

FROM WARFARE TO WELFARE

Issue No. 76

22nd August 2018



VETERANS SUPPORT CENTRE
BELCONNEN



Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Chris Deeble AO CSC



**The Veterans Support Centre Belconnen
actively pursues the welfare of all
Defence Force members and their families.
Our services are available to both serving and former
members of the Australian Defence Force and certain
Government employees.**

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Veterans Support Centre Belconnen

Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation of Australia (VV&VFACT)

9 Burkitt Street PAGE ACT 2614

Phone (02) 6255 1599

Email office@vscact.org.au **Website** www.vvfact.org.au

Office Hours Monday to Friday

9.00am - 4.00pm

President:	Ian Thompson
Senior Vice President:	Danny Burton
Vice President 1:	Geoff Bolwell
Vice President 2:	Ron Culton
Secretary:	Bob West
Treasurer:	Ward Gainey
Assistant Treasurer:	Lyall Camp
Public Officer:	John Flynn
Membership Officer:	Bob Jones
Grants Officer:	Trevor Goodhew
Committee:	Brian Agnew John Kearns John Sainsbury Doug Gale Rob Kerby Peter Kercher
Administrative Assistant:	Julie Broomby
Office Manager:	Leannda Mackie
Food Van:	Bob Jones / John Kearns
OHS:	Doug Gale
Grants Assistant:	Don Richards
Newsletter Editors:	Julie Broomby / Leannda Mackie
Newsletter Sources:	
Hospital Visiting:	Terry Duffy / Dennis Hebden

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I have not counted the number of Reports I have generated since I have been sitting in the President's chair, however, I can assure you the number is significant. This Report starts in a similar vein to many others where I must acknowledge the value of our volunteers who perform so many tasks around our Centre. We cannot operate this organisation without the strong and willing support of a large group of people with vastly different skill-sets. We see the fruit of their labour in so many ways; from membership of the Committee of Management, construction projects, development of submissions in response to a multitude of Government and DVA papers, to the provision of Advocacy and Wellbeing (the new term for Welfare) advice, for Food van outings and general cleaners. On behalf of the Federation members I thank each and every one of you for your contribution to the efficient and effective operations of the Veterans Support Centre, Belconnen.

ACT Budget 2018

On Tuesday, 11 June I attended the ACT Chief Minister (Treasurer) lockup for the delivery of the 2018 Budget. I have a full set of very detailed documentation if anyone would like to trawl through it for me! At the Briefing, I was advised that it was a good Budget, but as you drill down into the minutia a lot of hidden costs are evident. Notwithstanding that negative, the budget for veterans and seniors is apparently a good one. The Ministers Advisor informed me that the Department put in a very ambitious request for funding and while they did not get all that they wanted, the outcome was more generous than expected.

Unhappily, after you cut through all the hype, the bottom line is that there was no funding allocation for the Veterans Support Centre in the 2018 ACT Budget and the absence of Government dollars will need to be made up in other ways, which your Committee will be investigating on your behalf.

On a more positive note, subsequent discussions with ACT Government staffers suggest that there is a potential for more money to be made available through a collection of Grant Programs that have been established by the ACT Government. The Grants Officer will monitor the situation on our behalf.

VVFA National Executive Meeting

The recent National Executive resulted in some significant changes to the administration of our National Organisation. Jim Wain has pulled back from all duties and his small research team working with him has also left. Bill Roberts from Granville is now the National President and the National Secretary and National Treasurer will be co-located with him in the Granville office.

I was advised that the rewrite of the Official War History for Vietnam is well underway and the final work will be available in approximately 18 months' time. Although the work is still restricted, I expect it to provide a more realistic and accurate portrayal of the true events of the conflict, particularly the impact on Veterans of the defoliant, Agent Orange

Minister for Veterans Affairs Grant

On Tuesday, 11 July, Minister Gordon Ramsay, accompanied by his advisor Michael White, officially opened our new outdoor kitchen. While he was at the VSC, I discussed with him several relevant matters. The main complaint I raised was that Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day road closures would be an impost on VSC funds. I asked the ACT Government to assist with the costs associated with the required road closures. Apparently the issue was "hand-balled" up the line and pleasingly, Minister Chester has stomped up \$5 000.00 as a one-off contribution to off-set some of our expenditure. Thank you Minister Chester.

Badge Day 2018

A team of badge sellers recently braved the wintry climes of Canberra and sold badges at various Bunnings venues within the region. Clearly, the chilly weather affected Bunnings profit margin because I am told that there were nowhere near as many people out and about as there was in previous years. Well done Ron and your team, despite the lack of customers we still managed to over costs and realise a modest profit.

Outdoor Kitchen

Following a successful Grant application, a team of production workers under the watchful eyes of our Vice Presidents, put to work and modified our large vehicle garage to construct a self-contained kitchen for use at our regular Tuesday BBQs. Chef Brian now has all mod cons including a new BBQ, TV, refrigerator and other luxurious items – no doubt a heater and a bed will be on his wish-list soon!!

ACT Minister for Veterans and Senior, Gordon Ramsay, officially opened the kitchen on Tuesday, 11 July 2018 and complimented the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation for the fine work the organisation does in support of Veterans and Seniors.

Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day

I am operating on a production deadline for the Newsletter to be printed on time and need to write my report prior to the event. Accordingly, by the time you read this Newsletter, Vietnam Veterans Day for 2018 will be consigned to history and we now reflect on future events, ensuring that any deficiencies noted this year are not carried forward. Speaking of the future, as I gaze into my crystal ball, I can say the day went off without a hitch and was entirely successful, thanks primarily to a very small team of dedicated people who worked very hard behind the scenes. If I attempted to name individuals, I would probably miss someone, so, to avoid my embarrassment I will simply say thank you to all who contributed to the successful outcome of Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day this year.

