



Monthly newsletter of VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. JULY 2023

Honouring our canine heroes

Since World War I, Australian Defence Force dogs have shown enormous courage, unwavering loyalty and commitment to hard work during training activities and on operations overseas.

They've served in Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, Singapore, Somalia, Bougainville, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Afghanistan and Malaysia.

Recently dogs that served in Afghanistan were honoured with a plaque added to the others on the plinth of the National War Dog Memorial at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast. **PHOTO: Afghanistan veterans Force Hudson, left (with Preston) and Craig Turnbull were on hand to unveil the plaque.**

Leo van de Kamp, a Vietnam War veteran and inaugural president of the Australian Defence Force Trackers & War Dogs Association, conducted the service which was attended by RSL Vietnam veterans, Afghanistan veterans, family members and other supporters.

The plaque lists the names of 74 dogs that served in on Operation Slip-



per in Afghanistan including 10 killed in action.

Mr Hudson related how his dog, Quake, saved his life by detecting an intended ambush which would have seen him killed instead of his dog.

Most of those in Afghanistan were Royal Australian Engineers explosive detection dogs and others were Special Air Service explosive combat detection dogs like Quake.

More 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

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

General information Page 2 INCLUDING OFFICE NEWS.

Veterans & Families Counselling

OPEN ARMS

1800 011 046



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSN of AUSTRALIA SUNSHINE COAST

SUB-BRANCH Inc.

PATRON: Laurie Drinkwater (pictured)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Michael Howe APM JP (Qual)
Senior V/President	Garry King
Junior V/President	Gordon Hall
Secretary	Garry King
Treasurer	Deb Day

Committee Members:

VACANT	Membership
Kerry White	<i>Ricochet</i> Editor
John Cunningham	VV Day
Athol Johnson	Merchandise
Chris Wessels	Assistant Secretary
John Huxham	Office Manager
Bob Johnson	
Mike Dalton	

Office Bearers

Graham Scott	DHJ project
Geoff Jewell	Thursday Breakfast
Noel Woodall	Honorary Lawyer
Arthur Fry	Honorary Chaplain
Frank Redpath	Auditor
Michael Sheahan	Advertising/Marketing
Mike Holt	Info. Tech. Manager
Michael Howe	Grants Officer
Margo Christie	Asst Office Manager

ADVOCATE TEAM

Compensation Advocates

Helena Smith JP (Qual)	0439241442
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Hospital Visitation

Alec Chesters	54761594
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Mentor/Assessor

Helena Smith	0439241442
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Mentor/Well-Being Officer

Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn	0422670080
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Air Force Association	Chris Wessels
Tracker Dogs Assn.	Ian Atkinson
Mooloolaba Surf Club	Kevin Lynch
Buderim Hospital	Alec Chesters
Army Cadets/ARES	Squizzy Taylor
Air Force Cadets	Chris Wessels
Naval Cadets	Carl Britz

DISCLAIMER: The committee of Vietnam Veteran Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch Inc. and its individual members take no responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this newsletter, nor accept liability for any loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly from the use of information contained in this newsletter, and do not warrant that opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, this Sub-branch or the Sub-branch Committee, including individual members.

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

E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE OPEN Monday to Friday 0900 to 1200 (9am — noon).

WANTED: DUTY OFFICER for Monday mornings; also one wanted available for relief (contact office).

POSH MEETINGS: Partners Offering Support and Hope meet Friday 1-4pm, informal gathering in the meeting room beside the Drop in Centre. Coffee/tea/chat.

MEMBERSHIP fees are due annually on 31 December. Renewal form on website or with mail-out *Ricochet*.

NEXT meeting Thursday, 20 July, 11am. NOTE: Meetings on Thursdays until further notice.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)

129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.

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Veterans & Families Counselling

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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.

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

Unit first with King's Colours

With the coronation of the new monarch earlier this year, the 6 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, became the first Army unit to unveil new King's and Regimental Colours. Governor-General David Hurley was the reviewing officer. The new Colours were uncased and paraded in front of hundreds of current and ex-serving 6RAR personnel at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, recently to mark the battalion's 58th birthday. New theatre honours for Iraq and East Timor, and the Afghanistan Streamer joined names like Long Tan and other honours of the regiment - battles and operations woven into the fabric of infantry history. The parade was excellent and a nice touch was the marching off of the old



Colours to the tune of Auld Lang Syne with former battalion members invited to form an Honour Guard. – photo Cpl Jacob Joseph. RIGHT: Former 6 RAR RSMs at the parade included (from left) Peter Stammers, Rick Brittain, with the Governor-General, and Col Goodwin.



