Vietnam Veterans Day 2008

The President, Mr Gaynor, said that he was “Well pleased that the Veteran Community and in particular Vietnam Veterans and Peacekeepers in their contribution to The Listening Post in remembering Vietnam Veterans Day.

The Vietnam Vets are now coming forward and are making a welcome contribution to the administration of our Sub-Branches and other ex-service organisations (ESOs)”

Denis Connelly
Prices applicable until November 30, 2008. Prices not valid with any other offer. Above prices include GST but exclude statutory charges.

**AHG - Australia’s Largest Motoring Group - BUY NOW!**

**NORTHSIDE NISSAN**

**MAKE A MOVE ON**

**THE ALL NEW MICRA 5 DOOR**

- In 10 vibrant colours
- Make sure you wash separately

$15,290 DRIVEAWAY

**MAKE INTO A DUALIS**

**THE ALL NEW DUALIS ST**

- 16" alloys • 6 airbags
- Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC)

$25,990 DRIVEAWAY

**IT’S A GREAT MOVE**

**TIIDA ST**

- ABS brakes
- Dual front airbags
- 6 speed manual

$15,576 DRIVEAWAY

**NAVARA TURBO DIESEL**

**NAVARA ST-X 4X2**

- 126kW/403Nm torque
- 3000kg towing capacity
- Dual SRS airbags
- ABS brakes

$38,909 DRIVEAWAY

**PATROL ST TURBO DIESEL**

- 3.0lt turbo diesel • 3200kg towing capacity
- 7 seater • Dual airbags • ABS
- Alloy wheels • Cruise control

$43,888 DRIVEAWAY

**NEW PATHFINDER**

**PATHFINDER ST-L**

- 2.5lt turbo diesel
- Side steps
- Alloy wheels
- Dual airbags
- ABS brakes

$44,265 DRIVEAWAY

**CLEARANCE ON 2007 MODELS AND DEMO MODELS**

TIIDA-MICRA-DUALIS-NAVARA STR-MAXIMA-MURANO

COME IN AND MAKE AN OFFER!

1300 303 314

*Applicable to TPI card holders only. Manual. Metallic colours $395 extra

**Your one stop shop!**

- COMPLETE FINANCE
- AFTER CARE
- SERVICING ANY MAKE AND MODEL
- PARTS • SELL YOUR CAR

Delivering over 200 new & quality used vehicles online at www.northsidennissan.com.au

*Applicable to TPI card holders only. Manual. Metallic colours $395 extra

*Limited Stock

*Manual. Metallic colours $395 extra
for contributions to next edition
If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
Address to:
The Managing Editor, The Listening Post
RSL, PO Box 3023 Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Opinions expressed by contributors in articles and reproduced articles are the individual opinions of such contributors or the authors of such reproduced articles and are not necessarily those of the RSL.
Reproduction of articles or (extracts) contained in The Listening Post are welcomed, provided the source is acknowledged. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject, sub-edit and re-arrange material submitted for publication.

Contact Directory
Departments at ANZAC House
Membership: Kathy Clark 8.00am-3.30pm Mon-Thurs 9287 5705
Welfare: Margot Hannan 9.00am-3.30pm Mon-Thurs 9287 5707 0412 009 191
Senior Advocate: Jim Roland 8.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri 9287 5708
Restaurant/Bar: Nigel Von Bergheim 9287 5714
Finance Service Officer: 9.00am-3.00pm Mon-Wed 9287 5703

Editorial Information
Executive Editor: Nola Keen
Asst Editor: Denis Connelly (08) 9287 5716
Admin/Asst: Caitlin Harnwell
Advertising: RSL Advertising (08) 9381 7999
Graphic Design: Type Express Printer: Rural Press

Executive Editors Note
A big thank you to those Sub-branch members and interested parties who took the trouble and effort to forward photographs and articles to ‘The Listening Post’ for inclusion in our special edition on ‘Vietnam Veterans’ Day’. Nola Keen.

Secretaries and Contributors are reminded that “cut-off” dates for inclusion in the Listening Post are to be strictly adhered to, as articles are being refused for publication due to being late arrivals, or lack of room.

Denis Connelly, Assistant Editor

Kott Gunning Lawyers

YOUR LAWYERS
WE ARE PROUD OF OUR LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE RSL AND ARE PLEASED TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

Probate and Deceased Estates
David Miller

Conveyancing and Settlements
Emma Leys

Enduring Powers of Attorney
David Miller

Family Law
Tony Milne

Personal Injuries
Tony Milne

WILLS AT SPECIAL RATES
Telephone: (08) 9321 3755
Facsimile: (08) 9321 3465

Level 8, AMP Building, 140 St Georges Terrace, PERTH 6000
Website: www.kottgunning.com.au
E-mail: partners@kottgunning.com.au
New CEO/State Secretary Appointed

Following several months of processing applications for the position of CEO/State Secretary of RSLWA we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Kevin Davidson MVO OAM as the successful applicant. With the generous assistance of professional recruitment firm Ledger Corporate who conducted the selection process at the request of the League we believe we have secured the services of a highly qualified person with strong administrative skills gained from service in the Australian Defence Forces and private enterprise. We anticipate she will take up her duties in late October after receiving a full hand-over from our present acting CEO/State Secretary Mr Gary Sutherland OAM. A full profile of Mr Davidson will be circulated to Sub Branches and will also appear in the next edition of The Listening Post.

Acknowledgement

The new appointment will release Gary Sutherland OAM from the duties of CEO/State Secretary – a position he held for some 15 months. His work in that time has been voluntary and has been in debt to him for the professional manner in which he has administered the affairs of the League in that time. Many of the administrative functions now in place have been on his initiative and have passed the way for a period of stability and progress in future years. On behalf of the membership sincere thanks are extended to Gary for a job well done.

Moves at DVA

On the State Scene we acknowledge the retirement of our Deputy Commissioner, Dr Arthur administered the Perth Office of DVA with professionalism and compassion in changing times for Dr Arthur and was always available to assist the veterans community. We all wish him well for a long and happy retirement in Canberra. The Deputy Commissioner vacancy is to be filled, in the short term, by Mrs Vicki Ludwig until a suitable appointment is made early next year. RSL welcomes her to the position and is looking forward to working with her in her new appointment.

On the national scene, it has been announced that Mr Ian Campbell will fill the vacancy of Secretary to the Repatriation Commission following the recent resignation of Mr Mark Sullivan. Mr Campbell has had wide experience in Veteran Affairs having held the position of Deputy to a previous Secretary, Dr Neil Johnson. Likewise, we wish Mr Sullivan all the very best in his new career.

National Membership Forum

A forum of all State CEOs has been given the task of looking at ways to Ledger Corporate to streamline the membership application process and to determine whether or not the online process of the RSL is more attractive to prospective applicants. With the anticipated decline in membership (already being felt in some branches) strategies need to be set in place to promote the RSL as an organisation that caters for all services and for all conflicts. Some of the points already identified are a for defined Members Application Form, a common Membership Card, a National Membership Data Base and a valued added Card that will produce real benefits and discounts to members. If State Licensing Laws can be simplified then reciprocal rights of entry and associated benefits to interstate License RSL Clubs may also be possible. If some of these initiatives can be achieved it will certainly be ‘The Way Ahead.

National Presidential Election

In accordance with the National Constitution and following due process an election for the position of National President was conducted at the National Congress resulting in MAJ-GEN Bill Cress AO (Retd) being elected. Mr Don Rowe OAM, the NSW State President was re-elected unopposed as his Deputy.

Hospital Ship Centaur

The recent finding of HMMS SYDNEY has prompted a request for an ‘automatic granting of War Widows Pension’ to be made available by the Federal Government to solve another great mystery of the Second World War – the location of Hospital Ship Centaur – that was sunk by enemy action off the Queensland coast. It would be disappointing to the RSL if their vetoes were ignored in such an approach to government on this matter.

Prime Minister’s Advisory Council

The announcement of appointments to the PMAC has generally been well received by the Veteran community. There is an appropriate mix of gender, age and political persuasion. Shorty they will be provided with a brief to their duties and begin addressing some of the more contentious issues that face veterans.

Congratulations

AFOF Parcels

Twice a year RSL sends gift parcels to our troops service overseas. This has proved very popular with the troops and we receive very positive feedback from returned personnel. Congratulations go to the Osborne Park Sub Branch who donated $500 to the Trust Fund that supports the distribution of the parcels.

Awards

Two High-achieving members have been awarded National Certified of Appreciation for their services to the ADF:

- William R. (Bill) Wilson MBE
- For Service as Sub-Warden at the State War Memorial.

Kennewell Jones

For Service with the Honourable Committee at Kings Park

Both have given outstanding Service to their Sub-Branch and the League and recognition has been richly deserved.

RSLWA Website

Over the next few weeks we will be rebuilding our website. Updates will finish in September and we expect to have the new site fully functional by mid-October. The new format will provide more information with more frequent updates.

National Congress

The 2008 National Congress was held in early September in Townsville and provided a forum for the debate of just over 100 motions covering issues related to Veteran entitlements and community social issues. Several Congress Motions were submitted by Western Australia consequent of the recent finding of HMAS Sydney. The new site will be fully functional and will provide more information with more frequent updates.

Review into Military Superannuation

Both Motions were fully supported.

HMAS SYDNEY Memorial – Geraldton

While acknowledging the Memorial was under the jurisdiction of the City of Geraldton the RSL fully supported becoming a National Memorial. All Motions that were passed at National Congress are either included in the Budget Submission to Government or become part of RSL Policy.

Try This One!

Those of you who attended State Congress will no doubt recall the motion from Ellenbrook Sub Branch regarding the Use of the Acronym ANZAC with respect to its use in the media and of its capitalisation. At our Congress, following passionate speeches by the Secretary of the Repatriation Commission and the President of Narrogin Sub Branch, the motion was voted down. Well, the same motion that we defeated was sent to National Congress for approval by Victoria and it was passed – without debate

Priority List for 2009 – 2010 Budget

From the National Congress deliberations the following items were approved for inclusion to Government as RSL’s Priority List.

1. Indexation

- That Military Superannuation under DREIB and MSBS schemes be indexed with reference to Make Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAVE).

2. Maintain the Value of Pensions in the light of Carbon Trading

- The possibility of pensions being eroded through Carbon Trading initiatives needs to be resisted so veterans (and the wider community) are not disadvantaged.

3. Mental Health

- The whole issue of mental health in the ADF and veteran community is in need of closer scrutiny to ensure sufficient resources are available for identification of causes, risk minimisation, treatment, rehabilitation and compensation.

4. Residential Care – Younger Veterans

- The Government develop an adequately funded care management system to ensure access to appropriate accommodation for disabled Veterans who require 24 hour supported living but are too young to qualify for aged care services.

5. Veteran Home Care Special Needs

- Veterans are a class with special needs and home care packages need to reflect that position and package contents not be less than those available to the wider community.

6. Pharmaceuticals

- Those entitled Veterans to be provided with free pharmaceuticals for accepted disabilities.

7. Carers

- Ensure that Carers Allowance is available to those who undertake carer responsibilities for Veterans. There is a secondary list of some thirty items that are on-going requests and these will be found on the National...
From The National President

Our Mental Health & Wellbeing

Estimates suggest that one in every five Australians is experiencing some mental health problems. Such problems may extend from anxiety and mild depression at one end of the scale, to post traumatic stress disorder, bipolar, or schizophrenia at the other.

The nature of conflict, and indeed almost all forms of operation undertaken by members of the Defence Force, exposes our people to the risk of psychological harm. Immediate family members of those exposed might in turn suffer some of the effects of a force, exposes our people to the risk of psychological traumatic stress disorder, bipolar, or schizophrenia at the other.

Estimates suggest that one in every five Australians is experiencing of operation undertaken by members of the Defence veterans’ mental illness through exposure to adverse psychological traumatic stress disorder, bipolar, or schizophrenia at the other.

In earlier conflicts in which Australians have been involved, psychological damage was often not recognised or acknowledged. The term ‘Shell Shock’ was often used to cover a range of conditions arising from the trauma of combat. In many cases, families of returning veterans were left to wonder why their behaviour was ‘different’, without being quite able to appreciate why, or indeed recognise the need to seek professional help. Veterans themselves were often unsure that their behaviour was different, but may be unwilling to seek help because of the stigma associated with mental illness, the reluctance to acknowledge or declare their problem for fear of jeopardising their careers, or a feeling that they can simply ride it out.

Until relatively recently, services available to support mental health sufferers were limited, or possibly ineffective. There was almost no concerted action to build up mental resilience or to provide comprehensive pre-operational and post operational screening for emerging signs of mental illness. This screening, now in place, has the particularly valuable benefit of reinforcing the positive aspects of the operational experience.

