



Service recognised and remembered

More than two million Australians have made the conscious decision to undertake service for our country, a Remembrance Day service in Canberra was told.

"This has enabled our nation, our character, the beliefs and ideals, our ability to choose how we want to live and to have choice, and our ability to participate in democracy," Australian Defence Force Chief of Personnel, Lieutenant General Natasha Fox (**pictured**) told the national service.

"Service means and feels differently to all of us – it is about the greater good; putting others, your nation and your community before yourself; it is more than a job, it is about supporting and lifting others, it is about providing hope.

"We know that service may come at a heavy cost; physically, mentally or spiritually, and the memory of conflict or operations remains firmly imprinted on the minds and in the hearts of our families.

"As a serving member, the partner of a serving member, a mother, and the daughter of a veteran, I know the impact on families, friends and communities and the sacrifices they all make to enable service.

"The consequences of, and sacrifices for service are the legacy of war. They are the enduring burden experienced by our people. It is the loss of life, the grief en-



dured, the absences experienced and the loss of time together, that impacts us all.

"And this is why we must always ensure we come together, to take a moment in time to pause in our busy lives, to observe the minute of silence, and to remember the service and sacrifices.

"To remember and be grateful for the legacy that has been left by the many Australians who have served, to remember the consequences of war and conflict, and importantly, to remember so that we want, work for, and do what we can, to preserve peace."

- More on Remembrance Day inside.

FEES DUE 31 DECEMBER ... CHOOSE YOUR OPTION. A one-off life subscriber category costing \$65 has been introduced for ordinary members. It was initially to be introduced from 2025, but is now available for 2024 membership. The annual membership fee (that is, paid annually) remains as is at \$25. Refer to website.



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.

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SUB-BRANCH Inc.

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VVAASC SUB-BRANCH DROP-IN-CENTRE



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

Office Phone 54794552

E-mail: secretaryvvaasc@gmail.com

OFFICE NEWS

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

CLOSED FROM NOON, 15 DECEMBER, RE-OPENS MONDAY 8 JANUARY.

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. NEXT MEETING IS AGM 1100HRS TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY. NOMINATION FORM PG 21.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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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.

Remembering across the Sunshine Coast



REMEMBRANCE DAY scenes (clockwise from top left) at Nambour, Caloundra, Tewantin, Maroochydore, Mooloolaba, Maroochydore. More Page 7. Photos from various sources appreciated.



From the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all safe, happy and healthy. I have a problem believing that it's December already. Where have the past 11 months gone? They say that time seems to go faster as you age, but I didn't expect it to go that fast!

I, and your committee apologise that we have neglected to make some form of arrangement regarding a Christmas-style function, such as a BBQ or similar style event this year. Problem is, we've just been too busy to do so.

We have however, over the past few months, come to agreement that as and from next year (commencement of 2024) we will be offering all 'ordinary members' the option of becoming a Life Subscriber at a cost of sixty-five dollars (\$65). It will be a 'one off' payment with no need to renew your membership again; ever! The cost was set being in mind the average age of our members.

Your Association receives absolutely no financial gain whatsoever, and the total amount of your \$65 will go to the State Branch to cover your 'capitation fees' for the next five years. We have taken this course of action af-

ter numerous members have told us that they find it difficult to remember to re-new their membership each year and subsequently fall behind.

This of course effects such things as the ticket prices when it comes to such events as Vietnam Veterans Day functions. Anyway, your committee has collectively agreed that the new 'Life Subscriber' initiative will be of great value to our members. I would like to thank our Membership Officer, Pieter Reus, firstly for his idea on the scheme itself, and secondly for his resourcefulness in bringing the strategy to fruition.

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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Baringa

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5329 4616



From the Secretary

There goes the second last month of 2023 as we now get to the crazy part and I trust everyone is as well as can be expected.

The year has just flown by and we find ourselves almost in December, with no Christmas celebrations planned for next month. This has to be a first because I cannot remember ever being in this embarrassing situation previously. You can be assured the early part of 2024, we will celebrate.

We are experiencing another bout of Covid on the coast and according to local GPs it's quite a nasty bout. Please take all the care you can to avoid.

At the last meeting held at the DIC on 21 November, it was decided to bring our Life Subscriber Membership forward to 2024. This motion was greeted by all present and confirmed by Pieter Reus.

This simply means any ordinary member can become a Life Subscriber in January 2024 for \$65, nothing more to pay ever.

Closing date for the DIC over the Xmas New Year period is as follows: Close Office Friday 15th December and reopen Monday 8 January 2024.

I have this morning (29 November) been advised of the Mooloolaba Triathlon date for 2024.

Make note of this if you are able to volunteer: Sunday 10 March 2024.

Fiona Ewington has given us plenty of notice once again.

The library support building convenor visited our office after the recent meeting and advised new security guidelines for both buildings after recent attacks on the library itself.

This entails signing in when visiting the DIC at the library reception desk.

This will be confirmed in future correspondence I am sure.

