

S N A F U

THE VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH INC



VOLUME 14

ISSUE 4.

JULY

AUGUST

2016

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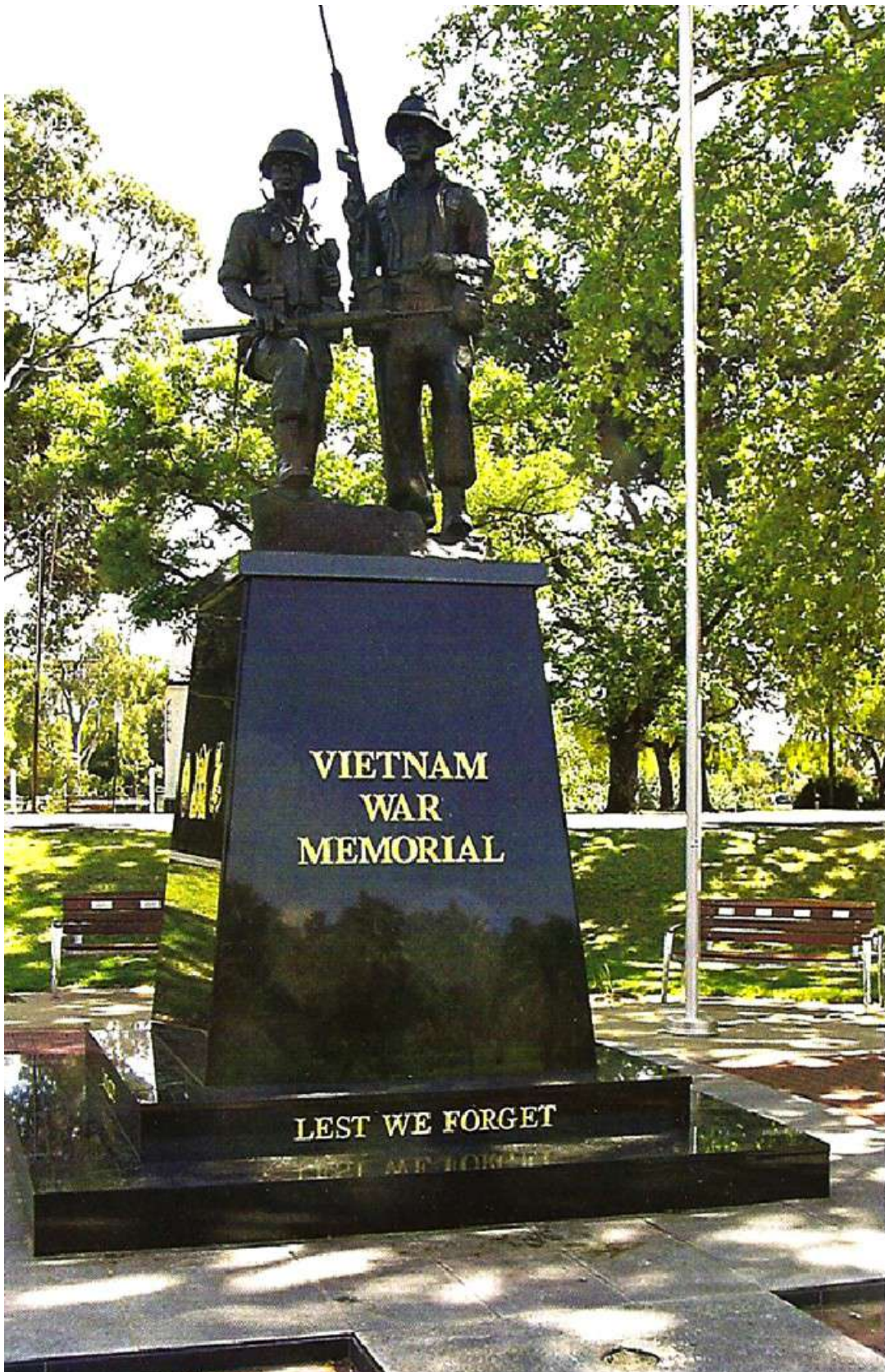
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Printed by Cove Print—182 Brighton Rd, Somerton Park, phone 08 8376 6676

ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS

1000h—1500h MONDAY to THURSDAY

Patron

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 Warradale SA 5046

Eyre Peninsula
 Port Lincoln RSL

Yorke Peninsula
 Chris Soar (Bublacowie) W

Executive Committee

Acting President: Mal Thiele JP
 Acting Vice President: Bob Ellis OAM
 Secretary: George Craig
 Treasurer: Robin Carbins

School Visits
 Bob Ellis OAM
 Peter Haran
 Ron List

Committee Members

Doc Ballantyne Phil Lambert
 Kim Brumfield JP Chris Norman
 Butch Daly JP Dee O'Brien
 Bill Denny AM BM Evelyn Pitt
 Fay Ellis Peter Rogers

