



# RICOCHET



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

## 11 November: REMEMBER always!

Across the Sunshine Coast and across Australia, around the world, millions will mark Remembrance Day with two minutes' silence at 11am on 11 November as has been done since 1919, remembering those who died in World War One – and in other wars.

Prime Minister Billy Hughes said at our first Remembrance Day (or Armistice Day as it was initially called): "Of their deeds it is not necessary for me to speak. Of their valour, endurance and resource at Gallipoli, Pozieres, Bapaume and other famous fields, men still speak with awe.

"Our heritage, our free institutions of government – all that we hold dear – are handed back into our keeping, stained with the blood of sacrifice. Surely not only we, their fellow citizens, but Australians throughout the ages, will treasure forever the memories of those glorious men to whom the Commonwealth owes so much, and will guard with resolute determination the privileges for which they fought and suffered."

Services will be held around the Coast including at Caloundra RSL, Cotton Tree Cenotaph at Maroochydore, Mooloolaba Surf Club, Mudjimba, Nambour, Coolum Beach, Tewantin and Bli Bli.

### NEW LIFE SUBSCRIBER FEE

From next year your association will introduced a life-subscriber category of \$65 which will allow a simpler administration process and a benefit to members.

The current annual membership (ordinary) is \$25 which still applies for next year and is due by 31 December this year. The life subscriber membership will apply from 31 December 2024.

The association will still have to pay the annual capitation fee to the national association via state.

It will be important for members to keep details such as addresses up to date as an annual membership form will not be required.

*OUR Patron Laurie Drinkwater presented 128ACU Yandina's Most Efficient CUO award to Company Commander Jordan Bridson at the unit's recent passing out parade. Your committee has also decided to support 233 Squadron Air Force Cadets with a \$2500 donation (Page 15).*



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

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

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

**General information Page 2 INCLUDING OFFICE NEWS.**

Veterans & Families Counselling

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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.*

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

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Veterans' Advice Network (VAN)**

**129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore, QLD 4558.**

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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.

**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.

## Legacy benefits from Scooter trek across the State

Scooterville 2023 was again a great success with \$30,200 raised for Legacy and 31 men and women taking part on a ride from Boonah to Townsville.

"We saw a lot of wonderful places, met some wonderful people and we're doing it all again in 2024," Trev Benneworth from organisers Radschool Association said.

"Next year as well as in Queensland, which will be run again in August/September, we will be holding it in NSW too, in November. You can apply to come on either or both.

"On Thursday, 24 August, 31 men and women set out from Boonah, which is SW of Brisbane, and headed off on an 18-day journey which would take them to, and overnight Dalby, Roma, Charleville, Blackall, Longreach, Winton, Cloncurry, Richmond, Hughenden, Charters Towers and Townsville.

"Most were ex-ADF personnel riding a mix of eight 110cc Honda and Suzuki scooters and one 160cc Kymco. Although cruising between 80 and 90km/h all

the way, not one missed a beat, all performed perfectly; an amazing feat really when you think a lot of lawn mowers have a bigger engine."

Tribute was paid to many supporters including RSL sub-branches and clubs along the way, regional councils, Kedron-Wavell RSL for loan of a ute, SixT vehicle hire for loan of a van. More at <https://radschool.org.au/ScootervilleQld2023/>

**BELOW: Scooterville convoy in Toowoomba.**



Through poetry, music and film, and in stone, commemorating those who have died in conflict and served in uniform is a crucial part of what makes for a reflective society.

We thank, we honour and we remember. Strange then, that there is one class of combatant for whom historians have long held scant regard.

Women have led armies, sparked insurrections and



**RELATIVE to the accompanying ABC report, it was a farewell from Vietnam for HMAS Toowoomba recently as Lieutenant Commander Emily Ross accepts flowers from Vietnam Navy Captain Nguyen Viet Ahn during a departure ceremony. After a busy three months, the regional activity Indo-Pacific Endeavour's Vietnamese leg wrapped up, coinciding with 50 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam — photo Leading Seaman Ernesto Sanchez RAN. Editors note: Ironically, this 50-year mark also coincides with the 50-year commemorations for the official end of the Vietnam War.**

## ACKNOWLEDGING WOMEN IN WAR

successfully repelled invasions — yet their military contributions throughout history have largely been ignored.

University of Queensland associate professor Sarah Percy, an expert in women in combat, wants to correct the historical record.

"Women are absolutely part of this," she tells ABC RN's Big Ideas.

"They have always been a part of the ebb and flow of battle — often at the centre and sometimes in the lead."

And, she says, women's participation in conflict and security is only likely to increase.

The author of *Forgotten Warriors: A History of Women on the Frontline*, she says the absence of women in the histories of conflicts around the world is no mistake.

"It really is an almost deliberate forgetting," she says.

