



Inquiry swipe at Defence hierarchy

Defence hierarchy may be waiting for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to end so they can go back to business as usual, inquiry chief Commissioner Nick Kaldas said recently.

The Royal Commission recently ended its 11th public hearing in Melbourne, where it has heard further evidence about cultural and systemic issues within the Australian Defence Force and Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs.

In his closing statement, Mr Kaldas warned the problems will never be fixed if leadership does not accept they exist.

"We still have not identified any strong evidence to suggest that Defence is prioritising the mental health and well-being of its people in a sustainable way," he said.

"Nor does it seem to be responding adequately to the pressing issue of suicide and suicidality in its ranks with any sense of urgency.

"We commissioners fear the Defence hierarchy is simply waiting for this inquiry to end so that it can go back to business as usual. We hope that's not the case."

The two-week hearing focused on the experience of ADF personnel transitioning to civilian life; cultural problems within Defence and how the hierarchy manages complaints relating to unacceptable behaviour; the lack of support from Defence and DVA for veterans and their families; and the military justice system in the ADF and how that is monitored.

The Royal Commission heard evidence from a for-

mer medical advisor within DVA who painted a bleak picture of the Department – highlighting poor leadership, a culture of blame and lack of interest in innovation.

"Regardless of the good work the DVA has been doing recently to clear the backlog of claims – its outdated systems and processes, as well as its adversarial approach to those it is supposed to be supporting, seem to be designed to limit access to entitlements. This must change," Mr Kaldas said.

The Royal Commission will next sit in Sydney from Monday 20 November 2023. Its final report is due to be delivered by no later than 17 June next year.



VETERANS marching on Anzac Day on the Sunshine Coast. — photo Caloundra RSL sub-branch.



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

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General information Page 2 INCLUDING OFFICE NEWS.

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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.

MEETINGS: Return to the third Tuesday of the month, 1000hrs Comm Meeting, 1100hrs General meeting. Our next meeting is Tuesday, 17 October.

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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.

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.

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

Local honour for VC recipient



A plaque recognising local Victoria Cross recipient Dan Keighran was unveiled recently at Buderim War Memorial Hall (He and partner Tanya Moore are pictured with the plaque).

MC for the event was Vietnam veteran Rick Brittain who wrote of the special event: "Yesterday I was MC at Buderim War Memorial Hall where recognition of local Victoria Cross Recipient Dan Keighran, VC occurred.

"Dan was born in Nambour and lived in a number of smaller townships on the sunshine coast. Dan was awarded the VC for valour for action in Afghanistan in 2010.

"Dan's book 'Courage under Fire' is an excellent read. The book honestly describes Dan's difficult childhood, his army experiences plus the Battle of Derapet, Afghanistan.

"Dan is an example of a person of humble background achieving so much, without considering himself as a victim nor (having a) sense of entitlement.

"As a former member of Dan's unit, the sixth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), it was a pleasure to be invited to be MC. Dan unveiled a magnificent plaque at the hall and veterans, serving 6 Battalion members, politicians, citizens of Buderim and Sunshine Coast and the executive members of the of the Buderim War Memorial Centre, paid their respects to Dan.

"After this ceremony Dan and his partner joined us at the Mooloolaba Surf Club where he was presented with a Mooloolaba Rifleman's Shirt. The service was attended by veterans of Vietnam, Iraq, East Timor and Afghanistan plus citizens of Buderim and the Sunshine Coast.

"Dan is a credit to the Infantry Corps, The RAR and Australia. Dan certainly upheld the RAR motto "Duty First". He is the first member of the RAR to receive the award. Other recipients although in the Infantry Corps and had served in the Regiment, were posted to other units when they were awarded the VC. These units were the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV, Commandos and SAS)."

MAJOR CHANGES FOR OUR ARMY BRIGADES

The Government has outlined key changes to Army's units and formations – as well as changes to equipment locations – which it says will boost capabilities, preparedness and projection.

