



Merry  
Christmas

and a

Happy  
New Year

*From the President  
and Committee of  
Your Association.*



*The Role Of RAEME Is To :-*

*" Provide Maintenance Engineering , Materiel Maintenance ,  
Modifications , and Recovery Support to the Army."*

## *The Horse's Mouth*

*The Newsletter of the*

**RAEME Association  
of WA (Inc.)**

## **Summer 2003 - 04**

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, Kings Hotel, 517 Hay Street, Perth, in Restaurant annex. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

**The RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)**  
**PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6933**

**Colonel Commandant:**           **Colonel Ian Stewart AM**

The RAEME Association Committee

President:           John Klein           2 Wicks Street, Eden Hill     Ph. 9279 3080  
 Vice President:   Ron MacKenzie 94 Natham Square, Swan View Ph. 9294 3044  
 Secretary:        John Curtis        2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater Ph. 9271 4520  
 Treasurer:        Clare Curtis      2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater Ph. 9271 4520  
 Editor:            John Curtis  
 Welfare Officers: John Klein & John Curtis  
 Chaplain:         Fr. Howard MacCallum  
   39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant     Ph. 9364 4948  
 Chaplain (S-West) Fr. Bill Hanson 9 Prowse Way, Dunsborough Ph. 9755 3421  
 Physician:        Dr. Michael Daly  
 Honorary Auditor: Terry Barrett

General Committee:

Al Stoner	9417 4550	Tom Goodlich	9293 3944
Don Gunn	9345 1998	Peter Humpston	9306 4549
Michael Kerrison	9379 2682	Mal McWhinnie	9305 0085
Fred Ordynski	9377 1252	Chris Thomas	9249 7321
Mark Vincent	9307 8725		

**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 20th of FEBRUARY 2004.

**DISCLAIMER**

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

**From the President.**

Last edition I could not write this column due to the visit of my sister and her husband. We had not seen one another for 30 years so we had plenty to talk about and there was a lot of catching up to do. Anyhow we had a wonderful 8 weeks and did a lot of travelling to see the wildflowers and Australian.

Again we have finished an excellent dinner night at Anzac House and whoever did not make it missed out on a good night, with plenty of fun and a very good raffle with good prizes.

The committee and myself are very perturbed regarding the interest shown

for our Association and the turn out at meetings. We seem to have the same old faces attending and sometimes it becomes a struggle to make important decisions. We need your attendance and we need your input. Since we have become amalgamated with the WO's & SNCO's and the RAEME Vietnam Vets no input has come from them to this point. Although the Association is still doing fine and is still going in the right direction, we must have the support from all members, especially the younger generation.

As we are nearing the end of another year, we must strive to support your elected committee so that they in turn can do the things according to the aims

me the donkey." The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with him?"

Rodney, "I'm going to raffle him off."

Farmer, "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!" Rodney, "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he is dead."

A month later the farmer met up with Rodney and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

Rodney, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars a piece and made a profit of \$998."

Farmer, "Didn't anyone complain?" Rodney, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back."

**Fishing**

It was a cold winter day. An old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice and dropped in his fishing line. He was there for almost an hour, without even a nibble, when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not far from him. The young boy dropped his fishing line and minutes later he hooked a Largemouth Bass. The old man couldn't believe his eyes but chalked it up to plain luck.

But, shortly thereafter, the young boy pulled in another large catch. The young boy kept catching fish after fish. Finally, the old man couldn't take it any longer. "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You've been here only a few minutes and have caught a half dozen fish!

How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rram."

"What was that?" the old man asked.

Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rarrm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you're saying."

The boy spit the contents of his mouth into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm!"

**Eight words with two meanings**

1. THINGY (thing-ee) n.

Female.....Any part under a car's hood.

Male.....The strap fastener on a woman's bra.

2. VULNERABLE (vul-ne-ra-bel) adj.

Female.....Fully opening up one's self emotionally to another.

Male.....Playing cricket without a cup.

3. COMMUNICATION (ko-myoo-ni-kay-shon) n.

Female.....The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.

Male.....Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.

4. COMMITMENT (ko-mit-ment) n.

Female.....A desire to get married and raise a family.

Male.....Trying not to hit on other women while out with this one.

5. ENTERTAINMENT (en-ter-tayn-ment) n.

Female.....A good movie, concert, play or book.

Male.....Anything that can be done while drinking beer.

6. FLATULENCE (flach-u-lens) n.

Female.....An Embarrassing byproduct of indigestion.

Male.....A source of entertainment, self-expression, male bonding.

7. MAKING LOVE (may-king luv) n.

Female.....The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve.

Male..Call it whatever you want just as long as we do it.

8. REMOTE CONTROL (ri-moht kon-trohl) n.

Female.....A device for changing from one TV channel to another.

Male.....A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc..., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food. But tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit between two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon, when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on "route" marches, which the Platoon Sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it is not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys gets sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is nice, but awful flat. The Sergeant is like a schoolteacher. He nags some.

The Capt. is like the school board. Majors and Colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk and don't move. And it ain't shooting at you, like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get into this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter,

Gail

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### **Old Codgers !**

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says, "Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?"

Slim says, "I feel just like a newborn baby."

"Really? Like a newborn baby?"

"Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants."

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### **A short one.**

Jim and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Jim suddenly jumped into the deep end. He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there. Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled Jim out.

When the medical director became aware of Edna's heroic act, he immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital as he now considered her to be mentally stable. When he went to tell Edna the news he said, "Edna, I have good news and bad news.

The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of another patient. I have concluded that your act displays sound mindness."

"The bad news is, Edna, the patient you saved, hung himself right after you saved him, with his bathrobe belt in the bathroom. I am so sorry, but he's dead."

Edna replied "He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry."

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### **The Tale Of Rodney And The Donkey**

A city boy, Rodney, moved to the country and bought a donkey from an old farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died."

Rodney replied, "Well then, just give me my money back." The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Rodney said, "OK then, at least give

of the organisation.

John Curtis and myself as Ex Service Officers for DVA have been extremely busy ( and may I say successful in most cases ) we intend looking after the veterans the best way we can.

It is nearly the end of another good year and we hope that the Association can count on your support for 2004.

Well this is it from me and I would like to wish you and your families A Merry Christmas and Peace and Happiness for 2004.

John Klein

Arte et Marte (By Skill and Fighting)

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### **RAEME Apathy**

Dear Editor,

As a member of the RAEME Association Committee, I note that at last night's monthly meeting, in the Kings Hotel, the RAEME members were outnumbered by the REME members.

I do not wish to start any inter-corps rivalry, but I think it is about time that the RAEME members realised just how much hard work is put in, by you, Jan and Clare, in arranging these meetings, only to have the same old faces turn up.

I am particularly concerned at the lack of interest shown in the Corps Birthday Dinner, especially as last years had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers attending, though REME members were well represented.

To the RAEME members reading this, out there, please tell us why you are not turning up, so that we can take steps to regain your attendance with a true feeling of "Esprit de Corp".

Fred Ordynski. REME

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### **Fremantle Artillery Barracks**

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Fran Bailey, re-

cently met with the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation to discuss the future of the Museum at Fremantle Artillery Barracks.

This follows the decision by the Western Australian Government to decline the Australian Government's offer to gift the Barracks to the State Government. "I had a very positive meeting with the Foundation Board and Executive, and we are working towards an option to secure the future of the heritage precinct and the Museum at Artillery Barracks," Ms Bailey said.

The Parliamentary Secretary also met with the Mayor and the CEO of the City of Fremantle Council.

"Our discussions were very positive and we examined ways in which Defence and the City of Fremantle Council could cooperate on the future of the site," Ms Bailey said.

### **Background**

The Fremantle Artillery Barracks is a 3.87-hectare Defence owned site. It is heritage listed on the Register of the National Estate. In 1999, the site was declared surplus to Defence requirements. Currently, the Western Australian University Regiment is located on the site and is to be relocated to another Defence site in the medium term.

The site also houses the Army Museum of Western Australia, a sub-unit of the Army History Unit, and the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation.

In 2001, the Australian Government offered to gift the entire site, less Gun House, to the Western Australian Government, with the requirement that the Museum be retained on site for a peppercorn rental. In September 2003, the Premier of Western Australia formally declined the Australian Government's offer. The Australian Government is now considering the best way forward for the site.