Her book is a riposte to the likes of Sir John Keegan, the distinguished British military historian, who as recently as 1993 said: "If warfare is as old as history and as universal as mankind, we must now enter the supremely important limitation that it is an entirely masculine activity. Women do not fight ... and they never, in any military sense, fight men."

Dr Percy says that's an assessment used to downplay and marginalise the military contributions that women have made over millennia. — **abridged, from ABC RN / by Antony Funnell for Big Ideas.**

## From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all safe, happy and healthy. Another month gone and we are still going strong at the Drop-In Centre.

Not much news this month to pass on with the exception that our little organising mate, Johno, has been in hospital for the past week.

As many of you know, he has had pretty severe breathing issues for some considerable time now and it got to the stage where he was required to carry an oxygen tank with him wherever he went.

He has told me; "Mate, I feel fine; except I can't breathe." That, I would suggest, does not clarify the definition of the word 'fine.' Anyway, he is in Selangur Hospital at Nambour so if you are in the vicinity, drop in on him and say hello.

Okay, this will be the last time I get to remind you all of an important event that is approaching at an astonishing speed.

Our annual LADIES DAY is getting closer and you need to inform your wife/partner etc of this event. It will take place on Wednesday, 29 November, 2023, com-

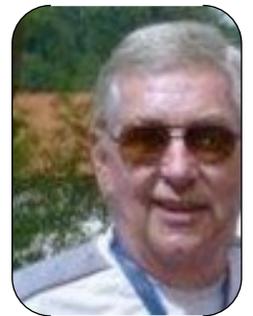
mencing at 12 midday at the Maroochy RSL Club.

A three-course meal, drinks (wine, etc) and entertainment is provided for all ladies attending, and there is no cost involved. In the past, the ladies have thoroughly enjoyed themselves on the day and I can't see it being any different this year.

One last thing I need to remind you of regarding the day, NO MEN are permitted to attend the event. It's strictly for the ladies so please pass the message on to your wives.

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

Despite there being no events to speak of in October, there is lots happening in administration.

Pieter Reus has formulated an exciting new membership level, which is released in this month's Ricochet (Page 1).

Gordon Hall will have the sole sales point for Remembrance Day memorabilia at Sippy Downs. I believe he is still requiring some volunteers. If you can help, please give the DIC a call.

Mike Sheahan will run his own race at Brightwater as he does most years.

For those members who may not be aware, poor old Johnno is still in Selangor Hospital in Nambour and Mick and I have kept in contact most days

I had a long visit with him last week; he is still experiencing breathing problems with minimal exertion. However, apart from that he feels ok. He has had extensive tests on both his lungs and heart, the results of which are imminent.

Our grants for VV Day, which are both discretionary from Ted Hungerford and Joe Natoli SCRC, have been

received. Acquittals for both have been submitted and accepted. The fruit of these grants will be reflected in our bank account presently.

Membership payments for 2024 are drawing close and we urge members to be aware of their commitment to the association.

Jack Cunnington is managing the Ladies Luncheon in November, and if your partners are interested, get your name down ASAP.

Well, Melbourne Cup Day is imminent and if you are booked for a luncheon, please enjoy and we hope you have a win on the day

John Huxham would like to finalise a reserve list of Duty Officers before year's end so as to be up to date for 2024.

Always remember, without volunteers we are no more. Always take the high ground.

*Kind regards,*  
**Garry King**  
*Secretary*



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## RAAF image specialists on board



*SALTWATER Veterans at Mooloolaba Yacht Club supported 2/14th Light Horse Regiment sailing with a visit by RAAF "image specialists". The Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project is supported by the yacht club, Mooloolaba Surf Club, Maroochydore RSL, and Young Veterans Australia.—photo by @japhotography4575 on Saltwater Veterans Facebook.*



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

# RAAF hijacking in East Timor kept a secret

IT WAS kept secret at the time – officially at least – but 48 years ago on 4 September 1975, this RAAF Caribou A4-140 was hijacked by East Timorese soldiers who forced the pilot to fly 42 refugees to Darwin. It is the only RAAF aircraft to have ever been hijacked.

Cross aid into East Timor during the civil war prior to the Indonesian Occupation which occurred in December that year.

The crew of Flying Officer Kierman French, Pilot Officer Gordon Browne and Corporal Bill Crouch, had been tasked to evacuate a number of civilian women and children

due to fighting near Dili airport.

While conducting the evacuation, a soldier panicked and demanded the crew load the plane with women, children and other civilians and take them to Darwin. After loading 42 evacuees, the plane – well above the maximum take-off weight – took off and proceeded to fly to Darwin where all passengers were offloaded.

It was only through personal recount of the crew on board many years later that the event became widely known (their account <https://www.radschool.org.au/magazines/Vol58/Page14.htm>).