DAY TO REMEMBER OUR FOUR-LEGGED COMRADES

Following on from the Page 1 article on the plaque unveiling for Afghanistan military dogs, here is an item that appeared earlier this month on Anzac Square & Memorial Galleries Facebook page:

June 7 was chosen for this commemoration day as it is the anniversary of the death of Sapper Darren Smith and Explosive Detection Dog Herbie in 2010 in Afghanistan. However, the military has been using dogs in various roles since WWII.

The National War Dog Memorial at The Bluff, Alexandra Headland, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, was dedicated on 7 April 2001 and is Australia's first War Dog memorial.



It specifically honours the 11 black Labrador tracker dogs that served with the Australian Army during the Vietnam War. Used from 1967 until the last combat troops left in late 1971, the dogs successfully completed their combat tasks.

They could locate the enemy and their support systems; they saved the lives of their handlers and team members on various occasions and, although not trained to, were intelligent enough to detect mines.

When their handlers completed their tour of duty, the dogs would be given to a new handler which was distressing for both the dogs and handlers. Due to the cost of quarantine and the fear of undetectable diseases, in 1986, the army decided the working dogs could not return home.

At the end of their working life, usually about three years, they were kept with the battalion as reserves and given to European or Australian families living in Saigon as pets when the army left.

The 10 dogs who survived the war (one Cassius died of heat stroke after a training run) were found homes. Nonetheless, many ex-handlers felt that the dogs had been abandoned and that there should be something to remember them. This beautiful memorial, an initiative of the Vietnam Veterans Association of the Sunshine Coast, honours these 'forgotten soldiers.' – photo courtesy of SLQ Staff Member.

From the President

Hi Everyone,
Hope you are all safe, happy and healthy. Well, we are not far away from our annual Vietnam Veterans Day activities. John Cunnington has been very busy over the past few weeks attempting to get everything in order to ensure that we all have a great day on August 18. As reported earlier, VV Day tickets are on sale at the Drop-In Centre and I would urge you all to put your orders in as soon as possible.

As you are all aware, this is a very popular event and we are somewhat limited as to how many people we can have for lunch/drinks/entertainment/raffles/dancing/fun and a general catch-up with mates at the Maroochy RSL on the day.

Garry and I dropped around to see our former Treasurer, Glen Preston at his home recently. Glen currently uses a 'walker' to get himself around the place and although putting on a brave face, he is still suffering pain to his neck and legs. We wish you well Glen and hope to catch up with you again soon. From Glen's place, we shot over to see how committee-man John Huxham was going. John

had just been released from hospital after having quadruple by-pass heart surgery and is now resting at home under the care of his ever-watchful wife, Denise.

We have also caught up with our new Treasurer, Debbie Day. Deb has done an absolutely fantastic job of completely re-organising our financial records. She has streamlined a number of our monetary accounts and is continuing to investigate various circulations and publications whereby we will get a much better result on our various pecuniary interests. Well done Deb.

Well, that's about it for the moment. Remember, if you have any ideas or thoughts on how we can improve our Association, drop us a line or give us a call at the office. We welcome all feedback, good or bad.

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



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From the Secretary

How rapidly is this year moving along, half the year is already gone. It seems we make this comment more as we grow older!

We have had a great response to our enquiry regarding hard-copy-or-not campaign re our monthly *Ricochet*.

A considerable number of members have decided a hard copy is not required in future; this will lead to a lesser cost for mailing each month. I believe Kerry will enact the results in the August mailout, which will give us a true picture and future costs.

Jack Cunnington is working hard towards VV Day preparations, and we are still working on PLI (Professional Liability Insurance) for the day. Mick Howe will speak directly to the RSL regarding a solution to the PLI problem.

I would personally like to thank all those volunteers who assisted with the Bunnings BBQ on May 27: under some duress we managed to make a reasonable profit for the day.

Bunnings are also planning to hold BBQs on a Wednesday commencing in July and I have indicated we would be interested in participating.

We have experienced some failings in the duty roster of late owing to the absence of Margo and John Huxham.