That's about all the news I have for this month, I hope you are all well and preparing for the silly season ahead.

I trust all ladies are preparing for the luncheon on Wednesday at Maroochy RSL. Always take the high ground.

Kind regards
Garry King
Secretary



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Flag presented to widow of Harry Smith



Felicia Smith, widow of Long Tan Battle hero, the late Lt Col. Harry Arthur Smith SG MC (Retd), was presented with the Australian flag from his coffin by 6 RAR CO Richard Niessel and RSM Michael Keefe recently at a Sunshine Coast Riflemen's Lunch.

*Backgrounds
the same but a
few years apart*

LEFT: It was a chance for Michael to catch up with a predecessor as RSM and association member Rick Brittain. That's not all they have in common — both are from Tasmania and went to the same schools, Goodwood and Cosgrove in Hobart; and they lived in the same street. Michael's mum still lives there.



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Always a day to remember

Remembrance Day on the Sunshine Coast with (left) veterans Geoff Jewell and Buddy Furman with Chantelle Minter (the one on the right); the piper has a spell after a hard day at the office; and below, volunteers at work selling merchandise at Kawana.



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Legends out to lunch

Mooloolaba Surf Club continues as the place to be on the first Friday of each month—for the Riflemen's Lunch at least.. Never know who will turn up.—More next page.

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OUT TO LUNCH



More of the 'Old Soldiers' at the Riflemen's Lunch last month at Mooloolaba Surf Club.—photos Steve Jerome and Kerry White.

Remembrance Day tribute

Address by Mick Howe, president Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Sunshine Coast, and Deputy President and Treasurer, Maroochy RSL, at The Cenotaph, Maroochy, 11 November

Ladies and gentlemen, as we stand here in peace and safety, we pay our respects to all of the fallen, all of the wounded and all who served in conflicts over the last 100 years. Today, as we should every day, we remember those who volunteered, sacrificed, served, fought, and died, for our freedom. We thank you, and we salute you as we salute those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

On 28 June 1914, a young Serbian national shot and killed Archduke Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian empire. As a direct result of that assassination, the Austrian army invaded Serbia on 28 July, 1914. Due to certain military alliances that had formed throughout Europe at that time, the entire continent was soon engulfed in war. Because most European nations had numerous colonies around the world, the war soon became a global conflict.

A series of actions then eventuated and on 1 August 1914 Germany declared war on Russia; on 3 August 1914, Germany declared war on France; and as a consequence, on 4 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany, which brought Australia into the conflict.

It is generally accepted that the First World War killed some 16 million people worldwide, of which military deaths constituted about 9.5 million. It is also estimated that around 20 million were wounded, including 8 million left per-

manently disabled in some way.

Although comparatively small in numbers, Australia's losses from the war were heavy for a nation of just 4.9 million. In round figures, the combined total of all Australian armed forces sent overseas during the war was about 340,000, of whom 331,000 served in the Australian Imperial force (AIF). Around 213,000 members of the AIF became battle casualties during the conflict: almost 54,000 died, 4000 were taken prisoner and 155,000 were wounded.

On even a quiet day on the western front, many hundreds of Allied and German soldiers died. The heaviest loss of life for a single day occurred on July 1 1916, during the battle of the Somme, when the British army suffered 57,470 casualties.

The battles and agony undertaken throughout the four-year engagement were horrific. As recorded in one young Australian soldier's diary: "There was not a sign of life of any sort. Not a tree, save for a few dead stumps which looked strange in the moonlight. Not a bird, not even a rat or a blade of grass. Nature was as dead as those Australians whose bodies remained where they had fallen the previous day. Death was everywhere."

- Continued next page



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A veteran's Remembrance Day tribute

- from previous page.

November 11, Remembrance Day, is the day Australians remember the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace; specifically, the First and Second World Wars, and all conflicts since then, in which members of the Australian forces have participated to give us, and others, their independence.

My freedom was handed to me by those who came before me and sacrificed so much. So now, it is my responsibility to never forget the service and the sacrifices of those Australian soldiers, sailors, aircrew and merchant seaman who died so I could have the freedom to stand here and de-

live this speech. So I can get an education. Get a job. Live a free life. I am forever in their debt.

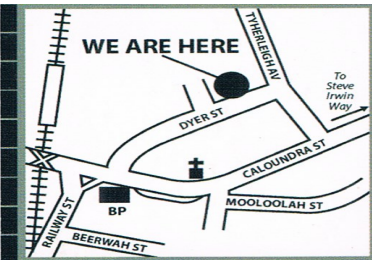
I will remember the sacrifices of everyone: The doctors and nurses who tended to the wounded; the parents who watched their children fight things that they couldn't protect them from; the children who were too young to understand why their moms and dads wouldn't be home for Christmas; the teen boys who were shipped off to fight before they even got a chance at adulthood. Because they lost so much ... and because they gave everything, I thank them and I will always remember. Their dreams became your tomorrows. All they ask is that you will never forget what they gave.

