

### **SPIRITS IN THE WIND**

They crouch in the gullies & ridges,  
The ghosts of the soldiers who died.  
Barbed wire foot entanglements,  
Rusted and left *where* they lie.  
The wind whistles over those ridges,  
Sounds of bullets and shrapnel are heard  
Carried by wind over trenches,  
Where brave men were fated to die.  
Those ghosts walked proudly among them  
As the Anzacs marched in the parade  
Even the viewing children could see them  
As *they* waved their Australian Flags  
Memories of fathers and uncles  
All the soldiers who died for our land  
We lay down our wreaths to their honour  
Praising their deeds once again.

Beryl M Lorimer VX78329A (shortly before she died)

Written to the memory of Jack Hancher  
Who died at Belles May 8<sup>th</sup> 1915

With thanks to Frank Lorimer (RAEME Assoc VIC)  
for permission to reprint the poem.



*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.)**

## **Spring 2005**

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.

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**PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6933**

**Colonel Commandant:****Colonel Mark MacKenzie**

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**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 18th of NOVEMBER 2005.

**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**

Far more things are happening lately than have happened in previous years. This year a committee of serving and ex-serving members of the Corps met in Bandiana and discussed a number of matters, all of which affected us here in the West. It would suffice for me to say that, as time passes, there will be greater cooperation between all the States Associations. And this can only be beneficial to our members. More about that in the future.

I am very happy to see that the number of unfinancial members in the As-

sociation has dropped quite markedly. However, we still have a number who have not paid their subs. If you are not sure, a quick phone call to our Treasurer or our Secretary will confirm your status. Alternatively you can send them an email at [curtisi@bigpond.net.au](mailto:curtisi@bigpond.net.au) if you wish. With all the extra subscriptions, we are able to do more things for the membership, especially in the supply of Memorabilia.

I would very much like to see more of our members at our meetings. It is only once per month for a couple of hours. Those who do attend have a couple of noggins and a meal while we talk about

to leave you, they should give you two weeks' notice. There should be severance pay, the day before they leave you, they should have to find you a temp." —Bob Ettinger

7) "My Mom said she learned how to swim when someone took her out in the lake and threw her off the boat. I said, 'Mom, they weren't trying to teach you how to swim.'" —Paula Poundstone

8) "A study in the Washington Post says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: "Duh." —Conan O'Brien

9) "Why does Sea World have a seafood restaurant?? I'm halfway through my fish burger and I realize, Oh my God.... I could be eating a slow learner." —Lynda Montgomery

10) "I think that's how Chicago got started. Bunch of people in New York said, 'Gee, I'm enjoying the crime and the poverty, but it just isn't cold enough. Let's go west.'" —Richard Jeni

11) "If life were fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead." —Johnny Carson

12) "Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography." —Paul Rodriguez

13) "My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned sixty and that's the law." —Jerry Seinfeld

14) "Remember in elementary school, you were told that in case of fire you have to line up quietly in a single file line from smallest to tallest. What is the logic in that? What, do tall people burn slower?" —Warren Hutcherson

15) "Bigamy is having one wife/husband too many. Monogamy is the same." —Oscar Wilde

16) "Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress... But I repeat myself." —Mark Twain

17) "Our bombs are smarter than the

average high school student. At least they can find Afghanistan." —A. Whitney Brown

18) "You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'My God, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'" —Dave Barry

**Grandma Isn't Stupid**

The doctor who had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her adult life finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the young doctor was looking through these, his eyes grew wide as he realised she had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realise these are BIRTH CONTROL pills?!"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night."

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely NOTHING in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee.

"Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old grand daughter drinks. Believe me, it helps me sleep at night!"

**Rules of Life**

Sometimes, we just need to remember what the rules of life really are:

You only need two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.

**Remember:** Everyone seems normal until you get to know them. Never pass up an opportunity to go to the bathroom. If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You get another chance. And finally, be really nice to your family and friends; you never know when you might need them to empty your bedpan.

I can no longer continue our relationship. The distance between us is just too great. I must admit that I have cheated on you twice, since you've been gone, and it's not fair to either of us. I'm sorry. Please return the picture of me that I sent to you. Love, Becky

The Marine, with hurt feelings, asked his fellow Marines for any snapshots they could spare of their girlfriends, sisters, ex-girlfriends, aunts, cousins etc. In addition to the picture of Becky, Ricky included all the other pictures of the pretty girls he had collected from his buddies. There were 57 photos in that envelope....along with this note:

Dear Becky,

I'm so sorry, but I can't quite remember who you are. Please take your picture from the pile, and send the rest back to me.

Take Care,  
Ricky

### Last one is good

The following were taken off actual police car videos

"Take your hands off the car, and I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document."

"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

"Can you run faster than 1,200 feet per second? In case you didn't know, that is the average speed of a 9mm bullet fired from my gun."

"So you don't know how fast you were going. I guess that means I can write anything I want on the ticket, huh?"

"Yes, Sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"

"Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."

"The answer to this last question will

determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"

"Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy, and step in monkey do-do."

"Just how big were those two beers?"

"No sir we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want."

"I'm glad to hear the Chief of Police is a good personal friend of yours. At least you know someone who can post your bail.

"And the best one is...."

"You didn't think we give pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't."

### Deep Observations On Life

1) When I die, I want to die like my grandfather—who died peacefully in his sleep. Not screaming like all the passengers in his car." —Author Unknown

2) Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two aspirin" and "Keep away from children." —Author Unknown

3) "Oh, you hate your job? Why didn't you say so? There's a support group for that. It's called EVERYBODY, and they meet at the bar." —Drew Carey

4) "The problem with the designated driver program, it's not a desirable job, but if you ever get sucked into doing it, have fun with it. At the end of the night, drop them off at the wrong house." —Jeff Foxworthy

5) "If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there is a man on base." —Dave Barry

6) "Relationships are hard. It's like a full time job, and we should treat it like one. If your boyfriend or girlfriend wants

the Association. Before and after the meeting we have discussions, solve the ills of the world, and have a generally good time.

I would like to thank those members who held their hands up for a position on the committee for 2005 – 6. I welcome our new members of the committee in Dick Fenton, Perry Beor, Peter Anthony, Graham Coles and Dave Cooper. Peter and Dave have served previously and we welcome them back.

It is very unfortunate that we have lost a couple of our legends of the Corps since the last "Horse's Mouth". Those of us who served with them will never forget the work that they have done in the service of their country. We will never forget the friendship and camaraderie that we had with them. You can read about them in other areas of the "HM".

Advertised in a flyer with this issue is our Annual Dinner. This year it will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. We are very fortunate that we will have a couple of very special guests this year. We have applied for the Corps Banner and the Corps Centrepiece to be bought to WA this year and have every chance of seeing it here.

While I think of the Corps Banner. Miniature Banner Serial No. 113 has been presented to the Workshop at Karrakatta and can be viewed in the Orderly Room. This Banner belongs to the RAEME Association of WA and is at the Unit on long term loan.

John Klein  
*Arte et Marte*

### Campaign medals for ADF personnel

Campaign medals for Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Afghanistan and Iraq are set to be issued by year's end, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, De-

Anne Kelly, said recently.

Mrs Kelly said claims by Labor MP Graham Edwards that ADF personnel who had served in those theatres had been "denied recognition at home" were hogwash.

She said personnel who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq have been recognised.

ADF personnel who have served in those deployments are entitled to receive the Australian Active Service Medal. Eligible members receive their AASM soon after the completion of their deployment.

Service in Afghanistan and Iraq also entitles members to the award of a campaign medal for service on each deployment.

The first issue of these campaign medals should occur before the end of 2005.

The new campaign medals were formally approved by the Queen and confirmed in October 2004.

Within a tight schedule, the tender evaluation was disrupted by the illness of the chair of the evaluation board and the postings of senior Defence staff. A contract for the manufacture of these campaign medals was signed on April 26 this year.

Australians are proud of the valuable role the men and women of the ADF play in Afghanistan and Iraq.

### New Bushmasters roll off Bendigo production line

Defence's new fleet of Bushmaster vehicles which will provide state-of-the-art transport protection for Australian soldiers is currently rolling off ADI's production line in Bendigo, Victoria.

Defence Minister Robert Hill recently visited ADI's Bendigo plant where work is underway to produce a total of 300

new vehicles for the Australian Defence Force as part of the Government's \$350 million Land 116 Project Bushranger.

The Australian designed and manufactured vehicle is being produced at Bendigo at a rapid rate, with approximately one vehicles coming off the production line every two days resulting in a total of 100 vehicles produced per year.