### Who, What and Where???

“The squadron (SQN) is after a vehicle mechanic to deploy with them in country, you up for it” the Ace (ASM) said. “Bloody oath, sounds like bit of excitement” I replied. This conversation took place after a month of serious work in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) consisting of 18 hour days on the tools.

We had deployed with a large contingent of the SASR TST to the MEAO in January 03 (special mention to our hard working civilian tradesman who stayed back in Australia). The vehicles required rebuilding and refurbishment after being pounded in Afghanistan. In true RAEME fashion we pulled the long hours surviving on strong coffee and that foolish kind of humour only Army blokes can share. Most common repairs were to the suspension and driveline components. We also had to implement a number of modifications developed from lessons learnt in Afghanistan.

From there it was off to a Forward Operating Base (FOB), getting things squared away in case any conflict should arise. Unfortunately, I had to leave the comfort of my RAEME home and go bed down with the SQN. It wasn't all bad and I was soon at home with the blokes who were travelling in my patrol. We practiced the usual things prior to going out on patrol ie formations, actions on contact etc. and had ourselves squared away with the weapons involved. Constant drills were the order of the day when spare time was found between briefings.

All this time the RAEME brotherhood was working hard, working with very little resources to achieve the impossible by an unknown date (Yesterday). It certainly was a baptism of fire for the new Ace and Vehicle Sgt.

When it came, the word spread like wild fire through the SQN. It's on . Where going over the border. Last minute checks were held, briefings and last letters written. There would be no chance for a while. The green light came soon after and before we knew it we were patrolling in enemy territory.

Once again RAEME was fulfilling its primary role of “repairing as far forward as possible” in the truest sense of the phrase. It didn't take long to warm up with our first contact occurring less than thirty minutes of being in Iraq. My patrol was in four contacts. Others in the SQN saw considerable more action.

The most memorable contact occurred after being in country for about three weeks. After clearing several guard posts we were about to move on to a larger compound when we saw two Iraq Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) to our left flank at about 700m. The warning call was given and rounds soon went down range. Both SUVs were mounted with 14.5mm machine guns and approximately 14 soldiers.

After a round or two the first bullets started to zip over our heads. I turned to the Vehicle Commander and said “I think some bastard is shooting at us”. He looked at me with a serious face and said “I think you're right” and I cracked up laughing. Just one of those moments. Soon the first of the mortars started landing in front of the forward cars and the RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenades) started exploding on air burst between the cars. The laughter stopped.

Getting on to more important stuff, there were plenty of repairs conducted out in the field. Clutches, a transmission, Constant Velocity joints and many minor items. To do the clutch job we had to lift the engine. We did this by borrowing some tall street signs and lashing them together to form an A frame. The parts

is not some urban legend. I was there, I was part of it, I saw it happen.

Will Ross  
Administrative Judge  
United States Department of Defense

### November 22 weekend and the memories are flooding back.....

We have satellite television and this being the 40th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination (JEEEEZE- do you believe its been 40 years???) and there is about 7 different channels covering the looks back. The memories good and painful are flooding back!!! In February 1963 I had the unusual pleasure of meeting and shaking the hand of JFK— it was at Castle AFB (Air Force Base) in California. I was pulled in for crowd control, and the crowd in front of me started pushing forward, & “Mr. Nosey”, I turned around to see what was going on, and from 20 feet away here comes Kennedy headed for me & the crowd. Skipping all the details I did get to shake his hand and then he “walked into the crowd”. BUT at that time NO ONE dreamed of assassination. I have two pictures on the wall downstairs of his visit—BUT I never did get one of the handshake!!!! But when he was killed, I sent Jackie a letter of condolence, and I got a thank you note back!! THAT is in plastic wrap. I good friend of mine Dave who lives just across the river in Illinios, works for Shell Oil Refinery— IF you ever get to see a picture of the funeral procession—he IS the army Sgt at the left front of the casket on the military cassion. He can NOT stand to hear the funeral drums anymore.

WELL HELL.....on a lighter note: (for the Horses's Mouth"); You've all heard about the “trouble” they've had in the state of Alabama with the monument of the ten commandments in the “state house”. They even had the chief justice of the Supreme Court removed for

defying an order to move the monument. BUT its only fair to move the monument— you see, the commandments definitely have no place where politicians and lawyers meet and do business!!!!!!!!!

Family news; we're all fine. Spent the afternoon cleaning up all the leaves off the trees (you guys just DO NOT know all the “fun” you are missing in fall). Then put the lawn mower up for the winter and got the snow blower ready for the upcoming 4 months. Son Richard—US Navy is now back at Bremmerton (across the bay from Seattle) Washington after an 11 month deployment. It will be his last. He has 13 months until retirement after 20 years. I guess he'll move back to Jacksonville Florida to be close to his daughter. Got up to +9 C. today, BUT supposed to drop the bottom out tomorrow night—snow flurries over night

Well, I'm going to grab a beer-watch a little “telly” and go to bed its 03:25 zulu(2125/0925PM—local time. Talk at you all later.

Love ya all  
Jim & Judy

### A Letter From A Farmer. Now At Camp Pendleton

Dear Ma and Pa;

Am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before maybe all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m., but am getting so I like to sleep late.

Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing. Men got to shave but it is not so bad, they get warm water.

Nina Swink adds.....

On the ABC evening news, it was reported tonight that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabel approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They refused. "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honour that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

I saw an interview on Fox News Channel with the Commander of the soldiers who guard the Tomb of the unknown. He took the shift when Isabel was unleashing her fury, cause he did not want to ask any of his men to do this - he felt it was his highest honour to be on duty during that time.

Very, very proud of our persons in uniform!!!!!!

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### **A Day at the Baltimore Airport**

The writer and his wife live in LA and both work for Uncle Sam.

Dear Friends and Family,  
I hope that you will spare me a few minutes of your time to tell you about something that I saw on Monday, October 27. I had been attending a conference in Annapolis and was coming home on Sunday. As you may recall, Los Angeles International Airport was closed on Sunday, October 26, because of the fires that affected air traffic control. Accordingly, my flight, and many others, were canceled and I wound up spending a night in Baltimore.

My story begins the next day. When I went to check in at the United counter Monday morning I saw a lot of soldiers home from Iraq. Most were very young and all had on their desert camouflage

uniforms. This was as change from earlier, when they had to buy civilian clothes in Kuwait to fly home. It was a visible reminder that we are in a war. It probably was pretty close to what train terminals were like in World War II.

Many people were stopping the troops to talk to them, asking them questions in the Starbucks line or just saying "Welcome Home." In addition to all the flights that had been canceled on Sunday, the weather was terrible in Baltimore and the flights were backed up. So, there were a lot of unhappy people in the terminal trying to get home, but nobody that I saw gave the soldiers a bad time.

By the afternoon, one plane to Denver had been delayed several hours. United personnel kept asking for volunteers to give up their seats and take another flight. They weren't getting many takers. Finally, a United spokeswoman got on the PA and said this, "Folks. As you can see, there are a lot of soldiers in the waiting area. They only have 14 days of leave and we're trying to get them where they need to go without spending any more time in an airport than they have to. We sold them all tickets, knowing we would oversell the flight. If we can, we want to get them all on this flight. We want all the soldiers to know that we respect what you're doing, we are here for you and we love you."

At that, the entire terminal of cranky, tired, travel-weary people, a cross-section of America, broke into sustained and heartfelt applause. The soldiers looked surprised and very modest. Most of them just looked at their boots. Many of us were wiping away tears.

And, yes, people lined up to take the later flight and all the soldiers went to Denver on that flight. That little moment made me proud to be an American, and also told me why we will win this war. If you want to send my little story on to your friends and family, feel free. This

as well as a small block and tackle were dropped in to us by air (sometimes almost on top of us). However this was easy compared to the transmission job. One of those jobs that goes wrong in all the bad places. In the end however, all the cars were kept moving.

As for myself, vague references were being made about my personal hygiene. From day one I was covered in coolant and brake fluid. By day seven similarities were being made between myself and the Wild Man Of Borneo. By day twenty even the more reserved members of the Squadron remarked that I was "Looking a bit scruffy". Thankfully I had a scrub on day twenty-seven and threw my clothes away.

All in all from a RAEME perspective the operation was a huge success. All members of the workshop both overseas and back at home worked long hours to achieve the task. The ability for the RAEME soldier to overcome any problem proved true once again. Whether it was designing modifications, sending parts out in the field (thinking outside the square as to what additional things to send including the odd can of coke or a chockie bar) or repairing in the field the great name of the Corp was preserved and maybe even enhanced.