In closing, I would like to quote Paul Varley: "War is a place where young people who don't know each other and don't hate each other, kill each other, based on decisions made by other people who know each other and hate each other, but don't kill each other."

We will never forget. We will remember you always. Lest we forget.



Mick Howe



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Christmas Trivia



1. On which 'feast' did Good King Wenceslas step out, according to the well-known hymn In 1946,
2. Who was the star of the Christmas movie *Jingle All the Way*?
3. Who tries to stop Christmas from coming, by stealing all things of Christmas?
4. Who was the star of the

movie titled *White Christmas*?

5. What is the first name of Scrooge, the principal character of the novel, *A Christmas Carol*?
6. Who was the author of *A Christmas Carol*?
7. How many ghosts are there in *A Christmas Carol*?
8. What was the name of the animated Christmas movie featuring Tom Hanks?
9. What made Frosty come to life in the movie "Frosty the Snowman"?
10. Who spies on kids and reports back to Santa?
11. What were the names of the Ghosts in *A Christmas Carol*?
12. Which milk-based beverage is available around the [Christmas holidays](#) and comes in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic versions?
13. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
14. Which spirit is traditionally added to butter and served with Christmas pudding?
15. True or False: Before turkey, the traditional English Christmas dinner included a pig's head smothered in mustard.
16. Visions of which sweet foodstuff danced in children's heads as they slept, according to Clement Clarke Moore's poem "Twas the Night before Christmas"?

17. What fairy tale inspired gingerbread houses?
18. Who invented electric Christmas lights?
19. Which of these was *not* a gift given by the 'Wise Men' to Baby Jesus – gold, silver, myrrh, or frankincense?
20. Which company made the concept of Santa Claus popular worldwide?
21. How did Xmas begin?
22. After leaving Bethlehem, to which country did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus travel?
23. Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December. Who is the patron saint remembered on the 26th of December?
24. Every elf has this ornament on the tip of their shoes. Which ornament are we talking about?
25. Everyone is familiar with the mistletoe tradition. What is the color of the berries of the plant?
26. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
27. How many candles are on an Advent wreath?
28. What do Christians associate with the wreath?
29. What do advent wreaths symbolize?
30. Name the eight original Reindeer.



Christmas Riddles to Test Your Patience

1. If Santa's 5 elves take 5 minutes to make 5 dolls, then how long do you think 100 elves will need to make 100 dolls?
2. At a holiday market, the total cost for a cup of hot cocoa and a cookie is \$1.80. If a cup of hot cocoa costs one dollar more than a cookie, how much does a cup of hot cocoa cost?
3. Nick has a box of ornaments that his grandmother gave him. He puts them on his Christmas



- tree. If all but 6 are silver, all but 6 are gold, and all but 6 are copper – how many ornaments does Nick have on his tree?
4. There's a one-story house in which everything is red and green. Red and green walls, red and green doors, red and green furniture. What colour are the stairs?
5. If the end of the year is December 31st, what is the end of Christmas?

ANSWERS PAGE 15

MINUTES OF VVAASC GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Meeting opened 1115hrs. Ode to the Fallen recited by Garry King.
 Attendance: 13. Apologies: 2. Previous Minutes: read by Garry King. Moved Garry King, seconded John Oxenham. Carried. No business arising.
 Correspondence/Secretary Report: Garry King informed the Meeting he had been successful with the Council process for payment of chairs and buses on VV Day. Ted Hungerford is now on the VVAASC email list and has requested notification of future Rifleman's Lunch as he would like to attend. The use of the Meeting Rooms will need to re-booked in May 2024 to ensure our continued access on the third Tuesday of the month for our meetings. For the Christmas Break the Drop-in Centre will be closed from 12pm Friday, 15 December 2023 and re-open 9am on 8 January 2024. Nominations are required for Office Bearers. Congratulations to Gordon Hall and the volunteers for their efforts at Chancellor Park Remembrance Day Fundraising; over \$2,500 was raised. Moved Garry King, seconded Mike Gay. Carried.
 Treasurer's Report: Copies of the Treasurer's Report were handed to the attendees to read. There being no questions it was moved Garry King and seconded Kerry White that the Report be accepted. Carried.
 Membership Report: Pieter Reus updated the Meeting that there have been eight renewals to date (21 Nov) which may be due to the Life Subscriber implementation. Ordinary Members may continue on a yearly payment or choose to take up the offer of Life Subscriber. There will be a decision coming shortly on whether the Life Subscriber will commence earlier than previously proposed (That was subsequently decided it would be for 2024). A pro-rata payment will be calculated for those who have already paid for 2024. Once "Life Subscriber" is up and running at the end of each year Duty Officers will be required to contact all Life Subscribers to avoid overpayment of Capitation. Capitation is paid to State at \$14 per Ordinary Member; of which half goes to Federal. The average age of Ordinary

