

For those of you who have seen the American's Viet-Nam Veterans Memorial known as "The Wall, nothing further needs to be said. For you my Australian Brothers who have not seen it, it is the MOST VISITED place in Washington D. C. In that light, my brothers, FOR ALL OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I pass this on to you; Jim Otto

"THE WALL"

The night was cold, I was ten years old
When the Chaplain made his call.
The news was bad, my mother was sad
When she heard of my fathers fall.

An ambush he said, they all were dead
The words were shocking and cold.
Eight other men died, eight other wives cried
For young men who would never grow old.

The years quickly passed, they seemed so fast
With no father to show me the way.
Yet I knew from the start, deep down in my heart
We'd be together, forever, one day.

Through the laughter and tears, the months and the years
I kept hearing "it's" far-away call.
The day was cold I was thirty years old
When my eyes first set sight on the WALL.

It seemed ancient yet knew, as if somehow on cue
When I saw it the Earth became still
And my memory once gray, became focused that day
Of a man who now suddenly seemed real.

No more tears filled my eyes, no more lifetime of "whys"
All the answers I'd found in this place.
With the touch of his name gone was sorrow and pain
And bad memories were quickly erased.

As I stared into the black, my father stared back
And he smiled and my heart filled with joy
I said: "welcome home, dad, what a journey you've had."
He said: "It's sure great to be home, my boy!"

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kellystrong@aol.com



The Role Of RAEME Is To :-

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

The Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)

Spring 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.

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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 Goodlich	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 23rd of NOVEMBER 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.

Here we are again with a New Year ahead of us, after just having the Annual General Meeting and no change to our committee. We are now in our Tenth Year and let's hope things will go as we wish it to go, forward and possible new members. We did have a good meeting and afterwards we shared a drink or two with the members with of course a snag on the BBQ afterwards. I must admit that our Secretary does a reasonable job on the BBQ and I think everyone present enjoyed themselves.

But I would like to see more members come along to our meetings and see for themselves how we get along at the Bayswater Hotel and some times it is a real family affair with good food and not to expensive. We have a great meeting venue and the service is tremendous.

I am looking back to the days when we decided to form our organisation, but since that night we haven't seen any of the old faces again to come and join us and see what we are all about. I would like to see more family get -

"Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have.

4. "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane"

5. "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

6. As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

7. After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

8. From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa . To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public un-supervised."

9. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

10. "Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

11. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please youpaddle to shore and take them with

our compliments."

12. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

13. And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

14. Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City the flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

15. Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

16. An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember. Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. "Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?" he asks.

"Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?"
"Sure."

"Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?" she asks.

"No, I can remember it."

"Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so's not to forget it?"

He says, "I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries."

"I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?" she asks.

Irritated, he says, "I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!" Then he toddles into the kitchen.

After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment. "Where's my toast?"

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy: "So I hear you're getting married?"

"Yep!"

"Do I know her?"

"Nope!"

"This woman, is she good looking?"

"Not really."

"Is she a good cook?"

"Naw, she can't cook too well."

"Does she have lots of money?"

"Nope! Poor as a church mouse."

"Well, then, is she good in bed?"

"I don't know."

"Why in the world do you want to marry her then?"

"Because she can still drive!"

A man was telling his neighbour, "I just

bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect." "Really," answered the neighbour. "What kind is it?"
"Twelve thirty."

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?"

Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'"

One more. . .! A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto stool. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, "Crushed nuts?"

"No," he replied, "Arthritis."

Airline cabin announcements

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

1. On a Southwest flight (SW has no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"

2. On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

3. On landing, the stewardess said,

together, outings dinners etc. but no one seems to be interested. We should put our heads together and pass on our thoughts and see what we can do to have more fun. They seem to be able to have interesting things going on run by our Interstate affiliates, so why can't we have something going. Let's all have a good think about this and bring your ideas to the next meeting, it should be a good discussion session.

So if you have a spare hour or so on any first Thursday of the month, drop in at the Baysie and join us at the meeting.

John Klein.

RAEME Plaque taken to the UK

Recently one of our REME members took a RAEME Plaque to the UK on our behalf. Fred Ordynski went to the UK to attend a reunion of the Arborfield Old Boys Association. During his visit he presented the Plaque to the AOBA. The following letter was received by the Association from the Director REME:

**Brigadier N T S Williams MBE ADC
Director Electrical and Mechanical
Engineering (Army) Box No H080,
Building 62, Hazebrouck Barracks,
Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire, RG2
9NH**

DEME(A)/1100/1/8

Mr Richard Fenton

RAEME Association Secretary
RAEME Association of WA Inc

PO Box 186

Bayswater

WA 6933 Australia

Dear Mr Fenton,

RAEME ASSOCIATION PLAQUE

As the President of the Arborfield Old Boys Association (AOBA) and a Vice President of the REME Association it gave me a great deal of pleasure to receive the RAEME Plaque to further cement our bond of friendship. This

bond of kindred engineering spirits with a military background is clearly demonstrated in 'The Horse's Mouth' your newsletter, both informative and humorous. I know Andy Anderson the REME Association Secretary looks forward to reading every issue before passing them on.

Your offer of welcome to those who plan to travel to Western Australia is reciprocated. If any of your members plan to return to the 'old country' please get in touch with Andy Anderson and or Colonel Bill Cleasby whose cards are attached. They will ensure any visit to my Headquarters or the REME Museum of Technology will be an enjoyable experience.

Thank you once again for the gift of your Association Plaque. I have asked the Museum Director to place it in the Museum so that it may be seen by the AOBA and the wider REME family.

Your's Sincerely

(signed) Brigadier Williams

F1 Grenade Safety

The Chief of Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston and the Secretary for Defence, Mr Nick Warner, have today expressed their sympathy to the Defence civilian injured in 12 September accident at the Defence Proof and Experimental Establishment at Graytown, Victoria. The civilian was injured as the result of the detonation of an F1 grenade.

The Chief of Defence Force has ordered an immediate pause in the training use of the F1 grenade.

The cause of the grenade accident is being investigated. Potential causes might include, but not be limited to, a malfunction of the grenade or of the testing procedures. It would not be appropriate to speculate further about the incident until investigations are complete.

“Our first priority is to ensure the safety of all Australian Defence Force and Defence Department personnel” Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

“The decision to pause the training use of the F1 grenade will allow us to determine that the right measures are in place to ensure the safety of our people and the reliability of the grenade.”

Defence will work closely with the grenade’s manufacturer, Thales Australia, to validate and where necessary improve all aspects relating to the safety and reliability of the product

Defence will rapidly procure sufficient stocks of HE grenades from the United States to support necessary training for our forces in Australia.

A small number of failures of the F1 grenades to detonate were reported in 2006 from the Middle East. These incidents were reported from the field and rapid steps were taken to confirm the reliability of grenades in service.

Our forces in the Middle East continue to have adequate stocks of fully effective grenades in their inventory.

Defence, through the Defence Materiel Organisation, has been working with Thales Australia to address these matters.

“The incident on 12 September at the Defence Proof and Experimental Establishment is cause for concern” Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

“These matters will be very carefully investigated and reported to the Minister for Defence. All necessary steps will be taken to ensure the safety of our personnel.”

101 FD WKSP Social Club

Hello RAEME people, my name is Darby and I was a member of 101 for many years enjoying the camaraderie that only this field unit can offer.

So good was the social aspect of this unit that many years after leaving most soldiers still remember the many friends made in sometimes difficult and adverse conditions unique to this RAEME field unit.

One particular ex member decided to organise a reunion of members at Ingleburn RSL this event was the catalyst of what was to become a bi-annual event well supported by people who have fond memories of great and not so great times spent in 101.