Always think of the solution not the problem. There is nothing that can't be done.

ARTE ET MARTE

Your average RAEME Greaser

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### **The Corps Birthday Dinner**

06<sup>th</sup> of December saw a gathering at ANZAC House for an informal Corps Birthday Dinner. This year the function was held "downstairs" in the Club instead of in the Gallipoli Room. The atmosphere was relaxed and very congenial with 60 members attending.

The Club staff did a wonderful job of catering for the group and the meal was certainly sumptuous.

During the course of the dinner our President got a little over-enthusiastic with the Secretary's gavel and as a result, one broken handle to the amusement of all and sundry. The maker of the gavel, Lawrie (with a W) Forsyth thought that Clare Curtis was going to wet herself she was laughing so hard. Anyway, the gavel has now been repaired and has a steel insert in the handle just in case the President gets hold of it again. (How much force can the President use to bend the steel in the handle??)

Previously, Lawrie had actually made 2 gavels, one for the President that is a 2lb Ballpeen hammer with its associated wooden block and one for the Secretary, which is a 1lb Ballpeen and block. These hammers are really life size and look every bit like the original (except for the fact that they are made out of polished Jarrah). They are well and truly treasured by the Association.

On with the Dinner – more mirth and merriment.

It was unfortunate this year that the list of our fallen comrades was quite long (32 in fact) and the Ode for them was quite stirring, sobering and very well presented by Ron MacKenzie and the silent gesture afterwards reminded all of our loss. The most notable of our departed friends is Brigadier Roger Amos. In Western Australia, we lost two of our Associate members this year, Norma Kerrison and Vernon Anderson. Our thoughts were with their families on this occasion.

We welcome Ron back to Australia after a tour of the Solomon Islands with the Australian Federal Police. It is really good to see him home safe and sound. Ron has done a tremendous

amount of work for the Association and its members since we started up in 1998.

After the Toasts and Port quaffing we had a short talk by Rob Pontifex about his workshop's service and some interesting stories about our intrepid adventurers. Rob is the ASM of the workshop at SASR.

Major Perry Beor gave an understanding of what the Corps is now about and where we are headed into the future. He concluded by announcing the winner of the Cfn of the Year Award for Western Australia, Cfn Roger Denton. Perry praised Roger as always being a person, who thought out what he was doing, did it well, with a minimum of fuss and nothing was too great for him to attempt. Perry asked if the ASM of the Workshop, Peter Dutton, would accept the prize on Roger's behalf. The Cfn of the Year Award comprises an inscribed RAEME Plaque, a framed Certificate and a cheque for \$100.00. We are assured that Roger will be presented with his award on the Parade at the Workshop on Tuesday evening 09 December 2003.

At the conclusion the President asked all to join him with tea and coffee and the cheese platters, which were very quickly decimated.

Don and Judy Gunn and Mal and Denise McWhinnie took over with the running of the Corps Christmas Raffle. Don and Judy did a sterling job making up the baskets of goodies for the raffle. Mal again got some more prizes that added to our nest egg of goodies. Fran Butchart also should get an honorable mention for her very generous donation of three bottles of RAEME Port and two bottles of Balcombe Army Apprentice School Port (1982). All in all we had quite a nice selection of prizes (even if I didn't win any!! At one stage Clare Curtis called out and asked

Don if he knew what the colour green looked like on the raffle tickets). The results of the raffles totalled \$237.80 and will go into the Association funds to help us to help the members. We sincerely thank all those who had an input into the running of the raffles.

During the course of the raffles a sum of money was put over the bar to help the festivities along. I think that was a very popular decision on the part of the committee.

The evening was a resounding success. It was relaxed and everyone got on so well together. The format received the approval of all and will be used again in the future.

John C

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### Australian Government to Conduct Korean War Veterans General Health Survey

It has been recently announced a survey to investigate the health of Australia's surviving male veterans from the Korean War.

The General Health Survey was announced as part of the Government's response to the Cancer Incidence Study 2003: Australian Veterans of the Korean War released today.

The General Health Survey would be the third in a series of studies investigating the health of Korean War veterans.

The Government recognises the concerns of Korean War veterans about the extreme conditions they endured in Korea.

The General Health Survey will complement the Cancer Incidence Study, and the soon to be completed Mortality Study, and will ensure that we have a sound understanding of the health care

## Jim's Life in the US

It never ceases to amaze with what Jim can come up with. Here is his latest offering. This time Jim has some serious stories for us as well as his usual.

### Tomb of the Unknown.

The Third Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer has the responsibility for providing ceremonial units and honour guards for state occasions, White House social functions, public celebrations and internments at Arlington National Cemetery...and standing a very formal sentry watch at the Tombs of the Unknowns. The public is familiar with the precision of what is called "walking post" at the Tombs. There are roped off galleries where visitors can form to observe the troopers and their measured step and almost mechanical silent rifle shoulder changes. They are relieved every hour in a very formal drill that has to be seen to believe. Some people think that when the Cemetery is closed to the public in the evening that this show stops.

First, to the men who are dedicated to this work...it is no show...it is a "charge of honour".

The formality and precision continues uninterrupted all night. During the nighttime, the drill of relief and the measured step of the on duty sentry remain unchanged from the daylight hours. To these men...these special men, the continuity of this post is the key to the honour and respect shown to these honoured dead, symbolic of all American unaccounted for American combat dead. The steady rhythmic step in rain, sleet, snow, hail, hot, cold...bitter cold...uninterrupted...uninterrupted is the important part of the honour shown. Last night, while you were sleeping, the teeth of hurricane Isabel came through this area and tore hell out of everything... We have thousands of trees down...power outages...traffic signals out...roads filled with down limbs and "gear adrift" debris...We have flooding...and the place looks like it has

been the impact area of an off shore bombardment.

The Regimental Commander of the U.S. Third Infantry sent word to the nighttime Sentry Detail to secure the post and seek shelter from the high winds, to ensure their personal safety. **THEY DISOBEYED THE ORDER.**..During winds that turned over vehicles and turned debris into projectiles...the measured step continued. One fellow said "I've got buddies getting shot at in Iraq who would kick my butt if word got to them that we let them down...I sure as hell have no intention of spending my Army career being known as the goddamn idiot who couldn't stand a little light breeze and shirked his duty."

....Then he said something in response to a female reporters question regarding silly purposeless personal risk...."I wouldn't expect you to understand. It's an enlisted man's thing." God Bless the rascal...In a time in our nation's history when spin and total bullshit seems to have become the accepted coin-of-the-realm, there beat hearts...the enlisted hearts we all knew and were so damn proud to be a part of...that fully understand that devotion to duty is not a part time occupation. While we slept, we were represented by some damn fine men who fully understood their post orders and proudly went about their assigned responsibilities unseen, unrecognised and in the finest tradition of the American Enlisted Man. Folks, there's hope....The gene that George S. Patton...Arliagh Burke and Jimmy Doolittle left us...survives. Now, go have another cup to pop rivet your eyelids I've got to go to work. DN From a subvet friend in our nation's capital.

### Post Mortem

Three dead bodies turn up at the mortuary, all with very big smiles on their faces.

The coroner calls the police to tell them his results after the examination.

“First body: Frenchman, 60, died of heart failure whilst making love to his mistress.

Hence the enormous smile, Inspector”, says the Coroner.

“Second body: “Scotsman, 25, won a thousand pounds on the lottery, spent it all on whisky.

Died of alcohol poisoning, hence the smile.”

The Inspector asked, “What of the third body?”

“Ah,” says the coroner, “this is the most unusual one. Paddy from Ireland, 30, struck by lightning.” “Why is he smiling then?” inquires the Inspector.

“Thought he was having his picture taken

### You can't live without this knowledge!

1. The first couple shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

2. Coca-Cola was originally packaged in green bottles.

3. Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

4. Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

5. The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...)

6. The percentage of North America

### Don't Forget

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

that is wilderness: 38%

7. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David; Hearts - Charlemagne; Clubs - Alexander, the Great; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar

8.  $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

9. If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

10. “I am.” is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

11. Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

12. Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common?

A. All invented by women.

13. Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

14. Q. What trivia fact about Mel Blanc (voice of Bugs Bunny) is the most ironic?

A. He was allergic to carrots.

AND FINALLY

15. In Scotland, a new game was invented. It was entitled Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden.... and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language. (How about that!)

