

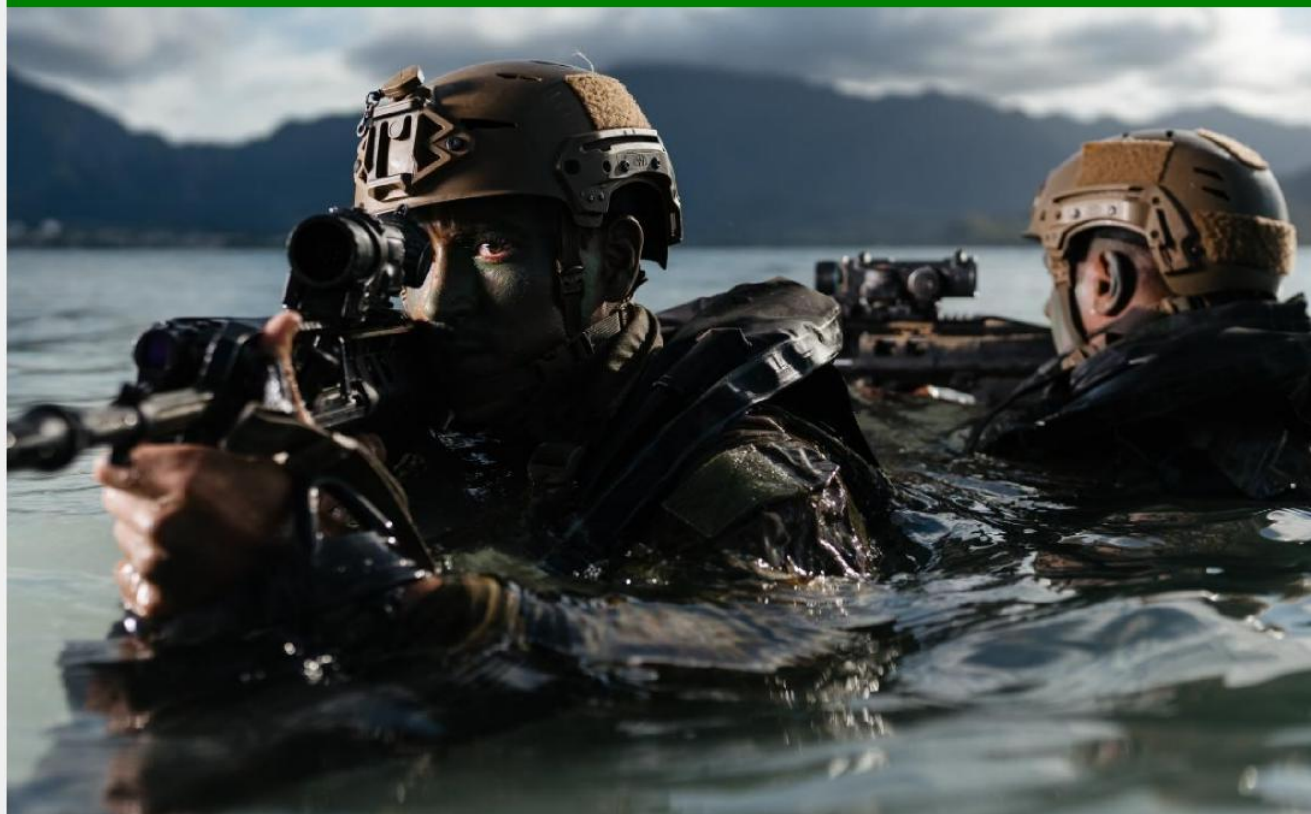
Veterans Support Centre CONTACT FRONT



4th Edition Nov 2022

Vietnam Veterans Peacemakers & Peacemakers Association (NSW)
Hastings Manning Macleay Branch Inc.

**IMPORTANT CHANGES WILL BE NOTIFIED TO EVERY
MEMBER AFTER THE AGM ON 1ST DECEMBER**



Source - Defence web Army; Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, **SEE PG 23**

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www.veteranssupport.org.au

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THURSDAY 1ST December

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Please note there are some important changes taking place at the Veterans Support Centre, be patient. A letter will be sent to all members after the AGM on Thursday 1st December. (ALL WELCOME - AGM starts at 1030 followed by a no-cost lunch for all veterans and partners for VETERANS HEALTH WEEK at 1200 - see pg 5)

Hello again,

I found the Royal Commission's Interim Reports a very depressing read. It has taken them many months to discover that the DVA and its claim system is broken. Now I assume that it will take the same length of time to say the same thing in their final report. Nothing changed after the last Royal Commission despite the outcry, will this go the same route?

In the meantime, we have veterans young and old, of all conflicts, dealing with the financial battle to manage, week to week, struggling to get the right health treatment - both physical and mental - along with the family relationships failing under all of the stress. I remember the outcry when young Jesse Bird found it impossible to live any longer and so ended his own life. NOTHING has improved to stop this happening so, for some, staying alive seems to be the only option not being considered.

The complexities of the mental stress on vets also leads to some of them ending up on the streets and at the mercy of shelters or charities for food and safety. How can we let this happen in our country when we have health care for all and the ability to home every homeless person who wants it?

During all of the stress and pain that our veterans go through, the other forgotten casualty is often the families. Marriages fail, parents are so distressed but don't know how to help, children feel abandoned as their parents struggle.

To add fuel to my anger I then read that veterans may be paid an extra \$1,000 each at some point (good, but that won't go very far will it) but DVA will get **233 million** dollars to have 500 more staff to get stuck in the same complex and confusing system that fails our veterans so badly!

Reach out and talk to a mate if you see them struggling, often a kind word can start them on a better pathway . Check out ruok.org.au for guidance on how to help. Talk to a mate, help them to stay well.

Look out for your mates and I hope that you enjoy reading this quarter's Contact Front and I have included more chuckle pages to start the Christmas break a bit early. I wish you a peaceful Christmas break and all the best of good health and happiness for 2023.

Stay safe and well, Jill

Have you checked out our new look web site designed to give veterans easy to find information about what we do and how to contact us?

Don't forget - Chuckle pages are just meant to make you chuckle, finish off the magazine with a smile. They are, as is this magazine, for adult consumption and aimed at military veteran humour. Please feel free to ignore them.

The opinions expressed above are mine alone and may not be the opinions of Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, VPPAA Inc, or contributors to Contact Front and its readers.



Jill Opie, Editor

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One important fact sheet is **IS45 - Partner Service Pension** and tells of when a partner may be eligible for a pension income based on your qualifying service. It is income and asset tested for those on low income.

If you need help accessing DVA's website, call the VSC for help



The **VVPPAA** is dedicated to the welfare of all Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers, ex-service and serving personnel and their families. If you, or someone you know, is ill and you suspect the illness may be a result of military service, please do not hesitate to consult one of our trained volunteers.

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VETERANS HEALTH WEEK 2022

VETERANS SUPPORT CENTRE PORT MACQUARIE



Our Veterans Health Week event will be held on THURSDAY 1st December

at

Veterans Support Centre, Port Macquarie
Unit 22, 35 Merrigal Road

from 1200 to 1400

and

will follow the Annual General Meeting 2022

The event will be a shared lunch based on the theme of healthier living, with a speaker on that topic and advice and support available on the day
As it is DVA funded, there will be no charge for this event.

Our guests will include Soldier On, local veterans from other groups and, most importantly, you!

So, keep the day free, come along and enjoy good food, great company and learn how to adjust to a more healthy lifestyle.



The Korean War - 80 years ago

The Korean peninsula had been occupied by the Japanese since 1910. In 1945 when the Japanese forces surrendered, the country was divided at the 38th parallel. The division created the northern zone, backed by the Soviet Union, and the southern zone, backed by the United States. Lacking agreement on how to reunify, the zones became separate countries in 1948. The Republic of Korea formed in the south, followed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north.

The relationship between the two Koreas was never stable, and in the early hours of 25 June 1950 the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel to invade the Republic of Korea. As North Korean forces streamed towards Seoul, 22 countries joined the United Nations multinational military intervention to defend South Korea.

Australia was among the first countries involved. HMAS *Bataan* and HMAS *Shoalhaven* began escorting US troopships to the southern port city of Busan from 1 July 1950; No. 77 Squadron RAAF began their first ground support operations over the peninsula the next day; in late September, the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, arrived at Busan and joined the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade.

The Korean War came to a halt on 27 July 1953 when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, on the 38th parallel, close to where the war began. The war ended in a stalemate that exists today; it resulted in the deaths of over four million people, and led to the displacement of millions more.

Over 17,000 Australians in the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force served in Korea during the Korean War; 340 Australians died, over 1,200 were wounded, and 30 became prisoners of war.



Above - This beats walking - Image cover



Above - Sergeant George Hale with his Meteor Mk 8 after a brush with MiG-15s over North Korea in March 1953. Hale scored several hits and is credited with one MiG probably destroyed and another damaged. AWM



Image above contd - When 3 RAR was committed to Korea on 26 July 1950, the men were elated, but there was much that needed to be done to make the battalion ready for war. As reinforcements began arriving at the end of August, Major Bruce Ferguson allocated them to their companies and dealt with the influx of weapons, vehicles and equipment. The reinforcements were drawn from both 1 and 2 RAR and from volunteers, known as K Force, many of whom had served during the Second World War. The last draft of reinforcements arrived in Japan on 10 September, with the battalion's new commanding office, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Green.

Among those who welcomed Green were Ferguson and Captain Ben O'Dowd. Both had served with Green during the Second World War: Ferguson in the 2/2nd Battalion, and O'Dowd in the 2/11th Battalion. During the Wewak Campaign, for which Green was awarded a Distinguished Service Order, Green had been responsible for O'Dowd's battlefield commission. Ferguson and O'Dowd had stayed in the army and were among 3 RAR's original officers.