Whether the soldier was charged with hijacking and deported or allowed to remain in Australia remains unknown. — **RAD School Facebook.**



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

Dental Prosthetist

# RAEME soldier who ended up on ammo run to Long Tan

Forty years ago, I heard a story about a RAEME soldier being at the Battle of Long Tan. I immediately dismissed it as bull-shit.

I heard it again in 1999, when I was applying to have the pilot, Flt Lt Cliff Dohle's MID upgraded to a DSM. Flt Lt Cliff Dohle piloted the first helicopter that dropped ammunition which saved the lives of D Company 6RAR. I was so focused on getting Cliff Dohle his DSM, which he eventually received, I forgot about the story.

Two years ago, I again heard there was a RAEME soldier at the Battle of Long Tan, this time I thought I would check it out, as the story had surfaced too many times not to have some validity. I knew the soldier wasn't with the ground troops because I had researched 1APC Squadron, 3 Troop

and D Company 6RAR.

Two of the people on helicopter A2-1020, were RSM WO1 George Chin and Major Owen O'Brien, flown by Flt Lt Francis (Frank) Riley. They've been well documented in books such as The Battle of Long Tan by Lex McAulay and many others.

But nobody knew who the other two were on aircraft A2-1022 flown by Flt Lt Cliff Dohle. These people helped load the second chopper as well as wrap the ammo in blankets. They stayed on board to help push out the ammo when A/C hovered over 'D' company. This aircraft carried most of the ammunition and was first over 'D' company to drop the ammunition.

After two years of research, I eventually discovered who the RAEME soldier was. He was 1200605 Cfn Robert Service

(below), Armourer/RAEME attached 6RAR. Most people have never heard of Cfn Service because he applied to Army Aviation after Vietnam.



He later trained to become an Airframe Fitter and served out his six years and left Aviation and the army to work for Bell Helicopters at Brisbane Qld. I asked Robert Service now retired to tell me his story this is his response:

"On the afternoon of the 18 August 1966, I was enjoying a drink of beer with the Admin Company. A Sgt ran up to us and ordered the group to go over to the 'Q' store and collect ammunition boxes and load them into the two helicopters that were sitting on our pad.

"As the only RAEME person there, I thought it was my duty to volunteer to help out. We did this in a tropical monsoonal downpour.

- Continued next page.



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# Dropped ammo into the bush in tropical downpour

- From Page 8

“We loaded the two helicopters, and I noticed I had the last box of ammo to be loaded and as I did, I saw the ‘Q’ store Cpl McCutchen arrive with a bundle of blankets and he jumped on board with them. I could see he needed my help, so I climbed aboard the helicopter and help him wrap the ammo boxes.

“While we were busy doing this, the pilot took off. The noise of the tropical downpour combined with the engine noise, plus the adrenalin rush, blocked out any communications with one another.

“After a short period of time, we arrived at our destination; we were at tree-top height. Through the rain, you could see the trees. I helped push the ammo boxes as well as some ammo in sandbags right to the edge of the floor of the helicopter. The A/C rolled on its side and the load helped by the door gunner and us left the A/C and fell to the ground. After the drop we returned to Nui Dat.

“Our helicopter was A2-1022; it was piloted by Flt Lt Cliff Dohle. I knew we were sitting ducks; we were at treetop about 20/30 feet above the ground, and you could see the rubber trees through the blinding rain. The helicopter had on all its navigation lights as well as

the flashing strobe light on at the top of the A/C.”

Aircraft A2-1022 piloted by Flt Lt Cliff Dohle and Flt Lt Bruce Lane, door gunners, Cpl. Bill Harrington, LAC Brian Hill, ammo unloaders Cfn Robert Service and Cpl William McCutchen is now restored as a Memorial and sits on a stand out the front of Caloundra Qld RSL.

- By 41961 WO1 (Bob) R.C. Thompson (Ret) in ‘Frontline’. Bob Service died in September and his funeral was at Wynnum.



*RAAF Iroquois A2-1022 has been mounted on a pole and stands as a memorial at Caloundra RSL.*



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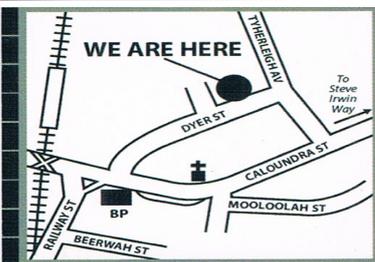
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## Diggers young and old



*DIGGERS (and others) young and old attended the October Rilemen's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club. The 110 in attendance included 60 from A Company, 6 RAR at Enoggera. - Kev Lynch photos.*



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# Book features subaltern who became a baron