Defence Minister Richard Marles said the changes were in response to recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review (DSR) to maintain peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Our Army has always played a vital role in the defence of our nation and will continue to do so as it adapts to the challenges of our times," Mr Marles said. "These changes involve some hard decisions. But these decisions are necessary to build the Army Australia needs.

In summary:

- * First Brigade, based in Darwin, will be a light combat brigade.
- * Third Brigade, based in Townsville, will be an armoured combat brigade.
- * Seventh Brigade, based in Brisbane, will be a motorised combat brigade.
- * Tenth Brigade, based in Adelaide, will be raised as a fires brigade.
- * Five and Seven battalions RAR will be relinked to become 5/7 Battalion and will be based in Darwin.
- * First Armoured Regiment will be re-rolled as an experimental unit to deliver and integrate emerging technologies. This will remain in Adelaide.

Acting Chief of Army Major General Richard Vagg said supporting personnel and their families would be central in Army's approach to implementing the changes.

"The change is about organising Army to train as we would fight and making the most of the resources we have been assigned," Major General Vagg said.



DAN KEIGHRAN VC with Rick Brittain.

From the Secretary

Another month gone from the calendar! After a successful and busy August, we plunged directly into September with the Ironman event which was a great success.

A hearty congrats to all involved, not only from our committee, but from Ironman headquarters themselves.

As I write this report, Mick and family are rediscovering Vietnam. A lot has changed since he was last there.

Our editor was out of action for a short while this month, having a knee replaced. Hope it's going well Kerry.

Good to see Mark Doolan back on deck after a couple of weeks away looking after family matters.

Our office manager, John Huxham, has requested I put a heads-up regarding the need for several more Duty Officers on our roster to fill holes when someone is unable to attend.

Please give this some thought and if you can possibly spare three hours one morning a week, contact John Huxham 0435747178 or myself on 0418740118.

Preparations have begun for Remembrance Day as it is only 10 days from the end of October. Not certain how many sites we will have for Remembrance sales, but will keep you posted.

I have initiated payment request for Ironman, and we should see that payment into our account in the near future.

I am currently working on two acquittals which relate to VV day event by way of grants from SCRC.

These should be completed by early next week after some confusion on my part, regarding code numbers.

Nothing to report on BBQs at Bunnings at this stage, however we have a constant request for same with admin.

Nothing further to report at this stage. Stay safe and always take the high ground.

Kind regards

Garry King



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HAVING A BALL ...

HAVING a ball at Caloundra RSL sub-branch's well-attended Veterans Spring Ball, including John and Eileen Cunningham (second from right).



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DECOMMISSIONING ceremonies were held recently for HMAS Maryborough (II) (pictured) and HMAS Larraika (II). Both ships conducted a variety of operations alongside Border Force, Australian Fisheries and Australian Federal Police. Those who served on either ship were told they had made a significant contribution to the efforts of those agencies and overall responsibility of defending Australia. — Navy News.



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Wellness matters

Veterans' Health Week (VHW) is being held from 8 to 15 October and is themed "Mental Wellness Matters".

The theme aims to promote good health and well-being in the everyday life of veterans and families and shine a spotlight on the importance of mental health. Events can be held two weeks before and two weeks after these dates. For a list of event opportunities in your State or Territory, check the national event calendar.

People interested in attending an event in their location are able to check what's on by looking at the national event calendar, as some event details may change or have restricted access and limited numbers.

On the Sunshine Coast activities included Yandina-Eumundi RSL sub-branch held a Veterans Market Day at the hall next to the Yandina Markets on 7 October.

Mudjimba RSL Sub-Branch held a seminar, "Mental Wellness Matters", on Saturday (30 September) at the sub-branch premises.



SALUTE after wreath-laying at the recent National Commemorative Service to recognise the 75th anniversary of Australian involvement in international peacekeeping operations, held at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra.

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Did you hear about the rifleman who walked into a bar ...?



WOULD you believe, they are all riflemen ... or were once ... catching up at the monthly Riflemen's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club. It's on first Friday each month - Steve Jerome photos.