Further to the preceding, I am able to accurately report (it is now Monday) that the occasion was well received by the dignitaries and members of the public present at the Memorial and am proud to say that there were no significant glitches. All in all well-done team.

As is often the case at this time of year, the weather was predictably unpredictable and we had some pleasant sunshine as well as chilling rain, but none of that deterred from the solemn nature of the occasion.

Conclusion

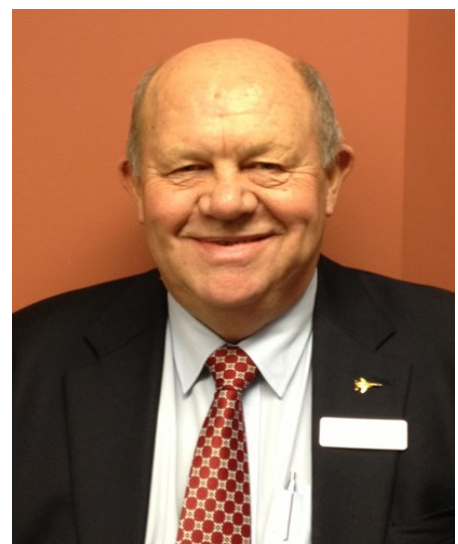
Thank you one and all for your personal contribution to the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation, ACT. Without your help this Organisation would not be able to continue the very fine work we currently undertake on behalf of needy veterans.

I have really enjoyed my role as your President and I leave the position reluctantly, but there are very valid reasons for my decision. Good luck for the future and continued success to this great organisation. Thank you one and all, and keep up the worthwhile work.

Ian Thompson

President/Advocate

20th August 2018



FOOD VAN DATES

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 15TH

SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW, QUEANBEYAN

SUNDAY 16TH

SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW, QUEANBEYAN

SUNDAY 23RD

ALL HOLDEN CAR SHOW, QUEANBEYAN

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 6TH

HIGHLAND GATHERING, KAMBAH

SUNDAY 14TH

CAPITAL ALL FORD SHOW, QUEANBEYAN

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 11TH

MARQUES IN THE PARK, BELCONNEN

If you would like to volunteer on the Food Van please contact the office

office@vscact.org.au or **6255 1599**

NOTE: Every Monday after the Food Van goes out we have two WONDERFUL Volunteers **Murray & Ruth** who come to clean @ 9.00am. If anyone has a spare hour or two to help lend them a hand please contact the office.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 12TH

JUNEE BUS TRIP @ **8.00AM**

TUESDAY 18TH

AGM @ **11.00am**

OCTOBER

MONDAY 1ST

LABOUR DAY **VSC CLOSED**

DECEMBER

MONDAY 3RD

VSC CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ **12.00pm**

TUESDAY 18TH

LAST DAY FOR 2018

JANUARY

TUESDAY 29TH

VSC RE-OPENS FOR 2019

NOTICE BOARD

CONGRATS IAN THOMPSON

On 19 July 2018 Ian was elected as an Upper Freeman (Master Air Pilot) of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, having met the standards of excellence required of this pre-eminent aviation organisation. This award recognises a long aviation career of achievement and distinction, as a professional military and Qantas pilot.

In October, he will travel to London to receive the award, signed by The Grand Master of the Company and HRH the Duke of York, at a Trophies and Awards banquet at the Guild Hall, London.

BUS TRIP TO JUNEELIQUORICE FACTORY AND ROUNDHOUSE & RAILWAY MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2018

Our next coach trip will be to Junee, where we will take a tour of the Liquorice and Chocolate Factory in the morning, have lunch at the Junee Ex-Service Club and then take a tour of the Roundhouse & Railway Museum in the afternoon.

The coach will leave The Centre @ **8.00am**.

Lunch is organised for 12.20pm, with the club offering a Chinese Buffet for \$11 and other meals from \$13.

Cost - \$20.00 per person. The money will be collected as you get on the coach, correct value please.

Bookings for this trip can be made by ringing the Office on **6255 1599** or email office@vscact.org.au

There are 42 seats available on this tour.

RSVP - By Wednesday 5 September 2018.

NOTE FROM COMMITTEE

We cannot do everything required to keep the services at VSC fully operational without the efforts of non-committee members.

This assistance is greatly appreciated and if you would like to assist in any way, please contact the office on **6255 1599** or email office@vscact.org.au

THE PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

We are the Canberra Support Group for partners of past and present members of the Australian Defence Force.

Social lunch gathering, northside or southside venue are on the last Wednesday of the month.

Contact Jo **6230 3452** or Diana **6241 5184** if you would like to come along.

ARE YOUR DETAILS CORRECT?

As our main form of communication is through email, please ensure your details are always updated by emailing office@vscact.org.au

Subject - Membership details update

Include the following

Full name

Contact phone number

Change of address if applicable

Or call **(02) 6255 1599** to update. **This is only if your details have changed!**

COLLECTION OF FILES

If you have had assistance from an Advocate at the VSC and your case has been finalised, please call the office on 02 6255 1599 to arrange collection, as we have limited space available for storage.

NEW VETERAN PAYMENT

A new payment has been introduced in an attempt to reduce suicide and self-harm in the veteran community. The Veteran Payment is an interim income support available between lodging a claim for a mental health condition and the claim being determined. It is a basic rate of \$914 per fortnight for a single person and \$713.60 per fortnight each, for a partnered person. People may also be eligible for pension supplement, rent assistance, remote area allowance and Family Tax Benefit Part A. For more information see Veteran Payment on the DVA website.

FUEL YOUR LIFE: VETERANS NUTRITION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Innovative, Australia-wide company offering DVA covered dietetic services specifically designed for eligible veterans.

Gold Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVAs Health care arrangements for all health conditions ie: weight management, chronic disease, diabetes, hypertension.

White Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment for an accepted condition ie: an injury or disease accepted by DVA as service related.

To get started and get closer to reaching your health goals, visit our website: www.fuelyourlife.com.au, email: admin@fuelyourlife.com.au or call us on: 0401 302 873.

VETERANS WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Gold Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVAs Health care arrangements for all health conditions.

White Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment for an accepted disability ie: an injury or disease accepted by DVA as service related.

Start today and experience the benefits -

Increase mobility and balance

Reduce and manage age related illness

Australia Wide 1300 890 507 / 0449 713 472

E admin@njfwellness.com.au

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Members, Partners, Family and Friends are invited to the 2018 VSC Christmas Lunch

Monday 3rd December 2018 @ 12.00pm

Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden ACT

Theme: Christmas Cheer

\$40.00 pp to be paid at the time of your booking

Hot Carvery Buffet Includes

- Bread rolls and butter
- Oven roasted turkey with cranberry sauce
- Honey Glazed Ham
- Roast potato
- Roast pumpkin
- Steamed vegetables
- Gravy

DESSERT

- Selection of cakes, tarts and individual desserts
- Sliced fresh fruit platters

Freshly brewed coffee and a Selection of tea

RSVP: Friday 23rd November by 4.00pm

Raffles tickets \$1.00 will be available at Office and on the day.

If anyone would like to donate any prizes for the raffle this year, please bring into the Office



ACT CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE VSC

All members are in a position to provide significant financial support to the Veterans Support Centre through the recently introduced container deposit scheme. Each container attracts a 10 cent refund. There are two ways in which you can assist: either by bringing the containers to the Centre for us to process, or by taking eligible bottles and cans to a Container Scheme Express Return depot.

Vinnies Belconnen Cnr Rae & Purdue Streets	Vinnies Dickson 1/9 Wooley Street
Vinnies Tuggeranong Cnr Pitman St & Athlon Drive	Salvos Tuggeranong Square Unit 1-3 Cnr Anketell & Reed Sts
Salvos Phillip Unit 7/48 Botany Street	Salvos Mitchel 32 Hoskin Street
Salvos Fyshwick 15 Mildura Street	

Eligible containers consist of glass and plastic soft drink/water bottles with their lids removed. Beer and soft drink cans are acceptable, however the **cans cannot be crushed.** (Slight bending will be accepted) Other bottles or containers are not approved.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AT THE EXPRESS DEPOTS

Put your containers in durable, slightly see-through bags, such as regular kitchen tidy bags, and take them to one of the express container return depots listed above.

Go to the container deposit scheme touchscreen monitor at the return point and select the, “credit my account”, option to commence the return process.

The next screen will ask you to input the phone number of your account. You should enter the VSC’s phone number, 02 6255 1599. The next screen will ask you for your refund preference. You should elect the, “electronic refund”, option.

You will then be asked how many bags you have. Enter the number and the machine will print out a label for each bag. The labels have barcodes on them which indicate that the refunds are to go into the VSC account.

Stick the labels onto your bags and take them to the attendant or place them in the skip that is provided. Different return points will have slightly different procedures in this regard. For more information go to: [tps://www.actcds.com.au/](https://www.actcds.com.au/)

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer trained Advocates are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Assistance with filling in paperwork and lodging claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Representation at the Veterans Review Board (VRB)
- Representation at the Administration Appeals Tribunal (AAT)
- Help with Welfare issues
- A team who visit all the hospitals and the hospice in the ACT
- The Food Van, which attends various community functions and a main source of our fundraising
- A walk for health programme
- A singing group
- A guitar group
- A woodwork shop
- A metal work shop
- A library

GUITAR GROUP

The guitar group continues to meet on Friday morning at 9:30am, in the kitchen at the VSC.

New members are always welcome, any skill level accepted. If you are interested in learning to play either guitar or banjo, or simply just want to come along and jam with us, please contact:

Ian Schafferius on 0434 717 093.

Or just be here on Friday morning and join the group.

You don't need an instrument to get started as there are a couple of guitars and banjos that can be taken on loan.

WALKING GROUP

The walking group is open to all Veterans and their family and friends

The walking schedule is available on the Notice Board at the VSC.

If it's raining, still meet at the appointed starting place to decide to walk or go have coffee.

Or you can email Terry for the schedule terrylawler71@bigpond.com

SINGING GROUP

The singing group was scheduled for 1pm on Thursday afternoons. This group is something that people showed interest in, however only one or two people have been turning up. To continue this group in the future, more people will be needed to show interest. Please talk to Danny during Tuesday BBQ's if you would like to join.

COOKING CLASSES

Our Grants Officer Trevor Goodhew is working on a grant from DVA so watch this space for the announcement of future cooking classes that will be offered to Members.

Note: They will only go ahead if there is sufficient interest in the classes.

Trevor would also like to say that if any Member has a suggestions of activities they would like to see happen at the Centre to email trevor.goodhew@vscact.org.au and he will look into seeing if there is a grant available to support the funding.

BUS TRIPS

Don Richards is always open to ideas for other bus trips in the future. You can give ideas or suggestions by email to office@vscact.org.au attention Don; or call Don on Tuesdays on 02 6255 1599.

YOUNGER VETERAN COFFEE CATCH UP

Every Wednesday 10.00am / 1.00pm at VSC.

All serving and ex-serving military, first responders and families are welcome to attend. For more information contact Gail on munromob1@gmail.com

GREEN SHED

A big thank you to Elaine Stanford, Sandie Parkes, Gororan Srejc (Tiny), and Charlie Bigg-Wither, the co-founders of the Green Shed, who chose us again as their charity for the \$10,000 donation in the month of June.



