

# Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc



## FSB - VIC

### AUTUMN EDITION ~ 2006



Hey guys, look what we got.

After much delay and a few anxious moments along the way, Museum's John Methvem OAM and his hard working team can now breathe easy with the Cobra finally arriving at its resting place ~ the Vietnam Veterans Museum, San Remo.

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*Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living*

## VVAA Vic State Branch Executive

<b>STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Robert (Bob) ELWORTHY
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Richard (Dick) CULLIFORD
<b>STATE VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Reg McMASTER JP
<b>STATE VICE PRESIDENT</b>	John OCKWELL
<b>STATE SECRETARY</b>	Len BARLOW
<b>STATE ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	Maurie BENSON
<b>STATE TREASURER</b>	Jim COGHLAN
<b>STATE ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>	Peter BRIGHT
<b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>	Martin RUDELBACH
<b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>	Jim SADDINGTON
<b>VVAA BRANCH HON. SOLICITOR</b>	Peter LIEFMAN
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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of your newly elected Victorian State Executive, I thank the membership for your support and confidence in us to administer the State Branch affairs on your behalf.

I want to thank the members who stood for State Branch office. Competition can only be a healthy thing for the Branch; similarly, I believe that orderly change at Sub-Branch levels also ensures that the State Branch as a whole remains revitalized.

To all outgoing executive and committee position holders across the state I extend my sincere thanks for your dedicated efforts on behalf of veterans.

Much has been said and written about issues at National which have had the potential to distract from our role-the welfare of our veterans and their families. I am pleased that Victoria has remained focused on the job at hand here, as evidenced by the very full agenda at Echuca. State Council desire that Victoria not become embroiled in the negative goings-on outside the state, which was clearly reinforced. I firmly believe that these issues are best addressed at National Council and your delegates will be going to Queensland in May armed with your clear directions on State voting for National Executive and our position on other issues. It is my hope, that with assistance and strong leadership from Victoria, that there will be a quick re-focusing of effort at the National level.

Since I have been involved at State Council level, I have seen strong, passionate and respectful debate, I have seen controversial issues raised and discussed and I have seen potentially divisive matters dealt with in a mature way. I have great faith in the ability of the Victorian Council, and through them, the membership of Victoria to get it right.

It is the intention that your executive be open and inclusive in our activities and supportive of Sub-Branch needs; we will seek and be guided exclusively by the direction given to us by the membership. In return I ask that all members treat our As-

sociation, and the dedicated workers therein with the respect they deserve: our internal business is just that, OUR BUSINESS.

I look forward to visiting sub-branches, and with members of your executive, to better get to know how we can work for and with you. If we can all answer, "Yes" to the question "*Is what I am about to say or do going to benefit a veteran?*" then we will not stray far from our goal-to help our mates.

A closing observation-our presence in Echuca created considerable community interest, and I am pleased to report that it is now almost certain that a new Sub-Branch will be established there.

Bob Elworthy



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## A NOTE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



This year has seen a slight but steady growth in membership of the Association in Victoria despite the closure of one of our sub-branches.

At State level we have further developed our relationship with the State Government. I believe that is significant step and one that we can maintain on an ongoing basis. The Victorian Veterans Council is about to be appointed. The VVC will have eleven members appointed by the Governor in Council on recommendation from the Premier. Among the objectives of the VVC are promoting wellbeing of all member of the Victorian ex-service community, commemorating those who have died in the performance of their duties, promoting the spirit of ANZAC. The VVC will also advise the Minister for Consumer Affairs on matters relating to the Patriotic Funds. VVAA Vic Branch is hoping to get at least one representative on the Council.

Recently we have seen some turmoil at National level with the resignation of the newly elected National President in October. In the interim, until May this year, Vice President, Ron Coxon, from South Australia has been appointed acting President. Victoria will support Ron in any way we can.

Some of you may be aware that I had a heart attack in November last year. This limited my availability for a few months but I am now back on deck and feeling well. Thank you to all those who sent good wishes. During the time I was incapacitated much of the workload fell on the two Vice Presidents, Bob Elworthy and Reg McMasters. I couldn't have wished for two better backstops. Credit should also go to Len Barlow our State Secretary and to Jim Coghlan the State Treasurer. In fact I am proud of the way the whole executive team responded and went about their business. Thanks guys.

In stepping down as State President I would like to congratulate your new President, Bob Elworthy on being elected. Bob is an intelligent and energetic bloke who will serve the VVAA well. I also think he has a very strong team around him. I wish them all well.

Thank you for having me as your State President. It is a great honour.

*Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living*



## A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

Firstly, let me congratulate all those elected at the recent State Congress, it was good to see so many candidates for positions, secondly, 22 from 24 Sub-Branches represented is a great result, well done folks, it shows that the VVAA Vic is strong and vibrant, something that was evident and indeed palpable in the meeting.

Many issues that were discussed are of vital importance to this Association's members and especially their children, enough emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of the study into our children's health, and we MUST push this issue with everything we have, there are form letters available for veterans and their partners to send to their local members (see the Sub-Branch Secretary), it's up to *you*.

Some disturbing information was received as well, Ex-wives of veterans having problems gaining support, abuse of the elderly and still no acceptable outcome for the Civilian Medical and Surgical Teams.