Fortunately, mental health and well being of our Service and Ex-Service men and women and their families are now high priority issues, both in Defence and in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Fortunately also is the enhanced community awareness of the problem and a concerted multi-billion dollar Government response to it. This is significant because the Defence and Veteran Communities draw extensively on community services in this field.

There has been in place for some seven years, an ADF Mental Health Strategy. This seeks to, to the maximum practical extent, psychological damage, and to intervene as early as possible when problems emerge. Clearly, early detection and intervention offer the greatest prospect of complete recovery.

The Australian Defence Force and Department of Veterans Affairs are working to provide comprehensive programs and support services in this field. However, our individual mental health and well being remains essentially a personal responsibility. It is critical that we acknowledge such personal responsibility if we are to benefit from the support on offer.

To assist us in managing our own mental health and well being, DVA recently launched the ‘At Ease’ program. This mental health awareness program is intended to ‘put our minds at ease’ through enhancing our capacity to recognise the potential problems we may experience, act to limit their occurrence, and maintain a lifestyle conducive to strong mental health and well being.

The program includes a suite of posters and brochures, setting out simple information and advice on such topics as depression, anxiety, alcohol management, and family relationships. More detailed information is available on the dedicated web page www.at-ease.dva.gov.au, and links from that web site. In addition, information is available by telephoning DVA on 133254. The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) can also provide assistance on counselling and group programs: telephone 1800 011 046.

I must stress that this suite of information and programs, and if necessary, early intervention. It is a challenge we all share. The means are now there to assist us.

MajGen Bill Creews AO (Retd)

The ‘At Ease’ program complements the more specific suite of materials and programs promoted in September 2007, under the banner of ‘Operation Life’. The Suicide Prevention Strategy (AGPS) which includes particularly the ASIST courses (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), is just intended for those who may be prone to self harm. Indeed its principal focus is on equipping all of us to recognise the signs in others so that we may be better placed to offer support to our mates or family members who may be in need.

Finally, it is encouraging to note that Defence has enhanced its work to develop greater resilience in our serving men and women. Physical and mental toughness take time to develop - it is not something one leaves until just prior to a deployment. This is a most encouraging development.

We cannot eradicate mental illness. Some people, through genetic disposition, their environment, or childhood experience, may be prone to mental illness through even mild exposure trauma or events. However, we can all work to limit the consequences through proactive lifestyle programs and if necessary, early intervention. It is a challenge we all share. The means are now there to assist us.
In this portrait we look at a very unassuming Australian who paid the ultimate price for his country.

Percival (Percy) Eric Gratwick was born in Katanning, Western Australia on the 19th of October, 1902 to parents Ernest Albert, and Eva Mary Gratwick.

After attending school in the Katanning District the young Percy Gratwick went gold prospecting in various parts of WA, including the Pilbara Region.

On the 20th of December 1940, Percival Eric Gratwick enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF), Regimental Number WX19426.

After initial training Private Gratwick embarked at Fremantle WA and was posted to the 2/48th Battalion, which he joined on the 17th of September 1941. He was part of the Garrison based at Toomba. After his unit was relieved the Battalion was then ordered to Syria as part of a Garrison for that country.

The Battle for El Alamein had been in progress for about 48 hours when the 2/48th Battalion, on the 26th of October, was ordered to move forward and capture an area known as Trig 29 (or Ruin Ridge) as this area was of tactical importance, it was being obscured by the enemy. It was there, in this action, that Gratwick’s A Company was forced to move forward and mop up its objective. Private Gratwick’s unselfish courage, his gallant and determined efforts were able to move forward and mop up. Gratwick’s Company reduction of the enemy’s strength, Gratwick’s Company was able to move forward and mop up all enemy positions. Gratwick’s Company was able to move forward and mop up all enemy positions. Gratwick quickly unmanned the enemy, and by his successful reduction of the enemy strength, Gratwick’s Company was able to move forward and mop up all enemy positions and acting on its own initiative, with utter disregard for his own safety at a time when the remainder of the Platoon were pinned down, charged the nearest post and completely destroyed the enemy with hand grenades, killing amongst others a complete mortar crew. As soon as this was completed, and again under heavy machine-gun fire, he charged the second post with rifle and bayonet. It was from this post that the heaviest fire had been directed. He inflicted further casualties, and was within striking distance of his objective, when he was killed by a burst of machine-gun fire. He was awarded a Victoria Cross in recognition of his valour.

Gratwick’s unselfish courage, his gallant and determined efforts against the heaviest opposition, changed a doubtful situation into the successful capture of his Company’s final objective. (London Gazette: 28th January 1943)

When Private Percival Eric Gratwick, VC was killed he was 40 years of age. He was known as a good soldier and a reliable comrade.

Private Gratwick, VC, has an Army canteen named in his honour at Swanbourne known as Gratwick Soldiers Club, constructed by the Royal Australian Engineers. In July 1957, Gratwick’s relativities presented his medals to the club, which has now forwarded them to the Army Museum of Western Australia in Fremantle.

There is a photograph of Private Percival Eric Gratwick, VC in ANZAC House, Perth.

References:
World War II Nominal Roll- Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT

They Dared Mightily- by Lionel Wigmore and Bruce Harding Australian War Memorial, ACT

www.wikipedia.com Wigmore and Bruce Harding Published by the Australian War Memorial ACT 1963
On the 31st August 2008 on a wet, cool Perth morning the members of Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) held a commemorative service, also known as the birthday of the AATTV, at Kings Park Memorial Precinct.

The service was preceded by the State Warden, Professor, The Hon David K Malcolm AC, QC KCSJ, who spoke about the dedication and commitment of members of the AATTV “The Team” in a time of need.

Mr Tony Thorpe (Past President of AATTV) spoke of how the AATTV “should be proud of the deeds that were carried out under very difficult circumstances in a hostile environment and today we honour our fallen.”

Geoff “Smiley” Jenkins read the list of fallen colleagues who paid the ultimate price from “The AATTV Honour Roll” whilst serving in South Vietnam.

Mr Gary Sutherland, Vice President (and Acting CEO/State Secretary RSL WA) recited the ODE from the poem “For the Fallen” by all ranks during the period 1962 - 1972

The service was presided over by the State Warden, Professor, The Hon David K Malcolm AC, QC KCSJ, who spoke about the dedication and commitment of members of the AATTV “The Team” in a time of need.

Mr Tony Thorpe (Past President of AATTV) spoke of how the AATTV “should be proud of the deeds that were carried out under very difficult circumstances in a hostile environment and today we honour our fallen.”

Geoff “Smiley” Jenkins read the list of fallen colleagues who paid the ultimate price from “The AATTV Honour Roll” whilst serving in South Vietnam.

The THE TEAM PRAYER Almighty God, we pray for your blessing upon us who were brought together in the service of our country.

We thank you for the friendship, courage and devotion of the members of our Australian Army Training Team of Vietnam who gave their lives in this service. We ask you to comfort and strengthen their families and friends. We pray that their labour and sacrifices may not be in vain, but their spirits may live on in us and in the generations of Servicemen to come, and that the liberty, truth and justice for which they died may spread throughout the world. AMEN

The following members of AATTV died on active service in South Vietnam on the dates shown:

| Date       | Name                  | Rank         | Decorations
|------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------
| 6 JUNE 1965| WO2 Hacking           |              |             |
| 15 NOVEMBER 1965| WO2 Scott |              |             |
| 15 NOVEMBER 1965| WO2 Wheatley, VC (Post) |              |             |
| 12 FEBRUARY 1966| WO2 Inglis |              |             |
| 15 JANUARY 1966| WO2リー |              |             |
| 7 FEBRUARY 1966| WO2 MacDonald |              |             |
| 12 FEBRUARY 1966| CAPT G. Belleville |              |             |
| 12 FEBRUARY 1966| WO2 Hill |              |             |
| 21 FEBRUARY 1966| WO2 White |              |             |
| 20 MARCH 1966| WO2 Blackman |              |             |
| 20 FEBRUARY 1967| WO2 Hanley |              |             |
| 19 APRIL 1967| WO2 Radoc, VC (Post)  |              |             |
| 19 APRIL 1967| WO2 Stone, MID (Post) |              |             |
| 19 APRIL 1967| MA Blackett |              |             |
| 21 AUGUST 1967| WO2 Siggers |              |             |
| 25 APRIL 1967| WO2 Roberts, VC (Post) |              |             |
| 16 DECEMBER 1967| WO2 Henderson |              |             |
| 7 JANUARY 1968| WO2 Keller |              |             |
| 3 FEBRUARY 1968| WO2 Parrello, MID (Post) |              |             |
| 25 APRIL 1968| WO2 Jameson |              |             |
| 3 MAY 1968| WO2 Edgar |              |             |
| 30 MAY 1968| WO2 Horner |              |             |
| 27 DECEMBER 1968| WO2 Gregson |              |             |
| 25 APRIL 1969| WO2 Carrigan |              |             |
| 28 APRIL 1969| WO2 Rice |              |             |
| 6 MAY 1969| WO2 Gilmour, MID (Post) |              |             |
| 23 NOVEMBER 1969| WO2 Kelly |              |             |
| 26 OCTOBER 1970| WO2 White |              |             |
| 18 OCTOBER 1971| WO2 Lydon, MID (Post) |              |             |
| 17 APRIL 1979| CPL D. Blackmore |              |             |
| 17 APRIL 1979| CPL D. Blackmore |              |             |

AATTV Memorial Service

From the Bunker with Denis Connelly

The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), affectionately known as “The Team”, was raised, and sent to Vietnam in 1962 under the command of Colonel E.P. Serong (then Brigadier, now deceased).

The Unit at this time consisted of 30 Officers and Warrant Officers who were originally to be employed in the training roles of Vietnamese Units. As the war escalated in 1965 AATTV was increased to 100 members (including some Staff Sergeants, Sergeants and Corporals) and they were employed from the Delta areas in the far South to the Northern border of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Vietnam.

AATTV was both elite and unique. It’s members were specially selected, it was small, and for its size it was one of the most highly decorated Units in the history of the Australian Army. It’s claim to uniqueness from Australia, singly or in drafts, it consisted mostly of Officers and Warrant Officers who operated individually, in pairs, or occasionally in groups of normally not more than ten; and it’s task was unique— training, advising, or commanding a variety of Vietnamese forces.

The first Australian Unit into Vietnam and the last out, it was operational for ten years four months, and sixteen days, achieving the distinction of being the longest serving unit of any service in any theatre of war. Even if only because of it’s name, it is not likely to exist again. The members of AATTV were brought together in the service of our Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, the Unit Citation of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and individual awards from both US and Vietnamese Governments too numerous to mention here and one can begin to understand the esteem with which the AATTV was held by all Allies involved in the war.

A total of 1000 members served with AATTV during the entire period of the conflict - 1962 to 1972. This consisted of 990 Australians and 10 New Zealanders. Casualties were recorded as 33 members Killed In Action (KIA) and 122 as Wounded in Action (WIA). The following extract was taken from the book; “Australians at War, Vietnam - The Australian Experience” one of a series of volumes produced by Time Life Books Australia:

During the regular morning commercial flight from Singapore to Saigon on August 3, 1962, a remarkable transformation took place among a number of male passengers. There were 29 of them, short haired, strong looking men in civilian clothes. One by one, they left their seats, stood purposefully, and disappeared into the lavatory for a few minutes. When each passenger emerged, he had made a quick change into the jungle green combat uniform of an Australian soldier.

The men were the first Australian troops to be engaged formally in Vietnam. They were the Officers and senior NCOs of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, soon to be known simply as “The Team”. For reasons of diplomatic sensitivity, this initial contingent had been instructed not to wear their uniforms when boarding the plane in Singapore; later such niceties would be dropped. If “The Team” was the first Australian unit to go to Vietnam, it would also be the last to leave that tragic place.

It would remain there, doing it’s best for Australian foreign policy and the non-Communist South Vietnamese, for nearly ten and a half years - by far the longest period of time any Australian Unit of any service had served in war.

It was their war and you are to help them, not win it for them.

(LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, 1917)

References: AATTV Inset site

AWM Canberra ACT

Interview with the President Mr G Sutherland

President Oliver Mann, Geoff "Smiley" Jenkins & Professor Malcolm

The members present marched under its banner led by former Commanding Officer, Brigadier RDF Lloyd OBE, MC (Retd)
The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, joined veterans of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), to pay tribute to its members who fought and lost their lives 40 years ago during the Vietnam War.