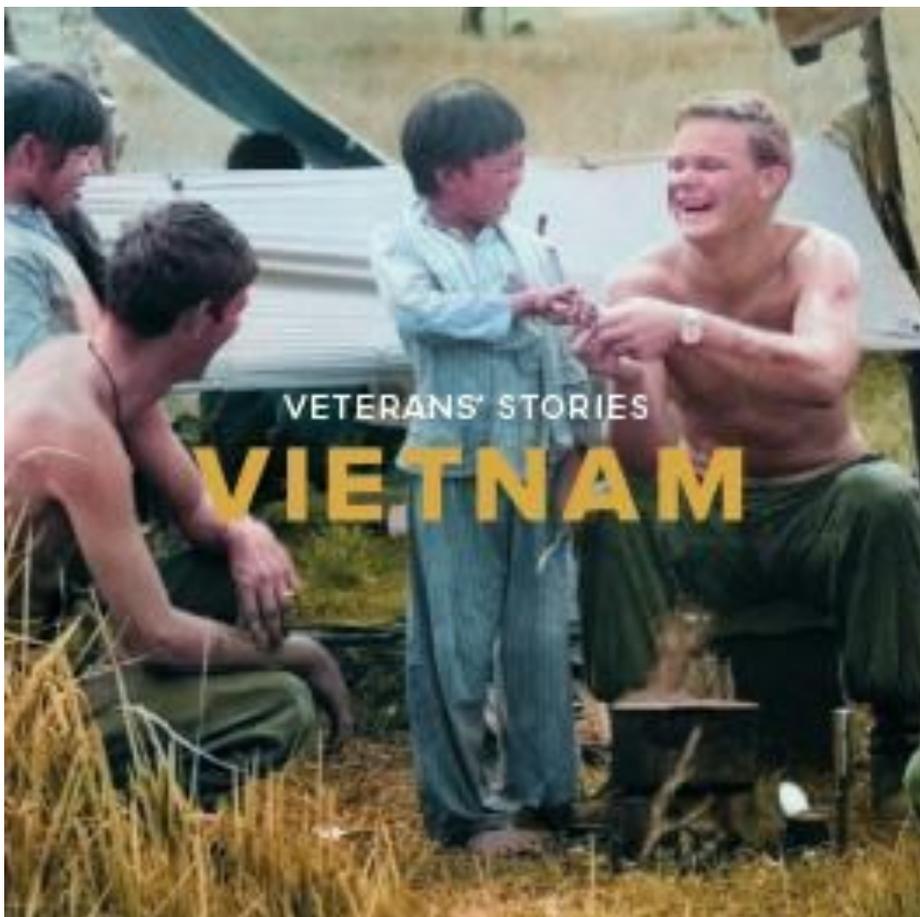
A PIONEERING platoon commander is featured on the front page of a booklet produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

In the photo taken by Michael Coleridge, a laughing 2Lt Mick Deak and members of his platoon, who were with 5 Battalion RAR in 1966-67 are shown being "helped" by local Vietnamese children prepare an evening meal (**below**).

Lt Deak was actually founding commander of Reconnaissance Platoon raised by 5RAR in October 1966, the first such specialist platoon to be used in Vietnam.

Michael Deak was born on 7 November in 1943 in Germany, migrating with his family to Australia in 1950. He enlisted in the Australian Army on 25 January 1962. After two years in 1 RAR he was accepted for the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, graduating as a Second Lieutenant in December 1965.

He was immediately posted to the newly raised 5 RAR (The Tiger Battalion) and served with that unit in 1966/67 when he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry after showing leadership and courage on 17 October 1966 during Operation Queanbeyan in Phuoc Tuy Province.



The establishment of the 5RAR Reconnaissance Platoon was ground-breaking at the time and in some quarters questioned as to its role vis-à-vis SAS and its role, which was easily countered through the SAS being engaged in "long range recon patrols" up to 30,000 metres inside enemy territory and the battalion's reconnaissance patrols, filling the gap up to 12,000 metres and never out of direct artillery support range.

In February 1967 an unusual event occurred when he was summoned by the Commanding Officer and staff to a naturalisation ceremony, which was to be his own.

He had been able to enlist in the Australian Army, accept a Queens Commission and now be operating in Vietnam as a German citizen, which created some "angst" in Canberra as Germany was a neutral country in the Vietnam War. Four months previously he had been recommended for a Military Cross which created more anxiety.

Upon returning to Australia he continued his career with postings to the Special Air Service Regiment, (SASR) and 2 Commando Company (ARES) Victoria as ARA Cadre and Adjutant.

He is retired but has been active in veteran's matters.

He is a former member of the Veterans Advisory Council of SA, Ex-Service Organisation Round Table of the DVA and a former member of The Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Military Mental Health. He is also national Chairman of The Royal Australian Regiment Association.

In 1974 Deak adopted his father's title and is now known as Michael Gunther Joseph Deak von Berg (Baron von Berg).

In 2015, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to rugby, particularly in South Australia.