### Chief of Army inducted into International Hall of Fame

Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, Chief of Army, was recently inducted into the United States Army Command and General Staff College International Officer Hall of Fame at a ceremony at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

“It is a great honour to be recognised by a world class training establishment such as the United States Army Command and General Staff College,” LTGEN Leahy said.

“Australia has a long history of exchange programs with the United States and the knowledge and skills learnt on exchange are an important part of a soldier's career development.

“My time at the United States Army Command and General Staff College was very rewarding and provided me with an opportunity to learn from some of the best military instructors in the world,” LTGEN Leahy said.

LTGEN Leahy is the first Australian officer to be inducted into the United States Army Command and General Staff College as well as the first of any nationality who has been both a student and an exchange instructor at the College.

The Commandant of the Command and General Staff College, Lieutenant General William S. Wallace, inducted LTGEN Leahy into the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was dedicated in 1973 to provide a prestigious and visible means of recognition to international officer graduates, who, through military merit, have attained one of the highest positions of military importance in their respective country's armed forces, or who have held an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a multinational military organisation. To date, 207 members representing 60

needs of our Korean War veterans. Commencing early in 2004, Monash University will conduct the General Health Survey, under the supervision of an independent Scientific Advisory Committee and a veterans' consultative forum.

The success of such surveys depends on the support of the veteran community and I am pleased to say that veterans and ex-service organisations have been strong supporters of previous studies. The Cancer Incidence Study found that the incidence of all cancers among Korean War veterans was higher than expected compared to the cancer rate in the wider community. In particular, the study found the incidence rates for cancers of the head and neck, larynx, oesophagus and lung were higher than expected amongst veterans.

Although smoking is a major risk-factor associated with each of these cancers, the study found that smoking alone does not explain all of the increase.

The findings have been referred to the Repatriation Medical Authority for review in relation to the Statements of Principles governing compensation for these cancers.

Korean War veterans are already eligible to claim compensation and treatment for any cancer or illness related to their service. All Korean War veterans aged 70 or over are also eligible for the Gold Card, entitling them to free comprehensive health care.

The Government will use the results from the Korean War studies to ensure that the repatriation benefits available to Korean War veterans continue to meet their health care needs. The findings of the Cancer Incidence Study 2003: Australian Veterans of the Korean War are available at: [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

countries have been inducted into the International Officer Hall of Fame.

**Media statement by Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, Chief of Army**

**SECOND UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF PRIVATE JEREMY WILLIAMS**

As a result of an investigation into the tragic death of Private Jeremy Williams, a number of recommendations were made and an action plan was developed.

In February 2003, Private Williams committed suicide whilst undertaking training at the School of Infantry in Singleton, New South Wales.

The Military Police investigation into possible breaches of the Defence Force Discipline Act (DFDA) with respect to unacceptable behaviour at the School of Infantry is continuing. Although the investigation is ongoing, investigators have completed briefs of evidence that implicate four staff. These briefs have been referred to the Director of Military Prosecutions for advice that is expected in November 2003. At this stage, the allegations affecting another six individuals have been thoroughly investigated and cannot be substantiated.

I announced in August that I would keep the Australian public informed of the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan.

The following action has been undertaken since the last public update on 26 September 2003:

The Commander of Training Command has implemented the following immediate changes:

- There has been an increase in the level of support provided to trainees at the School of Infantry and increased edu-

cation about the availability of support measures;

- Depot Company at the School of Infantry has been restructured, provided with additional resources to improve the level of support to trainees and has been renamed Rifleman Wing; and  
- Improved training measures have been implemented to reduce injury rates and reduce the time it takes for injured trainees to reintegrate to training.

The Deputy Chief of Army has released the report's recommendations to the Army's senior commanders and directed them to analyse the broader applicability of the recommendations. The Deputy Chief of Army has also directed them to focus on expanding the implementation of the action plan to include all of the Army's training establishments. In addition, the Deputy

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**Phone 94403111**

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The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1983. They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

Their lifetime has always included AIDS.

Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.

The CD was introduced the year they were born.

They have always had an answering machine.

They have always had cable.

They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.

They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.

They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is.

McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers.

They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet? Pass this on to the other old fogies in your life.

**Good ones!**

A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband was not in bed.

She puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee in front of him. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wiped a tear from his eye and takes a sip of his coffee.

"What's the matter, dear?", she whispers as she steps into the room, "Why are you down here at this time of night?" The husband looks up from his coffee, "Do you remember 20 years ago when

we were dating, and you were only 16?" he asks solemnly.

"Yes, I do" she replies.

The husband paused, the words were not coming easily. "Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car making love?"

"Yes, I remember" said the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him.

The husband continued... "Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, "Either you marry my daughter, or I'll send you to jail for 20 years?"

"I remember that too" she replied softly.

He wiped another tear from his cheek and said, "I would have gotten out today."

**Oh To Be Ten Again**

A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday.

"I'd love to be ten again," she replied.

On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early and off they went to a local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Screaming Loop, the Wall of Fear, everything there was! Wow! Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park, her head reeling and her stomach upside down. Right to a McDonald's they went, where her husband ordered her a McHappy meal with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie, the latest Star Wars epic, a hot dog, popcorn, Pepsi, and M&Ms. What a fabulous adventure!

Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed.

He leaned over and lovingly asked, "Well, dear, what was it like being ten again?"

One eye opened. "You idiot, I meant my dress size."

The moral of this story: Even when the man is listening, he's still a goner!!!

## Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

### More Philosophy

#### Lessons Learnt

1. Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.
2. Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.
3. I saw a woman wearing a sweat shirt with "Guess" on it. So I said "Implants?"
4. I don't do drugs anymore. I get the same effect just standing up fast.
5. Sign in a Chinese Pet Store: "Buy one dog, get one flea.."
6. I live in my own little world. But it's OK. They know me here.
7. I got a sweater for Christmas. I really wanted a screamer or a moaner.
8. If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?
9. I don't approve of political jokes. I've seen too many of them get elected.
10. There are two sides to every divorce: Yours and that bastard's.
11. I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.
12. I am a nobody, and nobody is perfect; therefore, I am perfect.
13. Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

---

### What a difference 30 years makes

- 1973: Long hair  
 2003: Longing for hair  
 1973: The perfect high  
 2003: The perfect high yield mutual fund  
 1973: KEG  
 2003: EKG  
 1973: Acid rock

- 2003: Acid reflux  
 1973: Moving to California because it's cool  
 2003: Moving to California because it's warm  
 1973: Growing pot  
 2003: Growing pot belly  
 1973: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor  
 2003: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor  
 1973: Seeds and stems  
 2003: Roughage  
 1973: Killer weed  
 2003: Weed killer  
 1973: Hoping for a BMW  
 2003: Hoping for a BM  
 1973: The Grateful Dead  
 2003: Dr. Kevorkian  
 1973: Going to a new, hip joint  
 2003: Receiving a new hip joint  
 1973: Rolling Stones  
 2003: Kidney Stones  
 1973: Being called into the principal's office  
 2003: Calling the principal's office  
 1973: Screw the system  
 2003: Upgrade the system  
 1973: Parents begging you to get your hair cut  
 2003: Children begging you to get their heads shaved  
 1973: Passing the drivers' test  
 2003: Passing the vision test  
 1973: Whatever  
 2003: Depends

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at BeloitCollege in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of this year's incoming freshmen. Here's this year's list:

Chief of Army has taken specific action to ensure that:

- the Army is developing a holistic management strategy to redress the shortcomings across the Army Health Continuum, that is, health management from recruit training to units;
  - all Army units are provided with the Training Command-Army revised training packages to facilitate 'life skills' training and education;
  - the Army's commanders are educated on the need to promote an environment that very clearly balances the importance of a help seeking culture within their units with the demands of operational preparedness;
  - selection criteria are established to ensure only quality individuals are employed in instructor appointments within Training Command-Army;
  - databases are established and managed by senior staff in Army headquarters (AHQ) in order to record all relevant details from investigations related to suicides and sudden deaths; and
  - the Army establishes protocols to be followed for all accidental deaths and suicides within the Army.
- The Army is now focusing on longer-term initiatives, especially the development of an instructor development course for instructors in key positions. Further work has focussed on development of a robust Army Health Continuum. Army Headquarters has completed the following specific work to:
- Raise an Army Health Continuum Implementation Team;
  - Expand the Rehabilitation Centre at 1 Health Support Battalion to cater for all the Training Command-Army schools;
  - Expand psychology support to training establishments;
  - Complete a review of capability development responsibilities to ensure that the Commanding Officers of Corps schools can focus on leadership;

- Remove responsibility for conduct of the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM) from the Commanding Officer School of Infantry to allow him to increase his emphasis on leadership.