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Regiment marking 75th anniversary

The Royal Australian Regiment will celebrate its 75th anniversary in Canberra on 23 November.

Since formation in 1948 the regiment with the motto "Duty First" has served in Japan, Korea, South Vietnam, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

On 23 November the day's program will include a Colour Parade on the Parliament House Forecourt from 1100 to 1230 and a dinner at Parliament House from 1800 to 2200.

After World War II, it was decided that a small regular army be established and an Australian component be deployed to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) in Japan.

The 34th Infantry Brigade was raised on Morotai Island in the North Moluccas specifically for that purpose. It comprised the 65th, 66th and 67th Battalions.

As this new Brigade was formed mostly from volunteers from Australian World War II Divisions, the new brigade carried forward the outstanding traditions of its infantry battalions.

On 23 November 1948, the three battalions were designated the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Australian

Regiment. On 10 March 1949, King George VI, granted the title "Royal" to the Regiment.

"With coincidental operational commitments in Malaya and South Vietnam from 1964 to 1966, the regiment expanded significantly from the original three to nine battalions," the RAR Association website reads.

"During this period of growth, and to meet enlistment figures, national servicemen supplemented the battalions' regular soldiers.

"But in accordance with Australia's conscription and overseas deployment policy, only national servicemen volunteering for overseas service deployed to South Vietnam."

- continued next page.



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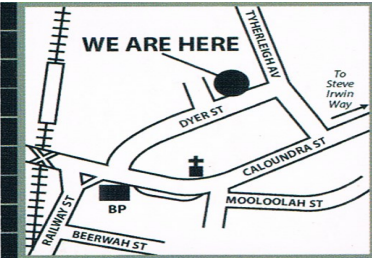
Last knight to command ADF

The commanding officer of 1 Battalion RAR at the Battle of Coral-Balmoral went on to become the last knight to command the Australian Defence Force.

He was General Sir Phillip Bennett AC, KBE, DSO whose death in August was covered in the previous edition of Ricochet.

As well as starting his military career in the Korean War, including the Battle of Kapyong, he became the first post-World War Two officer and last Korean veteran to reach the most senior ranks of the ADF.

After retirement he became Governor of Tasmania. — from "The Last Knight – A Biography of General Sir Phillip Bennett AC, KBE, DSO", by Robert Lowry 2001.



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Regimental birthday

- from previous page

Paying the supreme sacrifice for their country, during its overseas deployments, the regiment has lost 693 soldiers killed and over 3000 wounded, many seriously.

No member of the regiment was awarded a Victoria Cross for service in Vietnam though three former members were – Warrant Officers' Class Two, Keith Payne, Kevin "Dasher" Wheatley (posthumously) and Ray Simpson – while with the Australian Army Training Team – Vietnam.

VICTORIA CROSS RECOMMENDATION

A first Victoria Cross for a soldier of the regiment while serving in Vietnam is still a possibility. Private Richard Norden (2412437), while serving with 7 RAR was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his actions on 14 May 1968 during the battle for Fire Support Base Coral.

The Defence Honours Tribunal has recommended that he instead be awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia (which replaced the British or Imperial Victoria Cross in 1991). The recommendation has not been acted upon.

After discharge in April 1969, he served with the Australian Capital Territory Police until he died from injured received in a vehicle accident while on duty on 26 October 1972. He was originally from Gundagai, NSW.



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Last of our Diggers to die in Vietnam

Last month marked the 52nd anniversary of the deaths of the last Australians killed in action in the Vietnam War.

On 21 September five Diggers became the last Aussies killed in action in Vietnam in the Battle of Nui Le during Operation Ivanhoe: **Brian Beilken, James Duff, Keith Kingston-Powles, Ralph Niblett and Roderick Spriggs** (Private Duff (pictured) was the last Digger and last Nasho killed in the war, according to the National Servicemen's Association. He was from Scotland.).