We are continuing to work on same, and with Margo's return we will see the duty roster back to normal over the coming weeks.

Mick Howe and myself attended a function on Friday, June 23, at Alex surf club on Fiona Simpson's invitation, to

meet the shadow treasurer. We decided to attend this function because of Fiona's attendance at all our functions.

We are endeavouring to negotiate a return to normal times for our monthly meetings albeit on Thursdays, that is 10am and 11am. Will let you know results in a heads-up shortly.

Our heartfelt wishes go out to Gordon Hall and family on the loss of his wife in early June and the farewell last Thursday.

Our treasurer Deb Day has done an amazing job in setting a pathway for our association's future. What she has put into place for the transparent and efficient running of our finances is really satisfying and we are very fortunate to have her onboard.

Thanks must also go out to Pieter Reus, who despite retiring, continues to assist in the ongoing roll of membership and its somewhat delicate ways.

Just back to VV day, tickets are now available at the DIC. Who purchased the first four tickets? Jack did of course!!!

Sunday June 25 saw the ceremony at the Dog Memorial for Operation Slipper.

That's about it for this month. Stay safe and well. Remember without volunteers our association is no more.

Kind regards

Garry King

Secretary



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Local plaque to recognise VC

A plaque recognising Sunshine Coast-born Corporal Daniel Keighran VC (**pictured**) will be unveiled by Buderim War Memorial Community Association on Friday, 22 September.

It will recognise “the exemplary military service of former Sunshine Coast resident Corporal Daniel Keighran VC, who was awarded our nation's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross for Australia for intentionally drawing enemy fire to himself in order to save the lives of his fellow soldiers on 24 August 2010 in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan”.

A fund-raising effort led by Vietnam War veteran Johnno Felton has raised most of the funds required for the project.

The unveiling of the plaque at 1030 will be followed by morning tea in the Soldiers Hall, 1 Main Street, Buderim, with fellowship to follow at Mooloolaba Surf Club from 1230.

More information is available from Mr Felton (Phone 0467612342).



RSL advocating on funeral benefit

The national Returned Services League will continue to push for elimination of the anomaly between funeral benefits payable for veterans from different eras.

Over the past three years Ricochet has been calling for the funeral benefit of around \$2000 payable for older (mainly Vietnam War) veterans under the Veterans Entitlement Act to be equal to the amount of up to \$12,600 payable to veterans covered under later legislation.

The RSL confirmed “that harmonisation of funeral benefits was not addressed in the 2023 Federal budget. The funeral benefits measures included in the Budget appear to continue the status quo for the moment.”

“RSL Australia will continue to advocate for harmonisation through the legislative reform process.”



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HEROES OF BOMBER COMMAND

Air Chief Marshal (ret'd) Sir Angus Houston, Ron Houghton, President of the Bomber Command Association of Australia, Bert Adams, Max Barry and Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Robert Chipman at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

The service and sacrifice of RAAF personnel who served in Royal Air Force (RAF) Bomber Command in WW2 – as part of RAAF or Commonwealth squadrons – was commemorated at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra recently.

Combat losses in Bomber Command were spread over more than 100 operational squadrons, including the RAAF's eight squadrons and Australians who served in other Commonwealth squadrons.

This year, three RAAF members who returned after the war attended the commemoration as they have done for many years:

Ron Houghton, who flew with RAF's 102 Squadron, Max Barry, who flew with RAAF's 463 Squadron, and Flying Officer Bert Adams, who flew with RAAF's 467 Squadron, attended, to remember colleagues and friends who served with Bomber Command. – Photo by Leading Aircraftman Ryan Howell.

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VETS OUT TO LUNCH



Veterans and others who have served in the ADF attended the monthly Rifle-men's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club. The collection tin shown (above left) is for the project to have a plaque at Buderim honouring Cpl Daniel Keighran VC. — photos by Kevin Lynch.

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

VVAASC MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2023

Meeting opened at 1105hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Garry King.

Attendance: as per the register. Apologies: as per the register.

Previous Minutes read by: Mick Howe, moved Mick Howe, seconded Mike Gaye. Carried. No further business arising.