Image left - At the time the Korean War began, the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), was the only Australian infantry battalion remaining as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. The battalion had been preparing to leave for Australia and was operating at under half of its established strength; just three understrength rifle companies and battalion headquarters.

Sources - AWM archives, Wartime magazine

The Korean War - 80 years ago

When the militia proved their mettle

Australian Army History Unit

Kokoda campaign: 80 years on

The WW2 Kokoda campaign in Papua, fought between Australian and Japanese military forces from July 21 to November 2, 1942, is often compared to the 1915 Gallipoli campaign.

Gallipoli, as the argument goes, fostered the newly federated Australian national identity, while Kokoda marked Australia's coming of age. The lessons learnt from the Kokoda campaign were significant.

The operational picture

On the night of July 21, Japanese military forces landed in the BunaGona area on the north coast of Papua. Their objective was to fight on foot, via the village of Kokoda, through and over the Owen Stanley Ranges to capture Port Moresby on the south coast of Papua. Moresby is about 150km from Buna-Gona, while Kokoda is about 100km from Moresby.



The inhospitable route from Port Moresby to Kokoda was the scene of a coming-of-age for Australia. Photos: Courtesy AWM



Left - PTE Bruce Kingsbury

The route to Moresby from Kokoda is an inhospitable one. Australians know it as the Kokoda Trail. To a height of 5000m, it continually rises and falls from mountains and valleys. The weather conditions range from hot and humid to cold and wet.

Japan deemed it necessary to control Port Moresby, as well as the Solomon Islands, to protect its naval and air base at Rabaul. The Japanese captured Kokoda from the Australians on July 29. By September 17, they had pushed the Australians to Imita Ridge, about 50km from Port Moresby.

The arrival of US troops at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in August, and their mounting victories against Japanese forces there, changed Japan's focus to the Solomon Islands. Its troops withdrew back up the Kokoda Trail to establish a defensive stance on the northern side of the Owen Stanley Ranges. Australian troops retook Kokoda by November 2.

Lessons learnt

Of the many lessons the Kokoda campaign provided, two are historically significant.

First, the experience of the campaign prompted the Australian Army to establish the Land Headquarters Training Centre (Jungle Warfare) at Canungra by the end of 1942. This underpinned the success of their operations for the rest of WW2, since their operations were jungle- and amphibious-based.

Second, in the mind of the 2nd AIF, the campaign established the worth of Australia's militia forces. Until then the AIF had a disdain for the militia, seeing them as untrustworthy in combat. The 39th and 3rd militia battalions, in particular, demonstrated their courage through their tenacity.

The shared Kokoda experience meant that respect and cooperation between the militia and the AIF became the norm for the rest of the war in the Pacific.

Battle honours

There is no single battle of Kokoda. That is because the campaign comprised four actions and three engagements, distinguished by a battle honour of the same name.

The battle honour Kokoda Trail is emblazoned on the Queen's Colours of the Australian Army Reserve's Royal Queensland Regiment, Royal NSW Regiment, Royal South Australia Regiment, and the Royal Western Australia Regiment.

The WW2 battle honour Kokoda Trail and its subordinate battle honour, Kokoda – Deniki, is shared with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force's Royal Pacific Islands Regiment.

PTE Bruce Kingsbury was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross in February 1943 for his courage during the Kokoda campaign, where he served with 2/14 Bn. "Pte Kingsbury displayed a complete disregard for his own safety. His initiative and superb courage made possible the recapture of the position which undoubtedly saved battalion headquarters, as well as causing heavy casualties amongst the enemy. His coolness, determination and devotion to duty in the face of great odds was an inspiration to his comrades."

Source - Army News Aug 22

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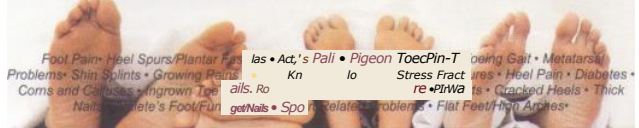


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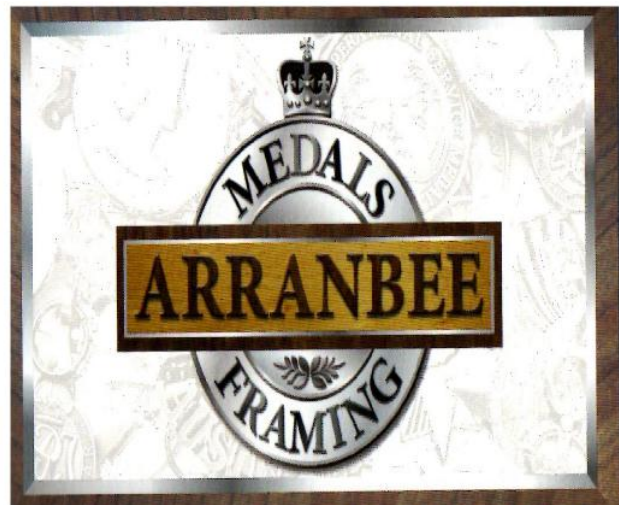
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Queen Elizabeth II dies 'peacefully at Balmoral' aged 96, Charles becomes King - 8th Sept 2022

In 1954, accompanied by her husband, Elizabeth became the first reigning monarch to set foot on Australian soil.

Television in Australia was still two years away, so Australians had to turn out in person to see, for the first time, the Queen's now familiar wave.

And turn out they did. An estimated 75 per cent of the population flooded the streets, with more than 1 million people assembling in Sydney alone — the peak of royal adulation in Australia.

"I am proud indeed to be at the head of a nation that has achieved so much," the Queen told the crowd.

During the 58-day visit, the royal couple took 33 flights, 207 car trips and several train journeys to visit every capital — except Darwin — and 70 country towns.

Queen Elizabeth met Indigenous Australians, including artist Albert Namatjira and the Timbery family of La Perouse, who threw boomerangs for her in Wagga Wagga.

In all, the Queen came to Australia 16 times. Each time she was met by flag-waving, cheering crowds in cities and towns from the nation's coast to its arid centre, which held a special place in her heart.

"It has a magnetic effect upon those who want more out of life than humdrum security and the tidy rules of a comfortable suburbia," she said of Central Australia in 1963, on her second visit.

She was greeted with admiration in all corners of the country, and inspired everyone from children to Robert Menzies, who famously quoted 17th century poet Thomas Ford and proclaimed: "I

did but see her passing by, and yet I love her till I die".

Government release



**Above - The Commonwealth contingent made up of the Australian Defence Force, Canadian Armed Forces and New Zealand Armed Forces march off the parade ground at Wellington Barracks, London during Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II state funeral.
Photographer CPL John Solomon, Defence International**

Above right and below both The Commonwealth contingent, made up of Australian, Canadian and New Zealand military personnel, marches on the procession route during the Queen's state funeral in London. Photo: Sergeant Jarrod McAneney, Defence International



Queen Elizabeth II dies 'peacefully at Balmoral' aged 96,
Charles becomes King - 8th Sept 2022



Defence joins the entire Commonwealth in sorrow for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was the longest serving British sovereign and the impact of her reign has been immeasurable. For over 70 years, the Queen provided us with a sense of pride and unity, and demonstrated an unimpeachable dedication to service. For Australian Defence Force and Defence personnel, her tireless contribution and work ethic provided an unceasing example for us all to follow.

With the passing of Queen Elizabeth the Second, an historic reign and a long life devoted to duty, family, faith and service has come to an end.

The Government and the people of Australia offer our deepest condolences to the Royal Family, who are grieving for a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother—the person whom for so long was their greatest inner strength.

Australian hearts go out to the people of the United Kingdom who mourn today, knowing they will feel they have lost part of what makes their nation whole.

There is comfort to be found in Her Majesty's own words: "Grief is the price we pay for love."

This is a loss we all feel, for few have known a world without Queen Elizabeth II. In her seven remarkable decades on the throne, Her Majesty was a rare and reassuring constant amidst rapid change. Through the noise and tumult of the years, she embodied and exhibited a timeless decency and an enduring calm.

From the moment the young princess became Queen, shouldering the mighty weight of the institution into which she was born, Her Majesty made dedication to duty and service above self the hallmark of her reign.

She celebrated our good times, she stood with us in the bad. Happy and glorious but steadfast too. In particular, we recall the sympathy and personal kindness she extended to Australians afflicted by tragedy and disaster.

Throughout it all, she was a monarch who let her humanity show, performing her duty with fidelity, integrity and humour. In this, she was supported so long and so lovingly by the late Prince Philip, her "strength and stay" for 73 years.

From her famous first trip to Australia, the only reigning sovereign to ever visit, it was clear Her Majesty held a special place in her heart for Australia.

Fifteen more tours before cheering crowds in every part of our country confirmed the special place she held in ours.

As monarch for more than half the life of our Federation, the relationship between Australia and Britain matured and evolved throughout Her Majesty's reign.

The Queen greeted each and every change with understanding, good grace and an abiding faith in the Australian people's good judgment.

This was the deft and diplomatic way she bound the diversity of the modern Commonwealth, nations around the world who will mourn her passing.

Today marks the end of an era, the close of the second Elizabethan age. This time of mourning will pass but the deep respect and warm regard in which Australians always held Her Majesty will never fade.

Sources - Australian Govt release statement, Defence web, AWM, SBS image, BBC image



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More than just a ceremonial sword

By Lieutenant Commander John Thompson



Australian Air Force Group Captain Adrian Maso marches with the Commonwealth contingent during the Queen's funeral procession.

Photo: Royal Air Force Sergeant Jimmy Wise



The sword on display at the Australian High Commission in London.