The news from the Museum regarding grants was great news and the report from Na-

tional VP, John Smith, was illuminating and insightful (a must read), as the President has pointed out on many occasions, this is our Museum and we need to be doing everything we can to support it.

Communication has improved out off sight over the past 12 months but I think it can be even better. If you have any problems or queries, please, e-mail or write to me and will sort the matters out. *It is not a problem for me to assist all of you, it's an honour.*

Vietnam Veterans Day planning is well under way with the committee (Peter Liefman, Jim Coghlan, Reg McMaster and Maurie Benson) doing great work, this year's commemoration should be in keeping with the significance of the occasion.

Sadly, John Deighton has announced his retirement and will leave on April 28, the Executive presented John with a plaque in appreciation of all his support to the Association over many years, he will be sadly missed.

It was good to see Dick Culliford back and in good spirits

after his recent health problems, despite his attempt to have been a Past National President (sorry Dick).

I look forward to a very productive 2006 and also to working with you all to resolve many of the problems facing us, we may be gaining some years, but let's not allow that to dull our fervour, remember the motto, Honour the Dead, But Fight Like Hell for The Living.

Take Care

Len Barlow



*Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living*

## A WORD FROM THE *TREASURER*



Welcome back to the New Year.

To all Treasurers, please take a large pat on the back. While I know I nagged you all a bit, at this stage we have over 1300 Members financial - which is a record. Having said that, don't get slack as

there is still a lot of work to be done.

The Audits are coming in slowly and I have had good feedback from the Treasurers over the changes we made.

Thanks to our retiring President Dick Culliford for his leadership of the State Team last year and his help along the way. This year I am looking forward to working with our new President, Bob Elworthy. Bob is a hard worker who will get the job done I'm sure.

Throughout this year I am looking forward to going back to "grass roots" and getting out there to visit Sub-Branches. We started that process 5

years ago but the wheels seem to have fallen off that process.

On the matter of our State Newsletter *FSB-Vic*, I would like you all to give Maurie your feedback and direction for what you would like to see produced.

The Newsletter process is costly for our State, which is why we need sponsors. If you have any ideas on that subject, please let us know.



## FROM THE *EDITOR*



Welcome all VVAA Vic Members and we hope you all enjoy reading *FSB-Vic*.

With our new Executive Team in place we go into production of the **Autumn 2006 *FSB-Vic*** as our 1st hard copy issue to all Members. Additionally, as we do at the moment, we will continue to post the Newsletter on the VVAA Website

Our role is production - your role is to let us know what you want to see in your Newsletter. Just get in touch with us is all we ask.

So, why another Newsletter?

This Newsletter completes the information chain National/State/Sub-Branches/Members.

National issues are produced in *Debrief*. Sub-Branch issues are produced in individual Newsletters and your State Newsletter seeks to fill the gap between.

For example, you can use the *Notice Board* for "Wanted" notices. We will provide items of interest/concern to Veterans regarding government policy and

benefits within Victoria. You will see issues relating to other Veteran organisations within the State.

It goes without saying that we need sponsorship to help defray costs, and to this end we welcome ideas and offers from our Members or the general public at large.

Contact details are listed in this Newsletter.

***Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living***

## **AGM ~ ECHUCA**

### **Feb 2006**

#### **Riverina Herald, Friday February 17th 2006**

#### **Vietnam veterans head to E chuca**

A contingent of Vietnam veterans will converge on Echuca late next week for the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia Victorian Branch annual conference.

The annual general meeting and state council meeting begins with a meet and greet session from 4pm at Echuca Workers' and Services Club next Friday, February 24.

Delegates get down to business from 8.30am the following morning, discussing, issues and policies concerning its veterans.

A-dinner will follow the conference at the Workers'.

About 60 delegates and partners are expected to be in Echuca for the conference, with non members welcome to join in.

State president Richard Culliford said Member

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

President – Richard Culliford, declared all positions on the State Executive vacant and called for Ray McCarthy (President, Noble Park) to conduct the elections – the results were:

State President	Bob Elworthy
State Vice President	Reg McMaster JP
State Vice President	John Ockwell
State Secretary	Len Barlow
State Treasurer	Jim Coghlan
State Assistant Secretary	Maurie Benson
State Assistant Treasurer/Membership Officer	Peter Bright

Complete Minutes have already been forwarded to Sub-Branches

for Murray Sharman Stone would open the conference.

“Although the association has no formal presence here, there are significant numbers of Vietnam veterans living in the Echuca area and we would be delighted to see them attend the conference and then perhaps look towards starting up their own local sub-branch,” Mr Culliford said.

“Some of the key issues in front of us include the continued erosion of Vietnam entitlements, an urgent need for a far-reaching government study into the health problems of our children, ensuring veterans continue to have access to adequate medical facilities and that carers who look after sick veterans are appropriately recognised and compensated for the wonderfiui work they do.

“It is our job to keep pressure on the government to make good its promise to look after veterans,” Mr Culliford said.

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## NEW MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Fighting for our veterans



#### Big job ahead:

New Minister for Veterans Affairs  
Bruce Bilison.

The Hon Bruce Bilison MP was appointed Minister for Veterans' Affairs in January 2006.

As Minister he oversees income support, compensation, care and commemoration programs for more than 400,000 veterans and their widows, widowers and dependants.