Correspondence/Secretary Report: Garry King updated the Meeting on the progress of Office Manager John Huxham with the good news that John maybe returning home from hospital within a day or so. The promotion of the YES/NO for the mailing of Ricochet has been well received with many replies being handed over to the Ricochet Editor Kerry White. The Sausage Sizzle on 27 May 2023 raised \$1200. Thank you to all the Volunteers for their help on the day. It was a good opportunity to identify areas of improvement re: provisioning and planning for future Sausage Sizzles. The call out for volunteers as stand-by Duty Officer has been well received. Thank you to all those who have come forward. The Public Liability Insurance for VV Day is an ongoing project. Options being followed up through various insurance companies. Mick Howe and Garry King will be attending a "Breakfast" at the invitation of Fiona Simpson, Member for Maroochydore (Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning). The Secretary mentioned that Junior Vice President Mr Gordon Hall was absent due to the sad loss of his wife Joan and extended the condolences of the VVAASC to Gordon and family. Moved Garry King, seconded Win Fowles. Carried. No further business arising.

Treasurer's Report: Prior to reading the reading the Treasurer's Report, Mick commended Deb upon the implementation of new processes in place which enhanced the running of VVAASC finances. He then read the report prepared by Deb Day. The report is available to read upon request. Moved Mick Howe, seconded Johnno. Carried. No further business arising.

Sub-Committee: John Cunningham advised the Meeting that the Army Cadets were not available for VV Day but other options were being considered. Tickets for the Luncheon are for sale at the Drop In. Moved John Cunningham, seconded Mal Overend. Carried. No further business arising.

Merchandise: Johnno updated the members that Diamond Mine Jewellers at Caloundra were now selling Digger Hat Keyrings as the Bullet Pens were no longer available. Moved Johnno, seconded Pieter Reus. No further business arising.

Digger Hat Jewellery: Scotty informed that there were four attendees to DHJ this month. Pennies are still needed as supplies are low and impacting on DHJ work days. Lapel Badges are on back order until more are pressed and welded to the pin. Otherwise several orders have been sent out to ESO's. Moved Scotty, seconded Brian Earp. Carried. No further business arising.

General Business:

Mike G: enquired when next Ricochet folding would be – First Thursday of the Month, however check emails for update in case of change.

Brian E: Mentioned that the carpet in the Drop In Centre needs to be professionally cleaned. This will be followed up by Mick H. The President's Board needs updating, this too shall be followed up. The collection of old spectacles: solved, Win F to pass on donated specs to appropriate charity.

Mal O: Is it possible to have the General Meeting time to be returned to 1100? Enquiries to be made with the Building Management.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 1240hrs. **NEXT GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 18 JULY 2023; TIME TBA VIA EMAIL.**

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

Vets' Counselling service has been going 40 years

Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling recently – founded veterans for veterans as the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, the nationally accredited mental health service aims to improve the lives of those who have served by offering military-aware and trauma-informed care while breaking down barriers.

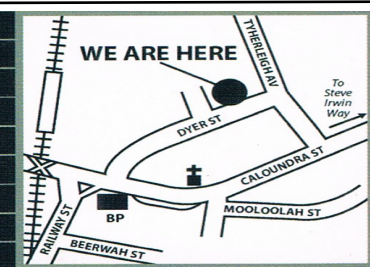
It was acknowledged that the anniversary occurred amid a sensitive time for many in the veteran community. Ongoing media coverage of veteran issues has brought up a range of emotions for current and former military personnel and their families.

With over 161,000 services delivered in this financial year alone, Open Arms continues to provide vital support to more than 34,000 veterans and their families.

As Open Arms continues to expand its reach and support, it is a testament to the resilience and dedication of Vietnam veterans who fought for the establishment of this critical mental health service. The Australian government remains committed to providing comprehensive support to veterans and their families, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

With over 35 centres across the country, Open Arms has become an invaluable resource for veterans in need of mental health assistance.

You can call Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling 24/7 on 1800 011 046 for free and confidential advice. For more information, visit the Open Arms website www.openarms.gov.au.



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RICOCHET: TO MAIL OR NOT TO MAIL

In future, *Ricochet* will be mailed only to those who advise same. The *Ricochet* is always available online from month to month and is a very efficient method of keeping up with what is going on with the association. It only takes a phone call or email to let us know if you wish to receive it by 'snail mail'.



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VIETNAM VETERANS DAY **FRIDAY 18 AUGUST 2023** **COTTON TREE CENOTAPH**



The day will commence, as usual, with the “Toast to the War Dogs” in the vicinity of the War Dog Memorial, Alexandra Headland. More information will be provided for those who regularly attend this event over the ensuing period.