While Operation Overlord in June had forced the enemy to withdraw, by September Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces were back in Phuoc Tuy Province, again looking to lure the Australians into a large-scale ambush to score a propaganda victory.

So Operation Ivanhoe was launched on 19 September with three companies of the 4th Battalion, RAR, including a NZ company, 4RAR/NZ, and one company from 3 RAR, with support from artillery, engineers, armoured personnel carriers and 9 Squadron, RAAF.

On 20 September an ambush and a series of contacts suggested the enemy

was trying to provoke a reaction, luring the Australians into a well-prepared bunker system. D Company was pinned down by heavy fire; air support was called in and the enemy position was pounded for four hours. That afternoon the company pushed forward again but were immediately forced to ground by withering fire.

Looking to extricate themselves, the Australians unwittingly withdrew into a more precarious position within the bunker system. Trapped, surrounded, with reduced artillery support and no tanks (they had already gone home), they were forced to rely on US airstrikes and RAAF helicopter gunships to keep the enemy at bay.

Running low on ammunition, D Company was in dire straits as casualties continued to mount. Artillery support kept them alive throughout the night, landing as close as 50 metres from



where they lay. Some expected the enemy to attack at dawn to finish them off, but it never came. In the morning the enemy was gone; the battle of Nui Le was over.

Nui Le was the last major enemy engagement by Australian troops in Vietnam. The five killed in action there were the last Australian soldiers to die in combat in Vietnam.

The following month, Nui Dat base was handed to the South Vietnamese and by December nearly all Australian troops had left Phuoc Tuy Province.

The last Australian serviceperson to die on Vietnam soil was Staff Sergeant John Hall on 27 October 1971. The cause of death in this instance is officially listed as murder. Hall was murdered by a Vietnamese national at Vung Tau.

The final name listed on the Vietnam Roll of Honour (listing members of the Australian armed forces who have died during or as a result of their service) is that of Major Carlile Herbert Schneider, who died on 15 October 1972 in Black Rock, Melbourne, as the result of suicide due to stresses related to service in Vietnam (source Australian War Memorial).

TRAINING TEAM COMMEMORATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The 60th anniversary of the arrival in Saigon of the first contingent of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam on 3 August 1962 was marked recently.

"The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) – usually referred to simply as 'The Team' – was one of the elite Australian units in the Vietnam War, the Australian War Memorial notes.

They served in South Vietnam for a continuous period longer than any Australian unit, before or since – more than ten years. It was the first Australian combat unit in South Vietnam, beginning with the arrival in Saigon of the Team's commander, Colonel F.P. Serong on 31 July 1962, followed soon after by the arrival of the main body of troops (initially just 29 men).

Over the next decade more than 1000 personnel, including 10 soldiers from the New Zealand Army, served in the unit, more than half of whom were infantrymen. Many members of the Team volunteered for multiple tours. Fittingly, the Team's motto was "Persevere".

Members of the Team served mostly in small groups or alone, throughout the country, from the Demilitarised Zone in the north to the Mekong Delta in the south, in all types of terrain from rice paddies to jungle highlands, and with units

of other armies, ethnic groups and other organisations.

Their roles were extremely diverse and included those of combat unit advisers, special forces commanders, rural and province advisers, training instructors/advisers, and service on the staffs of US and South Vietnamese government organisations and projects.

The Team remains, arguably, the most highly decorated unit of the Australian Army, receiving four Victoria Crosses – the only ones awarded to soldiers in the Vietnam War – many other bravery awards, and two unit citations. Thirty-three AATTV personnel died during service in Vietnam, and 122 were wounded in action.

They were the last Australian troops to leave the field in December 1972.

PICTURED: State RSL President Major General Stephen Day at the Training Team Memorial at Canungra on Vietnam Veterans Day.