Members is 72. Moved Pieter Reus, seconded Gordon Hall. Carried.
 Ricochet Report: Kerry White advised that the posting of the November Ricochet was postponed due to an accounting error at Australia Post Head Office which our Treasurer Deb Day has sorted out. The Association website is successfully transferred to a new Host. There have been over 100 downloads of Ricochet this month. Moved Kerry White, seconded John Huxham. Carried.
 Office Manager: John Huxham has completed an audit of all the keys held at the DIC. There will a stocktake of all saleable items in the DIC. Moved John Huxham, seconded Garry King. Carried.
 Sub-Committee: John Cunningham advised there will be 34 attendees to the "Ladies Luncheon" on 29 November. Moved John Cunningham, seconded Garry King. Carried.
 Digger Hat Jewellery: The November DHJ Day had four attendees. The keyring attachments had arrived in October. For the workers there will be a "Thank-you BBQ" at the next DHJ Day. Moved Graeme Scott, seconded Mike Gay.
 GENERAL BUSINESS:
 Mike G: enquired when the next Meeting will be. The AGM is Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 1100hrs. Any changes will be emailed to Members.
 Scotty: queried if the new process of only "Online Ricochet" was explained to new Members. Perhaps some new Members would prefer hard-copy and are not made aware that it is available.
 Mal O: Sent regards to all from Glen and Win Preston.
 Kerry W: Queried if there would be a Christmas Function for Volunteers. Negative. It will happen in the New Year.
 Chris W: Advised that Anne G was great to do Remembrance Day Sales with and her company was appreciated.
 There being no further business the Meeting closed at 1145hrs. THE AGM IS 20 FEBRUARY 2024 at 1100HRS.



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

A Russian wife turned to her husband and asked, "What's this special military operation our glorious leader keeps talking about?"

Her husband replied, "It's a war to stop America and NATO."

"Oh, right" she says "How's it going?"

"Well" he replies, "so far we have lost over 20 generals, 110,000 troops killed, countless injured, 3000 tanks, 300 aircraft, hundreds of helicopters, countless armoured vehicles, artillery and trucks, our flagship along with other naval ships, our army is being defeated in most areas and we have had to resort to conscription to replace our losses".

"Wow", replied the wife. "What about America and NATO"?

"They haven't turned up yet"

ABOARD a troop carrier crossing the Atlantic, I noticed a seasick pal of mine losing it over the railing alongside several other soldiers. "I never knew you had such a weak stomach," I said.

"It's not weak," he replied. "I'm throwing up just as far as the rest of these guys." — George Mahathy on rd.com

Wonder what happened to 2333 Private Humby?

FIELD GENERAL COURT MARTIAL. 2831 2333 Pte Humby C.R. 36th Battalion was tried by Field General Court Martial on 16th February 1916.

CHARGED WITH

When on Active Service At CANTEN CORNER at about 7-15 a.m. on 7th February 1916/ disobeying, in such a manner as to show a wilful defiance of Authority, a lawful command given personally by his superior Officer, in that he when personally ordered by A/C.S.M. Wilthew R.M. "O" Coy 36th Battalion to get out of bed and go on fatigue parade did not do so, at the same time saying "I am not going to get up, you can go and fuck yourself"

Plea. GUILTY

Finding GUILTY

SENTENCE Twelve months imprisonment with hard labor.

Remarks. Sentence commuted to sixty days P.R.No. 1. by Lieut Colonel R.A. Goddard, Commanding 9th A.I. Bgde.

W.H. Danne 2/16
Adjutant, 36th Battalion A.I.F.

- from Facebook page, Modern Soldier.

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ANYONE wanting to take pictures on our base's airfield needs a letter from public affairs, which happens to be me.

One day, while out snapping photos, I was stopped by the military police, who asked for my letter from public affairs. "But I am public affairs," I said.

MPs: "Without a letter from public affairs, we'll have to take your camera." I did the only thing I could do: I pulled a notepad and pen from my bag and wrote a letter giving myself permission to take photos. The MPs read the letter, saluted, and left.

— Joe Macri rd.com



"I know what you're going through, dear. I buried my husband last year - but they found him in time."

I had intended to write this column while sailing through the Suez Canal, having been deprived of visiting Israel for a reason we all know! Like all of us Octogenarians, we are a little suspicious of modern technology, and joining the internet outside of Australia leaves us a little dubious that the message will make the next edition of 'Ricochet'. So, I am writing this article before we go, as I want to mention the great service we held at Caloundra, on Remembrance Day.

Father Joshua Whitehead of the Holy Rosary Church at Caloundra and I shared the prayers. After the service many photos were taken of the two clergymen by themselves and in groups. It went over well as we, two members of the Clergy, stood side by side, both taking the prayers during the service, and afterwards. My background in the Air Force forged this wonderful link between the various denominations, a division which, I believe, our God did not invent.

I regularly preached in military chapels when in the Air Force at several bases when the Base Chaplain wanted a Sunday off. At Point Cook, the Protestant and Catholic chapels stood side by side. The Roman Catholic chaplain, based at Laverton, came over to Point Cook every Sunday on his 100cc motorcycle to hold his service. On every occasion, both chaplains or lay preachers would conclude their service at 10.30am so that both congregations could enjoy a 'cuppa' together and receive the Sunday newspapers that Father Cassian Double would carry over on his trusty motorcycle as there were no newsagents open at

Fireside with the Padre



Point Cook on a Sunday.