The veterans and their families attended the commemorative ceremony at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra, marking the anniversary of the battalion’s tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968.

The 3RAR ceremony was held at 11am at the Vietnam Memorial on Anzac Parade.

The ceremony was part of national commemorative activities during May for the 40th anniversary of Coral and Balmoral.

The Australian Government provided $100,000 to the National Coral and Balmoral 40th Anniversary Committee to support these events.

Media inquiries:
Laura Ryan 0437 863 109

Footnote: If readers are interested in viewing the Treloar Annex memorabilia, Leigh Harris says that members should access the Australian War Memorial site at www.awm.gov.au

by Dennis Connelly

AWM Storage Facility

While discussing my plans for a visit to Canberra with Leigh Harris (Media Releases) from the Australian War Memorial, who is also a contributing journalist for The Listening Post, she advised me the Australian War Memorial was holding Big Things in Store, the annual opening of its conservation facility, the Treloar Technology Centre at Callan Street, Mitchell, ACT on Saturday the 16th of August.

This facility is only open to the general public once a year, so going to view the Memorial’s storage area for larger items became priority for me. This meant I had to change my flight, and then, once arriving in Canberra, go to the facility almost directly.

The inconvenience was well worth the effort for this service of several hundred square meters contains cannons from all conflicts, tanks of all kinds, and airplanes from World War I up until Vietnam.

A Senior Curator at the Memorial, Mr Mike Cecil said, “The centre is an important part of the rotation for exhibitions at the Australian War Memorial.”

Mr Cecil then went on to explain that he receives memorabilia from various sources, including gifts from estates, private collections, and overseas. “We have cannons that have blown up while firing, tanks still in working order, and a Bushmaster that is road licensed,” he said. “But the weaponry has been decommissioned,” he was quick to add.

“This facility takes old and derelict pieces of military hardware, restores them as near as possible to their original condition so they’re suitable for display in exhibition at the Australian War Memorial.”

This facility is awe-inspiring and I would certainly recommend you next trip to the National Capital to coincide with its opening.

3RAR honours its Vietnam fallen

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, joined veterans of 3RAR, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), to pay tribute to its members who fought and lost their lives 40 years ago during the Vietnam War.

The veterans and their families attended the commemorative ceremony at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra, marking the anniversary of the battalion’s tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968.

“3RAR took part in numerous operations during its tour of duty and saw combat during the famous Tet Offensive in February 1968,” Mr Griffin said.

The 3rd Battalion served with distinction during the Battle of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, the most protracted and costly engagement of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War.

“This week marks the 40th anniversary of the assaults on Balmoral, where 3RAR and Australian armoured and artillery units held off fierce attacks by North Vietnamese forces. “Today, we will honour the six soldiers of the 3rd Battalion killed in action during the attacks on Coral and Balmoral, who are remembered alongside another 18 3RAR members who lost their lives during the battalion’s 1968 tour of duty.”

Burswood ANZAC Day Donation

Recently our President, Mr Gaynor, accepted a $5,000 cheque from the management of Burswood Casino on behalf of RSL (WA).

This money was part proceed of the “two-up” conducted at the Burswood Complex on ANZAC Day 2008. Mr Gaynor said on receiving the cheque “that this money represents assistance that we at the RSL can provide to Veterans and their families in their hour of crisis.”

Denis Connelly

Recently our President, Mr Gaynor, accepted a $5,000 cheque from the management of Burswood Casino on behalf of RSL (WA).

This money was part proceed of the “two-up” conducted at the Burswood Complex on ANZAC Day 2008. Mr Gaynor said on receiving the cheque “that this money represents assistance that we at the RSL can provide to Veterans and their families in their hour of crisis.”

Denis Connelly
Battle for Australia Day Ceremony

The 3rd of September was a hot, sunny day, making the State War Memorial in Kings Park the ideal place to commemorate the ‘Battle for Australia’ around the ‘Flame of Remembrance’.

Members from the 3 Services formed the Guard of Honour, with four Army personal forming the catafalque party surrounding the Flame itself. The ceremony began with a RAAF flyover of 4 Pilatus PC9 training aircraft at 10.30am.

Mr Phil Rowles, Chairman of the Battle for Australia Committee WA, gave a brief history of the Battle for Australia, which was a series of military actions fought between 1942 and 1943 by Allied Forces to defend Australia from direct attacks from Japan.

The playing of Reveille and recitation of the Ode was followed by the laying of over 20 wreaths by various groups. Reverend David Oxley from Mandurah concluded the ceremony with prayer.

The Ceremony was well attended with many members of the public, veterans and relatives as well as representatives from the 3 Services present.

Caitlin Hamwell

RSL Ambrose President’s Cup Challenge 2008

The annual RSL Ambrose President’s Cup Challenge was recently held at Meadow Springs Golf and Country Club in the coastal town of Mandurah on Thursday 24 July 2008.

Despite the weather looking remarkably dubious leading up to the event, the day turned on a splendid performance, as did many of the competitors.

So, armed with a lovely 20 degree day, blue skies and a slight wind, 140 players teed off and commenced their 18 hole game on the unique and picturesque Meadow Springs course.

The players came from sub branches including Rockingham, Nollamara, Pinjarra, Dawesville, Quinns Rock, Wanneroo, Mandurah, Rockingham and Port Kennedy.


The Meadow Springs Golf course is a forty five minute drive south of Perth. The course winds its way through rolling terrain with the layout directed by the natural features of the ground. Huge 200-year-old Tuart trees line the fairways and gently sloping greens which are on a par to the best that Australia has to offer.

The RSL Ambrose President’s Cup Challenge has become a much anticipated date on the calendar, not only for the friendly rivalry that the day offers but also as a reason to help support the RSL WA Branch Welfare fund, which is forwarded on to lend a hand to our much appreciated returned veterans.

This year a representative from the boutique Killery Vineyard of Margaret River, held a complimentary tasting on the 8th hole. Competitors could sample wines, enjoy the scenic bush land and take some time out for a chat or a bit of a rest.

The wine tasting was complimented by a very satisfying barbecue of steak and prawns.

The shot of the day was awarded to Graeme Sherriff, who hit a low sliding ball to the sixth green, which then hit the front of the green, bounced up and stopped only about an inch from the hole.

Mr Sherriff was also a quarter of the winning team which came from RSL Care and included Ian Ainsworth, Ken Hamilton and Leith Turnbull. The gentlemen won with a net score of 54.

The first prize was a mini stereo system for each player, second prize a golf bag and third prize was a golf club.

RSL Care WA Special Project Manager Ken Hamilton has been involved in organizing the event for the past couple of years and said, “At RSL Care WA, we are really proud to watch this event grow each year and to know that the money raised makes a real difference to the lives of our much celebrated returned veterans. I can only encourage more sub branches and sponsors to become involved next year.”

All in all it was a fun day, played on a beautiful course, with a bit of fun rivalry, a couple of wines and some lovely food. So, get your team together now for next year, get in a bit of practice and all the while supporting a fantastic cause.

For any queries or further information regarding next years RSL Ambrose President’s Cup Challenge please contact, RSL Care WA on 9370 0200.
The old song “Some days are diamonds ... Some days are stones ....” is one I’ve warbled quite a bit of late when things have become busy, busy, busy. Being in the Welfare “Chair” could well be described as a job where the “tail-wags-the-dog” – so when the pressure is “on”, I can do little but try to flow with it and not sink like a stone!

One aspect of the Welfare Officer’s job which is very important - but often has to fall by the wayside due to insufficient time, is that of visiting veterans and War Widows in hospitals. Once upon a time, the bulk of in-patients were mostly found in Hollywood (Repatt/Private) veterans/War Widows in hospitals. More recently though, are now much more widely dispersed. Due to insufficient time, is that of

Tribute

For close to eleven years, a stalwart of the Korean and Malayan campaigns voluntarily visited Hollywood Private Hospital every week to visit patients – as well as making regular visits to other hospitals as well. This was Bruce Dennis (RIP). Sadly, Bruce died in July; and I would like to pay tribute to his memory, his warm, cheery personality and the magnificent contribution he made to RSL Welfare during all those years. “Thank you Bruce” - you were a pearl without price, and you are sadly missed.

Seeking “new” volunteers

I am interested in forming a “Hospital-Visitors-Team” to visit HPH at least, on a regular basis. I am hoping/planning that a group of six people will consider coming forward to volunteer for this valuable work. The idea is to raise two teams of three people each - to “rotate”, so that each person visits once a fortnight. I realise that time and the cost of petrol are big factors with volunteering these days – so I am hoping that one day a fortnight won’t impose too much pressure on any one individual.

IF ANYONE FEELS HE/SHE COULD CONTRIBUTE SEVERAL HOURS A FORTNIGHT (at this stage Tuesday mornings seem best), to join one of these teams – I would love to hear from you. Please phone 9287 3707 Mon - Thurs.

DVA PENSIONS

TIP-trained Pensions Officers and Advocates will be aware that instructional courses re processing of Disability Claims under the Veterans Entitlements Act (VEA - 1986) are being phased out. Since 1 July 2004, compensation for disabilities comes under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA - 2004) – so many (probably most) modern-day veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts either “straddle” coverage under BOTH Acts; or come under the latter only: the MRCA.

When a veteran has operational service under both the VEA AND the MRCA, trying to assess the amount of pension payable can be quite complicated, due to the fact that under the new Act, payment can be made up of part-pension and lump sums. Likewise, it is important to know that there are differences between the new Act rules on who will be determined as “Totally and Permanently Incapacitated” (TPI).

At the same time, all volunteer Pensions Officers and Advocates need to be receptive to this younger generation of younger veterans (known as “members” … sadly - the term “veterans” is no longer used in this new legislation; which I think is a shame). Young men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan need to know that they can approach the RSL for assistance with their claims, and find the help they need.

I take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “THANKYOU!” to all our magnificent Veterans. We appreciate you greatly. God bless, and keep on keeping on …. Puleeze!!!!

MARGOT HARNESS

Indigenous Veterans Honoured in Reconciliation Week

The service and sacrifice of Indigenous veterans was commemorated at a ceremony in Sydney’s Hyde Park.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, and the Minister for Housing and the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Government.

The Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Ceremony was an important part of Reconciliation Week and was one of eight services which took place across the country.

“Indigenous Australians have served our nation proudly in every conflict in which our nation has been involved,” Mr Griffin said.

“Ceremonies such as today’s provide an opportunity to recognize the dedication to duty, courage, mateship and the proud history of our Indigenous servicemen and women.”

“The Rudd Government is committed to honouring the important contribution they have made.”

Mr Griffin encouraged all Indigenous veterans and their families, as well as the wider community, to take part in the commemorations being held in Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Darwin, Townsville and Cairns.

The ceremonies have been coordinated by ex-service organisations and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Sydney’s ceremony began at 11am at the Pool of Reflection, ANZAC Memorial, at Hyde Park.

The Department of Veteran’s Affairs and the War Memorial are currently developing a database of Indigenous veterans – past and present – to help ensure that Indigenous veterans and their families are receiving the support they are entitled to.

Anyone wishing to be included on the database should contact 1300 55 1918.

Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 0437 863 109
Department of Veteran’s Affairs
Enquiries: 133 254
**History of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Police**

**Introduction**

The formation of the Naval Police occurred on the 1st July 1913, when the Royal Naval establishments in the Sydney area were handed over to the Royal Australian Navy.

The Naval Police, also known as the Naval Dockyard Police, was established to relieve the Royal Marine Light Horse (RMLH) company who had carried out the guarding and policing duties at Garden Island, Spectacle Island and the Royal Edithburgh establishment.

Since the Commonwealth Government had acquired the Cockatoo Island Dockyard from the NSW Government on 31st January 1913, it was also decided to have Naval Dockyard Police take over from the six civilian Special Constables who had been employed by the NSW Public Works Department.

Although it had been decided, as early as 18th May 1911, to form a 'Special Police Force' of the Permanent Naval Forces to relieve the Royal Marines, it was not until 8th May 1913 that the Minister for Defence, Senator PEARCE, approved the formation of the 'Naval Police Force' with a complement of four constables.

On the 15th May 1913, the first of a series of advertisements appeared in all the major daily newspapers throughout Australia, inviting re- members of the UK Naval Police and the Royal Australian Navy to apply for the new Force. The advertisement read:

> "Applications are invited from persons who have received service in the Royal Naval Police at HMA Naval Establishments in Sydney. Applications must be not less than 30 nor more than 45 years of age on the 1st July 1913. Preference will be given to married men who had served a minimum of three years service in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, or the Royal Australian Navy. Applications must be made on the prescribed form and application may be obtained, together with full particulars as to rates of pay, conditions of appointment, etc, on application to the Honorary Fleet Paymaster Officer/Naval Staff Office (in the state of application).