He is responsible for the Veterans' Affairs portfolio, including:

- ★ Department of Veterans' Affairs
- ★ Repatriation Commission
- ★ Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission
- ★ Office of Australian War Graves
- ★ Australian War Memorial
- ★ Veterans' Review Board
- ★ Repatriation Medical Authority
- ★ Specialist Medical Review Council

## LONG TAN BATTLEGROUND ON 2006 SPIRIT OF ANZAC TOUR

Ten Victorian high school students will tour important war sites in Vietnam and World War II sites in Singapore and Japan as part of the second annual Spirit of Anzac Prize.

Speaking at a reception for the Year 10 students and their parents, Premier Steve Bracks said the Spirit of Anzac Prize encouraged young Victorians to remember and honour war veterans and their contribution to the development of Australian values of courage, mateship, initiative, determination and sacrifice.

At the start of the tour, which will run from 14 to 29 April, the students will visit the Changi Chapel and museum and attend a commemoration ceremony at the Kranji War Cemetery where 1100 Australians are buried. From Singapore the group of seven girls and three boys will travel to Vietnam and Japan where they will be part of the 2006 Anzac Day commemoration.

In Vietnam the group plans to visit the site of the Battle of Long Tan, where in August 1966 a vastly outnumbered group of Australian soldiers showed courage and bravery under intense fire defending their base at Nui Dat. 18 Australians were killed in the battle, the largest number in any individual Vietnam battle. 245 Viet Cong were killed.

Two tour guides will be part of the trip – Neil Slaughter, a Vietnam veteran and member of the RSL state executive and Dr Ross Bastiaan, a Melbourne periodontist who has commemorated Australia's service history through the construction of more than 160 bronze plaques around the world in places including Kokoda, Changi and the Western Front. Two teachers will accompany the group as chaperones.

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# **ANZAC DAY 2006 ~ Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance**

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## VETS LOSE CONCESSIONS WITH AUSTRALIA POST

The attached is from the Australia Post website

### • New Pricing for eligible concession cardholders for Mail Redirection and Mail Holding Services

On 24 April 2006 Australia Post will be introducing a concession charge for *eligible concession cardholders* wanting to use Mail Redirection and Mail Holding Services. Previously, eligible concession cardholders have not been charged for these services.

Australia Post cites the need to remain profitable for these latest charges and says it has sought feedback from community groups that represent the needs of eligible concession cardholders in an effort to ensure the implementation of this change will not cause major hardship its customers.

### CHANGE TO PRICING

Similar to current offerings from many Government authorities and instrumentalities, from 24 April 2006 Australia Post will offer Mail Redirection and Mail Holding Services at a concession rate. The concession will be equal to a 50% discount off the current 'Private' household charge.

The table below shows the prices that you would be expecting to pay after 24 April 2006, for any new service taken out by an eligible concession cardholder:

<b>Mail Redirection - within Australia</b>	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	12 mths
Eligible Concession Cardholder*	\$5.50	\$11.50	\$17.00	\$33.00
<b>Mail Redirection - overseas</b>	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	12 mths
Eligible Concession Cardholder* <sup>^</sup> - Asia	\$31.50	\$90.50	\$175.00	\$350.00
Eligible Concession Cardholder* <sup>^</sup> - Rest of World	\$45.50	\$130.50	\$255.00	\$508.00

9/02/2006

<sup>^</sup> Charge includes 50% of redirection service fee + international postage charges.

Mail Hold Pricing applicable 24 April 2006

<b>Mail Holding</b>	<b>1st Week</b>	<b>Additional Weeks</b>
Eligible Concession Cardholder*	\$5.50	\$2.00

--- Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

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## **FEMALE VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROJECT**

### **PROJECT TITLE**

A qualitative investigation of the experiences of female war, peacemaking and peacekeeping veterans: Implications for reintegration and rehabilitation into the community. Supported by: Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS) & Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans' Association (APPVA)

### **BACKGROUND**

Victoria University has been funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to investigate the experiences and impact of war (post-Vietnam) and/or peacekeeping service on female veterans and the factors that assist their reintegration into their families and communities. The researchers will conduct confidential discussion groups with female veterans in Queensland, NSW and Victoria, as well as interview key military personnel and service providers for their perspectives on women's service and reintegration experiences.

### **BENEFITS**

The findings of the research will contribute new insights into women's service and reintegration experiences and the impact on their families and social networks. This new knowledge will inform community programs and support networks to better promote the health and wellbeing of women veterans.

### **RESEARCH TEAM**

This 15 month research project will be conducted by an experienced team of researchers from Victoria University on behalf of DVA. They will be supported by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from peak bodies, service and ex-service organisations, and from groups being targeted for this research.

### **RECRUITMENT: HOW YOU CAN HELP US**

The research team is seeking assistance to recruit women veterans to take part in a two hour confidential focus group discussion about their experiences and perceived effects and impacts of war, peacemaking and for peacekeeping service on the female veteran, her family and social networks, and their quality of life during reintegration. Those who are interested in participating are invited to contact the research team for further information. Participants will be selected according to diversity of experience of war/peacemaking/peacekeeping operations, age and period of service, as well as geographic proximity to a focus group venue in Queensland, NSW or Victoria (at nominated DVA sites). Some financial assistance is available for childcare and travel expenses, if required, on completion of the focus group session.

