 8. McDonald's | 23. Brad's Drink |
| 9. Dogs | 24. 2004 |
| 10. FALSE | 25. TRUE |
| 11. 12 | 26. BackRub |
| 12. Michael Crichton | 27. South America |
| 13. Silver | 28. 1926 |
| 14. Saffron | |



Crossword Solutions

Across: 1. Flake, 7. Creature, 8 Lives, 10. Vanquished, 12. Preserve, 14. Fray, 16. Walk, 17. Stressed, 20. Accumulate, 23 Hymns, 24 Outbreak, 25. Begin.

Down: 1.Fillip, 2. Kiev, 3. Iraq, 4. Tacit, 5. Authorise, 6. Deadly, 9. Saved, 11. Replicate, 13. Vet, 15. Berth, 16. Weapon, 18. Damsion, 19. Smirk, 21. Loan, 22. Eyre.

Quick Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Lunch and Dinner | In Cairns |
| 2. A clock | 7. "Too much trouble, Sarge," was the reply. He got the job. |
| 3. A Tongue | |
| 4. A Mushroom | |
| 5. To see his flatmate | |
| 6. In case he got a hole in one | |



March Timeline — from Watergate to 747 horror

1 March 1974: Seven former high-ranking officials of the Nixon White House were indicted for conspiring to obstruct the investigation into the Watergate break-in.

2 March 2 1943: During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began. Four destroyers and eight transports were sunk, resulting in 3500 Japanese drowned, ending Japanese efforts to send reinforcements to New Guinea.

4 March 1804: The Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804, Australia's first uprising by a group of Irish convicts resulted in the death of at least 39 convicts in both 'Australia's Battle of Vinegar Hill' itself and ensuing martial law punishments.

4 March 1899: More than 300 people died in northern Australia when hit by Cyclone Mahina, the deadliest tropical cyclone in Australia's recorded history, and probably one of the most intense ever recorded.

12 March 1913: The Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman, announced that Canberra was the name of Australia's new national capital.

12 March 1921: Edith Cowan became the first woman elected to an Australian parliament – in Western Australia. She only held her seat for a single term. It was 1943 before women were elected to the Federal parliament – Enid Lyons became the Member for Darwin (Tasmania) in the House of Representatives, and Dorothy Tangney was elected to represent Western Australia in the Senate.

13 March 1943: A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator. Another attempt on 21 March also failed.

17 March: Celebrated as Saint Patrick's Day commemorating the patron saint of Ireland. It is said to be the date of St. Patrick's death around AD493).

19 March 1932: the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened to the public, marking the end of almost a century of speculation and planning around a bridge or tunnel that would cross the harbour.

19 March 2003: Start of the Iraq War, a protracted armed conflict from 2003 to 2011 that began with the invasion of Iraq by the United States-led coalition which overthrew the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein.

25 March 1807: The British Parliament abolished the slave trade following a long campaign against it by Quakers and others.

27 March 27 1977: The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred when two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.



SYDNEY Harbour Bridge 1930.— National Museum photo.

Sources include:

<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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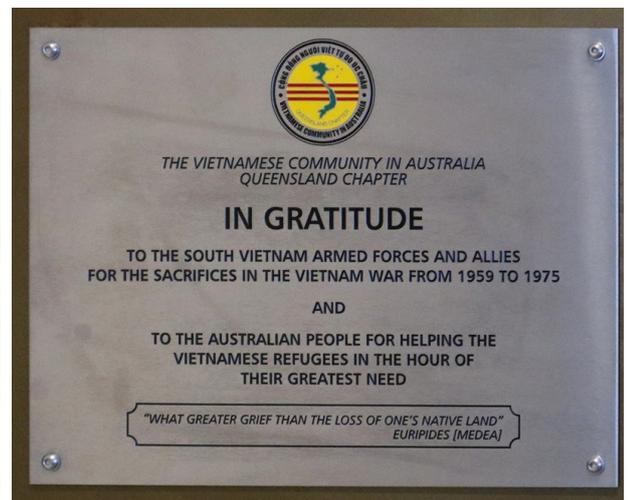
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Brisbane's Shrine

Opened in 1930, Anzac Square is the State War Memorial of Queensland; a significant public and historical site dedicated to the men and women who have served their country in conflict and in peace since the Boer War. Features include the spectacular Shrine of Remembrance and Eternal Flame, It includes a World War One Memorial Gallery (left), a World War Two Memorial Gallery (below left) and a Post World War II Memorial and Exhibition Gallery (below a plaque in gratitude from the Queensland Vietnamese Community).



Roll of Honour – Vietnam, March 1962-75

March 1966

BAXTER, Lionel James (1200128), 28, Pte, 1 RAR, Warwick (RSL) Cemetery Qld

McDONNELL, Leslie Charles (54026), 28, Cpl, 1 RAR, Karrakatta Cemetery WA

PHILLIPS, Thomas Dudley (42352), 38, Sgt (Temp.WO2) AATTV, Woden Cemetery ACT

March 1967

BRACEWELL, Dennis Hampton (2782525), 21, Pte, 6 RAR, Rookwood Crematorium NSW

HART, Peter Richard (2781944), 22, Pte, 6 RAR, Woronora General Cemetery NSW

LOGAN, Barry Arthur (38324), 19, Sig., RA Sigs, 552 SigTrp (att 11 US Armoured Cavalry Regiment), Garden of Remembrance, Springvale Vic.

McQUALTER, Malcolm Bruce (235136), 29, Capt. (Temp. Maj) 5RAR, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Chatswood NSW

March 1968

COLES, Kevin George (55294), 21, Pte, 3 RAR, Kalgoorlie Cemetery WA

COOMBS, Geoffrey John (6708750), 22, Spr, 1 Fld Sqdn, Smithton Cemetery Tas.

FRASER, John (1731113), 23, 2LT, 3 RAR, Pinnaroo

Cemetery and Crematorium Qld

LYONS, Peter James (2276248), 24, Pte, 2 RAR, Junee Old Cemetery NSW

PLAIN, Douglas Brian (3789448), 22, Pte, 1 ATF, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Vic.

RAPP, John Robert (1201087), 22, Pte, 3 RAR, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood NSW

TOBIN, Vincent John (55251), 24, Spr, 1 FldSqdn, Karrakatta Cemetery WA

March 1969

DAWSON, Peter (38077), 24, Cpl, 4 RAR, Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park Vic.

GILBERT, George Geoffrey (14900), 29, Cpl, 5 RAR, Liverpool New Cemetery NSW

MANICOLA, Joseph George (3793137), 22, Pte, UL S Comd EX 1 Aust Rft Unit (RA INF), Springvale Garden Remembrance, Vic.

SCALES, Grantley James (4719367), Pte, 20, 9 RAR, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide SA.

SMITH, Bernard Lyle (42252), 29, Sgt, 5 RAR, Wallaroo Cemetery SA

March 1970

ANTON, Ross David (218193), 19, Temp. BDR, 4 FldRegt, Crematorium, Chatswood NSW

‘At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them ...’



Perth War Cemetery and Annex at Karrakatta Cemetery in Western Australia.

Roll of Honour information 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.