Application must be sent direct to the Naval Secretary, Navy Office, Melbourne, to reach him not later than 9th June 1913."

**S.A. PETEBRIDGE**

**Secretary**

Before the enrolment of the successful applicants the title of the Force was changed to that of "Naval Dockyard Police".

This came about as at the request of the Captain-in-Chief of the HM Frigate Sydney, Captain C.F. HENDERSON, RN, who stated that: "In view of the fact that the Active Service members of the ship have been placed on active service in the Royal Navy, the name "Royal Navy Police" or "Naval Police" would be better suited. And as the Active Police Service apparently suffered an unsatisfactory reputation; in fact Captain Whitehead, when writing that he had 'the strongest objection to anything that interfered with the service of the police', the Naval Board on 4th June 1913, approved the title Naval Dockyard Police.

**The Formation of the Force**

As the formation of the Force had not been given a great deal of consideration between 18th May 1911 and 8th May 1913, very little was available to develop a satisfactory uniform and an adequate set of conditions of service. So, for the sake of expediency, the Naval Board accepted the recommendation of the Director of Navy Accounts, Honorary Fleet Paymaster A.H. GRAY, that all members of the Naval Police conditions of service, including pay, be aligned with those of the RNAC Academic and Instructional Staff.

All personnel who were found to be unsuitable were excluded from the NSW Water Police. However as no uniforms were available at the 1st July 1913, the Naval Police were allowed to wear civilian clothing wearing Naval Police armbands until they were subsequently supplied with uniform.

From the inception of the Force all members were placed on a six month probationary period, including the appointed Sub-Inspector, Mr Albert Jesse MERRY.

MERRY’s immediate task was to select his Senior Constables and Sergeants who would supervise the personnel and functions at each establishment. For this purpose he selected three former Royal Marines who were familiar with the various Acts and Regulations applicable to each establishment. He continued to ensure that they were carried out. The majority of these selected members proved very satisfactory and continued in service for many years.

The same could not, however, be said for many of the other inaugural members. Over the first months of the initial months, a number of problems had to be ‘weedied’ out because of unsuitability and unsatisfactory performances.

A classic example of this unacceptability and the result of which Mr MERRY ‘weedied’ them out, is that of Constable EVERETT.

Constable EVERETT had joined the Force through the "active service" mechanism in 1913 and was transferred to the "Unsuitable" in August 1913. Two months after his discharge, it was discovered that he was continuing to maintain and operate Government stores. Sub Inspector MERRY subsequently investigated the matter, traced EVERETT’s whereabouts to Brisbane and travelled there to effect his arrest. Sub Inspector MERRY was then able to recover all the stolen property and had Constable EVERETT to Sydney and prosecuted him for the offences of theft.

This situation was not long in being brought to the attention of the Naval Board, for on 22nd July 1913, the Executive of the ironworkers Union to which Constable EVERETT belonged, complained of the theft which had occurred and emphasised the need to have all naval dockyard policemen for the duty.

Some members of the Force had no legalised powers whatsoever, these early complaints were resolved by the Naval Board entering into an agreement with the Union that searches would be conducted only of a person suspected of having committed an offence and that such searches should be conducted in a private area out of the public gaze. This agreement was subsequently incorporated in the Instructions for Naval Dockyard Police in 1914, which were issued with the authority of the Naval Board.

Although this measure enabled the Force to operate local orders and instructions applicable to each establishment, it offered no real police powers to arrest an offender or any power that was recognised by the law. Therefore, the Naval Board set about trying to determine the best manner of ensuring that they were carried out. The First World War and the matter fell into abeyance.

The First World War

The First World War was also to create several problems that would change the direction of the Force in years to come. The first of these was the need to provide additional guards at an increasing number of Naval Establishments and associated locations and to ensure, that the same counter espionage service that could carry out secret investigations into such concerns had been properly located.

Hence, the Naval Board determined that the additional guard services be conducted by the members of the Naval Dockyard Police. As part of the Royal Australian Navy, the Naval Dockyard Police were appointed to carry out the work. As some of these members had not sought protection or enrolment for active service, they were posted as deserters. One of these deserters was the former Constable G.F. TURNER.

TURNER had joined the 1st Battalion of the AIF on 17 August 1914. Prior to his departure for Gallipoli, he wrote direct to the Minister for Defence seeking a leave of absence. However, as he had already been enlisted in the AIF the application was not approved. He subsequently served at Gallipoli and in France, was wounded four times, promoted through every rank to that of Regimental Sergeant Major, awarded the British Empire Service Medal for Gallantry and offered a Commission in the Field.

He was subsequently demobilised on his own application on 15th April 1919 and immediately applied to re-enter the Naval Dockyard Police. This began what was to be a very long and emotionally charged effort that involved the Prime Minister, half a dozen Ministers and the Naval Board in determining whether TURNER had any right to re-enter, and furthermore highlighted the need to formalise the conditions of service for the Force. In the meantime, TURNER continued to write to anyone, willing to listen or otherwise, claiming that he had been victimised and should be re-entered. He continued these efforts until 1932 when the old warehouse finally gave it all away.

**Post-War Problems**

After WW1, when the nation was settling back into a more stable existence the problems of legal status of the Force again raised its head.

Yet no effective resolution was found until the Naval Dockyard Police were appointed to Flinders Naval Dock in 1921.

Before its commissioning, on 1st April 1921, over 800 rowdy workmen had been employed at the yard and because of their mischievous behaviour the Victoria Police establishment a permanent Police Station there. When the Victoria Police were relieved at the Base by Naval Dockyard Policemen, an arrangement was entered into between the Naval Board and the Chief Commissioner Sir John GELLIBRAND, whereby the three members of the NDFP all became supernumerary members of the Victoria Police. As a consequence Senior Constable Thomas BLAKE, Constable Alfred DALY and Constable Patrick Sweeney, all became Constables on the Victorian Police Force on 25th August 1921, with all the powers and privileges of a member of the State Police Force.

Immediately, the Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney, saw this move as the answer to all the earlier problems relating to legal status and the lack of powers that the Force had suffered since its inception in 1913, and made application to allow him to approach the Commissioner of the NSW Police Department to have all members of the Force made Special Constables of the NSW Police.

On 2nd November 1921, all Naval Dockyard Police in the Sydney area were sworn in and issued their Warrant Card as members of the Force on 25th August 1921, with all the powers and privileges of a member of the State Police Force.

Continue to page 12
While when John GELLIBRAND was replaced as the Chief Commissioner of the Victoria Police in 1923, his relief, Mr. A. NICHOLSON was not willing to maintain the three NDP members at HMAS CERBERUS as supermanpower and on 30th June 1923 they were discharged from the Victorian Police. It probably had a lot to do with the fact that the Victoria Government had been required to pay the wages of the three Naval Dockyard Policemen.

Because of the breakdown in this arrange- ment, CMDR J. MURPHY, Head of Navy Branch, was directed by the Naval Board to investigate an alternative. His proposal was to introduce the Branch structure to: the ex-RADF Police to safeguard the three NDP members at HMAS CERBERUS as supermanpower and with the fact that the Victoria Government had been required to pay the wages of the three Naval Dockyard Policemen.

As a Sergeant-Pilot, Lloyd flew many sorties into North Korea — celebrating his 21st birthday the same month as the Korean armistice (see picture this page). Few Australians would be aware that NSM Gow, who operated from 14 Kimpo Air Base, near Seoul, lost 40 men in Korea, including 30 KIA. Lloyd always took great pride in being an ex-RADF Police, a force dominated by the RNKR establishment of the Superintendent position. He has written a number of short stories and essays on those experiences, and remains, the only ‘gold ring’ officer to form the Naval Dockyard Police Coxswain category.

Lloyd Knight, as he is today. Ford abit ‘done-his-bit’ for Australia in two war wars (Korea and Vietnam) is ex-RADF pilot. Lloyd, now in his mid-70s, lives in Melbourne these days, but many local ex-RADF members would remember him. His first active service was as a pilot with No 77 Squadron in Korea. Up until 1951, this squadron had flown the Curtiss SB2C Helldiver to 151 Mustang, but then converted to the twin-jet Gloster Meteor Mk 4 — lovingly nicknamed the ‘Meatbox’ — and initially used for air-to-air action. (Although the old one propped up at the Main Gate at the RAAF Base north of Wagga Wagga (NSW) was always affectionately known as “the Meaty Whore”)

As a Sergeant-Pilot, Lloyd flew many
Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day Service

The RSL City of Cockburn Sub-branch conducted the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day Service on Monday 18th August 2008 commencing at 11.00am. The service was held in the RSL Memorial Rose Garden and Wall of Remembrance. Under a bright sunny day the Service commenced with Cadets from the Hamilton Senior High Emergency Cadet Unit providing the Guard of Honour marching into the Memorial Garden. Arthur Stanton RSL Chief Marshal opened the service with the welcome and opening address. Mr Dilwyn "Digger" Cleak OAM then delivered the Vietnam Address which included some very interesting aspects of his navy career and service in Vietnam.

Chaplain Robert Graue, Royal Australian Navy Reserve, delivered the Service Prayer and Blessing of the Wreaths. Wreath layers included Vietnam Veterans Glenn Scally and Kevin Anderton, followed by Mr Stephen Lee Mayor of the City of Cockburn, wreaths were laid at the base of the Wall of Remembrance. The RSL Ode to the Fallen was recited by Vietnam Veteran Vic Boreham, after the Silence Vic Boreham then presented the Closing Address. This was followed by the Closing Prayer by Chaplain Robert Graue, the service was closed with the National Anthem, followed by the Cadet Guard of Honour marching out of the Garden.

We had a very good attendance with 70 members, guests and visitors, plus Cadets. Included in the guests were Mr Fran Logan MLA, Mayor Stephen Lee, Deputy Mayor Kevin Allen and CEO Stephen Cain. After the Service all in attendance were invited into the RSL Bar and Function Centre for refreshments and a complimentary Sausage Sizzle.

The success of the day showed that advertising in “Can you Help” and paid ads in the Fremantle and Cockburn Gazette proved very worthwhile. It also indicated that this Sub-branch will ensure that future Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Services will continue and grow in importance within the community.

Port Hedland Vietnam Veterans' Day

Port Hedland had a successful commemorative event for the Vietnam Vets Day. On Friday 15 Aug the RSL held a social function for RSL members, Vietnam vets and the general public. About 50 persons attended which was a fantastic improvement on previous years. Lt John Russell Australia Army Int Corp gave a talk about the battle of Long Tan which was well received.

On Monday the RSL and the Pilbara Regiment held a small service at the Port Hedland War memorial to pay respects to those men and woman who served during the Vietnam War. It was visited by two local and two visiting Vietnam vets.

ALWAYS ALERT Mark Smith MAj OC 1 SQn
Pilbara Regiment PO Box 702 PORT HEDLAND
Ph: 9173 2688 mob: 0419 499 388 email: mark.smith3@defence.gov.au

Vietnam Veterans' Day Service Normanton Queensland

Vietnam Veterans' Day Service which was held in Normanton Queensland. The Vets in the photo are from L-R Chris Smith, John Morey, Jim Robinson, Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM & Les Crowe.

Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM and Les Crowe from the Port Kennedy Sub Branch, on arriving in Normanton Queensland found that there were no arrangements made for a service on the 18th August so they went and saw the CEO of the Shire of Carpentaria and they were most helpful with permission and the use of the council's flag.

They were only expecting about six people to turn up but along with five veterans and their wives there was around twenty people attending and also people pulling up at the side of the road near the memorial and stopping for the short service.

Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM gave a short speech off the cuff and the floral arrangements placed on the memorial were from the gardens of the Normanton Caravan Park as there was nowhere to buy flowers, the owners were very helpful.

After the service they all adjourned to the Purple Pub.

Philomena Trevor-Hunt - 0419355471.
Vietnam Veterans' Day

October 2008

United States Consulate-General
North Australia
upcoming release – summer 2008

The World War I Diaries of Ray Davis, An Australian Soldier

Written by Aussie soldier Ray Davis in the trenches of “The Great War,” four leather diaries survived anyone years, when in 1973 they were nearly destroyed.

Nancie Davis Field, Ray’s daughter, saved those little books. Now, having been transcribed, Ray’s diaries give a remarkable and often poignant narrative of those war years from the perspective of an insightful, intelligent and patriotic young man.

In the introduction to her father’s diaries, Nancie writes, “They were one of his most important ties with home during those long war years, and his steadfastness in keeping them was characteristic of his orderly mind. He left home with his patriotism shining brightly...he came through three and a half years of monotony, miserable living conditions, and the horror of that war with his character intact.”