The Ingleburn reunion started the ball rolling with our now president Garry Hodges to organise the next reunion in Darwin for ANZAC Day 2007. This turned out to be very successful in that we had 148 ex-members turn up for a really great time. Garry had a banner made depicting the archway as well as where the unit served. We all marched in the Darwin ANZAC Day march under this banner and was the biggest contingent on the day.

Garry has now started planning the next event for 2009 at the twin towns RSL on the gold coast for March of that year. Garry has asked for feed back on this venue and all suggestions will be considered. This social club does not have a structured committee as we all have equal status to be there and put our opinions forward.

Sport in 101 was a big part of our daily thinking and many people participated in a wide variety of activities of a sporting nature as well as the social side of winning or loosing in the OR s club (well supported by all ranks). 101 boozier became more of the social hub not just a bar in an Army unit.

Garry has a web page that has photos from Darwin as well as the main contact forum for all to use. The address for this is www.101raemewksp.zoomshare.com

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the RAEME Association in WA who

we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle’s Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over

So which is it?

If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa during my Freshman year that, “It will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you.” We, then, take into account the fact that I slept with her last night, so number two must be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and has already frozen over. The corollary of this theory is that since Hell has frozen over, it follows that it is not accepting any more souls and is therefore, extinct.....leaving only Heaven, thereby proving the existence of a divine being which explains why, last night, Teresa kept shouting “Oh my God.”

THIS STUDENT RECEIVED AN A+.

What a smart ass.!

Elderly gentleman?

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, “Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can a

hear again.”

The gentleman replied, “Oh, I haven’t told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I’ve changed my will three times!”

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

“Really!? Like a newborn baby!?”

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

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple’s house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, “Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.” The other man said, “What is the name of the restaurant?” The first man thought and thought and finally said, “What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that’s red and has thorns.”

“Do you mean a rose?”

“Yes, that’s the one,” replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, “Rose, what’s the name of that restaurant we went to last night?”

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn’t need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. “I don’t know,” he said. “She’s still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.”

Couple in their nineties are both having

what would happen, but apparently failed to notice the window was closed.

RUNNER UP:

TACOMA, WA: Kerry Bingham had been drinking with several friends when one of them said they knew a person who had bungee-jumped from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in the middle of traffic. The conversation grew more heated and at least 10 men trooped along the walkway of the bridge at 4:30 AM.

Upon arrival at the midpoint of the bridge they discovered that no one had brought a bungee rope. Bingham, who had continued drinking, volunteered and pointed out that a coil of lineman's cable lay near by. One end of the cable was secured around Bingham's leg and the other end was tied to the bridge. His fall lasted 40 feet before the cable tightened and tore his foot off at the ankle.

He miraculously survived his fall into the icy salt water and was rescued by two nearby fishermen. "All I can say" said Bingham, "is that God was watching out for me on that night. There's just no other explanation for it." Bingham's foot was never located.

AND THE WINNER...

Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt (Paderborn, Germany) fed his constipated elephant Stefan 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let it fly, and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop!

Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him" said flabbergasted Paderborn police

detective Erik Dern. With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that proves... "Shit happens."

Hell Explained By Chemistry Student

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington chemistry mid term.

The answer by one student was so "profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well:

Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today.

Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are,

publish the Horse's Mouth for allowing me to place this article in the periodical put together by John.

Darby Munro

Gold Card Pensions - Additions To Accepted Disabilities. BY COURTESY OF NOEL McLaughlin

Gentlemen

Our Welfare Rep IAN SINCLAIR now part of our Qld Inc Committee has asked me to pass this on for you general interest

Yours Aye Rob Woolrych

Posted on 26/7/2007 at 18:41:50 by Noel McLaughlin

Over the past 18 months or so I have been asked for advice from a number of quarters including the National President of the RSL, on a developing but unusual and very worrying trend - that of veterans lodging claims for a new disability under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986. This may not of itself sound unusual.

However, my concerns which have prompted me to post this message stem from the fact that the lodgement of claims for a new disability are being lodged by veterans who are in receipt of a General Rate Disability paid at 100% of the General Rate (Gold Card). It has also featured in some veterans attempting to have a previously rejected disability accepted again even when receiving 100%.

Additionally I have had cause to provide advice in respect of veterans who although in receipt of the Special Rate (TPI) Pension also have commenced action to lodge a fresh claim for a new disability or one that has been previously rejected.

The risks to 100% veterans or Above General Rate (Intermediate or TPI) Pension Veterans doing this are

manifest; viz

1. They will be subject to a complete review of every accepted disability as part of the assessment process.

2. If currently receiving 100% they run a real risk of having their Medical Impairment and Lifestyle ratings readjusted to the extent that their current entitlement may very well end up being derated to less than 100% with its attendant effect on the veteran.

3. If Intermediate or TPI, they run the risk of having their capacity to undertake remunerative work re-assessed also.

4. Should a pension at Intermediate/TPI levels - in particular TPI - be derated, bang goes the automatic War Widow's entitlement - not to mention a possible diminution in Service Pension and a potential loss of entitlement to funeral benefits and bereavement payments.

As you can see, such a course of action is fraught with risk and the potential for damage is significant.

This will result in the usual stress on a veteran and his family and force him into the appeals system in what is becoming an increasingly adversarial process. There is nothing the Repat Commission likes better than to review a veteran's situation and this is grist for their mill.

Gold Cards entitle a veteran to coverage for all medical matters other than accepted disabilities. There is no requirement for a veteran who has a Gold card to lodge a claim for another disability regardless of whether it is a new condition or one previously rejected. The Gold card redresses that imbalance. That balance runs a great risk of being very badly disturbed and can create a very dangerous precedent that can have a terrible blow-back effect on all Gold card recipients or potential applicants.

The simple advice: DO NOT GO

THERE.

If you need to talk this over I urge all members to discuss with their respective Advocates. If members know of anyone in our family who is a Gold card recipient and is considering this action, please ensure he is aware of the risks.

Regards,
Noel Mc Laughlin
Advocate

ADF Duty In Sierra Leone Upgraded To Warlike Service

Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Sierra Leone from 2001 to 2003 now have their service recognised as 'warlike', Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson announced recently.

A total of 17 ADF personnel served on the operation, code named Operation Husky, which was the Australian contribution to the International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT) formed to provide direct military advice and training assistance to the then new Sierra Leone Ministry of Defence and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

The operational environment and nature of service for Operation Husky have been reviewed and the Government has agreed that a retrospective declaration of 'warlike' service was warranted for the deployment.

Service in Sierra Leone had previously been classified as 'non-warlike' and this change in deployment status will provide greater recognition and enhanced ongoing support for those who served.

The original decision to classify the operation as non-warlike was taken because ADF personnel were to operate only in Freetown and its environs. As the operation progressed, ADF personnel were required to operate throughout the southern region of Sierra

Leone.

This resulted in a change to the previously designated area of operations, the level of threat and risk to ADF personnel. As a result the reclassification of service is justified.

Operation Husky veterans may now be eligible for additional home loan assistance and will be awarded the Australian Active Service Medal. They will also receive the DVA Gold Card at age 70, with access to free and comprehensive health care in addition to their existing entitlements and benefits.

Veterans will also have access to a Service Pension at age 60, five years earlier than the age pension from Centrelink. If any veterans are unable to work through injury sustained during the deployment they may be entitled to immediate access to the Invalidity Service Pension.

These additional benefits will enable greater long term security for both veterans and their families who have played an important and difficult role in the service of their country and for the wider international community.