Welfare Officers/ Hospital Visits

Dave Harding (Gawler) North
 Phil Lambert South and country

Padre

Malcolm Thomas OAM

Reception Officers

Monday: Brenton Myall
 Tuesday: Ziggy Przedworski
 Wednesday: Phil Lambert, Mal Thiele JP
 Thursday: Keith Tainsh, Karl Schwung

Pension Officers and Advocates

John Gillman PO/A/W/MRCA
 Jim Leslie PO/W/MRCA
 Rick Wylie PO/W
 Alan Hook PO/W/MRCA/AAT
 war widow
 Craig Mitchell A

Committee meetings

Held on the Wednesday before the BBQ.
BBQ: Second Friday of each month

SNAFU Editor

James Woite

Email all correspondence to

editorofsnafu@gmail.com

Key-

PO = Pension Officer (VEA)
 W = Welfare
 A = Advocate
 MRCA = Military Rehab Compensation Act
 AAT = Administration Appeals Tribunal

Broken Hill

Des Kennedy (RSL) PO: 0412 458 054

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CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION WISH
TO CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNOR AND OUR PATRON,
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE HIEU VAN LE AC
FOR BEING AWARDED
A COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL
DIVISION.

HIS EXCELLENCY RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR HIS
“eminent service to the people of South Australia,
to the development of cultural and economic links with Australia’s near
neighbours,
to the advancement of multicultural inclusion, and as a supporter of the
arts and education.”

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last magazine we have had a number of members on the sick list and rather than miss someone I will just wish you all a speedy recovery and hope to see you at Warradale in the near future.

Coral and Balmoral has come and gone. My heartfelt congratulations go to Bob Ellis and Marg Culley for all their hard work organising everything for the day. It was a great service, well attended by dignitaries including His Excellency the Governor. The addition of students from Sacred Heart College was a great initiative and many favourable comments were received about them and their involvement in the ceremony.

A meeting of the National Executive of the Federation was held in Queensland and attended by Bob Ellis and Robin Carbins. As a result of that meeting Bob Ellis has been elected Vice President of the National body. The National office continues to pursue and sort out problems emanating from the newly proposed Advocacy Training and Development Program.

We are in the process of applying for a Limited Club Licence. This will save us applying for one off licences for monthly BBQs and other functions and save the Club some money in the long run.

As you are no doubt aware Diona are utilising part of our car park whilst a gas mains update is occurring on Morphet Road. This will continue for approximately three months. A lot of work is being done at Camp Andrew Russell by Bob Haslett and Ken Chester and they continue to elicit all sorts of materials from people for use at Alawoona. You are doing a great job guys keep up the great work.

With the exodus of members heading north for the winter we are experiencing problems manning the office. Any person able to help out or willing to be trained to man the office is asked to contact Keith Tainsh at Warradale or by ringing him on a Thursday at the office.

Thank you to the merry bunch of helpers who helped out at the Bunning's BBQ. They were Doc Ballantyne for the pre-organisation and on the day Bob and Fay Ellis, Marg Culley, Bob Haslett, Robin Carbins, George Craig, Rick Wylie, Mike Hainsworth, Murray Norton and I.

The possibility of Solar Panels for Warradale is also being pursued by the committee. I will relate more about this as the matter progresses.

Many thanks to John "Grumpy" Hough who did a lot of the "leg work" and the arrangements for the late Noel McIntyre's funeral before going into hospital for his own treatment. Padre Malcolm Thomas conducted the service in the Chapel and at the gravesite. The funeral was attended by approximately 30 people and was a fitting farewell to Noel. Thank you to all who attended and helped on the day.

Don't forget our 21st birthday function, the "Silly Night", on 25th October, 2016; tickets are on sale at the office. This night is being held as part of Veterans Health Week in line with their "social inclusion" theme.

The AGM will be held on Sunday, 18th September, 2016 at 11.00 am. Nominations and submissions must be submitted by no later than, 8th August, 2016. More information along with nomination forms should be found later in this publication.

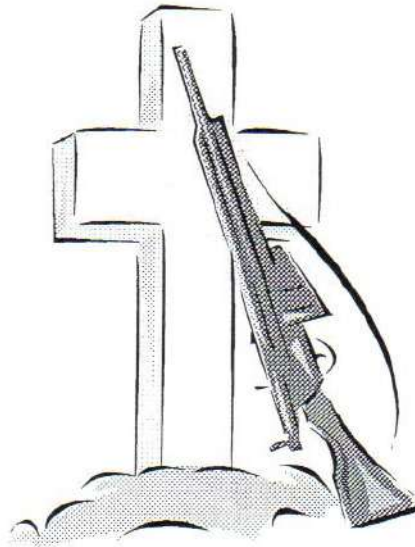
I myself will be absent from 4th July to approximately 12th September, 2016. Bob Ellis will be holding the chair during my absence. I look forward to catching up with you all on my return.