### **PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Personal details and any responses by participants that could identify them, will remain confidential to the research team and will not be passed on to OVA. Their participation will not in any way affect their pension, benefits or any health services that they are entitled to from OVA.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Alison Herron	Project Manager/Senior Research Assistant, Victoria University Tel: (03) 9919-1183 Email : <a href="mailto:alison.herron@vu.edu.au">alison.herron@vu.edu.au</a>
Dr Susan Feldman	Principal Investigator, Victoria University Tel: (03) 9362-0332
Dr Jane Fyfield	Chair of Steering Committee & Medical Advisor Health Strategy and Gerontology, DVA Tel: (03) 9284-6244

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## NEW VETERANS CENTRE FOR THE SURF COAST

**TORQUAY RSL Sub-Branch Inc ABN 59869926434 fl**

**1 Cliff Street Torquay 3228 Ph: (03) 5261 4225**

**All Correspondence Addressed To: THE SECRETARY, P.O BOX 69, TORQUAY 3228**

A new Surfcoast Regional Veterans' Centre has been established in Torquay and will operate in close relationship with the Torquay RSL Sub-Branch. Operating hours are 9:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Thursday. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help or for those needing pensions advice and assistance, contact Peter Thomas Ph: 0417 374 249.

The Centre has its own Committee of Management headed by newly appointed Chairman, Paul Copeland, who has been a leader in the Torquay RSL's pension and welfare section. Paul is also the National President of the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association and a member of the Torquay RSL Sub-Branch.

The Surfcoast Centre will assist Second World War veterans and those from Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. It will also help younger veterans and service people covered under the new Australian Defence Force (ADF) Compensation Act as well as providing advise about ADF Discharge procedures and entitlements

.....  
--- I've sure gotten old.! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. Fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet any more. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.  
.....

### **WANTED**

**Your State Office needs volunteers to assist running the day to day activities at Anzac House and to lessen the demands on the State Executive. It's not rocket science - you might just enjoy it!**

**If we had one person from each Metro Sub-Branch on the roster, the commitment would be lessened considerably.**

**Give the Secretary a call on 9655 5588**

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## **ABOUT YOUR STATE NEWSLETTER**

### ***FSB-Vic***

Last year saw the launch of *FSB-Vic, our State Newsletter*. We are now at edition No. 3 which is the 1st magazine style copy to issue to all Victorian VVAA Members. It is intended to continue this way to all Members on a tri-annual basis in April, August and December together with placing it on the VVAA Website [www.vvaavic.org.au](http://www.vvaavic.org.au) as is done at present.

Why another Newsletter? Why a State Newsletter?

- ★ It extends the information chain between National/State/Sub-Branche s/Members.
- ★ Information is spread state wide and promotes the “family” concept of VVAA Membership.
- ★ Designed for Members and Member’s use with Notice Board, Social Activities, veteran Issues, veteran contacts and any other issues held important by our Members.

Your State Executive Team needs Member and Sub-Branch input to continue *FSB-Vic* as a meaningful Newsletter across the State, and to achieve this we look to:-

- ◆ Sub-Branch and Member input.
- ◆ Sponsorship to offset cost of production ~ ask around your own area.
- ◆ Response from Members on how we best achieve our aims.

#### **MEMBERS’ HELP NEEDED**

**Read your Newsletter.**

**Give us your feedback.**

**Provide us with info/articles for others to see.**

**Tell us what you think - no matter what that is!**

**Contact: [editor@vvaavic.org.au](mailto:editor@vvaavic.org.au) or mail/phone VVAA State Office**

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## LIBRARY

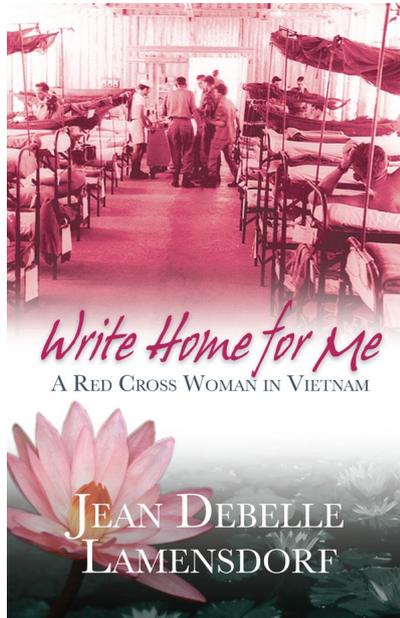
### Write Home for Me ~ A Red Cross Woman in Vietnam

Proudly published by Random House Australia in April 2006

By:  
Jean Debelle Lamensdorf

A rare and heartfelt memoir of life in a war zone, *Write Home for Me* is written with self-deprecating good humour, a dash of *M\*A\*S\*H* and an overwhelming generosity of spirit

Working as a journalist at the Adelaide *Advertiser* in 1966, Jean Debelle yearned to be involved in the biggest story of the decade—the Vietnam War. But only male journalists in Australia were being sent to cover the escalating conflict. Instead, she volunteered to work in Vietnam for the Red Cross to tend to the non-medical welfare of the sick and wounded ANZAC forces. Jean had planned to report on the war in spare moments - but there were none. For one year she lived in the spotlight: a young Australian woman among 5000 men.