The platoon's activities have been acknowledged in the book *Crossfire* by Peter Haran and Robert Kearney and in a Channel 9 documentary "The Eyes of the Tiger".

Details on the DVA book at <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/veterans-stories-vietnam>

(Ricochet editor Kerry White served with 5RAR at the same time as then Lt Deak.)

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THIS YEAR'S

# LADIES DAY LUNCH

## PLEASE LET YOUR PARTNER KNOW



This year's Ladies Day Lunch will be held in the upstairs Function Room of the Maroochy RSL Club on Wednesday 29 November, 2023 from noon to 3 pm.

This function is completely free of cost and will include a three-course meal, wine, soft drink and tea and coffee. There will be live entertainment and you are guaranteed a great day out. The occasion is the Association's yearly 'Thank You' to our long-suffering partners.

**The Lunch is open to current financial Association Members (Ladies only), Partners and Widows of Association Members.**

Important: If you plan on attending the gathering, you must register by contacting the Duty Officer at the Drop-In Centre on 54794552, so details can be recorded. The DIC is open weekdays from 0900 hours to 1200 hours. Please register by 14 November to allow for catering purposes.

If you have any dietary requirements please advise the nature of such when registering. If past years are any indication, it will be a wonderful day.

If you have any further enquiries or have trouble registering, please contact John Cunnington on 0415375968.





## Last round ...

**AN 80-ROUND burst from the 76mm medium calibre gun at West Head gunnery range at Flinders, Victoria, signalled the end of an era. It was the final firing and decommissioning of the 76mm medium calibre gun (MCG), marking the end of more than three decades of service at the range. Future training will be delivered through virtual-reality simulation and onboard training. – from RAN PR.**



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



After the divorce settlement, on the first day he sadly packed his belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases. On the second day, he had the movers come to collect his things.

On the third day, he sat down by candle-light at their beautiful dining-room table for the last time, all by himself; he put on some soft background music, and feasted on a pound of prawns, a jar of caviar, and a bottle of spring-water.

When he'd finished, he went into each and every room and deposited the uneaten prawn heads dipped in caviar into the hollow centre of the curtain rods. He then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

On the fourth day, the wife came back with her new boyfriend, and at first all was bliss. Then, slowly, the house began to smell. They tried everything: cleaning, mopping, and airing-out the place. Vents were checked for dead rodents, and carpets were steam cleaned. Air fresheners were hung everywhere.

Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which time the two had to move out for a few days, and in the end they even paid to replace the expensive wool carpeting. Nothing worked. People stopped coming over to visit. Repairmen refused to work in the house. The maid quit. Finally, they couldn't take the stench any longer, and decided they had to move.

But a month later, even though they'd cut their price in half, they couldn't find a buyer for such a stinky house. Word got out and eventually even the local realtors refused to return their calls. Finally, unable to wait any longer for a purchaser, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new place.

Then the ex called the woman and asked how things were going. She told him the saga of the rotting house. He listened politely and said that he missed his old home terribly and would be willing to reduce his divorce settlement in exchange for having the house back.

Knowing he could have no idea how bad the smell really was, she agreed on a price that was only 1/10th of what the house had been worth ... but only if he would sign the papers that very day. He agreed, and within two hours her lawyers delivered the completed paperwork.

A week later the woman and her boyfriend stood smiling as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home ... and, just to spite the ex-husband, they even took the curtain rods.

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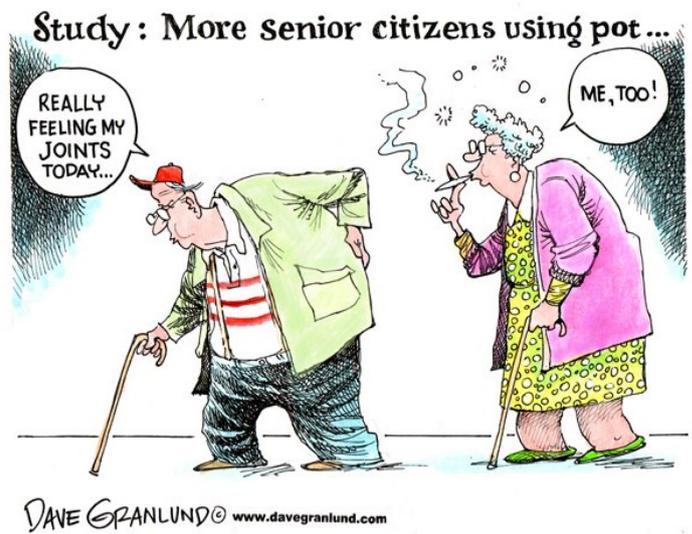
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## MINUTES OF VVAASC GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023

Meeting opened at 1120 hrs. Ode to the fallen recited by Garry King.

Attendance. Apologies. Previous Minutes read aloud by Mick Howe. Moved Mick Howe, seconded Garry King.

