

A Returning Soldier Speaks

I AM coming back with a singing soul through the surge of the splendid

sea,

Coming back to the land called home, and the love that used to be;

I am coming back through a flash of spray, through a conquered

tempest's hum,

I am coming back, I am coming back-God! Do I want to come?

I have heard the shriek of the shrapnel speak to the dawn of a flaming

day,

And a growling gun when the fight was won and the twilight flickered

grey;

I have seen men die with their chins raised high and a curse that was half

a prayer;

I have fought alone when a comrade's groan was tense on the blinding

air.

I have tramped a road when a burning load was strapped to my aching

back;

Through miles of mud that was streaked with blood, when my closing

eyes turned back,

I have cried aloud to a heedless crowd of a God that they could not know;

And have knelt at night when the way was bright with a rocket's sullen

glow.

I am going home through the whirling foam-home to her arms stretched

wide;

I am going back to the beaten track and the sheltered fireside.

With gasping breath, I have sneered at death, and have mocked at a

shell's swift whirr,

And safe again, through the years of pain, I am going back-to her!

I am coming back with a singing soul through the surge of the splendid

sea;

Coming back-but my singing soul will never quite be free;

For I have killed and my heart has thrilled to the call of the battle hum,

I am coming back to the used-to-be, but God! Do I want to come?

"NX9500"

World War II

1945



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.)

Autumn 2007

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, **Bayswater Hotel, 78-80 Railway Parade, Bayswater, in the Function Room**. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

Post Print PP609596/0002

Volume 10 No. 1

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

Patron
Colonel Commandant:

Colonel Ernie McCart
Colonel Mark MacKenzie

The RAEME Association Committee

President:	John Klein	2 Wicks Street, Eden Hill	Ph. 9279 3080
Vice President:	Peter Humpston	3 Shady Glen Mews Edgewater	Ph. 9306 4549
Secretary:	Dick Fenton	4 Harbour Court, Safety Bay	Ph: 9528 6860
Treasurer:	David Cooper	263 Robinson Ave Cloverdale	Ph. 9479 1149
Editor:	John Curtis	2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater	Ph. 9271 4520
Welfare Officer:	Don Horsley	11 Celestine Way, Wanneroo	Ph. 9306 2946
	John Power	34 Adenmore Way, Kingsley	Ph. 9309 2780
Chaplain	Fr. Howard MacCallum		
		39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant	Ph. 9364 4948
Physician:	Dr. Michael Daly		
Honorary Auditor:	Terry Barrett		

General Committee:

John Curtis	9271 4520	Tom Goodlich	9293 3944
Clare Curtis	9271 4520	Marilyn Pethick	9293 3944
Perry Beor	9275 8595	Michael Kerrison	9379 2682
Fred Ordynski	9377 1252	Mark Vincent	9307 8725
Lawrie Forsyth	9401 5039		

DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 25th of MAY 2007.

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.

We have entered a new year being the ninth year since the formation of RAEME Association WA Branch and I have been there ever since. We have come a long way and we seem to go in the right direction. Although I have been sitting in presidents job for all this time, the scene at meetings don't seem to have changed much. We always have the same familiar faces keeping the organisation together and I suppose that will not change. Although we need new faces to take the reins at some time to come, we need more members

to attend our regular meetings. I am coming to the conclusion that work is taking priority over meetings but some times there must be some space for members to attend.

We have a tremendous meeting place at the Bayswater Hotel, the service is excellent and the meals are cheap and very nice. Everyone that attends are very happy and some even make it a family affair, they share a meal and a drink and have a yarn afterwards.

So come and join us whenever you have time available and you will find it very pleasant indeed. We meet every

you two people report that I was the aggressor?

These are real "911" calls

BELIEVE it or not,
 These are REAL 911 Calls!

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What is your emergency?

Caller: I heard what sounded like gunshots coming from the brown house on the corner.

Dispatcher: Do you have an address?

Caller: No, I have on a blouse and slacks, why?

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What is your emergency?

Caller: Someone broke into my house and took a bite out of my ham and cheese sandwich.

Dispatcher: Excuse me?

Caller: I made a ham and cheese sandwich and left it on the kitchen table and when I came back from the bathroom, someone had taken a bite out of it.

Dispatcher: Was anything else taken?

Caller: No, but this has happened to me before and I'm sick and tired of it!

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What is the nature of your emergency?

Caller: I'm trying to reach nine eleven but my phone doesn't have an eleven on it.

Dispatcher: This is nine eleven.

Caller: I thought you just said it was nine-one-one

Dispatcher: Yes, ma'am nine-one-one and nine-eleven are the same thing.

Caller: Honey, I may be old, but I'm not stupid.

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What's the nature of your emergency?

Caller: My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart

Dispatcher: Is this her first child?

Caller: No, you idiot! This is her husband!

And the winner is.....

Dispatcher: 9-1-1

Caller: Yeah, I'm having trouble breath-

ing. I'm all out of breath. Darn....I think I'm going to pass out.

Dispatcher: Sir, where are you calling from?

Caller: I'm at a pay phone. North and Foster.

Dispatcher: ! Sir, an ambulance is on the way. Are you an asthmatic?

Caller: No

Dispatcher: What were you doing before you started having trouble breathing?

Caller: Running from the Police.

Football FINALLY makes sense.....

A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience.

"Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her date asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was: 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' ..and I'm like...Helloooooo? It's only 25 cents!!!!

The World's Shortest Fairy Story

After a long search and at the Royal Ball, Prince Charming asked Cinderella "Will you marry me?"

She said "No"

And the Prince lived happily ever after.

Ed's Note: Sent in by Anonymouse. Damn! I wish that Lynch Mob would show up! I've got a job for them!

officer! Now let's try it again! Do you have change for a dollar?"

Soldier: "No, SIR!"

An Air Force chief master sergeant and a general were sitting in the barber shop. They were both just getting finished with their shaves, when the barbers reached for some after-shave to slap on their faces. The general shouted, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a whorehouse!"

The sergeant turned to his barber and said, "Go ahead and put it on me.

My wife doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like."

"Well," snarled the tough old Navy chief to the bewildered seaman, "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave." "Not me, Chief!" the seaman replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!"

An elderly American gentleman arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he fumbled for his passport.

"You 'ave been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

The old gent admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Zen, you should know enough to 'ave your passport ready for inspection."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. You Americans always 'ave to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach in '44, I couldn't find any Frenchmen to show it to."

Story about Dan Rather, Katie Couric and a tough old U.S. Marine

This little story is way too close to the truth to be genuinely entertaining, but

it definitely deserves to be read.

Dan Rather, Katie Couric, and a tough old U.S. Marine Gunny were all captured by terrorists in Iraq. The leader of the terrorists told them that he would grant them each one last request before they were beheaded.

Dan Rather said, "Well, I'm a Texan; so I'd like one last bowlful of hot spicy chili." The leader nodded to an underling who left and returned with the chili. Rather ate it all and said, "Now I can die content."

Katie Couric said, "I'm a reporter to the end. I want to take out my tape recorder and describe the scene here and what's about to happen. Maybe someday someone will hear it and know that I was on the job till the end."

The leader directed an aide to hand over the tape recorder and Couric dictated some comments. She then said, "Now I can die happy."

The leader turned and said, "And now, Mr. U.S. Marine, what is your final wish?"

"Kick me in the ass," said the Marine.

"What?" asked the leader? "Will you mock us in your last hour?"

"No, I'm not kidding. I want you to kick me in the ass," insisted the Marine.

So the leader shoved him into the open, and kicked him in the ass.

The Marine went sprawling, but rolled to his knees, pulled a 9mm pistol from inside his cammies, and shot the leader dead. In the resulting confusion, he jumped to his knapsack, pulled out his M4 carbine and sprayed the Iraqis with gunfire. In a flash, all the Iraqis were either dead or fleeing for their lives.

As the Marine was untying Rather and Couric, they asked him, "Why didn't you just shoot them in the beginning? Why did you ask them to kick you in the ass first?"

What," replied the Marine, "and have

first Thursday of the month except for January.

See you at the Baysie at our next meeting.

Do you have an email address and do not get correspondence from the Association? If this is the case, then contact our Secretary and be put in the loop. His address is Richard.Fenton@defence.gov.au and I am sure that he would be happy to put you on our email list.

John Klein

Arte et Marte.

Was RAEME at Long Tan?

The following is an interesting story that was printed in the 6 RAR "Stand To". We thank the 6 RAR Association for printing this story and we thank RAEME Victoria for passing it on to us here in the West.