The reclassification of Operation Husky to 'warlike' is another outcome of the nature of service review put in place by the Howard Government in 2002 to review past operations to ensure they were correctly attributed.

It stands alongside the reclassification of service in Rwanda from 1994 to 1995 as exemplifying the Government's commitment to ensure our ADF personnel who risk their lives on operations overseas have their service recognised and are properly looked after.

Loss of Value of TPI Entitlements

Dear All,

Hon Graham Edwards MP is a Vietnam Veteran and the only war veterans in the Federal Parliament. He has been a

Jim's Life in the US

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

You Can't Fix Stupid

EIGHTH PLACE:

In Detroit, a 41-year-old man got stuck and drowned in two feet of water after squeezing head first through an 18-inch-wide sewer grate to retrieve his car keys.

SEVENTH PLACE:

A 49-year-old San Francisco stockbroker, who "totally zoned when he ran," accidentally jogged off a 100-foot high cliff on his daily run.

SIXTH PLACE:

Buxton, NC: A man died on a beach when an 8-foot-deep hole he had dug into the sand caved in as he sat inside it. Beach-goers said Daniel Jones, 21, dug the hole for fun, or protection from the wind, and had been sitting in a beach chair at the bottom Thursday afternoon when it collapsed, burying him beneath 5 feet of sand.

People on the beach, on the outer banks, used their hands and shovels, trying to claw their way to Jones, a resident of Woodbridge, VA, but could not reach him. It took rescue workers using heavy equipment almost an hour to free him while about 200 people looked on. Jones was pronounced dead at a hospital.

FIFTH PLACE:

Santiago Alvarado, 24, was killed in Lompoc, as he fell face-first through the ceiling of a bicycle shop he was burglarising. Death was caused when the long flashlight he had placed in his mouth (to keep his hands free) rammed into the base of his skull as he hit the floor.

FOURTH PLACE:

Sylvester Briddell, Jr., 26, was killed in Selbyville, Del, as he won a bet with friends who said he would not put a revolver loaded with four bullets into his mouth and pull the trigger.

As Ron White often says: "You can't fix stupid." These people prove it is a terminal condition. As always, competition this year has been keen.

THIRD PLACE:

The following mind-boggling attempt at a crime spree in Washington, DC appeared to be the robber's first (and last), due to his lack of a previous record of violence, and his terminally stupid choices:

1. His target was H&J Leather & Firearms; A gun shop specialising in handguns.
2. The shop was full of customers - firearms customers.
3. To enter the shop, the robber had to step around a marked police patrol car parked at the front door.
4. A uniformed officer was standing at the counter, having coffee before work. Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a hold-up, and fired a few wild shots from a target pistol.

The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, the police officer with a 9mm GLOCK 17, the clerk with a 50 DESERT EAGLE, assisted by several customers who also drew their guns, several of whom also drew and fired. The robber was pronounced dead at the scene by Paramedics. Crime scene investigators located 47 expended cartridge cases in the shop. The subsequent autopsy revealed 23 gunshot wounds. Ballistics identified rounds from 7 different weapons. No one else was hurt in the exchange of fire.

HONORABLE MENTION:

Paul Stiller, 47, was hospitalised in Andover township, NJ, and his wife Bonnie was also injured, when a quarter-stick of dynamite blew up in their car. While driving around at 2 AM, the bored couple lit the dynamite and tried to toss it out the window to see

Thoughts to Ponder for 2007

Number 9

Life is sexually transmitted.

Number 8

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Number 7

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

Number 6

Some people are like a Slinky ... not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you shove them down the stairs.

Number 5

Health nuts are going to feel stupid some day, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Number 4

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Number 3

Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$200.00 and a substantial tax cut saves you 30?

Number 2

In the 60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

AND THE NUMBER 1 THOUGHT FOR 2007:

We know exactly where one cow with Mad-cow-disease is located among the millions and millions of cows in America but we haven't got a clue as to where thousands of illegal immigrants and terrorists are located. Maybe we should put the Department of Agriculture in charge of immigration.

"Life is like a jar of jalapenos. What you do today, might burn your ass tomorrow

Just to Start

An old southern country preacher from Georgia had a teenage son and it was getting time the boy should give some thought to choosing a profession. Like many young men, the boy didn't really know what he wanted to do, and he didn't seem too concerned about it.

One day, while the boy was away at school, his father decided to try an experiment. He went into the boy's room and placed on his study table four objects:

- a Bible,
- a silver dollar,
- a bottle of whisky and
- a Playboy magazine

I'll just hide behind the door, " the old preacher said to himself, "and when he comes home from school this afternoon, I'll see which object he picks up. If it's the Bible, he's going to be a preacher like me, and what a blessing that would be! If he picks up the dollar, he's going to be a businessman, and that would be OK. But if picks up the bottle, he's going to be a no-good drunkard, and, Lord, what a shame that would be. And worst of all, if he picks up that magazine he's gonna be a skirt-chasin' bum."

The old man waited anxiously, and soon heard his son's footsteps as he entered the house, whistling and headed for his room. The boy tossed his books on the bed, and as he turned to leave the room he spotted the objects on the table. With curiosity in his eye, he walked over to inspect them.

Finally, he picked up the Bible and placed it under his arm. He picked up the silver dollar and dropped it into his pocket. He uncorked the bottle and took a big drink while he admired this month's Centrefold.

"Lord have mercy," the old preacher disgustedly whispered, "he's gonna be a Soldier!"

vocal advocate for our causes but, unfortunately, often to uncomprehending politicians.

In a recent speech, he addressed the 'loss of value of the TPI pension' and offers advice to both sides of politics.

It is a very important speech. Part of it is reproduced below.

Regards,

Tim McCombe

National President - Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia

Speech

Mr EDWARDS (11.39 a.m.) I want to address a couple of issues in this debate on Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2006-2007 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2006-2007 relating to my responsibilities as shadow parliamentary secretary for defence and veterans' affairs. The first of these issues I want to address goes to the issue of the loss of value of the TPI pension. Before I get into that issue, I just want to say how ineffective this government has been in the face of the record reluctance of young Australians to sign up and join the ADF.

It is no wonder that the government has a retention and recruitment crisis on its hands. I have looked at some of the wasteful advertising on TV and in other places. The government are spending millions upon millions of dollars on this advertising, which is designed, I think, more to bolster the image of the government than to recruit. But it seems to me that, if they were dinkum about their need and the way they are going about their recruitment drive, they might be better off saving that money that they are wasting on advertising and putting it into looking after the veteran community that is, veterans who served in previous eras or in previous conflicts although, having said that, I am aware that a number of veterans who have served in Afghanistan, Iraq and places like East Timor are facing the same

sorts of issues that older veterans are facing.

An example of that is in a recent letter that was sent to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and to ex-service organisations by the Vietnam Veterans Federation in New South Wales. I might say that the Vietnam Veterans Federation under the presidency of Tim McCombe, himself a veteran, is probably one of the most credible of all ex-service organisations in Australia. I commend Tim and all of his team out there at Granville for the wonderful work they are doing across the board for veterans. In this letter, which they sent to the minister, under a heading, 'Loss of value of the TPI pension' they say this:

'The Minister for Veterans' Affairs is grasping at straws in his attempt to justify the government's refusal to restore the lost value of the TPI pension and to stem its further erosion. His attempted justifications are untenable and contradictory. Our latest letter to the minister is enclosed.'

I want to quote this letter because it shows that what is being said about the TPI is not just being said by me and other members of parliament on the ALP side who take an interest in these things but also in the broader veteran community. The letter is addressed to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and it says:

Loss of the value of the TPI pension

Since 1979, the TPI pension has lost value compared with other pensions and the erosion continues.

