



Anomaly to stay on funeral benefit?

The “general funeral allowance” would be increased to just \$3000 from the current \$2000, according to recently released draft legislation which is intended to “simplify and harmonise” the “century-old veterans’ entitlements, compensation and rehabilitation system”.

While the increase is for “previous automatic grant categories under the VEA (Veterans Entitlements Act)”, it refers to “availability of reimbursement of funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service related deaths”.

For some time, your newsletter,

Ricochet, and organisations such as the RSL have been asking for government (previous and current) action to address the anomaly between funeral benefits for older veterans (such as from Vietnam) and more recent veterans under applicable legislation (which was up to \$10,000). So, a significant anomaly may remain.

“The current system is difficult to understand and complex to administer,” Minister for Defence Personnel and Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Matt Keogh said.

“The Royal Commission into De-

fence and Veteran Suicide found the system was “so complicated that it adversely affects the mental health of some veterans and can be a contributing factor to suicidality.”

“Following consultation, the draft legislation will simplify the veteran compensation system, with all claims to be considered under a single Act,” Mr Keogh said. Under the new system:

- All new claims for compensation and reha-

bilitation from the date of commencement would be assessed under a single Act, an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA);

- The Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 would be closed to new claims following commencement of the new arrangements;

- All benefits being received under existing schemes will continue unaffected under grand-parenting arrangements. Any new claims after the commencement date (including claims for worsening of pre-existing conditions) will be assessed under the improved MRCA.

Other improvements include: introduction of a new Additional Disablement Amount to provide similar benefits as the Extreme Disablement Adjustment for those post retirement age; making the higher travel allowance under MRCA available to all veterans and for all kilometres travelled; providing a pathway for veterans currently only covered by DRCA to qualify for the Specialist Medical Review Council and a Gold Card if they have a new claim accepted; and the funeral benefit “increase”.



RECENT veteran funeral — for Garry King. RIP.



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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OFFICE NEWS

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

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 19 March.

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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.

CALL TO BRING BACK NASHOS

Sound familiar? A national security expert has called for Australia to introduce a national service call-up to boost patriotism and prepare the country for wartime.

SkyNews featured recently a report from a contributor and strategic policy analyst, Dr Alexey Muraviev, who argued that the Australian Government must start strongly “incentivising” national service for young people to bolster our flailing defence force.

Sky News host Liz Storer says the Australian Defence Force is “not recruiting” people at the rate that people are leaving and the ADF is set to lower fitness and health standards in order to boost recruitment.

Dr Muraviev said: “The nationwide reaction to the proposal revealed that the discussion is not just timely but overdue. It also highlighted problems with how some members of our community perceive and interpret national service and the overall concept of military service.

“Who said conscription?”

In an earlier article, he said: “Are we ready for an

all-out war with Russia? Australia must consider mandating national service to build our trained reserve ‘while we still have time’.

“Australia must seriously consider re-introducing a form of national service after NATO warned civilians to prepare for an all-out war with Russia within 20 years.

“The primary consideration is on readying countries and coalitions for the possibility of an all-out world war.

“The risk of a war in eastern Europe and the Middle East becoming the catalyst for a nuclear catastrophe were highlighted on Tuesday (24 January), when the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists kept the Doomsday Clock at 90 seconds to midnight.

“Our immediate region has several potential flashpoints, which may ignite yet another regional conflict. That in turn may drag Australia into an orbit of an open confrontation, an eventuality Canberra is clearly trying to avoid.

“Perhaps it is time for Australia to consider another uncomfortable subject - the return of national service.”

He also said: “At no point in time was I advocating for the return of conscription. I have seen the results of conscription first-hand, and I don’t find it an effective way of bolstering the standing capacity of an active force.

“Unless unavoidable, conscription should be viewed as a last resort, only to be applied in a wartime environment. But even then, it does not guarantee a qualitative boost of

the numerical strength.”

“The option of national service would be a better fit, and this is why. There is no doubt that the current standing force – supported by a modest organised reserve – is inadequate to the range of tasks and missions the government wants it to do.

“Given heightened geopolitical tensions, we need to prepare ourselves for the possibility of high-end, prolonged warfare.

“But should we be simply replacing our current cohort of highly-trained professional soldiers with large numbers of draftees? Absolutely not - it would have a detrimental impact on our combat proficiency.