This intimate personal account is told from the rare and compassionate perspective of a young woman living close to the battlefront. Jean tells of the resilience of the soldiers in the face of daily atrocities and of the international medical personnel fighting to save lives and to rebuild shattered bodies and minds. It is also the story of the Vietnamese, struggling to maintain not just their traditions but their very lives in the face of brutal hardship.

With infectious humour, Jean tells of striving to be like a sister

to the men when sex was in the very air they breathed. She experienced stark terror when she faced a crazed gunman, had a close call in a minefield and was caught in the midst of a Vietnamese skirmish. Jean also offers an unvarnished look at the Australians' worst battle in Vietnam, Long Tan, and their worst landmine disaster. With unblinking candour, she writes of the harsh realisation that after nine months in Vietnam she had grown cold to the unrelenting horror of war.

From diaries, letters and Red Cross reports, Jean Debelle Lamensdorf has researched and written a story not only of tragedy but also of hope and humour. It is a compelling adventure story — and one of love.

Trade paperback, 320 pages  
ISBN 1740513932

---It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.

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# LIBRARY

## ***SOCK IT TO 'EM, BABY*** **Forward Air Controller in Vietnam**

**Garry Cooper and Robert Hillier**

Garry Cooper is something of a legend in Australian military circles and is well-known to many Americans who served in Vietnam. A natural and brilliant pilot with a determination for perfection, he expects only perfection from himself. Conflict arose many times through his career when he did not experience perfection from the bureaucracy to which he was subjected. Now Robert Hillier tells Garry's tour of Vietnam story in full, hoping to earn him the recognition he deserves in his own country.

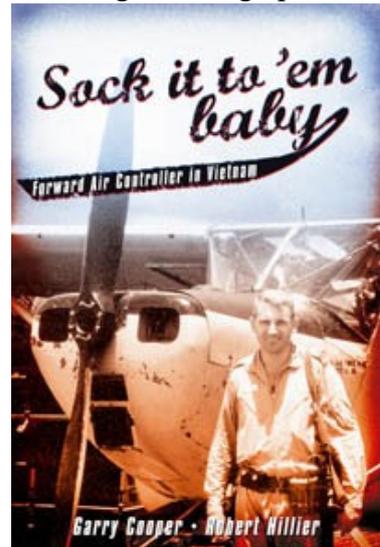
Garry arrived in Vietnam in 1968, just after the Tet Offensive, and was posted to the US Army 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as a forward air controller. His job was to fly at a low level in a small and slow plane, above enemy forces, to direct American artillery and aircraft to assist these forces. This was extremely dangerous work with a consequent high fatality rate, but he approached his assignments in a devoted and determined manner and soon became named a 'legend' by his American peers.

General Julian J Ewell, the Commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and author of the forward for *Sock it to 'Em Baby*, recommended Cooper for the Medal of Honour and the Distinguished Service Cross, the United State's highest awards. Unfortunately Australia was not allowing its personnel to receive US Awards during the Vietnam Conflict, and although Australian policy has since changed, the Australian government is still preventing Cooper from receiving these high profile awards.

The US however, for other actions and without reference to the Australian Government, has awarded Cooper the Silver Star, DFC, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal. The Vietnamese government awarded Cooper their Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and the Honour Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

Today, Cooper lives in retirement in Queensland, and has been made an honorary member of the various US Army units by the men whose lives he saved. *Sock it to 'Em, Baby* is the life story of this hero and colourful character.

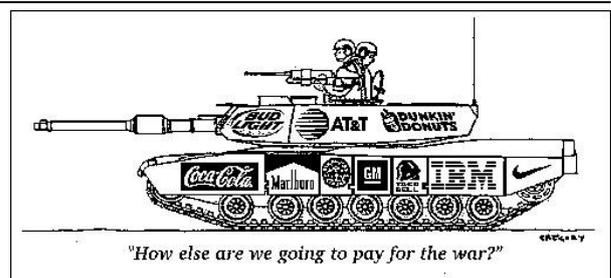
**Robert Hillier** served in the Royal Australian Navy during the Vietnam War. He has also worked as an engineer, and at the Stock Exchange in Melbourne. Robert resides in Victoria and is presently the treasurer of the Central Highlands Sub-branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.



Published by Allen & Unwin 5 May 2006 \$29.95pb ISBN 1741148499

**THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:**

1. You believe in Santa Clause.
2. You don't believe in Santa Clause
3. You are Santa Clause.
4. You look like Santa Clause.



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## PLEA TO FAMILY OF A LOST SOLDIER

This article appeared recently in the Melbourne Herald Sun newspaper and is reproduced here in the hope someone can help.

Friends of a lonely Vietnam Veteran who died of his war injuries desperately want to find his long lost family so they can put him to rest.

It is believed Pat Dwyer served with RAAF No.1 Op Support Unit in Vietnam from Dec 1970 to Mar 1971 and was wounded before returning home.



Separated from his wife and two children, he drifted around caravan parks, working a road grader before dying suddenly and alone in Wangaratta Hospital in 1997 at the age of 47. All he left behind was a little black phone book with some scribbled names and numbers, a diary and a poignant poem in which he told how war had changed him.

His only close friends at the time were Brad Dunn and Jacinta Harrison, who have been trying to contact his family since his death in 1997. "We rang all the numbers in his book, but they all came to dead ends. We followed every clue we had but eventually ran out of money to keep searching," Jacinta said.