A question answered but another raised. In the February 2006 "Stand To" [page 4], I asked if anyone could provide information about the two men, who flew out on the ammo flights to "D 6" at Long Tan.

We were aware that Owen O'Brien and George Chinn were on one chopper and Owen had thought that one of the men on the other chopper was W02 Sid Brent, then CSM Admin Coy.

Well, I've been contacted by Bob Service who was the fourth man, but he raised another question - he thinks the other man on his chopper was Bill McCutcheon who was the Admin Coy Q Store.

Bob was a RAEME Craftsman [their equivalent to our private] Armourer attached to 6 RAR. He was the last man in the line carrying boxes of ammo to the chopper, when Bill ran up with a bundle of blankets and climbed aboard. Bill started wrapping the ammo boxes

in blankets, the chopper crew was hurrying him along so Bill ordered Bob aboard to assist with the blanket wrapping.

Next thing they knew, the chopper lifted off with them aboard. They continued wrapping blankets around the ammo boxes as the choppers raced to the rubber plantation.

Once there, the door gunners started to push the ammo boxes out, so the other helped, still hanging on for dear life as they weren't strapped in as the door gunners were.

Job done, the choppers returned to base, but not to 6 RAR - they flew to the Task Force HQ pad, so Bill and Bob - without personal weapons - had to make their own way back to 6 RAR. Bob went for his weapon and was asked why the hell he was there and not on the Alpha Coy perimeter where Admin Coy had been sent, when Alpha left on the APC's.

So - interesting facts emerge: there was a RAEME connection at Long Tan, we now have a query on whether the other man was Sid or Bill, and in any case, these men have never been "recognized" for their deeds on that day. I trust this leads to proper recognition. And if someone has a RAEME Connection, I'm sure their Corps will be interested in their Long Tan connection.

Thanks Bob, for sharing your memories with us. I guess I should say 'sorry' that you got into trouble for not being where others thought you should be, but please be assured that we under the resupply choppers appreciated your efforts.

Dave Sabbem Mt Eliza

3 Recovery Company

3 Recovery Company has been busy since our last update on the unit. As

the year drew to a close and the final parade and end of year function was being cleaned up, a call came as to the availability of the unit to support the engineers working at the bushfires. After a few days the word was it was a go and the unit deployed 2 recovery teams to the town of Erica. From here the teams were responsible for transporting of TD 15 Dozers up to the worksites and back as well as being on standby to recover any vehicles that got stuck. As this was going to be a longer term support task crew rotated out so over a period of 20 days 4 teams spent time at the fires. Two of the teams had the misfortune of being at Erica for Christmas, but this was more than made up for by the food put on by DSE and the crate of supplies that arrived from the unit as well. After arriving back on New Years Eve the crews were stood down as the fire situation was coming under control.

With the 3 Recovery having just arrived back at work and the year is off to a busy start already for the small but dedicated team of members. So far we have had a small crew participate in some testing for DMO as well as a Crew supporting 15 TPT. As well the unit has been assisting the Vietnam Veterans Museum with the positioning of their Centurion Tank in the main building. As the unit is now the only full time recovery provider in Melbourne we are also now providing 4 Bgde Units with day to day work as well.

As with all units the New Year has brought new faces to 3 Recovery, our new OC was to have been Maj Palmer but other priorities have changed his posting and Maj Mike Newbond has now been posted in, Capt Andy Harvey has been a lateral transfer in from the British army, WO2 Geoff Rolph is the new OPSWO and SGT Scott Bernau is the New TRG SGT. So it is looking like it will be a busy 12 months for the

only Recovery Company in the Army, The Mighty 3 .

Ed's Note: Thanks to the RAEME Victoria Lightning Flash for this story that shows RAEME is right there on the job.

Review Of Military Superannuation

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson announced today that an independent review of military superannuation arrangements has been commissioned.

Mr Billson said the superannuation review complemented a range of Australian Government initiatives aimed at enhancing Australian Defence Force recruitment and retention.

"Superannuation benefits are a key component of the total remuneration package for Australian Defence Force members and the overall aim of the independent review is to ensure that the military schemes continue to meet the needs of our people and reflect contemporary superannuation standards in a sustainable manner," he said.

"Serving and former ADF members can be assured that there will be no detriment to their accrued superannuation entitlements no matter what the outcome of the review."

"The last review of military superannuation was undertaken in 1990 and since then, there have been many changes in the wider community superannuation environment and in the demographics and career aspirations of ADF members".

Mr Billson said that the current ADF superannuation benefits were specifically designed to reflect the unique nature of military service and provide retirement, invalidity and death benefits that in many ways rightly exceed the community standard.

the extremely benevolent Sheikh decided they could be released after receiving just 20 lashes each of the whip.

As they were preparing for their punishment, the Sheikh announced: "It's my first wife's birthday today, and she has asked me to allow each of you one wish before your whipping."

The Welsh fan was first in line, he thought for a while and then said: "Please tie a pillow to my back." This was done, but the pillow only lasted 10 lashes before the whip went through. When the punishment was done he had to be carried away bleeding and crying with pain.

The Englishman was next up. After watching the Welshman in horror he said smugly: "Please fix two pillows to my back." But even two pillows could only take 15 lashes before the whip went through again and the Englishmen was soon led away whimpering loudly (as they do).

The Irishman was the last one up, but before he could say anything, the Sheikh turned to him and said: "You are from a most beautiful part of the world and your culture is one of the finest in the world. For this, you may have two wishes!"

"Thank you, your Most Royal and Merciful highness", The Irishman replied. "In recognition of your kindness, my first wish is that you give me not 20, but 100 lashes"

"Not only are you an honourable, handsome and powerful man, you are also very brave". The Sheikh said with an admiring look on his face. "If 100 lashes is what you desire, then so be it.

And your second wish, what is it to be?" the Sheikh asked.

"Tie the Englishman to my back."

Old Military Jokes

Three men are sitting stiffly side by side

on a long commercial flight. After they're airborne and the plane has levelled off, the man in the window seat abruptly says, distinctly and confidently, in a loud voice, "Admiral, United States Navy, retired. Married, two sons, both surgeons.

After a few minutes the man in the aisle seat states through a tight lipped smile, Admiral, United States Coast Guard, retired. Married, two sons, both Judges."

After some thought, the fellow in the centre seat decides to introduce himself. With a twinkle in his eye he proclaims, Master Gunnery Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, retired. Never married, two sons, both Admirals.

During training exercises, the lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another jeep stuck in the mud with a red-faced colonel at the wheel. "Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the lieutenant as he pulled alongside. "Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new colonel was sitting at his desk when an airman knocked on the door. Conscious of his new position, the colonel quickly picked up the phone, told the airman to enter, then said into the phone,

"Yes, General, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir."

Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, "What do you want?"

"Nothing important, sir, the airman replied, "I'm just here to hook up your telephone."

Officer: "Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?"

Soldier: "Sure, buddy."

Officer: "That's no way to address an

Father." The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?" O'Toole said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

Paddy was in New York. He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, "Okay, pedestrians." Then he'd allow the traffic to pass. He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk. After the cop had shouted, "Pedestrians!" for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, "Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?"

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney. "Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!!" "Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney. "Where are ye callin' from?"

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car. He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?" "Just water," says the priest. The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman." "Oh yeah?" said Charlie, "And how did this one end?" "When it was over," Mike replied, "She came to me on her hands and knees. "Really," said Charles, "Now that's a switch! What did she say?" She said, "Come out from under the bed, you little chicken."

Flynn staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking

buddy, Paddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Mary. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whisky bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful. Managing not to yell, Flynn sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Flynn woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Mary staring at him from across the room. She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you?" Flynn said, "Why you say such a mean thing?" "Well," Mary said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly.....it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror."

Got to love those Irish.....

A Welsh rugby fan, a Irish rugby fan and an English fan are all in Saudi Arabia, sharing a smuggled crate of booze when, all of a sudden, Saudi police rush in and arrest them. The mere possession of alcohol is a severe offence in Saudi Arabia, so for the terrible crime of actually being caught consuming the booze, they are all sentenced to death!

However, after many months and with the help of very good lawyers, they are able to successfully appeal their sentences down to life imprisonment. By a stroke of luck, it was a Saudi national holiday the day their trial finished, and

"Now is an appropriate time to review the military schemes to ensure that superannuation benefits are being provided in the most effective and sustainable manner and reflect the needs of ADF members and their families," he said.