Main Commemoration Ceremony

Assembly: 1045 hours at the swimming pool complex, The Esplanade, Cotton Tree. The short march to the Cotton Tree RSL Cenotaph commences at 1055 hours.

Service: 11.00 hours—1200 hours.

Luncheon

At Maroochy RSL following the service. Welcome to guests at 1230 hours. Lunch tickets are available at the Drop-In Centre. Please purchase tickets ASAP as there is a cut-off date for catering purposes. Cost: \$40 for members and partners. Non-members price is \$55 per head.

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

IMPORTANT: At the luncheon there will be free seating available. However, If you would like to pre-book a table (groups of 10 is preferable), please notify John Cunningham on 54933513 (0415375968) or email hookin1947@gmail.com and arrange the bookings with him after you have purchased your tickets. Names are required for each person.

Transport: A bus will be provided to transport guests to and from the Caloundra RSL. Pick-up time will be 0945 hours. The bus will leave the Maroochy RSL at 1630 hours.

Guests in the Maroochy RSL area can avail themselves of the Maroochy RSL courtesy bus.

Special dietary requirements: leave a message with the duty officer at the Drop-In-Centre or contact John Cunningham on 54933513, (0415375968) or email hookin1947@gmail.com

JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE

JULY TRIVIA

1. **Where was the Thirty Years War primarily fought?** a) Spain, b) North America, c) The Middle East, d) Germany.
2. **Who was the last English Monarch to be killed in Battle?** a) Richard III, b) Richard the Lionheart, c) Henry V, d) Harold.
3. **What is the most visited tourist attraction in the world?** a) The Eiffel Tower, b) Statue of Liberty, c) The Great Wall of China, d) The Colosseum
4. **What is the Hiawatha Belt?** a) An historic religious relic representing the banishment of snakes from Ireland by St. Patrick, b) A chain of medieval castles and fortifications in what is now Turkey, c) The document recording the union of the Iroquois Confederacy, d) The belt awarded to Raymond of Toulouse by Pope Urban II for his role in the Crusader conquest of Jerusalem.
5. **What is the origin of the name Neanderthal?** a) The Latin word for "primitive", b) The Ancient Greek for "small brain", c) The name of the archaeologist who first discovered their fossils, d) The name of the area where the fossils were first found.
6. **In a daring raid in 1976 Israeli special forces rescued hostages being held at which airport?** a) Entebbe, Uganda. b) Mogadishu, Somalia. c) Munich, Germany, d) Lusaka, Zambia.
7. **What was the subject of the 1783 Zong trial?** a) An attempt to overthrow the Jiaqing Emperor in a conspiracy involving his favourite concubine, b) The British East India Company bribing Chinese officials to allow the importation of opium, c) An insurance claim for the value of slaves thrown overboard, d) The trial of Edward Teach for piracy.
8. **After the end of WW2 which country has seen the most deaths from war?** a) Afghanistan, b) Vietnam, c) Somalia, d) Democratic Republic of the Congo.
9. **What disease is thought to have contributed to the demise of sailors exploring the Arctic on the HMS Erebus and Terror?** a) Smallpox, b) Bubonic, c) Plague, c) Tuberculosis, d) Influenza.
10. **What weapon damaged the rudder of the Battleship Bismarck, allowing pursuing British forces to sink her?** a) A sea mine, b) A torpedo from a Fairey Swordfish aircraft, c) A torpedo from the submarine HMS Thrasher, d) A 15in shell from the Battlecruiser HMS Hood.
11. **In what year was Napoleon defeated at Waterloo?** a) 1792, b) 1815, c) 1835, d) 1863.
12. **What period of Japanese history was marked by rapid social change and industrialisation?** a) The Industrial Revolution, b) The Meiji Period, c) The Edo Period, d) The Shogun Period.
13. **Where in Britain did Viking raiders first attack?** a) London, b) York, c) Stamford Bridge, d) Lindisfarne.
14. **The ancient city of Salzburg was founded on which industry?** a) Slave trading, b) Salt mining, c) Wheat cropping, d) Ceramic production.
15. **Which of these conflicts involved two US allies fighting against each other?** a) The Korean War, b) The Boer War, c) The invasion of the Falklands, d) The Crimean War.
16. **Which Roman Emperor legalised Christianity in the Roman Empire?** a) Claudius, b) Constantine, c) Vespasian, d) Hadrian.
17. **Which disease has killed the most humans throughout history?** a) Smallpox, b) Influenza, c) Plague, d) Tuberculosis.
18. **In what year did the highland clearances begin?** a) 1565, b) 1688, c) 1745, d) 1871.
19. **Who was the first Chancellor of Germany?** a) Otto von Bismarck, b) Bernhard von Bülow, c) Erich von Falkenhayn, d) Alfred von Schlieffen.
20. **The siege of Kohima was part of which conflict?** a) WW1, b) WW2, c) Korean War, d) Vietnam War.