In recent correspondence to the Vietnam Veterans Federation and others, you have defended the government's refusal to restore the TPI pension's lost value and its refusal to completely stem its continuing erosion.

The justification you give for the government's inaction is that the TPI

pension/Service pension package is adequate because it is roughly equivalent to the average wage.

But the TPI pension/Service pension package and the average wage are simply not comparable. It is like comparing apples with oranges.

Firstly, the spouses of civilians on the average-wage can earn as much as they like without it reducing their partners' incomes, whilst any significant wage earned by partners of TPI pensioners reduces the TPI pension/Service pension package. This reduction is savage enough to discourage a great many spouses from taking up work. The importance of this difference cannot be overstated as the vast majority of Australian families find it necessary for both partners to work for at least some of the time to make ends meet. When spouse's incomes are added to that of their average-wage earner partners, the TPI pension/Service pension package recipient is left far worse off.

Secondly many civilians on the average wage are in transit through that wage level and will be earning much more in later life. No such luck for the TPI Pensioner. He is stuck on the TPI Pension/Service Pension package for life and often from an early age. Unlike his civilian counterparts, he will have no chance to upgrade his skills and gain experience which will allow him to earn progressively more, so he can buy a house and accumulate superannuation for his old age.

Thirdly, there is another even more basic difference. Generally speaking, the civilian average-wage earner has not been sent off to fight Australia's wars. War service is like no other job, it is uniquely dangerous and arduous. TPI pensioners' war service did not conform to civilian norms so there should be no need for any compensation they might receive for the war's devastating effects to be restricted by civilian norms.

In short, your argument for adequacy based on this comparison is fallacious and we are disappointed that you continue using it.

We are disappointed, too, at the figures you use in the comparison.

The average wage is clearly 'income'. Any payments compared with it must also be 'income'. The government has decreed that only part of the TPI pension is 'income', the other part being 'lump sum equivalent'. Yet in making your comparison, you have included the whole of the TPI pension including the part you have decreed as 'lump sum equivalent'. Your calculations are therefore invalid.

Including the whole of the TPI pension you calculate that a single under-65 TPI service pension/Service pension recipient receives a net \$10 a fortnight more than a single average-wage earner. But if you play by your own rules and recognise that only part of the TPI pension is 'income', the under-65 TPI pension/Service pension package recipient is, in fact, over four hundreds of dollars a fortnight worse off.

The simple facts are these:

The TPI pension was 47.3% of the average wage in 1997 and it is now 43.5%.

The TPI pension is still losing value.

We ask that the lost value of the TPI pension be restored and its erosion stemmed.

This is an issue that the government must address. This is an issue that the government have run away from for some years now. We know that they changed the system in 1996. That is over 10 years ago, and it is time they recognised that they made a mistake and fixed it up.

I know that this is also an issue for the ALP to address. In due course we must address this issue in terms of our own policies, and I am greatly heartened by

36 To "testify" was based on men in the Roman court swearing to a statement made by swearing on their testicles.

37 The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."

38 The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.

39 Facetious and abstemious contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."

40 Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.

41 Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.

42 The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means "the king is dead".

43 The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of lore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

44 The male gypsy moth can "smell" the virgin female gypsy moth from 1.8 miles away.

Twenty Nine Lines To Make You Smile

1. My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
3. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
4. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
5. Don't take life too seriously; No one

gets out alive.

6. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me
7. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
8. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
9. I'm not a complete idiot — Some parts are just missing.
10. Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
11. NyQuil, the stuffy, sneezy, why-the-heck-is-the-room-spinning medicine.
12. God must love stupid people; He made so many.
13. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
14. Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
15. Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
16. Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!
17. Wrinkled Was Not One of the Things I Wanted to Be When I Grew up.
- 18 Procrastinate Now!
19. I Have a Degree in Liberal Arts; Do You Want Fries With That?
20. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
21. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.
22. Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere!
23. They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.
24. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless DEAD.
25. A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.
26. Ham and eggs...A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.
27. The trouble with life is there's no background music.
28. The original point and click interface was a Smith & Wesson.
29. I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.

English language that begins and ends with the letters “und.”

9 There are only four words in the English language which end in “-dous” tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

10 The longest word in the English language, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis. The only other word with the same amount of letters is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconioses, its plural.

11 The longest place-name still in use is Taumatawhakatangihotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwenuakitanatahu, a New Zealand hill.

12 Los Angeles’s full name is “El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula” and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size, “L.A.”

13 A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

14 An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.

15 Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

16 In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.

17 Alfred Hitchcock didn’t have a belly button. It was eliminated when he was sewn up after surgery.

18 Telly Savalas and Louis Armstrong died on their birthdays.

19 Donald Duck’s middle name is Fauntleroy.

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

21 The muzzle of a lion is like a fingerprint - no two lions have the same pattern of whiskers.

22 Steely Dan got their name from a sexual device depicted in the book ‘The Naked Lunch’.

23 The Ramses brand condom is named after the great pharaoh Ramses II who fathered over 160 children.

24 There is a seven letter word in the English language that contains ten words without rearranging any of its letters, “therein” the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.

25 Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

26 John Larroquette of “Night Court” and “The John Larroquette Show” was the narrator of “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.”

27 The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra’s “It’s A Wonderful Life”

28 A pregnant goldfish is called a twit. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

29 It’s impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

30 It was discovered on a space mission that a frog can throw up. The frog throws up its stomach first, so the stomach is dangling out of it’s mouth. Then the frog uses its forearms to dig out all of the stomach’s contents and then swallows the stomach back down again.

31 Cranberries are sorted for ripeness by bouncing them; a fully ripened cranberry can be dribbled like a basketball.

32 The letters KGB stand for Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti.

33 The name for Oz in the “Wizard of Oz” was thought up when the creator, Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N, and O-Z, hence “Oz.”

34 The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

35 ‘Stewardesses’ is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

the work that Alan Griffin is doing out there. Alan is the ALP spokesperson on veterans’ issues. He has been out in the veteran community, listening to them, taking on board their arguments and showing them a great deal of respect. I know that this is an issue that Alan wants to see resolved as well.

The important point is that the government is currently putting together its budget that will be produced in May. I urge the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, who is the government spokesperson for veterans’ affairs in this parliament, to ensure that he gets his fingers into the Treasurer’s purse and rectifies this disgraceful erosion of the TPI pension. As long as this government continues to treat veterans in the shoddy way that it has then it will be equally hard to recruit young Australians to serve in the ADF. Word of mouth through the veteran community to younger people is simply saying, ‘Think twice about signing up because when the flags have stopped flying, when you are out of uniform, governments forget about you very quickly.’ That, unfortunately, is a sad truth. If the government is dinkum about its care and concern for veterans, it will make sure that in this budget it rectifies that erosion of the TPI pension. I once again compliment Tim McCombe and the Vietnam Veterans Federation for the tremendous work they are doing.

Veterans To Get Travel Concessions

SPECIAL veterans and their carers will get one free trip a year on the Indian Pacific train between Perth and Kalgoorlie.

It is one of several new travel concessions to special veterans and approved carers announced by Premier Alan Carpenter.

Special veterans are defined as people who claim the Commonwealth’s Extremely Disabled Adjustment, Intermediate Rate or Totally and Perma-

nently Incapacitated disability pensions.

Other travel concessions include a second trip in WA for WA special veterans and their accompanying approved carers on Transwa rail and coach services and a second free intra-state, trip for WA special veterans living above the 26th parallel and their accompanying approved carers by air or coach

Veterans And War Widows Secure Pension Increase

Veterans will receive an increase in their pensions of up to \$18.60 per fortnight, it was announced recently.