Full acceptance of the Bushmaster vehicles by Defence is expected in the next few months, and the full fleet of vehicles is expected to be in service by mid 2007.

ADI is also looking at export opportunities for the new Bushmaster, potentially exporting several hundred vehicles to countries including the United States and Iraq."

These new opportunities have the potential to provide further economic benefits for the Bendigo region and continued employment growth in the Defence and manufacturing sectors."

The vehicles combine protection, performance, safety and comfort to operate over demanding terrain. They are designed to transport up to ten troops and provide high level protection on the battlefield against landmines, improvised explosive devices, mortar fragments and small arms fire.

It is a credit to ADI and the Defence Materiel Organisation for their hard work over recent years in getting to this stage where ADI is in full rate production of a vehicle that Army has great confidence in.

Earlier this year 10 new Bushmaster vehicles were deployed to southern Iraq with the Al Muthanna Task Group to provide additional transport protection for the ADF personnel deployed to the southern province.

The currently deployment of the Bush-

master vehicles is the first operational deployment for the vehicles, although an earlier version was trialed in East Timor.

The vehicle can maintain speeds in excess of 90 km/h on Australian roads with a range of more than 500km. Each Bushmaster vehicle is fitted with a weapon station capable of mounting the Army's light machine guns.

During his visit to ADI, Senator Hill was also able to inspect the production of a fleet of new High Mobility Engineering Vehicle. This is an engineering vehicle previously produced for the ADF which is now short-listed for a similar program to deliver up to 650 military specification tractors to the United States Army.

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### **Commemorative Medal For Veterans Of WWII**

I received this email from one of our members. A commemorative medal has been struck for any person who served in WWII. This includes all persons from Commonwealth countries.

Hi John, reference our tele-con this a.m. on the above subject. In the event you should receive any enquiries regarding non-receipt of this medal I have determined from the Commonwealth Dept of Veterans Affairs (W.A. State) that issues are being made only during September 2005. In the event of non-receipt by the end of the month phone enquiries should be made to :- Veterans Affairs Phone = 1300-665-706.

Trust this will be of assistance. Cheers Pete.

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### **Beijing**

Ron is a sapper and member of RAEA WA. An internationally renowned sculptor and owner of Gomboc Gallery WA. Did the C Y O'Connor statue in the sea. Many of our members who served with the Engineers will know Ron

States.

### **THIS YEAR'S AWARDS GO TO:**

#### **5th Place (Tied)**

Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

#### **5th Place (Tied)**

19 year old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently did not notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal the hubcaps.

#### **5th Place (Tied)**

Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He could not re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for 8 days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The Jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

#### **4th Place**

Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbour's Beagle dog. The Beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been a little provoked at the time as Mr. Williams, who had climbed over the fence into the yard, was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

### **3rd Place**

A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier, during an argument.

### **2nd Place**

Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware sued the owner of a Night Club in a neighbouring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out two of her front teeth. This occurred whilst Ms. Walton was trying to sneak in the window of the Ladies Room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

### **1st Place!!!!**

This year's runaway winner was Mr. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new Winnebago Motor home. On his trip home from an OU football game, having driven onto the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly the RV left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the owner's manual that he could not actually do this. The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new Winnebago Motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit just in case there were any other complete morons buying their recreational vehicles

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### **Dear John Letter**

The Best "Dear John" Letter ever..Ouch! A Marine stationed in Afghanistan recently received a "Dear John" letter from his girlfriend back home. It read as follows:

Dear Ricky,

### Jim's Life in the US

Jim is an expert when it comes to things about his own country.

#### Use your brain

An old man lived alone in Idaho. He wanted to dig his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Son:

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up the garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love, Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad:

For heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up that garden, that's where I buried the BODIES.

Love, Son

At 4 am the next morning, FBI agents and local police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad!

Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Son

The moral of the story: Work smart, not hard. Use your brain ... in the perceived impossible, sometimes, it can make the impossible possible.

#### FBI test

The FBI had an opening for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were done there were 3 finalists. Two men and a woman.

For the final test, the FBI agents took

one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun.

"We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances. Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Kill Her!!!" The man said, "You can't be serious! I could never shoot my wife."

The agent said, "Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home."

The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about 5 minutes. The man came out with tears in his eyes, "I tried, but I can't kill my wife."

The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home."

Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions, to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls.

After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman, She wiped the sweat from her brow. "This gun is loaded with blanks" she said. "I had to beat him to death with the chair."

MORAL: Women are evil. Don't mess with them

#### Annual Stella Awards MX

There are some total idiots loose out there, most of them serving on American juries!!

It's once again time to review the winners of the annual Stella Awards. The Stella's are named after 81 year old Stella Liebeck who spilled coffee on herself and Successfully sued McDonald's. That case inspired the 'Stella Awards' for the most frivolous successful lawsuits in the United

Good day Mick,

I have been told that Tasmanian oysters are definitely worth the trip across, this is something that maybe Terrie and I will put to the test one day. In the meantime I just thought you may be interested in hearing the latest in my career as a sculptor. Whilst I have been frantically trying to complete a major piece of sculpture for Sculpture by the Sea - Bondi 2005, I have just been notified that my submission for a major international sculpture event in Beijing was successful and I have been selected to participate in "Eulogy to Peace" Sculpture Exhibition/Symposium in Beijing. This is a great for an Australian sculptor as the airfare and all expenses are being met by the organising committee and it will be internationally recognized. So back to work.

Cheers,  
Ron Gomboc

#### Call For Submissions To Korean Medals Review

An independent review is seeking submissions on the level of recognition of service by Australians in Korea following the 1953 armistice.

An estimated 5,000 Australians served in Korea from that time until August 1957.

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, De-Anne Kelly, said the Working Party conducting the review was interested in hearing from interested individuals and groups about the appropriateness of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 with clasp "Korea" and the Returned from Active Service Badge for this period of service in Korea.

Rear Admiral Ian Crawford AO, AM (Mil), RAN (Retd), a Korean War veteran, and former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Garry

Nehl AM are jointly chairing the Working Party. The other members are Ms Colleen Thurgar AM of the Order of Australia Association, and Brigadier Gordon Jones AM (Retd).

"It is important for people who might be interested in making a submission to the review to have the opportunity to make their views available. The Working Party will consult widely, and it needs as much input as possible on the nature of service during this period", Mrs Kelly said.

Submissions should relate to the terms of reference for the review (copy attached) and be forwarded to the following address by 31 July 2005:

The Secretary  
Post-Armistice Korean Service Review  
Honours and Awards  
T-1-39

Department of Defence  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email:

Defence.PAKSR@defence.gov.au

Ph: (02) 6266 1287

Fax: (02) 6266 1213

Website: [http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe\\_site/honours\\_awards/paksr/](http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/paksr/)

The Working Party expects to conduct a series of public hearings in major centres around Australia. Full details will be advertised in the media and through ex-Service organisations closer to the time.

#### Terms Of Reference

The Working Party is to investigate, review and report on the level of recognition of Australian service in Korea between 28 July 1953 and 26 August 1957, following the armistice.

The Working Party is to make specific recommendations concerning the appropriateness of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp "Korea" and the Returned from Active Service Badge for this period of service.

The determination of the nature of service during this period is to include the nature of operations and hostilities.

Without being limited by those prescribed, the deliberations and recommendations of the following source references are to be considered in the conduct of the review:

- \* The 1993/94 Committee into Defence and Defence Related Awards (Gration Review);
- \* The 2002/03 Independent Review of Veterans' Entitlements (Clarke Review);
- \* The 1975 Independent Enquiry into the Repatriation System (Toose Report);
- \* The 2000 Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75 (Mohr Report);
- \* The Mortality Study 2003: Australian Veterans of the Korean War and the 2005 Korean War Veterans Health Study;
- \* Past and current precedents; and
- \* Relevant past and current Government policy.

In presenting recommendations, the working party shall include written consideration of the wider implications of suggested changes to current policy.

The Working Party is to consult widely with veterans' organisations, government authorities and other interested parties.

### Weapons Trial Offers New Capability Options For Defence

The successful firing of a new type of remote-controlled weapon concept demonstrator has opened the door to potential new capability options for the Australian Defence Force.

Defence Minister Robert Hill congratulated the project consortium, led by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), on the success

of the weapon concept trial held at Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Range in South Australia.

The consortium, which includes private sector companies METAL STORM LTD and NICO-PYROTECHNIK, used Metal Storm technology to develop a new weapon concept. The concept demonstrator is known as the Area Denial Weapon System (ADWS).