Photo: Corporal John Solomon

A sword is used for ceremonial purposes to display power or authority, but one sword carried during the Queen's funeral procession represented much more.

The sword in question belongs to the Chief of Staff to the Head of Defence Force Staff in London, Wing Commander Jim Xinos.

"This is a very special sword, made by Pooley Sword, a traditional cutler and provider of swords to the British Armed Forces," Wing Commander Xinos said.

But it's the etchings that make it unique.

"I had the blade etched with the anniversary dates of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) centenary: 1921-2021. Her Majesty, in fact, attended the UK celebrations at Runnymede, west of London," he said.

"On the reverse side, I had engraved the dates of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 1952-2022. Sadly, those years also turned out to be the years of Her Majesty's reign."

The Queen had a special relationship with the Air Force, serving as Air-Commodore-in-Chief of the RAAF Reserve.

The Chief of Staff, having been the principal organiser of Australia's involvement in the funeral planning, was unable to participate directly in the procession. But he was keen for the sword to play a part and asked for it to be carried by the RAAF Adviser in London, Group Captain Adrian Maso.

"I was honoured when Jim approached me, as the sword had particular significance for the occasion," Group Captain Maso said.

"There was added meaning for me because I met the Queen at last year's RAAF Centenary celebrations."

For Wing Commander Xinos, watching on from the front of the Horse Guards Parade, there was a sense of pride when he watched Group Captain Maso march by, just ahead of the Queen's coffin on the way to Wellington Arch.

"I saw Group Captain Maso – it was lovely. It added to my sense of pride in the entire Australian contingent who were marching; and I felt, in my own small way, that I was able to personally honour Her Majesty and her wonderful legacy," Wing Commander Xinos said.

Two days after the funeral, Wing Commander Xinos received a Marshal's Baton, made more than 20 years ago, by the Royal Household for his role in marshalling the Australian contingent.

"I was surprised and honoured by the unexpected gift – it will be put on display with my sword," he said.

Australian War Memorial publishes first list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who served in Vietnam War



John Burns served in the Vietnam War.



John Burns (left), Larry D'Arcy (centre) and Ian Warren (right) at the Mushroom Club in 1968.

On August 18, 1966, the battle of Long Tan was raging. And Uncle John Burns was there.

"As we were firing, we got hit with a downpour, and it really pelted down," he said. "The gun pit was absolutely full of steam and smoke and spent cartridges."

Mr Burns was a bombardier with 103 Artillery Battery, providing covering fire for Australian troops engaged in a fierce gunfight. But, while firing quickly, his ammunition started to run dangerously low.

"Then, out of the rubber trees, came all these soldiers. They ran straight to the ammo dump and started collecting ammunition and bringing it to the guns," he said. "That's when I felt so proud, this was the Australian spirit that we all know. It was 56 years ago. It's still that memory is still fresh in my mind. As if it was last week."

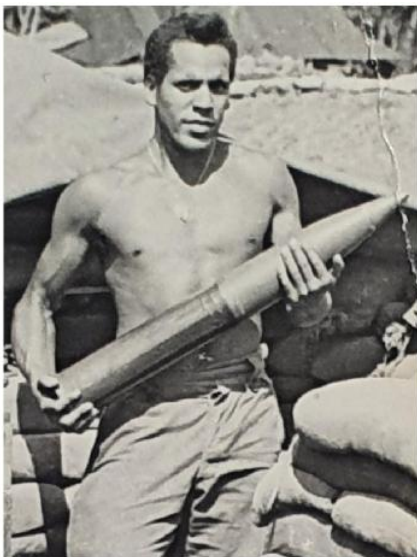
As an Aboriginal recruit, Mr Burns said he experienced equality in the Army that he had not always experienced back home.

"[I was] getting on a trolley bus. The driver stared at me and said, 'we got a black snake on the bus. I think he's frightening people'," Mr Burns recalled.

"As an 11-year-old boy that really hurt."

But in the Army, Mr Burns said he was trained, paid, and treated just like the rest of the troops.

"If a mate's in trouble we'll do whatever we can to assist that soldier," he said. "We all wore the green skin. We were all there for each other."



John Burns, pictured outside the ammo bay, holding a 105mm shell in 1966.



John Burns is one of at least 250 Indigenous men to have served in Vietnam

Australian War Memorial publishes first list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who served in Vietnam War

At least 250 Indigenous soldiers served in Vietnam

Now, the service of those like Mr Burns can be better quantified.

The Australian War Memorial has, for the first time, published a list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who served in Vietnam.

An accurate count of the number of First Australians who fought in the conflict could not be released until now, as it was not recorded at the time of recruitment.

So far, the War Memorial said it had confirmed that 250 Indigenous soldiers had served in the conflict, but that list was expected to grow.

"There's been no actual pointing to them as Aboriginal men," Indigenous Liaison Officer at the Australian War Memorial, Michael Bell, said.

"When I met with veterans up in Queensland and I told them about what I was planning to do, their outstanding answer was 'it's about time'."

Conscripted Indigenous men often offered exemption due to skin colour

During the Vietnam war, conscription was an ominous prospect for many young men of the 1960s and 1970s. Drawn live on national television, the 'birthday ballot' system selected dates at random in a lottery-style draw. If you were a 20-year-old man and your birthday came up, you were required by law to join the Army.

But not if you were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Mr Bell said. He said if you were an Indigenous man and walked into a recruitment office, you were likely to be shown the door. "Adjudications by recruiters and enlisting officers was based on the colour of their skin," he said. "The darker the Aboriginal person was, the more chance he was to be offered an exemption from service."

The exemption was, in effect, an active exclusion from conscription. But not from service entirely.



**Larry D'Arcy (left)
Robert Costello (centre) and
John Burns (right) on May 13, 1968 –
the morning after the Battle of Coral**

"We have numerous examples of Aboriginal men responding to the call-up for conscription, being told that they were exempt because of their Aboriginality, but then enlisting independently as civilians," Mr Bell said.

So despite having a legitimate reason not to join the Australian Army, and in the face of discrimination, First Nations men in their hundreds volunteered to serve – years before Australia even counted Indigenous people as citizens.

The Vietnam War was five years old before the 1967 referendum changed the constitution to ensure Indigenous Australians were counted in the Census.

For those like Mr Burns, that made the correction of the official record of the war all the more important.

Like the rest of the Indigenous veterans who served in Vietnam, he does not regard his service as different to that of anyone else.

But he does hope the list's publication will finally correct the discrimination of the past.

"I hope [they] will realise that Indigenous soldiers will always be there ready to make that sacrifice if called on to defend our country," he said.

Kokoda Track Campaign/Kokoda Trail Campaign World War II

The Japanese advance and the fall of Rabaul

At its closest point to mainland Australia, New Guinea is less than 100 miles (160 km) away, and it became apparent in the early days of the Pacific War that the loss of the island would constitute a serious threat to Australian security. In 1906, administration of the southeastern portion of New Guinea had passed from Britain to Australia, and that area was renamed the Territory of Papua. After World War I, northeastern New Guinea—theretofore the German colonial territory of Kaiser Wilhelms Land—and the Bismarck Archipelago were made a League of Nations mandate to be administered by Australia. In December 1941, however, the largest Australian force in the region was the recently installed 1,400-man "Lark Force" garrison at Rabaul, on the island of New Britain.

Lark Force was tasked with defending the territorial capital of Rabaul—including its two airfields, its port, and its seaplane anchorage—with hopelessly obsolete equipment and virtually no possibility of either reinforcement or evacuation. The Rabaul defensive line stretched 15 miles (24 km), and it was anchored by a pair of six-inch coastal defense guns and just two three-inch anti-aircraft guns. In the days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) dispatched four Lockheed Hudson light bombers and 10 Wirraway fighters to Rabaul, but they would do little to blunt the attack to come. Japanese air raids on Rabaul began on January 4, 1942, and carrier-based aircraft struck the Australians in force on January 20. The Wirraway crews scrambled to defend their mates on the ground, but the faster, more maneuverable, and more heavily armed Japanese Zero fighters swept them from the skies in a matter of minutes. In the predawn hours of January 23, some 5,000 Japanese troops landed on New Britain, and organized resistance quickly collapsed. The Lark Force commander issued an "every man for himself" order to retreat and disperse. Some 400 men of Lark Force managed to escape to Australia after a desperate overland march across the length of New Britain, but the remainder were killed or captured. In February the Japanese massacred 160 Lark Force prisoners at Tol Plantation, on the southern coast of New Britain. Nearly 850 Lark Force prisoners of war were killed on July 1, 1942, when an American submarine sank the *Montevideo Maru*, the Japanese "hell ship" upon which they were being transported.

With their conquest of the Bismarck Archipelago complete, the Japanese next set their sights on Port Moresby, on the southern coast of New Guinea. Control of the port would expand the Japanese sphere of influence to the Coral Sea and disrupt the Allied line of communication between the United States and Australia. Deadly air raids on Darwin (February 19, 1942) and Broome (March 3, 1942) brought the war to mainland Australia, and it seemed as if an invasion of the Northern Territory were a very real possibility. The Japanese planned an amphibious assault on Port Moresby, but Allied cryptanalysts had cracked the Japanese naval code and a carrier group was dispatched to intercept the Japanese invasion fleet. In the resulting Battle of the Coral Sea (May 4–8, 1942), the Japanese won a tactical victory but lost so many aircraft that they were forced to abandon their invasion plan and return to Rabaul.



Kokoda Track Campaign, also called Kokoda Trail Campaign, series of military operations fought between Australian and Japanese troops in New Guinea during World War II.

