



March - April - May 2017

NEWSLETTER

Pension and Welfare Information

VIETNAM VETERANS',
PEACEKEEPERS' & PEACEMAKERS'
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

CENTRAL COAST Sub-Branch INC.

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ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CENTRAL COAST Sub-Branch INC.**

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DISCLAIMER

The Vietnam Veterans', Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Association of Australia Central Coast Sub Branch Inc. Newsletter is produced for the Central Coast Sub-Branch membership and their partners. Complimentary copies are forwarded to interested others. It is written in good faith from sources believed to be accurate at the time of writing. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information contained in this publication on any matter. Readers having regard to their own particular circumstances should consult the relevant authorities or other advisors with expertise in that particular field. Neither the Central Coast Sub-Branch, Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers, & Peacemakers Association of Australia, nor the Editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Also, the views expressed by Authors contained in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of this association.

MEETINGS



VIETNAM VETERANS', PEACEKEEPERS' & PEACEMAKERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Central Coast Sub-branch

General Meetings

Fourth Sunday of Month
At Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club
11.15 a.m.

Ladies Auxiliary 10.00 a.m.

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES

23 April 2017

28 May 2017

25 June 2017

30 July 2017

27 August 2017

24 September 2017

29 October 2017

26 November 2017

AGM - KARSAI BACK

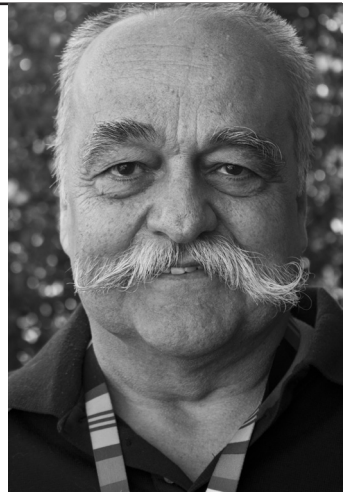
Steve Karsai was elected President of the sub-branch for a second term at the Annual general Meeting held Sunday 26 March 2017.

Steve will continue in his other role heading up the Pensions Team of Richard Gray, Ken Clarke and Richard Carlin.

Substantial changes have been endorsed in the way the Sub-branch is run. Long-serving and hard working Hon Secretary Robyn Creswell has stepped down and the nature of that position has changed.

Senior Vice President Alan Ball will continue in his role while taking up the position of Hon Secretary and will be the Association's nominated Public Officer.

The administrative tasks that the Hon Secretary used to do have now been split between three volunteers. The Office Manager is Ken Rowe assisted by Margaret Sadlier, Wendy Walker and Judy Flaherty.



ABOVE: The AGM gets under way on Sunday 26 March. About fifty mebers attended.

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Ann Kennedy and Jack Chalker are the Sub-branch's Welfare Advocates. Bob Viles is now the Welfare Co-ordinator and our Quartermaster is T. Jira.

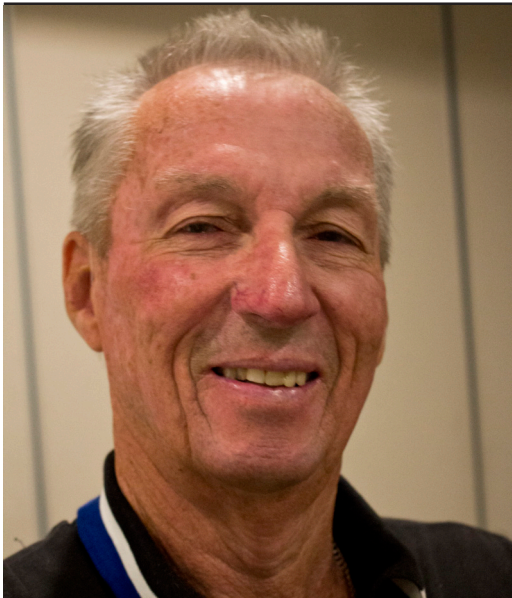
Two Members Ann Kennedy and Alan Ball were made Life Members at this year's AGM. Wayne Jennings, Leo Lees and the ever present Jack Chalker received Certificates of Appreciation from then Nam Bus team.



ABOVE: Re-elected President, Steve Karsai chairs the AGM.



ABOVE: Out-going Hon Secretary, Robyn Creswell (left) and new Office Manager Ken Rowe during the Annual General meeting.



LEFT: Like a steam train on a run to Dubbo, Alan Ball will continue to push on contributing to the Sub-branch. He remains Senior Vice-president while taking on the changed Hon Secretary position as well as being the nominal Public Officer.



RIGHT: Afer fifteen years as Hon Secretary and five years with the Ladies Auxillary, our hard working Robyn Creswell has stepped down for a well-earned rest.

Taxi Drivers

A woman and her 12-year-old son were riding in a taxi in Detroit.

It was raining and all the prostitutes were standing under awnings.

"Mum," said the boy, "what are all those women doing?"

"They're waiting for their husbands to get off work," she replied.

The taxi driver turns around and says, "Geez lady, why don't you tell him the truth? They're hookers, boy! They have sex with men for money."

The little boy's eyes widen and he says, "Is that true Mum?"

His mother, glaring hard at the driver, answers "Yes."

After a few minutes the kid asks, "Mum, if those women have babies, what happens to them?"

She said, "Most of them become taxi drivers."

SPIRIT OF ANZAC EXHIBITION

A number of our members visited Newcastle on the 29 Mar 17 to see the Spirit Of Anzac Exhibition.