The review will be led by Mr Andrew Podger AO, a former Public Service Commissioner with strategic Defence experience. He will be assisted by Dr David Knox, a recognised superannuation expert and former APRA Board member, and Air Commodore Lee Roberts CSC who will provide advice about ADF personnel and bring a military perspective to the review team.

Mr Billson said that the review team will consult widely with members of the ADF, who will be able to contribute through their Service Personnel offices, consultations at major Defence facilities or via Defence's website.

The review team will also consult with representative Ex-Service Organisations, the wider Defence community, superannuation industry bodies and other Government departments. The report will be completed in mid-2007 and submitted for Government consideration.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference are welcomed. Additional information about the review, the terms of reference and consultation arrangements are available on Defence's website at www.defence.gov.au/militarysuperreview

Voyager Disaster Anniversary.

Parliamentary Speech by Alan Griffin
MP - February 8 , 2007

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS - February 8 2007 -Anniversary of the HMAS Voyager Disaster Speech
Mr GRIFFIN (Bruce) (9.54 a.m.)-

I rise today to speak about an anniver-

sary that takes place this Saturday: the 42nd anniversary of Australia's greatest peacetime military training accident. On 10 February, 1964, 82 naval officers and sailors lost their lives when HMAS Melbourne, an aircraft carrier, collided with HMAS Voyager, a destroyer, off the south-east coast of Sydney. The Sea Power Centre outlines the events that took place that night in their ship history of the HMAS Voyager. It says that:

On the night of Monday, 10th February 1964, HMAS MELBOURNE was engaged in night flying exercises off the New South Wales coast. VOYAGER's role was that of plane guard, involving the rescue, if necessary, of aircrew personnel from the sea. Since both ships had just completed refits, this was the first time they had been involved in close quarters manoeuvring for almost six months. Both the carrier and destroyer were 'darkened' with only navigational/operational lighting in use.

At approximately 2056, some twenty miles south east of Jervis Bay, the two ships were in collision. MELBOURNE struck VOYAGER at the after end of her bridge, heeling her over to an angle of about 50 degrees. A flash appeared to come from VOYAGER's 'A' Boiler, and she emitted high-pressure steam and black smoke. Debris, including the revolution table from VOYAGER's bridge, and a pair of binoculars, was thrown onto MELBOURNE's flight deck.

The impact pushed VOYAGER bodily through the water for a few seconds, and then she broke in two. Her forward section passed down MELBOURNE's port side, and the stern section down the starboard side. The forward section sank soon afterwards and the after section about three hours later. The disaster resulted in the loss of 82 lives

(14 officers, including the commanding officer, 67 sailors and one civilian dockyard employee). There were 232 survivors. MELBOURNE was damaged but sustained no casualties.

The wreck of HMAS VOYAGER lies some 600 fathoms deep, twenty nautical miles off Cape Perpendicular on a bearing of 120 degrees.

Quite rightly, Australia commemorates and mourns those we have lost during wartime each year, obviously with the biggest commemorations taking place on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. There are also a number of other commemorative days throughout the year on which we remember those fallen in specific conflicts. However, often little attention is paid to those that we have lost during peacetime service or training accidents.

The collision between HMAS Voyager and Melbourne, whilst it is our greatest peacetime tragedy, has unfortunately not been a unique event. On 19 February 1948, at RAAF Base Amberley, a Lincoln crashed during landing, killing 16 young men. On 25 January 1950, a fuel explosion aboard HMAS Tarakan saw the deaths of eight young sailors. On 7 April 1955, in particularly tragic circumstances, four young men died when their Lincoln crashed into a mountain during a mercy flight for a sick child from Townsville to Brisbane. On 11 January 1974, five airmen died when their Iroquois crashed near Stanthorpe in Queensland. More recent tragedies include the 1996 Black Hawk collision near Townsville that killed 18; the 2005 Sea King disaster in Nias, Indonesia, that killed nine during a humanitarian assistance mission; and the Black Hawk chopper crash just last November near Fiji that claimed two lives.

These are just a few examples of the tragedies that have befallen our serv-

ing men and women while they were on duty engaged in peacetime activities, humanitarian assistance or training. There have been over 500 deaths during peacetime, some involving multiple personnel and others involving individuals, such as the tragic passing of Trooper Lawrence during a training exercise in 2004. (Time expired)

Please note that original speech also contained the following two paragraphs which did not get into Hansard due to the time expiration:

This should all serve as a constant reminder to our community of how dangerous and difficult the job of defending our country can be. It should also serve as a reminder of how much we owe the young men and women that take on this task, as well as their families that are often called upon to make great sacrifices.

So this Saturday on the anniversary of the collision between the HMAS Voyager and the HMAS Melbourne I would urge all of those from this place and the wider Australian community to cast a reflective thought to those men and women that we have lost in service of their country during peacetime.

Approval Granted For MIA Search In Vietnam

Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson has been advised that the Vietnamese Government has given its approval for further work to commence in search of Australian MIA's from the Vietnam War.

Ongoing diplomatic efforts, greatly assisted by the support of the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra, has secured approvals for the private, Australian Government backed group Operation Aussies Home and a specialist civilian team, coordinated by Army, to conduct further examinations of sites in Viet-

vastly superior force," said U.S. Army documents supporting Crandall's medal. The U.S. forces were up against two regiments of North Vietnamese Army infantry, "determined to overrun and annihilate them," the documents said.

The fighting became so intense that the helicopter landing zone for delivering and resupplying troops was closed, and a unit assigned to medical evacuation duties refused to fly. Crandall volunteered for the mission and with wingman and long time friend Maj. Ed Freeman made flight after flight over three days to deliver water, ammunition and medical supplies. They are credited with saving more than 70 wounded soldiers by flying them out to safety, and Freeman received the Medal of Honor in July 2001.

Paperwork and other parts of the process delayed Crandall's medal until now, officials said.

Thinking back to the Vietnam battle, Crandall remembers the first day was "very long ... we were in the air for 14 and a half hours." He also thinks of how impressive and calm the unit on the ground remained, saying Moore and his commanders were "solid as rocks" throughout the fight.

And of course, Crandall says, he's also proud of his own performance.

"I'm so proud that I didn't screw it up," he said.

Ed's Note: Jim is of Irish background so here he is having a go at himself!!

For Irish Friends

An Irish priest is transferred to Texas. Father O'Malley rose from his bed. It was a fine spring day in his new Texas mission parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He

promptly called the local police station.

The conversation went like this: "Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Brigid's. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment. Father O'Malley then replied, "Aye, tis certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."

Surein ya need a Irish laugh today today . don't you.....

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whisky!" Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?" The man said, "I do, Father." The priest said, "Then stand over there against the wall." Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?" "Certainly, Father," was the man's reply. "Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest. Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and said, "Do you want to go to heaven?" O'Toole said, "No, I don't

Jim's Life in the US

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

Here is a serious story from Jim which shows that recognition comes sooner or later.

THIS is one of the "slick" pilots.....

Vietnam Vet to Receive Medal of Honor.

Retired Maj. Bruce Crandall, of Manchester, Wash., stands outside his waterfront home with his original flight jacket and helmet, Wednesday, Feb.

Saturday, February 24, 2007

WASHINGTON - Bruce Crandall was a soldier once ... and young. As a 32-year-old helicopter pilot, he flew through a gauntlet of enemy fire, taking ammunition in and wounded Americans out of one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War, Army records say. Now, a week after his 74th birthday, Crandall will receive the nation's highest military honour Monday in a White House ceremony with President Bush.

"I'm still here," he said of his 41-year wait for the Medal of Honor. "Most of these awards are posthumous, so I can't complain."

Crandall's actions in the November 1965 Battle at Ia Drang Valley were depicted in the Hollywood movie "We Were Soldiers," adapted from the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young."

At the time, Crandall was a major commanding a company of the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

"We had the first airmobile division ... the first one to use aircraft as a means of transportation and sustaining combat," Crandall said. His unit was put together earlier that year to go to Vietnam and "wasn't as thought out as things are today."

He didn't have gunners for his aircraft. That's why he flew unarmed helicopters into the battlefield.

He didn't have night vision equipment and other later technology that lessens the danger of flying.

The unit had "minimum resources and almost no administrative people" - thus the lack of help to do the reams of paperwork that had to be sent to Washington for the highest medals, Crandall said.

Generals in-theatre could approve nothing higher than the Distinguished Service Cross, so he got one of those, which through the years has come to be upgraded to the Medal of Honor, Crandall said in a phone interview from his home near Bremerton, Wash.