If developed further this new weapons concept would have the potential to be used on operations to defend vital assets such as airfields and ships.

The concept demonstrator includes a multi-barrel weapon pod linked to a fire control system and a central control station. Each pod had the capability to fire up to 20 projectiles using various rates of fire and firing sequences that are chosen by an operator at the control station.

With further development this concept could potentially provide a type of remote-controlled weapons system that might be adapted to a number of Defence capabilities and used to protect assets or deny access to large areas of land.

As the communications use Internet type technology, it is feasible to locate the control system anywhere in the world. It would also be possible for one operator to control a number of ADWS sites."

The ADWS concept was designed as a replacement capability to anti-personnel land mines. Australia is a signatory to the 1997 Ottawa Treaty which bans the use of anti-personnel land mines.

The ADWS was a good example of the use of concept demonstrators to build capability for Defence.

Defence has an established Capability and Technology Demonstrator (CTD) Program under which Defence and industry work together to develop con-

shortly, lovely people, so if you could just put up your trays, that would be super."

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed that a well-dressed rather exotic looking woman hadn't moved a muscle. "Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines," he said, "I asked you to raise your trazy-poo so the main man can pitty-pat us on the ground."

She calmly turned her head and said, "In my country, I am called a Princess. I take orders from no one."

To which the flight attendant replied, without missing a beat, "Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country I'm called a Queen, so I outrank you. Tray-up, bitch."

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### Cricket by Crikey...

#### **Cricket in Heaven**

Two ninety year old men, Nev and Vic, have been friends all their lives.

It seems that Vic is dying, and so Nev comes to visit him every day.

"Vic," says Nev, "You know how we have both loved cricket all our lives, and how we played together for so many years. Vic, you have to do me one favour.

When you get to Heaven, and I know you will go to Heaven, somehow you've got to let me know if there's cricket in Heaven."

Vic looks up at Nev from his death bed, and says, "Nev, you've been my best friend many years. This favour, if it is at all possible, I'll do for you."

And shortly after that, Vic passes on. It is midnight a couple of nights later. Nev is sound asleep when he is awakened by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calls out to him,

"Nev....Nev...."

"Who is it?" says Nev sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?"

"Nev, it's me, Vic."

"Come on. You're not Vic. Vic just died."

"I'm telling you," insists the voice. "It's me, Vic!"

"Vic ? Is that you? Where are you?"

"I'm in heaven," says Vic , "and I've got to tell you, I've got really good news and a little bad news."

"So, tell me the good news first," says Nev.

"The good news is that there is cricket in heaven. Better yet, all our old buddies who've gone before us are there. Better yet, we're all young men again. Better yet, it's always spring time and it never rains or snows.

And best of all, we can play cricket all we want, and we never get tired!"

"Really?" says Nev, "That is fantastic, wonderful beyond my wildest dreams! But, what's the bad news?"

"You're opening the batting next Tuesday".

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### The Hero

After reading Dick's EARLY RETIREMENT I passed it to a friend of mine who had just finished reading the book MAN OF THE HOUSE. He some how merged the two together and the result is his story. After a Saturday afternoon in his local with the boys he stormed into his kitchen and walked directly up to his wife.

Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on I want you to know that am the man of this house, and my word is law! I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, I expect a sumptuous dessert afterward.

Then after dinner, you are going to draw me a bath so I can relax

And when I've finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair? His wife replied "The flaming funeral director would me my guess."

### **Blonde With Paint**

A blonde, wanting to earn some money, decided to hire herself out as a 'handywoman' and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighbourhood.

She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do. "Well, you can paint my porch," he said, "How much will you charge me?"

The blonde, after looking about responded, "How about \$50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint and other materials she might need were in the garage.

His wife overheard the conversation and asked, "Does she realise that porch goes all the way around the house?"

The man replied, "She should; she was standing on it. Do you think she's dumb?"

"No. I guess I'm guilty of being influenced by all the 'dumb blonde' jokes we've been receiving."

A short time later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money.

"You're finished already?" the husband asked.

"Yes", the blonde replied, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."

Impressed, the man handed her the \$50

"And by the way," the blonde added, "it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."

### **Scottish women**

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

### **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.

Terry had married a woman from America, and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning that needed done at their house. He said that it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmy had married a woman from Australia. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next Day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a Scottish girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye. Enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and call a landscaper.

### **What Beats A Princess??**

A British Airway's passenger cabin was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone into a good mood as he served them food and drinks.

As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and announced to the passengers, "Captain Marvey has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane

cept demonstrator technologies with the potential to significantly boost future Defence capability.

### **Commitment Of Reserves An Example To Everyone**

An article by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, The Hon Teresa Gambaro, MP

Australian Defence Force Reserve is one of the Australia's strongest assets. Of the more than 70,000 people who serve in the ADF, over 30 per cent are active Reservists - men and women serving along side regular ADF personnel in the Navy, Army or Air Force as part-time members. Not only do they commit their time to becoming a reservist, many have or develop specialised skills that are vital for the Australian Defence Force.

It takes a very special kind of person to dedicate themselves the way our Reserve personnel do and on July 3, Reserve Forces Day, I urge Australians to show their support for our Navy, Army and Air Force Reserves for their service.

It has been a remarkable year for our Reserves who have been involved in a variety of Australia's humanitarian and peace-keeping missions throughout the world.

For many their Christmas holidays with family and friends were brought to a sudden halt when a massive tsunami struck Indonesia, killing thousands and leaving behind absolute devastation for the survivors.

Reservists and members of the permanent forces were among the first on the ground to assist the people of Aceh and the surrounding areas, providing clean water, medical attention for the injured and assistance with the massive cleanup operation. More than 1000 Reserves personnel were among those who continued that assistance throughout Operation Sumatra Assist Phases

I and II and following the earthquake at Nias in April.

Sadly, a Reservist, Navy Lieutenant Matthew Davey, was among the nine Australian servicemen and women killed at Nias as they went to the aid of the people there.

Reservists, their families, friends and employers should all be commended for their contribution to ensuring the ADF is ready to assist when needed. In recent years, in addition to their humanitarian work in Indonesia, Reservists have also been deployed as part of Australia's continued peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts around the world. In recent years, they have also provided humanitarian relief to devastated communities in Rwanda, Somalia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia and served alongside their full-time counterparts in peace missions to East Timor and Bougainville.

The commitment of Reservists may have been brought to prominence during Operation Sumatra Assist, but it is nothing new. Reservists have contributed to every major conflict in which Australia has been involved since Federation, and today we are increasingly drawing on the skills and expertise of the Reserves to help deliver the Defence Force's capability.

The days where Reservists served exclusively in separate units to their permanent counterparts have well and truly past. Nowadays, as was so clear from the work we saw done in Aceh, permanent and Reserve personnel work side by side, using their specialist skills and training to deliver what is needed, whether it be a fully functioning and portable military hospital, providing filtration systems to ensure clean drinking water, free from disease or just general clean up.

I am very proud of Reservists everywhere and urge Australians to support them as they celebrate Reserve Forces Day on July 3. Many Reserv-

ists, often the cream of specialists in their civilian roles, bring specialised skills to the ADF at short notice or in times of emergency.

Also, many Reservists either use their holidays or leave their civilian jobs at very short notice to help in humanitarian relief efforts. I believe that this commitment demonstrates to employers and families that they are an essential and integral part of the Australian Defence Force. In making these personal sacrifices - balancing the responsibilities of their civilian job, commitments to family and friends and, in some cases, study commitments with their Defence training - we can get an appreciation of the essential support afforded to Reservists by others.

Of those others, I would like to pay particular thanks to the employers whose people have been granted time to be part of not just the deployments, but regular training commitments. Employers make sacrifices when Reserves are needed and it is vital that we acknowledge and support their commitment. In situations like these, Reservists need to be confident their employer supports their involvement in the Reserves and their employment is secure when they deploy or train.

While traditionally the employer-Reservist relationship was one of goodwill, these days employers can receive financial compensation under the Employer Support Payment Scheme. The Government has also ensured employers have access to other support measures by enhancing the role of the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC), which provides a valuable interface between Reservists, their employers and the community.

In May, it was my great pleasure to announce that Mitsubishi Australia had signed up online to register their support and commitment to releasing Reservists for training and operations. The Statement of Support program, run by

the DRSC, is an opportunity for businesses to register their support of Reservists and I encourage more to consider the benefits of employing Reservists. To find out more about the DRSC's Statement of Support program, visit their website at [www.defence.gov.au/drsc](http://www.defence.gov.au/drsc) or call 1800 803 485.