Answers page 15

CONUNDRUMS

1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right to the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. In a year, there are 12 months. Seven months have 31 days. How many months have 28 days?
3. What are the next three letters in the following sequence? J, F, M, A, M, J, J, A, __, __, __
4. Jimmy's mother had four children. She named the first Monday. She named the second Tuesday, and she named the third Wednesday. What is the name of the fourth child?
5. Mike is an assistant in a butcher's shop. He is 5'10" tall, wears size 9 shoes and has a waist measurement of 36. What does he weigh?
6. I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness.
7. A man describes his daughters, saying, "They are all blonde, but two; all brunette but two; and all redheaded but two." How many daughters does he have?

Answers Page 15



Tigers remember

RECENTLY 5 RAR (Tiger) Battalion commemorated the significant battle of Binh Ba in Vietnam in 1969 at its Darwin HQ. Battalion veterans were pictured at the Memorial Wall (above). Meanwhile, at Manly NSW on 24 May at a B Company reunion veterans and wives commemorated the anniversary of the death of Errol Noack, the first battalion member and first Nasho killed in the war.



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A WOMAN walks into a butchery just before closing and asks, "do you still have chicken?"

The butcher opens his deep freezer, takes out the only chicken left and puts it on the scale, and it weighed 1.5 kg.

The woman looks at the chicken and at the scale and asked, "do you have one that's a bit bigger than this one?"

The butcher puts his only chicken back into the freezer, and then takes it out again, but this time when he puts it on the scale; he craftily keeps his thumb on the scale pan and the scale now showed 2 kg.

"that's wonderful," said the woman. "I'll take both chickens, please!"

Wonder what happened next?

TWO nuns are painting a room. They realize that they could accidentally get paint on their habits so they decide to take a preventative measure.

They decide to take off their clothes and paint in the nude. Before they do so they lock the door.

A few hours later there is a knock at the door. "Who is it?" says a nun. A man responds, "I'm the blind man."

One nun looks at the other nun and says, "Well it's only a blind man, I guess we don't have to put our habits back on."

The nun unlocks and opens the door. There is Dave who says, "Nice tits; where do you want the blinds?"

A SENIOR citizen in the US drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership.

Taking off down the road, he floored it to 150km/h, enjoying the wind blowing through what little grey hair he had



left. Amazing, he thought as he flew down the highway pushing the pedal even more.

Looking in his rear-view mirror, he saw a state trooper behind him, lights flashing and siren blaring.

He went faster and faster Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival."

Pulling in behind him, the trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch, and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes.

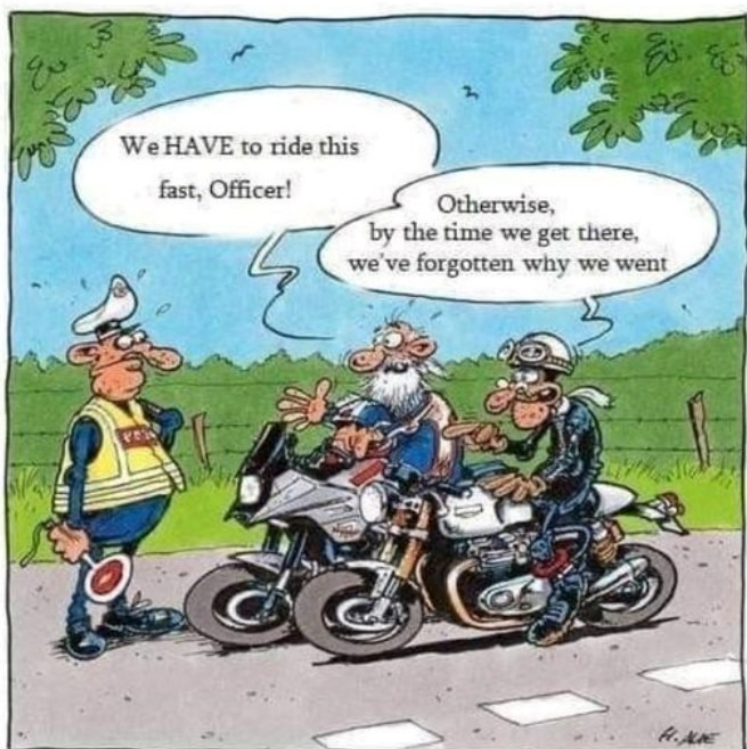
"Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The old gentleman paused. Then he said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a state trooper. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, sir," replied the trooper.