“Ideally, we should be gradually moving towards a larger, mixed standing force comprising both professional service personnel and those who will serve full-time on a limited-term basis (two to three years) prior to joining an organised reserve.

“We would still need professional personnel to perform some specialised roles. For example, submarine crews, pilots, special forces units should be

staffed only with highly trained professionals.

“Do we need every Australian national to be enlisted in national service? I doubt that.”

Dr Muraviev said young Australians who want to give time to do national service in the ranks can be rewarded (besides standard pay) with a fee waiver to study at tertiary institutions.

“That’s one consideration. We can offer aspiring migrants who want to call Australia home an opportunity to obtain citizenship more quickly after completing national service.

“We should also not forget about a pool of former soldiers, some of whom may be willing to return to active duty if the conditions are right.

“Finally, national service should not be associated solely with military work. It should give the option of undertaking duties to the country in our emergency and support services, defence industry and other.

“Its mission is to create and maintain a pool of trained Australians who can bolster our national capabilities in times of need – whether it’s a civil emergency, another pandemic or a wartime situation.”

[Editor’s Note: According to *Forces Network*, around 85 countries have some form of obligatory military training (17 October 2022).]

NASHOS at Kapooka in 1965.



From the President

Good morning everyone, hope you are all fit and well. As you would be aware, last week we had our Annual General Meeting and once again, I am your President for the year 2024.

All former committee members were re-elected with the exception of Chrissie Wessells who withdrew her nomination due to personal issues.

As I did on the day, I would like to congratulate your committee representatives on their re-election to office and look forward to working closely with them throughout the year.

An extra 'thank you' to John Cunningham, who has accepted our request to take over Garry King's position as Senior Vice President/Secretary of the Association, and John Huxham for his offer to assist John in his endeavours. Hence, we have a new Senior Vice President/Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. Well done boys.

At the moment we are getting things in order for the Mooloolaba Tri and this year we needed 28-30 volunteers. I am very pleased that we were able to secure that number with a minimum of fuss and we thank those who did come forward for their commitment and time.

The new membership (Life Subscription) plan seems to be going well and a large number of you have taken advantage of the offer. We hope to see more become involved as it will save you from having to remember to re-new your membership each year.

Recently, we seem to be getting a bigger crowd at the Veterans Breakfast each Thursday morning. It's a great way to start the day and you do not have to be a Vietnam Veteran to attend. All veterans are welcome to come along, meet other attendees and have a laugh. They are a friendly bunch of people and we look forward to seeing new faces.

Not all that much more to report this month, I've pretty much covered it all in this report, so, once again, if anyone has any ideas/thoughts on how we can better our Association please contact the Drop-In Centre and speak to a Duty Officer who will pass on your thoughts to the Committee.

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



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From the Secretary

The AGM was held on 20 February and the Committee for 2024 was elected.

Actually, the Committee is the same as last year with the exception of former Assistant Secretary, Christine Wessels. Chris has a more pressing commitment, but will still be involved with the Sub-Branch as a Duty Officer.

Regarding the AGM, there is a whisper that some committee members may not be standing again next year.

So, if there are any mem-

bers chomping at the bit to be part of the management team in the future, please feel free to casually put your name forward.

Thanks to those who have volunteered to be marshals at the Mooloolaba Triathlon on 10 March.

The Triathlon is a good money earner for the Association and your commitment is greatly appreciated. **PHOTO: Rusty “under arrest” at last year's Triathlon.**

It has been suggested that, in 2024, the Sub-Branch considers sponsoring more social events for members and partners.

Ideas have ranged from dinners or luncheons on the Coast to winery tours and short river cruises.

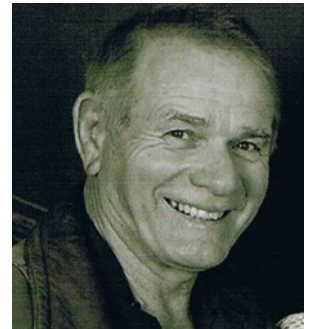
Any creative suggestions are welcomed.

Stay safe and well.

Regards

John Cunningham

Secretary



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Maroochy RSL support for local community of \$1.7m



MAROOCHY RSL recently hosted a morning tea to announce veteran and community support total for 2023 totalling over \$1.7 million, helping many Sunshine Coast groups including its own Veteran Hub, community, schools, and sporting groups to extend their help, education, care and crisis work across a range of services. These include our own VVAASC who were represented by John Cunningham and Kerry White (above) and Pieter Reus.