One Sunday, I had more worshippers in my congregation than Father Cass had in his (Annette always recalls that we had the advantage of having our family members staying with us). Father Cass said the only reason I would have more communicants in my chapel than he did was that I must have rented a crowd. He called me 'Rent-a-Crowd' after that day.

Thirty years later, when he was out of the Air Force and the Chaplain at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane, he sent me a message, through a mutual friend, "Good day, Rent-a-Crowd". Father Cass passed away a few years ago, but I will never forget him and praise him for the close relationships he formed with others of the faith, outside of his own. Rest in Peace, my good friend.

I will report on our Mediterranean cruise, bypassing Israel, in my next column. Merry Christmas to all, and may you find solace and a blessed Christmas at this time of year when we remember our Lord's birth, both in your chosen church and / or, in the church that Annette and I attend.

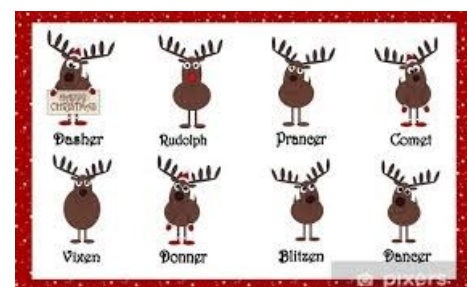
Arthur Fry
Honorary Chaplain

Answers from page 12



TRIVIA

1. Feast of Stephen (St. Stephen's Day/26th December in UK)
2. Arnold Schwarzenegger
3. The Grinch
4. Bing Crosby
5. Ebenezer
6. Charles Dickens
7. Four
8. The Polar Express
9. His Hat
10. Elf On a Shelf
11. Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come
12. Eggnog
13. Germany
14. Brandy
15. True
16. Sugar-plums
17. The Brothers Grimm, *Hansel and Gretel*
18. Thomas Eddison in 1880
19. 20. Coca-Cola
20. Silver
21. X is the abbreviation of the Latin word "chi" which means Christ.
22. Egypt
23. Stephen
24. Bells
25. White
26. Six
27. Four. One lit each week until Christmas
28. The Crown of Thorns worn by Jesus
29. The circle shape represents continuous life by representing the eternity of God.
30. Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer and Donner



RIDDLE

1. 5 minutes.
2. \$1.40
3. 9 ornaments in total.
4. There are no stairs—it's a one-story house.
5. The letter 's'.

Passing of veteran medic Wayne Brown MM

Wayne Brown, who died recently, was first-born son of World War Two service couple Lawrence and Jean Brown, and was born 6 April 1945 in Adelaide.

At 15, Wayne (pictured right more recently) joined a wooden boat building company as a labourer; 18 months later, he tried to enlist in the Australian Navy, but was abruptly rejected by recruiters due to him wearing glasses.

However, National Service loomed large and Wayne won the ballot. He was deferred because of his psychiatric nursing studies and was inducted into the 8th National Service Intake instead of the first. He went into the Medical Corps, becoming a spare corporal medic with 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.

He was sent to Vietnam in June 68 and became B Coy medic at the Nui Dat base camp and on field operations. B Coy endured many minor firefights and two intense, close-quarter battles where they lost two Diggers and had several badly wounded, including tank casualties.

Months after eventual discharge Sam Brown was genuinely surprised to learn that he had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery when tending casualties while under fire.

On the move frequently, probably due to insipient PTSD, the family oscillated between South Australia and Queensland. A bakery, museum, macadamia farm, herd testing, bulldozer driving, cattle farming and more obscure occupations evolved before Sam settled back to Psych nursing in Nambour.

From 1994 Wayne had ideas of testing the waters in Vietnam, a nagging curiousness that soon had his

mum, Jean Williams, along on their first guided tour. Jean later wrote several informative books on Agent Orange side-effects. The success of that visit prompted regular trips with other curious vets and family keen to tag along.

Two special tours with Project Vietnam had two medical and disadvantaged facilities repaired and refurbished north of Hanoi. Wayne had undertaken an English teaching course with a view to escaping to China for a spell, but yet another veteran's tour had him guiding mates around.

At a picturesque Buddhist monastery outside hilly Dalat, Aussies on tour wearing kangaroo motif T-shirts soon had a group of young ladies up for a chat. Twenty years on, Lucine remains the love of Wayne's life. Battling Aussie bureaucracy and Vietnamese restrictions, they forged a loving partnership, travelling widely and wisely and establishing a cosy home at Caboolture.

Wayne enjoyed a plethora of hobbies and activities including writing numerous poems, travel and medical articles and three books – 'MEDIC', 'BLUE' and 'Vietnam – A Memoir'. A highlight of his writing career is the inspired poem now set in bronze at the Tracker Dog Memorial at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast.