Crandall was leading a group of 16 helicopters in support of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment - the regiment led by George Armstrong Custer when he met his end at the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn, or "Custer's Last Stand."

Without Crandall's actions, the embattled men at Ia Drang would have died in much the same way - "cut off, surrounded by numerically superior forces, overrun and butchered to the last man," the infantry commander, Lt. Col. Harold Moore, wrote in recommending Crandall for the medal.

Moore, now a retired three-star general, later wrote the book about the battle along with Joseph L. Galloway, a former war correspondent now with McClatchy Newspapers.

"This unit, taking some of the heaviest casualties of the war, out of water and fast running out of ammunition, was engaged in one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam war against a relentlessly attacking, highly motivated,

nam where the remains of Australian soldiers could be located.

Ground penetrating radar will be used in this work in search of the graves of Lance Corporal Richard Parker and Private Peter Gillson, who were killed during fighting in Bien Hoa Province in 1965.

The Army team, supported by the Operation Aussies Home group, will seek to establish whether remains of Lance Corporal John Gillespie can be located from a helicopter crash site in the Minh Dam Mountains (formerly the Long Hai Hills) of southern Vietnam.

Army is currently making preparations to support the expert team to go to Vietnam at the earliest opportunity.

Additional Heavy Tank Transporters For Army

I am pleased to announce that the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) has placed an order for four more Heavy Tank Transporters. These vehicles are in addition to the 14 Heavy Tank Transporters already being delivered by the LAND 907 Tank Program.

To date the DMO has delivered nine of the original 14 vehicles ahead of schedule and on budget. Five of these vehicles were used to move the first Abrams tanks when they arrived at Port Melbourne from the United States in September 2006.

The additional Heavy Tank Transporters will provide increased heavy transport capability for Defence elements in Puckapunyal and Townsville. The transporters will allow Army to move a range of heavy equipment including tanks, earth moving equipment and large forklifts. Delivery of the additional vehicles is expected by the end of 2007.

Australian industry continues to provide a significant part of the capability. The prime contractor for the project is MAN

Military Vehicle Systems Australia. An Australian owned and operated company, Drake Trailers, will supply a total of 18 swing-wing trailers prior to Brisbane-based MAN Automotive Imports making final modifications, conducting compliance testing and managing the ongoing repair and maintenance support.

Contrary to some media reports, the Heavy Tank Transporters are capable of moving tanks on Australian roads.

\$4 Million For SAS History And Research Centre

The Prime Minister has announced the establishment of the Special Air Service Regiment History and Research Centre at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, Perth.

The SAS Regiment has a proud and successful history, rich with experience in dangerous operations which have been undertaken in the interests of all Australians.

The Centre will provide dedicated educational and training facilities to enhance the SASR's operational expertise and capabilities.

The establishment of this Centre through a \$4 million investment by the Government will showcase the achievements of the Regiment, but it will primarily serve as a training facility for members of the SASR.

Much of the Regiment's success can be attributed to the demanding training regime that they undertake and the high standards that it requires of its members.

The new Centre will enhance the ability of the SASR to develop capability by providing facilities for the collection, storage and review of lessons learnt from past operations, to support their preparation for future operations.

In the short term, access to the Centre will be available on request to the family and friends of the Regiment. This will allow them to have a better understanding of the dangerous and demanding nature of the training and operations the soldiers and officers of the Regiment are required to undertake.

Future developments of Campbell Barracks will seek to provide improved public access to the History and Research Centre.

The SAS HRC will be officially opened in September 2007, to coincide with the SASR's 50th Anniversary, on completion of phase one of the works.

Army Celebrates 106 Years Of Service To The Nation

The men and women of the Australian Army stationed around the world will join together on the 1st of March to celebrate the Army's 106th birthday.

"On March 1 we reflect on the achievements of soldiers, past and present, over the past 106 years. We remember their courage, their dedication to duty and their sacrifices in the service to Australia," Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy said.

"Australian soldiers continue to serve the nation with distinction at home and around the world. Over 2200 soldiers are currently stationed at places as far afield as Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Sudan and the Solomon Islands. They are making a real difference to the lives of those they touch.

"Many more are making meaningful contributions on overseas exchanges or on exercise. I am pleased that the Australian Army has risen to all these challenges and will continue to do so in the future.

"At home, soldiers are an integral part of Australian communities and continue to provide dedicated service to the na-

tion. Today is their day. A day when we recognise the sacrifice and dedication of those gone before us, and the courage of those serving now.

"The families of those who volunteer to serve their nation should not be forgotten. They are the often unsung heroes whose support is the foundation of which the Army is built. I thank them for their ongoing care, support and understanding. It is their day as well, and they should stand proud as integral members of the Army family.

"The Australian Army has gained a reputation world-wide for professionalism, courage, dedication and compassion. Australian soldiers are respected and admired wherever they go. This reputation has been earned through hard work, determination and experience.

"The Nation can be proud of its Army, as the Army is proud of its Nation."

Army Training Facility Honours Army Officer

A new tank maintenance instructional facility has been opened at the Army Logistic Training Centre, North Bandiana. The facility has been specifically designed to train soldiers on maintenance aspects of the M1A1 Abrams tank and the M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle.

The new facility will be known as The Paul Lawton Memorial Instructional Facility in memory of Captain Paul Lawton. Captain Lawton was 36 years old when he passed away on 31 August 2006, after 16 years service in the Army.

Captain Lawton enlisted as a soldier and became an Army signaller. He was successful in being accepted into the Royal Military College, Duntroon to undertake officer training. He graduated as a Lieutenant into the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engi-

"We really know our stuff."

On a Fence:
"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive."

At a Car Dealership:
"The best way to get back on your feet — miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop:
"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:
"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company:
"We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window:
"Don't stand there and be hungry, Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:
"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a Propane Filling Station,
"Thank heaven for little grills"

And don't forget the sign at a Chicago Radiator Shop:
"Best place in town to take a leak."

Nine Months Later

Jack decided to go skiing with his buddy, Bob.

So they loaded up Jack's mini-van and headed north.

After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard, so they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered he door if they could spend the night.

"I realise it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained.

"I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house."

"Don't worry," Jack said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn, and if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first

light."

The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night.

Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

But about nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from an attorney.

It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend.

He dropped in on his friend Bob and asked,

"Bob, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up north about 9 months ago?"

"Yes, I do." said Bob

"Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?"

"Well, um, yes," Bob said, a little embarrassed about being found out "I have to admit that I did."

"And did you happen to use my name instead of telling her your name?"

Bob's face turned beet red and he said, "Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy. I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?"

"She just died and left me everything."

(And you thought the ending would be different, didn't you?... now keep that smile for the rest of the day.)

RAEME Website

RAEME Associations around Australia have now been bought together on a purpose designed website

For anyone to get in touch with any of the State Associations just go to www.raeme.org.au and click on the State you wish to contact.

said, "Georgie, this is such an interesting story, suppose you save the rest of it for supper time. I want to see the look on Daddy's face when you tell it tonight."

At the dinner table, Mummy asked little Georgie to tell his story.

Georgie started his story, "I was at the playground and I saw Daddy's car go into the woods with Aunt Jane. I went back to look and he was giving Aunt Jane a big kiss, then he helped her take off her shirt. Then Aunt Jane helped Daddy take his trousers off, then Aunt Jane and Daddy started doing the same thing that Mummy and Uncle Bill used to do when Daddy was in the Army."

Moral: Sometimes you need to listen to the whole story before you interrupt!

Moral of the Dam

An elderly man in Australia had owned a large property for several years. He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees.

The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten litre bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the dam, 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 dam. 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 dam naked.

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

Moral: Old men may walk slow, but they can still think fast.

It pays to advertise...

Sign over a Gynaecologist's Office:
"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's office:
"Time wounds all heels."

On a Septic Tank Truck in Oregon:
"Yesterday's Meals on Wheels"

At a Proctologist's door:
"To expedite your visit please back in."

On a Plumber's truck:
"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee:
"Invite us to your next blowout."

At a Towing company:
"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On an Electrician's truck:
"Let us remove your shorts."

On a Maternity Room door:
"Push. Push. Push."

At an Optometrist's Office
"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window:

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.

neers. In 1999 Captain Lawton was accepted into the School of Engineering at the Australian Defence Force Academy to study electrical engineering.

Captain Lawton served in Townsville in the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion and the 4th Field Artillery Regiment.