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Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 20 February 2024

Meeting opened 1016 hours, **Ode to the Fallen** recited by Mick Howe. Attendance and apologies as per book.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the 2023 AGM were read by President Michael Howe. Moved Michael Howe, seconded Mal Overend. Carried.

Audit Report: The Audit Report for 2023 was read by John Cunnington in the absence of Mr Frank Redpath, the independent auditor. Mr Redpath deemed that the financial records show that the association has bookkeeping processes in place to adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities. The association is in a sound financial position. The full report is available on the Notice Board for those interested in reading it. Moved John Cunnington, seconded Dave Oliver.

Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers: President Michael Howe stepped aside and Patron, Laurie Drinkwater declared all positions vacant. There being no other nominations, Michael Howe was elected as president. The 2024 elected members are as follows:- President—Michael Howe, Senior Vice President—John Cunnington, Junior Vice President—Gordon Hall, Treasurer—Deb Day, Secretary—John Cunnington, Membership Officer—Pieter Reuss, Office Manager—Mr John Huxham, Assistant Secretary—Mr John Huxham.

The Committee 2024—Athol Johnson (Merchandise), Kerry White (Ricochet Editor), Bob Johnson, Mark Doolan.

Closure: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1055 hours.

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch

Minutes of General meeting 20 February 2024

Opening: Meeting opened at 1059 Hours. **Attendance:** As per attendance book.

Previous minutes: Minutes read by Mick Howe. Moved Mick Howe, seconded Bob Johnson. Carried.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report: John Cunnington advised that the Council informed that replacement carpet was the responsibility of the tenant. Mick Howe to follow up this issue. A condolence card from the Library Team was received in relation to the passing of Gary King. Moved John Cunnington, seconded John Huxham. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: John Cunnington Read the treasurer's report in the absence of Deb Day. The report is available on the notice board for perusal by members. There being no questions, it was moved John Cunnington and seconded by Mick Gay. Carried.

Membership Report: Pieter Reuss advised that in February 2023, there were 233 financial members compared to the current figure of 102. Life subscription seems to be the way members are heading. At the end of March, unfinancial members will be deleted from the membership list. Moved Pieter Reuss, seconded Mick Gay. Carried

Ricochet: Kerry White advised that advertising renewals have been actioned. An extra advertisement is coming from the Mudjimba RSL. Less than 30 hard cover copies were posted last month. The number of Ricochet hits on line has decreased which may be as a result of the Ricochet being emailed to members. Kerry may be looking for a successor for next year.

- continued next page.

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Minutes continued from previous page.

Moved Kerry White, seconded John Huxham. Carried

Office manager: In the absence of John Huxham, Mick Howe advised that a new vacuum cleaner is required for the office. Mick will attend to that issue. Tea bags and water also to be purchased for the office. Due to a discrepancy in the "egg money", the money container will be locked away. Those wanting to purchase eggs will need to go via the duty officer. The purchase of biscuits has been stopped due to the cost of a box increasing from \$50.00 to \$165.00. The stock take is 90% completed. Moved Mick Howe, seconded Pieter Reuss. Carried.

Sub-Committee: John Cunningham advised that the Sponsorship application for Vietnam Veterans Day has been completed and will be lodged with the Maroochy RSL. Moved John Cunningham, seconded John Huxham.

DHJ: Scotty advised that there were 4 to 5 attendees at the 1st meeting of the month. Two extra are expected to join the team. All is going okay. Scotty will not be processing further orders which will need to be filled by the office. Moved Scotty, seconded Kerry White. Carried

General Business: Nil

Closure: There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 1116 hours. The next General meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19.

RED ROOSTERS STILL GOING

BEEN around a few years ... At a recent Thursday Vets Breakfast at Mooloolaba Surf Club Ron MacNiven, Mike Sheahan and Haden Kenny wore their Red Rooster shirts from around 14 years ago. At least the shirts are wearing well. Apologies from the editor that Hayden appears twice in this edition.



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Pictured are the first group of Australian Army nurses of 8th Field Ambulance to arrive in Vietnam in May 1967; from left to right are Lieutenant Colleen Mealy, Lieutenant Margaret Ahern, Captain Amy Pittendreich and Lieutenant Terrie Roche. – photo from the Australian War Memorial Collection/AWM P00582.045.