Veterans’ pensions, including service pension, war widow’s pension and disability pensions, will increase from 20 September 2007.

This pension rise is consistent with the Australian Government’s commitment to protecting the living standards of veterans and their families, and supporting their welfare.

From 20 September 2007, the Special (T&PI) rate of disability pension will increase by \$18.60 to \$938.00 per fortnight, while the Intermediate rate of disability pension will increase by \$11.40 to \$631.20.

Extreme Disablement Adjustment will increase to \$495.40 per fortnight and the 100 per cent General Rate of disability pension will increase to \$322.80.

The maximum rate of single service pension will rise by \$12.60 to \$537.70 per fortnight and the maximum rate for couples will increase by \$10.60 to \$449.10 each.

The fortnightly pension paid to war widows will increase by \$12.60 to \$562.70, while the ceiling rate of the income support supplement, which is paid to more than 84,000 war widows, will rise to \$160.40.

Rates have also increased for benefits under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA). The MRCA widowed partner's death benefit is paid at the same rate as the war widow's pension, while MRCA Special Rate Disability pensioners receive the same payments as Special (T&PI) rate pensioners.

More information on the new pension rates is available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs on 133 254 or at www.dva.gov.au

Take Cover

Have you got the necessary protection for your assets

Being a member and sponsor of the Military Police Association of Australia I feel that I have a responsibility to make members aware of the significant value of their honours and awards.

Not only do they have high sentimental value to the recipient and their families etc, they have in most instances great monetary value to boot.

Therefore some serious consideration should be given to the fact that they are a substantial asset within the household when considering house

and contents insurance.

The inclusion of medals as a SPECIAL ITEM is most often overlooked. I can speak from personal experience when my father lost his original rack of seven and the heartbreak he went through.

Below is a brief list of the more common medals awarded to Australian Service Men and Women and there current value. Food for thought and you can quickly do the sums

Top end value relates to a medal in its original box untouched and unmounted

Bottom end value relates to medal in very poor condition with no ribbon or mounting.

I would say that 90% of the medals that pass through my hands ARE at the top end of this scale. Some "groups" of medals depending on there uniqueness can be valued higher again.

This is just a brief sample If you have something that's not on the list drop me an email and I will find the value for you.

< precisionmedals@bigpond.com >

Shane Murphy Precision Medal Mounting

Name of medal	Bottom End Value	Top End Value
Australian Active Service Medal 45 - 75	\$243.00	\$365.00
Vietnam Campaign	\$365.00	\$730.00
Vietnam Logistics	\$490.00	\$800.00
Australian Defence Medal	\$234.00	
Defence Force Service Medal + \$25 per clasp	\$243.00	\$490.00
Defence Long Service Medal + \$25 per clasp	\$490.00	\$730.00
Australian Active Service Medal 75 – (depending on clasp)	\$490.00	\$3700.00
Australian Service Medal 75 - (depending on clasp)	\$490.00	\$3700.00
INTERFET	\$1220.00	\$1950.00
Afghanistan Campaign	\$1220.00	\$1700.00
Iraq Campaign	\$1220.00	\$1700.00
National Medal +\$25 per clasp	\$365.00	\$490.00

an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "minding your "P's and Q's."

One more: bet you didn't know this! In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to

prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realise that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

Life According to Perry

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

The half wit.

Who would be a farmer?

A man owned a small farm in Western NSW. The Office of Fair Trading claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an Inspector out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the inspector.

"Well," replied the farmer, "There's my farm hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board.

The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 per week plus free room and board.

Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, and I buy him a bottle of rum every Saturday night."

"That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit," says the inspector.

"That would be me," replied the farmer.

So You Think U Know A Lot Of Stuff? Humor-Adding To Knowledge

1 The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched."

2 "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

3 Almonds are members of the peach family.

4 The symbol on the "pound" key (#) is called an octothorpe.

5 The dot over the letter 'i' is called a tittle.

6 Ingrown toenails are hereditary.

7 The word "set" has more definitions than any other word in the English language.

8 "Underground" is the only word in the

Nelson: "In that case..... Kiss me, Hardy."

Did you know?

You probably some of these but I bet there a few you didn't know:

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October)! Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the "chair man."

Today in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt therefore, the expression "losing face."

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in "straight laced". .wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep

Defence Recruiting Launches New Games Site

With the growing success of online games in attracting potential candidates, Defence Force Recruiting (DFR) will next week launch a dedicated games site, 'Defence Jobs Games'.

According to DFR's Director-General, Brigadier Simon Gould the site – to 'go live' on Monday, 16 July – will harness the advantages of the current suite of casual games and enable an active community to build around them.

"Our games have proven remarkably successful in attracting people to look at a career in the Defence Force," Brigadier Gould said.

"So we've built the Defence Jobs Games site to act as a portal for the expanding suite of games we've produced."

The new site will pull together a wide range of games – including Extreme Battleships, Supreme Air Combat and a new Army game – and will offer potential candidates as much of an experience as they want, without demanding a great investment of time.

"Putting all the games on the one site will also offer the user the ability to play from a range of online games with others while earning points, awards and advancing through the ranks of the Navy, Army and Air Force." Brigadier Gould said.

Users can also build avatars of themselves, to add a personalised touch to the experience.

Link: www.defencejobs.gov.au/games

Background Information

Australian Gamers

* 79 per cent of households have a device for playing games

* 2/3 of households have more than one device

* The average Australian gamer is 27 years old

* New players: 41 per cent are females; 8 per cent are seniors

* 61 per cent of gamers play for over an hour at one time

* Mobile/smart phones are used for games by 51 per cent of users

Australian Casual Gamers

· Games are considered 'more social' than other forms of media consumption

· Couples, family members, flatmates play games together on a regular basis

· 85 per cent of gamers have a broadband connection – quick to download

· Casual Gamer = spending 15mins – 1 hour playing an easy-to-learn game.

Extreme Battleships – 2 player game

· Launched 22 September 2006

· To date: 1,030,379 visits (9463 day visit peak to date)

· 60 per cent new; 37 per cent return

· 170,556 times Intel brief viewed

Supreme Air Combat – 2 player game

· Launched 23 March 2007

· To date: 317,261 visits (5721 day visit peak to date)

· 56.19 per cent new; 43 per cent return

RAEME Veterans Association

Hi John,

The following is the report covering the RAEME Veterans Association, WA Branch's participation in the "Long Tan" Day held on the 19th Aug 2007.

Although small in numbers we were still able to parade:-

1. The RAEME BANNER:- This has now been re-named to " RAEME VETERANS" and so allowing for representation of all RAEME

personnel who have qualifying active service.

2. The AUSTRALIAN Flag:- This was presented to the WA Branch of the Vietnam Veteran's Association at the "Welcome Home Parade" in Sydney.

3. The RAEME Flag :- The Association inherited his from the WW2 Association after the passing of the final member.

It is the policy of the Association that the above three will be paraded on Anzac Day, Vietnam Day and any other official RAEME celebration.

After the parade we moved on to our newly appointed gathering point "The Melbourne Hotel" and enjoyed a great feed and, in general, catching up with one another again.