In addition the official naming ceremony for the 1 Health Support Battalion Rehabilitation Centre is being planned for December 2003. It will be named the Private Jeremy Williams Rehabilitation Centre.

On 3 September 2003, I appointed a senior officer to investigate the circumstances arising from the investigation into the mistreatment of another soldier at the School of Infantry in 2001. The report is expected to be complete by November 2003. I will advise of the outcomes from this investigation in my next public update in December.

**The Army Fair Go Hotline:  
1800 100 064**

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### **Projects to Equip Our Soldier of the Future**

Recently two innovative Defence industry proposals for equipment that will enhance the safety and fighting capability of the soldier of the future were unveiled.

The first is a miniature personal power generation system that can be used to power the combat systems used by soldiers on a modern battlefield, such as night vision goggles, mobile computers, communications equipment and thermal imaging weapon sights. The Personal Generation System is the concept of Melbourne-based technology firm, Tectonica Australia Pty Ltd.

The 'Generette' will have enough power for three days at a time, will recharge in minutes and weigh only one kilogram. Less weight to carry and an assured power supply will mean the soldier can be deployed more effectively

for extended periods.”

The second proposal involves the development of small helmet-mounted sensors that will help the soldier to detect the source of enemy weapons fire and respond more effectively. The Acoustic Threat Localisation System is the concept of Canberra-based Pacific Noise & Vibration Pty Ltd.

The initial concept is a miniature acoustic system that will detect sniper, mortar and artillery fire allowing the soldier to respond and counter these threats. The system will be developed further to detect larger weapons fire, vehicles and aircraft through helmet-mounted displays.”

These proposals could potentially result in enhanced operational capabilities, major savings for Defence, the potential for civilian applications and export opportunities.

The proposals are two of eight submissions that will receive a total of \$14.8 million under the seventh round of the Capability and Technology Demonstrator program administered by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

The funding is used by Australian companies to demonstrate that their proposed technology can provide a new or enhanced high-priority Defence capability. Projects that have led to or are about to lead to a new Defence capability include the high frequency surface wave radar, landmine neutralisation system and Jindalee over-the-horizon radar network.

The program underscored the strong links between Defence and Australian industry, encouraging innovation to improve the ADF's capabilities and our national security by sharing the risks and rewards of exploring new technologies. The program was first funded in

July 1998 and presently comprises 24 active demonstrators. To date about \$100 million has been allocated to various projects.

### BACKGROUND

CTD Projects short-listed for contract negotiation 2003-04

\* Personal Power Generation and Supply System (Tectonica Australia Pty Ltd). This miniature personal power generation system could allow other power consuming soldier enhancements such as night vision, GPS, communications and mobile computers to be used in a more efficient and effective manner. It will be smaller and more powerful than other battery operated unit.

\* Acoustic Threat Localisation System (Pacific Noise & Vibration Pty Ltd). This CTD proposes the development and evaluation of a miniature acoustic system to detect sniper, mortar and artillery fire. The system would be worn by a soldier to detect and counter those threats. On a larger scale it would contribute to a more efficient and robust infantry force better equipped to deal with combat threats. A miniature version may also have export potential.

\* Aerosonde Radio Relay (Saab Systems Pty Ltd). This CTD will provide the ADF with a remote controlled airborne communications platform or surrogate satellite that will allow communications over the horizon by relaying radio communications.

\* Airborne Magnetic Tensor Gradiometers (CSIRO, Newmont Exploration Pty Ltd and DSTO). This CTD aims to develop and evaluate an improved sensor system to counter enemy submarines. It will produce an enhanced airborne magnetic detection system that can be deployed on P3C Orion and Seahawk aircraft.

\* Combat Data Network (Tenix Defence). The Combat Data Network will

Curator and will have a ledger to enter names etc. of any donated material.

Our wish is to display all memorabilia for the future generations to see and show them the hardships, sacrifices and ordeals that the past and present Defence Forces went through, and hope to get the younger Australians to respect and honour those whom served.

**Anyone can contact me on 9497 9879 or the Sub Branch on 9497 1972**

Thank you

Mr Bob McGuire  
Sub Branch Warden

### Socrates Wisdom - three way test

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was well known for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who said excitedly, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?"

"That's right," Socrates continued "Before you talk to me about my student, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and ..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary ..."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still

pass the test though, because there's one filter left: the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

This is why Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

It also explains why Socrates never found out that Plato was dallying with his wife.

### Senior Moments in Florida

An elderly Floridian called 911 and her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard," he says. "She got in the backseat by mistake."

Morris, an 82 year-old man went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous lady on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to the man and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doctor: Get a hot mamma and be cheerful." The doctor then said, "I didn't say that! I said you've got a heart murmur. Be careful!"

As Herman, a senior citizen, was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there is a car going the wrong way on I-75! Please be careful." Herman replied, "It's not just one car.. it's hundreds of them!"

Association might be aware of anyone who was in that LAD at the time I have mentioned.

There is one other quite significant episode in that the Captain of RAEME at that time had a crazy idea and that was he actually invented, if indeed invented is the right word, a system whereby a Landrover could traverse a ravine on wire hawsers, the idea being that pulley's were fitted to each of the wheels and the ropes were fixed on one side of the ravine by ground anchors and held taught on the other side by the Scammell 6x6 recovery truck. The Landrover was then driven across the ravine on these ropes, pretty hairy and sad to say not terribly successful if my memory serves me right.

I would be grateful if you could perhaps put a note in your RAEME magazine, if indeed there is such a thing, in order for me to try to make contact with any of the guys who were there at that time. My name is Mick Smith and was known to some of the guys in the LAD as Mick the mad muck, don't ask why, I had no idea.

For ease of more speedy communication if it is of help my e-mail address is as follows,

**michael.smith670@ntlworld.com**

Hoping that you will be able to help, sorry that the information I gave is a bit on the vague side.

Yours sincerely

M Smith.

### Wanted – Dead or Alive!

Our Association member. Ross Maggs, has a 1942 Ford JAILBAR Workshop Vehicle/Troop Carrier that once belonged to his father.

The history of this vehicle is interesting in that it served with the 1<sup>st</sup> AITW in Darwin in 1942. In 1946 it was reas-

signed to the RAE AEME Workshop at Albert Park in Melbourne, and then to the RAEME Workshop at Chappell Street, Prahran, Victoria. It was purchased, from disposal. by Ross' father in May of 1949. His father had a deep affection for the vehicle as he was a member of Corps of RAEME and worked with the vehicle for quite a long time. It has been with their family ever since.

Jeff Maggs, Ross' father, was a past President of the RAEME Association of Victoria. Unfortunately, he passed away a couple of years ago.

Ross has offered his vehicle to carry those members of the Corps who are aged or infirm in the next ANZAC Day parade. What he is looking for is:

1. **A RAEME tricolor (Blue, Yellow and Red) flag; and**
2. **A RAEME Flag with the badge on it.**

Ross wants to beg, borrow or buy these flags to be mounted on his vehicle for ANZAC Day.

**If you can help Ross, you can contact him by phone on 9525 4975 or on his mobile on 0412 725 467.**

What Ross is doing is worth the effort because helping him will help other members of our Corps.

### Can you help me ad

Bob McGuire  
35b Sexty Street  
ARMADALE WA 6112

Dear Sir

I would like to place a (Can you help me ad) in the Horse's Mouth.

The Armadale RSL Sub Branch require any items of military, old or modern, to put into our Hall.

If anyone can donate any military items for us, we would be more than happy.

I have been given the job Sub Branch

provide improved situational awareness by networking the sensors on various platforms. Over-the-horizon targeting across land, sea and air platforms will provide improved defence coordination and earlier engagement of threats.

\* Decentralised Data Fusion (BAE Systems Australia). This technology will allow distributed sensor systems to be connected into a network with low bandwidth communications. The software will enable the sensor systems to share and fuse their surveillance data into an integrated ground surveillance picture covering a network area. It will also allow UAVs to be navigated without GPS or detailed maps.