JC's BEFUDDLEMENT PAGE

1. What is vexillology the study of?
2. What did Time magazine name invention of the year in 2007?
3. Which element has the chemical symbol Mg?
4. Which US president said, "It's an old political trick. If you can't convince them, confuse them."
5. Stripes, chevron, floral, and plaid are examples of what?
6. What design style uses lots of sea/ocean themed items?
7. What's another name for a footrest?
8. How long is the gestation period of an African elephant?
9. What's the scientific name of a wolf?
10. What is a female donkey called?
11. Which mammal has no vocal cords?
12. What's the fastest land animal in the world?
13. How many eyes does a bee have?
14. Which animal symbolizes good luck in Europe?
15. What name is used to refer to a group of frogs?
17. Who is the richest person in the world as of 2023?
18. Bill Gates is the founder of which company?
19. From which country did the construction toy Lego originate?
20. What is the capital of the Czech Republic?
21. What does an algometer determine?
22. Which *Australian Idol* runner-up stars in the 2012 film *The Sapphires*?
23. Beefsteak, cherry and dwarf are all varieties of what?
24. In which Australian state or territory are the National Rhododendron Gardens, near the township of Olinda?
25. Who wrote the fairytale *The Ugly Duckling*?
26. Ryanair is a budget airline based in which country?
27. Who succeeded Steve Waugh as captain of the Australian cricket team?
28. In Roman mythology, who was both the husband and brother of Juno?
29. What country did Indonesia gain its independence from in 1945?
30. Paul (pictured) and Linda McCartney wrote the theme song to which James Bond Film?



October True Story!

Three people approached the gates of Heaven. However, because of ever increasing numbers, St. Peter declared that the day would be only for those who had experienced a very bad day.



The gate keeper asked the first man what happened to him.

The first man said: "Well, I expected my wife was having an affair, so I got home early to surprise her. I found her in the bathroom with a towel around her, but I knew she wasn't having a shower. I searched the apartment and found nothing. Then I went out on the balcony and saw ten fingers gripping the edge of the balcony, hanging on for dear life. Enraged, I grabbed a hammer and started bashing them until they let go. My apartment is on the 25th floor, but when the bloke fell he hit a canvas awning and his fall was broken by bushes. I could see he was still alive. I then dragged the refrigerator out of the kitchen and threw it over the balcony at him. That finished him, but after all the excitement,

I died of a heart attack." "That's was a bad day", said the gate keeper. Because it was a crime of passion, I will admit you".

He then asked the second man how he had died.

The second man said, "well, I was doing aerobics on the balcony, but I sprained my ankle and I toppled over the rails of my apartment on the 26th floor. I managed to grab the edge of the balcony of the apartment below me, then some idiot started bashing my fingers with a hammer. I fell, but luckily the fall was broken by a canvas awning and some thick bushes. Then I looked up, only to see a refrigerator plunging down at me. That finished me off.

"That was really a bad day", said the Gate keeper and he opened the Pearly Gates.

He then asked the third man how he died.

The third man said, "Imagine this. I was naked and hiding in a refrigerator..."

ANSWERS PAGE 15

Flight Lieutenant adds to her wing collection

One current-serving Royal Australian Air Force woman recently earned her third aircrew badge making for a five-wing career (so far?)

Flight Lieutenant Ingrid Van Der Vlist (**right**) qualified as an air refuelling operator on the KC-30A multi-role tanker transport in July.

In her previous role she controlled the air-to-air refuelling hoses and boom on the in-air refuelling tanker during flights. Her new qualification puts her in a cohort of fewer than 20 air refuelling operators in the RAAF.

She previously served as a RAAF crew attendant – earning a one-wing crew badge. She then transferred to the Army, qualifying as a helicopter pilot – double-wing badge. And recently she returned to the RAAF, collecting her third aircrew badge.

Double-wing aircrew badges are worn by officers in the Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force while Army and RAAF non-commissioned aircrew wear single-wing badges.

All aircrew in the Royal Australian Navy wear a double-wing badge with officer badges sporting a royal crown on the central element – the crown missing from NCO badges. – from Contact military platform.



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

AN OLD Italian man in Melbourne is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside, "Guido, I wan' you lissina me. I wan' you to take-a my chrome plated 38 revolver so you will always remember me."