On good point that was discussed in great detail was the attendance of the young veterans at the last Anzac day luncheon, how we all enjoyed their company and the input that they generated into the conversation was like a breath of fresh air, we only hope that their numbers will keep on increasing at all our functions. Further information on the Veterans Association can be obtained from :-

Garry Whykes [9276 1920] Phil Pitchers [9378 1586] or Rod Costoloe [9454 6332]

Regards
Don Horsley

New Guidelines Released on Sun Exposure

The Cancer Council Australia has issued new guidelines to tell Australians how much sun they need to avoid vitamin D deficiency and stay healthy without increasing their risk of skin cancer.

The new guidelines have been issued following research showing some Australians are deliberately seeking sun exposure over summer because they

are concerned about vitamin D deficiency.

The new advice takes into account the intensity of the sun in different parts of Australia.

The new guidelines recommend:

- Fair skinned people can maintain adequate vitamin D levels in summer from a few minutes of exposure to sunlight on their face, arms and hands (or an equivalent area of skin) on either side of the peak UV periods on most days of the week
- In winter in the southern parts of Australia, where UV radiation levels are less intense, people need about 2-3 hours of sunlight to the face, arms and hands or an equivalent area of skin over a week

UV levels are higher in northern Australia, so in Queensland, the Northern Territory and some parts of Western Australia, sun protection is needed all year round.

The guidelines state that "There is good evidence that vitamin D is beneficial for maintaining musculo-skeletal health and reducing the risk of bone fractures. The human body needs vitamin D to regulate calcium levels in the blood and to make and maintain healthy, strong bones and for this reason it is important to maintain adequate vitamin D levels all year round.

Vitamin D deficiency in infants and children can cause rickets, characterised by muscle and bone weakness and bone deformities. Adults with low vitamin D are at risk of bone and joint pain, muscle and bone weakness, osteoporotic fractures and falls."

Although the majority of Australians have sufficient levels of vitamin D, some people could be facing long-term health consequences due to vitamin D

Nelson: "In that case, break open the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace to steel the men before battle."

Hardy: "The rum ration has been abolished, Admiral. Its part of the Government's policy on binge drinking."

Nelson: "Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with it Full speed ahead."

Hardy: "I think you'll find that there's a 4 knot speed limit in this stretch of water."

Nelson: "Damn it man! We are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all dispatch. Report from the crow's nest please."

Hardy: "That won't be possible, sir."

Nelson: "What?"

Hardy: "Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness; and they said that rope ladders don't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until a proper scaffolding can be erected."

Nelson: "Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay, Hardy."

Hardy: "He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the foredeck Admiral."

Nelson: "Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd."

Hardy: "Health and safety again, sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled."

Nelson: "Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of admiral by playing the disability card."

Hardy: "Actually, sir, you did. The Royal Navy is under represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency."

Nelson: "Whatever next? Give me full sail. The salt spray beckons."

Hardy: "A couple of problems there too,

sir. Health and safety won't let the crew up the rigging without hard hats. And they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt - haven't you seen the adverts?"

Nelson: "I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy."

Hardy: "The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral."

Nelson: "What? This is mutiny!"

Hardy: "It's not that, sir. It's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal-aid lawyers on board, watching everyone like hawks."

Nelson: "Then how are we to sink the Frenchies and the Spanish?"

Hardy: "Actually, sir, we're not."

Nelson: "We're not?"

Hardy: "No, sir. The French and the Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation."

Nelson: "But you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil."

Hardy: "I wouldn't let the ship's diversity co-ordinator hear you saying that sir. You'll be up on disciplinary report."

Nelson: "You must consider every man an enemy, who speaks ill of your King."

Hardy: "Not any more, sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest; it's the rules. It could save your life"

Nelson: "Don't tell me - health and safety. Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?"

Hardy: As I explained, sir, rum is off the menu! And there's a ban on corporal punishment."

Nelson: "What about sodomy?"

Hardy: "I believe that is now legal, sir."

When Barry Heard began writing his memoir, *Well Done, Those Men*, as part of his therapy to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, he had no idea of the effect it would have on him and on the wider veteran community. Since the book's publication two years ago, more than 10,000 people have contacted Barry to thank him for the effect the book has had on their life – from Vietnam veterans and their families, to school children, to psychiatrists, priests, police and politicians.

To quote Barry from his afterword in this new edition:

'What have I found by entering this environment of being an author? It has been fascinating. Beforehand, I presumed that most people understood the life of a Vietnam veteran. Yet I've come to realise that this book has provided a historic account of a soiled era that few people truly understood.'

Barry Heard's sensitive, poignant account of his long journey home from Vietnam is an inspiring story of a life reclaimed. Told with gentle understatement and wry humour, the book gives voice to a lost generation of Australian men.

As the Howard government considers sending more Australians to Iraq, perhaps it is time to revisit the men who are still carrying the scars of the last unpopular war – Vietnam.

THE CRITICS

'This is a powerful, beautifully written book that should be read by everyone who wants to understand the evil, senseless personal damage done by war.' – *Sydney Morning Herald*.

'This book is a human, moving and brutally honest account of one man's emotionally racked journey from naive country boy to jungle soldier, psychologically scarred veteran and

ultimately triumphant victor over the demons within.' – *Herald Sun*.

THE AUTHOR

Barry Heard was conscripted in the first national service ballot, and served in Vietnam as an infantryman and radio operator.

After completing his national service he returned to Australia, where he found himself unable to settle down. He had 10 different jobs in his first 10 years back, worked as a teacher for a further 10 years, and then held several mid-managerial posts before succumbing to a devastating breakdown due to severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

Since recovering, Barry Heard has decided to concentrate on his writing. His short stories have received several prizes, including the Sir Edmund Herring Memorial award and the Sir Weary Dunlop prize.

This is his first book. He lives with his family in rural Victoria.

How things change!

Nelson: "Order the signal, Hardy."

Hardy: "Aye, aye sir."

Nelson: "Hold on, that's not what I dictated to Flagg. What's the meaning of this?"

Hardy: "Sorry sir?"

Nelson (reading aloud): "'England expects every person to do his or her duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability.' - What gobbledegook is this?"

Hardy: "Admiralty policy, I'm afraid, sir. We're an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting 'England' past the censors, lest it be considered racist."

Nelson: "Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco."

Hardy: "Sorry sir. All naval vessels have now been designated smoke-free working environments."

Taxation On DFRB & DFRDB Unlawful..

Regards
Don Horsley

Mr Alan Griffin MP
Member for Bruce
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Shadow Special Minister of State

Copy: Mr Rod Hilton

Dear Alan,

Re: The unlawful taxation of DFRB and DFRDB entitlements.

You may recall that I was one of the guest speakers at the Veterans' Forum at Highfields in Queensland during July 2007 and that I conversed at length with you during our discussions at the legal panel held in the suburb of Greenslopes in Brisbane on the day following the Forum?

I bring to your attention the fact that (I contend that) it is legislatively unlawful for the Department of Defence (or any other Federal Government Department) to either deduct 'taxation instalments' from DFRB or DFRDB entitlements or to forward those deductions of 'taxation instalments' to the Commissioner of Taxation.

Under the common headings of:

Bayswater Hotel

deficiency and may need vitamin D supplementation.

Those likely to be at risk of vitamin D deficiency include:

- people with very dark skin
- people who are housebound or in institutionalised care – particularly the elderly
- people who wear concealing clothing for religious or cultural purposes
- breastfed babies of vitamin D deficient women.

Where there is vitamin D deficiency, oral vitamin D supplementation – rather than relying on sun exposure – may be necessary. A medical practitioner should be consulted about whether there is need for vitamin D supplementation.

The Cancer Council has issued a [Media Release](#) about the guidelines [The Risks and Benefits of Sun Exposure](#), which include additional information about Sun Protection and the UV Index.