The Defence Reserves Program strongly supports the celebratory aspects of Reserve Forces Day, conducted by the Reserve Forces Day Council, a civilian organisation supportive of the Reserves. The council has organised a number of parades and activities around the country and it would be wonderful to see the streets lined with people, expressing our thanks to these very valuable personnel. For further information on Reserve Forces Day activities you can visit [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves) or [www.rfd.org.au](http://www.rfd.org.au).

I would also encourage any Australians who would like to consider a career in the Reserves to contact Defence Force Recruiting on 131901 or visit [www.defencejobs.gov.au](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au).

### **\$25 Million Expansion Of Helicopter Facility To Produce New Helicopters For ADF**

The Federal Government will invest \$25 million in an expansion of the Australian Aerospace helicopter production facility in Brisbane which is currently producing the new 'Tiger' Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter.

The announcement was made recently coinciding with the delivery and acceptance of the first Australian-made Tiger Helicopter by the Australian Defence Force, giving a major boost to Army's capability.

Australian Aerospace has successfully delivered the first of the new generation Tiger Helicopter on time and on budget, and the \$25 million expansion of the Brisbane facility will allow the ADF's new MRH 90 Troop Lift Helicopter to

10. **Balderdash** (n.) a rapidly receding hairline.

11. **Testicle** (n.) a humorous question on an exam.

12. **Rectitude** (n.) the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

13. **Pokemon** (n) a Rastafarian proctologist.

14. **Oyster** (n.) a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

15. **Frisbeetarianism** (n.) (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

16. **Circumvent** (n.) an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

### **Life According to Perry**

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

#### **Perhaps this will help you find inner peace**

By following the simple advice I heard on the Dr. Phil show, I have finally found inner peace. Dr. Phil proclaimed, "The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you've started and never finished." So, I looked around my house to see all the things I started and hadn't finished, and before leaving this morning, I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of White Zinfandel, a bottle of Bailey's Bristol Cream, a bottle of Kahlua, a package of Oreos, the remainder of my old Prozac prescription, the rest of the cheesecake, some sal-tines and a box of chocolates.

You have no idea how good I feel.

#### **Reality Check**

A woman gets home, screeches her car into the driveway, runs into the house, slams the door and shouts at the top of her lungs,

"Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!"

The husband says, 'Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?"

"Doesn't matter," she says. "Just get the hell out of here."

#### **The Blonde and the Alligator Shoes**

A young blonde was on holiday and driving through the Everglades. She

wanted to take home a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking.

After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle on prices" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the blonde shouted, "Well then, maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator, so I can get a pair of shoes for free!"

The shopkeeper said with a sly, knowing smile, "Little lady, just go and give it a try!"

The blonde headed out toward the swamps, determined to catch an alligator. Ater in the day, as the shopkeeper is driving home, he pulls over to the side of the road where he spots that same young woman standing waist deep in the murky bayou water, shotgun in hand.

Just then, he spots a huge 9-foot 'gator swimming rapidly toward her. With lightning speed, she takes aim, kills the creature and hauls it onto the slimy bank of the swamp. Lying nearby were 7 more of the dead creatures, all lying on their backs.

The shopkeeper stood on the bank, watching in silent amazement. The blonde struggled and flipped the 'gator onto its back. Rolling her eyes heavenward and screaming in great frustration, she shouts out

**THIS ONE'S BAREFOOT TOO!!!!!!"**

to show you what it feels like when I'm driving!"

### Observed truths

1. Life is sexually transmitted.
2. Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
3. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks.
4. Some people are like Slinkies..., not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.
5. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.
6. Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
7. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
8. Why does a slight tax increase cost you two thousand dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you 30 cents?
9. In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
10. Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realise that it bears a very close resemblance to the first...

### The Pond!

An elderly man in Queensland had owned a large property for several years.

He had a pond in the next paddock, fixed up nice - picnic tables, horse-shoe courts, and some mango and avocado trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to

go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit.

As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.

As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked."

Holding the bucket up he said, "I'm here to feed the crocodile."

**Moral: Old men can still think fast.**

### Annual Neologism Contest

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. The winners are:

1. **Coffee** (n.) the person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flabbergasted** (adj.) appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. **Abdicate** (v.) to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade** (v.) to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. **Willy-nilly** (adj.) impotent.
6. **Negligent** (adj.) describes a condition in which you absent-mindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. **Lymph** (v.) to walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle** (n.) Olive-flavoured mouth-wash.
9. **Flatulence** (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

also be produced at the Brisbane facility.

The expansion will also open up opportunities for the production of variants of the NH 90 Helicopter for other regional nations, such as the production of New Zealand's version of the NH 90.

Defence will this week hold talks with the New Zealand Government to explore opportunities for cooperation on the MRH 90 program, and will strongly encourage New Zealand to use the Brisbane facility to build its troop lift helicopters.

Securing the New Zealand contract would provide mutual benefits to Australia and New Zealand, particularly in relation to through life support.

Australian Aerospace is a subsidiary of Eurocopter and today's acceptance of the Tiger Helicopter is another example of Defence and Australian industry working together to provide new capabilities for the ADF.

The new Tiger is the most advanced helicopter of its type in the world and will add significant firepower, protection and mobility to the Australian Army providing a capability that Defence has never had before.

Its sensors, data links and state of the art communications provide Army with a significant increase in technology and capability.

The Tiger's flexibility, ability to deploy at short notice and to operate in diverse circumstances represents an evolution in the Army's operational versatility.

The heavily armed Tiger is fitted with Hellfire missiles, 70 mm rockets and a 30 mm cannon and will significantly enhance the reconnaissance and firepower capabilities of Army's combined arms team, which will soon include the MRH 90 Troop Lift Helicopters and the Abrams Main Battle Tank.

The Army will now be able to conduct tactical reconnaissance and provide armed escort for troop lift helicopters

on air mobile operations.

The Army will receive 22 Tiger ARH aircraft, flight and maintenance simulators and through-life support as part of the \$1.3 billion project. The first four aircraft were manufactured in France, with the first two delivered in December 2004. The remaining 18 are being built in Brisbane and will be in operation by 2009.

The Australian industry involvement for the Tiger helicopter project is worth approximately \$640 million over the life of the aircraft.

Delivery of this helicopter is a significant step for the aerospace industry in Australia that will continue to develop with the assembly of the MRH 90 troop lift helicopters at the Brisbane facility.

The new MRH 90 aircraft will increase Army's troop lift capability by more than half and give the Army the ability to move more soldiers further and faster from our amphibious lift ships.

The multi-role helicopter is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, larger cabin capacity, full fly-by-wire flight control system and digital cockpit.

The first MRH 90 helicopter will be delivered in 2007, with all 12 aircraft expected to be delivered by 2010.

### Funeral of Jim McCormick

At 15, going on 16, James Rutherford McCormick left his parent's dairy farm to join the Army as a 10th intake Army Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic. Some of those who enlisted with Jim on the 5th January 1955 were at Karrakatta to bid him a final farewell on Wednesday 22 June 2005.

Who actually gave Jim the nickname of "Hick" is lost in time, he did not object, and many ex Army Apprentices and RAEME soldiers still speak of him by that name.

In good Army tradition Jim obeyed "the 11th Commandment" (he did not get

caught) during his period in Balcombe and subsequently did little running up and down "Agony Hill" in full pack and with rifle.

Jim was a popular member of his intake, respected for his abilities and his friendly nature. He graduated in December 1957 and became a member of RAEME.

In those days the first year of service after Balcombe was spent in a Base or a Command Workshop. Jim was fortunate to be posted to Western Command Workshop in Midland, which provided good practical training in his trade.

Jim stayed at Midland for a number of years during which time he married Helen. They had seven children, David, Jonathan, Andrew, Paul, Matthew, Peter and Madeline. Eventually, Jim and Helen went their separate ways and Jim did not remarry.

In his military career Jim first went from Midland to Puckapunyal for a short period, then to Wodonga to join RAEME Attached 1 Central Ordnance Depot. There was then a short stint as a Sergeant at 21 Construction Squadron in Puckapunyal followed by a period at Royal Military College Workshop in Canberra.

The family left Canberra for Perth, where Jim again worked at Midland.

Vietnam beckoned, where Jim served as Artificer Sergeant Major of Head Quarters 1 Australian Task Force Light Aid Detachment (ASM of HQ 1 ATF LAD for those who remember their "army shorthand".)