In sharing her father’s diaries with the world, Nancie presents a gift to us all. We invite you to journey into the pages of Ray’s diaries and learn how love and faith, honor and duty, helped him survive the darkest days. This gift is especially welcome as present-day humanity faces challenges not unlike those in Ray’s time.

Mr Ray Davis was successfully student, auditor
Head of Department of Mathematics and
Physics, and Principal of the Perth Technical\nCollege. This record extended over a period of
45 years spanning in 1855. He graduated B.Sc. of the University of Adelaide under the
affiliation which the College held with that
institution prior to the foundation of the
University of Western Australia (see which to
subsequently obtained his M.Sc. He was the
first person to be designated Principal
of the College, his supervision being previously
directly carried out by the Superintendent or
Assistant Superintendent of Technical Education.
It was during his period of office as
Principal that the associateships of the College,
which later formed the foundation of this
institute, were inducted and firmly established.
It is in recognition of this contribution
withstanding the development of the Institute that
the lecture theatres adjacent to the Department
of Physics have been named in his honour.
Mr Davis himself carried this out on July 2nd.

Villers Bretonneux
for the Dawn Service on Anzac Day
then at Bullecourt for other Anzac Services.
3 nights/4 days in the Somme, dep. 24 April. $1,180 p.p. twin share
Visit most important Australian battlefield sites in the Somme, including Pozieres, Adelaide Cemetery, Mouquet Farm, Lochnagar Crater, & Bullecourt, with our expert battlefields guide.

Following our Anzacs
through the Somme and Flanders
Join our expert battlefields guide for
12 days incl. Last Post Ceremony at
Britten Gate, Fromelles, Passchendaele,
Bullecourt, Pozieres, Villers Bretonneux,
Menin Gate, Fromelles, Passchendaele,
Join our expert battlefields guide for
12 days/11 nts dep. 27 April. $3,250 p.p. twin share.
MAKE EASY Tours
Freecall 1800 673 337
www.madeasytours.com.au

EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY’S LOSS
WITH A PRE-PAID FUNERAL FROM BOWRA & O’DEA.

IN THE CONFUSION AND EMOTIONAL
NUMBNESS THAT FOLLOWS WHEN A
PERSON DIES, IT CAN BE DIFFICULT FOR
GRIEVING RELATIVES TO MAKE DECISIONS
ABOUT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Bowra & O’Dea Funeral Directors, wholly owned
and operated in Western Australia for more than
110 years, are now offering a special service to
RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans.

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:
• The peace of mind of knowing your family will not
have to make burdensome decisions at difficult time.
• The opportunity to design the funeral service as
you wish and not as others would like it.
• Our price inflation guarantee. By taking out a
PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively freeze the price
of your funeral costs in the future.
• A PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part
of your estate and is not subject to any administration.
• You will lessen the anguish that family may feel
regarding whether they did the right thing.
• We will arrange an obligation free appointment
to discuss your personal needs.
• Your PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL members:
• Free extra limousine
• No administration fee for immediate payment in full
• 5% discount on selected coffins

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL JOHN RANGER AT BOWRA & O’DEA
ON (08) 9231 5100
Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.

PREPAID DIVISION: 406 BEAUFORT STREET, HIGHTAGE 6005. TELEPHONE: 9231 5100 FACSIMILE: 9228 4614
Advancing to Victory at the Memorial

By Leigh Harris

This Remembrance Day, 90 years since the end of the First World War, the Australian War Memorial will recall the battles and events in a new temporary exhibition Advancing to Victory. 1918. Exhibition curator, Peter Burness believes that 1918 was the year that Australians made their greatest contributions to the allies’ victory in the First World War. "The large battles of Villers-Bretonneux, Hamel, Amiens, Mont St Quentin and the breaking of the Hindenburg Line involved large volumes of artillery and new fighting techniques that helped the allies win the war".

1918 began badly. The terrible Passchendaele fighting had left the Australians exhausted and under strength. With few new volunteers, reinforcements were hard to come by. The divisions were under strain, but it was clear there were still many more battles to fight. Victory would come before year’s end, but the Australian Corps’ most important role still lay ahead. Early on, the Australians faced the great German spring offensives. At Dernancourt they withstood the heaviest attack ever made on them, and at Villers-Bretonneux their bayonet charge repelled the Germans within sight of Amiens. On 4 July, under Sir John Monash, they went on the offensive with a well planned and executed attack at Le Hamel. Then came the great victory of 8 August. Further success followed when they captured the fortified hill of Mount St Quentin in early September, then broke the Hindenburg Line four weeks later.

The year’s actions left the Australian force near exhaustion, having suffered appalling losses - but the nation was proud of their success, as were the diggers themselves.

“"The exhibition will feature a variety of large objects to tell the story of our troops in 1918, including an exposed portion of a British Mark IV, an 18-pounder field gun, and major artworks including ‘Breaking the Hindenburg Line’ by Will Longstaff,’ Mr Burness said.

Also on display are original maps, outstanding photographs, medals awarded to Monash and Lord Birdwood, and remarkable works of art, some never displayed before."

Advancing to Victory is the fourth and final in a sequence of First World War anniversary exhibitions presented by the Memorial. It opens on 24 October 2008 until 12 February 2009,

Breaking the Hindenburg Line (oil on canvas) by Will Longstaff which will be featured in Advancing to Victory, 1918

Gallipoli ANZAC Dawn Service 2009

Our attention will put you at ease.

On APT’s Gallipoli tours, we take care of every detail, from staying overnight at Anzac Cove to bringing our own historian. They’re just a couple of ways we go beyond the call of duty to make your trip memorable.

CALL 1300 656 985 for a brochure or see your travel agent

APT

A departure from the ordinary

www.aptouring.com.au

Istanbul to Paris with ANZAC Dawn Service

Price includes: 21 nights aboard on APT Exclusive River Ship – ms Amalaya, cruise the 4 greatest Europe rivers – the Rhine, Moselle, Main and Danube, Istanbul sightseeing tour, attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service on the Gallipoli Peninsula, explore over 35 different cities, towns and villages with a guide, Freedom of Choice Touring. Gratuities included, 3 nights in a luxurious Paris hotel, 77 meals.

30 DAYS FROM $13,590* per person, twin share

*Conditions apply. Price based on Cat. E. cabin. Add $385 per person port charges. Deposit reduced to 51,000 per person when deposit paid on day of booking. Deposit is refundable within 7 days of bookings. Normal cancellation fees apply after 7 days of booking. ABN 44 004 684 619 LIC. No. 30 0112 MK16047.
Thyroid Disease

The thyroid gland is located at the front of the neck below the Adam's apple. It is a soft, fleshy gland which produces thyroid hormone. Thyroid hormone is one of the principal regulators of the metabolic rate. Low levels of thyroid hormone may make you feel tired, sluggish and may make your skin and hair coarse and dry. High levels on the other hand will make you feel shaky, irritable, hot and sweaty. There can be serious, life threatening effects of both an underactive (hypothyroidism) and an overactive (hyperthyroidism) thyroid gland.

Thyroid disease is common in Australia with an estimated 1 million people experiencing some kind of disorder. Underactivity is more common than overactivity, and women are much more prone to thyroid disease than men are. There is a peak onset of symptoms at around age 50, and so it is quite easy to dismiss thyroid symptoms as menopause.

Thyroid conditions are relatively easy to diagnose if there are high levels of suspicion by both the patient and the doctor, but they can also be very difficult to pin down as they can mimic a variety of other conditions. The mainstay of diagnosis is a blood test. The common blood tests use measure the level of thyroid hormone (T4) and the pituitary hormone which ‘drives’ the thyroid gland (thyroid stimulating hormone - TSH). The structure of the thyroid gland is usually imaged by ultrasound. In all cases of thyroid abnormality it is important to carefully diagnose the cause, and to closely follow the progress with treatment.

Underactive thyroid is most commonly caused by ‘autoimmune’ disease, where the body makes antibodies to the thyroid gland and to thyroid hormones. This causes inflammation in the gland and its eventual failure. Underactivity can also be caused by iodine deficiency, and rarely a poorly functioning pituitary gland. Underactive thyroid is simply treated by taking a thyroxine tablet every day! Patients usually start to feel better almost immediately. The dose is very variable and the dose adjustments must be done under close medical supervision. Overactive thyroid is also caused by autoimmune disease, and is known as Graves disease. This also causes inflammation in the gland, which stimulates the thyroid to overproduce thyroid hormone. Most cases of Graves disease, if left untreated will eventually ‘burn out’, as there is ongoing damage to the cells in the gland. Overactive thyroid can also be caused by a solitary active nodule which is insensitive to the body's usual feedback mechanisms which maintain the body in a steady state (homeostasis).

Treatment of overactive thyroid depends on the cause, the general state of health, the patient’s age and preferences. Here are some of the things which may help:

- Removing an overactive thyroid gland surgically solves the problem (usually) permanently.
- Medications can slow the rate of thyroid hormone production. Other medications can provide some protection from some of the effects of the increased thyroid levels.
- Administration of a dose of radioactive iodine may be advised, as this can deliver a high dose of radiation directly to the abnormal tissue with minimal dose to other tissues or organs.

The thyroid gland may become enlarged for a number of reasons. This is called goitre. Goitres may be caused by a single nodule or by many nodules (multinodular goitre). Thyroid nodules are usually benign, but they may also be cancerous. Thyroid cancer is very amenable to treatment, and therefore it is very important that if you do detect any lumpsiness in your neck you get it checked out very quickly by your GP. The mainstay of treatment of thyroid cancer is surgical removal of the thyroid gland. This may be followed with radioactive iodine treatment.

The important take home message is that thyroid disease is common, it can cause significant symptoms, it is relatively easy to diagnose if you have suspicions, and it is not difficult to treat. If you have any symptoms of an over or under-active thyroid or if you find a lump in your neck, you should get it checked out straight away.

There will be a free seminar at Hollywood Private Hospital on Saturday 4th October at 3pm. If you are interested in attending or would like more information about thyroid disease, you could contact Thyroid WA either by email (thyroid.wayn@gmail.com) or by phone on 93656248 or via their website www.geocities.com/thyroidwa.

If you have any comments, complaints, concerns or compliments about Hollywood Private Hospital I would be very happy for you to call me on 9346 6249.
National President's address to RSL National Congress Townsville - 8 Sept 2008

Introduction:
Minister Griffin
Chief Minister Dr Nelson
Shadow Minister Mrs Bishop
Our many eminent guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
The year concluded
Much has happened over the past 12 months
globally, nationally, and within the Veteran Community.
At our last National Congress in Melbourne, the then Prime Minister announced his Government's intention to immediately index and adjust Defence pensions for veterans to
that to which applies for the Aged and Service Pensions - with reference to both CPI and MRP.
The then Opposition Leader, now Prime Minister, immediately endorsed the proposal. As a sign of serious bipartisan intent, the legislation passed through both Houses of Parliament within the week, and the arrangements came into effect in March this year.
There can be little doubt that the Federal Election of November 2007 focused all political minds on issues long-standing in the Veteran Community. Those who have served our nation with distinction, and at considerable personal cost, were the major beneficiaries.
I have separately paid tribute to Bruce Bishop as Minister, then Prime Minister John Howard, as Shadow Minister and now Minister Alan Griffin. Bruce is the dedicated team at Department of Veterans' Affairs for this major beneficial outcome. The legislation is a real win for veterans and their families equally important to the servicemen and women, and war widows affected.
The RSL has contributed substantially, but not光彩fully enough, to the Federal Government. We have nationally maintained a balanced, credible and constructive approach to working through these and other issues. Government in Opposition, the Opposition, and the Department, the real voice of veterans and their families, is not the only repository of broader issues that affect the veteran community.
I could go on, but I want to pay tribute here to all our members for their outstanding contribution to the work of the League this year. You are the ones who truly maintain the faith and carrying on the legacy of our predecessors.

Challenges for the Future:
I would not want my positive reflections of the recent past to mask a critical acceptance of the future. We face the challenges of ensuring the wider ex-service community faces into the future. Let me briefly mention some of these.

Servicing and Recently Servicing Men and Women

• We have in the RSL a strong interest in the capabilities of our Defence Force and particularly its people. Let me acknowledge here the commitment of Bill Crews and his team of Australia. That is a credit to our Nation. Our serving men and women are outstanding professionals on whom we, as a community, have placed much faith in recent years. They have not been found wanting in meeting these demands.