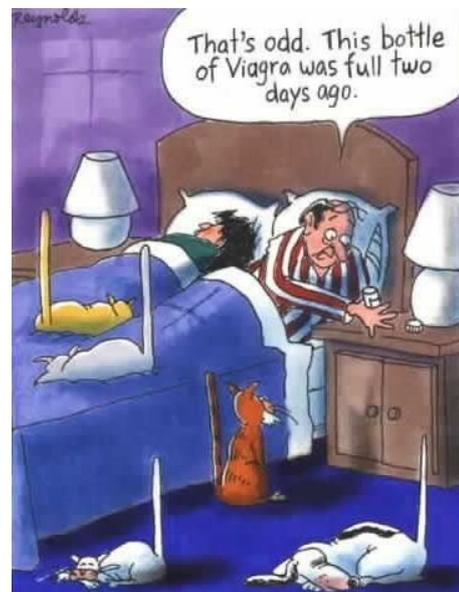
Brad and Jacinta met Pat in a caravan park in Violet Town. They became close friends after finding Pat alone in his caravan on Christmas Day.

"Brad and I just looked at each other and immediately invited him to have Christmas with us," Jacinta said. "He didn't speak about the war at all except to tell us he got hurt. "He talked very little about his family. He just told us that his marriage broke up because he had changed while in Vietnam." There are a few clues to Pat's past. His mother was Margaret and he once lived in Sunshine and in Albury/Wodonga. His ex-wife is Victoria or Vicki and they had two children.

Before his death Pat wrote a poem titled *Me and Him*, about his life before and after Vietnam. It included the lines:

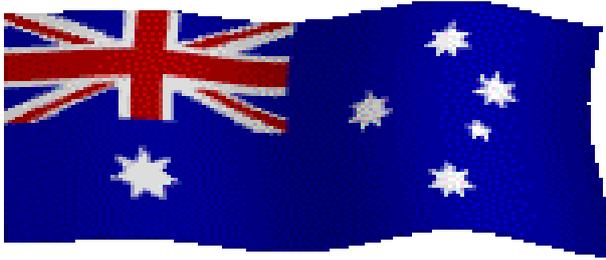
*The man I am and the man I was before  
I find it hard to understand the feeling from within  
It's so right to blame the things of what I did and saw  
For all the stupid things I did in such a futile war*

**Anyone with information can contact Jacinta on 0438 981 865.**



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## OUR FLAG



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG is the flag of the Commonwealth of Australia which was formed at the Federation of the States of Australia on 1st January 1901. The flag was chosen from 32823 entries to a competition initiated by the Commonwealth Government on 29th April 1901.

It was first flown on the dome of the Royal Exhibition Building, in Melbourne on 3/9/1901 at a public ceremony to name the winning design of the flag competition.

It was officially gazetted as the flag of Australia on 20/2/1903.

In 1908 the Commonwealth Government decided that a seven pointed star, symbolic of the 6 States and territories, should replace the 6 pointed star of the original design. This was officially gazetted on 22/5/1909. Our Rag has flown proudly as the chief symbol representing our great Australian Nation and ALL Australians — ever since.

There is a vocal minority who are wanting to change our Flag to one of their choosing. No valid reason is offered. Their focus is seemingly based on change for the sake of change.

Displayed below is the winning design of the 1901 flag competition together with the amended designs of 1903 and 1908.

As Veterans, Australians served and died under this Flag.



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## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2006

As this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam veterans across Australia are already well under way with preparations for remembrance ceremonies on the 18th August.

Arrangements for the VV Day Commemoration Day service this year at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne are progressing well with the following plans being formulated by the Organising Committee:

- \* Static display of a Section of APCs (M113s).
- \* Replica Long Tan Cross constructed by the builder of the original Cross.
- \* Huey Fly-Over.
- \* Celebrity singers.
- \* Community activities throughout Victorian municipalities.



\* Media coverage throughout the State informing the public of our plans for Vietnam Veterans Day 2006.

All VVAA Sub-Branched are invited to make an exception this year and attend the Melbourne Shrine with their Banners and Members.

Likewise, all Vietnam Veterans, their families and friends are also invited to come along and share the day.

Both Federal and State Governments are active in supporting Vietnam Veterans Day activities this year and will be taking active roles in gatherings across the country.

### VVAA MUSEUM

**The following is an extract from a Report by John P Smith, VVAA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE**

“As a result of my being appointed as the Museum Rep for the VVAA National Executive I visited the museum from 6<sup>th</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006. May I say that this is the first time that I have visited the museum although I have had a number of dealings with the mobile museum. My initial reaction was one of utter amazement at the eagerness and support shown by the Museum Sub Branch members especially their executive and volunteer guides.

The VVAA has a great asset in this museum and it has to be utilised and advertised. The ownership of this museum is vested in the VVAA National Council. This museum has the potential to be the greatest asset of the Vietnam Veteran Community. This museum and the proposed Memorial Gardens will become the spiritual home of Vietnam veterans and their families.”

The Museum’s “*Buy A Brick*” fundraising effort is an excellent way to support OUR Museum. Go to the Museum Website [www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org](http://www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org) or contact them direct on (03) 5678 5999.

Show your support and appreciation for all the hard work John Methven and his team are doing for us.

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## ICB Eligibility *tightened* by Infantry Corps

By Lt-Col Michael Long



REVISIONS have been made to the on awarding the Infantry Combat (ICB) to clarify eligibility issues.