He returned to Midland and worked in Production Control until posted as ASM to 22 Construction Squadron Workshop at Karrakatta. Jim completed his 20 years service at Karrakatta then served for a short period back at 21 Construction as ASM before retiring.

On leaving the service Jim joined the

Agricultural Department as "Foreman" of the South Perth workshop. He continued there for more than 20 years rising to the position of Workshop Manager. The number of "Agg Dept" persons at the funeral is indicative of the respect in which he was again held.

Upon retirement Jim did some work in real estate, travelled to France and Canada and worked as a volunteer guide at Tranby House. There was strong representation from Tranby House on 22 June.

Jim became sick during 2004, however his symptoms were not diagnosed until early in 2005. He had multiple cancers. I last saw him in hospital on 4 June. He was aware of the seriousness of his illness but remained positive and determined to continue treatment. We had some laughs and spoke of times long past. He died on Thursday 16 June.

There was a strong representation of ex RAEME and ex Army Apprentices at the funeral



James Rutherford McCORMICK

### The Service

Toward the end of a service, the Minister asked, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?"

80% held up their hands. The Minister then repeated his question with a sterner voice and a look of fury in his eyes. All responded this time, except one small elderly lady.

"Mrs. Jones... are you not willing to forgive your enemies?"

"I don't have any." She replied, smiling sweetly."

"Mrs. Jones, that is very unusual. How old are you?"

"Ninety-eight." she replied.

"Oh Mrs. Jones, would you please honour us by coming down to the front & telling us all how a person can live ninety-eight years & not have a single enemy in the world?"

The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down the aisle, faced the congregation, and said: "I outlived the bitches."

### Trade in Value

**THIS IS SOOOO TRUE!!!**

MY TRADE-IN VALUE WOULD BE ZERO, FOR SURE!!!

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it.

My fenders are too wide to be considered stylish. They were once as sleek as a little MG; now they look more like my mother's old Buick.

My seat cushions have split open at the seams My seats are sagging.

Seat belts?

I gave up all belts when Ben & Jerry's opened a shop in my neighbourhood.

Air bags? Forget it. The only bags I have

these days are under my eyes. Not counting the saddlebags, of course.

I have soooooo many miles on my odometer. Sure, I've been many places and seen many things, but when's the last time an appraiser factored life experiences against depreciation?

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My reaction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. I'm burning fuel at an inefficient rate.

But here's the worst of it - almost every time I sneeze or cough, my radiator seems to leak.

**DON'T TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY,  
NO ONE GETS OUT ALIVE!!!!**

### Annoyingly accurate!

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly her husband burst into the kitchen.

"Careful ..... CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my God! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my God! Where are we going to get MORE BUTTER!

They're going to Stick! Careful ..... CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up!

Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!"

The wife stared at him. "What the hell is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?"

The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving!"

terrorism as well as train snipers, commandos and the Incident Response Regiment.

Australia's Special Forces are considered amongst the most capable Special Forces in the world and recent initiatives have significantly strengthened Australia's domestic and offshore security capabilities.

This redevelopment project will deliver a dedicated precinct to accommodate two key units of Special Operations Command, the 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) - including the Tactical Assault Group (East) - and the Incident Response Regiment.

Many of the facilities at Holsworthy were built in the 1960s or earlier and no longer meet the needs of the new Special Operations units which are currently housed in old or temporary facilities.

The project will provide vital accommodation and infrastructure to support the new training facilities already approved and under construction at Holsworthy including electronic and live firing ranges and a mock-up aircraft, plus training for counter terrorism scenarios.

This new project will support the latest Special Forces capabilities through construction of medical facilities, workshops, briefing rooms, warehouses and vehicle parks. There will also be upgrades to communications, security, external lighting, and stormwater management.

The redevelopment will improve the facilities needed for our Special Forces to be able to respond to terrorist and other threats against Australia and our national interests.

The new facilities will centralise most of the Sydney based Special Forces elements into one location. About 3000 personnel are currently based at Holsworthy, of which close to 1000

make up 4RAR and the IRR. Holsworthy remains a long term Defence base."

Two Sydney-based architectural firms, Group GSA and Rice Daubney Group, will design the working and logistic accommodation facilities, while Carson Group will project manage the development and construction of the facilities. The successful tenderer for the construction of the facilities is expected to be announced early next year with work to commence shortly after. The project is to be completed in 2009.

The Government has previously announced four separate projects to boost Special Forces capabilities including the full time commando capability, the Incident Response Regiment and Tactical Assault Group - East, and the establishment of Special Operations Command.

In August last year, the design for the new Special Forces training facilities at Holsworthy was complete - these facilities are now under construction.

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### It Is The Soldier

Hi John

I thought this was most appropriate for inclusion in your next edition of "The Horses Mouth". Rgds Peter H.

The words of Father Dennis O'Brien a US Navy chaplain who served with the Marines on Guadalcanal during WW11;

**"It is the soldier, not the reporter who has given us the freedom of the press.**

**It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organiser, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.**

**It is the soldier who salutes the flag, and who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag...."**

Eulogy was given by Ian McCormick, younger brother, and by eldest son David.

Ian spoke of their early days in Margaret River and David of family times.

Burial was in a family plot where Jim's six sons lowered the coffin into the grave. "The Last Post" and "Reveille" were played and the "Ode to the Fallen" recited.

A wake was held the Captain Stirling Hotel in Nedlands. Family members and friends attended including a number of ex Army comrades.

Ex Army personnel in attendance at Karrakatta were as follows: (Apologies if anyone has been missed.)

Lou Kidd, Sam Granger, Phil Pitchers, Ian Warren (RAE), Pud Armstrong, Norm Wells, Des Smith, Errol Robertson (Infantry - Musician), Bob Raine, Nev Smith, Ken Dickinson, John Ashby, Richard Pease, Keith Jones, and Bob Mees

Written by Robert Raine. Fellow member of the 10th Intake. Brother of Helen and uncle of Jim's children.

Telephone/Fax 94187333

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### VALE : WO1 Jim 'Hick' McCormick 14.2.39 - 16.6.2005

Jim "Hick" or "Apache" McCormick ex ASM of 22 and 21 Const Wksp RAEME passed away on a short while ago at the Mount Hospital from cancer.

From a dairy farm upbringing in Margaret River he went to Balcombe as a 10th Intake Army Apprentice and trained as a motor mechanic (his Dad operated the states biggest milk tankers) he was a very good tradesman and later a very high quality ASM. He served as a WO2 ASM 1ATF LAD NUI DAT then to Perth Workshop Midland before his posting to 22 Const Wskp and then to 21 as his final posting before retirement after more than 21 ARA years. Jim then embarked on a second career with the

Dept of Agriculture where he was the senior foreman of the Agricultural Department workshops in South Perth where he served for about another 20 years.

Jim was a great soldier/ tradesman who was well respected by all who served with him. His mates throughout Australia will mourn the happy man's passing. Jim and Helen had seven children six sons and a daughter but sadly their union did not endure and they were divorced after Jim left the Army.

As you will recall Lou Kidd and myself have great memories of working with Jim at 22. He was a great bloke, well respected, and a lot of fun .

May he rest in peace and suffer no more.

Norm Wells

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### Vale Ron Irwin ( Scrooge)

From: Jim Hislop

To: Daryl Bestwick and others

Sent: Monday, August 08, 2005 5:43 PM

Subject: Ron Irwin

Hi All,

I have just received information from Clive Connor that Ron (Scrooge) Irwin passed away in Brisbane.

These emails are becoming too frequent.

regards

Jim

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### Ron and Margaret Perry's GEORGE W SWANN A TRIBUTE

We first met as junior soldiers in 1956 at a Sydney Army Workshop as machinery and vehicle mechanics; working with our hands and lousy WW2 era army footwear, tools, and workshop equipment. If you could find goggles, earmuffs, a jack, crane, or other useful gear, it was usually not working, in use by someone else, or worn out. Loud swearing and tool throwing was

a common mental release. Hence our busted knuckles, crook backs, hearing, eyesight, respiratory systems-[fumes], followed by osteoarthritis etc. in later years.

The location and social scene of Sydney made up for this then as we were mostly just around our magic 21 years old. I did not hear of anyone wishing to transfer.

Then to our horror later in 1957 they restarted a full-blown "fighting army" and shoved young fit and well blokes to Puckapunyal in country Victoria, including the two of us. It took years for us to escape that place.

Our next long contact was on war service in Vietnam in 1968. George arrived a little after me, to a job in a workshop; he turned it into a productive outfit by his sheer forcefulness, but lost some friends who had been having a holiday there.

(Omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs)

He didn't lose me though. I urged him on as my workshop relied on backup from his, and there wasn't much of that before his arrival, so I was angry to. Our next long contact was in Townsville, in the same situation as the previous one in wartime. I was running a smaller workshop; depending on his for backup. Also his unit was in the dol-drums just like in Vietnam. Once again, he got his teeth into it and turned it around.

It was here that our wives, our children and ourselves met and socialised happily for years

George more than deserved all his REWARDS from the army, but was not given AWARDS he deserved. I cannot refrain from saying that others received awards for much less, and sometimes for nothing of note whatsoever.

**MAY GEORGE REST IN PEACE -**

## HE DESERVES TO

**Ed's Note:** Ron Perry was a WO1 Artificer Vehicle in our Corps, Retiring somewhere around 1975. He was an instructor at RAEME Training Centre Vehicle Wing and ASM in Task Force LAD in 1968/69. He now lives in retirement in Qld. We apologise for not printing this tribute to George earlier. George would appreciate Ron's sentiments.

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**Vale - Major  
Bruce Thomas LEONORD  
[better known as Mick]  
1923 - 2005**

Passed away on the 29th July 2005.

Mick joined the Army near the end of the WW11 as a private with 10th Light Horse and in fact he was in camp in the Wanneroo Area. He then changed over to the AEME Corps, where he was stationed in various AEME/RAEME units.

When the Korean War commenced, as a Warrant Officer, he served firstly at the workshops in Korea, moving to Japan, he served with Britcom Base Wkps, finally returning to Australia at the end of 1952.

Mick was then posted to the Bandiana area where he served until the end of 1950s, during which he was granted a QM commission and then posted to Puckapunyal area.

His next overseas posting was for two years in Thailand. Returning, he was to serve at AHQ Albert Park Barracks until he resigned his commission in 1974.

He then moved to Taree NSW. Here, with his lovely wife Fay, established an oyster farming lease, which they operated until the end of the 1900s.

Since I first met Mick, he was my mentor, helping me, not only in my service life but in my personal life as well.

To me he was Head & Shoulders above any one else I have known and will re-

situations outside of VVCS office hours.

## Information, Education and Community Support

VVCS provides information and education on health and welfare issues that affect veterans and their families.

VVCS also assists the veteran community to identify needs and access services in the broader community.

For more comprehensive information on any of these services contact your nearest VVCS office.

## Referrals to VVCS services

Veterans and/or members of their families can refer themselves.

Medical Practitioners, other service providers, community agencies and ex service organisations can provide written or verbal referrals to VVCS services.

## National Office

Lovett Tower  
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## The 2nd Division Remembers the Unknown Soldier on its 90th Anniversary

The Army's 2nd Division today paid tribute to soldiers who have died defending Australia during a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the division.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence De-Anne Kelly joined Commander 2nd Division Major General Paul Irving and Director General Personnel - Army Brigadier Craig Orme, during the wreath laying ceremony.

MAJGEN Irving said this year has special significance for the Army's 2nd Di-

vision as it marks 90 years of continuous service to the nation.

"This Anniversary is an important time to remember the sacrifices of the past and present members," MAJGEN Irving said.

"The Division has played a vital role in safeguarding Australia's interests and has served with distinction throughout every major theatre of operations.

BRIG Orme said, "Our Army Reservists are 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things' who continue to make a valuable contribution to the defence and security of our nation."

Since its establishment in 1915, members of 2nd Division have served in every major theatre of operation from Gallipoli to the Middle East. The Division was formed in Egypt on 26 July 1915 and served with distinction in Gallipoli and on the battlefields of France and Belgium, with its contribution resulting in the award of 13 Victoria Crosses.

During World War Two, the 2nd Division defended Australia and two of its Brigades served in New Guinea and the South West Pacific. The 2nd Division contains the bulk of Australia's Reserve combat soldiers, drawn from nearly every State and Territory.

The 2nd Division will be conducting a ceremonial birthday parade this coming Saturday in Sydney.

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## Major Investment In Australia's Special Forces

The Government has approved a \$207 million redevelopment of Special Forces facilities at Holsworthy Barracks to support the relocation of Special Operations Command units to the Sydney Defence base.

Defence Minister Robert Hill said Holsworthy is one of Australia's key bases for national security and is used to train our Special Forces in counter

sible as we don't want veterans to miss out as there is a lot of interest from the wider community. To ensure that Veterans hear about the courses we would appreciate your support to spread the word.

The sessions will be held at various locations around WA. One course has already started in Osborne Park. There is a course due to commence in Mandurah on 12th September and Joondalup on the 6th October. A course is planned for Northam in early October. Next year courses are planned for Rockingham, Riverton, Morley and Scarborough.

The Project Officer is able to come to your group to talk about the courses and can also send you more fliers. For more information contact Christina Johnson at Arthritis WA on 9388 2199.

Many Thanks

Tracey Johnson  
Community Development Officer  
Veterans Support Section  
Department of Veterans' Affairs, Perth  
Tel: 9366 8462  
Fax: 9366 8375  
email: tracey.johnson@dva.gov.au

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### **VVCS**

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS) is a specialised, free, confidential Australia wide service for Australian veterans and their families.

VVCS staff are professionally qualified with skills in working with life problems, faced by, veterans and their families. They can also provide a wide range of programs and treatments for war, and service related mental health conditions.

#### **Who can use the VVCS?**

- Australian veterans of all conflicts and peace keeping operations.
- Partners, ex-partners and dependent children of veterans with is-

suues arising from the veteran's overseas service.

- Sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans with issues relating to their parent's service.

DVA entitlement is not required to access services. If you have any questions about your eligibility to access VVCS services contact your nearest office.

#### **What services VVCS provides**

##### **Individual, couple and family counselling**

In a friendly and safe setting, counsellors help veterans and their families address problems in their lives with the aim of finding effective solutions for an improved quality of life.

Counselling can help to communicate, understand and address a range of personal and emotional problems. These may include ongoing service related stresses for veterans, the impact on their partners and sons and daughters, personal crisis at work or home, relationship and family issues, alcohol and drug abuse, and other physical or emotional difficulties.

##### **VVCS Outreach Program**

Provides veterans and their families living in rural, remote and some outer metropolitan areas with access to contract counsellors and other health services.

##### **Group Programs**

Provide a variety of educative and therapeutic groups to enhance the quality of life for veterans and their families.

##### **Referrals**

Can be arranged to specialist services and treatment programs (eg: psychiatric assessment for veterans, partners and sons and daughters or for veterans admission to a posttraumatic stress disorder treatment facility).

##### **Veterans Line**

Provides an after hours telephone crisis counselling service to assist veterans and their families in coping with crisis

main forever in my thoughts.

### **IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE "B. T. LEONARD".**

**Don Horsley**

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#### **Vale Tiger Lyons**

It is with deep regret that I must let all know of the passing of Philip (Tiger) LYONS. Tiger passed away on Saturday 27 Aug 2005 after a long illness. His funeral service was held at the Norfolk Crematorium Chapel on Friday 02 Sep 2005 at Karrakatta.

Tiger, apart from being a real artificer, was an all round good guy and liked by everyone who knew him. Tiger had 2 tours of Vietnam (66-67 & 70-71) with SASR. He was one of the original members of the Regiment joining it in 1957. He served as an Armourer in their workshop. Tiger got his butt well and truly kicked when he modified an SLR at the request of a member of the Regiment. The "Bitch" as it was called is now mounted on the wall in the Officer's Mess at Swanbourne Barracks. Its a rather strange looking SLR with the Flash suppressor immediately in front of the gas block and a short Gas Cylinder.

#### ***Rest in peace, Tiger***

John Curtis

#### **"The Bitch"**

In 1970 while on operational service with 1 SAS Sqn in South Vietnam Tiger displayed the initiative, innovativeness and dedication for which he was renowned. SAS Patrols were armed with a variety of small arms weapons but primarily the SLR and the M16. SLR's were modified to allow automatic fire but attempts to shorten the length of the weapon had been limited to cutting off the end of the barrel.

Another member of 1 SAS Sqn had purchased a SLR on the black market and offered it to Tiger for experimentation. Tiger disappeared into his work

shop and after a few days produced a plan to miniaturise part of the operating system. He removed and shortened the gas chamber, gas piston and spring; removed a section of the barrel but re-attached the flash eliminator; and produced a weapon that was shorter than the standard M 16. After many test firings by pulling the trigger with a piece of nylon cord, while protected behind sandbags, Tiger declared his creation a success.