• The focus of this morning is to offer them encouragement, support, and advocacy for their service conditions, to offer every assistance to support their families, and to facilitate their transition from the Service when their time has come to an end. This includes the need for comprehensive support and assistance to them to respond to any difficulties which may be involved.

• Here I must express great admiration for the sold relationships forged between Townsville RSL, and particularly 3rd Brigade. Here we have a sub-branch directly engaged in practical, meaningful assistance to members of the ADF and their families. This not to say as do some others around Australia, is a model of how we see the League can enhance our capability of supporting our veterans and their families. Let me take this opportunity to thank the other branches involved in this work. The Regional RSL's and the more rural branches to you.

• Increasing numbers of serving men and women are joining the League. We welcome them, respect their service whichever it may have been, and offer them continued encouragement. Our AFOF parcels were deposited last week, and they follow through on their return from overseas service - even if all that is required is extended support for them and their families to ensure that our in-service and repatriation arrangements are responsive to their needs - we may well be different to those of earlier generations.

• The RSL has been given principal Executive Service carriage of the support to transition management for those leaving the Service. Let us get this right. And it requires presence, commitment, and a demonstrable willingness to be pro-active and to respond to needs arising. A close association between sub-branches and proximate ADF units will enhance our capacity to do this. This is core business for us. It is vital that we do it well, and critical for our future.

• Beyond the direct personal engagement at local level, the League needs to have an active role in following through on issues:

-- Affecting Defence Force Superannuation

-- To support Defence Families;

-- Those who are forward planning for their various younger veterans consultative forums now in place.

Mental Health

For some time we will have a legacy of mental health issues, not least those issues of particularly, including, particularly, our Vietnamese Veterans. But we have not given up on offering assistance to those needing help and encourage them to take personal responsibility to seek and accept it.

In recent times, the Department has put in place ‘Operation Life’, a suicide prevention strategy, the ‘At Ease’ Program, a mental health awareness need to maintain personal and support a host of other initiatives. These have been progressive in consultation with the National Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum in which the League plays an active role. They have been progressively supported by a range of other agencies, most notably the Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health.

It is for all of us to be aware of this work, actively promoted through web-sites and printed articles; and to not only enhance our mental wellbeing but support our mates who may need some help.

This work embraces the needs for our serving and recently serving men and women. The League through its President, Mr. Davison, and for the fantastic working relationship with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, and the recent past to mask a critical acceptance of the future. We face the challenges of ensuring the wider ex-service community faces into the future. Let me briefly mention some of these.

Aged Care

Veterans and Service Widows are respectable people. But we can’t help getting old.
The League has played a dominant role in the legislative process of quality aged care. Some of these are world class. However, there is never enough to meet the demand.

It is our policy to encourage people to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

Most elderly people want to do this. Our challenge is to ensure that the comprehensive support and assistance are in place to allow our people to age with dignity. That is surely not too much to ask.

This is not only the Department’s problem: although Government has a responsibility to adequately resource and manage home care programs. We in the League already play a role - one which we need to keep working on.

We particularly need to maintain personal and contact with our elderly veterans to ensure that they only have to deal with one Department to live at home, but the emotional support which is critical to their well-being.

Let us never have a veteran or a widow being found well after they perished because of no-one cared.

Budget Restriction

The League’s key challenge to highlight this morning concerns funding.

On taking up office, the Government has placed a dis-service on our members, and the repair of arrangements which our forebears worked hard to establish.

On us falls the responsibility to preserve and enhance the Wade’s legacy. We need to honour those who have gone before by our commitment and diligence in pursuing those endeavours on their behalf, which are the foundation of our organisation.

We are not short of skills, ideas, or willing volunteers who would attest, great men satisfaction is to be found in helping others less fortunate than ourselves; helping those who have never had a chance because of a consequence of their service to the Nation.

Our predecessors will judge us most favourably if we can work with passion, commitment, and a cause to the cause and comprehensive framework of entitlements and support programs which we know that they have had to make in defending our nation.

Let us commit to the challenge.

National RSL President Bill Crews, AO (Retd)
The Vendetta Veterans’ Association is holding an ALL CREWS REUNION in Brisbane from 24th to 26th April 2009

For further information please contact

Bil Krause
Phone: 07 3288 1702 (home) 0417 700 351 (mobile)

or send an email to: MKRAUSE@bigpond.net.au

The Vendetta Veterans’ Association is holding an ALL CREWS REUNION in Brisbane from 24th to 26th April 2009

For further information please contact

Bil Krause
Phone: 07 3288 1702 (home) 0417 700 351 (mobile)

or send an email to: MKRAUSE@bigpond.net.au

1st SIGNAL Regiment
Good morning Sir, ladies and gentlemen.

Apologies to those who may have no past connection with the 1st Signal Regiment (I have attempted to vet the address list provided to me).

In 2010 the 1st Signal Regiment will be celebrating its 65th birthday. Preparations are underway to ensure that the event is marked with a number of suitable activities, many of which will feature pump ceremony and pageantry. This email concerns a task a little more down to earth, but none the less extremely important for the Unit and the Corps.

The Unit currently has a history room which contains photos from times past featuring unit members on various activities. In order to enhance this collection and maximise the utility of the current holdings, two requests are being made, and I ask those currently holding RA Sigs unit appointments to disseminate within their commands as able:

1. If past members of 1 Sigs Regt have any photos, or indexed video, of Unit personnel or activities that they would wish to be incorporated into a Unit History display, they are forwarded to myself with suitable detail included as to the activity and people involved. I would appreciate the return if required. Any other suitable items for donation to the Unit history collection would also be welcomed.

2. If anyone has any knowledge of the current history collection at 1 Sigs Regt could please contact me. The photos on display seem to have been cataloged at some stage and have been renumbered, however no one knows of or has in their possession a register containing details etc. Confirmation of the existence or location of such a register would be appreciated. Any contributions or assistance received regarding the above would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, if anyone knows the whereabouts or contact details for formerRA Sigs officer Steve Groves could they let me know.

Regards,

Marcas Groves
Major
1st Signal Regiment
P O Box 366
2000

0419 676 317

Australian P.O.W.

Dear Sir

After just releasing “Aussie Soldiers Up Close and Personal” we are once again seeking assistance with documenting Australian Soldiers stories. Our next project is on P.O.W.s.

If possible could you distribute the attached questionnaire to your members. All input is welcome also if people are unable to complete the questionnaire either Craig or I are able to interview them to capture their story. Finally this is all open to services not just Army.

For further information on this project, please contact:

Deny Neave
Mobile: 0407 675 490
Email: denny@bigpond.com.au

Craig Smith
Mobile: 0413 562 966
Email: craig@widowswinsmith@yahoo.com

Australian Awards

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you regarding our new publication Australian Awards.

We feel the book would be a valuable addition to each RSL library for reference by your members regarding both the eligibility of medals, volumes for insurance purposes and research of family members with military service.

For further information, please contact:

- Claire Johnson
- Cj Medals
- Phone: 07 3806 5980
- Fax: 07 3829 2326
- E: cjmedals@optusnet.com.au
- Web: www.cjmedals.com

Hyperdome, Loganholme, QLD 4129

Shop Address: Shop 17

Foodworks Shopping Centre, 59 Bryants Rd Loganholme

Found

Some medals have been located, amongst them a “War Medal” and an “Anniversary of National Service 1951-72 Medal”. If you think they belong to you or someone you know, call Amy Taylor at the Melbourne Police Station on 9250 0389

An “Australian Active Service Medal” has been handed into ANZAC House. If it is yours or you know the owner please contact Carlin at ANZAC House on 9287 3799.

Funding at the MCG

The Australian Peacekeeper Memorial Project (APMP) held a fundraising activity on Sunday 17th August at the MCG.

The proceeds of each sale is being donated by “Bears Over There” to MC and APMP Chairman Lt General FN Ford AO.

HMAS HOABIT

Reunion in Bundaberg
14th – 16th October 2009

ALL VETERANS WELCOME

For further information contact:

- Dick Harrison
- Phone: 07 4159 8348
- E: dick.coralcoast@bigpond.com

If you have served in HMAS Hoaban, Murchison, Conondine or Calypso you are invited to attend a reunion andDedication of A Plaque at HMAS Watson (South Head, Sydney) on 27th September 2008

For further information contact:

Lea Gibson - Phone 02 9677 0619 E: leagibson@bigpond.com

Moran Division Reunion
It is intended to hold a 45th Reunion for the November 1963 intake of Recruits (Moran Division) for the weekend of 25th, 27th and 28th November, 2008 in Sydney.

For further details please contact:

Mary GROGAN on mgro4420@bigpond.net.au or 0417 773 665

Sydney Memorial Defaced

Can I express my disgust at these monstrous defacements of the Sydney memorial.

I thank the RSL for its efforts in maintaining and its work for ex servicemen. My father was stationed overseas for 5 years of the war and fought in the Burmeese campaign. Unfortunately he did not come back well from his experiences and in reality were brought up by my mother. That is why I fully support the efforts and essential services the RSL provide for ex servicemen and the families. Governments would always try and forget their sacrifices.

I am a naval history and model collector have recently commissioned a batch of metal handcrafted HMAS Sydney 11 models in the small scale of 1/1250. I will try and send one to the branch when these arrive. Those models I hope will help far raised close to $20,000.00. We need around $50,000.00 to cover all costs.

5. Bill Charler (ex 1 RAR first tour) has written two marvelous books of poetry on experiences shared during the many years of military service he has bestowed. These books are printed by many Vietnamese veterans in the eastern States and I have 31 book 1 and 15 book 2 copies at $10 each for sale.

RAN Battle Class Social Club
Annual National Reunion 23rd to 25th October 2009 in Adelaide

Contact: Bocks@1bigpond.com

RAAF NASHOS and Partners Lunch Reunion
This year is the 50th Anniversary of the 2 seat Vampy 1st Tnt Trainer replacing the CAC Wirraway for Australian Basic Trainer training from Transfered from Point Cook (Vc) to France (VA). DH Vampires and Seafire IIs at Lawson, Richmond, Ashbury, Sale, and Perth.


Date: Friday, 31st October 2008

Time: 12 noon
RSVP: Must be by 17th October to confirm on number attending
Phone John Irish, Manager on (08) 3223 1651

Escape from Italian POW Camp to Switzerland

Introduction—Keith Howard

A number of Sikh/ICM's served in the 2/43rd Battalion (6th Australian Div.). Briefly, these units were a bit short of manpower on their short service notice. El Alamein in July 1942 – 2,000 Sikhs and I who were elsewhere in the Middle East were transferred into 24 Bde and other units of 6th Div. Anywhere the circumstances were as follows:

Nicoll Lawrie and Kelvin Carr joined the army on the 5 April 1941. They trained together at Woodside then left Sydney together on the Jape de France for the Middle East and both became Rates of Tobruk with the noted 2/43rd Battalion. Nick said that perhaps he was luckier than some of his mates “In the first front line battle, out of 150 only 10 of us came out unscaathed”.

Contact: Keith Howard - 9389 1443

List 1935 2008

P.O. Box 522
Australian Peacekeeper
& Peacemaker’s Day (14th April), UN International Peacekeepers Day (24th October).

The Australian Peacekeeper Memorial will serve as a focal point in that it will identify past and future peacekeeping/peacemaking operations and ongoing national and individual commitment and sacrifice.

Proposed Monument

1. The Aust Army Band Corps Association is in the process of constructing a Monument for Soldier Musicians who have paid the supreme sacrifice on the Anzac battlefield from transfered from Point Cook (Vc) to France (VA). DH Vampires and Seafire IIs at Lawson, Richmond, Ashbury, Sale, and Perth.


Date: Friday, 31st October 2008

Time: 12 noon
RSVP: Must be by 17th October to confirm on number attending
Phone John Irish, Manager on (08) 3223 1651

Escape from Italian POW Camp to Switzerland

Introduction—Keith Howard

A number of Sikh/ICM's served in the 2/43rd Battalion (6th Australian Div.). Briefly, these units were a bit short of manpower on their short service notice. El Alamein in July 1942 – 2,000 Sikhs and I who were elsewhere in the Middle East were transferred into 24 Bde and other units of 6th Div. Anywhere the circumstances were as follows:

Nicoll Lawrie and Kelvin Carr joined the army on the 5 April 1941. They trained together at Woodside then left Sydney together on the Jape de France for the Middle East and both became Rates of Tobruk with the noted 2/43rd Battalion. Nick said that perhaps he was luckier than some of his mates “In the first front line battle, out of 150 only 10 of us came out unscaathed”.

Contact: Keith Howard - 9389 1443
Throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain there were Territorial Units made up of weekend soldiers and on 9th September 1938 the Government of the day decided to have female units and the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) was born 70 years ago.