Japanese expansion in World War II

Kokoda Track Campaign/Kokoda Trail Campaign

World War II contd

With the sea route to southern New Guinea closed, the Japanese planned to launch an overland campaign south across the Owen Stanley Range via a 60-mile (96-km) mountain trail known as the Kokoda Track. The trail ran from the village of Kokoda, on the northeastern slopes of the range, to a position known as Owers' Corner (named for Australian Army surveyor Lt. Noel Owers), in the southwest. The narrow path cut through dense jungle with extremely steep ascents and descents; the total elevation change between the highest and lowest points on the track was nearly 6,000 feet (more than 1,800 metres).

On July 21, 1942, Japanese forces landed on the northern coast of New Guinea at Gona and Buna and began advancing towards Kokoda village. Over subsequent days, they were met with strong resistance by the 39th Australian Infantry Battalion and the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB). These two units were grouped together into an ad hoc command that became known as Maroubra Force. The Japanese were seasoned veterans and experienced night fighters, but Maroubra Force, despite being heavily outnumbered and out-gunned, acquitted itself well. It carried out a fighting retreat to Deniki, 4 miles (6 km) south of Kokoda village, after the Japanese pushed it out of Kokoda on the morning of July 29. Possession of Kokoda gave the Japanese control of the only airfield between Port Moresby and the Japanese landing area.

On August 8 Maroubra Force launched a counterattack from Deniki and attempted to retake Kokoda but was unsuccessful. By this time, food and supplies were running dangerously low, and on August 14 the exhausted Australians and Papuans were pushed farther south along the Kokoda Track to Isurava. With Maroubra Force's situation worsening, troops from the 7th Division of the Second Australian Imperial Force were dispatched to reinforce their comrades on August 23. Throughout September the Japanese advanced through Eora Creek, Templeton's Crossing, Efogi, Mission Ridge, and finally Ioribaiwa Ridge, which they took on September 16. The Allies were forced to pull back to Imita Ridge, but by this time the Japanese were nearly out of supplies and were suffering from hunger, sickness, and exhaustion. In addition, the Battle of Guadalcanal had become the focus of Japanese efforts in the southwestern Pacific. At their point of farthest advance, the Japanese were less than 35 miles (56 km) from Port Moresby. On September 24 the main body of Japanese withdrew. After more tenacious fighting along the Kokoda Track, the Australians and their New Guinean allies were able to defeat the Japanese and retake Kokoda village on November 2.

Despite suffering heavy casualties and engaging in prolonged combat in some of the most challenging terrain on Earth, Maroubra Force, including the reinforcing units from the 7th Division, displayed remarkable endurance, courage, and mateship. Approximately 625 Australians were killed and some 1,600 were wounded, while more than 4,000 were afflicted with disease. More than 150 New Guineans died as members of the PIB or as porters along the Kokoda Track. The Japanese are believed to have suffered more than 2,000 battle casualties and nearly 3,000 further casualties from disease or malnutrition. Because large sections of the trail were impassable to vehicles, New Guinean labourers were sometimes the only means of conveying supplies to the front and evacuating wounded soldiers to the rear. Australian troops dubbed the New Guineans "fuzzy wuzzy angels" in recognition of the fact that many of their sick or wounded comrades would have died without the New Guineans' timely intervention.



Left - Japanese bombing of the city of Darwin and Australia's participation in World War II

Right - Montevideo Maru was a Japanese auxiliary ship that was sunk by the USN in World War II, resulting in the drowning of 1,054 Australians who were being transported from Rabaul to Hainan, in what is considered the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history. Prior to the war the ship operated as a passenger and cargo vessel traveling mainly between Asia and South America.

Source - Encyclopaedia Britannica, revised and updated by Michael Ray.

NEWLY FORMED VIETNAM VETERANS SOCIAL CLUB AT TAYLORS ARMS

A newly formed Vietnam Veterans Social Club has been started at Taylors Arms. As a result, the veterans have dedicated a memorial to the communities of Taylors Arms whose members did not return from the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

Their names are engraved on a plaque. Attending this dedication service were Mr Bill Roberts OAM and Mr Ron O'Connor who are both executive members of the Granville Head Office. Also attending was Mr Bill Wagner, President of the Veterans Support Centre, Port Macquarie.

Mr Wagner has made the Veterans Support Centre and its services available to all veterans; we offer information, social events, companionship and understanding,, assistance from our Compensation Advocate and help with your claims to DVA, Welfare advice and a place for a cuppa and a chat. See page 3 for our contact details.



Left - the crosses recording those who gave their lives in 1st and 2nd World Wars.

Above - the memorial

Below - Veterans in attendance at the dedication

Right - the memorial plaque, made by the local community



Source - President, Veterans Support Centre



Let Us Help You Feel Your Best (



PHONE: 6562 8999

CLINIC LOCATIONS

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P 02 6562 8999
F 02 6562 4999
 Shop 7-14 Clyde Street

PORT MACQUARIE

Phone 6562 8999

SOUTH WEST ROCKS
 Seascope Medical
P 02 6566 6005 F 02 6566 7040 289-293
 Gregory Stree

NO REFERRAL NEEDED
DVA and Mediacar Referrals from GP accepted

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- Clinical Pilates | Yoga
- Dry Needling
- Hydrotherapy
- Personalised Exercise Programs
- Weight Loss
- Orthotics and Bracing
- Massage Therapist
- Pre-Employment Medicals
- Functional Capacity Assessments
- Postural Correction and Education
- Ergonomic Assessments
- Gait Analysis & Biomechanical Assessment
- Falls Prevention | Residential Aged Care Service Provision

NEW FITNESS & PILATES STUDIOS IN KEMPSEY AND SOUTH WEST ROCKS

Our new facilities in Kempsey and South West Rocks will provide a studio environment for our specialised Clinical Pilates, Yoga, Weight Loss and Exercise class services.

Designed to offer private and intimate class sizes for a professional, individualised - yet comfortable and

i n f o a [



www.keystonehealth.com.au

KEYSTONE HEALTH

Keystone Health provides Physiotherapy, Exercise Physiology, Clinical Pilates and Massage services to three practices conveniently located in Port Macquarie, South West Rocks and Kempsey. Our friendly and experienced staff work collaboratively, providing an approach that focuses on the individual, using a range of options to provide the best treatment outcome and quality of life.

Navy - Vietnam (this page) and Present day (next page)



Above - *HMAS Sydney* was the first of three conventional aircraft carriers to serve in the RAN, and operated as the navy's flagship during the early part of her career. From late 1951 to early 1952, she operated off the coast of Korea during the Korean War, making her the first carrier owned by a Commonwealth Dominion, and the only carrier in the RAN, to see wartime service. Retasked as a training vessel following the 1955 arrival of her modernised sister ship, *HMAS Melbourne*, *Sydney* remained in service until 1958, when she was placed in reserve as surplus to requirements.

The need for a sealift capability saw the ship modified for service as a fast troop transport, and recommissioned in 1962. *Sydney* was initially used for training and a single supply run in support of Malaysia's defence policy against Indonesia, but in 1965, she sailed on the first voyage to Vung Tau, transporting soldiers and equipment to serve in the Vietnam War. 25 voyages to Vietnam were made between 1965 and 1972, earning the ship the nickname "**Vung Tau Ferry**".

Right ---- USS *Guadalupe* (AO-32) refuels HMAS *Hobart* (D39) off Vietnam in 1967.

The U.S. Navy *Cimarron*-class fleet oiler USS *Guadalupe* (AO-32) refueling the Australian guided missile destroyer HMAS *Hobart* (D39) in the spring of 1967. HMAS *Hobart* was taking part in Operation "Sea Dragon". During the Vietnam War, "Sea Dragon" was a series of naval operations beginning in 1966 to interdict sea lines of communications and supply going south from North Vietnam to South Vietnam, and to destroy land targets with naval gunfire. The primary purpose of Sea Dragon forces was the interception and destruction of water borne logistic craft (WBLC), which ranged in size from large self propelled barges down to small junks and sampans.

Wikipedia



Left - RAN helicopter pilots were embedded with the US army 135th Assault Helicopter Company. The Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter seen here was used for transporting personnel.

navy.gov.au



Left -- The Charles F Adams Class destroyers were ideally suited to operations in Vietnam. The Daring Class destroyer HMAS *Vendetta* was also deployed for service on the gunline. Her main armament consisted of six 4.5-inch guns that were capable of providing accurate and rapid fire to a range of nine nautical miles at a rate of 16 rounds per gun per minute. In good conditions *Vendetta's* guns were capable of expending up to 100 rounds per minute. **na-**

[vy.gov.au](http://navy.gov.au)

HMAS Sydney fires an Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile at Exercise Pacific Dragon during a regional presence deployment. Royal Australian Navy guided missile destroyer, HMAS Sydney, displayed its sophisticated naval combat capabilities while participating in Exercise Pacific Dragon 2022 in the seas off Hawaii. The exercise saw Sydney track very high-speed targets with its Aegis Combat System and state-of-the-art phased array AN/SPY 1D(V) radar before successfully launching an Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile to intercept an airborne target drone.

Photos: Leading Seaman David Cox



Informally known as the 'tanker taskforce', Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 command taskforce (CTF) 173 was more than support and replenishment. With diversity on show, the combat logistics taskforce was constructed of nine vessels crewed by commercial, contracted, and uniform personnel from three different nations. Meanwhile, the taskforce headquarters included staff from Australia, United States, New Zealand, Canada, and France. For the first time, CTF 173 was commanded by a foreign nation and Royal Australian Navy officer Captain Michael Oborn held that responsibility. "In some circles, combat logistics is not important until a ship runs out of fuel. If that happens, then my team and I have failed and I'd better start looking for a new job," Captain Oborn said. "It is important, and during RIMPAC we have worked hard to build strong relationships across a diverse ship-type, crew model and nationality, ensuring the taskforce was collegiate in its support to all RIMPAC ships."