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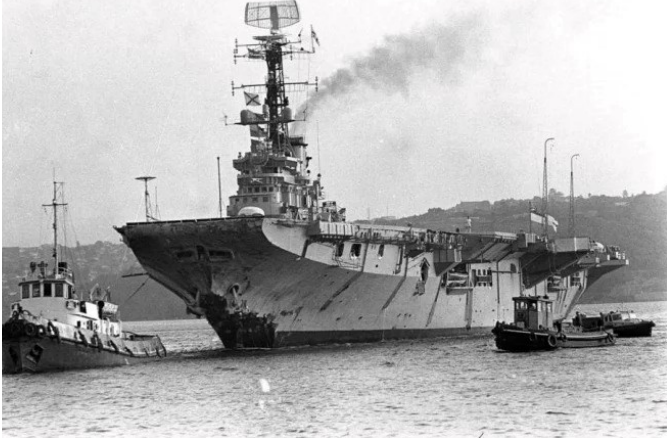
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Melbourne-Voyager anniversary



After the tragedy, HMAS Sydney coming into Sydney Harbour.

This year, on 10 February, marks the 60th anniversary of a momentous event in Royal Australian Navy (RAN) history, the loss of the destroyer *HMAS Voyager II* following a collision with the aircraft carrier *HMAS Melbourne II*.

With many new crew members aboard, *Voyager* sailed from Sydney to Jervis Bay on 6 February 1964 for a series of post-refit trials and exercises with *HMAS Melbourne*.

On the night of 10 February *Melbourne* was conducting night flying exercises off the coast of Jervis Bay, with *Voyager* undertaking the role of guard escort. It was a moonless night and both ships had only navigational and operational lights in use.

At 8.56pm the ships collided and *Voyager* was cut in two. Her forward section passed down *Melbourne*'s port side and the after section down the starboard side. The forward section sank soon after the collision and the after section some three hours later.

The crew of the *Melbourne* recovered survivors from the water and the after-section of *Voyager*. Two RAN search and rescue boats, *HMAS Air Nymph* and *HMAS Air Sprite*, set out from shore establishment *HMAS Creswell*, and the crews succeeded in rescuing 70 men.

RAN helicopters and minesweepers were also dispatched to assist with the search. Of the 314 men aboard *Voyager*, 82 died – 14 officers (including the commanding officer), 67 sailors and one civilian dock worker. – **from Australian War Memorial.**

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Exercise turned into the real thing



During Exercise Cope North 24 in Guam, Royal Australian Air Force and United States Air Force assets and personnel were rapidly re-tasked to respond to a real-world aero-medical evacuation (AE). This included a bilateral medical team from Australia and the US in a RAAF C-27J Spartan flying to Micronesia to extract a US service member requiring medical care in Guam. The US service member remained in a stable condition throughout the AE and received the necessary medical care thanks to the swift response of the Cope North multilateral force. Detachment Commander 35 Squadron Flight Lieutenant Calum Jackson, a C-27J pilot, commended the multinational teamwork that expedited the successful AE mission. — ADF news. More page 19.



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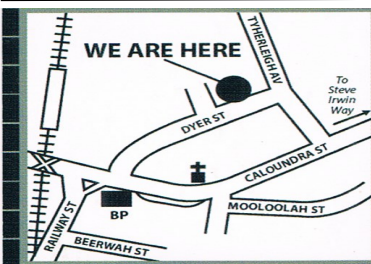
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OUT AND ABOUT ...

Enjoying fellowship recently were 6 RAR veterans at Alex Surf Club (from left) Neil Eiby, Rod Chandler, Rick Brittain, Mark Doolan, Clay Sutton, Peter Stammer and Rod Slater. Below: At the Riflemen's Lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club (from left) Ross Roberts, Hayden Kenny, Natalia Sutcliffe and Jim Hardy.



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TEST YOUR HISTORY KNOWLEDGE

1. Who took over as US President after John F. Kennedy was assassinated?
2. Which conflict was the Saar Offensive part of?
3. When were the first Olympic games held?
4. How long did the country of Yugoslavia exist for?
5. In 1879 what caused Napoléon IV's death?
6. Which of the continents did humans reach first?
7. When was the first International Police agency formed?
8. What do the battles of Hastings, Bosworth and Lutzen all have in common?
9. When was the first Godzilla film released?
10. When did the 30 Years War end?



Answers below ...