"But grandpa, I really don't like guns. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead?"

"You lissina me, boy! Somma day you gonna be runna da business, you gonna have a beautiful wife, lotsa money, a big-a home and maybe a couple of bambinos."

"Somma day you gonna come-a home and maybe finda you wife inna bed with another man. "Whatta you gonna do then? Pointa to you watch and say, 'Times up!' "?

MRS Ravioli comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner. He lives with a female roommate, Maria. During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate is.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye.

Reading his mom's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates."

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?"

"Well, I doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure."

So he sat down and wrote an email: "Dear Mama, I'm not saying that you 'did' take the sugar bowl from my house; I'm not saying that you 'did not' take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner. Your Loving Son, Anthony."

A few days later, Anthony received a response email from his Ma-ma which read: "Dear son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with her.

Picked up a hitch-hiker. Seemed like a nice guy.

After a few miles, he asked me if I wasn't afraid that he might be a serial killer?

I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely

But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now. Your Loving Mama." Moral: Never Bulla Shita your Mama.

THERE was a man who had worked all his life, had saved lots, and was a real miser when it came to his money.

Just before he died, he said to his wife, "When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife with me."

So he got his wife to promise him, with all of her heart, that when he died she would put all of the money into the casket with him.

Well, he died. He was stretched out in the casket, his wife was sitting there dressed in black, and her friend was sitting next to her.

When they finished the ceremony, and just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a moment!" She had a small metal box with her; she came over with the box and put it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked it and took the casket down and they rolled it away.

So her friend said, "Girl, I know you were not foolish enough to put all that money in there with your husband."

The loyal wife replied, "Listen, I'm a Christian; I cannot go back on my word. I promised him that I was going to put that money into the casket with him."

"You mean to tell me you put that money in the casket with him?" "I sure did," said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account and wrote him a cheque. If he can cash it, then he can spend it."

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In my role as Honorary Chaplain to three ESOs, VVAASC, Caloundra RSL, and Headquarters 1 Australian Task Force Association, I am never surprised at the wonderful opportunities afforded to me when I am invited to perform ecclesiastical services within the bounds of my expertise.

On Sunday, 17 September, I had the privilege of officiating at the inaugural service of the Contemporary Veterans Commemorative service at the Caloundra RSL. ADF veterans from all wars and skirmishes outside of Australia since 1975 were represented. The Gulf wars, Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, the Solomon Islands, and Afghanistan veterans were in attendance.

A former VVAASC President, Ron Strong, had long supported a liaison between our association and these veterans from other conflicts since Vietnam which saw young Australians walk the same walk as we did in our days in Vietnam to assist the local people to enjoy the same freedoms and security that we have long enjoyed in Australia.

The outcome of this inaugural service is that the group decided to hold their special day in September each year, although it was noted that the organisers would try to avoid holding the service during school holidays as several more veterans may have travelled outside of school holidays.

I mentioned my involvement with the War Dogs Association many years ago and how the widow of Sapper Darren Smith, the Patron of the War Dogs Association, invited me to march alongside her at the head of our Vietnam Veterans' parade in Maroochydore. Sapper Smith and his IED dog, Herbie, were killed in Afghanistan in June 2010.

After the function, one veteran who laid a wreath representing his era, told me that he knew Sapper Darren Smith and Herbie as he had

Fireside with the Padre



trained with them in Australia before heading for Afghanistan.

I also recall that Darren's son, Connor, who as a three-year-old, marched with us, and remembers playing with Herbie at his home of a weekend, as Darren took Herbie home every weekend where Herbie became a family pet, while during the week, was an IED working dog.

I will leave it up to Mick Howe and the committee to explore the dream that Ron Strong saw as the future of our association, exploring any linking to this contemporary group. If I am invited to officiate next September as I did recently, I will happily accept, otherwise, leave it to chaplains from those campaigns.