The taskforce capabilities ranged from towing, salvage and dive support, to at sea underway transfer of fuel, munitions, and stores. Royal Malaysian Navy corvette KD *Lekir* Commanding Officer Commander Mohd Asri bin Dasman said sea evolutions with CTF 173 were conducted safely and professionally. "To conduct an underway replenishment on the high seas in rough weather conditions was a challenge for the crew but we were able to successfully complete it," he said. "I am happy with the professionalism shown by my crew and the 173 taskforce during refuelling."

Photo: Leading Seaman Ernesto Sanchez - below left



A Navy MH-60R Seahawk helicopter, such as this one, was involved in the rescue of three residents from Kangaroo Valley who were trapped by flood waters. A Royal Australian Navy MH-60R helicopter has evacuated three residents from their home in the Upper Kangaroo Valley following threats to their safety from rising flood waters. The helicopter was tasked when a Defence liaison officer working at Flood Watch Sydney identified the State Emergency Services request. Civilian aircraft had been unable to perform the evacuation due to severe weather conditions. **Above right, photographer unknown**



Ship's company of HMAS Perth 'cheer ship' to Indonesian Navy ship KRI Bung Tomo during a cooperative activity near Jakarta, Indonesia. The strong relationship between the Australian and Indonesian navies was further enhanced recently with a logistics port visit and a cooperative training activity between the two nations' warships. The Anzac-class frigate HMAS Perth recently conducted a successful port visit to Jakarta, Indonesia for logistics and bilateral engagement while deployed on operations in the region.

Perth was warmly received by the Indonesian Navy's impressive Kwelang-class Stealth Trimaran KRI *Golok* (688) before coming alongside at Tanjung Priok Port.

By Lieutenant Eleanor Williams and Lieutenant Max Logan

Army - Vietnam (this page) and Present day (next page)



Left - 1RAR soldiers with an M113 armoured personnel carrier in August 1965,
Wikipedia



Right - The birthday of the Armoured Corps, Cambrai Day, in November 1970 being observed by the crews of Centurion tanks from A Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment and APCs from B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

The parade took place at Nui Dat. **AWM ANZAC Portal DVA**



Left - Soldiers recently returned from Vietnam marching past Sydney Town Hall in 1968. At least 16 such parades were conducted to welcome units back during the war, with many attracting large crowds

AWM

Below left - Long Tan Memorial

Throughout the war almost 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, but not all of them volunteered. Many were conscripted, which means they were forced to go through a giant nationwide lottery. Any 20-year-old men in the country could be picked, if their birthday was drawn in the draft. Some Australians were against that. Others were against fighting in Vietnam at all. Because they believed it wasn't Australia's war to fight. So there were big protests across the country. And many young men refused to go.

Those Aussies who did go faced incredibly difficult conditions-- thick jungle, monsoonal rains, and an enemy that was very familiar with both. All up, 521 Aussies died, and more than 3,000 were wounded fighting. The deadliest battle for Aussie troops was the Battle of Long Tan on August 18, 1966.

Around 100 Australian and New Zealand soldiers found themselves fighting a giant force of around 2,000. Pinned down, low on ammunition, and at risk of being surrounded, the Australian troops looked like they wouldn't survive the night. But they did, holding off the enemy until reinforcements arrived.

Brittanica



Australian Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, secure a beach during a small boat operations activity on Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022. Landing forces put their training to the test in a multinational reconnaissance mission during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022. In a simulated scenario, Australian Army soldiers and United States Marines lifted off from HMAS Canberra in US Marine Corps CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters. Before their mission even began, they were challenged with the insertion method called helicopter casting (helo-casting) - jumping from a low-flying helicopter into the ocean.



Photo: Corporal John Solomon



A Bushmaster Electric Protected Mobility Vehicle after being unveiled during the Chief of Army Symposium 2022. In the background is a Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle fitted with ruggedized solar panels. Rumbling diesel Bushmaster engines could one day be a thing of the past, replaced by the quiet hum of electronics, following the unveiling of a battery-powered prototype at the Chief of Army Symposium on August 10. Known as the ePMV, its engine and gearbox have been replaced with a pair of lithium-ion batteries and an electric motor driving each axle. It's the first Australian electrification of a military vehicle and is about 2 tonne lighter than a regular Bushmaster.

Photo: Warrant Officer Class Two Max Bree

A ship is an unlikely setting for infantry training, but an Army unit aboard HMAS Canberra made it one while travelling to Hawaii for Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022. Australia's Amphibious Force, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) and its Multi-National Landing Force made the most of its time aboard the landing helicopter dock, conducting training such as combat first aid, population protection and control, and urban clearance drills.

By Flying Officer Lily Lancaster



Australian Army soldiers from 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, on board F470 Zodiacs conducting small-boat training in the littoral environment during Exercise Tiger's Run 2022 on the Timor Sea. These included boat handling and beach landings to develop 1st Brigade's littoral manoeuvre capability. CO Lieutenant Colonel Chris Gilmore said the training was a natural fit for his Top End troops. "What our infantry soldiers – and particularly our soldiers here in Darwin – have is an inherent flexibility and an ability to operate in any weather, climate, or terrain," he said. **Photo: Corporal Rodrigo Villablanca**

RAAF - Vietnam (this page) and Present day (next page)



A Royal Australian Air Force English Electric Canberra B20 from No. 2 Squadron during a strike out of Phan Rang air base, Vietnam, in March 1970.
wiki

Below right - The Caribou military transport aeroplane was unveiled to commemorate the first flight of the Caribou in the Vietnam War in August 1964. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) began its service in the Vietnam War on 8 August 1964 when three Caribou aircraft of the RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam landed at Vung Tau. - on display at **Monument Australia**



In offering the book for publication now, I resisted the temptation to rewrite it completely, feeling that it would become a different story. For better or worse, the words stand.

Vietnam, once shunned by the West, is now well on the road to recovery. Its next generation will, hopefully, have a promising future.

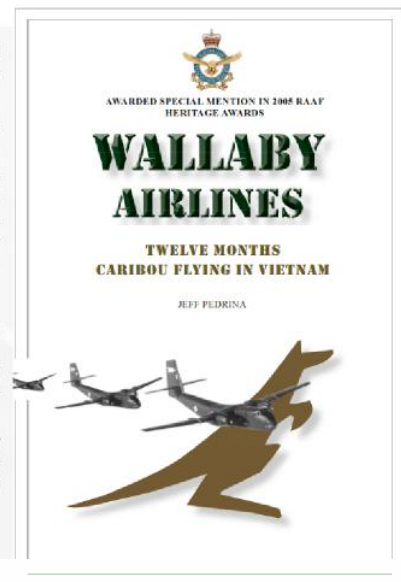
Vietnam and its people suffered more than many imagine. Years after the war was over, many Vietnamese waged another war against the elements, pirates and starvation to reach a country that once held out such promise. Some Australians were sympathetic and generous. Others wanted to ship them home to an unknown fate.

I hope this book helps all Australians understand why they deserved our help.

The sources of information for the book were my personal diary, personal letters to family members, my flying logbook and a collection of photographic slides. My personal sources were augmented by large slices of memory, except in the Ba To story, where squadron engineering officer Wally Solomons filled in a lot of holes for me. Sadly, Wally has since passed away.

The material presented is, to the best of my recollection, accurate in content, if not in sequence. However, I apologise in advance for any lapses in memory, or omissions, which readers may identify. I also apologise for any offence that may be taken at anything in this book, as none is intended.

Jeff Pedrina



Above left -

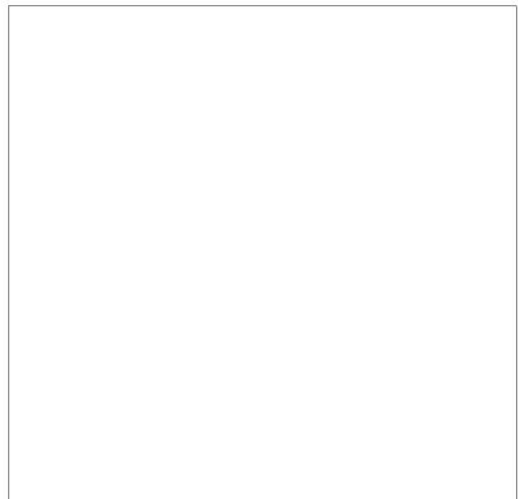
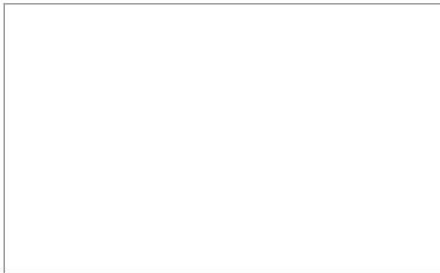
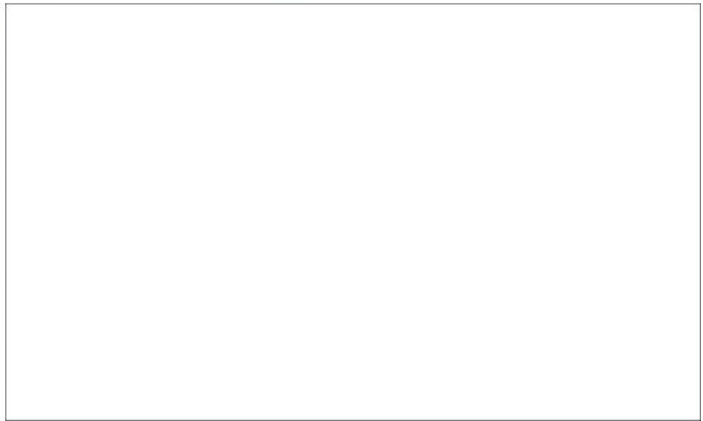
To most Australians who served in Vietnam the RAAF presence was exemplified by the Iroquois helicopter. [AWM VN/68/0011/07] Regarded as emblematic of the conflict, the Iroquois, an image of which appears on the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Canberra's Anzac Parade, played a vital role in carrying men to and from operations, transporting supplies and, importantly, getting the wounded from the field to a hospital in time to save the lives of many who would otherwise have perished.