A great time was had by all. However, on the way home Richard Grey was admitted to hospital at Wyong due to a heart attack. He is well now and is resting at home.

The latest exhibition will open in East Gosford on 6 April.



ANZAC DAY

25 April, 2017

DAWN SERVICE

0500 Bus leaves from Ettalong Diggers Club

0515 March commences Woy Woy Railway Station

0530 Service in Woy Woy Memorial Garden

BREAKFAST

0600 in the Brasserie at the Club for those who attend Dawn Service

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

0800 A wreath laying service will be held at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial on the Ettalong Waterfront

All Welcome.

0915 Bus departs the Club for Anzac Day March, Woy Woy

MAIN MORNING SERVICE

0930 Form up in Deepwater Plaza Car Park, Woy Woy

1000 March commences to Woy Woy Memorial Garden

1030 Service commences

1115 Bus returns to Ettalong Diggers Club

SMOKO

1130 Doors Open at the Ettalong Diggers Club for the annual Anzac Day Smoko. All Returned Service men and their partners are invited.

Contact the Ettalong Diggers club for details on the smoko

If you wish to sit on a table with other sub-branch members contact our office





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NSW CONFERENCE

VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH

SUB-BRANCH CONFERENCE 23rd MARCH, 2017

The Conference commenced with reports from the individual Sub-Branchedes as to their activities over the past six months. A general feeling of 'everything being on track and going well' was given with the subject of Advocate Training through the new Advocates' Development & Training Program (ADTP) being the subject of most questions and discussion.

All Pension and Welfare Officers will now be referred to as Advocates and their training will reflect this status. If the Advocates do not undertake this training, after the end of 2017 they will no longer be covered for Professional Liability through VITA and the individual Sub-Branchedes will have to bear the cost of their insurance. It is important that this training be organised through the Office Manager and all records be kept by the Sub-Branch. All applications for Recognition of Prior Learning and Mentoring programs must be in before the 1st July, 2017 (sooner if possible) to enable immediate enrolment in classes when they come to our area.

The NSW Branch AGM will be held at Merrylands RSL Club on Saturday, 20 May 2017 as well as a General Meeting commencing at 10.45 am to pass changes to the Constitution to bring it in line with the new Dept. of Fair Trading guidelines. Election of Office Bearers takes place every two years, and 2017 is an election year. Nominations have been received for all positions, however, there are three candidates for the two positions of Vice Presidents which fact will necessitate a vote. This will be held electronically and information will be sent out in The Vietnam Veteran magazine prior to that date.

All memberships (new and renewals) must be registered at Granville by the 31st March, 2017. Those who are not registered by that date will not be considered eligible to vote.

There were two guests/speakers invited to the Conference, the first being Ms. Jennifer Collins, NSW/ACT Deputy Commissioner for Veteran Affairs. Jennifer has been a regular visitor to conferences and has kept the Association up to date with Department news and fielded all questions thrown at her including those from our own President, Stephen Karsai, about the length of time for the completion of claims! She is due to retire in two weeks and the Association passed on its thanks for her assistance over the years and presented her with a Plaque of Appreciation and a huge Retirement Cake.

The second guest was the Vietnam Veterans' Federation (VVF) President, Mr. Jim Wain. Jim spoke on what his job entails, the Govt. committees on which he sits and shared some interesting stories about those meetings. He stressed that the Federation was still holding a strong position in the ESO community, was constantly fighting for the rights of our members and suggesting ways in which the Govt. could save money to enable the funding for ESO's to be increased.

A presentation of Life Membership was made to Bruce Maher who has processed pensions with the NSW Branch for the past 35 years.

The State President, Frank Cole, reported that there was general continued success in catering

Continued on page 13

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to the needs of veterans across NSW and that the Outreach Program to regional and remote areas was extremely successful. He also stated that, even if some of the Sub-Branches found it hard to continue in coming years, with the lack of volunteers, that NSW Branch would be around for a long time to continue on the very important and necessary work for our Veterans.

The State Secretary, Ron O'Connor, reported that membership generally is up across the State, and especially in Sydney.

The State Treasurer, Bob Freshfield, reported that the Association's financial situation was able to fulfil all commitments even though this period of the year is traditionally the hardest leading up to the release of BEST funding. He expects the year to end with a surplus.

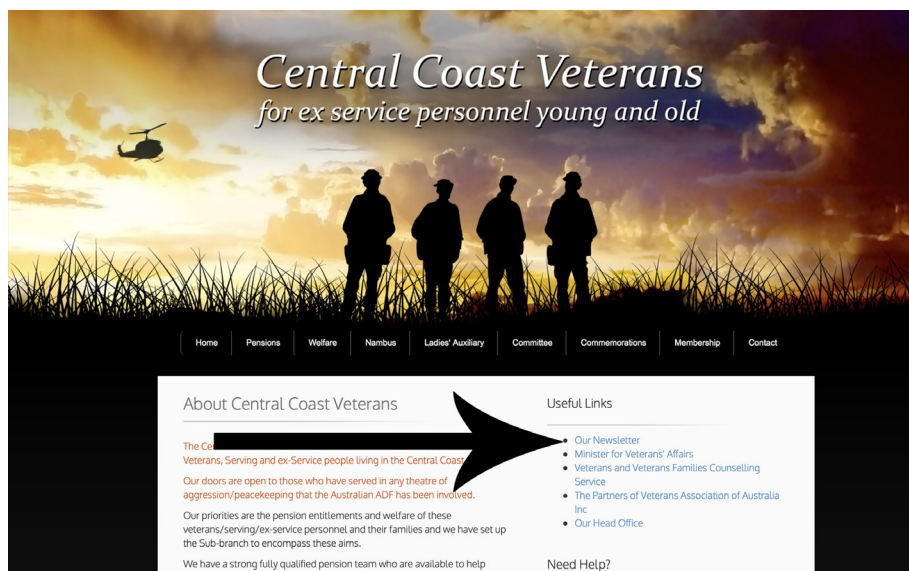
During General Business the question of Gold Cards for wives of veterans was discussed. There is a general misunderstanding that all the wives/partners of Gold Card holders will receive said card on the death of the veteran. This is incorrect. Only the holders of Gold Cards who have also attained T&PI or EDA status will automatically receive the card.