In February 1949 it was decided to add Royal to the name. You can hardly have female units made up of weekend soldiers and Carrington Street, Hamilton Hill.


Additions to the Hall includes a School Concert Thursday 20th March 2008.

The photo attached shows the City of Cockburn CEO Colonel Stephen Cain welcoming the Governor of WA Dr Ken Michael and Mayor Stephen Lee.

The Memorial Hall was originally opened in March 1925, it is located at the corner of Rockingham Road and Carrington Street, Hamilton Hill. It was built by members of the ex service community designed for use by the local community. As the years past, additions were made to the Hall designed to cater for larger crowds, however, over recent years the Hall became a White Elephant with very little use.

Cockburn City Council approved the rebuilding of the Memorial Hall, designed to bring it back to its original glory. After 2 years and $2.7 million, the Hall was reopened by the Governor and the Mayor on Thursday 26th March 2008. Additions to the Hall includes a larger hall designed to hold Arts and Crafts displays, at the rear of the main hall there are change rooms to cater for performers to change for shows on the hall stage. The surrounds of the Memorial Hall and Monument, the old surfmen has been replaced with lawns and gardens with paths leading to the Hall and the Monument.

The photo shows the Hall designed to cater for performers and coloured ground supporting a wide range of health issues, Flag Association, Camping on the Oval will be available from Tuensday to Saturday 8th November, Remembrance Day.

For further info, or to leave your contact details for more information contact:

RSL City of Cockburn
Mobile - 0429 955573
E : enolart@bigpond.net.au

A more informative flyer contact:

www.brucerock.wa.gov.au

October 2008.

OCT – 2ND NOV 2008 BRUCE ROCK WA

Back to the Bush Veteran’s Reunion

Once again you are invited to BRUCE ROCK for the usual great week of relaxation, comradeship, fun and laughter.

The activities will be the same as previous years Golf, Bowls, Bingo, Rifle Shoot, A Garden Party Feature, Tree Tours and Rifle shooting will be Card making.

The usual informative evening on a Health subject, conducted by a Medical Professional in the field.

Camping on the Oval will be available from Tuesday 25th October 2008.

There will be Concerts at the Federation Amphitheatre, A School Concert Thursday night and a Musical Concert Friday night, Saturday 1st November is the Special day, with Street Markets. A town hall full of info booths, covering a wide range of health issues, Flag Association, PVA, TPI etc. 10th Light Horse Museum, Historical Military vehicles, Brass Bands and much more. At 2-4pm computer lab, office equipment and other resources they need to provide quality advice and guidance to the veteran and service communities.

Applications for the next annual BEST grants will open in early 2009.

For more information visit www.dva.gov.au/pensions/Best/lifeindex.htm or contact your nearest DVA office 13 254 (for metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (for non-metropolitan callers).

Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 0437 863 109
To receive the Minister’s media releases automatically by email please go to minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm
Join in the celebrations for WA Week October 20-26, 2008

The Governor Dr Ken Michael will officially launch Western Australia's second annual State-wide WA Week commemorations at a free community event at the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia in West Perth from 11am-2pm on Monday October 20, 2008. Everyone is welcome to come along.

The WA Week 2008 community launch will include non-stop family entertainment, traditional games and Nyongor sports on the grassed area of the Constitutional Centre and a complimentary sausage sizzle served by Lions and community volunteers.

620 primary and secondary school students from 20 schools in the metropolitan area received a special invitation to attend the event and staff and volunteers from a diverse range of Western Australian community organisations will set up displays and hand our promotional material and giveaways throughout the day.

The Returned and Service League of Australia WA Branch will contribute to the event by bringing along its promotional trailer and community volunteers will distribute bottled water, fresh fruit and a commemorative Western Australian flag.

At 12pm the Governor and Mrs Michael will arrive and Ventura Scouts from Scouts WA will form a guard of honour at Celebrite WA Chairman Peter Fitzpatrick escorts the Governor to an outside stage.

Mr Fitzpatrick will introduce a Welcome to Country address and the Governor will present an inspiring WA Week address and officially launch the 2008 celebrations by cutting a WA Week community cake.

State-wide WA Week 2008 Program

The WA Week 2008 program will feature more than 65 corporate, community and special events in all regions of the State. Celebrite WA will join public and private sector partners to present a series of WA Week events in Perth.

On Tuesday October 21, the Governor and Mrs Michael will host a WA Week Citizens' Breakfast in Government House Ballroom on the anniversary of the State's October 21 Proclamation Day when Western Australia was granted responsible self government. 200 complimentary tickets were available to the public by completing a coupon published by The West Australian and answering the question what should we celebrate in WA?

Monday October 20 will feature a spectacular WA Fest on the Esplanade from 12pm-5pm on Sunday October 26 will officially close WA Week 2008.

The free community event will feature delicious home-grown produce, local arts and crafts, the WA Cup yacht race and WA’s finest entertainers. Wine and beer tastings will also be available.

A WA Week 2008 program and further information is available on the Celebrate WA website or by telephoning Celebrate WA 9481 8066.

War Bird Suspended in Time

Completing a program of major conservation work, the Australian War Memorial will perform the final cable tension check is a crucial step to ensure the aircraft is safely displayed without placing pressure on the aircraft’s delicate plywood fuselage.

There are only four surviving examples of the Pfalz in the world prepared for the Memorial’s new permanent exhibition Over the today. The Pfalz was a fighter used by German front-line air force squadrons in late 1918, and this one was brought to Australia as a war trophy in 1919.

This Pfalz is one of five rare surviving First World War aircraft being prepared for the Memorial’s new permanent exhibition. Over the actions and the drama of First World War aerial battle. Over the front features five fully restored aircraft, including three allied aircraft (SE5a, Avro 504K trainer, Airco DH9) and two rare German fighter aircraft (SE5a, Arvo 504K trainer, Airco DH9) and two rare German fighter aircraft (SE5a, Arvo 504K trainer, Airco DH9) and two rare German fighter aircraft (SE5a, Arvo 504K trainer, Airco DH9) and two rare German fighter aircraft (SE5a, Arvo 504K trainer, Airco DH9).
Eric was born in Williams then moved to Kukerin with his parents who ran a boarding house while Eric found work on the local farms.

His family then moved to Narrogin where he purchased a truck from the Chinese gardens, some distance out of town, to the local shops and the railway station. In 1939, Eric joined the Royal Australian Navy serving on the corvette, HMAS Wollongong, one of only three that class that served in all naval war theatres except the Arctic and on convoy duty. It is obvious from the history of the Royal Australian Navy that Eric was present on all occasions.

He took his discharge at the end of hostilities in 1945 and became a partner for country pubs.

He had two stints at the Ironclad Hotel at Marble Bar where his inventiveness and humour were most prevalent. He organised the local 2 day racing carnival with nags from the out-laying cattle stations and appointed himself CEO, chief steward, trainer and jockey even though he weighed in at the unthinkable weight (for a jockey) of 90 kgs. Apparently, he never won a race claiming the first prize money and then gobbled up on him so he complained to the chief steward, (himself), who dismissed the complaint.

He served time as the publican of the country hotels in Darkin and Augusta then the metropolitan pubs in West Midland, Vic Park, two city pubs and the Broken Hill. He left the hotel life to work at Dowd's manufacturing in Belmont for 12 years while residing in East Victoria Park.

Eric retired to Falcon with his wife, Gladdie, where he joined the South Perth Sub-Branch of The Royal Western Australia Regiment Association, then the Port Bouvard Recreation & Sporting Club Inc. helping in a voluntary capacity keeping that Eric’s spirit alive. Eric was a very keen bowler and was rewarded for his efforts by being made a Life Member.

When the RSL formed the South Mandurah, (now Dawesville), Sub-Branch Eric was a founding member remaining with them until his death. Several Sub-Branch members farewelled Eric at his funeral service where the president, Fred Abbott, recited the Ode followed by the Last Post, a minute silence and the bugle played a poppy on the coffin in a final salute to a grand war. Eric was one day short of his 91 birthday, a fitting epitaph to one of them to forget.

LEST WE FORGET.

(Written by John M Bates from information supplied by Eric's Widow, Noelle, and Sub-Branch and Sporting Club members and the Corvette Association web site.)
Defence in the 21st Century

Defence White Papers are a rare event. The forthcoming Defence White Paper will be only the fifth since the end of the Vietnam War. A Defence White Paper and the strategic guidance it provides are critical in developing Defence policy. In the absence of an up-to-date strategic plan, aligned to the strategic environment in which this plan will be pursued, government decisions on Defence could become ad hoc and misdirected.

In the past, White Papers have rightly had a major focus on strategy, force structure and capital investment in major military platforms. The current White Paper project will do that and more. Through the White Paper process, the Australian Government will develop a comprehensive picture across a range of Defence issues. This is the starting point for the White Paper process will be a wide-ranging review of our security environment and our strategic interests, and the development determinants of the future tasks and roles for the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Unless we start from this base, future decisions about the ADF’s force structure and key defence capabilities will be neither rigorous nor disciplined. The White Paper will look at the following questions:

- What is the likely future role of force in the international system?
- What is the international system looking to like in a couple of decades – when a number of emerging major powers will have attained considerably more economic, strategic and raw military power than they currently have today, or have had in the past?
- What impacts will these changes have on the role of Defence?
- What should be the key tasks for Defence over these coming decades?
- How might the ADF’s military capabilities need to change to stay relevant into the future?
- What financial, workforce and other business impacts might the White Paper provide for the Australian community?
- To support Defence’s work on the White Paper, I established a community consultation panel to provide Australians with an opportunity to have a say in the new White Paper. Building stronger community interest in the future of the Defence is an important priority for the Government. This Defence Policy Discussion Paper marks the first step in that process. In this paper are some of the key issues raised by this approach.
- This is a great opportunity for public discussion and the development of government policy. Rather it is a starting place.
- We encourage all Australians to express their views on these critical defence issues.

Joel Fitzgibbon

How You Can Contribute in 08

The Government is seeking the Australian community’s views on three key questions:

- What role should our armed forces play?
- What kinds of armed forces should we develop?
- Can we afford such forces?

You can contribute in a number of ways. The Community Consultation Panel intends to visit all capital cities and some major regional centres, hosting a series of public forums at locations at which Australians will be invited to express their views on defence policy and the role of our defence forces.

The panel will also host a series of special defence policy seminars at which Australian defence policy can be discussed in greater detail. These seminars will enable interested individuals to discuss and contribute to future defence policy. The panel will also meet separately with State and Territory Government representatives and representatives of Australian industry.

Written submissions are also invited as are emails to the Community Consultation Panel. Details for the public forums will be announced on the Defence website ([www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)) and in regional newspapers.

Dear Mr Minister,

I am in the process of renewing my passport and will soon be leaving Australia. My current passport is due to expire in less than 12 months, and I heard that you are due to introduce a new White Paper soon. I wonder if you could provide me with some details on the process of renewing my passport?

I am a long-term resident of Australia and have been here for over 10 years. I am also a dual citizen of Australia and Germany. I have travelled extensively in the past and have visited many countries around the world. I am looking forward to continuing my travels in the future.

I would be interested in knowing the steps involved in renewing my passport and whether there are any changes to the process that I should be aware of.

I am a frequent traveller and would like to ensure that I have all the necessary information before I proceed with the renewal process.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

P.S. Remember what I said above about the picture, it’s not me!

Dear Mr. Downer,

I am a resident of Australia and have been living here for over 15 years. I have been involved in various political activities and have been a member of the Australian Defence League for many years. I am writing to express my strong support for the White Paper on Defence.

I believe that the White Paper on Defence is a vital document that will shape the future of our country. It is essential that we have a strong and capable Defence Force to protect our national interests.

I am particularly interested in the issues of force structure and equipment. I understand that the White Paper will be focused on these areas, and I look forward to seeing the results.

I would like to offer my support to the White Paper Committee and encourage all Australians to participate in the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]
Meddling with medals is an offence

Some medals mounted have been adding unauthorised medals to their clients’ medal sets, according to the Department of Defence. Several former ADF members, when using the service of medal mounters, had found their medals returned with additional medals added to the sets.

The claim by the medal mounters is that the person is entitled to the additional medals, and the member is then charged for the extra medal or medals. The only agency which has the authority to determine eligibility for Defence medals is the Department of Defence.

A similar issue is the Burma Star for World War II service. Replicas of this medal have recently been advertised for sale. These advertisements may lead people to incorrectly believe that they are entitled to this award, especially prisoners of war who worked on the Burma-Thailand Railway.