1. Lyndon B. Johnson – Johnson was sworn in as president on Air Force One in Dallas just two hours and eight minutes after Kennedy was assassinated. Johnson renewed Kennedy's attempts to pass a Civil Rights Act, utilising all his political skill to ensure it passed the following year. He then embarked on a campaign to create 'The Great Society', which encompassed movements of urban renewal, modern transportation, clean environment, anti-poverty, healthcare reform, crime control, and educational reform. He championed the passage of the Voting Rights Act and was the first President to arrest and prosecute members of the Klan since Ulysses S. Grant in 1870. He concurrently increased American commitment to War in Vietnam. When he took office there were 16,000 American military personnel in Vietnam. When he left there were 525,000 and over 70,000 had been killed or wounded in the conflict.
2. WW2 – In September 1939, as German armies overran large swathes of Poland far to the east, the French launched an offensive of their own. Their goal was to capture the Saarland, the area between the French border and the German Siegfried line and force the Germans to transfer divisions away from Poland.
3. 776 BCE – From 776 BCE on, the Greeks gathered every four years to celebrate the Olympic Games and compete in a number of disciplines, including the foot race, boxing and various equestrian skills. The Games became part of an elaborate festival circuit, which also featured competitions in trumpet-playing and the recitation of poetry. Even beauty contests – for men!
4. 74 Years – In 1918 after World War I, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, later called the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was formed. This became the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1945 until its breakup amid war in 1992.
5. Killed by Zulus while fighting in the British army – Known as Louis-Napoléon, Napoléon IV was the only child of Napoléon III, who died in exile in Britain in 1873. Napoléon IV was commissioned in the British Army and trained at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He lobbied to be posted to the Zululand to take part in the Anglo-Zulu war then in progress. He was leading a small scouting force when he was ambushed and killed by Zulus.
6. Australia – Humans reached Australia between 65,000 and 50,000 years ago. Humans first crossed the Bering Strait to enter North and South America between 20,000 and 15,000 years ago.
7. 1923 – In September 1923, representatives from Austria, Germany, Belgium, Poland, China, Egypt, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia agreed to create the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC). This was disrupted by WW2, in its wake it was reformed as Interpol, which now has 196 member states.
8. They saw the death of a monarch – Harold II was killed at Hastings and his forces lost heart and fled. Richard III's forces were defeated at Bosworth, and he was then killed. Gustavus Adolphus was killed at Lutzen, but the Swedish King's army rallied and went on to win the battle.
9. 1956 – Made in Japan in the immediate aftermath of defeat, and the destruction of Japanese cities by Allied bombing, the film is seen as reflecting much of the trauma in Japanese society.
10. 1648 – One of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history, resulting in millions of casualties. Initially a war between various Protestant and Catholic states in the fragmented Holy Roman Empire, it gradually developed into a more general conflict involving most of the great powers.

- from <https://historyguild.org/>

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

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

DURING a combat medical training class, the topic was blast injuries.

At one point, our very intimidating instructor pointed at me and said: "There's been a jeep explosion.

What would you do if you came upon an injured man with a steering wheel embedded in his chest?"

Nervous and unsure, I blurted out, "Drive him to the hospital?" For some reason, the rest of the room found this hilarious. — Greg White on rd.com



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He said.... I don't know why you wear a bra; you've got nothing to put in it.

She said.... You wear pants don't you?

He said..... Shall we try swapping positions tonight?

She said... That's a good idea - you stand by the ironing board while I sit on the sofa and fart!

He said..... What have you been doing with all the grocery money I gave you?

She said Turn sideways and look in the mirror!

He said..... Why are married women heavier than single women?

She said..... Single women come home, see what's in the fridge and go to bed. Married women come home, see what's in bed and go to the fridge.

SEND THIS TO A SMART WOMAN WHO NEEDS A LAUGH AND TO THE GUYS YOU THINK CAN HANDLE IT 🍌🍌🍌

CADET NUMBERS ON THE REBOUND

ABC Wimmera / By Sue Dunstan

The Australian Army Cadets (AAC) used to be in every school and every country town. There were around 46,000 cadets in Australia in 1970, but fewer than 15,000 by the early 2000s.

However, numbers are rebounding as young people sign up to new units established around Australia in recent years. So what is driving them to volunteer their time in the program?

School student Elise Cox, who travels more than an hour to Horsham for sessions, said it was teaching her to be more resilient and independent in her daily life.