From L to R: Elaine Stanford, Peter Dillon, Danny Burton, John Kearns, Ian Thompson, Rex Kendall, Trevor Goodhew, John Flynn, Peter Kercher, Sandie Parkes
Absent: Jim Quick, John Sainsbury, John Padovan, Don Richards

The above names are our Members who donated their time to run the two BBQ's we put on at both Green Shed locations during June.

Some photos from the two BBQ's our guys did at the Green Shed during the month of June when we were chosen to be the donated charity.



BATTLE OF CORAL & BALMORAL

UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY - 1RAR & 3RAR & SUPPORT UNITS

For two more weeks the Australian forces, supported by United States and New Zealand artillery, continuously mounted fighting patrols against the enemy entrenched in bunker systems within the AO SURFERS. Operating out of FSPB's Coral and Balmoral, the Australians aggressively sought out and defeated well prepared, highly motivated and well supplied enemy forces in fierce, close-quarter fighting. The aggression shown by the Australian Forces and the combat support troops deployed forward working long hours over a long period and under arduous conditions, supported by the United States' and New Zealand air assets and artillery, significantly contributed to the failure of the North Vietnamese Forces to mount coordinated attacks against Saigon and Bien Hoa.

With limited experience at fighting high intensity combined armour/infantry engagements, the Australians demonstrated extraordinary gallantry in the defence of FSPBs Coral and Balmoral. The exceptional leadership and soldiering skills of all members of 1 ATF (Fwd) and their outstanding performance in the face of overwhelming odds during the largest and most hazardous battle of the Vietnam War were in the finest tradition of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Forces.

BATTLE OF CORAL & BALMORAL 50 YEAR REUNION

After a ceremony at the Vietnam memorial on Anzac Parade Canberra on the 13th a lunch at the Canberra Convention Centre was organised for veterans and veteran's spouse/partners. At lunch, the approval of the Unit Citation for Gallantry for veterans of Fire Bases Coral & Balmoral was announced. This event was followed by attendance at the 17:00 Hr Last Post ceremony held at the Australian War memorial. Many of those participating ventured on to Townsville Queensland to join with many others to attend the further extensive 50 year celebration at the 1RAR Lavarack Barracks which commenced on the 15th May.

Activities of the week consisted of:

Day 1. A reception at the invitation of the Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill, to all veterans and spouses/partners, plus ex-COs and RSMs who were in town.

Day 2. A well presented parade for the changing of the new Battalion colours was held in the morning at Lavarack base. In the evening a regimental dinner was held for military personnel and veterans only.

Day 3. A march of Coral Veterans to the Cenotaph on the Strand for a Memorial Service. Those present included military personnel from 1RAR Lavarack Barracks, with the flag party presenting the new Battalion Colours. The Coral reunion dinner was held at the Townsville RSL.

Day 4. Was an open day at Lavarack Barrack for a hands-on of current day equipment laid out and displayed on the parade ground and surrounds. This was followed by a BBQ hosted by 1RAR.

A notable feature of the 1RAR soldiers participation was, after each activity at Lavarack barracks, a guard of honour was formed each side of the road at the base gates as a salute to the veterans and family members. A guard of about sixty soldiers stood each side of the road. Transport to and from all events was provided by the DVA.

The reunion was a great success with many thanks to 1RAR Commanding officer Lt. Col. B McLennan and his troops with diligent volunteers such as Jack Parr and others too numerous to mention here, who worked behind the scenes making this event such a memorable occasion. An event not to be seen again unless you are around in another fifty years !

Written by Peter Kercher

HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR UCG INSIGNIA/PATCH

Defence Honours and Awards website has an online application form which is the easiest way to apply for the award. The form can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/Applications.asp>

The application form can also be accessed by calling 1800 333 362

Mailing address is:

Directorate of Honours and Awards

CP2-1, Department of Defence

PO BOX 7952

CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/>

In filling out the form Section E: Leave PmsKey blank and only enter your service number. Section G: Write in "Unit Citation for Gallantry, Battle of Coral Balmoral"



**BATTLE
HONOURS
1RAR**



**FLAG PARTY CARRYING NEW
BANNER**



UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

KILLED IN ACTION—
Fire Support Base Coral 26
Other operations 15
WOUNDED IN ACTION—
All Operations 166



**A CANDLE IS LIT BY A MATE FOR EACH PERSON
KILLED IN ACTION 1RAR SECOND TOUR OF
SOUTH VIETNAM 1968-1969**

OUTDOOR KITCHEN

RON'S KITCHEN OPENED

Tuesday 10th July 2018, saw the opening of Rons Kitchen by The Hon. Gordon Ramsay MLA.

Brian Agnew now has an inside kitchen to cook the Tuesday BBQ's and it doesn't matter if it rains, hails or shines, he is undercover and loving it.

A massive **THANK YOU** goes to Ron Culton who built the area in the back corner of the main garage. Thanks also to Peter Kercher, Barry Prewett and Rex Kendall for the work they did.





BUS TRIP

COACH TRIP TO THE HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT RESTORATION SOCIETY'S MUSEUM

On Wednesday 11 July, 29 of us went on a coach tour to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society's (HARS) museum at Albion Park Rail. The trip was funded by a grant from the ACT Government.

We departed Page at 0800 and arrived at HARS at about 1115. We had hoped to arrive a good bit earlier, but the trip took longer than expected. In part, because the coach driver relied on a GPS that took us on an interesting detour down a number of minor roads.

We had pre-arranged coffee and biscuits on arrival and were then divided into four manageable groups who were taken on separate tours to view the museum's large collection of aircraft and equipment. We had a lunch break at 1300 and resumed the tours at about 1415. We finally departed at 1530 and arrived back at Page at 1835.