Wayne passed away on 10 November 2023 after a brief battle with Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer. Pragmatic to the end, Wayne faced the grim reality of his diagnosis and simply soldiered on.

He was a long-term member of the Vietnam Veterans Association Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch, and will be fondly remembered.



Corporal (Cpl) Wayne Laurence Brown 4718993 being presented with the Military Medal (MM) by The Governor of South Australia, Major General Sir James William Harrison, KCMG, CB, OBE, CBE.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
SUNSHINE COAST SUB-BRANCH

**FEES DUE BY
31 DECEMBER**

Membership fees are due by 31 December. You can pay at the Drop-In Centre or go to our website Home Page at <https://vietnamvetssc.org.au/>

December–January Timeline

2 December 1911: The historic Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) led by Douglas Mawson sailed from Hobart for Antarctica in the Aurora on 2 December 1911 with a view to returning in early 1913. Mawson's plan required the establishment of three bases: a radio relay station at Macquarie Island; a main base at Commonwealth Bay; and another base 2000km west on the Shackleton Ice Shelf.

2 December 1914: First Australian military aircraft dispatched to war when Australian aircraft and their crews left to form the 'Mesopotamian Half Flight', fighting in what is now Iraq.

3 December 1854: Early in the morning government troops attacked a stockade at Eureka diggings near Ballarat. At least 22 miners and five soldiers were killed. On 30 November miners at Ballarat had sworn allegiance to the Southern Cross flag at Bakery Hill and built the stockade. They were disgruntled with the way the colonial government was administering the goldfields.

7 December 1915: Evacuation of ANZAC forces from Gallipoli begins and was planned and executed without loss.

7-8 December 1941: Japanese aircraft attack the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, making the war a truly global conflict.

8 December 1980: Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

11 December 1936: King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England to marry "the woman I love," a twice-divorced American named Wallis Warfield Simpson.

12 December 1959: At the US Grand Prix, the last race of the season, Jack Brabham became the first Australian to win a Formula One World Championship. Brabham went on to win two more world championships, in 1960 and again in 1966.

17 December 1967: HMAS Perth comes under fire off Dong Hoi, Vietnam, causing a fire and injuring seven sailors, two seriously. The ship was serving on the gunline in the Gulf of Tonkin.

18 December 1894: South Australia became the first electorate in the world to give equal political rights to both men and women when the state's Parliament passed the Constitutional Amendment (Adult Suffrage) Act.

18 December 1964: In response to requests from the US president and South Vietnam prime minister for another 200 advisers, the Australian Government offers to send ground troops to South Vietnam.

25 December 1974: Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin in the small hours of Christmas Day killed 71 people and devastated 80 per cent of the city. In the days and weeks following the disaster, most of the traumatised population left the city.

26 December 1859: European wild rabbits were introduced into Australia so they could be hunted for sport. Australia is now home to at least 150 million feral rabbits, which continue to have a huge impact on our environment.

26 December 1906: The Story of the Kelly Gang opened at the Athenaeum Theatre in Melbourne. It was the first multi-reel, feature-length film ever produced in the world. The film caused controversy by presenting the Kelly gang sympathetically. The Victorian Government tried to censor it but the public flocked to screenings around Australia and then internationally.—continued next page.

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December–January Timeline

26 December 2004: An estimated 230,000 persons were killed and 1.5 million left homeless when a magnitude 9.3 earthquake on the seafloor of the Indian Ocean set off a series of giant tsunami waves that smashed into the shorelines of a dozen countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and Somalia.

1 January 1901: Australia became a nation when the British Parliament passed legislation enabling the six Australian colonies to collectively govern in their own right as the Commonwealth of Australia. It was a remarkable political accomplishment that had taken many years and several referenda to achieve.

8-14 January 1964: 1 RAR participated in Operation Crimp in the Ho Bo Woods as part of the first divisional-sized operation of the war, targeting an underground Viet Cong headquarters.

9 January 1868: The convict transport *Hougoumont* arrived at the port of Fremantle. On board were 269 convicts, the last to be sent to Western Australia. The ship's arrival marked the end of 80 years of continuous penal transportation to the Australian continent.

10 January 1920: The League of Nations officially came into existence with the goal of resolving international disputes, reducing armaments, and preventing future wars. On 10 Jan-

uary 1946, it was succeeded by the United Nations.

26 January 1788: Three days after sailing into Botany Bay, Captain Arthur Phillip RN, commander of the First Fleet of 11 ships, chose a site at nearby Sydney Cove, in Port Jackson, to establish a convict settlement. Phillip proved himself to be an enthusiastic and

thorough leader who dealt in commonsense fashion with the challenges he faced in the early years of settlement.

27 January 1919: The Spanish flu pandemic, which emerged at the end of the First World War, spread to Australia. About 40 per cent of the population fell ill and around 15,000 died as the virus spread through Australia. More than 50 million people died worldwide.

27 January 1973: U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris.

28 January 1986: The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven people, including Christa McAuliffe (**pictured**), a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.



December 1928: Don Bradman scored his first international test century. It was against England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in the third test of the 1928–29 Ashes series.