Captain Lawton was serving in the Defence Materiel Organisation at the time of his death, working on the Abrams tank project. At the time of his death, Captain Lawton was in command of the security detachment tasked to escort the first delivery of Australia's M1A1 Abrams tanks to Melbourne on board a merchant vessel.

The naming of this new facility in honour of Captain Paul Lawton is a fitting tribute to a fine Army officer and great mate.

Army Logistic Training Centre provides basic and advanced logistic training to soldiers and officers in the Army and the Australian Defence Force.

The M1A1 Abrams tank has been procured to replace the Leopard tank which has been in service since 1976. The Leopard tank has become increasingly vulnerable to hand-held anti-armour weapons over past decades and the through-life costs associated with this vehicle were rapidly increasing hence the decision to acquire the vastly superior M1A1 Abrams as a replacement fleet.

Further Investigation Of Unconfirmed War Graves Site In France

International experts in battlefield archaeology have been approached by the Australian Army to conduct a non-invasive survey of a site near Fromelles village in northern France, to confirm if the remains of First World War diggers are still buried there.

The Army was negotiating with the eminent archaeologist Dr Tony Pollard of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow to carry out the survey of the site known as Pheasant Wood.

Given the sensitivity surrounding former battle site searches and approvals required to carry out further investigations on private land, the Australian Government was working closely with French authorities and in collaboration with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Australian Government takes its responsibility very seriously for the care, proper interment and commemoration of Australian service personnel who lost their lives overseas. It should be noted that soldiers from other nations were also involved in ferocious battles in the Fromelles area and also suffered heavy losses.

Army has asked Dr Pollard's team to carry out a non-invasive investigation of the site at Pheasant Wood, possibly using ground-penetrating radar, to determine whether there was a mass grave at the site and the likelihood that remains are still there.

The approach to the international experts followed claims raised by the Melbourne-based Friends of the Fifteenth Brigade that over 160 Australians, killed in the 1916 Battle of Fromelles and whose remains were not recovered after the War, could still be buried there.

While the Government appreciates the work and interest of such groups, unauthorised digs and physical searches are both reckless and counter-productive. The investigation of possible war graves and dealing with the remains of Australian war dead is a sensitive matter, and should be handled on an official basis.

An expert panel was convened by the Australian Government to investigate the claims relating to the Pheasant Wood site. This included interviews with members of the Friends of the Fifteenth Brigade.

The panel's exhaustive research and deliberations found the evidence at hand supported the conclusion that Australian dead from the battle were buried at the Pheasant Wood site, however, there were dissenting views on whether or not those soldiers were subsequently re-buried in other war cemeteries.

Records about the extensive program of post-war recovery and re-interment of remains are patchy – not least of all because many records kept in London were destroyed by German bombing during the blitz. As a result, the expert panel recommended this further investigation be carried out on-site.

Mr Billson said he had written to the British Parliament's All Party War Graves and Battlefields Heritage Group, to inform it of this next step, while the Chief of Army would be writing to the British Army and French authorities to formalise the investigation.

The important thing is that we are engaging respected academics to carry out a professional, sensitive, non-invasive survey. It would be inappropriate for anyone, no matter how well-intentioned, to excavate land in France without the benefit of this next step and proper authorisation from all authorities.

Defence Conducts Its Own Census

It was announced recently that a census of Defence staff will be conducted on 16 May 2007 to capture demographic information on all permanent and active reserve Australian Defence Force members and Defence public

service employees.

The type of demographic information being sought in Defence Census 2007 is critical to Defence developing a range of contemporary conditions of service and employment packages that meet the needs of its people while also enhancing recruitment and retention.

Defence Census data in the past has helped shape many new personnel initiatives including the child care program, spouse and partner employment support, ADF allowances for service in regional and remote areas and housing and accommodation provisions.

Participation in the Census is voluntary, but we will be encouraging all Defence people to respond to the questionnaires and make a worthwhile contribution to the way that Defence attracts and retains its highly valued military and civilian staff.

Defence has engaged Roy Morgan Research, which will bring a wealth of professional expertise in conducting the Census and analysing the results.

Confidentiality measures have also been put in place to preserve the privacy and anonymity of all Defence respondents.

It was important that Defence maintain accurate and up-to-date information on its people and their families and gather data that is not available from other sources.

The Defence Census has been conducted at four-yearly intervals since 1991 and a range of trend data is now available to help develop personnel policies and conditions of service initiatives, as well as modelling the workforce structure required to meet future military capability.

Issue Of Bushmaster Vehicles To Army – 3rd Brigade

Recently the handover of the Army's new Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Ve-

Old Is....

"OLD" IS WHEN . Your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you answer, "Pick one; I can't do both!"

"OLD " IS WHEN .. Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

"OLD" IS WHEN . A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

"OLD" IS WHEN . Going braless pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

"OLD" IS WHEN . You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

"OLD" IS WHEN . You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

"OLD" IS WHEN ."Getting a little action" means you don't need to take any fibre today

"OLD" IS WHEN . "Getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

"OLD" IS WHEN . An "all nighter" means not getting up to use the bathroom

AND

"OLD" IS WHEN . You are not sure these are jokes

Careful What You Listen To

Little Georgie watched his Daddy's car pass by the school playground and go into the woods. Curious, he followed the car and saw Daddy and Aunt Jane in a passionate embrace.

Little Georgie found this so exciting that he could not contain himself as he ran home and started to tell his mother, "Mummy, I was at the playground and I saw Daddy's car go into the woods with Aunt Jane. I went back to look and he was giving Aunt Jane a big kiss, then he helped her take off her shirt. Then Aunt Jane helped Daddy take his trousers off, then Aunt Jane....."

At this point Mummy cut him off and

room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Now you know everything! Well almost! The only thing we don't know is where the hell is that Lynch Mob?

Amazing Home Remedies

1. If you are choking on an ice cube, don't panic. Simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat and presto! The blockage will be almost instantly removed.

2. Clumsy? Avoid cutting yourself while slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop away.

3. Avoid arguments with the Mrs. about lifting the toilet seat by simply using the sink.

4. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.

5. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

6. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.

7. Have a bad toothache? Smash your thumb with a hammer and you will forget all about the toothache.

8. 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.

9. Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

10. SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SLINKIES... THEY ARE NOT really GOOD FOR ANYTHING, BUT... THEY STILL BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN YOU PUSH THEM DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS.

Life According to Perry

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

So You Think U Know Every-thing?

“Stewardesses” is the longest word typed with only the left hand and “lollipop” with your right. (Bet you tried this out mentally, didn’t you?)

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

“Dreamt” is the only English word that ends in the letters “mt”. (Are you doubting this?)

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

The sentence: “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” uses every letter of the alphabet. (Now, you KNOW you’re going to try this out for accuracy, right?)

The words ‘racecar,’ ‘kayak’ and ‘level’ are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes). (Yep, I knew you were going to “do” this one.)

There are only four words in the English language which end in “dous”: tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous. (You’re not doubting this, are you?)

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: “abstemious” and “facetious.” (Yes, admit it, you are going to say . a e i o u.)

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard. (All you typists are going to test this out.)

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds. (Some days that’s about what my memory span is)

A “jiffy” is an actual unit of time for

1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years. (I know some people that could do this, too.)

Al Capone’s business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don’t appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age .

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

If the population of China walked past you, 8 abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The average person’s left hand does 56% of the typing.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket. (Good thing he did that.)

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies’

hicle to 3rd Brigade at Lavarack Barracks took Place.

The arrival of the Bushmaster at Lavarack Barracks underlines the importance of Townsville as one of Australia’s major garrison cities.

By delivering this latest new kit to the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, the Australian Government continues to ensure 3rd Brigade has the equipment needed to carry out the tasks asked of it.

The Bushmaster has already acquitted itself well in Iraq and Afghanistan since it was first deployed in support of ADF operations in 2005. It has proven to be a highly relevant and capable vehicle.

Deliveries of the Bushmaster capability commenced to B Squadron on 7 December 2006 and will be complete by 4 July 2007. B Squadron will receive troop, command, direct fire weapons and ambulance variants.”

The issuing of Bushmaster to 3rd Brigade is a continuation of the successful rollout plan of 300 vehicles. To date, Thales Australia has achieved delivery of the vehicles, on time and on budget, after signing a production contract in 2002. An enhanced acquisition process and close cooperation between the Australian Government and Australian Industry has resulted in a world class product for the Australia Army and RAAF, and has received international interest in its capability and performance. The purchase of an additional 143 vehicles was approved by Government in December 2006, which is due for completion in 2008.