Each of the groups came away very impressed with the number and type of aircraft on display, and with the expert commentary, on each of the aircraft, provided by the very knowledgeable volunteer guides that led each group. Some of the aircraft viewed were, a Super Constellation (these were used by Qantas to fly the Kangaroo Route to the UK), a DC3 (and it's military equivalent the C47), a Gruman Tracker (used by Navy for submarine hunting), a Qantas Boeing 747, a Vampire Jet, a Mirage jet fighter aircraft, a F111 swing wing bomber, a Neptune maritime surveillance aircraft, a Caribou and a number of smaller aircraft including helicopters.

We were able to go onboard the Super Constellation, the 747, the Neptune and the Caribou so we could see the passenger facilities on the 747, the cockpit area on the aircraft and also the working environment for the aircrew operating tracking equipment on the Neptune. In each case, the inspection was embellished by the expert commentary provided by the very knowledgeable volunteer guides.

Despite the fact that it was a very long day, the trip was regarded as a great success by all participants who were very impressed by the museum, the expert knowledge of the volunteer guides and the great service provided by the ladies in the café.

Members visiting the Wollongong region should seriously consider including a visit to HARS in their schedule.



BADGE SALE

The Veteran Support Centre hosted our annual Vietnam Veterans badge sale on the 10th, 11th and 12th August which was supported by Kippax Fair, and Bunnings Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gunghalin. We would like to extend a big thank you to these businesses that supported our fundraising on this weekend.



Our thanks go out to members and friends who volunteered their time to sell badges and other products at these venues over these days. It was a successful weekend benefiting all veterans and their families. We would like to thank the following people on behalf of the Federation for their time and effort:

Vic Robertson, Don Chesher, **Tony Carthy**, Dean Brook– Rerecich, Peter Kercher, **Geoff Bolwell**, **Dallas Stow**, **Bill Allen**, Iven Laufer, **Doug Gale**, **Frank Williams**, **Ron Culton**, **Rex Kendall**, **Ian Spaulding**, **John Padovan**, **Harry Brandy**, **Malcolm Jones**, Jack Aaron, Robert Tuckwell, Alistair Bridges, Ellen Chesher, **Leannnda Mackie**, Larry Iliffe, Mitch Honeysett, Peter Hateley, Lynette Lelievre-Healey, Mark Thompson, John Kearns, Don Myers, **Aaron Pickering**, **Bob Jones**, **Trevor Goodhew**, **Rodney Williams** Rob Kerby and Gerry Mapstone.

**Bolded names indicate people who have volunteered twice or more over this weekend. To anyone else that may have been missed off this list, please accept our thanks as well.*

We would also like to thank **Kelly Brightwell** who has offered to take any remaining badges or stock to her work place to sell on behalf of the Veterans Support Centre.

Crossfit ThreeFlow have also dedicated their time to fundraise on Saturday 18th August, selling badges and other stock. Thankyou to Angela and the team for their ongoing support to the Federation.



Finally, our thanks go out to **Ron Culton** for his co-ordination of this fundraiser, and the office staff, who all worked together to make this event successful.



Bill Allen & Dallas Stow @ Bunnings Belconnen

Tony Carthy & Doug Gale @ Kippax Fair



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY IN CANBERRA

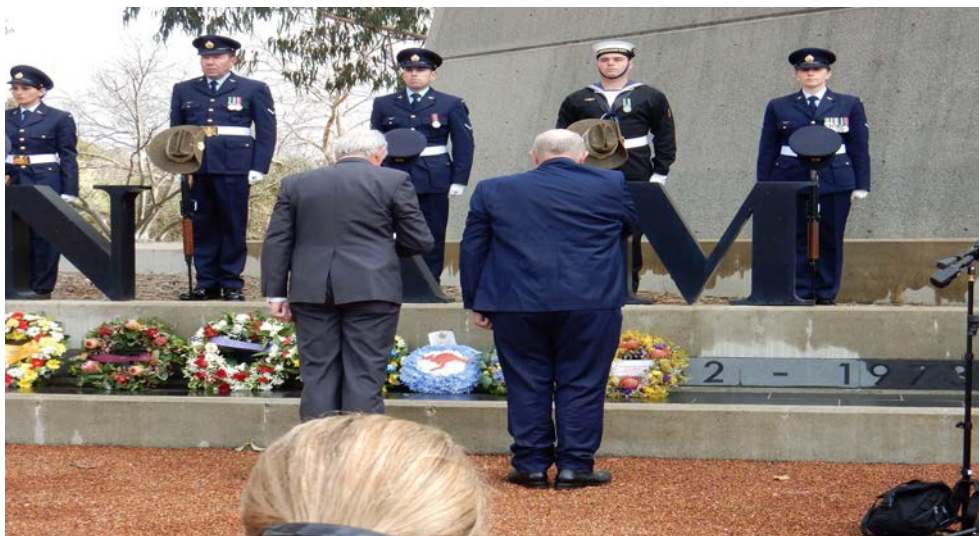


















Thank you to [Ruth Turner](#) for doing a wonderful job on our wreath this year and past years.

AGM 2018

TUESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER @ 11.00AM

All Members are invited to attend the Annual General meeting of the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation ACT Branch at the registered premises of the Federation: 9 Burkitt Street, Page ACT 2614.

There is one Notice of Motion this year to be voted on, if you are not able to attend and wish to vote please either email your vote to leannda.mackie@vscact.org.au or ring the office on **02 6255 1599**

Notice of Motion

Amendment to the Constitution

The following proposed amendment to Paragraph **7b FUNDS**, of the constitution is being sought because of the accepted use of internet banking (electronic funds transfer EFT) within general public and business practice.

Notice of Motion

7. FUNDS

b) The authority for any payment of funds drawn from any bank account of the VV&VFACT comes from the committee. The committee shall authorise the elected Treasurer, Assistant treasurer or their representative/s to conduct any payment. Payments are to be made by internet banking (electronic funds transfer EFT) or cheque. Two such authorised persons must sign each payment cheque. Cheques may be signed by authorised persons before committee approval. Such payments being made are to be the subject of scrutiny at a committee meeting following the payment.