What was brought home to me, was that many ADF troops served at other places overseas after we served our time in Vietnam. It is no secret that we are all getting older, some reaching octogenarian and nonagenarian status.

As Ron Strong was aware, all too soon, we will have to ask the last Vietnam Veteran to switch off the lights when he leaves the Drop-in-Centre (DIC). Until next month, may God bless every veteran, from every conflict, as we sure need that blessing every day that goes by.

Arthur Fry

Honorary Chaplain

Answers from page 12



TRIVIA

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1. Flags | 11. Giraffe | 21. Sensitivity to pain due to pressure |
| 2. The iPhone | 12. The cheetah | 22. Jessica Mauboy |
| 3. Magnesium | 13. Five | 23. Tomatoes |
| 4. Harry S Truman | 14. Ladybug | 24. Victoria |
| 5. Patterns | 15. An army | 25. Hans Christian Andersen |
| 6. Nautical | 16. Three | 26. Ireland |
| 7. Ottoman | 17. Elon Musk | 27. Ricky Ponting (pictured) |
| 8. 22 months | 18. Microsoft | 28. Jupiter |
| 9. Canis lupus | 19. Denmark | 29. The Netherlands |
| 10. A Jenny | 20. Prague | 30. Live and Let Die |



MINUTES OF VVAASC GENERAL MEETING, THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Meeting opened at 1115hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Garry King. Attendance: 13. **Apologies:** 3.

Previous Minutes: read by Mick Howe. Moved Mick Howe, seconded John Huxham. Carried. No business arising.

Correspondence/Secretary Report: Garry King has been contacted by Seniors Delight Cruises which is offering a \$59pp cruise. Ironman: Thanks to all of our volunteers, \$2400 donation to be received. Fiona Ewington thanked the VV Volunteers. 128 Army Cadets Unit to have a Passing Out Parade Sunday, 8 October at Yandina. Mick H to contact Laurie Drinkwater to represent VVAASC. Moved Garry King, seconded David Oliver. Carried. No business arising.

Treasurer's Report: Mick Howe advised the Meeting a copy of the current report is available in the Drop In Centre.

Membership Report: Pieter Reus moved to have new Member Alan Brandt endorsed, Alan served with 1 RAR 65/66 Vietnam. Moved Pieter Reus, seconded Bob Johnson. Carried. No business arising.

Ricochet Report: No report available.

Office Manager: John Huxham has completed the Audit of the Drop in Centre Library, 34 books are missing. Volunteers are still required to fill the gaps in the Roster. Moved John Huxham, seconded Pieter Reus. Carried. No business arising.

Sub-Committee: John Cunningham reported that next year Maroochy RSL will provide the sound system for VV Day. Thanks to Thai and Diamond for their contribution to the Day.

Moved John Cunningham, seconded John Huxham. Carried. No business.

Digger Hat Jewellery: Scotty, two attendees last DHJ day. The bent Penny press has been repaired at a local Men's Shed; also a new pulley belt for the coin tumbler has been made and is in place. More workers are required. ANZAC House order being processed; stock of gold and silver DHJ is low as it is at least four years since last order of plating was done. Moved Scotty, seconded Bob Johnson. Carried. No business arising.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Scotty: Enquired if VV Day made a profit, JC advised there was a slight profit.

Thai: Thai updated the Meeting that he and Diamond have retired to the Sunshine Coast. He passed on his guests' thanks to VVAASC for their welcome at VV Day. Thai also mentioned that any lady who would like to join in the dance performance at next year's VV Day is welcome to do so.

Brian E.: Informed the Meeting he and Chips had asked an "occupant of the backstairs" to move on the previous week. When will there be a stock take done to enable ordering more memorabilia as stock is low. Carpet cleaning is that possible. Update Committee Board.

Mick Howe: Beers over at the Bowling Club after the Meeting.

Meeting closed at 1140hrs. NEXT GENERAL MEETING: 1100HR TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023.

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October Timeline

3 October 1992: The Vietnam Veterans' National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra, was dedicated to honour those Australians who served and died in the war in Vietnam.