The Bushmaster was designed to provide protected mobility to selected Army units and RAAF Airfield Defence Squadrons. The Bushmaster is currently deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan where it has proven to be a highly relevant and capable vehicle.

The protection level of the Bushmaster

is being further enhanced through the rapid acquisition of 44 Protected Weapon Stations (approved by Government in July 2006) and the investigation of armour protection enhancements. This station provides an excellent surveillance capability and allows the soldier to observe and fire the Bushmaster machine gun from under armour, in all weather conditions and at night. The first stations will be fielded on operations by the end of February 2007 and the remainder by March 2007.

Protest Rally 28 April 2007 (Canberra)

Widest dissemination please -
3rd February, 2007

My name is John Bettridge and I am a 23-year TPI veteran and have been a member of the TPI Association of South Australia for 23 years. Soon it will be the tenth anniversary of the Howard Government’s axing of the indexation of the TPI pension and it is time to show the Government that war Veterans are a force to be reckoned with. It’s time hold a protest rally that will shame them and force them to take notice of us and address our needs.

While the Australian government is always prepared to place its servicemen and women in the line of fire it increasingly fails to adequately meet the needs of these same service personnel when they return home and need help.

The national TPI president, John (Blue) Ryan wrote “The dissatisfaction of the ex-service community with the Howard Government has been apparent for some years. In 2001 and 2003 there were peaceful demonstrations by veterans outside parliament house. There has been hundreds of letters and submissions sent to government, partners of veterans.[all of these] have not been listened to the Clarke review of

veteran's entitlements attracted over 3000 submissions were ignored".

The federal parliament after the 2006 budget failed yet again, to meet the needs of veterans and their families. The main concerns of veterans are:

a.. The continuing decline, in real terms, of the TPI pension. Ten years ago, the indexing of the TPI pension was change, to the detriment of its recipients. While other pensions are indexed to increases in the average wage, only part of the TPI pension rather than the whole of it is indexed. As far back as May 2006 this resulted in a loss of over \$80 a fortnight over the previous six years, the loss even more now. TPI veterans have become considerably poorer and will continue to do so unless the problem is rectified. Since 1997, the TPI pension has fallen from 47.5% of the average wage to 43.3% and will continue to lose value unless the whole of the TPI pension is indexed and it is restored to 47.5% of the average wage.

b.. The continuing increase in pharmaceutical co-payments. The government continues to move the goalposts in regard to affordability of medication. The sicker the veteran the more his or her contribution will be. Originally all prescription medicines for the treatment of war caused disabilities to veterans were free. Now the financial contributions veterans must make to the cost of their medication increases almost every year. At the same time there has been a regular increase in the safety net after which prescriptions are dispensed free of charge. On top of this, any repeat prescriptions dispensed within 20 days do not count towards the safety net, nor are they dispensed free of charge if the safety has been reached.

c.. The continuing refusal of health providers to accept the gold card. The gold card is issued to veterans with severe health problems and entitles

them to free medical treatment. In other words, the health professional can claim the cost of consultation and treatment from the DVA. However it seems veterans as important if not less important than any other member of the community as, in many cases, medical practitioners can claim more in payment from the government through Medicare. In some areas veterans are forced to travel long distances to receive adequate medical treatment from a specialist who accepts the gold card.

d.. The disparity in travel allowance for veterans and public servants. The government pays a travel allowance to veterans who must travel to medical appointment for treatment of war caused injury or illness. However while a public servant receives the whole cost of the car journey, a veteran is only paid a subsidy. Veterans receive a travel allowance of 26.7 cents/km regardless of the car in which they travel. A public servant is paid between 58 and 67 cents/km depending on the size of the car's engine. Also, if an overnight stay is necessary, a war veteran receives a total of \$130.80 per day to cover accommodation and meals while a public servant is paid almost twice that amount.

e.. Inadequate provision for sons and daughters of veterans. The of assistance and counselling for children of veterans from the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling service is limited to those who are under 36 years of age. Do their problems automatically disappear when they turn 36? The Sons' and Daughters' Health Study, much touted by the government in past years is now at 18 months to 2 years away. Unless they come up with yet another excuse.

f.. Inadequate funeral benefits. Many TPI pensioners are worried about the expense to their families when they die. Funerals are expensive and can run to several thousand dollars. The Veterans Affairs Funeral Benefit of up to \$1000

someone changing a tyre.

10. Everybody thinks their vehicle is better than yours, especially 4WD drivers.

11. Learn to swerve abruptly. Perth is the home of High-Speed Slalom Driving thanks to Main Roads, which puts potholes in key locations to test drivers' reflexes and keep them on their toes, not forgetting the 'Test your skill' chicanes in suburbs.

12. It is traditional in Perth to honk your horn at cars that don't move the instant the light changes.

13. Seeking eye contact with another driver revokes your right of way.

14. Never take a green light at face value. Always look right and left before proceeding.

15. Remember that the goal of every Perth driver is to get there first, by whatever means necessary.

16. Real Perth women drivers can put on pantyhose and apply eye make-up at 75 kph in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

17. Real Perth men drivers can remove pantyhose and a bra at 95 kph in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

18. Heavy fog and rain are no reasons to change any of the previously listed rules. These weather conditions are God's way ensuring a natural selection process and creating a need for panel beaters, junkyards, and new vehicle sales. It is an acceptable practice to increase your speed in comparison to the rate of rain fall, i.e.: The harder it rains, the faster you go.

19. There is a commonly held belief in Perth that high-speed tailgating in heavy traffic reduces petrol consumption as you get sucked along in the slipstream of the car in front.

20. It's OK to cut off fully loaded semi-trailers, road trains and buses because, hell - they have brakes.

21. It is an essential duty of the driver

to preserve the life of his passengers. Hence no matter how much of an inconvenience it may be, always find a detour around The Causeway, The Narrows, and Guildford.

22. Always anticipate oncoming traffic while driving down a One-way street.

23. It's O.K when driving in Northbridge to air your grievances at bad drivers by giving the "one finger salute" while screaming out "#%*#". However, it is imperative you are driving at least a 5-litre V8 with a crow bar in your lap.

24. Perth drivers are experts at merging, when in two or more lanes travelling in the same direction, ensure that if you see someone politely indicating, waiting slowly trying to merge into your lane, show them that they must 'Wait their turn' to use your lane. Speed up, try to cut them off, should they succeed and get into your lane. Never mind that it was actually legal for them to do that, ensure that your flash your lights, honk your horn, use extreme hand gestures, even tailgate them, just to let them know, ITWAS YOUR LANE.

25. Ensure that when merging into traffic travelling at any more than 40kph that you stop in the merging lane, backing up traffic for miles behind you, ensuring that you have given yourself or no-one else that opportunity to merge. Again, forget that the traffic handbook states that you should speed up to meet traffic speed then merge. If you are travelling in a lane near a merge lane, don't change lanes to make it easy for them, instead see rule 24, after all they deserve it.

26. While using Perth roundabouts, particularly two lane roundabouts, ENSURE that you are in the left lane to turn right, or the right to turn left, hell lets keep those people in those other lanes on their toes.

27. Pedestrian crossings - What are they?

coffee and we can visit for awhile first.”

Thirty minutes had passed, and another relative asked, “May we see the new baby now?”

“No, not yet,” said the mother.

After another few minutes had elapsed, they asked again, “May we see the baby now?”

“No, not yet,” replied the mother.

Growing very impatient, they asked, “Well, when can we see the baby?”

“WHEN HE CRIES!” she told them.

“WHEN HE CRIES?” they demanded to know why.

“Why do we have to wait until he CRIES?”

“BECAUSE, I forgot where I put him.”

Seas - by Children (Out of The Mouths of Babes)

A number of primary schools were doing a project on “The Sea.” Kids were asked to draw pictures or write about their experiences. Teachers got together to compare the results and put together some of the ‘better’ ones.

This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly age 6)

Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves to chargers. (Christopher age 7)

Oysters’ balls are called pearls. (James age 6)

If you are surrounded by sea you are an Island. If you don’t have sea all around you, you are incontinent. (Wayne age 7)

I think sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She’s not my friend no more. (Kyle age 6)

A dolphin breathes through an asshole

on the top of its head. (Billy age 8)

When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn’t blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans. (William age 7)

I like mermaids. They are beautiful, and I like their shiny tails. How do mermaids get pregnant? (Helen age 6)

When you go swimming in the sea, it is very cold, and it makes my willy shrink. (Kevin age 6)

Driving in Perth

1. Indicators will give away your next move. A real Perth driver never uses them.

2. Under no circumstances should you leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you, or somebody else will fill in that space, putting you in an even more dangerous situation.