Moved By: Lyall Camp

Seconded By: Sidney Gainey

Committee Appointments

Appointment of Office Bearers for 2018/2019

	Position	Nominator	Seconder
Sidney Gainey	President	Ian Thompson	Christopher Flynn
Daniel Burton	Senior Vice President	Ian Thompson	James Wain
Geoffrey Bolwell	Vice President (1)	Ian Thompson	Robert Jones
	Vice President (2)		
	Secretary		
Lyall Camp	Treasurer	Sidney Gainey	Christopher Flynn
Christopher Flynn	Assistant Treasurer	Sidney Gainey	Lyall Camp
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John Kearns	Committee	Robert Kendall	John Leate
Brian Agnew	Committee	Bruce Glossop	Geoffrey Bolwell
Sidney Sainsbury	Committee	Christopher Flynn	Ronald Culton
Arthur Gale	Committee	Daniel Burton	Robert Kendall
Peter Kercher	Committee	John Leate	Bruce Glossop
	Committee		

At the time of printing the Newsletter there are three open Committee positions, if you are interested in helping your Federation by standing for the Committee you can do this on the day.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE CENTRE

Coins for The Centre

The Centre has a fund raising method that all can join in without too much trouble or effort. It's EASY, at your leisure at home just fill a container with any excess five cent coins and when full, or when you are ready, bring it into the Centre and a tax deductible receipt will be given with thanks.

Aluminium Cans and Car / Motorcycle Batteries

Another way to support The Centre is to bring in your empty aluminium cans and batteries to the Centre and place in the bin near the green shed as marked. These cans and batteries are cashed in to the recyclers and the Centre makes some money.

Library

Our library is located at the Stephen King Memorial Centre in Page and has proven to be quite popular with members. We have a large range of books and DVDs to interest all members, donations always gratefully received.

MONEY TINS

The Centre wishes to thank the following businesses for their support in raising funds to benefit veterans in our community:

- RMC Golf Club Duntroon
- AFFCANS-ADFA
- Avion Café-Brindabella Business Park
- Page Tavern-Page Shops
- Moby Dicks Tavern – Kippax Shops
- Crossfit Three Flow
- Campbell Park Canteen-Defence Building Campbell Park
- Magpies Golf Club - Holt

DONATIONS

Donations are always appreciated at any time. If you are considering a donation **(tax exempt)** to a charity please consider VVFACT. The VVFACT is a registered charity established to assist Veterans from all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in their dealings with DVA and enhance the quality of their lifestyle as the effects of war service begin to take a heavier toll. Formed in 1994, VV&VFACT is an incorporated entity **ABN 58 534 419 650**. It is registered as GST exempt, a deductible gift recipient and an income tax exempt charitable institution.

HOSPITAL VISITING TEAM

Help is needed Now!

Veterans need your help by becoming part of our hospital visiting team. Training and Support is provided.

Hospital visiting is very rewarding and you get to meet some very interesting people. If we can get someone to smile for 5 seconds then we know that we have enlightened their life for a moment in time even though they may be gravely ill.

If anyone would like to join our hospital visiting team, then please contact:

Calvary Hospital

Dennis Hebden 0407 018 196

The Canberra Hospital, John James & National Capital Hospitals

Terry Duffy 6296 1068 after 5:00 pm

REUNIONS AND EVENTS

If you wish to notify members of forthcoming reunions/events, please notify the Veterans Support Centre by emailing office@vscact.org.au with details.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY 1ST AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP (Vietnam)

To be held in BALLARAT from the 8th November 2019 till the 11th November 2019, for reunion details contact Tony Brown on [0428 852 736](tel:0428852736) or email tony on tony11raye13@bigpond.com

MOUNTING MEDALS AND MEMORABILIA

Tony Mann **(02) 6295 2038**

Ross Smith **(02) 6292 1266**
0418 345 995

Christine Wilde **(02) 6231 9922**
0409 900 315

Dave Etherington **(02) 6292 2699**
0419 819 503

GUNSMOKE TO CHALKDUST

By Jack Aaron , Member of the VSC

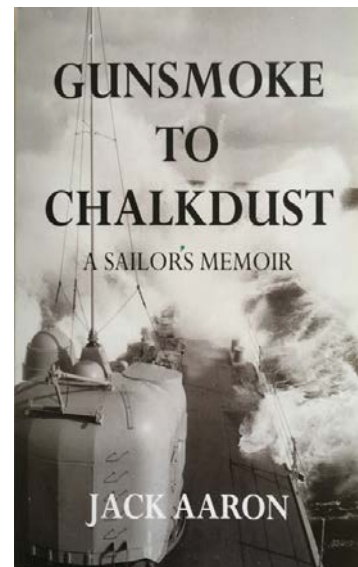
In “Gunsmoke to Chalkdust”, Jack has eloquently recorded an important and dynamic period in the Royal Australian Navy’s history. In doing so, he has captured a multitude of operational and social aspects of naval life in the lower deck. I consider it an important addition to the Royal Australian Navy’s history and indeed to other national collections whose aim it is to record and commemorate the service of Australian Defence Force veterans.

John Perryman CSM, Senior Historian,
Sea Power Centre—Australia

**COPIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT \$25.00
EACH FROM THE VSC OFFICE**

WITH **\$5.00** OF THE PROCEEDS OF EACH
SALE TO BE DONATED TO THE VETERANS
SUPPORT CENTRE BELCONNEN.

JACK WILL ALSO PERSONALLY SIGN YOUR
COPY HERE AT THE CENTRE.



RKD LAW

RKD Law provides legal services in NSW and the ACT. Whether you are looking to provide peace of mind or resolve an issue we are committed to making the legal process as stress free as possible.