Mal Thiele
Acting President

VALE

NOEL ANTHONY MCINTYRE
Royal Australian Army Ordinance Corps

FRANK ROBERTS



**VVFSA 21ST Birthday
Celebration**

Saturday 29th October 2016

At 7.30pm

Silly Night

Let's look ridiculous

Prizes for Best Costumes

Door Prize

Entry Fee "A Ridiculous price of \$5.00 pp"

Tickets available from: The office as of

13th May 2016

Max 100 tickets

IMPORTANT NOTICE

VVF – AGM

at the clubrooms

11am

18th September 2016

Positions becoming vacant,

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 8th August 2016

VICE PRESIDENT (two years)

SECRETARY (two year)

10 COMMITTEE MEMBERS (one year)

Other positions to be filled

Fundraising (Outside BBQ) Co-ordinator

Grants Officer

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP KEEP THE FEDERATION STRONG.

It's over to you, our members.

Notices of Motion to be with the Secretary by the 8th August

OLD CHRISTMAS AND GREETING CARDS WANTED

To help Barbara help us she has asked that if any Members have any old CHRISTMAS CARDS could they please leave them in a parcel at the VVF office "Marked Bruce Mitchell" and I will collect them for her. We only need the Card FRONTS. Other greeting card fronts will be gratefully accepted.

A REMINDER

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 1500hrs

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE TO REMEMBER THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN
AT THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL ON TORRENS PARADE GROUND
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND
There is free parking on the Parade Grounds**

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

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The Inadequacy of TPI and other Veterans' Disability Pensions

Some thoughts.

The TPI Pension's journey to full fair indexation

In 1997 when other government pensions (Age/Service/War Widows etc) were given 'fair' indexation, the TPI and other veterans' disability pensions (except the Invalidity Service Pension) were left out.

Then followed ten years of the 'fair go' campaign.

In 2003 the Clarke enquiry reported. Part of its task was to look at restructuring the TPI pension.

Nothing happened to the TPI pension as a result of the Clarke enquiry. It had been nobbled by a requirement that it be cost neutral so it was forced to recommend that its package of reforms be financed by the pension ceasing at age 65. That was not acceptable to the veteran community. So the issue was dropped.

Meanwhile, the 'fair go' campaign won concessions gradually: a \$50 catch up, a part 'fair' indexation, then in 2008 full 'fair' indexation with some catch up increases included. The full 'fair' indexation was precipitated by Alan Griffin, the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, including it in Labor's 2007 electoral platform. An auction between Labor and Coalition followed.

That fair indexation was under threat with the present government intending to downgrade it to its former unfair status; an intention thwarted by an uncooperative Senate.

The Harmer Review excluded veterans' disability pensions

The Harmer Review was established to report on the adequacy of government pensions.

An assurance was given by the Treasurer, Hon Wayne Swan, that the TPI and General Rate disability pensions would be included in the review.

In the event, they were not included.

The Review found that the Couples rate of the Service/Age pension was adequate but that the Single rate was not a high enough percentage of the Couples rate.

Consequently, the Single rate was raised from 64 to 66.31 per cent of the Couples rate.

The Couples rate became the benchmark not being allowed to fall below 41.76 per cent of

MTAWE.

As it happens, that meant that the Single rate does not fall below 27.7 per cent of MTAWE, an increase of some 10 per cent from the previous figure of 25 per cent.

The TPI and General Rate are 'single' based pensions.

They are, we strongly believe, worthy of a similar increase.

Indeed, we believe that had these pensions been included for consideration in the Hamer Review, a similar increase would have been recommended.

Peter Thornton's solution

Peter's analysis is impressive.

I am not expert enough with MRCA to myself comment on its complexities; I would have to get one of our advocates to look into that.

But I can make some general comments.

Peter points out that that government Repatriation outlays are diminishing because a large number of WWII veterans are dying annually. There is therefore room for injustices to be remedied without increasing the Repatriation budget.

But in claiming the TPI pension is inadequate, Peter does not mention the Service Pension.

Governments tend to see the TPI and Invalidity Service Pension in tandem because TPI pensioners (with 'qualifying service') are automatically eligible for the Invalidity Service Pension. Governments point out that a TPI pensioner without other income gets the full Invalidity Service Pension of \$873 a fortnight for Singles and \$658.70 a fortnight for each member of a couple. Governments and DVA tend to quote totals of TPI and Service Pension of about \$2,214.50 a fortnight for singles and about \$2,657.50 a fortnight for couples.

The average wage as measured by Male Total Average Earnings (MTAWE) is \$2,750 per fortnight.

These figures were constantly thrown in our faces when we were arguing for the TPI pension to be fairly indexed. The Minister at one time argued on Television that TPIs were better paid than some of the staff in her office.

Pointing out that not all TPIs received the full or even any Service Pension was answered with the observation that those missing out did so because they were financially too well off.

Of course, this argument is simplistic for many reasons; nevertheless it was made and would be made again.

Peter's argument is that only part of the TPI Pension should be taken into account when assessing its adequacy because only part of it should be seen as 'income support', the other part being compensation for 'pain and suffering'. His justification is the 2008 nominal splitting of the TPI

Pension into 'compensation' (100% of the General Rate) and 'income support' (the remainder) to calculate improved indexation of the 'income support' element. The nominal splitting, it should be noted, was done only for this purpose and only in the part of the Act dealing with indexation. The main definition of the TPI remained unchanged and remains unchanged today.