A MAN ran home from work, pulled his wife into the bedroom, threw her on the bed, and pulled the blankets over them.

She was shocked- he hadn't been like this for 20 years. Then her husband said: "Look! My new watch glows in the dark"



We are back home in Australia, and for me at least, I am over my jet lag. Although we based our holiday to the USA on not upsetting the six-week rule; nevertheless, we both had our pensions ceased on the day we arrived home and had to go cap in hand to DVA and Centrelink to restore the much-needed flow of our income.

Overall, we had a fabulous holiday. We have seen our granddaughters grow into beautiful young ladies. One is midway through her college degree; the other is still at High School but excelling in the sporting fields. While we were there, her volleyball team in Massachusetts won a championship in neighbouring Connecticut.

As always, our daughter-in-law's parents, Nate and Teresa, welcomed us into every family activity they had during our stay. Nate is a Lion, and they collect spectacles from all over Massachusetts, then he washes them and takes them to a Sheriff's Prison near Cape Cod, and the inmates classify the grading.

Nate then collects them from the prison, taking another three bins of spectacles for the same treatment, and stores them in a container at their Lion's property until there are sufficient spectacles to send to a Third-World country. They cannot be distributed in the USA. Nate took me with him to the Prison, and the soon-to-be-posted Lieutenant gave me a parting comment, "Keep yourself out of trouble." Good advice to anyone, let alone a Chaplain.

We worshipped at Nate and Teresa's home church in Seekonk, a similar brand to our own. We enjoyed every worship service led by a lady reverend. On our last Sunday, I told the pastor that we were heading home. She

Fireside with the Padre



intimated that she was going to have me preach but left it to our next trip to the States.

Promising idea, until we faced that gruelling return flight across the Pacific, but before that, an eight-hour layover in Chicago, and I really wonder if we will ever want to make that long, long haul again. Our granddaughters are now old enough to take that 33-hour journey, and for the record, are both much younger than we are.

As you know, our son, Ash, was a RAEME officer posted to the US Navy's Post Graduate School in Monterey where he met Joy. Sadly, we attended his grave in Attleboro Falls cemetery and paid our respects to him on the fifth anniversary of his passing.

But although we miss our family over there, it is good to be home. We are now looking forward to Vietnam Veterans Day in Maroochydore where we trust we will see all our members again at the cenotaph in Maroochydore and then at the luncheon. John Cunningham booked me 12 months ago, and as they say in the classics, I would not miss it for quids.

Until then, may God Bless you all, and meet all your needs of the present.

Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

Answers from page 12



CONUNDRUM

1. In Washington, D.C.!
2. They all do.
3. S, O, N. The sequence is first letter of the months of the year. September, October, and November are the next in the sequence.
4. Jimmy, because Jimmy's mother had four children!
5. Meat
6. The letter S
7. Three. A blonde, a brunette, and a redhead.

TRIVIA

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Germany | Swordfish aircraft. |
| 2. Richard III. | 11. 1815. |
| 3. The Eiffel Tower | 12. The Meiji Period. |
| 4. The document recording the union of the Iroquois Confederacy. | 13. Lindasfame |
| 5. It was the name of the area the fossils were first discovered | 14. Salt mining |
| 6. Entebbe, Uganda. | 15. The invasion of the Falklands. |
| 7. It was an insurance claim for the value of slaves thrown overboard. | 16. Constantine I. |
| 8. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 17. Tuberculosis. |
| 9. Tuberculosis | 18. 1745. |
| 10. It was A torpedo from a Fairey | 19. Otto von Bismarck. |
| | 20. WW2. |

July Timeline

1 July 1797: The first merino sheep were landed in Australia. This Spanish variety was well suited to the Australian environment and was a formidable wool producer. The first Australian-produced fleece was sold in England in 1807.