We aim to provide legal services that are friendly, professional and cost effective.

Our services include:

- Business
- Conveyancing
- Wills and Estate Planning

We provide a 10% discount to all Federation members. Please contact Renee on 0409 692 038 or at rkdlaw@tpg.com.au to discuss your legal needs.

Selkirk

ANTIQUES & RESTORATIONS

Offering personalised service and sales.
Specialising in Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian
Mahogany, Cedar and walnut furniture.
Small silver items, both sterling and plate.
Selkirk Antiques have selected pieces of Doulton,
(including Flambé') Shelley & Moorcraft Ceramics
Furniture restoration service available

**29 Summerland Circuit
Kambah ACT 2902**

02 6231 5244

0418 631 445

02 6231 3656 FAX



TRUE NORTH

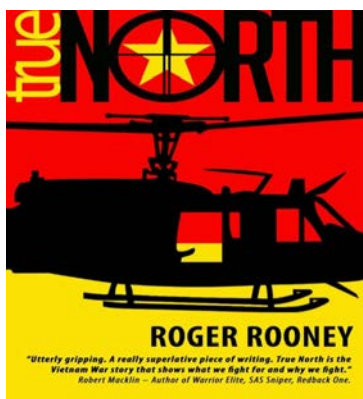
A Vietnam War novel By Roger Rooney (Local Canberra Author)

- “A meticulously researched book.” - Fergus Thomson, Australian Army Task Force, Nui Dat, Viet Nam 1967-68.
- “Utterly gripping...a triumph.” – Robert Macklin (Award winning author)

In 1962, Australian Army adviser Lieutenant Jack Burns is deployed as part of ‘The Team’ to the Mekong Delta, the hotspot of the Vietnam War, where he is about to undergo the ultimate test of his convictions. As Jack is honing his craft in the Delta, Tran, a teenage soldier girl with the North Vietnamese Army makes her way down the Ho Chi Minh Trail and into the Delta, where she must stare down the might of US firepower at the Battle of Ap Bac. In a war without frontlines, Jack and Tran must fight to survive in the most dangerous place in the world - South Vietnam.

REVIEW BY FERGUS THOMSON *RFD is a Barrister (NP) and Supreme Court Case Evaluator who served for a total of 30 years in the Australian Army (Regular and Reserve), and a Member of the Veterans Support Centre Belconnen.*

Roger Rooney’s novel *True North* is unique in that it tells of the parallel stories of an Australian Army officer in Vietnam, Lieutenant Jack Burns, and Tran, a teenage Vietnamese girl fighting with the North Vietnamese Army. Centred around the Battle of Ap Bac (1963), Rooney’s tale is of the brutal, bloody impact of war on people fighting on opposite sides, with sudden and violent death an ever-present threat. He conveys with great accuracy the political and military contexts of the Vietnam War, including, for example, the sensitive relationships between the Australian, American and Vietnamese army hierarchies, and the formal and informal ways that troops of different ranks operated in those armies and within the Vietcong forces. *True North* authentically distils the extensive and meticulous research that Rooney has put into this novel. A veteran of the Vietnam War would finish reading the book wondering if Rooney had actually been there.



\$29.95 RRP

Located at Australian War Memorial Bookshop
Robinsons and Dymocks in the Canberra Centre,
Paperchain in Manuka,
National Library bookshop and
Bookpassion in Belconnen.



24 Mort Street,
Braddon, Canberra

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Call Angela 0409 586 103

GUTTER-VAC

Don't risk a fall, give Gutter Vac a call. The Gutter Vac team has been cleaning gutters here in Canberra for over 13 years. They offer the most advanced and highest quality gutter cleaning services available.

Services they provide are: Gutter cleaning, storm water sumps, solar panels, rainwater tanks, chimneys, bird droppings, insulation removal and ceiling cavity clean ups. Gutter Vac complete work from the smallest domestic jobs to the largest warehouses and university campuses.

Call **0407 701 135** or email: actsouth@gutternvac.com.au



HELPLINES

VETERANS AND VETERANS FAMILIES COUNSELLING SERVICE

Free call **1800 011 046** (24 Hours)

BEYOND BLUE

1800 224 636

LIFELINE

13 11 14

VETERANS 360 AUSTRALIA

1800 838 360

WHITE WREATH—ACTION AGAINST SUICIDE

1300 766 177 (5am to 9pm)

Text via **0410 526 562**

NEED TO CONTACT DEFENCE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION (DCO)?

For advice, support or local community information, call our all-hours Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**

Run by DCO, the Helpline is the best way to access the programs and services that we offer to help Defence families manage the military way of life.

The Helpline is available 24 hours and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.

You can also email the Helpline at DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au

KOOKABURRA KIDS

Program for serving and ex-serving ADF families

Supporting kids to be kids

Supporting children who have a parent with a mental illness as a result of military service

ACT Office **02 6109 0408**

www.kookaburrakids.org.au

READY TO WRITE?

This Newsletter is for, and about Members of the Veterans Support Centre Belconnen.

Which means we're always looking for stories and photos that bring the Centre to life.

So if you or your organisation has something to contribute and share with the members, drop it into the office or email it to office@vscact.org.au

It doesn't need to be fancy. You provide the information and we can make it usable. **The only request is please use Calibri text format, size 14** - from standard Microsoft Word 2010.

Anything else may not be included as we don't have the time to re write your information.

Keep in mind, too, that the newsletter pages are only half the size of a normal A4 page, so any tables need to fit that small A5 size. Photos can be either prints or .jpg digital images

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Contact the Office staff for rates.

The editor reserves the right to vary the size of the advertisement for aesthetic purposes if necessary. There will be no added cost to the advertiser if this occurs.