The weapon was never given a name, but it sounded like a .50 calibre heavy machine gun, it emitted a flame approximately a metre long and it terrified those in close proximity, both forward of the flash and behind the stock. Eventually it became known as the "Bitch".

Greg Mawkes.

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#### **Import a Pom?**

This email was sent in by one of our REME members. There are offers overseas for those to come to Australia.

From: Peter Winter  
Intake: 61B  
Coy: C  
E-mail: pwinter@optushome.com.au  
Date: 21 Jul 2005  
Comments

Australian Army Transfers Up For Grabs Tuesday, July 19, 2005 Source: Guardian British squaddies are being offered a new life as Australian "diggers" under a recruitment drive aimed at tackling a shortage of young soldiers in the Antipodes. The Australian army wants to lure up to 300 British recruits each year to inject youthful vigour into its ranks, which have an average age of 30. Squaddies will be expected to swap their berets for traditional Australian "slouch hats": floppy headgear made from khaki felt with the sides turned up. But they will still serve the same ultimate boss - the Queen. Successful applicants will be required to apply for Australian citizenship, allow-

ing them to permanently leave Britain's garrison towns for destinations such as Sydney, Melbourne or Queensland's Gold Coast. The Australians sent a team of officers to London this month to vet potential recruits. The package on offer for applicants includes free flights for the family, accommodation in Australia and relocation expenses for those prepared to sign up for at least four years. Colonel Mike Milford, the Australian army's director of personnel, told Australian media that he had already received scores of written inquiries from British personnel keen to emigrate. He said he was particularly interested in servicemen with experience in special forces, aviation or technical trades. "We have trades we consider we are short in," Col Milford said. "It's the basic soldier experience we are looking for." A spokesman for the Australian defence department in Canberra said the British army had been informed of the initiative and had no objection. However, the initiative is likely to prompt raised eyebrows, given Britain's difficulty in persuading its own youngsters to commit to a life of fighting for their country. The British armed forces are 3,120 short of their required manpower of 191,090. The shortfall is largely among trained, full-time soldiers where the army is 2,280 below its target of 100,770 staff. British army chiefs have invested heavily in glossy advertising to convince potential recruits that there is more to military life than cold showers, long marches and bad food. A MoD spokesman said any soldiers joining the Australian army had completed their required service in Britain. "Both the British and Australian army have a long history of recruiting soldiers who have previously served in the other's armed forces," he said. But the present campaign is likely to be on a scale not seen before. Australian squaddies earn more, in standard of living terms, than their British counterparts

### **40th Anniversary Deployment of RAE Units to South Vietnam - August 2006**

Dear All

Please mark your calendars and pass to all asunder, cooks, medics, RAEME, RAAOC, AATTV, Civil Affairs, that there is planned a reunion to mark the 40th anniversary of the deployment of Major RAE units to South Vietnam, in Apr- Jun 1966.

The itinerary is being worked on and will be available shortly. The dates are Tuesday 15- Friday 18 Aug 06 at SME. The program will include a registration and gathering, a gala dinner off base, a tour of the RAE Sydney Harbour areas and a tour for the ladies( maybe a factory outlet tour), an open day at SME and a memorial service at the RAE Vietnam Memorial.

Go to the respective association web sites and follow the links to the reunion. There you will find the REGISTRATION FORM. This should be available mid next week.

The registration is \$30 per veteran attending, partners are invited. All payments are via cheque or money order. Credit cards not accepted.

At this time we ask that you please pass this along to all Sapper Mailing lists and other attached personnel.

More to follow

JOHN PRITCHARD  
Chairman RAEVN 40

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### **Help a Sapper**

Hi there

John Cotter from the NQ Sapper Association passed on your email address to me as I am a model builder and I am interested in building 'HMAPC FLINT' from an accessory kit that I have. As there isn't much information available on them during there time in service, I am interested in talking to anyone that might have worked with

veterans, who for many years have provided the core of our workload, the drop in numbers is quite dramatic. The geographic spread is also changing. Although the Department has taken on new work in recent years, most notably resulting from the introduction of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act, this cannot compensate for the decline in older veteran numbers. As a consequence, without having a re-think of the way the Department provides services, it will find over the next five to ten years that current structure and administrative arrangements cannot be sustained.

Therefore I have decided to undertake a review of how DVA delivers its services. A number of basic principles will guide the conduct of the review:

- DVA will continue to have a senior presence in each State;
- DVA will continue to provide quality service (and effectively any changes will be "transparent" to veterans);
- there will be an ongoing requirement to increase efficiency; *and*
- technological change will continue to influence the way we do our business.

The review will help us meet the coming challenges and maintain our responsiveness to the needs of our veterans and thus to Government.

The Department is looking at all of its processes to ensure they are as streamlined as possible. Any changes will maintain the high levels of service quality members of the veteran community expect, while maintaining the skills and expertise of our staff. Review activity will be occurring progressively over the course of the next few years. This will inevitably involve some internal restructuring but it is my intention that this should occur with minimal inconvenience for veterans, war widows, ex-service organisations and members of the defence force community who we serve.

I realise that the review may lead to concerns being felt in some sections of the veteran community, but I stress the importance of the first two principles that I mentioned earlier in my letter - namely that DVA will continue to have a senior presence in each State and that any changes will be transparent to veterans.

If you would like more information on the review, please feel free to contact me. I would like to meet with you shortly to discuss progress on the Review and any of the issues that may be concerning your organisation.

I have asked Deputy Commissioners to write in similar terms to organisations in their respective states.

Yours sincerely  
Mark Sullivan  
August 2005

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### **Get the Most Out of Life**

Hi Everyone

Can you please actively promote the "Get the most out of Life" course to the veterans you know? Can you also share the relevant parts of this email widely with other veteran community groups in your networks?

Arthritis WA have received joint funding from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and Lotterywest to run a series of workshops called "Get the most out of Life". These courses are designed for people living with one or more chronic conditions eg arthritis, diabetes, stroke etc. The courses are open for veteran and community members. The course aims to teach people better ways to manage their conditions. The cost is \$20 per person or \$25 for the person and their carer /partner or spouse. The courses run for 6 weeks, for 2 hours each and they are taking registrations now.

We are keen to promote this in the veteran community as much as pos-

hammer and after describing its use and maintenance stated that the way a tradesman holds a hammer provided a useful guide to his overall trade skill and this could also be used to judge how much he was worth a week.

"For instance if he holds it half way down the handle he is probably worth five pound a week. If he holds it two thirds of the way down the handle he is probably worth ten pounds a week. But, if he holds it by the end of the handle he would definitely be worth fifteen pounds a week"

Lamrock:-"Where would he hold it for two pound a week Sir?"

### A Fair Cop

In the days when cops still had a sense of humour and on a Sunday afternoon an Apprentice motor mechanic, who shall not be identified herein, is riding his motor cycle back to Balcombe. Well more to the vicinity of Balcombe, where on arrival he will hide the bike in the bush and walk the last mile or so to camp. Apprentices were not permitted to own a motor vehicle and that no doubt saved many a mother's son from a sticky end. Any way shortly after ascending the hill out of Frankston he is stopped by a motor cycle cop who claims that he (the apprentice) has been speeding.

"No I wasn't."

"Yes you were."

"No I wasn't"

"I'm not going to argue with you lad. You were speeding and I am going to book you!"

"I wasn't speeding and I can prove it."

"Alright, well prove it then!"

"Well ....My Speedo doesn't work but I still know how fast I was travelling because when I am doing thirty miles an hour my eyes just begin to water and when I am doing thirty five miles

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an hour I can't see anything at all. Now when you stopped me my eyes were only just starting to water and that means I was doing thirty miles an hour and so I couldn't have been speeding."

As a long suffering look appears slowly on his face the cop says:-"Get on your bike and clear off Son, and don't let me catch you again."

### Low Cost Internet Connection

Technical Aid to the Disabled (TAD) Australia with internet provider ISPONE have negotiated a partnership to provide aged, veterans and people with disabilities throughout Australia with access to a low cost Internet service

This enables people who possess a Disability Service Pension, Aged Pension or DVA Entitlement Card to go online at a reduced cost of \$5.50 per month including:

Unlimited Downloads

No Set Up Fees

No Annual Fee

Local Call anywhere in Australia

People are requested to phone the toll free number of **1300 735 439**; or can access the TAD website for details: <http://www.tadaustconnect.org.au/>

### DVA Review

Mr Brian McKenzie OAM

National President

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

16 Elinga Street

HOWRAH TAS 7018

Dear Brian

I am writing to advise you of a review that the Department is currently undertaking into its service delivery arrangements.