HealthInsite has topic pages on [Vitamin D](#), [Risk Factors and Prevention of Skin Cancer](#) and [Osteoporosis](#).

The Baysie allows 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.

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.

Assignment of pensions

Section 85 of the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948, and Section 129 of the Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973 (with minor variations in wording) both state that.....

“no pension benefit or other benefit under this Act is capable of being assigned or charged or of passing by operation of law.....”

Please note the words in that paragraph which have been printed in bold.

It is my contention that the legislative and legal effect of those words renders it unlawful to deduct ‘taxation instalments’ (a ‘charge’) from DFRB or DFRDB entitlements or to ‘forward’ (an ‘assignment’ and a ‘passing by operation of [taxation] law’) those ‘taxation instalments’ to the Commissioner of Taxation.

Taxation of any kind is a ‘charge’.

The deduction of ‘taxation instalments’ from DFRB and DFRDB entitlements constitutes not only a form of ‘assignment’, but also a form of (albeit unlawfully imposed) ‘passing by operation of law’.

In plain English, it already is (and always has been) legislatively unlawful for taxation of any kind to be imposed upon DFRB or DFRDB entitlements!

In accordance with the legal concept of pre-existing legislative entitlement, it is my further contention that the proposed new ‘Superannuation Simplification’ legislation does not have the Constitutional, legislative or legal authority to amend, repeal, abolish, effect, or overpower the legislative entitlements which already exist under the provisions of either the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948 or the Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973.

Yours faithfully,
Graham MacLeod TPI (OHSA Inspector, retired)
Advocate
Legal Liaison Officer
Veterans and Pensioners Advocacy
Post Office Box 748,
ARMADALE
WESTERNAUSTRALIA 6992

Australian Car Manufacturers Support Defence Reserves

Australia’s four major car manufacturers have signed Defence Reserves friendly leave policies, it was announced recently.

Policies have been developed by Mitsubishi Motors, Ford, Holden, and Toyota.

Historically a high number of Reservists have and continue to come from the automotive sector.

These companies have demonstrated their commitment to the Defence of Australia by developing supportive leave policies in conjunction with the Defence Reserves Support team.

All four companies state they “value and support all employees who are members of the Defence Force Reserves” and they have committed to financially supporting their Reservists in their service to Defence by making additional payments, above and beyond that required, whilst making a commitment to honour the provisions of the (Reserve Protection) Act .

It is hoped that all automotive suppliers will soon follow suit by developing similar leave policies.

Specialists in Defence Reserves issues worked in each state and territory and were available to help employers develop leave policies.

A set of guidelines has been developed, in consultation with peak bodies, for all private sector employers. Federal, State, Territory and Local Governments

August 2007 which will see some pay increases and the latest recruitment results which were one of the best in 30 years.

Similarly, the ADF Gap Year program is good for young people, good for the ADF and is great for Australia.

For those interested, call or text “Gap” to 13 19 01 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

Cooking for One or Two Media Release 30/08/2007

An interactive six-week cooking program designed for men and women over 50 who have never cooked before, or who find it challenging to make the switch from preparing large family meals to meals for one or two, will commence in early October at the Hollywood/ Subiaco Bowling Club. Another program will be conducted at the North Beach Bowling Club.

Funded by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Nutrition Australia (WA Division), the *Cooking for One or Two* program aims to give participants practice in preparing quick and easy meals. The sessions also offer the opportunity to improve nutrition knowledge and meet new people.

It is not a cooking demonstration, rather an interactive session in which participants prepare a 2 course meal, and then the group enjoys it together, creating an inviting social environment. Each session runs for two to three hours with 8-10 participants.

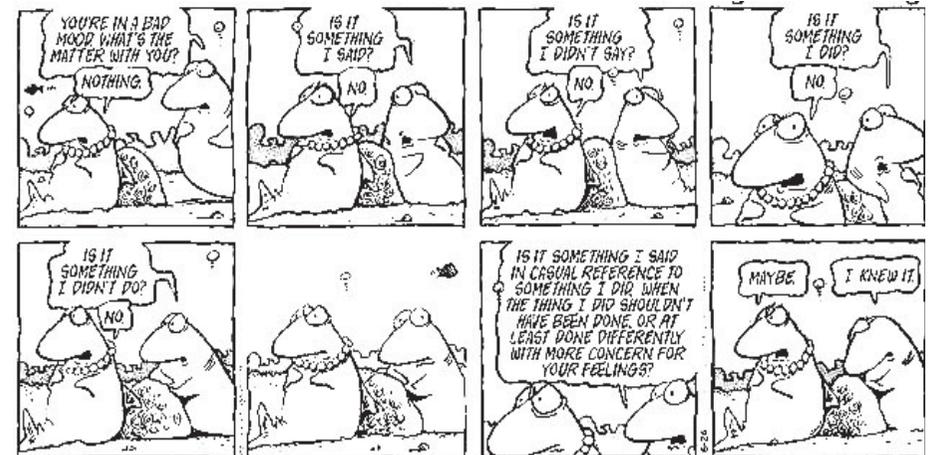
So, if you would like to be more confident in the kitchen, try new recipes, learn new skills and meet new people, the *Cooking for One or Two* program may be just what you need! For further information please contact **Stephanie McFaul** from the Western Australian division of Nutrition Australia at Edith Cowan University on **(08) 6304 3417** or email s.mcfaul@ecu.edu.au

From Don

Another thing I would like to bring to your notice is what I believe to be A great read, it is called “ Well Done Those Men”. The book is written by Barry Heard and is his memoirs. It deals with 7 RAR but could refer to any young national service man. Don Horsley

BOOK: Well Done. Those Men A memoir on the senseless damage of war. Date: 02 April 2007

Well Done, Those Men Barry Heard, Published by Scribe RRP \$24.95.



new services as well as sleeping and living quarters, which is a great improvement on what they are used to," said Lieutenant Pring.

To conduct the task, Lieutenant Pring called on his tradesmen and earthmovers.

"We had two bulldozers, an excavator and two bobcats operating on the job. They are up-armoured and provide the same ballistic protection as the Bushmaster and the Light Armoured vehicles," he said. There was also a potent security force providing protection to the worksite.

The Afghan National Police who have now moved into this new out-post were grateful for their new facility.

They will now be able to exert more control over the area, which is around 10km east of the provincial capital, Tarin Kowt.

Commander of the RTF, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Jarvie said Taliban extremists continue to resort to intimidation and terror tactics. He said that projects which strengthen security infrastructure and add to the capability of the local police will help put an end to this intimidation.

"The Afghan National Security Forces are the key to this country," he said.

"We are currently undertaking a number of projects in Oruzgan Province which will see their standing within the community greatly improved."

Lieutenant Colonel Jarvie said the attacks on his forces were an indication that the projects were hitting the Taliban where it hurts.

"The Taliban are obviously concerned with the progress we are making. With the rise of the national security forces, comes the Taliban's downfall.

"That is why they are trying to disrupt our work. They found out the hard way last week – twice – that we don't give up ground and will fight back if they

threaten us or the local community," he said.

Lieutenant Colonel Jarvie said the latest incidents will not disrupt his mission.

"We will continue with our work and show the Taliban that they have no place here.

"We are determined to create necessary infrastructure to better the lives of the local communities. In the case of building this new Police out-post, this will assist local Afghan National Security Forces in deterring those who foster terror and oppose the people's right to freedom," he said.

Gap Year Filling Up

All young people who are considering the ADF Gap Year for 2008 to apply now as places are filling up quickly.

The skills they will gain in terms of teamwork, self-discipline, communication and access to emerging technologies will assist them in their future studies and will be valued highly by prospective employers. All this while earning between \$30,000 and \$46,000 over the year.