\* Tactical Pluggable C2 Framework (Innovation Science Pty Ltd). This technology will lead to the development of a software plug that allows for the use of special purpose software programs in existing combat systems to be modified for network-enabled warfare without the need for costly integration.

\* Defence Dynamic Bandwidth Broker. This proposal, also by Tenix Defence, will ensure more efficient use of the Defence communications network in periods of heavy use by allowing high priority traffic to move more rapidly.

### Leave for ADF Reservists Enshrined in Workplace Agreements

Special leave for Australian Defence Force reservists in the Australian Public Service will be enshrined in new workplace arrangements announced today.

The arrangements applied to all Commonwealth departments and agencies.

Workplace agreements must now include leave policies and employment practices so Reservists can be trained and deployed. This shows the Australian Government's high regard for re-

servists.

Currently there are five Australian Government policy requirements for agreement making, such as linking pay rises to productivity increases and ensuring consistency with workplace relations policy. Now there is a sixth requirement of supporting members of the ADF Reserves, which includes specific leave for reservists so they can continue to protect Australia's security.

The Australian Government's Defence 2000 White Paper argued that the Reserves should have a bigger role supporting military operations. The Reserves are fundamental to Australia's military capability.

The Australian Government gives financial compensation to employers who release employees for service which shows our commitment to the Reserves.

The Australian Government will work with State and Territory Governments and the private sector to develop policies for reservists in those areas.

### Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill s Introduced

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Danna Vale, recently introduced legislation into Federal Parliament that lays the framework for military rehabilitation and compensation for Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel for decades to come.

This legislation delivers on the Government's commitment to care for those who serve in the defence of Australia and has been developed in close consultation with the defence force and veteran.

As a package it enhances benefits available in the event of injury or death, particularly for those personnel who

are severely incapacitated, and for widowed partners of ADF members.

The new scheme has a strong focus on rehabilitation to help injured ADF members make a full recovery, including a requirement that the Service Chief appoint a case manager for those being discharged on medical grounds to assist with the transition to civilian life.

It also draws on the best aspects of existing health care arrangements, with the payment of reasonable expenses for conditions not requiring ongoing treatment and the provision of DVA Gold and White Cards to provide free health care for members needing ongoing treatment.

The document below outlines other key features that will assist ADF members and their families. Draft legislation was released in June and extensive consultation had been undertaken with the defence force and veteran communities in developing the final Bills.

"We have listened to ADF members and veterans and have incorporated a number of their comments into the Bill," she said. "The Government has decided not to proceed with a measure to offset future grants of the T&PI pension paid under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 by the Commonwealth-funded component of superannuation.

This reflects the conclusion that it would be unreasonable to treat differently two veterans with the same service and same incapacity.

The Government also had addressed concerns about the requirement that a veteran be unable to work at all to be eligible for the 'safety net' payment under the new scheme.

The provision is more generous. It now extends eligibility for the safety net to

cover those who are unable to work more than 10 hours a week. We also have extended the time allowed for veterans or their families to choose between lump sum or periodic payments from three to six months, with provisions for financial advice.

Subject to the passage of the legislation, the new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme was to commence on 1 July 2004

## **MILITARY REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION BILLS KEY FEATURES**

### **Rehabilitation**

\* Rehabilitation will be a primary focus and the scheme will include assessments for all members or former members who have a claim accepted, aimed at full recovery, return to work where possible, or reaching optimum health and well-being.

\* Defence Service Chiefs will retain responsibility for the rehabilitation of serving ADF members.

### **Compensation**

\* Compensation payments match those provided under existing legislation, with significant enhancements for severe injury and incapacity.

\* The scheme will offer a choice between a lump sum or regular pension payments for permanent impairment or a combination of both.

- For severely injured personnel, a choice between incapacity payments to age 65 or a lifetime

### **Special Rate Disability Pension 'safety net' payment.**

Common income maintenance regardless of service

\* The scheme introduces common income maintenance entitlements for warlike, non-warlike and peacetime service. Special arrangements will be made for entitlements under reserve or

fists and hands. Ian jumped, hit the roof and just about had a heart attack, then abused hell out of Goldie.

Saturday brought more fun and games, we took the Rieck's in our car and arrived at the property around 9am and left at approximately 8pm. The Guys gave Noel Lake a new Wheelbarrow, as a thank you for the use of his property. Which was presented in a very humorous way, with a dildo.

Chris met three Guys he hasn't seen since Vietnam, Barry Bussenschutt, Dutchie Beboer and Nick (Tata) Tatarynowicz.

The people from Western Australia were Allan and Pat Sweetman, Peter and Elsie Grygiel and yours truly, Chris and Carol. A great time was had by all.

On Sunday we left for Canberra and the East Coast, down to Sorrento in Victoria and then the Great Ocean Road to Port Fairy and back to Melbourne via Ballarat. A total of 3800 Km.

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### **"STEEL THUNDER"**

The search for all remaining Australian Centurion Main Battle Tanks

A CD has been produced about Australia's Centurion Tanks.

The C.D.'s show the search throughout Australia and overseas to try and trace all the 143 Centurions brought by the Australian Army. Only 120 Centurions were located.

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100% of all monies received WILL go towards the Vietnam Veterans New Museum Building Fund at Phillip Island.

C.D. Release date 14-11-03

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### **Can We Help?**

"Close Cottage"  
124 Albion Street  
Kenilworth  
CV8 2FZ  
England  
Tel. + 44 1926 851272  
Fax. +44 1926 777678

Mr. L Clayton  
Hillier Park (275)  
Hill Road  
Gawler  
S Australia 5118

Dear Mr. Clayton

I spoke on the telephone here today, to the REME Association of which I am a member, who very kindly gave your address as a contact in Australia.

For a short period of my military service in Malaya I was working with a RAEME LAD, based in Taiping. Unfortunately I can only remember one name and that was Clive Connors. I was actually in REME and attached to the Army Air Corps as the flight fitter and as I had no workshop facilities I was able to use the RAEME workshop.

The period of time that I was stationed there was from sometime early in 1960 until December of that year when I left to return home to the UK. I was just wondering if by any stroke of luck some of your members of the RAEME

to-training rate for injured trainees as well as reduce the time taken to successfully rehabilitate them. The Centre will also focus on increasing the morale of soldiers who have been injured in the course of their training.

“Ultimately, we want these soldiers to return to training fit and ready to take their place in the Army as soon as they are able. They will be provided with dedicated support from highly trained and motivated staff,” Major General Gordon said.

“The staff at the Centre are dedicated to getting injured trainees back to their units. They provide an important motivational and support tool for all injured trainees who come to the Centre.”

### **The Pickering's Holiday In Victoria**

The alarm rang at 2.30am on Tuesday the 30th September 2003. Well this was the day Carol & Chris must get to the airport by 4.40am for departure at 5.40am, for Adelaide and Melbourne.

At the airport security check Carol had packed the Vacuum flask in her hand luggage and had to open it all up for checking. Chris on the other hand, with his artificial hip, always has trouble going through security and had to take his shoes and belt off, nearly losing his pants in the process. Finally, all was OK and allowed to proceed on to the aircraft bound for Adelaide.

A change of planes in Adelaide brought more trouble. Chris got ahead of Carol and didn't see the small In Transit sign. He proceeded on to the baggage pick up area; Carol had to follow him to let him know he was going the wrong way. We turned to go back but a man from security said we had gone to far and were unsterile. Consequently, we had

to go through the whole rigmarole again, of the security check.

Arrived in Melbourne, without further problems. Picked up the hire car and were upgraded to a Magna All Wheel Drive (AWD), Chris said if he was in the market for a new car this would be on the bottom of his list.

Spent three enjoyable days in Melbourne and visited a few RSL Clubs. Meals are always a reasonable price at the clubs. Of course the pokies weren't an attraction at all.

Left Melbourne for Koondrook/Barham on Friday 3rd October 2003. Bound for the 102 Field workshops RAEME Reunion. Barham Bridge Motel was our first stop in Barham. The first people we met at the motel were Ian and Di Rieck from Bunderburg in QLD (who introduced Chris to Bunderburg Rum).

On the Friday afternoon Ian and Di took us out to the reunion, at Noel & Una Lake's Property approximately 15 km out of Koondrook. When we arrived there were about 20 people already there and over the duration of the weekend the numbers totalled approximately 60 male & female.

The classic belonged to Goldie (Goldsmith). Ian Beverage the organiser and cook, was concerned as his Bay Marie wasn't working properly, so Goldie being a wizard fiddled around with electric cords and plugs and then after 5 minutes he gave Ian two cords to plug in and said.