The major factor behind the review is the Department's falling workload. The number of veterans and dependants to whom the Department provides services is declining and in the case of World War II

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them or might have some pictures of the old girl or her twin. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Yours appreciately,

Simon Hoskin

[tankboy12@bigpond.com](mailto:tankboy12@bigpond.com)

(0410) 646436

3 CER, Lavarack Barracks

Townsville Qld 4813

### Need Help!!!!

**Please send this far and wide.**

I am acting on behalf of a Veteran looking for supportive statements regarding an incident in Vietnam. The incident below is as he describes it. This happened in August- September 1969 on the road between Nui Dat and Baria near Hoa Long.

**"While off duty in Nui Dat I sometimes volunteered for escort (shotgun duties it was dubbed) functions on the daily laundry run from Nui Dat to the town ship of Baria . This duty was to accompany the transport truck as a guard in case of trouble on the track down to Baria. I was standing in the gun hole in the transport truck with my weapon at the ready when I was shot at by sniper fire three or four shots were fired, at least one of which went very close to me as I heard the whizzing sound go past my head, I returned fire as we sped off but I could not see the enemy. This brief but traumatic event was very frightening, I feared for my life. I recall thinking that I would not see my young wife again and although it was all over in a short period it seemed like slow motion at the time it was happening. I recall my legs going like jelly."**

What we need is a letter or statement if you or someone you know was,

A/ Involved in this incident.

B/ Involved in a similar incident.

C/ Know of similar incidents and who

we may contact for information.  
D/ Anything that may be of assistance.

I can be contacted at any of the contact points below and look forward to any responses.

Regards,

Keith Hodgson.

VVAA Sunshine Coast Welfare & Pensions Team

History Research Officer.

39 Moomba Street Pacific Paradise 4564

Email [keithhodgson12@hotmail.com](mailto:keithhodgson12@hotmail.com)

Ph 07 5448 7695 Mob 0409 628 992

### A Message from the New Corps Historian, LT COL Terry BEATON

G'day John,

First chance to get to the email as I have been working up country again this week.

I have attached my bios that I send out Probus Clubs prior to my talks on the Burma Railway. I hope that this may be of some use. I suppose my historian background is covered by these bios, plus the fact that I have already starting to work on the EME exhibit in Army Museum.

Born in Alexander Barracks Hospital, Singapore in 1952 and raised for 7 years in Malaya. Son of a British Army Sergeant who left the British Army in 1962 and emigrated to Australia with his family as a 10 Pound tourist, settling as a Physics teacher in South Australia. Entered Duntroon in 1971 graduating into the Corps of RAEME with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 1974. Represented Australia at the 1974 Commonwealth Games as a Decathlete. Sent to Royal Military College of Science in UK in 1981 and completed a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Posted to Thailand for 3 years in 1988 as the Military Mechanical Engineering Advisor. During this time, became actively involved with the

Burma Railway and had an article published in the 1995 Commemorative Edition of the Defence Force Journal. Transferred to the Inactive Reserve in 1996, but continued to work for Defence as a coordinator for VIP visits by senior Thai Officers.

In 1999 was selected as the first Australian Curator of the Australian Government's Memorial Museum at Hellfire Pass on the Burma Railway. In late 2001 returned to continue consultancy business, but has instead spent most of his time voluntarily assisting WW2 Veterans, ex-POWs and their families, as a Pensions and Welfare Officer for Eltham RSL and the South Eastern Regional Veterans Centre at Oakleigh.

At the end of 2003, qualified as an Advocate to the Veterans Review Board and has since becoming a Presenter on the Victorian TIP Team to train other volunteers assisting Veterans throughout Victoria. In what free time is left, is conducting further research on the railway and trying to complete a book called 'The Travellers Guide to the Burma Railway'.

Hope this is of some help.  
Cheers  
Terry

**Eds Note:** LT COL Beaton has, also, been appointed the Honorary Colonel for Victoria and Tasmania. To follow up what Terry had to say about the Army Museum at Bandiana, anyone who has material, whatever it is, and would like to donate it to the RAEME Exhibit in the Museum, should contact Terry in the first instance. You should describe what you have and and what its significance is to the Corps. If Terry wants the artifact or documents, I am sure that Terry can arrange for your donation's transport to Bandiana. Terry can be contacted by email at [austasianuknei@netspace.net.au](mailto:austasianuknei@netspace.net.au) or you can contact him through the Sec-

retary of your Association.

### Women in the Army

The Australian Government has reviewed the roles of women in the Australian Defence Force and has confirmed the long-standing policy of restricting women from a direct combat role.

Army, however, will now allow suitably-qualified women to be posted to infantry, armoured and artillery units in support roles in headquarters and administrative companies.

These tasks include areas such as clerical, medical, logistics, signals and transport duties.

Previously women were prevented from performing these duties in combat units.

Women serving in the Army will continue to be employed in non-combat supporting roles.

Suitably-qualified women can apply to be posted to armoured and artillery units as well as infantry battalions in support roles in headquarters and administrative units.

Previously these support roles in combat units have only been open to men, but open to men and women in other units.

Defence policy regarding the employment of women in direct combat roles will not change."

Greater opportunities will be provided for suitably qualified women to serve in a wider variety of non-combat support positions. This will allow the Army to make the most of its existing personnel and resources.

Up to 50 women are expected to take up the postings from December this year.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy said: "There is an increasing number of women entering the workforce and Army seeks to make the

most of the available pool of qualified personnel".

Women in Defence are currently employed in supporting roles but not in employment categories involving direct combat. Women are eligible to serve in about 90 per cent of employment categories across the ADF and make up about 13 per cent of the Defence.

### Termite Reunion

TERMITE RE-UNION 11-13 NOVEMBER 2005 - SYDNEY (MOSMAN - MIDDLEHEAD - CHOWDER BAY)

10 Terminal Regiment has been disbanded these past seven years, which in itself was the end of an era. The regiment being struck from the Orbat hastened the demise of many professional acquaintances and in fact friendships which were lost in its passing. I am left in no doubt that many ex-serving soldiers were not and probably are still not aware of the demise of the unit, nor the relocation of the Terminal Trade from Sydney to Townsville. Along with the new locality came a new name, Cargo Specialist as well as a new unit name 30/35 Water Transport and Terminal Squadron under 10 Force Support Battalion which further eroded the already precarious links with ex-serving members. Further to these changes the Naval Amphibious role increased with the acquisition of two additional HMA Ships in the LPA class. The only unchanged element of this fundamental transformation is that we still proudly call ourselves "Termites".

Time and the restructure have weakened an already fragile link with past members of the trade, consequently the time to hold a Termite re-union is now with us. The ability to reach out and bring together fellow termites of the past and present in an atmosphere of camaraderie and "Esprit De Corps", will serve to readily re-establish past acquaintances and friendships.

The re-union will be held over the week

end of 11-13 November 2005, which includes a Friday night 11 November 2005. All personnel who were posted to 30 Terminal Squadron in Sydney are cordially invited to attend. The Friday evening will be a meet and greet at the Buena Vista Hotel (BV), commencing at 1800 h. The meet and greet will be followed on Saturday at 1000 h by a walk around with a great amount of reminiscing over the old unit sites, namely 30 TML SQN (Lower Georges Heights), 10 Terminal Regiment (Middle Head) and Army Maritime School (Chowder Bay). A dinner will be held on Saturday 12 November 2005 commencing at 1800 h, with the Mosman RSL as the venue. On Sunday an opportunity exists for a morning tea or get together to finalise any detail for past and present members, at a venue yet to be identified, around 1000 h to bring a closure to the weekend. The RSL has been booked and booking fee paid, so this is now formerly a function.

If you have any contacts with ex-serving personnel please forward my contact details as below. I do require personnel to indicate to me of their intent in relation to attendance. G.T. Collins  
WO2  
SSM  
30 TML SQN

Tel: (07) 4753 6305; Fax: (07) 4753 6322  
Email: [gregory.collins@defence.gov.au](mailto:gregory.collins@defence.gov.au)

### Apprentices

#### If I Had A Hammer.

Its 1954, and the ninth intake of the Army Apprentices School have recently started their trade trading. The motor mechanics are in the main shop of Vehicle Wing grouped about an instructor who is explaining the use and maintenance of a variety of hand tools.

The lesson proceeded through the range of pliers, files, callipers, open end and ring spanners, punches, chisels etc. Then the instructor picks up a ballpeen