Business arising from previous Minutes: MH advised of a letter received from Pilot Officer Glen Tratt, Executive Officer of 233 Squadron (air cadets) at Mountain Creek. PO Tratt was seeking assistance in purchasing equipment for instructional aids as his Squadron is relatively new, and has been borrowing equipment from other Units in order to train. A motion was moved by MH and seconded by GK to donate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500) to the Squadron. The meeting was unanimous in supporting the proposition.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report: GK reported that our Hospital Visitation Officer, Alec Chesters had made 42 hospital visits over the past 3 months. Discussion over our future website took place. Suncoast Hosting will be our new website hosts and a direct debit issue was discussed. Kerry White & Deb Day to follow-up. Document from Trevor Benneworth (Rad School) indicated that 'Scooterville' had raised \$30,000 on behalf of Legacy. Moved GK and seconded Michael Gay – Carried.

Treasurer's Report: GK read extracts from the Treasurers Report submitted by Deb Day to the committee. Hard copies of the report were distributed to the committee. Moved GK and seconded KW - Carried.

Membership Report: Pieter Reus discussed the impending Life Subscriber situation and produced documentation relating to certain proposals that were available. Motion by MH to adopt Option 2, seconded John Cunnington. Carried by Meeting. It was agreed that the cost of Life Subscriber fees would be \$65 which correlates to five years capitation fees. Moved by PR and seconded by David Oliver. Carried.

Ricochet: Kerry White addressed the committee and advised that matters relative to the migration of the VVAASC website has now been finalised. Moved KW and seconded BJ. Carried.

Office Manager: John Huxham advised that he had little to report with the exception of his intention to conduct a 'key audit' of the many keys in drawers and other places throughout the office. Moved JH and seconded Michael Gay. Carried.

Sub-Committee: John Cunnington advised that preparations for our 'Ladies Day Function' on Wednesday, 29 November, 2023, are all but complete. Food menu and dietary provisions will be completed within the week. John also advised that he had received correspondence from Flying Officer Shamira Hobbler, Commanding Officer of 207 Squadron (Cadets), seeking volunteers to assist with training at her Nambour base, together with an invitation to attend. JC to follow-up. Moved JC and seconded Brian Earp - Carried.

Diggers Hat Jewellery: Dave Oliver advised the meeting that they had run-out of the actual key-ring holders and that inquiries were current as to re-ordering same. A total of four (4) staff were present at their last meeting. Moved D.O. and seconded John Oxenham – Carried.

General Business: Gordon Hall advised that he had prepared a 'volunteers list' which he has placed on the Notice Board within the office, seeking volunteers to attend a stall at Sippy Downs on Armistice Day.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 1155 hrs.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS 1100 HOURS, TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023.**

## ORIGIN OF THE FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE

The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance of those who died or suffered in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae first described the red poppy, the Flanders' poppy, as the flower of remembrance.

At the second battle of Ypres in 1915, when in charge of a small first-aid post, McCrae wrote a poem that has come to be known as 'In Flanders Fields'. The poem described the poppies that marked the graves of soldiers killed fighting for their country.

In England in 1919, the British Legion sought an emblem that would honour the dead and help the living. The red poppy was adopted as that emblem and has been accepted as the emblem of remembrance.



The red poppy has special significance for Australians as they were among the first to flower in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium in the First World War. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground.

Australians wear a red poppy on Remembrance Day for three reasons:

- in memory of the sacred dead who rest in Flanders' Fields
- to keep alive the memories of the sacred cause for which they laid down their lives
- as a bond of esteem and affection between the soldiers of all Allied nations and in respect for France, our common battleground.

Today, cloth poppies are sold on, or around, 11 November each year. Proceeds from the sale of the poppies goes toward raising funds for welfare work.

THIS is the 100<sup>th</sup> *Fireside with the Padre* column I have written for your newsletter. After being your Chaplain for several years, in 2013 I was approached to write a monthly column.

That Christmas I chose this title but, I decided it was too hot for a fireside theme, so I changed it to *Poolside with the Padre*. The editor at the time, John Cunnington, said to me that *Fireside with the Padre* is well known; stick with that! And that I have!

As a child, I guess I was like many of you who thought that behind the closed doors of the Manse, the Presbytery, or the Friary, life is always 'hunky-dory', and nothing ever goes wrong because those who dwell therein, are protected and favoured as those who serve the 'author and finisher' of their faith. This is not always so and let me be the one to dispel this myth, the one who has called upon the God I serve as has my dear wife, and our families, all our lives.

As many Christians do, they desire to visit the Holy Land, the birthplace, and where the founder of our faith, the Lord, Jesus Christ, walked and taught for a short three years, before he was put to death on a cruel cross at Calvary to redeem mankind from our just desserts and offer an eternal home in Glory with Him. My wife, Annette, or 'Mrs. Padre' to some, has always had a desire to visit the Holy Land, to see where Jesus lived out his earthly life.