There is danger in calling for the TPI to be considered in these two parts.

Presently the TPI Pension, unlike any other government pension, is not means tested or taxed. Should it be split, it would be open to the claim the 'income support' element should be means tested when considering eligibility for the Service Pension as it is under MRCA.

There might even be a call for the 'income support' element to be subject to tax.

With the 'income support' element increased to equal the Minimum Wage, as Peter is advocating, there is little doubt the Department of Finance and Treasury would jump at the chance to bring the TPI Pension in line with other government pensions.

The TPI pension is a valuable (and strange) means-test and tax free hybrid. We should call for any changes to it with great care.

The 2002 Clarke Enquiry saw the base rate TPI pension itself as roughly adequate. But he saw TPI pensioners, especially young TPI pensioners, as requiring additional help at certain stages of their lives.

In particular, the Clarke Review recognised that the cost of raising and educating children and buying a house were not adequately covered by the existing TPI pension package.

So Clarke identified add-ons for certain periods and certain circumstances. These were:

- 20% of the veteran's general rate pension for each student child.
- spouse's wage earned from actual work not means-tested;
- veteran's wage from the allowable 8 hours work not means-tested for up to 25% of the average wage;
- the gold card;
- VCES;
- a subsidy for private health insurance cover for the veteran's family (in compensation for the veteran himself being covered by the Gold Card);
- improved carers allowance

The new benefits: means-test-free wages, student children's allowance, private health subsidy and somehow helping with the purchase of a family house, are imaginative responses to the substantial financial difficulties TPI families face.

By approaching the inadequacies of the TPI Pension in this way, the Pension can remain undisturbed and not vulnerable to Department of Finance and Treasury dabbling.

Such arguments for a better deal for TPIs is probably more persuasive because inadequacies are specifically identified and are backed by the Clarke Review.



Vets on Air brings you news within our veteran community and current events along with music requests. The program is broadcast via the world wide web to all including our serving overseas forces as well as nationally and internationally i.e. Germany and England. It is well received with many positive comments and requests from the forces and other veterans emailed to the program.

Messages to our overseas forces can be emailed to : info@coastfm.com.au (Subject line: Vets On Air).

These messages will be inserted into our broadcast and we are sure, will be a great moral boost for our service men and women serving overseas. If you can't pick up 88.7 Coast FM on your radio, fire up the computer and bring up the website, www.coastfm.com.au and activate radio reception, 6pm - 8pm (Adelaide time) every Tuesday.

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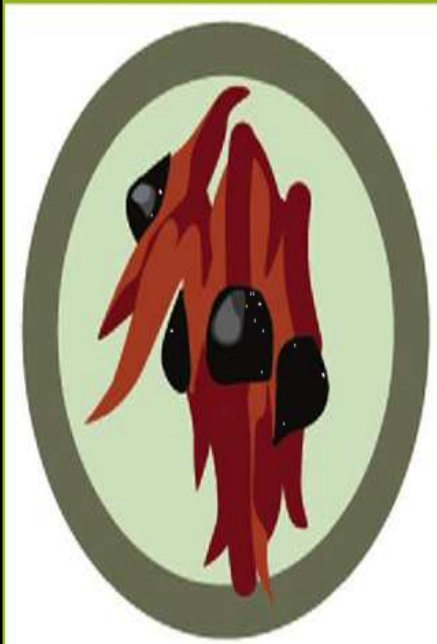
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MYTHS & LEGENDS CONT...

3. “The Nashos had it easier than the Regs”

The study measured the potential for combat exposure in several different ways, from interviews with the diggers using an American questionnaire and from Army sources. Both showed that the average level of exposure was indeed slightly higher for Regs than for Nasho's, but looking at the extent of the exposure showed that Regs and Nasho's together had very similar risks of high intense combat, but that Nasho's had slightly more who experienced low levels.

But it's not just direct combat that hurts. When you look at the rate of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental disorders in Regs and Nasho's, there is absolutely no difference. This means that you don't need lots of direct combat or be a Regular enlistee to be vulnerable to PTSD and depression. Eight months in a war zone alone will do it for you, whether you were a Nasho or a Reg. Sometimes, it can only take one day.

4. “The blokes who came home by sea have less PTSD”.

This was a common myth heard around the Dept of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and military senior ranks for some time; that a nice sea voyage home, fuelled by lots of beer, would leave PTSD behind, much like the line of cans that floated behind the ‘Vung Tau Ferry’ on the return trip. Controversy raged and was fed by the image of men fighting in the jungle one day, and the next finding themselves discharged at the airport and alone late at night on the way home.