"I've learnt lots of new skills and stepped my way up the leadership ladder," she said. "It's given me a lot of confidence and helped me to better communicate with my peers and make lots of new friends from around Victoria.

"Cadets really helps me learn life lessons that I can take back home, that I can use at school or on camps."

Since 2017, the AAC has added more than 40 units to now have more than 250 units in communities and schools around the country, according to the Department of Defence. It said there were now more than 19,000 youths around the country participating in the program.

The Horsham unit started late last year, bringing Victoria's cadet numbers to 4000.

The officer commanding 316CU Horsham, Michael Byrne, said the western Victorian city used to have an Air Force Cadet Unit but that was disbanded a few years ago.

He said within 24 hours of opening the portal for expressions of interest in the AAC program, eight future cadets had registered.

Captain (AAC) Byrne was expecting at least another 40 sign-ups once the school term started.

He said the cadets program was aimed at youth development, with members aged between 12 and 18, and girls were now taking on many of the leadership roles.

"It's not all drills ... that's part of it but also building teamwork and self-discipline," he said. "It really is youth development, navigation, bush craft, survival courses, first aid, use of drones, even PR and media.

"[It's] a holistic thing of developing the individual with resilience, self-reliance and self-esteem, especially coming out of the COVID era.

We try to give them real-world experience in things like first aid, even food handling so they are getting ahead of the pack when they are going for their first jobs.

"They have got something they can show a prospective employer ... and army cadets are held in high regard."

"The guidance and support of the army cadet leaders is amazing and they really make me feel my value in what I can achieve," she said

"I've made so many more friends in cadets than I have at school or in my town because I can be myself without judgement and I can make some fantastic memories along the way."

New Horsham recruit Zac Ballinger said he joined the AAC to learn more about career opportunities.

"I have other members of the family in the ADF and I thought ... it would give me some exposure and insights for my own future career options," he said.

Unlike active service members, or the army reserves, cadets cannot be deployed in any emergency work because they are not serving members.

However, when it comes to community service, cadets support the RSL or non-profit organisation Legacy in tasks such as fundraising.

Units meet weekly after school and during holidays there could be courses on a range of subjects, from leadership to bush engineering. Every September there is a field trip to Puckapunyal in central Victoria.

"Horsham is very lucky because it has a really active reserve unit in the 128 Transport Troop and 87RBR Infantry so cadets will support them in ceremonial events," Captain (AAC) Byrne said. "I see the impact it has on all kids."

Cham from Red Cliffs says he discovered the concept of mateship and the value of teamwork as an Army Cadet.

"They come together, they are all wearing green so they are all wearing the one uniform, which is a great equaliser no matter what background they come from.

"They develop friendship groups they wouldn't normally get to develop. But it is also the feeling of belonging to something.

"You get the kids that come in ... and they can't look you in the eye, can't really hold a coherent conversation.

"My feeling of success is when they age out and stare you in the eye, they shake your hand and say, 'Thank you Sir' and I feel like we've given them that edge as they head out in their lives."



Some people believe that what you do on New Year's Day will be your daily ritual throughout the year. I spent New Year's Day in SCUH, and for me, that is where I have been for most of the year.

As you know, I came into SCUH in late December following a stroke. I was doing my allocated exercises when an in-grown toe nail reared its ugly head, and caused excruciating pain, I went to my GP who cut it out. Four days later, with a swollen and red toe, I returned to my clinic where I attended every second day for it to be dressed. With no success, they sent me to SCUH where I have been ever since!

If you are in the area, you may like to drop into Ward 3 A 32 for a genuine 'Fireside with the Padre' chat, as it doesn't look like I will be moving on any time soon (Editor's note: I believe Arthur may be home as of 29 February).

I have had my left big toe amputated with the usual infections that accompanies those with diabetes, which I have kept under control for some 30 years, until now!

So, my life and Annette's is all up in the air. You could be forgiven for thinking that Ward 3 A 32 had been converted to an arm of the Caloundra Church of Christ for I had two Elders, and two other members

Fireside with the Padre



crammed in here.

Onetime, I had an Elder visit me, a fellow retired clergyman, who closed his visit in prayer. While he was praying, a nurse entered the room. When my visitor and I opened our eyes, she said, "Prayer is powerful."

That was so reassuring, and ended his visit on a strong note.

So, from your Chaplain who is now looking for a Podiatrist who gives discount for one with only nine toes, please don't step on my left foot when you visit me! It is still painfully sore.