Overall the networking throughout the conference was productive and it was generally agreed that it is important for this to continue for the good of the Association.

Robyn Creswell

NEWSLETTER ON WEBSITE

This newsletter is now available in electronic form on the branch website. You can read it on your device or download to read later. The link to the newsletter is on the home page.



Walter
Pearson's

VIETNAM
TOURS

RETURN TO CORAL & BALMORAL



50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR 9 - 20 August 2018

Pay your respects at the Coral and Balmoral battle sites and take in countryside vistas few Australians have seen.

Learn the secrets of the old Sai Gon in Ho Chi Minh City.

Venture to the Cambodian border where the US ended its involvement and the Vietnamese directed the campaign to take Sai Gon.

Visit the Rung Sat - the Killing Jungle - eco tourism at its best and the one-time base for the legendary 10th Sapper Regt.

Enjoy a free flowing sojourn in the old Phuoc Tuy including a gathering at the Long Tan Cross on 18 August.

Call Walter Pearson on 0424 177 590

WOMEN AND WAR

A new book 'Women and War: Opening Pandora's Box - Intimate Relationships in the Shadow of Traumatic Experiences' has just been published in New York as part of series called 'The World of Psychology'.

The book, the brain child of Kyneton, Victoria resident Roni Wildeboer and co-edited by Marie-Claire Patron, Assistant Professor at Bond University and Professor Ami Rokach of The Center for Academic Studies, Israel and York University, Canada is a compilation of powerful chapters, written by women about how war affects women. Some chapters are academic and some are ethnographic.

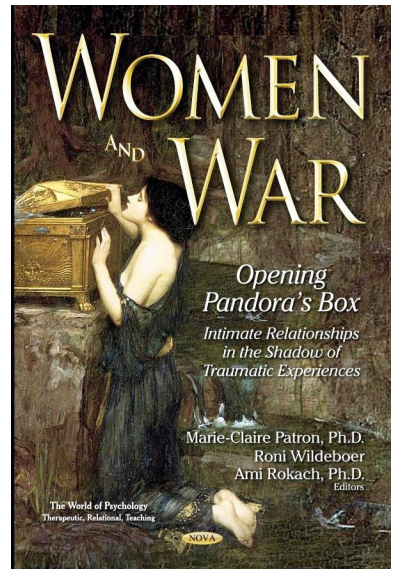
War and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder go, unfortunately, hand in hand. And war seems to be raging around us, no matter where we are on the Globe. Commonly, the scientific literature addresses the trauma suffered by those who directly experienced the war, meaning the soldiers. The literature has not, adequately, addressed the effects that war has on those who did not participate in it, but who live with those who did. The family members, mainly the spouses, who welcome the soldiers back to everyday life, and who consequently experience secondary trauma, related to the damaging effects that the war had on those who experienced it firsthand. The book brings a firsthand account of women [spouses and children] who met their traumatized husband when he returned from the battleground, and attempted to integrate into a society that does not understand what they went through, and thus is not supportive of them. Some chapters describe the experiences of such a woman, and how she either triumphed despite very difficult and unfavorable home conditions or, on the other hand, remained traumatized. Other chapters recount struggles to survive during and post- WWII, offering alternate perspectives whilst the overarching theme of pain and suffering is ubiquitous. Some chapters have an academic focus, examining critical issues pertaining to this book. Finally, chapters end with a commentary, by a clinical psychologist, of the women, their experiences, the effects on their lives, and what helped them triumph, or not. (Imprint: Nova)

Roni's 17 year marriage to a Vietnam Veteran as well her 6 years of volunteer work in Vietnam inspired this work. The chapters cover the Vietnam War, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), how wives cope with Veterans with PTSD, how the effects of the 2nd World War impacted on a young girl, The French Resistance, the Holocaust. One particular chapter explains how one family in Iran was persecuted for their religion and tells the story of their perilous escape across rocky mountain terrain in the middle of the night.

Roni says that the "book would never have become a reality without Marie-Claire Patron, PhD and Ami Rokach, PhD, both of whom are quite widely published in the academic arena.