But when I looked at the different rates of PTSD for those who came home by sea and by air, there was absolutely no difference. That doesn't mean that the homecoming is not important – our research clearly shows it was important to veterans' later adjustment, particularly in the weeks and months after return to Australia (RTA), when they were reluctant to talk about their experiences, bottling them up, hitting the deck when a car backfired, and then hitting the booze, in an atmosphere of government neglect and hysterical media opposition.

From a humanist point of view, return to Australia by a leisurely means is surely a good thing for unit cohesion, for morale, and so forth, but it has no direct bearing on the issue of protective factors for PTSD and other conditions.

*“Reprinted with the kind permission of
Dr Brian O'Toole
Director
Vietnam Veterans Family Health Study”*

MYTHS & LEGENDS CONT...

5. “Just get over it, son; it’ll get easier as you get older”.

Population evidence shows that the prevalence of most mental disorders actually reduces as people age – older people have better overall mental health, except for the dementing disorders, of course. The ages of 15-25 are dangerous for schizophrenia and the psychotic disorders, and the ages of 35-55 are dangerous for anxiety and depression, with the peak age of suicide in men occurring in their mid-50s. In my study, at Wave 1 the veterans were aged between 39 and 73, with an average age of 46, and at wave 2 the spread was 46 to 87, with an average age of 60. We would expect that the prevalence of psychological disorders would decrease with time, but that is not what was found. The veterans had many times higher rates of depression and anxiety than expected based on population figures. Although it is a rare condition, imagine rates of recurrent, severe, chronic depression at literally 40 times higher, not just 40% higher, than for the same age groups in the Australian population. And this is 3 decades after the war.

6. “You didn’t fight in a real war”.

How many Vietnam veterans heard this, just before they were chunked out of an RSL? It comes from the old view of what types of activity occur in a war that sees army upon army, as occurred in previous conflicts.

American studies of World War II have shown that only about 15% of soldiers actually fired their weapon; in the American Civil War they found flintlock rifles on battlefields that had been muzzle-loaded up to 8 times but not fired, because of reluctance on the part of often very young combatants. Anecdotes about war often repeat the idea of “95% sheer boredom and 5% sheer terror” that often characterised former conflicts. But Vietnam was different. In Vietnam we found that less than one-quarter of the veterans did not fire their weapon, and 17% reported firing a dozen times or more. This alone distinguishes Vietnam from other conflicts.

Vietnam was a war without fronts, where non-combatants could easily become targets, where the friendly local by day could become a most unfriendly cat in black pyjamas by night, where you could get into trouble walking down the wrong alley in town. It was a conflict of counter insurgency, fought among a civilian population, all the time on TV. The military historian, (Major) McNeill, wrote that Vietnam placed Australian men into longer periods of risk of contact with the enemy than at any time in Australia’s history since Gallipoli.

Scientists are beginning to untangle the causes of PTSD and other war-related disorders by looking at the environmental assaults experienced by combatants. The obvious ones – direct combat, being wounded, etc – do not completely explain the rates of PTSD, particularly among non-combatants. This issue also arose with the Australian Gulf War study, conducted at the behest of DVA, that showed that about 15% of Gulf War veterans qualified for a diagnosis of PTSD, yet there was not a shot fired by or against the Aussies.

MYTHS & LEGENDS CONT...

Being trapped below the water line is a major fear for Navy personnel. The concept of “malevolent environment” is becoming heard these days, to describe non combat-related mental health conditions that can arise from just being present in a war zone.

It is probably impossible, or at least unsatisfactory, to try and compare wars – but you can extrapolate. From what we know about Vietnam and subsequent conflicts, the veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea, and other conflicts will have had similar rates of psychological problems as a result of their war service. We can extrapolate that the peacekeepers in nasty places like Rwanda would have similar rates of reactions to their experiences and require the same levels of support. The same goes for the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres, which certainly qualify for the soubriquet of “malevolent environments” and which can be expected to result in similar levels of psychological problems after RTA.

All wars and conflicts are traumatic and nobody’s war is more traumatic or less traumatic than anyone else’s war; the same level of human suffering can be expected after any military conflict.



Weapons cache found by D company, 9RA

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Early in 2016 Gloria and I were having a pleasant coffee with our neighbour, Barbara.

During the discussion, the subject of War Service came up and my Army Service was part of the conversation. Barbara questioned me some more and discovered that I was a member of the V.V.F. She asked me about fundraising and I explained that we raise funds with Sausage Sizzles, Christmas Gift Wrapping and the personal efforts of members. We also have been fortunate to receive Grants from various Government Instrumentalities.

Barbara then explained that one of her hobbies is to make Greeting Cards and to donate the cards to various organisations to raise funds. Her association with an organisation had recently ended and she asked if the V.V.F. would be interested in having her donate cards to assist with our fundraising.

I expressed my gratitude at her generous offer and approached the committee who agreed to accept Barbara's fantastic offer. We have had a box of Greeting Cards on the bar for several months and I am pleased to report that 85% have been sold and the box will be topped up by the July BBQ. Recently I visited Barbara to collect some more greeting cards when she asked me about Christmas Cards. Once again the committee agreed to have these wonderful handmade cards available for Members to purchase from August.