3. Crossing two or more lanes in a single lane change is considered “going with the flow.”

4. The faster you drive through a red light, the less chance you have of getting hit.

5. Never get in the way of an older car that needs extensive repairs. The other guy doesn’t have anything to lose.

6. Braking is to be done as hard and as late as possible to ensure that your ABS kicks in, giving a nice, relaxing foot massage as the brake pedal pulsates. For those of you without ABS, it’s a chance to stretch your legs.

7. Speed limits are arbitrary figures, given only as suggestions and apparently not enforceable in the metro area during rush hour.

8. Please remember that there is no such thing as a shortcut during rush-hour traffic in Perth.

9. Always slow down and rubberneck when you see an accident or even

does little to alleviate the cost or the worry. The Vietnam Veteran Newsletter, September 2006, stated, “government funeral benefits for the victims of the Bali Bombings and for Tsunami victims was up to \$5000. Surely, government assistance for the funerals of those who have been to tally and permanently disabled fighting Australia’s wars should be no less than for the Bali Bombing and Tsunami victims”.

John (Blue) Ryan also wrote “The TPI Federation is now continuously under pressure from sick veterans to organise another protest rally against the government. Prime Minister John Howard should be ashamed of his Government’s handling of veterans’ is

sues. Veterans and their families are simply not important to the Government”. After the last rally, the only response from John Howard was “Veterans are adequately compensated”.

Several veterans have discussed this and have decided that another rally is absolutely necessary and have begun to make arrangements. Several veterans including myself have decided to leave for Canberra on 27th April 2006 and rendezvous at Parliament House the following day. The rally will take place on the lawns of Parliament House. Unlike the other demonstrations, at which veterans have been at Parliament house only during daylight hours, we have decided to remain on the grounds twenty-four hours a day.

Bayswater Hotel

We have finally found a home thanks to the generosity of the management of the Bayswater Hotel in Bayswater. The Baysie, as it is called, is a bright and breezy hotel with excellent facilities.

The Baysie has allowed the Association the use of their Function Room every month for our meetings. This they have done at no charge as the Association is a non-profit veteran’s organisation. All members are welcome to come along. Remember that our meetings are on the first Thursday of each month except January.

Dinner, at the Baysie, is from 1800 hours to 2030 hours and is relatively cheap, wholesome food. It is served as a Buffet Style meal and you can have hot dinners or a cold salad style meal. Should you wish to go more up-market you can order from the Al-a-Carte menu. If you wish to have a private function with a buffet style meal the Baysie staff is only too pleased to cater for you.

One thing that is a big plus for the Baysie is the friendly manner which the staff treat all their guests. They are probably the friendliest group of people you would want to meet.

If a function is organised at the Baysie, one real big plus is the very comfortable rooms in the Hotel or in the adjoining Motel. You can go to a function, relax and enjoy yourself and have no fear of having to drive home trying to avoid the “Booze Buses”. The tariffs for the rooms in the Hotel or the Motel are very reasonable.

If you drive to the Baysie there is a Carpark at the rear with room for about 100 cars. Alternatively you can get to the Baysie by train. The Hotel is about 100m the north side of the railway line from the Bayswater Railway Station.

Further information can be supplied by the Secretary.

Our catch cry now is “Come to the Baysie and enjoy yourselves.”

Everyone attending will bring tents, sleeping bags etc. We will set up camp in the form of a Fire Support Base: Fire Support Base "Restoration": The name denoting our intentions to shame the Government to restore the rightful entitlements of war veterans particularly TPI veterans.

This way the Prime Minister, members of parliament, the press and the public will not be able to ignore us or treat us as fools and nuisances, as they did at the previous rallies.

This time, we want more than simply lip service from the few members of parliament who deigned to speak to us.

This way we will be able not only to inform the Government and the people of Australia of our grievances, but also to highlight the disgraceful way war veterans have been treated in past few years.

This way we can shame and humiliate the Government into taking the veteran community seriously, listening to and taking notice of us and addressing our problems.

For ten years Veterans' associations in general and Blue Ryan in particular have done their utmost to convince the Government to reinstate full indexation to the whole of the TPI pension and to make reparation for the income we have lost and to restore free medical treatment for war caused illnesses and injuries. So far they have continued to hit one brick wall after another and been totally ignored.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would bring this to the attention of your members. We need as many veterans as possible to attend this rally. At the moment we are just an uncoordinated bunch of veterans who have decided its time to make our voices heard and our feelings known. What is needed is for someone with experience and ability to coordinate this demonstration into a cohesive and constructive

rally.

Please join me and our fellow veterans in Canberra on 28th April.
United we stand.

Your Comrade in Arms

John Bettridge
TPI Member No. 2388
Ph (08) 8528 6215

Exposure To Asbestos Fibres..

This article was sent to the Horse's Mouth by Mick Ryan that President Extraordinaire of the RAE Assoc of WA. It refers to other Arms and Corps, but is equally relevant to the Corps of RAEME and REME.

Quick Newsletter

Along with this e-mail, I'll also send another, that concerns was an LEM n the commissioning crew/69 Vietnam trip on BRISBANE, and would be well known to many as he has often attended our Sydney reunions.

The saga highlights an important fact that you should all be aware of - Lurch, although he was entitled, had never got around to establishing his credentials with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and seems to have let our annual reminders slip, that DVA will meet the costs of treatment for cancer and TB for all ex-servicemen, and they don't have to prove it was service related.

This, then, is a timely reminder to the procrastinators among you - if you have an entitlement to DVA, as per the relevant Acts, as a veteran, then, get off your backside and do something about it. Make a trip to one of the Ex-Service Organisations (ESO's) who will help -VVFA, VVAA, RSL (Where they have an advocate) (**Ed's Note:** This also includes the RDFWA and the RAEME Assoc and for further information contact a member of the committee), or simply contact our own Advocate Be Warned, though, don't try to do it yourself, use an advocate/pen-

The next day 40 people re-registered their cars as either ambulances or hearses, which prompted an investigation and the owners of 937 vehicles were told to re-register them or face a \$NZ 1000 fine.

Health Care

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement. The first patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The second sees his family doctor after waiting a week for an appointment, then waits eighteen weeks to see a specialist, then gets an X-ray, which isn't reviewed for another month and finally has his surgery scheduled for a year from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The first is a Golden Retriever. The second is a Senior Citizen.

Bye, Mom

A young man shopping in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore she kept staring at him. She finally overtook him at the checkout, and she turned to him and said, "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease; it's just that you look so much like my late son"

He answered, "That's okay""I know it's silly, but if you'd call out "Good bye, Mum" as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy".

She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, the man called out, "Goodbye, Mum"

The little old lady waved, and smiled back at him.

Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his groceries."That comes to \$121.85," said the clerk"

How come so much? I only bought 5 items" The clerk replied, "Yeah, but your Mother said you'd be paying for her things, too"

Motto is: Don't trust little Old Ladies!!!

Older Women

Gotta love this one!!!

When I was married 25 years, I took a look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 25 years ago, we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed, and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but, I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year-old blonde.

Now, we have a nice house, nice car, big bed, and a plasma screen TV, but, I'm sleeping with a 50-year-old woman. It seems to me that you are not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25-year-old blonde, and she would make sure that I would, once again, be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, and sleeping on a sofa bed.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve a mid-life crisis!

Seniors Having Babies

Just in case any of you were contemplating having another baby.

With all the new technology regarding fertility recently, a 65-year-old woman was able to give birth to a baby.

When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, her relatives came to visit.

"May we see the new baby?" one asked.

"Not yet," said the mother. I'll make

mendations to further improve and tighten the procedures for accounting and tracking M72s throughout Defence. These include individually identifying and tracking each munition, more frequent stocktaking of the inventory and tightened procedures for reporting and investigating discrepancies.

The suspension of issue of M72s, except for operational purposes, which I announced in December, will continue until the recommendations of this first phase of the audit report are implemented.

The second phase of the audit will examine all security aspects of the policies and practices for the management of all weapons, munitions and explosives across Defence.

I have asked Defence officials to brief the Opposition on the audit, its progress, findings and recommendations.

The Mayonnaise Jar And Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar...and the coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. "Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things . . . your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else . . . the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal." Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

Dead End For Hearse Ruse

New Zealand drivers can no longer claim that carrying a frozen chicken home makes their vehicle a hearse.