Reviews:

"It was a real challenge to read the chapters - I had dealt with Veterans most of my working life (in the Department of Veterans' Affairs) and some of the stories brought back memories of these



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times. I am very happy to endorse this book. The stories put in real terms, in simple terms, the distress felt by those suffering from PTSD or those so close to those suffering. I wish we had something like this for the people I dealt with. It concerns real people, telling their real stories and I feel it would make much more sense to PTSD sufferers than us as “workers” telling them that it is real - real people so poignantly tell their stories. What I saw as well was some hope for an education resource for the medical and other professionals from these real stories.” - *Rob Fitzgerald, (BSc, DipT (sec) and MBA) Australia*

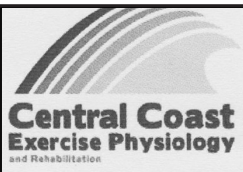
“This book, *Women and War*, is a searingly readable collection of narratives, which painstakingly take us through the specific experiences of women in war, or resulting from war, in some cases as the remote victims of war. Running through these accounts are insights drawn from intercultural experience, and the tragedy arising from our human differentiation into races and cultures. An enthusiastic team of Editors, Marie-Claire Patron, the magician storyteller of intercultural tales, Roni Wildeboer, the wife of a Vietnam Veteran, and Ami Rokach with his psychological and editorial expertise, have assembled a work of great importance. No one who reads this book will forget it.” - *Raoul Mortley AO FAHA (Officer in the Order of Australia, and Fellow of the Academy of Humanities of Australia); Pro Vice-Chancellor International. Executive Dean, Faculty of Society & Design. Bond University, Australia*

If you would like more information of this academic publication, please refer to this link to the publishers: <https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/index.php>

For more information: Roni Wildeboer - roni@wildeboer.id.au



*ABOVE: Co- author of the book *Women In War*, Roni Wildeboer with some of the children she has been helping in Vietnam through the charity Artists For Orphans.*



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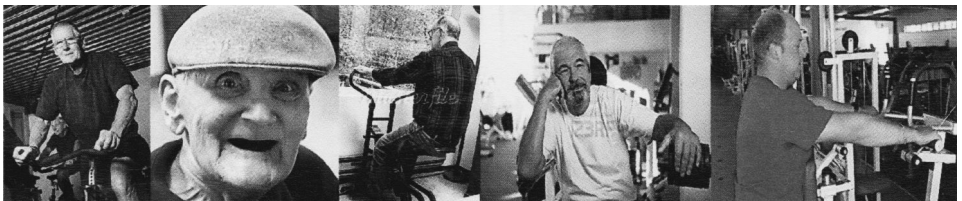
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COCK UP AT CORAL

This May marks the 49th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral and Balmoral, the six week operation in Viet Nam in May and June 1968 during which 25 Australians were killed in action and 99 wounded. Vietnamese forces lost 267 killed, 7 wounded and 11 captured. Walter Pearson looks at some aspects of this operation which has been the focus of attention lately.

Early in March this year, former RAE officer, George Hulse established a petition on the website Change.org calling on the Australian Government to recognise what he calls The Forgotten Heroes of the Vietnam War.

George is calling for an inquiry into the Battle arguing that “this unique and enormous battle needs to be recognised by awarding all the Australian units involved, the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry”.

The call for recognition of those involved is reinforced when one considers the ignorance of the leadership that sent those men into an area about 80kms from the Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat and way outside their usual operational areas.

The Australian deployment to an area north of the village of Tan Uyen in what was then Bien Hoa Province followed on from operations during the 1968 Tet Offensive around the massive US logistics area at Long Binh north west of the Australian Task Force Base. Things started to go wrong with the intelligence briefings given to the Task Force staff officers.

The US intelligence briefing indicated the Australians would go into an area where they would encounter groups of “stragglers” coming back from recent attacks on Sai Gon City. The Australians were told the groups would be tired, demoralised and unorganised. The briefing also advised that three main force regiments, one battalion and two companies of local forces plus a Rear Services Group were operating in the area. The total strength of these units was estimated to be between 3000 and 4000. Curiously, the US intelligence analysts suggested that it was unlikely these troops would be used against the Australians.

The briefing also identified the village of Binh My was an important staging area and supply depot. Binh My was just 5kms north of the proposed site of the Fire Support Base Coral and would eventually be just to the west of Fire Support Base Balmoral.

The day prior to the operation, senior officers from the Australian Task Force flew over the operational area in a US helicopter. US helicopter pilots reputedly were not timid. But when asked to fly below 1500 feet so the officers could find suitable landing sites, the pilot refused saying the machine was likely to be machine gunned out of the sky. Not being able to see the ground properly led to problems during the deployment the following day. But it seems the incident does not seem to have raised concerns that the Vietnamese may be a bit thick on the ground.

Meanwhile, the Task Force Intelligence Staff Officer gave unit and sub-unit officers a briefing.



ABOVE: FSB CORAL the morning after the first attack.

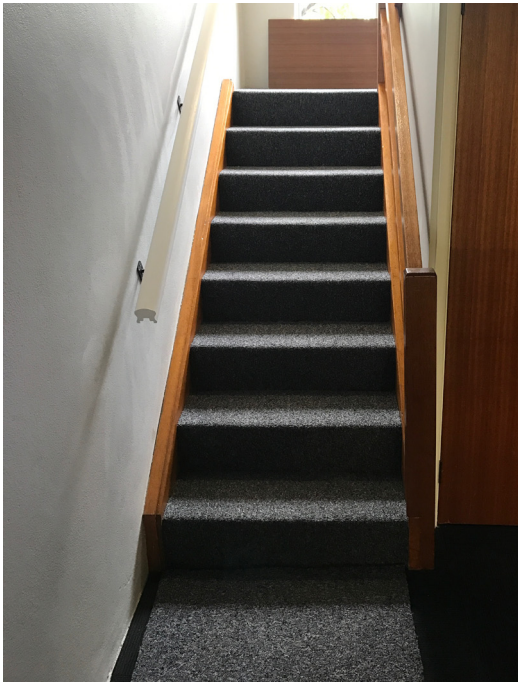
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RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

The office renovations are now complete.