Barbara has been very busy making Christmas Cards. She has asked to pass on her gratitude to the ladies who have donated some wonderful supplies of card making material, which they no longer needed. Thanks also to members who have donated cards. Please keep them coming. She was ecstatic with what she received.

Please consider purchasing your Christmas from the VVF to assist in fundraising and support Barbara for her Very Generous offer.

Bruce Mitchell



SOCIAL GROUPS

Social groups of the Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australia Inc.

Embroidery and Sewing Group	Monday 10.00am - 3.00pm
Quilting Group	Tuesday 10.00am - 3.00pm
Gem Vets	2nd and 4th Tuesday every month 10.00am - 3.00pm
VCC&ORG	Monday after the VVF BBQ 10 am
Lead Light/Glass Fusion	Wednesday 1.00pm - 3.00pm
WACAS (We All Care and Support)	Social outings for partners - contact Wendy 0400 570016
Federation monthly BBQ	2nd Friday of each month/cost \$8.00 begins at 11.30am

OR, RING THE VVF OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

THE WINNER

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost,
For out in the world you find
Success begins with a fellow's will-
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are;
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You can ever win the prize.

For many a race is lost
Before ever a step is run;
And many a coward fails
Before ever his work's begun.

Think big and your deeds will grow;
Think small and you'll fall behind;
Think that you can and you will-
It's all in the state of mind.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the fellow who thinks he can.

Leadlight Group

An update on our Leadlight/Glass Fusion group

Wayne has nearly finished his leadlight clock and has started on a new project of a medieval dragon window which will be interesting watching it's progress.

John's mosaic clock that he has made for his daughter is nearly finished and he is just waiting for the movement to arrive as is Wayne for his Leadlight clock.

Butch hasn't been very well and has had a stint in hospital but is slowly improving so hopefully he will be back with us in no time.

We are firing the kiln most weeks and some interesting pieces of jewellery are still being created.

If you would like to learn a new hobby and enjoy an afternoon out with a friendly bunch of people please come and join us on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm, we will make you welcome.

Including Glass Fusion

WACAS ~ COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY 16th AUGUST
BAROSSA VALLEY BUS TRIP ~
SIGHTSEEING AND LUNCH - 9.00am to
5.00pm ~ **LADIES ONLY**

FRIDAY 19th AUGUST
GAWLER TO GOOLWA BUS TRIP TO HAVE
LUNCH WITH THE SOUTH COAST VETS ~
9.00am to 5.00pm ~ **COMBINED**

MONDAY 24th OCTOBER
BLOKES BUS TRIP ~ DESTINATION AND
ACTIVITY TO BE ADVISED - 9.00am to
5.00pm

TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER
JESTERS MURRAY RIVER CRUISE AND
LUNCH - BUS FROM VVF ~ **LADIES ONLY**

SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER
KANGAROO ISLAND BUS TRIP AND
FERRY TO MARKETS, LUNCH, AND VISIT
TO CAPE WILLOUBY LIGHTHOUSE ~
COMBINED

WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER
WACAS CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT
GOODWOOD HOTEL ~ **LADIES ONLY**

ALL BUS TRIPS REQUIRE A \$10 FEE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
FAY 0418 839490 or MARG 0402 844954

WACAS TRIP TO PORT AUGUSTA, MAY 25-31 2016



Twenty one people ventured north to Port Augusta on a cold, wet and windy day on the 25th May for a week away hoping for kinder weather. We were not disappointed as most of the week the weather was kind to our group for the activities. We stayed in the Big 4 Caravan Park in caravans and cabins.

We started off as we meant to go on with drinks and nibbles every day at 5pm in the Camp Kitchen during which we had a briefing of what we were doing the following day. Thursday we went by bus to the Port Pirie RSL where we were greeted very warmly by their President and Members before being given a tour of their Museum including the Helicopter. We then enjoyed a BBQ lunch with homemade salads and cheesecake. What a wonderful facility they have and should be commended for their dedication to the history of Australia's involvement in the past wars.

Friday after a sleep in we enjoyed a tour of the Flying Doctor Base in Port Augusta. What a great facility and organisation it is and we found that organising and running the centre was quite complicated but very efficient. David Harding then took us to see Baxter Detention Centre which has been taken over by the military. We were not allowed in but a soldier came out and gave us information on what they are doing there now. Most of the group then went to Arid Lands for lunch but unfortunately the rain set in so we were not able to do any of the walks.

Friday evening we went to the RSL in Port Augusta for a look at their extensive museum before enjoying a roast dinner and sweets. Once again a great day was had by all. Saturday we were all at the Port Augusta Railway Station bright and early for a ride on the Afghan Explorer to Quorn and back through the Pichi Richi Pass. What a great journey with wonderful scenery.

Lunch was enjoyed at Emily's Bistro in Quorn.