On 9 August 2007, the Prime Minister announced that Defence is now accepting applications for the Australian Government's ADF Gap Year program.

Within less than a fortnight since applications were opened, there have been more than 500 applications, 12,000 enquiries and over 33,000 visits to the ADF Gap Year website. Also promising is that over 300 people have used the online chat facility and there have been over 3,000 requests for packs via the text message service.

Since December 2006, the Australian Government has committed \$3.1 billion to recruitment and retention measures which include the ADF Gap Year, recruiting reform and ADF pay reform.

The Australian Government's measures are taking the ADF in the right direction as shown by the ADF pay reform from 9

and their instrumentalities are covered under separate policies.

The business environment is complex and multi-faceted. A single solution will not suit all circumstances. Accepting this, the aim of these guidelines is to provide a model of supportive arrangements and practices that is of general application.

The guidelines provide clear direction to employers, Reservists and the Defence Force in relation to Reservists employed in the private sector. Employers are strongly encouraged to adopt the guidelines as a best-practice model for supportive workplace arrangements and practices. "

For further information on Defence Reserves leave policies go to www.defence.gov.au/reserves/

Vietnam Veterans Association Of Australia Media Release

13th August 2007 Ref: 8/07

Over the past twenty five years Australian governments both Liberal and Labor have eroded and diminished the entitlements awarded to returned service men and women after World War One.

The Australian Parliament recognised the ongoing suffering of those men and women who saw service in the trenches of Europe in the Great War. Grateful Australians saw that proud heritage and the commensurate cost to individuals repeated during World War Two, and the post-1945 conflicts including Korea, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and disaster recovery deployments after Vietnam are smugly usurped by politicians of both sides in furtherance of their own agendas.

It is the proud boast of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Billson, that Australia has the best repatriation system in the world. That might have

been true some years ago, but successive government penny-pinching and inaction over 20 years means that this statement is no longer true. In many cases veterans and their families are worse off than those Australians in receipt of welfare and unemployment pensions

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the benchmark for increases to the General, Intermediate, and Special Rate, (in the TPI element it is CPI or MTAWC whatever is the higher), of veteran's pensions. Remuneration of politicians is indexed on the higher of CPI and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWC). Veterans have suffered \$90 erosion in their benefits since 1997.

At the same time as the Reserve Bank has raised interest rates by 25 points in order to rein back spending and the independent tribunal raised politicians pay packets by thousands of dollars, war veterans, ex-Service men and women and Public Service retirees were informed that because the CPI actually dropped they would get no increase in their pensions this six months.

All Australians were told that retirees over the age of 60 would pay no tax. They were not told that the exceptions are ex-Service personnel in receipt of Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit (DFRDB) superannuation and public servants in receipt of Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) superannuation pensions to which they contributed.

Veterans' expenditure on pharmaceuticals required as a result of their war-caused disabilities or illness used to be free, but not any more due to the application of the pharmaceutical co-payment.

"The men and women that politicians pretend to honour on ANZAC Day for their sacrifices in defence of Australia and Australia's interests are being

denied a fair go. If Australian Parents knew how badly we treat our veterans and Service men and women, the "Gap Year" initiative will die a thoroughly deserved death. The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia demands to see restoration of the entitlements that have been so cynically diminished." said Mr Coxon, National President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia For British Servicemen

"The Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) is a commemorative medal which the Government of Malaysia would like to award to eligible British citizens, for their service in Malaya or Malaysia between 31 August 1957 and 12 August 1966.

The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (the official committee which advises Her Majesty The Queen on matters of honours policy) has recommended that an exception to two of the long-established Rules governing the accepting and wearing of foreign (including Commonwealth) awards be made, to enable the Malaysian Government to present the PJM. Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve this recommendation.

This exception to the Rules means that all of the many thousands of eligible former members of the Armed Forces/Veterans, and others, may receive the PJM. This will be in addition to the British General Service Medal (with appropriate Malaya/Borneo clasp) that many veterans will have been eligible to receive for their service in Malaya/Borneo.

Permission to wear the PJM will not, however, formally be given. It is long standing Government policy that non-British medals will not be approved for events or service:

- that took place more than 5 years

before initial consideration, or in connection with events that took place in the distant past (e.g. commemorative medals);

- if the recipient has received a British award for the same service.
- However, Her Majesty's Government welcomes, and believes it is important to recognise, the generous gesture by the King and Government of Malaysia, and their wish to acknowledge the service given by veterans and others in the years immediately after Malaysian independence. The exception recommended reflects this and our strong and important relationship with Malaysia.
- The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals reviewed the 5-year and double medalling rules, and considered that, while there were sound reasons why they should be retained, there will be occasions when specific circumstances require exceptions to the rules to be recommended. When such exceptions are contemplated, the Committee will consider each request on a case by case basis, taking into account any special circumstances at the time. The fact that a similar request has been approved in the past will not mean that permission will be granted in future cases.
- Applications for the PJM, and its subsequent distribution will essentially be a matter for the Malaysian authorities, in collaboration with the relevant British Government Departments. Large numbers may be involved. It will take some time for the applications to be processed and for the medal to be distributed. The Malaysian High Commission and the relevant British Government

agencies will work together to determine eligible applicants. Veterans' organisations and Service and Regimental Associations will also be involved."

Mess Silver

The Association has recently been able to negotiate a transfer of the old Mess Silver from the Sergeant's Mess at Perth Workshop Company. Some of this Silver is quite old and was in the Mess when some of our older members served in the Unit.

The Silver will be kept and displayed either at the 13 CSSB Workshop Company or at the Area Sergeant's Mess at Karrakatta. It will be made available for formal functions by arrangement with the Association Secretary.

The artefacts that we were lucky enough to get included:

Silver Goblets, Candelabra, Place Mats Drink Coasters, Microwave; and a Bar Fridge.

The Association were also given the Honour Board showing CO's and ASM's of Perth Workshop Company. This is a very historical piece and we were very lucky to find it.

These articles will be a great asset to our growing collection of Corps Memorabilia.

Governor-General Opens Special Forces Training Facility At Holsworthy

The Governor-General, His Excellency MAJ GEN Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC, officially opened the new Special Forces Training Facility (SFTF) at Holsworthy Barracks today.

The Governor-General was joined by the Minister for Defence the Hon Dr. Brendan Nelson MP as they inspected the new facilities and farewelled Sydney-based members of the Special

Operations Task Group preparing to deploy into Oruzgan Province in southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Slipper.

The new SFTF, valued at \$94 million, will be one of only four of its kind in the world providing leading-edge training to counter-terrorism forces.

The new facilities will include indoor and outdoor multi-level electronic and live firing ranges as well as a variety of training environments for 4 RAR Commando.

The facilities will be used to train for counter-terrorism scenarios and other specific Special Forces roles.

Australia's Special Forces are among the best in the world and this is due not only to their skill and professionalism but also their supplies, equipment and training facilities.

The new SFTF is part of a larger project that will see the construction of new office accommodation and an upgrade of infrastructure at Holsworthy Barracks.

Construction Complete. Taliban Repelled

The Afghanistan-based Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) yesterday completed the construction of a police out-post in the southern Oruzgan Province.

The out-post was completed in six days under trying circumstances, including two serious clashes with the Taliban and an encounter with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which was found and removed before it could harm anyone.

The engineer commander, Lieutenant John Pring said the police out-post was strategically sited, in consultation with Afghan National Security Forces, to ensure it had a commanding presence over the local area.

"There is significant blast protection built into the position. We have also installed