Infantry Head of Corps Brig Chris said the revision was sparked increased operational tempo of the years.

“A lot of people have heard the odd angry shot in recent years - in Somalia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bougainville, Timor and many smaller operations, as well as recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said.

“As a result, there has been a lot of interest in entitlement to the ICB.”

Describing the purpose of the ICB and defining the strict exceptional provisions for the award to non-infantry corps members are the key improvements in the revised Army policy.

“The ICB recognises the combination of infantry training and service in an infantry unit on warlike operations.”

“That’s what Lt-Gen Tom Daly intended when he approved the ICB in 1970, and that’s the intent that the CA is preserving.” Brig Appleton said the revised policy maintained the basic principles for the ICB which have not changed since 1970,

“[The requirements] are: for service as infantryman, in an infantry posting, in an infantry Unit, and for a specified period (usually 90 days) on warlike operations.”

“These basic principles and [then CGS] Lt Gen Tom Daly’s intent are still the key factors when considering ICB applications for non-infantry corps members.”

The revised policy allows the award to non-infantry personnel who have met the requirements above, if their service has been indistinguishable from that of infantryman and if the individual has completed a course of infantry training approved by CO School of Infantry.

Unit COs are the approving authority for RA Infantry Members, but only the Infantry Head of Corps may consider awards of the ICB non-infantry personnel.

The policy revision also updates the approved operations list.

The only current operation leading to the award of the ICB is Op Bastille, in which the infantry platoon of Secdet is Baghdad entitled.

The entitlement to the ICB for infant service in East Timor ceased on August 18, 2003, when operations there we reclassified “non-warlike” to reflect the improving conditions.

*Courtesy of The Soldier’s Newspaper ‘Army’ Edition 1089—  
December 18, 2003*

## Notice Board

The *Notice Board* is intended to be similar to those you see in other Veteran publications and can include personal notices such as *Wanted to find*, *Reunions*, *get togethers*, *hobby related matters etc.*

*The VVAA Victoria Branch President retains the right to refuse acceptance of any notice that does not accord with the aims and objectives of the VVAA.*

*Please forward your notices to the State Office or Email to 'Editor VVAVIC@vvaavic.org.au'.*

**Congratulations** to Peter Liefman and Family on the arrival of Molly Mei, born Tuesday 10 January 2006 at 2100 Hrs. Molly is number 5 in the Liefman family and will no doubt add further joy and sleepless nights.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Looking for: Joseph Alan Tinker** of A Section 1 Topo Survey Troop SVN Oct 1970 > Oct 1971. Anyone with info please contact Ed Jones GLV Sub-Branch (03) 5149 7479.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Lost friend

I am trying to locate members of Australian Advisor Team 66 who served in Viet Nam from about 1968-1971. The reason being, I had a friend by the name of Le Ky Xuan who was a South Vietnamese staff sergeant and I lost contact with him. He had also worked with the American 9th Infantry Division. If you could help me with this matter or have another address I can get in contact with I would appreciate it.

My e-mail address is [ctommyray@fuse.net](mailto:ctommyray@fuse.net) or [ctommyray@yahoo.com](mailto:ctommyray@yahoo.com). Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Your friend, Tom Campbell 9/02/2006

\*\*\*\*\*

### Looking for:

**Mick McGuire**, originally from Lismore, NSW.

Contact Barney Clark (07) 4069 5340 or email [cooktownearthmoving@bigpond.com](mailto:cooktownearthmoving@bigpond.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### CORAL/BALMORAL DINNER DANCE Noble Park RSL 6<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Noble Park VVAA Sub-Branch is looking for material to place on DVD to be shown at their Coral/Balmoral Dinner Dance to be held at the Noble Park RSL.

*PHOTOS -SLIDES -MOVIES -STORIES ETC*

Anyone able to contribute should **contact:**

**John Meehan or Bob Wilson at Noble Park VVAA/RSL on 9548 0766.**

Suggestions for what to do with the DVD after their big night is up for grabs – all suggestions welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Looking for:

14381 **Kenneth Richard RYAN**, RA Sigs Served 7 RAR SVN 70/71 as Capt RSO.

Anyone knowing his whereabouts please ask him to contact me at the address/number below.

Peter Thorne  
79 Narangba Road KALLANGUR QLD 4503  
Phone: 07 32854823 Mobile 0409 633 353

104 National Reunion 2006

<http://2006.au104.org>

mailto: [reunion2006@au104.org](mailto:reunion2006@au104.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Looking for:

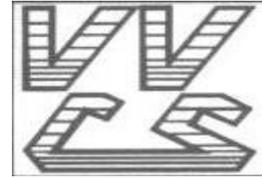
**Donald Arthur McKenzie** who served in 104 Sig Sqn, SVN 1968/69.

Anyone with information about Donald, please contact fellow Sig Alister Campbell at email [weneil@bigpond.com](mailto:weneil@bigpond.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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# VVCS



## Group Programmes

Most group programmes are now offered in two formats. You can access one-day introductory workshops on topics such as retirement and managing anger and aggression or enrol in an in-depth weekly programmes that will enable you to develop and practice new skills over a longer period of time.