Sunday morning with sunny skies we had another early start for a day bus trip to the Flinders Rangers. We drove through Horricks Pass to Wilmington where the men enjoyed some time at Wilmington Toy Museum where they saw some drivable half scale replicas of a Land rover and Jeep just to name of few. They also had 40 years' worth of Matchbox etc vehicles to look at. The ladies ventured to Sansouci Museum and Gallery to enjoy 1000 puppets, marionettes and ventriloquist dummies. Very interesting.

WACAS TRIP TO PORT AUGUSTA, MAY 25-31 2016

Then onto Melrose for morning tea at Wozza's Vault Café with homemade cake. The café was an old bank with vault still intact, with a B&B as well. The owners Woz and Donna were great hosts and gave us an insight into the history of the place.

Back on the bus and off to Booleroo Centre for an hour tour of the Booleroo Steam & Traction Preservation Society Museum which was very interesting. They have around 70 tractors, 20 steam units, 70 engines and 120 machinery exhibits all in working order. Once a year they have a Steam & Traction Rally when they take out all the machinery and drive them around the oval. It is quite a spectacle. The next one is on the 26th March 2017 if you are interested.

Lunch was enjoyed by all at the Booleroo Centre Hotel before getting back on the bus for a visit to Blesing's Garden Winery at the start of the Port Germein Gorge. The wines there were very good with some enjoying a coffee instead of the wine. We then headed for home via the Port Germein Gorge to Port Augusta after a great day out enjoying the beautiful scenery and the wonderful people along the way.

For our last day in Port August we all ventured to Wadlata Outback Centre – "Tunnel of Time" – an interactive interpretive centre of the Flinders Ranges and Outback Region from the beginning of time through to the present day giving you an insight of life up until now ie. How the outback was settled, overland telegraph, Tom Kruse's (mailman) involvement, school of the air and much more.

Friday evening for our farewell dinner we went to Ian's Western Hotel for a great meal and to reminisce about the great week we all had together.

We all have come away with a greater appreciation of the region and what it has to offer.

Wendy Hermanson



Happy Hour at the Port August Caravan Park



Huey at the Port Pirie RSL

CORAL & BALMORAL



Our commemoration service for FSB Coral and Balmoral 2016 has been held with a large attendance including our Patron His Excellency the Governor of South Australia Hieu Van Le AC. 30 guests from Government and representatives from other ESO's were in attendance.

Students from Sacred Heart College attended and participated with Poetry reading and wreath laying. The catafalque party was provided by 16 ALR from Woodside and the Bugler came from 10/27 SAR, further entertainment was provided by our favorite piper Mr Phil Wyld.



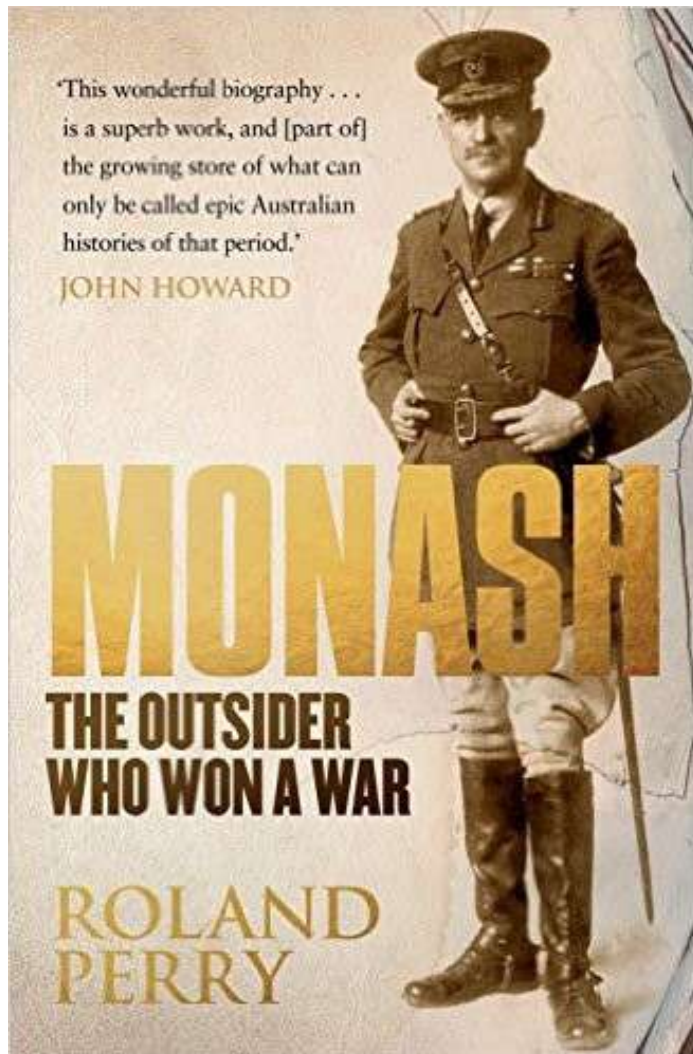
The day commenced with a catered lunch provided by the Texas Bull Machine, I don't believe we had any complaints. The actual ceremony commenced at 1400 and was completed by 1445 with the Governor departing at 1500.