The main office has been improved, Welfare has its own office as does the Treasurer Wayne Jennings. The stairs between the two floors have been carpoeted and hand rails installed.





Some of those attending were disturbed by the off-handed way the Staff Officer referred to the Regiments and Divisions of enemy in the area. The Staff Officer's apparent complacency may be explained by two things.

In Vietnam, there was an excess of intelligence much of it unreliable. Paid agents and sources often provided "information" to stay on the payroll. However, the relatively low-intensity operations in Phuoc Tuy made it hard for many to comprehend the high-intensity of the war outside the Province.

The Australians were going to be deployed in an area that was the responsibility of the US 1st Division, The Big Red One. The division had been in the area since 1965. They had had regular sizeable clashes with Main Force units.

The Big Red One's Head Quarters was at the town of Di An, north-east of Sai Gon City. Their area of operations included Route 13 the main road north out of Sai Gon to the Cambodian border towns of Loc Ninh and Bu Dap where the Ho Chi Minh terminated in that region. The Big Red One was also responsible for the region north and east of the village of Tan Uyen sitting on the enormous Dong Nai River that ran through Bien Hoa Town.

Tan Uyen had a revolutionary history going back to French times. It was the fulcrum of a collection of villages and jungle areas running east and north that became to be known as War Zone D, in Vietnamese Chiến Khu Đ. It was one of number of War Zones, A, B, C, and D. War Zone C lay further to the west north of the Cu Chi area and beyond the Sai Gon River - itself the western boundary of the famous Iron Triangle.

Now all of these areas were known to 1RAR during its first tour in 1965-66. But by the time they returned in 1968, that knowledge had dissipated. So when they were told they were to be deployed to Tan Uyen, no-one seems to have realised that they were going into War Zone D.

The Vietnamese established War Zone D in 1946 starting in Tan Uyen and incorporating the villages to the east. The Headquarters at one stage was near the village of Vinh Cuu on the southern side of the Dong Nai River, coincidently a few kilometres from the Gang Toi Mountains where 1RAR lost two diggers in 1965 who were only found in 2009.

Viet Minh forces from War Zone D attacked a major convoy near La Nga on Route 20 from Sai Gon to Da Lat in 1948 and another near Dong Xoai in the northern reaches of the War Zone in the same year. This was a region that the Vietnamese called theirs and which they consolidated from 1946 onwards.

Colonel Donald Dunstan, 2IC of the Task Force showed some understanding of the area when he remarked during the deployment that the units were now "in the big league". But for those going into the area, there was little realisation possibilities they faced.

Meanwhile, the 1RAR and 3RARn fly-in had been delayed. Helicopters were diverted to support the Big Red One who had been fighting through the night in a major battle just 3000 metres west of the Coral site.

When the first Recce Party flew in to the FSB Coral site on 12 May 1968, a US officer on the ground told the 12 Field Regiment 2IC, Major Brian Murtagh that he was now in "Indian country". However, it seemed to have little impact upon him.

The regiment was deploying two batteries, 161 and 102 Field Batteries. The New Zealand 161 Battery flew in in the morning of 12 May with elements of 3RAR. It appears they ended up in the

Continued from page 22

wrong location. When the Advance Party of 102 Battery, led by Lt Ian Ahern, arrived at the place where 161 New Zealand Battery was going to be deployed, it was in the wrong spot. Also they could not find Major Murtagh's party at first. Eventually contact was made. Murtagh was some 1500 metres away. Ahern set off to close with him and set up his gun position. That mean the two batteries were going to be 1500 metres apart.

Artillery and infantry units were slowly flown in over the rest of the now much shortened day. Lt Ahern and the 2IC of the 1RAR Mortar Platoon, Lieutenant Tony Jensen, liaised through the afternoon. Both were feeling uneasy about the situation. Partly because of the late flying and partly because of a gut feeling that all was not right.

Jensesn's platoon was located in front of the gun battery.

Jensen and Ahern were on their diggers' backs to dig in. Ahern commandeered a small D4 bulldozer to throw up bunds around the guns. The Artillery regimental Headquarters and the Battalion Headquarters were also hurriedly dug in.

The Fire Support Base therefore was made up of a number of Headquarters units, the guns, 1 RAR Support company elements, including the mortars. There was not much in the way barbed wire on the perimeter.

The New Zealand guns were 1500 metres away with D Coy 3RAR while the rest of that battalion were off to the northwest. The 1RAR rifle companies were all deployed at least 1000 metres from the Fire Support Base. There's much written about what followed.

During the night of 12-13 May, regiments of Vietnamese attacked FSB Coral supported by rockets and mortars. They ploughed through the Mortar position and over ran one Australian gun. There was hand to hand fighting and conspicuous acts of bravery through the night. Nine Australians were killed and 28 were wounded. Another attack occurred on the night of 15-16 May. In a surprising decision, Colonel Dunstan dispatched tanks to the operation from Nui Dat.

On 26 May, soon after 3RAR had established FSB Balmoral about 5 kilometres north of Coral, the Vietnamese launched a regimental attack on them. In the weeks surrounding these major assaults, the two battalions roamed War Zone D clashing with large units, uncovering extensive bunker systems and engaging in a tempo of fighting that was never experienced again by the Australians.