ANZAC portal DVA

Sources for pgs 24 - 25 - defence.gov.au (Air Force); AWM site; SBS News or as indicated

An Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft during Exercise Arnhem Thunder, held at RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Territory. Dominating the skies of the Northern Territory, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) F-35A Lightning II will participate in Exercise Pitch Black for the first time. Transitioning from the Classic Hornet to the F-35A since the last iteration of Exercise Pitch Black, Nos. 3 and 75 Squadron will be putting the RAAF's fifth-generation aircraft through its paces in a multi-national air combat environment.

Photo: Leading Aircraftman Stewart Gould



REPORTS Sept - Dec 2022



**Welfare Officer
Peter Millen**

Welfare Officer's Report

Although I am not travelling up to Port Macquarie as much as I used to, I am still available to offer advice and guidance with any welfare and/or social issues or queries you may have. Please call in to the office and arrange a phone chat and I will do all that I can to help you.

Take care, **Peter**



**Compensation
Advocate
Mike Opie**

Compensation Advocate's Report

I continue to assist veterans with their compensation and pension claims. It can be a long slow process with DVA and their current system but I can help to make a good start to your claim with the correct wording (very important) and with all necessary paperwork. Make an appointment to see me by ringing the office or to make a time for a phone call to discuss your case.

I am also a JP and will be happy to help with any JP related issues or signings (fee free of course).

Mike

Membership Officer's Report

We currently have 81 members, sadly 2 of members have passed away since my last report. (see next page)

Renewal of your membership is now due for 2023 and the application form is on the back of your address label for this magazine.

NOTE that for every membership payment of \$30.00 made here at your local sub-branch, **\$12.50 is retained by your sub-branch for local use.** To those who have renewed their membership each year, thank you for your support!

Please stay covid and flu safe.

Trevor Morrow, Membership Officer



**Membership Officer
Trevor Morrow**



David Harding ex President, shown at Veterans Support Centre, 2019 AGM

Treasurers Report

It has become necessary to seek alternative accommodation. Details of any changes will be notified by the President once decided.

Peter Dorman



Treasurer -Peter Dorman

Vale

The President is sorry to inform you that **David Harding (Major)** of 110 Sig Sqn has passed away
RIP - 11/1/1929 - 15/08/2022

Vale

The President is sorry to inform you that **Peter Anderson (Gunner)** HQ AAFV has passed away
RIP - 17/1/1943 - 23/7/2022

REPORTS Sept - Dec 2022

President's Report 2022

Another year has passed by all too quickly. As they say, the older you get there seems to be less time to relax and complete the plans that you had for the previous year.

The office has been kept very busy this year keeping up with the pension and welfare work as well as trying to locate premises to continue to operate. As we advised to members, our financial situation has required us to re-think our future as to whether to close or find a way to continue. As you have heard time and time again, one door closes and another door opens.

The President of the RSL Wauchope Sub-Branch, Mick Brownlow has offered us space in the Sub-Branch office area to continue operating. Our Members were given a walk through of the new area to be re-developed to facilitate the RSL Sub-Branch Office and our Veterans Office. The Sub-Branch and ourselves operate on different days which will accommodate all pension and welfare work. We hope to be operating from the new area when the office re-opens in the New Year. We are in the process of finding a way to operate using our same phone numbers for the pension and welfare work. All Members will be notified.

It would have been a disappointment to the Veteran committee if we had to close. The number of veterans and families, young and old, that the office has been assisting has been constant. For those who may not have remembered, the Vietnam Veterans Office was opened on 20th February 1999 by Chris Davies OAM. Prior to that Chris worked in other premises to establish the Vietnam Veterans Association in our area.

Earlier this month I attended a memorial dedication at a small school in Medlow nearby to Taylors Arms. This memorial was in remembrance to those who did not return from the 1st and 2nd World Wars. It was donated by the Vietnam Veterans and Service Personnel from the area. The Vietnam Veterans have organised a social club and are affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans at Granville. Attending with me on this dedication day from Granville were Bill Roberts OAM and Ron O'Connor. The day was most enjoyable with morning tea supplied by the school and lunch provided at The Pub With No Beer. These two gentlemen from Granville just love getting out in the countryside and getting back to nature. I think it was Bill Roberts who said he would like to open an office in the area, which was followed by a horrified look from Ron O'Connor.

A thank you to our Pension and Welfare Team who have worked hard to assist all who have required it, another reason to continue this work. Well done, Mike, Glen and Peter. A big thank you to the Office Staff who have assisted and put up with me throughout the year. It has been a very long year. Thanks for hanging in there. To all who attend our Thursday lunches, thanks for your banter and ideas on how to change the world. To Jill Opie, for her continued work in producing the newsletter, thank you very much. Also Lyn for her secretarial work in the office, who at the moment is not in the best of health, thank you very much. Thanks to David, Bill, Greg, Barry, Trevor and Peter for their great work on the Committee.

Thanks to Soldier On, who have used our premises during the year for some of their functions, especially watching the Barbecue Master cooking the pork spare ribs and other cuts of meat. Well done Jodie. Another thank you to Amber from Open Arms for your information and assistance throughout the year.

To all, thank you for your support and assistance throughout the past year.
Looking forward to new beginnings next year.

A Merry Christmas and a trouble free New Year for yourselves and your families.

Stay Safe,
Regards,
Bill Wagner

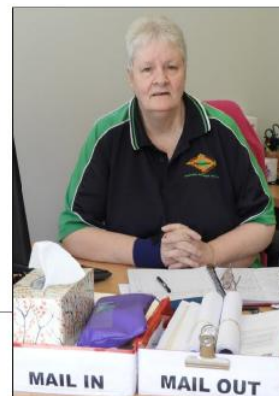


President - Bill Wagner



Our very best wishes Lyn

From all at Veterans Support Centre



**Lyn Hancock
Office Manager**

WEAPONRY OF THE VIETNAM WAR (that you will remember well)



L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle (SLR)



M60 Machine Gun



L9A1 Browning Pistol



M16 Assault Rifle

Left -The L1A1 is the Australian version of the Belgian FN FAL rifle. It entered into service with the Australian Army in 1959. The L1A1 was a reliable, hard-hitting, gas-operated, magazine-fed semi-automatic rifle, with a maximum battle range of 300 metres and a practical rate of fire of 20 rounds per minute. In Vietnam the L1A1 was the standard personal weapon of the Australian soldier. With a full 20 round magazine it weighed 4.96Kg. The standard issue was 5 magazines per rifleman but almost all carried as many filled magazines that they could get their hands on, often dispensing with food rations in order to find room for the extra ammunition. The rationale to this was that the extra 7.62 mm rounds fired from an SLR rifle would do more damage than throwing a can of Ham and Lima Beans.

Left centre - The 7.62mm M60 Machine Gun entered service with the Australian Army in 1960. Gas operated, air cooled and belt fed, with a quick change barrel to counter overheating during sustained fire. The rate of fire was 550 rounds per minute (cyclic), with a muzzle velocity of 860 metres per second. Maximum effective range, 860 metres bipod and 1800 metres tripod. Ammunition fired; ball, tracer, incendiary and armour piercing. In South Vietnam it was the main firepower of the Australian infantry rifle section.

Right centre - The Browning 9-mm pistol is carried by officers and soldiers who require a sidearm that can be rapidly drawn and fired, even in confined spaces. The pistol consists of a barrel, a slide, a breech block, a frame, and a 13 round magazine.

Right - M16 (more formally United States Rifle, Calibre 5.56 mm, M16) is the U.S. military designation for a family (XM16, M16/A1/A2/A3/A4) of rifles derived from the Armalite AR-15 and further developed by Colt starting in the mid-20th century. It has been the primary infantry rifle of the United States military since the 1960s. The M16 is a lightweight, 5.56 mm calibre, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed rifle, with a rotating bolt, actuated by direct impingement gas operation. It is constructed of steel, aluminium and composite plastics. It replaced the 9 mm Owen Machine Carbine.



Browning Machine Gun, Heavy Barrel, .50 Calibre



81mm M29 Mortar



M72 Rocket Launcher



M18 Smoke Grenade

Left - The Browning .50 machine gun was used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament by the United States from the 1920s to the present day. It was heavily used during World War II, Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, as well as during operations in Iraq in the 1990s and 2000s. It is the primary heavy machine gun of NATO countries, and has been used by many other countries. It is still in use today. Its primary role was as a perimeter defence weapon for the 1st Australian Task Force.

Left centre - The M-29 81mm Mortar, is a smooth-bore, muzzle-loaded, high-angle, indirect fire weapon. It consists of a barrel, sight, bipod, and base plate. The M-29 has a greater range, and its circular base plate allows for firing in any direction. High Explosive (HE) Fragmentation and blast. Causes troop casualties and damage to light material. Red Phosphorus (RP), White Phosphorus (WP) Smoke. Used to screen, signal, and act as an incendiary. Illumination: Used to illuminate, signal, and mark.