Last month a woman told a radio station she saved \$NZ125 (\$102) a year by claiming to carry dead animals - in reality frozen chickens - as did several friends. Other listeners also said the ruse worked.

sion officer to help.

Again, let me harp on about the Asbestos Screening, we tell you about this every year too, well, here are the details again:

Defence Health Services and the Defence Asbestos Registration Service database .

Until the 1970's asbestos was commonly used as a building material in many Australian buildings. It was frequently used in ships for lagging, fire retarding and soundproofing until the 1990's. Because of this common industry practice some Defence buildings and (All?) naval vessels contain asbestos.

If you feel you may have been exposed to asbestos, (if you were a member of the RAN there is no "may have been" involved - you were!), and you want further advice on possible exposure to asbestos, the Department of Defence - in conjunction with Health Services Australia - conducts a free service for assessment, counselling and, if necessary testing.

You can access this service by contacting the Health Services Australia office in your region on the following, phone numbers, but you will first need to contact the Defence Call Centre on 1800 000 655 and obtain a reference number. Be advised that the call centre number can be difficult to get on to, so you will need to persevere.

You will need to have the above reference number when you call the Health Services Australia numbers below.

SYDNEY 02 8396 0680
PARRAMATTA 02 9806 7362 /7354
NEWCASTLE 02 4 726 4033
WOLLONGONG 02 4226 0172
MELBOURNE 03 9224 8376
ADELAIDE 08 8468 6084
BRISBANE 07 3307 9422
DARWIN OS 8981 7492
PERTH 08 9324 6444
CANBERRA 02 6269 2022

HOBART 03 6211 0464.

I hold Distinction-level qualifications in Industrial Hygiene and Medicine and separate Distinction-level qualifications in Industrial Law.

After my service in the RAAF and Vietnam, I became a WA State Government Inspector of what these days is called Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare.

During the early 1980s, I was appointed as the Community Development Officer for the WA Asbestos Diseases Society and received an almost immediate reclassification as their Executive Research Officer in which capacity I performed the medico-legal research which produced the documentary evidence which enabled the law firm of Slater and Gordon to 'lift the corporate veil' (a legal term) on Micalco and CSR (Colonial Sugar Refineries).

Micalco was the 'shelf company' which ostensibly operated the asbestos mining at Wittenoom Gorge in Western Australia. CSR was their 'parent' company.

My purpose in explaining this apparently irrelevant information to you is to underline the importance of my concern for ANYONE who may have been exposed to, or may have inhaled, asbestos fibres during the course of their working lives regardless of the source OR THE QUANTITY.

ASBESTOS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE and there is NO KNOWN SAFE LEVEL-OF-EXPOSURE LIMIT for exposure to it.

While I do not wish to unduly alarm anyone, the facts are as follow.....

ANYONE who has ever been exposed to asbestos fibres IS at risk of developing the following diseases:

1. **Pneumoconiosis** - a generic term which means any fibrosis (scarring) of the lung tissue as a result of exposure to, and inhalation of, a variety of

mineral dusts - INCLUDING ASBESTOS.

2. **Asbestosis** - chronic lung disease resulting from the inhalation of asbestos dust over a period (of time). Thickening and scarring of the lung tissue occurs with reduced efficiency of oxygen and carbon dioxide interchange with the blood. The resulting breathlessness may progress to respiratory failure (and death).

3. **Pleural Plaques** - the Pleura is the thin double-layered membrane which separates the lungs from the inside of the chest wall. A film of liquid between the two layers provides lubrication to allow smooth movement during breathing. The membrane also prevents the lungs rubbing directly against the inside of the rib cage and causing 'wearing' damage to the lungs. Plaques are the scar tissue calcification (thickening or fibrosis) caused by the mechanical action of the sharp asbestos fibres to the lung tissue during the movements caused by breathing. Pleural Plaques is irreversible and untreatable damage to the membrane between the lungs and the chest wall.

4. **Mesothelioma** - a benign or malignant tumour (a type of cancer) of the Mesothelium (lining cells) of the Pleura. Mesothelium occurs in the Peritoneum, Pleura and Pericardium. Pleural mesotheliomas are associated with the inhalation of asbestos dust. ANYONE who has been exposed to the inhalation of asbestos fibres is at risk of developing each and any of the 'stages' of the conditions which I have briefly explained above.

All of these things appear to be influenced, to one degree or another, by a number of other factors.

1. Cigarette smoking appears to have a 'synergistic' (co-operative or increasing) effect upon the damage done to the human body by inhaled asbestos fibres.

2. The genetic make-up of the indi-

vidual. It is possible for two individuals to be exposed to exactly the same environmental factors. One may die prematurely as a result of the exposure and the other may be either virtually unaffected or may develop one or more of the conditions above.

3. Exposure to a combination of asbestos fibres. A combination of both Crocidolite (blue) and Chrysotile (white) asbestos fibres appears to have a synergistic effect upon the human lung tissue. Combinations of Crocidolite and Chrysotile asbestos fibres were commonly used in industry for the manufacture of asbestos fencing sheets (Super Six) and the 'lagging' of a variety of industrial pipes - including air conditioning ducts.

Are you "still procrastinating" ?

If you served in the Navy, my advice to you is DON'T procrastinate (delay, put off, hesitate) any longer! (**Ed's Note:** This also applies to members of the Corps of RAEME).

Get yourself checked out NOW.

David & Tricia Woodcock
1 Antaries Avenue Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Phone: 02) 66523630
Tricia's Mobile: 0414257132
David's Mobile; 0400257132
RSL Pensions Tuesday 10am-4pm
Coffs harbour RSL Sub Branch
PO Box 180 Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Ph: 02)66919237 Fax 02)66518968

Interesting document.

Let us also not forget that all wartime buildings in our major camps contained asbestos, as did the brakes and clutches of A, B and C vehicles. In the 80s during asbestos removal at Duntroon the asbestos fibre count on the road past the college (from brakes and clutch plates) was as high as the count adjacent the removal site. We fires used asbestos blankets, gauntlets and coveralls, cooks used asbestos asbestos oven mitts, black trades

used gloves, spats and screens. Where was it not used?

Regards,
Brian Spilsbury

Extract for recent emails (names deleted) After 2 years of doing nothing and saying to myself "Not Me", I finally got of my backside and went and had the Asbestos Screening Tests, Being a radar operator I put myself in the low category for exposure.

You can imagine my surprise that the X-rays showed that I had been exposed in two places in the lining of my lungs, which they called Pleural Plaque.

I have now gone a CAT Scan for further evaluation and hopefully will no the results shortly.

I am sending this to you to highlight the fact that even if you think you have never been exposed directly to asbestos.

My recommendation would be:

TO GO AND HAVE THE TEST

Thanks, Bill

Ed's Note: If you are not sure whether you have been exposed to Asbestos or not it would pay you to see your doctor and get yourself checked out. If the tests show any abnormality, see your advocate for further help.

Security Of Defence Weapons And Munitions

Statement by the Defence Minister

In December, I announced the Defence Security Authority would conduct a comprehensive audit of the security policies and practices applying to Defence weapons, munitions and explosives.

Recent reports of alleged loss or theft made it clear that an audit was required to review arrangements designed to secure Defence weapons, munitions and explosives.

The audit team now has reported to

me on the initial phase of its review.

This phase of the audit focuses on the M72 munition, a single-use, expendable rocket launcher designed for infantry use against armoured vehicles. On 5 January 2007, the Australian Federal Police and New South Wales Police charged an individual with several offences, including receiving and disposing of seven rocket launchers from the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The police currently hold one of those munitions.

The audit team sought to ascertain the origin and source of the M72 held by the police. The team found that the M72 in question is an old variant, probably produced in Australia around 1990, and that Defence records indicate that the variant was removed from Defence stocks some years ago. The audit team was not able to identify conclusively when and where this munition was stolen from Defence. Police investigations continue with the aim of establishing when the munitions were stolen from Defence.

The audit team confirmed the findings of earlier reviews and investigations that accounting and security practices for weapons and munitions before 2000 were less stringent than those currently in place. Accounting and recording procedures resulted in vulnerabilities that could have been exploited by criminal elements.

In relation to the current weapons and munitions management system, the team found that the accounting procedures provide a significant degree of confidence that Defence assets can be tracked.

The Audit Team checked both conformity to procedures and M72 stocks at sites around Australia. In all cases, the full stock of the current M72 variant held by Defence was accounted for with no discrepancies.

Although all current stock was accounted for, the audit has made recom-