The newsletter is published quarterly and you are either sent a hard copy or on line via your email address.

**Deadlines for future Newsletter Issues are stated
below but are subject to change without notice**

MARCH	Issue 74	FEBRUARY 23RD 2018
JUNE	Issue 75	MAY 23RD 2018
SEPTEMBER	Issue 76	AUGUST 23RD 2018
DECEMBER	Issue 77	DECEMBER 10TH 2018

Circulation is approximately 500 Members.

VIETNAM VETERANS AND VETERANS FEDERATION ACT INC

Is a registered charity established to assist serving and former Defence Personnel, Veterans and some Government agencies from all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in their dealings with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

VV&VFACT also pursues the welfare of their families to assist them to optimise the quality of their life as the effects of Defence service take their toll.

Formed in 1994, VV&VFACT is an incorporated entity (ABN 58 534 419 650).

It is registered as GST exempt, a tax deductible gift recipient and an income tax exempt charitable institution.

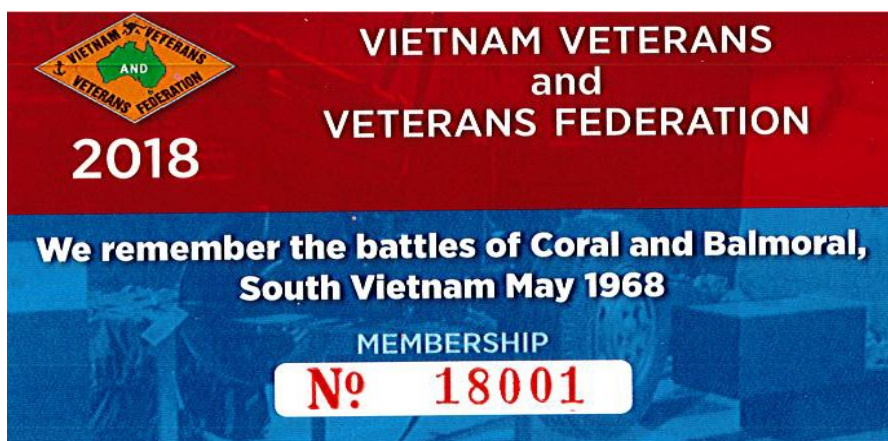
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MEMBERSHIP 2018

Membership of the Veterans Support Centre is valid for one year.

Membership gives access to our Workshop facilities, Pension Officer help, a range of social and community activities....and a place to get together with a mob of like-minded Veterans.

Membership is open to Veterans of any conflict, serving and retired service personnel.

Cost: \$40.00 Single \$45.00 Family

Payments by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, bank transfer or credit card through the office.

Current members only need to fill out name, address, phone numbers and email address on the form located in the back of this newsletter or you may download a PDF version of the Membership Form from the website.

Print it out, complete and mail it to the office with your payment.

Please provide a stamped self-addressed envelope for your receipt and Membership Card if mailing in.

(Membership is tax deductible). Thanks to those who have already renewed their membership for **2018**, it is much appreciated.

(NB. Direct Debit payments must include your name and initials).

See membership form on the opposite page it can take up to a month for your card to be sent out as our bookkeeper needs to confirm payment has appeared on Bank statement.

Please remember: Even if you do not require our services any more, we have many more Veterans who require assistance, so your funds play a vital role in the welfare of the Veteran community.

Please show that you care! Renew now 02 6255 1599 Now!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2018

The Veterans Support Centre actively pursues the welfare of all Defence Force members and their families. Our services are available to both serving and former members. Your membership fees and donations help support others in need and are tax deductible.

Membership is due in February each year and a \$10 capitation fee goes to our National Office to support the publication of the national magazine.

RENEWAL INFORMATION

Surname:	First Name:	Second Name:
Address:		
Postal Address:		
Email address:		
Telephone Home:	Telephone Work:	Mobile:
Date of Birth:	Next of Kin: Relationship & Phone No	
Can you help with any of the following: Please circle... Food Van: Yes No Cleaning Yes No Maintenance Yes No Gardening Yes No Hospital Visiting Yes No		

Membership is per Calendar Year, Subscriptions are **\$40 for Single and \$45 for Family** (includes dependants). You can pay by cheque, cash or EFTPOS at the Centre. Membership payments by credit card can be accepted over the telephone.

Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for your receipt and Membership Card if sending through the post.

Payment via Internet Banking use the details that follow:

Account Name: Vietnam Veterans Federation ACT **BSB:** 325 185

Account Number: 03413747 (Please include your full name as the subject heading)

Membership: \$:		Donation: \$		Total enclosed: \$	
Receipt Number:	Date:	Entered in Database:	Membership Card Number:		
Payment Type	Cash:	Cheque:	Direct Debit	EFTPOS:	Credit Card:

**Veterans Support Centre
Belconnen**

Would like to thank the following Friends and Sponsors

AC/DC Mitchell	(02) 6262 2680
ACT Government	
ACT PA Hire	0418 605 030
A Class Signs	(02) 6241 5535
Belconnen RSL	
Canberra Sand and Gravel	(02) 6280 4133
Crossfit Three Flow	0409 586 103
Department of Veterans Affairs	
Gutter Vac	0407 701 135
Gen Plus Hire	(02) 6297 6241
Hire All	(02) 6241 6855
Olmos Investments (Caltex Kippax, Holt)	
Pace Farm Eggs	1300 653 447
Queanbeyan RSL	
Seears Workwear	(02) 6280 0500
Selkirk Antiques & Restorations	0418 631 445
St John Ambulance Australia (ACT) Inc	(02) 6282 2399
The Green Shed (Mitchell)	0407 830 011
Vikings Club Erindale Fishing Group	(02) 6121 2100
Waste Away Hume	(02) 6260 1288
XL Plumbing P/L	0418 437 429