Right centre - The weapon consists of a rocket packed inside of a launcher made up of two tubes, one inside the other. While closed, the outer assembly acts as a watertight container for the rocket and the percussion cap-type firing mechanism that activates the rocket. The outer tube contains the trigger, the arming handle, front and rear sights, and the rear cover. The inner tube contains the channel assembly which houses the firing pin assembly, including the detent lever. When extended, the inner tube telescopes outward toward the rear, guided by the channel assembly which rides in an alignment slot in the outer tube's trigger housing assembly. This causes the detent lever to move under the trigger assembly in the outer tube, both locking the inner tube in the extended position and cocking the weapon. Once armed, the weapon is no longer watertight even if the launcher is collapsed into its original configuration.

When fired, the propellant in the rocket motor completely combusts before leaving the tip of the launcher, producing gases around 1,400 °F (760°C). The rocket propels the 66 mm warhead forward without significant recoil. As the warhead emerges from the launcher, 6 fins spring out from the base of the rocket tube, stabilizing the warhead's flight. Once fired the launcher is no longer useful and may be discarded. 5RAR soldiers used the M72 primarily against enemy bunker systems.

Right - Although not a weapon, nevertheless smoke grenades saved the lives of many Australians by marking directly the location for the 'Dust Offs' (casualty evacuation helicopters) and giving wind information. Also when in close contact with the enemy, 'smoke' was also used to 'mark' the Australian position so that air support would know the location of friendly forces prior to strafing and bombing close enemy targets.

WEAPONRY OF THE ADF CURRENTLY



F88 Austeyr - F88A2 with ring sight and F88A2 with ACOG RMR and GLA

F88SA2 is the latest model of the F88 Austeyr series. This is the Australian Army's standard combat weapon. **Heckler and Koch HK417 and suppressor** - The H&K 417 weapon system is used by our specialist marksmen to observe and engage targets at extended ranges.

Self-Loading Pistol 9 millimetre Mark 3 - The Self-Loading Pistol 9 millimetre Mark 3 is a short-recoil operated and magazine-fed weapon able to produce semi-automatic fire.



Maximi The 7.62 millimetre MAXIMI is a recent addition to the Australian Army. It is gas operated, fully automatic, air cooled and fed by a disintegrating link belt. It is capable of a high rate of effective fire against point and area targets.

MAG58 The General Support Machine Gun (GSMG) MAG 58 is designed for general support purposes. **81 Millimetre F2 Mortar** - The mortar 81 millimetre F2 is a crew-served, indirect fire support weapon.



Left - Antipersonnel Weapon M18A1 (Claymore) - Antipersonnel Weapon M18A1 Claymore is a command-detonated, fixed-direction, fragmentation weapon designed primarily for use against personnel. The fragments also effectively penetrate soft-skinned vehicles.



Below left - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) provide Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) support for land force operations. The Australian Army currently operates the RQ-7B Shadow 200 in this role. The SHADOW 200 carries a suite of high resolution cameras above patrolling troops to provide detailed information about activities on the ground. The air vehicle has approximately eight hours endurance, and ground troops are able to receive footage and data from the air vehicle in real-time using ground terminals. The air vehicles are rail-launched and have a 16' wingspan, a gross weight of 208 kilograms, and are powered by a 29 kilowatt rotary engine.

In the future, the Australian Army is planning to introduce a small single person launched and operated UAV; the Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS). It is intended to provide information to commanders at the Combat Team level and below with enhanced situational awareness through improved reconnaissance and surveillance coverage. It will offer commanders near real-time video and still images with associated metadata by day and night. The SUAS reconnaissance capability has been likened to that of a flying pair of binoculars.



Left - M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier

The M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers have provided the Australian Defence Force with a protected mobility and armoured fighting capability since the Vietnam War.

Source - from the website of Vietnam Veterans Association Australia, Victoria Branch; army.gov.au work equipment; subject to change

NAMBUS

RETIRES
1990
to
2023



2017

The pictures on these pages only show some of the veterans who took part in the NAMBUS Tour of local high schools from Camden Haven to Port Macquarie and the Army cadets. On other days to my photo visits, other veterans also share their thoughts and experience with the students, both good and difficult emotions and the students have been enriched by the experience.



2018



2019

NAMBUS also operated in other areas and was maintained by veterans and volunteers. It is now beyond repair and must be retired, a great loss indeed.

2021



A special thanks to Barry Lynch for organising all of the visits to this area and co-ordinating the speakers each year

*Claiming the date
Saturday 14th January*

2023



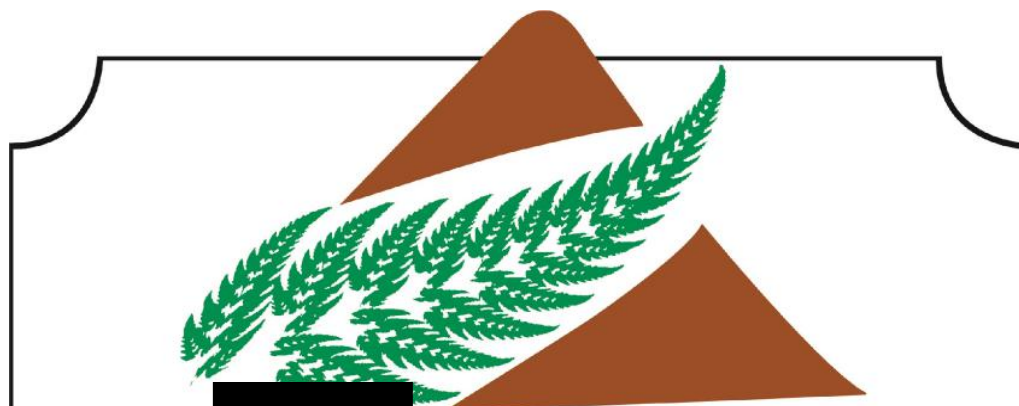
*Farewell to the
NAMBUS
OPEN DAY
Ettalong Foreshore
10AM*

Any queries about the above to 0416 616 392

Thank you to all who have taken part, drivers, mechanics, display organisers, students for their interest and care, their teachers and heads but the biggest **THANK YOU** goes to the veterans who have shared their stories and emotions over the years to keep the Vietnam War in our consciousness.



2022



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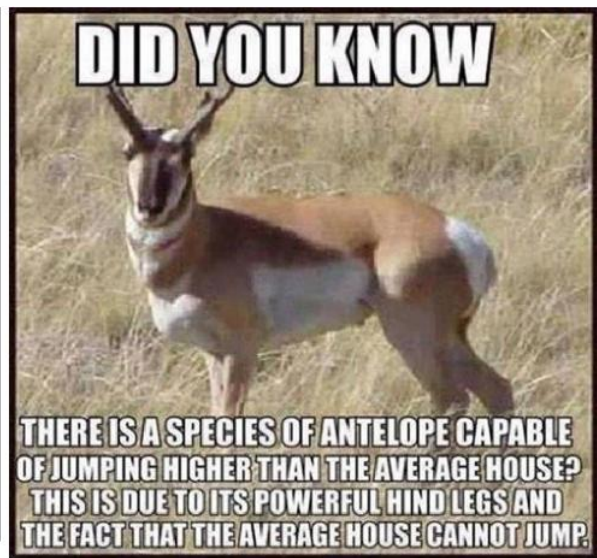
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In Canada, they use special stickers to slow cars down



In Australia, we use 3D techniques



Working from home

Pilots:



Construction workers:



Life guards



Marine biologists:



Source - all from [boredpanda.com](https://www.boredpanda.com) and pinterest covid

CHUCKLE TIME Mild and suitable for all

Surgeons:



Government employees:



Firemen:

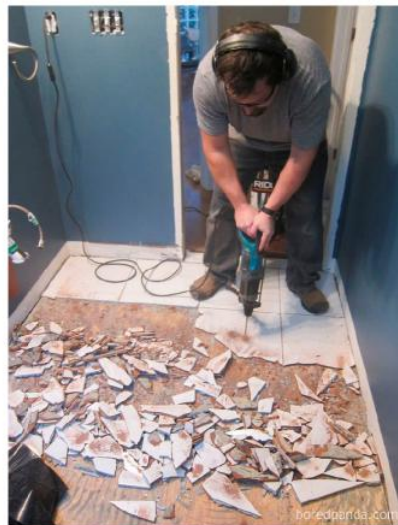


WHEN YOU'RE
STILL WEARING
YOUR ZOOM
MEETING OUTFIT
AFTER THE
QUARANTINE IS
LIFTED

Pilots:



Archaeologists:



I FOUND A BOOK CALLED
HOW TO SOLVE 50% OF
YOUR PROBLEMS. SO, I
BOUGHT TWO.



HOW MANY
PEOPLE WORK
IN YOUR
COMPANY?

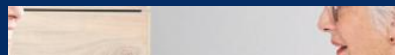
ABOUT
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THEM...