“Don't plug them in until I have fiddled with the board on the main shed”.

Then he told Ian to plug them in. Goldie watched him pick up the two plugs, one in each hand and go to plug them in.

As Ian stood inside the cook house shed and plugged the two plugs together. Goldie standing on the other side of the tin wall hit the wall repeatedly with his

cadet service.

### **Widowed partners**

\* The scheme will offer a choice for widowed partners: a regular pension, equivalent to the war widow's pension, or a lump sum based on the lifetime pension value plus an age-based additional death benefit of up to \$103,000 if death is related to warlike service or up to \$41,200 if death is related to non-warlike or peacetime service

\* Lump sum benefits for widows are enhanced. For example, the 25-year-old partner of an ADF member whose death was caused by warlike service (with two children) will have benefits totalling approximately \$600,000 if taken entirely as a lump sum. In addition, the widowed partner will be eligible for free health care for themselves and dependent children, military superannuation benefits, weekly allowances for dependent children, and other ancillary benefits.

### **Health care**

\* Payment of reasonable expenses for members not requiring ongoing treatment.

\* Provision of the White Card, providing free care for members needing ongoing treatment for conditions accepted as service-related.

\* Provision of the Gold Card for members with 60 or more permanent impairment points, or those eligible for the 'safety net', providing free care for all conditions regardless of whether they are service-related.

### **Financial advice**

\* In some circumstances where a choice is available, the Federal Government will pay up to \$1236 towards the cost of independent financial advice to assist injured personnel and their families in choosing the most ap-

propriate benefits.

### **Continuation of Veterans' Entitlements Act benefits**

\* Links between the new scheme and existing veterans' entitlements will provide benefits to new veterans with warlike service, such as the automatic treatment for certain conditions such as PTSD, the Gold Card at age 70 and the service pension at age 60.

### **Commencement**

• The new scheme will cover all ADF service from the date the legislation takes effect, planned for 1 July 2004.

### **A Promise made by the Nation to our Veterans - Then and Now**

Another reason as to why we should never give up the fight for fellow veterans.

The proposed changes to compensation and welfare of service men and women abrogate the original promise of the Australian government to repay in part service given on behalf of the country. In 1917 Prime Minister at that time, Billy Hughes, had no doubts that this obligation was the result of an unwritten but binding contract between the Australian parliament and Australia's service men and women. He declared: "...We say to them, You go and fight and when you come back we will look after your welfare."

Senator Millen said at the time when introducing the Repatriation bill into Parliament, it was an attempt to indicate Australia's obligation 'to those who on its behalf have gone into the Valley of the Shadow of Death.'

The current government's intention is the mind set of the bean counter, to draw a line at the bottom of the financial ledger when you reach 65 years.

That 86 year old pledge by Billy Hughes on behalf of nation to "look after your welfare" will come to a pitiless end.

The proposed scheme is comparable to civilian workers compensation, to pay compensation only until the expected age of retirement. The bucket of money put up as compensation is a feint - it looks good but many will regret the offer in exchange for the current ongoing assistance from a grateful nation.

The shortcomings of providing compensation commensurate with the experience and risks of a civilian job should not be underestimated. In most cases civilian work related injuries/diseases are known within a short time of the work "experience". There are a significant number of war related injuries/diseases that manifest many years after the injury simpliciter (the time the \*\*\*\* hit the fan) occurred. We are still seeing World War II veterans now attending with psychological problems many years after reaching 65 years of age. Under the new scheme "they" will not look after their welfare. Too bloody late mate!

It is not good enough for those in power to attend numerous photo opportunities at Welcome Homes, a true welcome home is to maintain the promise made 86 years ago and look after those who serve beyond life's normal range of experience.

By - Anon.

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### **Fake Veterans to Face Imprisonment**

People fraudulently claiming to be a returned soldier, sailor or airman could face six months imprisonment under proposed laws passed through the House of Representatives recently.

Minister Assisting the Minister for De-

fence Mal Brough said anyone falsely claiming to be a returned service man or woman should face the force of the law.

"It's a disgraceful act that warrants a strong penalty," Mr Brough said.

"Many Australians have served our country proudly and wrongly claiming to be a veteran is an insult to those men and women."

Along with a maximum prison term of six months, the fine will increase from \$200 to a maximum \$3,300.

The Defence Legislation Amendment Bill also increases the penalty for the wearing of medals to which an individual is not entitled.

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### **Study to Help Reduce Defence Injuries**

Preventing injuries in Australian Defence Force personnel will be the focus of a new study announced recently

The study, to cost \$2.5 million in total, will be conducted by a consortium led by the University of Ballarat and will examine the ergonomic, human performance and physical capacity requirements of Army's Rifleman and Air Force's Airfield Defence Guard employment categories.

Heavy physical demands are placed on all Defence personnel, but particularly those employed in the Combat Arms.

The Australian Government and Defence are committed to providing a safe working environment for our Defence personnel.

By preventing injuries, we not only protect our personnel, but also maintain combat capability and reduce the ongoing costs of separation due to injury, retraining personnel, health care and compensation.

Special Operations Commander - Australia, Major-General Duncan Lewis, said the Commando Reserve Response Force is one of a number of Reserve Response Forces drawn from Army Reserve units throughout Australia. The Reserve Response Forces would likely play a key role during an event of national significance such as the Sydney Olympics or CHOGM.

"These dedicated part-time soldiers, through their skills, professionalism and presence, will be of great assistance in securing large venues or areas," Major General Lewis said.

"Their role will see them work closely with State and Federal security agencies in cordoning, searching and protecting structures, venues or routes."

Major-General Lewis said the commandos had recently undertaken a suite of technically demanding courses to allow them to search complex buildings, vehicles and a variety of other structures.

During the exercise soldiers will be training on military land at Majura and Fairbairn but would also venture into areas of Canberra identified as possible venues the CRRF (Commando Reserve Response Force) could be called on to protect.

The soldiers will work at Canberra Exhibition Grounds and Mt Majura (18 Nov 03) and head to Bruce Stadium on Wednesday (19 Nov 03) afternoon.

On Wednesday morning the commandos will use their specialist watercraft to conduct training on Lake Burley Griffin in the vicinity of Spinnaker Island.

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### **New Army Rehabilitation Centre Named**

The newly established Army Rehabilitation Centre at Holsworthy Barracks was officially named the Private Jeremy Williams Rehabilitation Centre in a cer-

emony in Sydney today.

The Centre is named in memory of Private Jeremy Williams, a soldier who committed suicide whilst undertaking training at the School of Infantry in Singleton in February 2003.

Private Williams was injured during his basic infantry training and transferred to the Rehabilitation and Discharge Platoon within the School of Infantry.

The Army is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all trainees so that this tragic event does not happen again. The establishment of the Rehabilitation Centre is one of a wide range of initiatives Army is taking to further support injured trainees.

The family of Private Williams and the Army's Training Commander, Major General Ian Gordon, attended the ceremony.

The Centre was established to provide top-quality health care to trainees following a School of Infantry study to address the slow recovery rate of members of Rehabilitation and Discharge Platoon. A report from the investigation into the death of Private Williams recommended creating separate rehabilitation and transfer centres to improve the rehabilitation of injured soldiers and the administration and support of soldiers unable to continue training.

Injured trainees at the new facility will receive prompt access to specialist clinical staff and take part in intensive physical and rehabilitation training to assist their quick recovery and return to training.

"The fitness-training program is tailored to meet the individual trainees' requirements and is designed to prepare them for a return to their training course," Major General Gordon said.

The Centre aims to improve the return-

e-mail address.

You can contact me by phone on 07 47515326 or by e-mail on scud7@optusnet.com.au

Thank you in anticipation and good luck.

Darcy

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### RAEME Rings

There have been some enquiries recently about the purchase of RAEME Signet Rings. Unfortunately the cost of these rings is well outside the budget for the Association. Below is some correspondence received that will give an indication of the costs. Should you wish to get a ring, please contact Alan Croker from Commemorative Rings Aust.