-------------------------------

The Rumour Mill - East Timor Presidential Peace Medal

Lato last year there were media reports that the President of East Timor, Mr Jose Ramos-Horta, had approved a Presidential Peace Medal to symbolise the sacrifice of Australian soldiers in promoting safety in the fledgling nation.

Catherine Tunks 26 Dec 2007

The Department of Honours & Awards currently has no information about this medal.

CONTACT US:
Former ADF members & general public
www.defence.gov.au/medals
Current serving ADF members

Foreign awards which have been properly issued to an individual by a foreign government, but have not been approved, may still be worn on the right breast on appropriate occasions.

Did you know?

Did you know that medals issued by the foreign defence force are not to be officially worn until the Governor-General has given his authorisation?

Some members the ADF have worn medals issued to them by a foreign force without approval.

While it is easy to think that foreign awards can be worn because they have been officially presented, this is not the case.

Only the Governor-General can approve the official acceptance and wearing of a foreign award by an Australian. This is done on the recommendation of the government under a set of established government guidelines and policies.

- The official acceptance and wearing of a foreign award will usually only follow a formal offer by the foreign government to the Australian government.

- Approval to accept and wear foreign awards is subject to the principles of national interest, and any award to be considered for approval must have an equivalent award in the Australian system.

- The wearing of a foreign award must be formally approved by the Governor-General before it is worn in uniform.

- Foreign awards are to be worn in the order of date of authorisation, and after all Australian awards.

---

You never know who it might help

Bring new hope to those with cancer by making a gift in your will. Bequests to The Cancer Council WA help fund life-saving research that will ultimately help us defeat cancer.

For confidential information about making a bequest to The Cancer Council WA please call Suzanne Cavanagh on (08) 9212 4333

The Cancer Council WA

46 Ventnor Avenue, West Perth WA 6005
Tel (08) 9212 4333
Fax (08) 9212 4334
E-mail: suzanne@cancerwa.asn.au
www.cancerwa.asn.au
The RAR Association SA has asked for RSL assistance to promote a pictorial book they commissioned to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. The 176 page book is bound in white leather and depicts Australian war. It contains official and personal photographs and includes comments from those who served. All services are covered and fighting, everyday living, recreation time and local civilians.

The book was compiled by Vietnam veteran Stephen Lewis who said “As memories become history, the book seeks to recognise and perpetuate the pride. With equal pride, we will remember them.” At the end of the war, 17,065 Australian sailors, soldiers, airman and mates had served. Over 330 were killed, 1,200 wounded and 29 prisoners of war. This book pays a photographic homage to their service, attempting to cover every aspect of a war fought in some of the most appalling conditions Australian troops have ever witnessed.

Price $29.95 + $10.00 P&H. Available from The Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA Branch) Inc, 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park, SA 5065. Email: lagrah@bigpond.com. Cheque or credit card payment available.

The RAR Association is in a position to supply each State Branch with a free review copy but asks for your assistance in promoting it through your journals. A scan of the front cover is attached and can be supplied in higher resolution if required.

The Editor Listening Post

The Ambassador of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Dr Juraj Chmiel, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial in condemnation of Liberation Day.

Liberation Day is recognised on 8 May each year, to commemorate the liberation of Czechoslovakia by American and Russian forces and marks the end of the Second World War in 1945. After laying the dedicatory wreath the Ambassador took a solemn stroll through the Commemorative Area with the Memorial’s Director, Steve Cowen.

The Ambassador toured the Memorial’s new galleries, Conflicts 1945 to today which use the very latest in digital museum technology to help present the national story of Australians during conflict.

The gallery covers Australia’s involvement in conflicts since 1945, including the Cold War period of Korea (1950-53), Vietnam (1962-75), the Malayan Emergency (1950-60) and Indonesian Confrontation (1963-66). The 60 years of Australian peacekeeping and the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are also featured.

This year was the 62nd anniversary of Liberation Day which is a national holiday in Czechoslovakia. Australians and Czechs had an important relationship during the Second World War.

One Australian soldier, Private Lawrence Phillip Saywell, was shot while assisting the Czech partisans in their sabotage operations on 8 May. He was the last Australian killed in Europe during the Second World War. Five months after his death, a memorial was erected in his honour by the ‘grateful inhabitants of the village of Miretin’ in Czechoslovakia.

In November 1995, the President of the Czechoslovak Republic awarded Pte Saywell the Czechoslovak Military Cross for his ‘brave and eminent services to our State in the battle for liberation’.

The LiSTeNiNG POST

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. We will remember them. Lest we forget.

The deaths of the following RSL Members (WA Branch) were recorded at AnZAC House.

Navy
Bowden, Allen; RS4749 - City of Rockingham
Brayshaw, Arthur; FS1381 - Central
Britton, Phillip; 563466 - City of Rockingham
Daffodill, Desmond; FS375 - Manning
Griffin, Alex; FG416 - Pinjarra
Highgrove, Peter; PM7944 - Port Kennedy
Hills, H. G; FS931 - Scarborough
Hough, Raymond; PM3324 - City of Perth
Miretin, Laurie; FS23573 - North Beach
O’Connor, Raymond; PKX97841 - Canning Districts - Victoria Park
Radford, John; RS29453 - Upper Swan

Army
Adams, L. A; VX100045 - Northam
Adams, Sepimba; VX207607 - North Midland
Bernard; Ronald; VX80716 - Geraldton City
Campbell, William; WV49806 - Wagon
Chishma, Leslie; VX18458 - City of Mandurah
Cockrell, Ray; WV27625 - Highgate
Cruickshanks, James; VX69461 - City of Mandurah
Davies, Patricia; 107162 - Albany
Dunmore, Graeme; 6900148 - Albany
Denny, Rosalind; FS319911 - Returned Soldiers
Forsyth, B. G; VX28846 - Fremantle City
Gerry, Ronald; FS1491 - Kalgoorlie
Hannah, Robert; VX33778 - Bunbury
Hannan, Edward; VX32495 - Esperance
Handwick, Peter; 472352 - City of Rockingham
Haynes, Kenneth; 2413436 - Bunbury
Hearn, Malcolm; SX26830 - City of Perth
Hirst, Raymond; WX12758 - City of Mandurah
Hinchcliff, Harley; WX40102 - Cambridge
Howson, Albert; WX39420 - Osborne Park
Hughes, Vernon; VX90193 - Northam
Lawson, Charles; VX28536 - Shannon Park
Liddle, John; WX28362 - Ravenston
Lucas, Ronald; VX63591 - Eastern Regional
Marshall, Raymond; WX28622 - Scarborough
Martin, Don; WX12346 - Gosnells
Martin, John; 51724 - Canning Districts-Victoria Park
Mason, Joseph; VX37577 - Albany
McLaren, Mack; VX7070 - Applecross
Mills, Leslie; WX72894 - Geraldton City
Neilings, John; VX10103 - City of South Perth
Puttenham, Donald; WX28494 - City of Perth
Ray, Alan; 213892 - Nollamara
Robbins, Robert; WX50041 - Yanchep-Two Rocks
Rogers, J. H; WX09899 - Busselton
Sharpe, Martin; VX27991 - Yanchep
Simish, Eric; VX86647 - Quinns Rocks
Smith (nee Collins), Veronica; WX67513 - Returned Ex-Serviceman
Warwick, Jack; WX16859 - Nollamara
Willey, Arthur; WX36055 - Beverley

Ph: 9344 8399
RAEA WA File Original 1926

The LiSTeNiNg POST
October 2008

See the best of Turkey as well as the important Australian battlefield sites on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

ASK ABOUT EARLY BIRD SPECIALS!

Splendours of Turkey
17 days, dep. 11 April.            $5,250 p.p. twin share + taxes: includes flights with Singapore Airlines, Istanbul, Cappadoccia, Antalya, Bodrum, Pamukkale, Ephesus, Troy, and Gallipoli.

Highlights of Turkey
12 days, dep. 18 April. $4,450 p.p. twin share + taxes: includes flights with Qantas and Turkish Airlines, gulet cruise, Bodrum, Istanbul, Ephesus, Troy, Gallipoli.

Turkish Delights
10 days, dep. 21 April. $3,890 p.p., twin share. includes flights with Malaysia Airlines, Istanbul, Bodrum, Ephesus, Troy cruise and Gallipoli.

The Rudd Government has today announced changes to military awards in response to the independent review of Long Tan recognition. It has also announced its response to the review of service recognition for RAAF Ubon (1965-68).

Cabinet Secretary, Senator John Faulkner, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, and Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, have carefully considered the reports of the independent review panel and a number of public responses to the reports.

Key decisions, approved by the Governor-General, are:

- Harry Smith, Commander D Company 6RAR, will be offered the Star of Gallantry (equivalent to the Distinguished Service Order), and Platoon Commanders Dave Sabben and Geoff Kendall, will be offered the Medal for Gallantry (equivalent to the Military Cross). This restores the original award recommended for Smith by his commanding officers, and accepts that the intention was to award Sabben and Kendall higher honours.

- The strength of D Company 6RAR in Vietnam on 18 August 1966 will receive approval to wear the former Republic of Vietnam’s Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Emblem.

Any other unresolved concerns regarding individual awards for Long Tan will be referred to the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal. The Government will consider itself bound by the Tribunal’s recommendations on these issues.

Implementation of these recommendations will properly recognise the individual and collective gallantry of these men on 18 August 1966, provide an equitable mix of awards for the battle, and confer considerable honour on all the men of D Company 6RAR in Vietnam who fought in the Battle of Long Tan.

The independent panel reviewing service recognition for RAAF Ubon found that the close working relationship that Australian personnel developed with the Americans at Ubon, in Thailand, does not translate to an intention by the Government to deploy assets as part of the Vietnam War. The Government has accepted this finding. It is open for the Ubon Veterans to seek a review of this matter by the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal.

The Government again thanks the panel for its work on these matters and supports most of its recommendations. On the matter of the South Vietnamese unit citation, we respect the panel’s principled approach but have formed the view that the evidence of an intention by the former government of South Vietnam to offer this award is compelling.

Further details of the Government’s response to the recommendations of the review reports are attached.

FOR COMMENT:
Laura Ryan (Alan Griffin) 0437 863 109
Colin Campbell (Senator Faulkner) 0407 787 181
Mark Sjolander (Dr Kelly) 0407 102 229

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN RSL LAWN BOWLS SECTION

Wish to Advise Sub – Branch Members of the forthcoming “National RSL Lawn Bowls Carnival.”

Each Year a National Lawn Bowls Carnival is conducted in different States by States Governing Body. This year, 2008/2009 the Event is to be conducted in PERTH. WA.

The Carnival is conducted in two separate Sections.

1. The Jack Hamilton VC Event, which is a Competition between States, and conducted from 27th December to 10th December 2008. The players are selected for this event by State Selectors following Trial Games. To enter the Trials players must be members of the Section

2. The Sir Arthur Lee National Fours event commencing Friday 2nd January 2009 with the Finals played on Tuesday 6th January 2009.

Special conditions for this event are that all contestants must be Financial Male Service Members of The Returned & Services League of Australia and also be a Member of a Bowling Club affiliated with the respective State Bowls Association. The nomination fee to play in the Sir Arthur Lee National Fours is $20.00. The Closing Date for Entries is 25th October 2008

For further information and or Entry Forms please contact The Carnival Director Tony Snelling Tel: 9341 2148 or National Sec. Dudley Docking Tel: 9341 1795

GALLIPOLI, Turkey

for the Dawn Service on Anzac Day & for the Lone Pine Australian Service

Tribute to those who fell on the Australian battlefields sites on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

ASK ABOUT EARLY BIRD SPECIALS!

Splendours of Turkey

Mini Turkey for Anzac Day
5 day stopover from 22 April. $1,195 p.p. twin share. Includes Istanbul and Gallipoli for Anzac Day.

Turkish Delights
10 days, dep. 21 April. $4,120 p.p., twin share. Includes flights with Malaysia Airlines, Istanbul, Bodrum, Ephesus, Troy cruise and Gallipoli.

Made Easy Tours
14 days from Tripoli, dep 27 April. $3,890 p.p., twin share.

FOR COMMENT:
Laura Ryan (Alan Griffin) 0437 863 109
Colin Campbell (Senator Faulkner) 0407 787 181
Mark Sjolander (Dr Kelly) 0407 102 229

MEDALS FOR LONG TAN VETERANS

New Tribunal to examine other issues

RAEA WA File Original 1926

Just been going through the original correspondence file of the association here in Perth (now RAEA WA). Found these of interest.

Mick Ryan

THE LISTENING POST October 2008
AMAZING HEROES

Lest we forget.
Hollywood always remembers.