Two Distinguished Conduct Medals, next only to the Victoria Cross, were awarded for individual bravery. Maybe it is time to consider properly honouring the various units involved in this lengthy high intensity period of combat.



RIGHT: The gun captured at FSB Coral and later re-captured by the gunners of 102 Fd Bty.



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LONG TAN GATHERINGS OFF

The Vietnamese Government has confirmed there will be no official Anzac Day commemoration at the Long Tan Cross site this year.

Small groups will still be allowed low-key visits to the site, without media. The Vietnamese Government is developing regulations and guidance for visitors.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said Australians travelling to Vietnam for Anzac Day should plan accordingly.

"The Government continues to work with Vietnamese authorities on an outcome that would work for both countries," Mr Tehan said.

"While disappointing, we respect Vietnam's right as a sovereign nation to determine the nature of commemorations held on its soil.

"We also thank them for allowing continued access for small groups making private visits and for providing us with this advice in time to allow Australians to properly plan their visits.

"Last week we told Australians to be prepared for this outcome, and while it is disappointing we ask any Australians who will be in Vietnam to respect the decision.

"We will communicate with veterans and the public should the situation change."

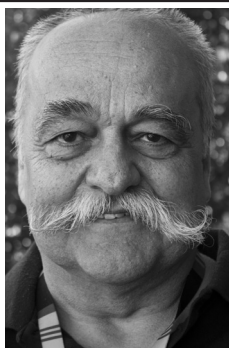
Details on the conditions required by the Vietnamese authorities on people wishing to visit the Long Tan Cross site can be found at smartraveller.gov.au and the Australian Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City website.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen

I like to take this opportunity to farewell Robyn. She has decided that it is time to hand the reins on as she is stepping down from her role as secretary of our Association she is settling down for the quiet life of family and grandchildren.

Welcome Ken, Margaret who will be taking over Robyn's position and then Wendy and Judy who will be job sharing the typing and other office administration, welcome back to Ian Munro, our former pension officer and TIP Trainer he will be assisting with the administration of the front office looking forward to working with you all.



I attended a meeting with Cathy Every Legacy and Advocate for Legacy Gosford to discuss the new Central coast hub—Community of Practice, Central Coast Veteran's Centre. On 16 March Ken and I had a meeting with Ruth Donald who has been tasked to put together the Central Coast Community of Practice—that is the Central Coast Veteran's Centre which is envisaged to be launched on 1 July 2017, the hub is to be located in the Reliance Building West Gosford its main function is to concentrate on the young veteran's of today, as well all know that the veteran's of today are not attending the RSL nor and other organisations of today's, there is an endemic problem that young veterans want to do everything by themselves or through social media. This hub and its conceptual function is to present a friendly modern atmosphere for the veteran and his family.

It is proposed to be manned by an office manager who paid and other staff members with expertise in pensions, welfare and other allied health services, e.g. within the alliance centre the facilities are there for GPs, specialists such as psychiatrists, psychologists and other medical fields that the veteran may be seeking, furthermore once the veteran is at the centre he/she will be directed to the nearest ESO to submit claims and administer to their pension and welfare needs.

ESOs within the Central Coast are requested to provide a volunteer once a month or as many days that they can allocate to the centre.—more information to follow on availability.

Best wishes to all our member, throughout the coming year, please remember I am only as good as your contributions so with that said and old saying :- Ask not what our Association can do for you, 'What can you do for our Association,' to help it to grow bigger and better so we can all reap the benefits from our hard working team.

**Dr Stephen Karsai JP
President**

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PENSIONS REPORT

22 February 2017 to 20 March 2017

During the reporting period the pension team conducted 73 interviews under the various Acts including, including war widows pension interviews.

Claims Submitted Under the Following Acts:

SRCA '88

9 New Claims

VEA '86

16 claims

MRCA

Nil new claims

VRB

1 new claim submitted

AAT

No new cases

In Cap Claims

No New Claims

War Widows Claims

Nil

UK Claim

Nil

Decisions Received from DVA:

SRCA'88

1 x Veterans claim's has been accepted awaiting pay out.

1x Veteran has had PTSD accepted for NLHC

VEA'86

1x vet had his claim rejected not supported by specialist

1x veteran granted 100% with gold card back dated to 5.5.16.

1x veteran granted 40% with white card issued.

1x veteran granted 30% with white card issued, back dated 9 months.

1x veteran granted 10% with white card issued.

MRCA'04

1 x veteran has had all conditions accepted awaiting pay out.

VRB

1x veteran had all DVA decisions set aside, decision back dated to 27.4.15

1x veteran has had DVA decision affirmed, due to lack of evidence.

Other activities

Attended Nurse Home to visit UK veteran.

A hearty welcome back to Ian Munro our former pension officer and TIP training officer, he has returned in a reduced capacity to hlp out in the from office, welcome to Ian great to see you back.

Steve Karsai

For the Pensions Team

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NAMBUS REPORT

MARCH 2017

This month the NAMBUS visited Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy, where over two day we spoke to 215, sometimes unruly, but generally pretty good students.

The first day was quite windy and played havoc with our pull-up banners, however Lindsay Thomson came up with the perfect solution of attaching the banners to the off side of the bus using a cable stretched from one end to the other.

Our next job is the week-long event at Castle Hill, where numerous local schools visit the NAMBUS at a selected venue. This particular week we will need all hands on deck.