In March 2020, we flew to Mauritius to board the magnificent Costa cruise ship *Mediterranea* on a 30-day cruise to Venice, stopping off in the Holy Land. As most of you know, after 30 incredible hours on that ship, in the lap of luxury, we

## ***Fireside with the Padre***



were tossed off the ship, as COVID-19 appeared. We slowly, and laboriously made our way home via Melbourne.

When our good friends, Elizabeth and Neil, (who you know as my 2 Cav mate,) announced they were going on a cruise from Istanbul to Dubai, and visiting the Holy Land, Annette decided we would join them, and as a bonus, we would visit Ephesus, where Paul did much of his preaching.

We are due to fly to Istanbul in mid-November. Annette was gleeful, for at long last her dream of seeing the Holy Land was about to become a reality.

Then, on 7 October, world events suddenly changed. Churches all over the world went to prayer for the innocent civilians in Israel and the Gaza Strip, home of many Palestinians, as well we should.

But with that sudden abhorrent attack, Annette's hope of being allowed to disembark our cruise ship at Haifa and Ashdod, suddenly flew out the window.

Until next month when we can view our missed Holy Land trip in hindsight, may God bless all Veterans from all campaigns.

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

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## November Timeline

**1 November 1914:** The first Australian and New Zealand contingent sails from Albany, Western Australia, bound for Egypt. Only one in three of those who sailed in the first convoy would return physically unscathed at the end of the First World War.

**1 November 1989:** Dedication of the National Army Memorial in Anzac Parade, Canberra, by the Governor General, Bill Hayden.

**2 November 1963:** Ngô Đình Diệm, South Vietnam's first President (1955–63), and his brother, Ngô Đình Nhu, are assassinated in a successful CIA-backed coup d'état led by General Dương Văn Minh of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

**4 November 1930:** Phar Lap, a legend of Australian sporting history, won the Melbourne Cup. His sensational rise from humble beginnings captured the public's imagination during the difficult years of the 1930s Great Depression. Phar Lap won 37 races from 51 starts. His death in the United States in 1932 prompted an outpouring of anger and grief.

**7 November 1861:** About 4000 people gathered at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne to watch a horserace that would become one of Australia's most important sporting events. Though 57 horses were slated to take part in the race, only 17 actually started. Sydney horse Archer, trained by Etienne de Mestre, was the winner by a staggering six lengths.

**8 November 1965:** 1 RAR fights one of the first set-piece engagements of the war between Australian forces and the Viet Cong at the Battle of Gang Toi.

Two servicemen, Private Richard Parker and Private Peter Gillson, were posted missing believed killed during the fighting. Their bodies were recovered more than 40 years later and returned to Australia for burial.

**10 November 1964:** Selective conscription introduced for Australia's 20-year-old males by ballot under the National Service Act (1964). Men chosen by this ballot had to perform two years continuous full-time service in the Australian Regular Army. This could include overseas service in Vietnam. People could be exempted in some circumstances. Men who were married before being called up and those who had a serious criminal history were granted indefinite deferment.

**11 November 1918:** Germany signs an armistice ending the fighting on the Western Front. The First World War ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

**11 November 1975:** After a series of dramatic events including a 1974 double dissolution and a budgetary supply crisis, the Gough Whitlam-led federal Labor government became the first (and only) government in Australian history to be dismissed by the Governor-General.

**12 November 1894:** Lawrence Hargrave, Australian inventor, astronomer, explorer and historian, connected four box kites of his own design. Having added a seat, he flew with the kites 16 feet (4.8 metres) off the ground, thus proving to the world a safe, heavier-than-air flying machine was possible.

— continued next page

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## November Timeline

**13 November 1965:** Australian Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Arthur Wheatley was killed while defending a wounded comrade during the Vietnam War. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry.

**16 November 1920:** W Hudson Fysh, Paul McGinness and Fergus McMaster established the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd with two open-cabin biplanes. It became Qantas, the second oldest airline in the world and the company and its flying kangaroo livery are Australian icons, though attracting some controversy in recent years.

**16 November 2009:** Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a formal apology on behalf of the nation to Australian-born children in care, often known as 'Forgotten Australians', and to former child migrants who had been subject to appalling deprivations and abuse while growing up in 'out-of-home care' across Australia in the 20th-century.

**19 November 1941:** HMAS Sydney [II] sunk with its entire crew of 645 men in a sudden and disastrous encounter with the German raider, Kormoran, off the Western Australian coast.



**21 November 1936:** The Hume Dam was opened. It was the largest dam in the Southern Hemisphere and a great feat of Australian engineering. It forms the Hume Reservoir, which is the main water supply on the Murray River system.