Keep well, and avoid surgeries involving the amputation of toes, it is not a pretty look! Until next month, may God bless you real good.

Arthur Fry

Honorary Chaplain

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TIMELINE MARCH

1 March 1901: Naval and military forces of the States transferred to Commonwealth control following Federation and planning for the establishment of federal military forces.

4 March 1804: The Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804, Australia's first uprising, was an attempt by a group of Irish convicts to overthrow British rule in New South Wales and return to Ireland where they could continue to fight for an Irish republic. The ill-fated rebellion resulted in the death of at least 39 convicts in both 'Australia's Battle of Vinegar Hill' and the ensuing martial law punishments.

11 March 1845: British troops based in Australia were sent to suppress an uprising by Maoris who were unhappy at the continuing expansion of European settlement in New Zealand's North Island.

12 March 1913: The Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman, announced that Canberra was the name of Australia's new national capital. Just as construction of the city got underway, Canberra's development was delayed by both world wars and the Great Depression.

16 March 1942: Darwin bombed and was subject to 64 Japanese air raids during the Second World War.

16 March 1968: During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five US Army officers were later charged, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.

19 March 1932: Sydney Harbour Bridge opened to the public. The event marked the end of almost a century of speculation and planning around a bridge or tunnel that would cross the harbour. In 1922 the New South Wales Parliament passed the Sydney Harbour Bridge Act and preparation for the building got underway.

20 March 1916: ANZAC Corps land in France. With Gallipoli behind them the bulk of Australia's forces were now sent to France where the terrible fighting on the Western Front awaited.



ARTIST'S impression of the Castle Hill Rebellion.
More Timeline next page.

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TIMELINE MARCH

20 March 1917: Lieutenant F.H. McNamara VC, originally from Rushworth, Victoria, becomes the first Australian airman to win a Victoria Cross for rescuing a downed comrade in Palestine.

20 March 2003: Australian military forces, as part of the US-led coalition, commence operations as part of the invasion of Iraq.

21 March 1918: During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as Germany launched an all-out drive to win the war. The offensive lasted until April 6th and resulted in the Germans gaining about 35 miles of territory. Allied and German casualty figures for both battles approached 500,000.

21 March 1942: Air battle for Port Moresby begins. The Japanese had hoped to occupy Port Moresby as a base from which to cut off shipping to Eastern Australia. Their defeat in the Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the planned naval attack and invasion against Port Moresby. Port Moresby was bombed on **24 March**. Bombings continued until **20 September 1943**.

26 March 1992: Soviet Cosmonaut Serge Krikalev returned to a new country (Russia) after spending 313 days on board the Mir Space Station. During his stay in space, the Soviet



ARTIST's impression of Port Moresby battle.— Air Force Shop .

Union (USSR) collapsed and became the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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

31 March 1921: Negotiations between Army, Navy and Defence officials resulted in the Australian Air Force being formed with approval to use the 'Royal' prefix granted on 13 August 1921.

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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HISTORIC DAY FOR OUR FAMOUS REGIMENT



THIS historic photo shows the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) 75th birthday commemoration in Canberra in November. Soldiers from across the regiment came together to mark the occasion with a Regimental Colour Parade in Canberra.—photo by Cpl Dustin Anderson.



RAAF team learns lots in Guam

RAAF personnel ready to head home from Anderson Air Force Base in Guam after Exercise Cope North 24 and a rewarding four weeks for personnel from RAAF, United States Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and other allied nations. Deploying more than 200 Australian personnel and a C-27J Spartan to the Northern Mariana Islands, the coalition focused on agile operations, airborne integration and a combined tri-lateral command structure. – photo Leading Aircraftman Kurt Lewis.

Roll of Honour — Vietnam, March 1962-75

March 1966

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

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

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

March 1967

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

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

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

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

March 1968

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

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

FRASER, John (1731113), 23, 2LT, 3 RAR, Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium Qld

LYONS, Peter James (2276248), 24, Pte, 2 RAR,

Junee Old Cemetery NSW

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

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

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

March 1969

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

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

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

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

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

March 1970

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

Roll of Honour information from Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour; Department of Veterans Affairs; Virtual War Memorial, Australia; Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall of Faces; Find A Grave.



GARDEN of Remembrance at Chatswood, Willoughby City, in Sydney was formally dedicated on Anzac Day, 25 April, 1964. — photo from Monument Australia.

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