Work to put on this event commenced in September with an application to DVA for a grant to help defray costs. We were successful and with the grant and with the modest entrance fee charged for lunch we were able to break even on the day.



To put on an event takes many hours of behind the scenes organisational work. The organizers were happy with the running of the event but at the same time were disappointed with the invisible members yep those who even with months of notice don't seem to interrupt their routines and show respect for those of us who were unfortunate to have participated in this operation. Hopefully we will see you next year.

MONASH: THE OUTSIDER WHO WON A WAR

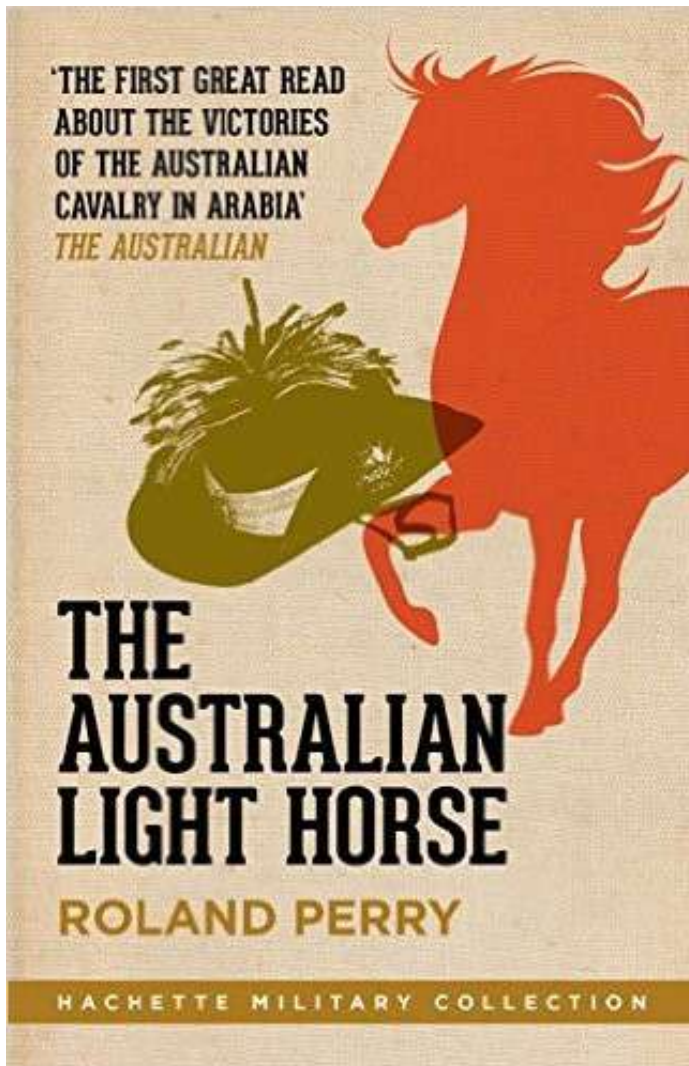


<https://www.amazon.com.au/Monash-Outsider-Who-Won-War-ebook/dp/B00A9NWD4Y>

Australian general Sir John Monash changed the way wars were fought and won. When the British and German high commands of the First World War failed to gain ascendancy after four years of slaughter never before seen in human history, Monash used innovative techniques and modern technology to plan and win major battles, forcing Germany to capitulate. His obsessional, brilliant planning, coupled with a ruthless streak, caused him to break the German army in a succession of battles that led to the end of the Great War.

Author Roland Perry brings to life the fascinating story of the man whom many have judged as the greatest-ever Australian. *Monash: The Outsider Who Won A War* draws on the subject's comprehensive letter and diary archive - one of the largest in Australia's history. The result is a riveting portrait that reaches to the heart of the true Monash character. It weaves together the many strands of his life as a family man, student, engineer, businessman, lawyer, renaissance man, teacher, soldier, leader, romantic and lover of the arts.

THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE: THE MAGNIFICENT AUSTRALIAN FORCE AND ITS DECISIVE VICTORIES IN ARABIA IN WORLD WAR



<https://www.amazon.com.au/Australian-Light-Horse-magnificent-victories-ebook/dp/B006FLRQPA>

First raised during the Boer War, the Light Horse attracted many from the outback - men who knew how to survive and fight in hot and dry country, and who had a special bond with their horses.

Battle-hardened at Gallipoli, by the time the men arrived in Palestine they were more than ready to play their critical role in Colonel Lawrence's defeat of the Turks (in the face of the British High Command's acceptance of the status quo). And under their brilliant commander, Sir Harry Chauvel, they were victorious in the Sinai, Palestine and Syria - culminating in the last great cavalry charge in our history, the taking of Beersheba in 1917.

Their victories played a decisive part in shaping Middle Eastern history in the 20th century.

Roland Perry tells the story as it deserves to be told - with colour and authority, bringing their exploits to life. Every Australian knows this story - but few, until now, have read it.

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