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

1 July 1851: The Legislative Council of the newly created colony of Victoria was established, marking separation from New South Wales.

3 July 1891: The maritime and shearers' strikes of 1890 and 1891 were the largest, most violent industrial actions seen in Australia, leading to the creation of the Australian Labor Party.

5 July 1945: Death in office of Prime Minister John Curtin who led Australia through the darkest period of the Second World War when the threat from Japan was at its greatest.

6 July 1943: In World War Two, Japan bombed Darwin in the first of 64 such raids (**PICTURED**).

6 July 1964: Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Conway, an



Australia Army Training Team Vietnam adviser, is killed in action, the first Australian battle casualty of the war. Attached to US Special Forces, he was killed in action at Nam Dong, Thua Thien Province.

10 July 1911: Formation of the Royal Australian Navy. in its original form, the Royal Australian Navy consisted of the battlecruiser Australia and several cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

- Continued next page.

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July Timeline

• from previous page

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

21 July 1969: At 12.56pm (AEST) the Apollo tracking station at Honeysuckle Creek, near Canberra, transmitted live television of Neil Armstrong stepping onto the surface of the moon to a worldwide audience of 600 million (a record for the time).



22 July 1917: Four members of the Australian Army Nursing Service, Sisters Cawood, Deacon and Ross-King and Staff Nurse Derrer, were awarded Military Medals for rescuing patients trapped in a burning Casualty Clearing Station at Trois Arbes, France. These were the first bravery awards for Australian nurses in action.

27 July 1953: The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by US and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.

28 July 1942: Townsville bombed by Japanese aircraft. The city was bombed four times during the war.

31 July 1962: The advance party of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrives in South Vietnam led by Colonel Ted Serong (**pictured**). It went on to gain the distinction of being the longest-serving and most highly decorated Australian unit of the Vietnam War: it was operational for over 10 years and four of its members were awarded the Victoria Cross.

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.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>

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

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9 Squadron re-formed



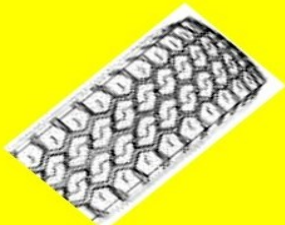
Royal Australian Air Force's 9 Squadron has re-formed, to prepare for the delivery of the Northrop Grumman MQ-4C Triton remotely piloted aircraft system. A replica of the Triton is pictured at this year's Avalon International Airshow (Photo: Corporal David Cotton).

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The squadron has a proud wartime history, serving during World War Two and the Vietnam War.

Initially formed in 1939, 9 Squadron saw active service in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian and Pacific Oceans, receiving 12 battle honours.

Following initial disbandment in 1944, 9 Squadron reformed 61 years ago on June 11, 1962, as a helicopter squadron undertaking active service in the Vietnam War. The squadron was then disbanded again in 1989.

The Squadron will reform in 92 Wing Surveillance and Response Group.

The headquarters will be located at RAAF Base Edinburgh and most Triton operations will occur from RAAF Base Tindal.



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REMEMBERING ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY IN VIETNAM

ROYAL Australian Navy involvement in Vietnam included (right) our RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam integrated with the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company; Clearance Diving Team (below); HMAS Vendetta on the gunline (below right); and (bottom) the famous “Vung Tau Ferry”, HMAS Sydney, at Vung Tau on one of many voyages. Between 1965 and 1972, HMAS Sydney (III) undertook 25 voyages to Vietnam and transported 16,094 troops, 5753 deadweight tons of cargo and 2375 vehicles. A total of 13,500 members of the RAN served in the Vietnam War with eight killed and 46 either wounded or suffering other injuries.

— from RAN website.



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

Roll of Honour – Vietnam, July 1962-75

July 1964

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

July 1965

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

July 1966

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 1967

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

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

July 1968

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

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

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

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

July 1969

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 1970

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

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

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

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

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

July 1971

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

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

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

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

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

July 1972

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



War Memorial Cleveland, Qld

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