### Residential Lifestyle

This programme is a 6-day residential and will cover strategies to improve your lifestyle and to assist you cope better with stress. It will include relaxation and stress management; practical advice on health and diet; strategies to identify and manage anger; problem-solving and communication skills.

### Early Retirement

This programme is available for veterans who have retired or are facing early retirement. It explores attitudes to work and retirement, the feelings of stress and loss often associated with retiring and teaches skills to help you cope with the transition from the routine and structure of work to retirement. The programme is conducted weekly, and extends over ten (10) two-hourly sessions.

### Doing it Differently

This programme is designed for veterans who experience their anger and/or violent behaviour as a problem. Topics will include triggers to anger and/or violent behaviour and strategies to prevent this behaviour and its consequences. The programme is conducted weekly over ten (10) two-hourly sessions and fortnightly over five (5) fortnightly two hourly sessions.

### Heart Health

This 12-month education and exercise Programme for Vietnam Veterans aims to promote health and well-being as well as social interaction. Information Session will be offered in the following locations:

### Controlled Drinking

This programme is designed for veterans who are experiencing problems with alcohol and want to cut down their drinking to improve their health and quality of life. You will learn the principles of controlled drinking and how to reduce levels of alcohol consumption. The programme is conducted weekly over ten (10) two-hourly sessions.

### Partners' Self-Care Programme

This programme is offered to partners of veterans of all conflicts and peacekeeping missions. It encourages sharing of experiences and mutual support, and teaches partners ways to take care of their own psychological and physical health. The programme is conducted weekly and extends over ten (10) two hourly sessions.

### Sons & Daughters Lifeskills

these three-hour information and discussion forums are offered throughout the state and cover topics such as:

- Understanding your family context
- Stress Management

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# VVCS cont'd

Assertiveness  
Skills for managing life more positively  
Sons and daughters will be surveyed before finalising topics for a particular region.

## Sons & Daughters Anger Management

This programme is designed for sons and daughters of veterans who experience their anger and/or aggressive behaviour as a problem. The programme is offered as a one-day workshop and an in depth 8-week programme.

## ASIST

This two-day workshop is designed for veterans, their partner and children to help them identify and deal with people who are at risk of suicide. It presents information on how to talk to someone who is thinking of suicide, how to access help for them and how to look after yourself while providing them with support.

### Register for community sessions throughout Victoria by calling the VVCS group coordinator

The groups listed above do not cover all the regions in Victoria. If you or your family identify a particular programme needed in your region, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our utmost to provide additional groups. Please note that groups require minimum numbers for them to be effective. If numbers are too low, the programme may be postponed or not offered.

**Register your interest by calling VVCS on 9221 0515 or 1800 011 046 or by filling in the group registration form below and returning it to:**

*Group Programme Administrative Officer,  
VVCS, 290 Burwood Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122*

*Programme Name:.....*  
*Area:.....*  
*Starting on:.....*  
*Name: .....*  
*Date of Birth:.....*  
*Address: .....*  
*.....*  
*Post Code:.....*  
*Phone .....*  
 If Veteran - please provide Service Number:.....  
 For Partner / children please provide Veteran's name:.....

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 PO Box 318 San Remo 3925  
 e-mail: secretary@museum.vvaavic.org.au

## VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

Phone (03) 5678 5999 Fax: (03) 5678 5995  
 57 Phillip Island Road SAN REMO 3925  
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 Home Page: www.vietnamvetmuseum.org

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 Secretary: Geoff Young Ph/Fax: (03) 9762 2722 Mob: 0418 345 547  
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 e-mail: secretary@outereasternmelbourne.vvaavic.org.au

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 Secretary: Rick HOLMES (03) 9317 7304  
 PO Box 462 ASCOT VALE VIC 3032  
 e-mail: secretary@raaf.vvaavic.org.au

\*\*\*\*\*

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364 York Street SALE VIC 3850  
 (03) 5144 1643 Mobile: 0408 448 280  
 e-mail: kevinhunter@iprimus.com.au

## VVAA Education Team Coordinator: Phil WHITE

14 Sunnyside Road MOUNT WAVERLEY VIC 3149  
 (03) 9544 7837 Mobile: 0412 592 915  
 e-mail: pwhite48@vtown.com.au  
 http://home.vicnet.net.au/~vvaeduc/

## Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service

300 La Trobe Street Melbourne 3000  
 (03) 9221 0515 (02) 9635 9733 Sydney  
 Toll Free: 1800 011 046 - www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs/vvcs.htm

## INTERNATIONAL & HEADQUARTERS

Contact Details as for State Secretary

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 e-mail: secretary@murrayborder.vvaavic.org.au

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 Secretary: Russ MITTEN (03) 5382 1491 Mob: 0419 539 169  
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# AGM ~ ECHUCA



Retiring President Richard Culliford with xxx and new State President Robert Elworthy



The scene of the "crime". Good venue and excellent service. We were all made very welcome.

The girls all ready for a big week-end in Echuca. What better company could we have



had to keep us on the straight and narrow!!

"Review Meeting"!!  
No prizes for putting names to faces.



The *DViets* - Diamond Valley Sub-Branch Members who hosted the week-end in Echuca with a Banner that we hope to see more of in the near future. Well done boys for an excellent AGM in Echuca. Like you, we all look forward to an Echuca-Moama VVAA Sub-Branch opening soon.



Another "Review Meeting"!!

*Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living*