We have also quite a full year for the bus with several new schools wanting us to visit them.

Later this month we will be taking the bus to Ryde for an overdue service. Before going to Castle Hill.

Last month Aaron Walsh, an electrician, checked our electrical cables and certified and tagged them as required. Aaron didn't charged us for the tagging saying, "It's the NAMBUS".

Christopher Stone
President
NAMBUS Committee



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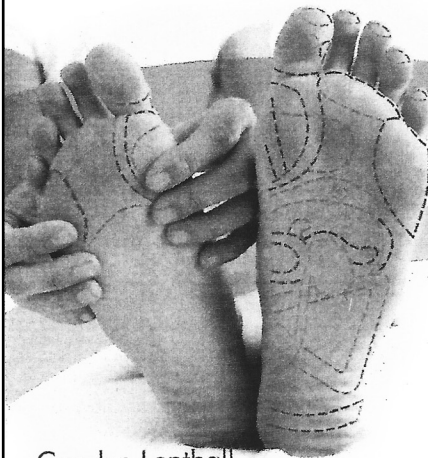
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TIMELINE



3 March 1942 Broome and Wyndham bombed

The Japanese air raid on Broome came when the port was crowded with refugees fleeing the Japanese invasion of the Netherlands East Indies. About 70 people, including many civilians are killed in the raid. Japanese also attacked Wyndham's aerodrome.

13 March 1943 Japanese reconnaissance flight over Darwin

In addition to the 64 air raids on Darwin the Japanese made numerous reconnaissance flights over northern Australia.

14 March 1942 Horn Island first bombed

Horn Island, was the main tactical base for Allied air operations in the Torres Strait. The island was bombed nine times during the Second World War.

16 March 1943 Flight Lieutenant W.E. Newton, VC

Flight Lieutenant W.E. Newton, from St Kilda, Victoria, was awarded Victoria Cross for action at Salamua Isthmus, New Guinea. It was a posthumous award.

16 March 1942 Darwin bombed

Darwin was subject to 64 Japanese air raids during the Second World War.

17 March 1942 General MacArthur flies to Darwin

After escaping from the Philippine, General MacArthur was appointed commander of the South West Pacific Area. Australia the base to launch offensive action against the Japanese in the Pacific.

20 March 1917 Lieutenant F.H. McNamara, VC

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

20 March 2003 Iraq War

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

22 March 1942 Japanese aircraft bomb Katherine

This was the only air raid against Katherine in the Second World War, one man was killed.

22 March 1945 Corporal R.R. Rattey, VC

Corporal R.R. Rattey, 25th Battalion, originally from Barmedman, New South Wales, wins the Victoria Cross on Bougainville.

25 March 1945 Lieutenant A. Chowne, VC

Lieutenant A. Chowne, 2/2 Battalion AIF, originally from Sydney, New South Wales, wins the Victoria Cross posthumously at Dagua, New Guinea.

Continued on page 35



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26 March 1917 Captain P.H. Cherry, VC

Captain P.H. Cherry, 26th Battalion AIF, originally from Drysdale, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Lagnicourt. It was a posthumous award.

28 March 1918 Sergeant S.R. McDougall, VC.

Sergeant S.R. McDougall, 47th Battalion, originally from Recherche, Tasmania, wins the Victoria Cross at Dernancourt.

31 March 1921 Formation of the Australian Air Force

Four years of negotiations results in the Australian Air Force being formed on 31 March 1921, with approval to use the 'Royal' prefix granted on 13 August 1921.

2 April 1917 Private J.C. Jensen, VC

Private J.C. Jensen, 50th Battalion, AIF, originally from Loegstoer, Denmark, wins the Victoria Cross at Noreuil, France

6 April 1952 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in Korea

The battalion remained in Korea until September 1953.

7 April 1918 Lieutenant P.V. Storkey, VC

Lieutenant P.V. Storkey, 19th Battalion, AIF, originally from Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, wins the Victoria Cross at Bois de Hangard.

7 April 1967 Major P.J. Badcoe, VC

Major P.J. Badcoe, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Adelaide, SA, awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for a series of actions in South Vietnam between February and April 1967.

8 April 1917 Captain J.E. Newland, VC

Captain J.E. Newland, 12th Battalion, AIF, originally from Geelong, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross for actions on 8 April and 15 April 1917 at Lagnicourt.

8 April 1917 Sergeant J.W. Whittle, VC

Sergeant J.W. Whittle, 2nd Battalion, originally from Huon Island, Tasmania, wins the Victoria Cross for actions at Boursies and Lagnicourt on 8 April and 15 April 1917.

9 April 1917 Private T.J.B. Kenny, VC

Private T.J.B. Kenny, 2nd Battalion, AIF, originally from Paddington, New South Wales, wins the Victoria Cross at Hermies, France.

9 April 1968 HMAS Sydney in Vung Tau

1RAR and 7RAR change over. 1RAR begins its second tour of Viet Nam.

11 April 1917 First battle of Bullecourt, Western Front

The 4th Australian Division and 62nd British Division attempted to penetrate the Hindenburg Line at Bullecourt. Over 1,000 Australians became prisoners of war, the largest number in a single action in the First World War. 3,000 casualties.

13 April 1941 Corporal J.H. Edmondson, VC

Corporal J.H. Edmondson, 2/17th Battalion, AIF, originally from Wagga Wagga, NSW, wins the Victoria Cross at Tobruk. It was a posthumous award.