To be honest, we have not yet done any rings for RAEME. We have artwork (attached) for 2 styles. We would need someone (you?) to decide the style preferred so we can make moulds etc. I will give you pricing on both styles: Oval — 10kt Gold = \$394.90, Sterling Silver = \$273.90. Vertical Rectangle — 10kt = \$414.70, S/S = \$275. All include GST. Postage = \$10, Inscriptions = \$10. Delivery normally

### Can We Help You

The RAEME Association is concerned about the welfare of RAEME members in Western Australia, Particularly if they have a disability or getting a bit on the elderly side. We would like to set up a practical help and support group who can provide a voluntary service such as gardening, home help, transport, or assistance with shopping, etc.

So, if you are fit and healthy and are willing to give a little of your time to help other members of the Corps, contact the Secretary and let him know. We will maintain a database of helpers and expertise.

If you need assistance because of age or infirmity, let us know. We will be only too glad to make sure that you have the help you need. And the best part of it is that it is all part of the service.

6 weeks, but being first ring it will take longer to make moulds, so approx 9-10 weeks from order. It would be great if you could get some of your Corp mates interested as that would justify the costs of making the mould. We do not charge for moulds, but they cost us a heap so we like to get at least 6 rings from a mould to cover that cost before we are OK. Let me know if we can be of any other assistance. Any questions—please ask.

Regards,

Alan Cocker

Commemorative Rings Aust. P/L  
alan@comringsaust.com

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### ACT hosts Reserve Commando Training

The Commando Reserve Response Force arrived in the ACT recently to begin the first exercise designed to evaluate the new capability announced by the Minister for Defence in May, 2003.

About 100 soldiers from Special Operations Command's part-time commando force will employ a variety of new skills honed during intensive training periods over the past few months during Exercise Strike Shield 2003.

This study will look at the day-to-day tasks, fitness and strength requirements and hazards for those personnel.

The research team will use that data to develop Physical Employment Standards which will inform decisions on employment category selection, training and injury prevention and will help manage occupational health and safety.

The study would not consider whether or not direct combat roles should be open to women.

This study is limited to identifying the physical standards required of personnel to do their job.

The Physical Employment Standards study is expected to take two years to complete. The consortium also includes researchers from Victoria University, the University of New South Wales, Monash University and the University of Sydney

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### A new slant on pensions etc

John,

The following article appeared in the Spring edition of the 'Duty First' the National magazine for the Royal Australian Regiment (of foot). It just arrived today and while checking out the news I noticed this article. It seems to have some truth about it and if so would mean a huge change in conditions for those young soldiers who did not get a chance at any other active service.

I would appreciate your views on the matter.

Regards,

BarryLong  
Highgate Branch RSL

Dear Sir,

Re: Service at Rifle Company  
Butterworth 1972-1989

As this issue concerns mainly mem-

bers or ex-members of the Royal Australian Regiment, could you please publish this letter for the many ex-soldiers out there who served their country faithfully, who believe and have been told they are not Veterans and therefore have no entitlements.

To all you Veterans out there who are eligible for the Australian Service Medal (ASM) for service with Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB). The Government would have you believe that you have no entitlements to Veterans Affairs because you have not been on Active Service. As documented in the submission that resulted in the award of the ASM, the Communist Terrorists did not surrender to the Malaysian Government until 1989; until that date Australian soldiers who served with RCB were obliged to sign a document volunteering for 'Active Service' because of the terms of the deployment of RCB in the defence of Malaysia under the agreement between the Australian and Malaysian Governments.

In regards to this 'Active Service', if you remember all PD105 Charge Reports were framed "Whilst on Active Service" and the recipient of disciplinary action under the guidelines as laid down in the Army Law Manual (ALM), "Active Service" meant you received double the normal fine/punishment, field punishment and also imprisonment using the Armoury. These punishments and especially field punishment and imprisonment as stated in the ALM could only be awarded to personnel when on Active Service. Now either you blokes were on Active Service or you weren't, if you were then you are entitled to the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM), if you are not entitled to the AASM and you were charged whilst at RCB then I would be seeing my lawyer in regards to the illegal orderly room (trial) that was conducted and then the illegal fine/pun-

ishment that you were then subjected to and the resulting trauma that has caused you.

I am a Vietnam Veteran so my only vested interest in this matter is to make sure that fellow soldiers who served their country, under legislation that Governments of the day legislated and enacted to protect themselves, not the soldiers; get the entitlements that are enshrined in that same legislation.

Your sincerely,

Ken Rundell

**Ed's Note:** We thank "Duty First", Ken Rundell and Barry Long for bringing this point to our attention. If we have any member of the Association that feels that he could have been in the situation described, we would like to hear from them. Who Knows what might happen!!!!!!

*It is not often that a poem graces the centre page of the Horse's Mouth. But this poem is one which beautifully sums up the wave of feeling post Sept 11. Take the time to read it and see if it does not affect you.*

### Daddy's Day at School

Her hair was up in a ponytail  
Her favourite dress tied with a bow.  
Today was Daddy's Day at school,  
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,  
That she probably should stay home.  
Why the kids might not understand,  
If she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid;  
She knew just what to say.  
What to tell her classmates  
Of why he wasn't there today.

But still her mother worried,  
For her to face this day alone.  
And that was why once again,  
She tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school,  
Eager to tell them all.  
About a dad she never sees  
A dad who never calls.

There were daddies along the wall in back,  
For everyone to meet.  
Children squirming impatiently,  
Anxious in their seats.

One by one the teacher called,  
A student from the class.  
To introduce their daddy,  
As seconds slowly passed.

At last the teacher called her name,  
Every child turned to stare.  
Each of them was searching,  
For a man who wasn't there.

"Where's her daddy at?"  
She heard a boy call out.  
"She probably doesn't have one,"  
Another student dared to shout.

And from somewhere near the back,  
She heard a daddy say,  
"Looks like another deadbeat dad,  
Too busy to waste his day."

The words did not offend her,  
As she smiled up at her Mom.  
And looked back at her teacher,  
Who told her to go on.

And with hands behind her back,  
Slowly she began to speak.  
And out from the mouth of a child,  
Came words incredibly unique.

"My Daddy couldn't be here,  
Because he lives so far away.  
But I know he wishes he could be,  
Since this is such a special day.

And though you cannot meet him,  
I wanted you to know.  
All about my daddy,  
And how much he loves me so.

He loved to tell me stories  
He taught me to ride my bike.

Who knows what they felt inside.  
Perhaps for merely a second,  
They saw him at her side.

"I know you're with me Daddy,"  
To the silence she called out.  
And what happened next made believers,  
Of those once filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it,  
For each of their eyes had been closed.  
But there on the desk beside her,  
Was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.

And a child was blessed, if only for a moment,  
By the love of her shining bright star.  
And given the gift of believing,  
That heaven is never too far

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### Spinia Bifida

From:  
Don Phillips

G'day Group members,

If you know of any children of Vietnam veterans in this same situation, then maybe they can contact Darcy direct. take care,

**Subject: Vietnam Veterans descendant with Spinia Bifida**

Seeking all Spinia Bifida Sons and Daughters of Vietnam Veterans

My name is Darcy Upton and I would like to make contact with any of the above people with a view to being able to exchange information on how we all cope with this malady.

I was born with Spinia Bifida in 1969 after my father returned from service in Vietnam. I live in Townsville, North Queensland and as far as I am aware I am the only one inflicted with this disease in this area that is a descendant of a Vietnam Veteran.

If you can assist me in anyway please contact me with your phone number and

He surprised me with pink roses,  
And taught me to fly a kite.

We used to share fudge sundaes,  
And ice cream in a cone.  
And though you cannot see him,  
I'm not standing here alone.

Cause my daddy's always with me,  
Even though we are apart  
I know because he told me,  
He'll forever be in my heart"

With that, her little hand reached up,  
And lay across her chest.  
Feeling her own heartbeat,  
Beneath her favourite dress.

And from somewhere in the crowd of dads,  
Her mother stood in tears.  
Proudly watching her daughter,  
Who was wise beyond her years.

For she stood up for the love  
Of a man not in her life.  
Doing what was best for her,  
Doing what was right.

And when she dropped her hand back down,  
Staring straight into the crowd.  
She finished with a voice so soft,  
But its message clear and loud.

"I love my daddy very much,  
He's my shining star.  
And if he could, he'd be here,  
But heaven's just too far.

You see he was a fireman  
And died just this past year  
When airplanes hit the towers  
And taught Americans to fear.

But sometimes when I close my eyes,  
It's like he never went away."  
And then she closed her eyes,  
And saw him there that day.

And to her mother's amazement,  
She witnessed with surprise.  
A room full of daddies and children,  
All starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before them,