30 January 1968: Launch of the Tet Offensive, a major escalation and one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War. The Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) launched sneak attacks throughout South Vietnam.

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

Military history of Australia during the Vietnam War

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>

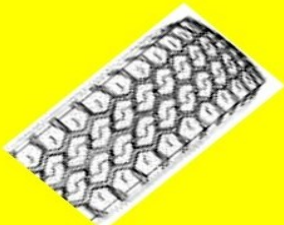
<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>

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Roll of Honour — Vietnam, December/January 1962-75

December 1965

Fotheringham, Alexander Henry T (36543), 28, 1RAR, Cpl, Inverell Cemetery, NSW.

Simpson, Thomas (36205), 27, 105 FldBtry, Gnr, Terendak Military Cemetery, Melaka, Malaysia.

December 1966

Lithgow, Colin Thomas (214752), 27, 6RAR, LCpl (TempCpl), Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

Sullivan, Paul Charles (3786696), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

December 1967

Birse, Robert Graham (215349), 23, 4FldRegt, Lt, Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park, Palmdale, NSW.

Fewquandie, Francis John (1411181), 23, 2RAR, Pte, Walkerston Cemetery, Walkerston, Qld.

Henderson, Malcolm Austin (51286), 36, AATTv, WO2, Karrakatta Cemetery, Karrakatta, Perth.

Hyland, Francis Arthur (6708488), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Wynyard Cemetery, Tas.

Robertson, Arthur James (2411510), 30, AATTv (Att.RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery, Sydney.

Seiler, Ronald (212909), 28, AATTv (Att.RAI), Sgt (TempWO2), Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

December 1968

Cox, Raymond John (2787020), 22, 1RAR, Pte, Goulburn Cemetery, NSW.

Gaffney, Ronald James (3793157), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Mudgee General Cemetery, NSW.

Garrigan, John (310089), 40, RAA (Att AATTv), WO2, Sale War Cemetery, Vic.

Hannaford, Michael John (3791920), 21, CSqdn, 1ArmRegt, Trp, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Kalma, John Henry (215637), 22, 1RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Rookwood, Sydney.

Rands, John Milton (2787069), 22, 1RAR, LCpl, Temora General Cemetery, NSW.

Roost, Christopher William (5715153), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

December 1969

Brown, Allen Roy (3794895), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Buchan, Robert (55613), 22, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Perth (Ashes later sent to relatives in Scotland).

Cassano, "Nick" John (5716427), 22, 5RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Donald, Barry Creig (29745), 29, 161 (Ind) RecceFlt, Capt., Ipswich, Qld.

Evans, Thomas Arthur (3794256), 21, 1ATF, Pte, Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland, Sydney.

Fitzpatrick, Bryan Francis (A34167), 37, 2SqdnRAAF, Cpl, Fawkner Crematorium & Memorial Park, Melbourne.

French, Vivian Albert (1202185), 19, 3CavRegt, Trp, Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane

Gould, Eric George (55890), 22, 8RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, War Cemetery and Annex, Perth.

Greene, John Gerard (2791447), 21, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

Jellie, Alan Douglas (39510), 22, 161 (Ind) RecceFlt, 2Lt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Marks-Chapman, Peter Robert (38801), 25, 6RAR, Lt, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Robertson, Malcolm Robert (3793978), 21, 1ALSG, Pte, Lilydale Cemetery, Melbourne.

Stanford, Gregory Ian (2790070), 22, 6RAR, LCpl, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington, NSW.

Voyzey, Douglas James (2137680), 22, 3CavRegt, Trp, Evergreen Memorial Park, Tamworth, NSW.

Woolley, Ivan Alfred (A118435), 22, 2SqdnRAAF, AC, Mount Gravatt Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

December 1970

Galvin, Wallace James (214101), 32, Hq 26 CoyRAASC, Sgt, Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Matraville, Sydney.

Knight, Peter Raymond (A318937), 36, 1OSU, LAC, Brighton General Cemetery, Melbourne.

Lloyd, Allan (3797086), 20, 7RAR, Pte, Traralgon Cemetery, Vic.

Moss, Allan Brian (4410968), 22, Det52, SuppPlt (RAASC), Cpl (TempSgt), Evergreen Memorial Park, Enfield, Adelaide.

Nichols, Raymond Kevin (1797), 39, 106 FldWksp, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Luff, Neville Francis (28325), 36, 3CavRegt, Pinegrove Memorial Park,

Minchinbury, Blacktown City, NSW.

January 1966

Bade, Kenneth Wilfred (17071), 27, 105FldBtry, Capt, Mount Thompson Crematorium, Brisbane.

Bowtell, Robert Walter (213151), 33, 3FldTrp, Cpl, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney.

Clark, Christopher (215214), 20, 1RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

Coxon, Ronald Edward (38012), 27, 1RAR, LCpl, Shepparton Cemetery, Shepparton, Vic.

Horne, Neville Wayne (215217), 19, 1RAR, Pte, War Cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney.