**22 November 1963:** Lyndon B. Johnson becomes US president after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Johnson announces that the US will continue support of South Vietnam. By the end of 1963, 15,000 US advisors are serving in Vietnam; the US gives \$500m in aid to Vietnam that year. **ABOVE: Swearing in on a plane with the slain president's body with widow Jacqueline Kennedy (right) and Mrs Johnson.**

**27 November 1939:** Inauguration of the Empire Air Training Scheme. More than 37,000 Australian airmen trained under the scheme in Australia, Canada and Rhodesia, one of the Commonwealth's greatest achievements in wartime.

**29 November 1948:** The launch of Australia's first locally made mass-production car, Holden FX, was a milestone in Australian manufacturing.

*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://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, November 1962-75. Lest We Forget.

## November 1965

Gillson, Peter Raymond (37857), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Fawknor Crematorium & Memorial Park, Melbourne.  
 Hillier, Reginald Hedley (42774), 26, 1RAR, Cpl, Adelaide River War Cemetery, NT (originally Terendak, Malaysia).  
 Parker, Richard Harold J (213963), 24, 1RAR, LCpl, Woden Cemetery, ACT.  
 Swanton, Ronald James (13841), 29, AATTV (attached RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.  
 Wheatley, Kevin Arthur (29890), 28, AATTV (attached RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

## November 1966

Hendle, Terence Edward (18256), 20, 6RAR, LCpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.  
 Kirkwood, John Lynden (A113169), 19, Base Squadron Ubon (RAAF), AC, Ipswich, Qld.  
 Nilsen, Erald Herman (1200083), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Dunwich Cemetery, Qld.  
 Pracy, Noel Arthur (216044), 20, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.  
 Watson, Bryan Phillip (5713748), 21, 5RAR, LCpl, Karakatta Cemetery, WA.

## November 1967

Allen, Norman George (2784699), 21, 7RAR, Sydney War Cemetery, Rookwood, Sydney.  
 Bell, Ronald John (5714249), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Allambie Park Cemetery, Albany, WA.  
 Cullen, Bryan Thomas (217314), 20, 7RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.  
 Fallon, Barry Edmond (216906), 31, 7RAR, Pte, Southport Cemetery, Qld.  
 Hawker, Norman Victor G (3789232), 22, 7RAR, Pte, Kaniva and Lillimur Cemetery, Vic.  
 Hutchison, Maurice John (1200455), 28, 1FldSqn, Spr (TempCpl), Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.  
 Moore, Barry John (242811), 30, 1 ED Sqn (RAE), SSG (TempWO2), Urunga Cemetery, NSW.  
 Pettitt, Noel Charles (3790094), 21, 2RAR, Pte, Merbein Public Cemetery, Vic.  
 Rivett, Jeffrey Clive (4410710), 24, 2RAR, Pte, Murray Bridge Cemetery, SA.  
 Tregear, Barry (2412508), 29, 4FldRegt, Gnr, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

## November 1968

Annesley, Frederick John (2784162), 22, 1RAR, Cpl, Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, Botany, Sydney.  
 Donnelly, William Wayne (217898), 19, 1RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.  
 Gibbs, Ian James (5715657), 21, 1RAR, Pte, Wandering Cemetery, WA.  
 Hughes, Rodney Donald (1201350), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Bowen, Qld.  
 Langlands, Terrance Edward (2786939), 23, 1RAR, 2Lt, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.  
 Quigley, Anthony Vincent (4719160), 21, 3RAR, LCpl, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

## November 1969

Bink, Martin (2275420), 25, 9RAR, LCpl, Woden Cemetery, ACT.  
 Convery, Robert Tom (38627), 22, 9RAR, Lt, Fawknor Memorial Park, Moreland City, Vic  
 Linton, Matthew Philip (1734491), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.  
 Lisle, Anthony (2791437), 23, 1 FldSqn, Spr, Rockhampton Cemetery, Qld.  
 Suttor, Henry Edward (218006), 26, 5RAR, LCpl (TempCpl), Canobolas Orange Crematorium, Orange, NSW.  
 Troy, Kevin John (22696), 47, AATV (attached RAI), WO2, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.  
 White, Michael Paul (217191), 20, 5RAR, LCpl, Dawson Cemetery, Taree, NSW.

## November 1970

Carver, Robert Charles (O119223), 24, 2Sqn RAAF, Pilot Officer, (remains retrieved 2009) Pinnaroo Cemetery, Brisbane, Qld.  
 Herbert, Michael Patrick John (O44310), 24, 2Sqn RAAF, Flying Officer, (remains retrieved 2009) Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.  
 Fleming, Robert (38129), 24, 1ARU, Sgt, Rookwood Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Sydney.  
 Black, Barbara Frances (F35135), 25, 1Field Hospital (RAANC), Lt, (died of illness in Australia), Burwood General Cemetery, Melbourne.

- 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.

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