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Merchandise



All proceeds from the sale of goods, including raffle tickets, go toward the funding of scholarships for veterans' children and grandchildren

Pens, keyrings, lapel pins, belt buckles, patches and badges, book "The Minefield", number plate surrounds and more - check it out - all raising money for veterans dependants



Assorted: Army, Navy, Airforce bumper stickers



Assorted: Stubby holders



Please see staff at the Office every Thursday from 10:30 – 13:00

Thank you to our members, advertisers and supporters for their continuing support of our Veterans Support Centre

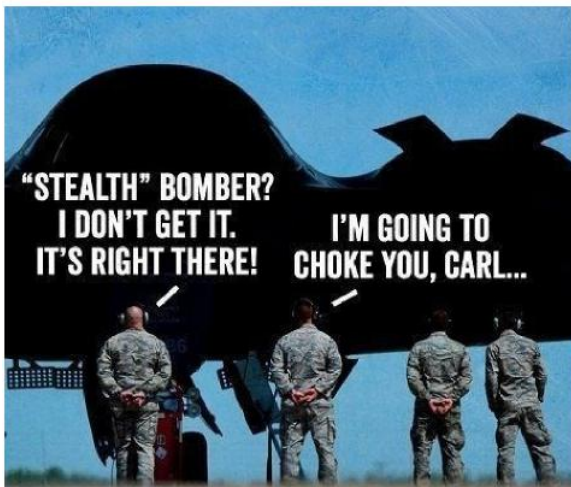


One Week In Australia



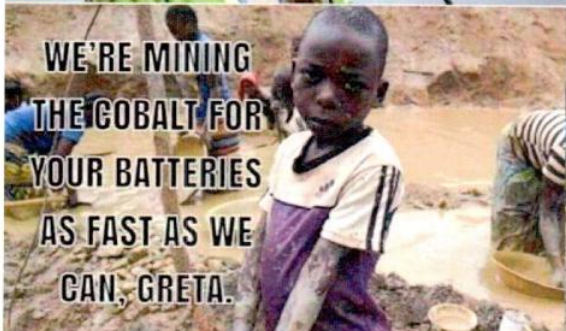
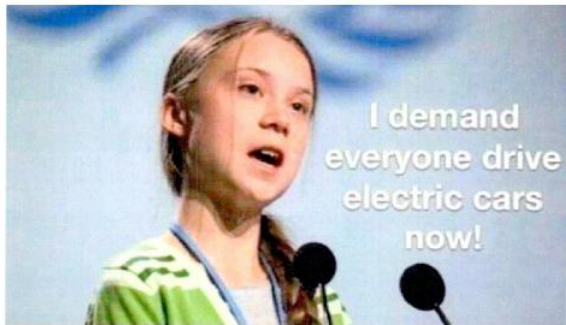
Military Hospital An army major visits the sick soldiers, goes up to one private and asks: "What's your problem, Soldier?" "Chronic syphilis, Sir" "What treatment are you getting?" "Five minutes with the wire brush each day." "What's your ambition?" "To get back to the front, Sir." "Good man." says the Major. He goes to the next bed. "What's your problem, Soldier?" "Chronic piles, Sir" "What treatment are you getting?" "Five minutes with the wire brush each day." "What's your ambition?" "To get back to the front, Sir." "Good man." says the Major. He goes to the next bed. "What's your problem, Soldier?" "Chronic gum disease, Sir" "What treatment are you getting?" "Five minutes with the wire brush each day." "What's your ambition?" "To get the wire brush before the other two, Sir"

vet friends.com



Sources - bored panda, pinterest military & military humor.com

CHUCKLE TIME
Mild and suitable for all



"So where are you from?"
"Australia, mate."
"Really? Prove it."



RANS

Wellness Prom/Yams

Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

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SPORTS and SPINAL

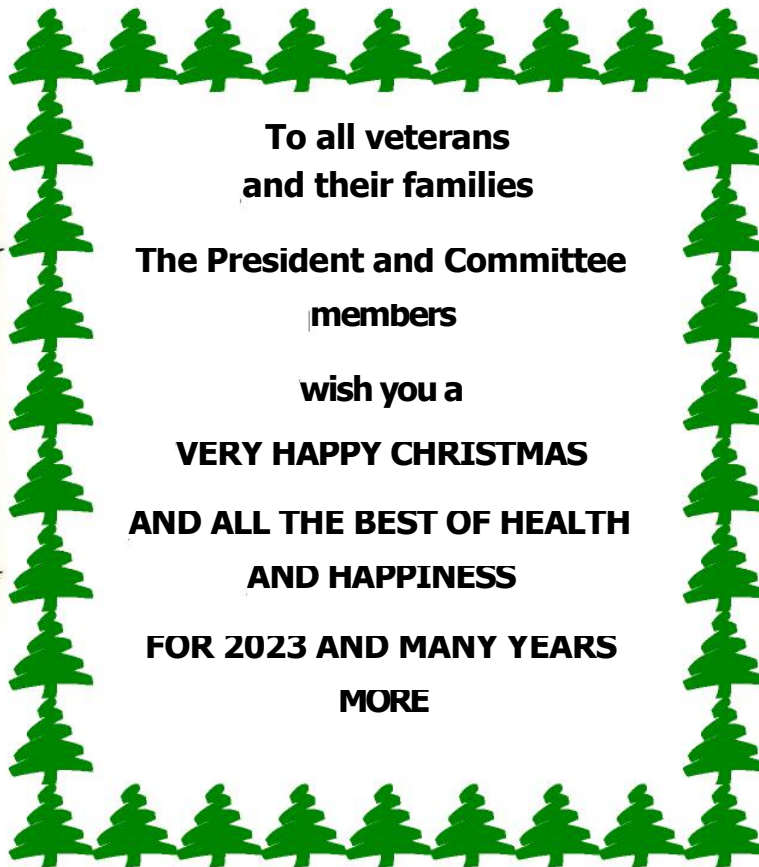
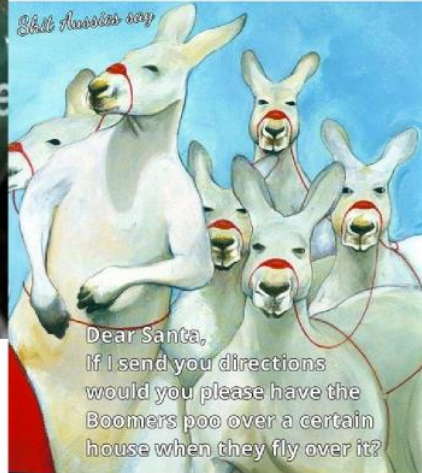
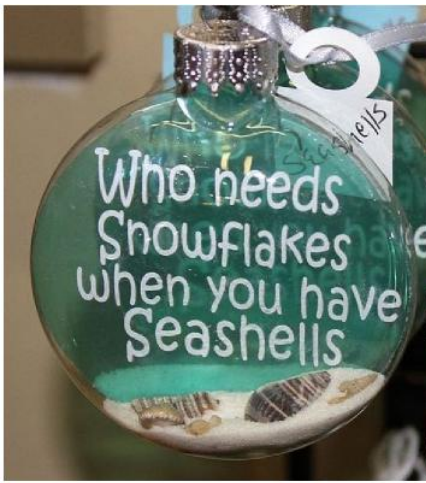
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and their families**

**The President and Committee
members**

wish you a

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

**AND ALL THE BEST OF HEALTH
AND HAPPINESS**

**FOR 2023 AND MANY YEARS
MORE**





SHIT A SPIDER !



DAM I FORGOT MY SUNGLASSES



DUDE HOW BAD WOULD IT BE IF SOMEONE FARTED RIGHT NOW....



Do you wanna build a snowman?

Damnit Carl, shut up already.



HIYAAAAAH!



WHAT'S THIS BUTTON FOR?

SHIT, CARL, NOT YET!



GUYS !! IT FELL OF AGAIN !!

THATS NOT A FLASHLIGHT IN MY POCKET...



HIGHWAY TO THE DANGER ZONE!!!

**THE HILLS ARE ALIIIIIVE WITH THE
SOUND OF MACHINE GUNS**



THESE PAGES ARE DEDICATED TO
THOSE VETERANS WHO HAVE THE
REQUIRED SENSE OF HUMOUR

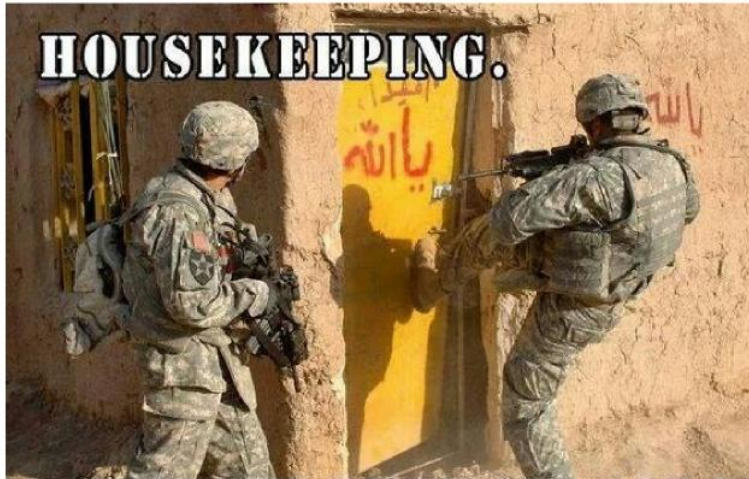
ALL CAME FROM THE
"SHUT THE F ### UP CARL"

PAGES OF PINTEREST
I HAVE REMOVED THE PHRASE FROM
EACH JOKE TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT
- EDITOR

**THE ANTS GO MARCHING
ONE BY ONE**



HOUSEKEEPING.



ANYBODY KNOW WHAT THE ONBOARD MOVIE IS?



OOOH, A BALLOON



CARL! NO !!!

WELL SHIT... APPARENTLY UBER DOESN'T WORK IN AFGHANISTAN.



SHUT THE F ## UP CARL!

DID I PASS MY DRIVERS EXAM?



**CHESTNUTS
ROASTING ON AN
OPEN.....**



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HASTINGS MANNING MACLEAY SUB-BRANCH

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Our office is closed from 1st December 2022

Look out for a letter from the President about our re-opening

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The Partners of Veterans PMQ Hastings Group meet for Lunch at 12.30pm onwards on the Third Wednesday of each month

Partners of Veterans from all conflicts are always welcome.
For any further information contact
Tineke Dalton on 6586 3461



An affiliated Sub-Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia



We say Farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We say Welcome to His Majesty King Charles III

GOD SAVE THE KING