Lees, Ronald Victor (26182), 37, RAA (AttAATTv), Sgt (TempWO2), War Cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney.

Penn, Desmond Hugh (5411479), 26, 1RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Petersen, Bror Ola (5411305), 25, 1RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

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

Roll of Honour — Vietnam, December/January 1962-75

Wilson, Mervyn Arthur F. (213780), 29, 1RAR, Pte, War Cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney.

January 1967

Tweedie, Geoffrey Lawrence (3787416), 21, 6RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

January 1968

Bell, Alec Ernest James (5714453), 21, 7RAR, Pte, Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Binning, Raymond Paul (4410704), 21, 2RAR, Pte, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Davison, Walter Johnston (311546), 27, 8FldAmb (att.2RAR), Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Morrison, Dayle William (1732186), 22, 2RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Norley, Graham Leonard (43058), 23, 2RAR, LCpl (Temp.Cpl), Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Trzecinski, Paul Zigmund (216115), 21, 7RAR, Pte, Rookwood Military Cemetery, Sydney.

January 1969

Cock, John Raymond (42564), 29, 9RAR, Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Duroux, Jeffrey Max (15230), 28, 9RAR, Sgt, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Graham, Allan Walter (43528), 22, 9RAR, Cpl, Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Graham, Samuel (2787716), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

Harris, Ronald Arthur (5410968), 26, 2SASSqdn, LCpl (Temp.Cpl), Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth.

Huelin, Antony Jeffrey (O27710), 25, RAN HelFit, A/SubLt, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Key, Robert MacDonald (39493), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.

Malone, Peter Anthony (215983), 21, 3CavRegt, Trp, Liverpool Cemetery, Sydney.

Meredith, Thomas Frederick (2788798), 22, 9RAR, Pte, Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney.

Musicka, Harold Robert (4717754), 23, 9RAR, Cpl, Centennial Park Cemetery, Adelaide.

Nagle, George (39565), 23, 9RAR, Pte, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Phillips, Reginald Arthur (4719545), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Murray Bridge Cemetery, SA.

Plane, Bruce James (4719981), 21, 9RAR, Pte, Ardrossan Cemetery, SA.

Ramsay, Joseph Steven (1733037), 22, 4RAR, Pte, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Smith, Peter Charles (2788912), 24, 9RAR, Pte, Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney.

Sykes, Arnold (55431), 25, 9RAR, Pte, Bunbury General Cemetery, WA.



January 1970

Clifford, Laurence Ian (42132), 39, ASqdn3CavRegt, Centennial Park Cemetery, SA.

Engstrom, Ronald John (18797), 22, 1FldSqdn, Cpl, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Brisbane.

Hollis, Anthony Edward (2786682), 23, 1FldSqdn, Spr, Woronora General Cemetery, Sutherland, Sydney.

Stevens, John George (313122), 21, 5RAR, Pte, Woden Cemetery, Phillip, Canberra.

Wagstaff, Victor Neil (312756), 20, 8RAR, Pte, Maryborough Cemetery, Vic.

January 1971

Clark, Ross Tasman (3793971), 24, 1FldSqdn, Fawkner Memorial Park, Melbourne.

Craig, Peter (2782049), 5RAR, 25, 5RAR, Pte, Wagga Wagga Lawn Cemetery & Crematorium, NSW.

Duffy, Milton Raymond (2792150), 22, 7RAR, Pte, West Kempsey Cemetery, West Kempsey, NSW.

Halkyard, Eric (311620), 27, 7RAR, LCpl, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Hartney, Gilbert John (34854), 39, 102FldWksp, WO2, Garden of Remembrance, Springvale, Melbourne.

Sheriff, Peter James (A119739), 20, 10pSptUnit (att.9SqnRAAF), Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, Toowoomba, Qld.

- **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.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11AM TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

NOMINATION FORM FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

I, (print your full name),

being a financial member of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. do hereby nominate

(name)

for the position of (please tick only one box, use a separate form for each position):

- ☐ PRESIDENT
- ☐ SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT
- ☐ JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT
- ☐ SECRETARY
- ☐ TREASURER
- ☐ MEMBERSHIP OFFICER
- ☐ COMMITTEE MEMBER (up to five positions)

OTHER OFFICE-BEARERS:

- ☐ ASSISTANT SECRETARY ☐ ASSISTANT TREASURER ☐ OFFICE MANAGER
- ☐ MERCHANDISE OFFICER ☐ RICOCHET EDITOR ☐ SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBER

(Nominations for the above positions will be accepted from the floor at the AGM if a nomination has not been lodged by the return date for nominations.)

NOMINATOR: (signed) Date: / /

SECONDER: I, (print name), being a financial member of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. second this nomination:

(signed) Date: / /

NOMINEE: I, (print name), being a financial member of the VVAA Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc. hereby accept this nomination

(signed) Date: / /

**THIS FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY BY 1200 (NOON) ON
TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021.**

(Note: Please use a separate form for each nomination for each position. Either photocopy this form or pick up additional forms at the Drop-In Centre).