15 April 1917 Lieutenant C. Pope, VC

Lieutenant C. Pope, 11th Battalion, AIF, originally from London, wins the Victoria Cross at Louverval, France. It was a posthumous award.

Continued on page 37



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18 April 1943 Admiral Yamamoto, Commander Imperial Japanese Fleet, killed

Decoded signals Intelligence provided the timetable for Yamamoto's flight. American Lightnings from Guadalcanal intercept and shoot down his aircraft was intercepted near Bougainville. Yamamoto, planned the attack on Pearl Harbour.

23 April 1951 Battle of Kapyong, Korea

The fighting at Kapyong involved the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment who blunted the Chinese advance on Seoul, preventing a Communist breakthrough. 3RAR was awarded a United States Presidential citation for their part in the battle.

25 April 1915 Landings at Gallipoli

British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops were involved in a series of coordinated landings. Although the Gallipoli campaign was a military failure, the anniversary of the landing has become a national day of commemoration in Australia.

25 April 1916 First commemoration of Anzac Day

The first anniversary of the Gallipoli landings was widely observed in Australia. Large crowds attended church services and public ceremonies. The day was also commemorated by Australian and New Zealand servicemen in Egypt and London.

26 April 1953 Ceasefire talks resume in Panmunjong.

Warring sides try to bring an end to the fighting in Korea.

29 April 1965 Prime Minister Menzies announces an infantry battalion to Vietnam

Australia's involvement in Vietnam was a gradual process. By April 1965 there were 100 members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in Vietnam. The commitment of a battalion represented a major step in Australia's involvement and precipitated further increases in the number of Australians serving in Vietnam until reductions began in 1970.

4 May 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins

This was the first naval engagement fought by aircraft alone. Although neither side won a clear victory, the Japanese were forced to attempt to capture Port Moresby in a ground campaign, rather than by sea as they had hoped.

6 May 1917 Corporal G.J. Howell, VC

Corporal G.J. Howell, 1st Battalion, of Enfield, NSW, wins the Victoria Cross near Bullecourt.

6 May & 11 May 1969 Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, VC

Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Chippendale, NSW, wins the Victoria Cross in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

12 May 1917 Lieutenant R.V. Moon, VC

Lieutenant R.V. Moon, 58th Battalion, of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Bullecourt.

12 May 1945 Corporal J.B. Mackey, VC

Corporal J.B. Mackey, 2/3rd Pioneer Battalion, originally from Leichhardt, Sydney, wins the Victoria Cross on Tarakan. It was a posthumous award.

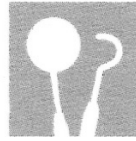
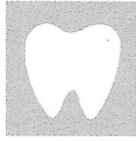
13 May 1968 Fire Support Base Coral attacked

The partly-constructed base, north of Saigon, was attacked by North Vietnamese troops. Eleven Australians killed and 28 wounded before the attackers were driven back. Fifty-two enemy soldiers killed and one taken prisoner.

15 May 1945 Private E. Kenna, VC

Private E. Kenna, 2/4th Battalion, originally from Hamilton, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross near

Continued on page 39



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16 May 1901 Lieutenant F.W. Bell, VC

Lieutenant F.W. Bell, 6th West Australian Mounted Infantry, of Perth, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Brakpan, South Africa.

16 May 1968 Fire Support Base Coral attacked for a second time

Main Force Units estimated at three battalions were repelled by APCs and soldiers from 1st battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Five Australians were killed and 19 wounded. Thirty-four enemy bodies were found.

19 May 1918 Sergeant W. Ruthven, VC

Sergeant W. Ruthven, 22nd Battalion, originally from Collingwood, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Ville-sur-Ancre, France.

19-20 May 1915 Lance Corporal A. Jacka, VC

Lance Corporal A. Jacka, 14th Battalion, originally of Winchelsea, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli. Jacka's was the first VC to be awarded to an Australian in the First World War. He also went on to win the Military Cross and Bar.

24 May 1966 Private Errol Noack killed in Vietnam

Private Noack, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was the first Australian national serviceman to be killed in the Vietnam War.

24 May 1969 Warrant Officer Class 2 K. Payne, VC

Warrant Officer Class 2 K. Payne, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Ingham, Queensland, wins the Victoria Cross in Kontum Province.

26 May 1968 Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked

Fire Support Base Balmoral, just north of FSB Coral, was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. Three soldiers from 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, were killed and 14 wounded. Six enemy bodies were found.

27 May 1965 HMAS Sydney's first voyage to Vietnam

HMAS Sydney departs on first voyage to Vietnam with 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked.

28 May 1968 Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked for a second time

A second heavy assault on Fire Support Base Balmoral was driven off by combined arms – infantry, armour, artillery and air support. Forty-two enemy bodies found and seven prisoners taken.

28 May 1970 AATTV awarded United States Meritorious Citation

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam awarded United States Meritorious Citation.

31 May 1918 Monash Commands the Australian Corps

Lieutenant General Sir John Monash succeeds Birdwood as General Officer Commanding the Australian Corps.

31 May 1942 Japanese midget submarines raid Sydney Harbour

Of the three Japanese submarines that attacked Sydney Harbour, two were destroyed or disabled during the raid; the third disappeared and was located off Sydney's northern beaches by a group of amateur divers in November 2006. Little material damage was caused by the attack, but 21 sailors were killed when the depot ship HMAS Kuttabul was torpedoed.

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