4 October 1913: A fleet of seven brand-new grey-painted warships steamed out of the sea mist and through the Heads into Sydney Harbour. The Royal Australian Navy's new 'fleet unit' – a battlecruiser, three cruisers and three destroyers – had arrived.

4 October 1957: The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 pounds (83.4kg) and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days.

10 October 1912: The first Australian maternity allowance was introduced; married and single women who had given birth received 5 pounds (\$10) to cover the cost of medical care for themselves and their babies.

12 October 2002: About 11pm three bombs were detonat-

ed on the Indonesian island of Bali, two in busy Kuta Beach nightspots and one in front of the American consulate in nearby Denpasar. Shattering Australia's sense of distance from the global reach of terrorism, the explosions killed 202 people including 88 Australians.

14 October 1968: John Zarb is the first person to be found guilty of having failed to comply with his call up notice during the Vietnam War. He is convicted in Melbourne and sentenced to two years in jail, losing an appeal. He is released on compassionate grounds in August 1969 after serving 10 months and seven days in Pentridge Prison.

16 October 1943: For the next 12 months the Japanese army forced about 60,000 Allied prisoners of war (POWs) – including 13,000 Australians and roughly 200,000 civilians, mostly Burmese and Malaysians – to build a railway linking Thailand and Burma.

16 October 1967: RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV '67) joins the US Army's 135th Aviation Company at Vung Tau, supporting American troops in South Vietnam. **PHOTO: The flight in operation.**

16 October 1971: Australian forces hand over control of the Australian base at Nui Dat to South Vietnamese forces. Operation Hardihood 24 May to 4 June 1966 was the military operation to secure and establish Nui Dat for the 1st Australian Task Force base in Vietnam.

- continued next page.



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17 October 1917: Stretching across 1693km of Australia's driest and most isolated terrain, the Trans-Australian Railway was completed, providing a link between the eastern states and Western Australia. Work had begun in 1912.

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. It involved 216 US warships and 64 Japanese ships, resulting in the destruction of the Japanese Navy.

17 October 1950: In a bold bluff, 3RAR's second-in-command, Major Ferguson, convinces at least 1500 North Korean soldiers to surrender at Sariwon during confused fighting in the Korean War.

18 October 1945: The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Göring and Albert Speer.

18 October 1967: HMAS Perth was struck by return fire near Cape Lai, Vietnam, while on the United States 7th Fleet 'gunline'. This was the only occasion on which an Australian warship suffered casualties from enemy fire during the Vietnam War.

18 October 1973: 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.

22 October 1962: President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba, demanding their removal and announcing a naval "quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons.

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 it was the first direct appeal to the public on federation.

24 October 1945: The United Nations was founded after its Charter was ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories.

25 October 1616: Dirk Hartog became the first European to set foot on the shores of Western Australia, and only the second to record encountering the Australian continent.

26 October 1985: The Federal government handed back the title deeds for the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park to the Anangu people, ending decades of determined lobbying by the traditional owners to have their rights recognised.

28 October 1916: A referendum to determine public support for conscription was held and failed by a slim margin; a second took place in December 1917 and again most Australians voted against it.

28 October 1971: The British House of Commons voted 356-244 in favour of joining the European Economic Community. On 31 January 2020 the UK is the only sovereign country to leave the EU.

31 October 1867: Prince Alfred (pictured), second eldest son of Queen Victoria, landed in Adelaide and was the first member of the British royal family to visit Australia, attracting huge crowds wherever he went. He survived an assassination attempt in Sydney.



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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Roll of Honour – Vietnam, October 1962-75. Lest We Forget.

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 AATTV, 1965-66, died PNG 1968), WO1, Forest 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.*

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 6. Phone no. (.....)..... Mobile No. Partner's Name
 7. Date of Birth/...../..... Date of Enlistment/...../..... Date of Discharge/...../.....
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 9. Honours/Awards (e.g. MM,JP) Please list.....
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Date...../...../.....

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