

THIS HOUR IS THEIRS

Walk quietly now
And do not tear the covering of sleep
From them-these men who find
Release in rest.

Step silently among these sleeping men.
Do not be startled by the sudden cries,
The mutterings, the sobbing and the laughter,
The whisperings and sighs.

This one has shouted some obscenity,
Another speaks of life and death
And that one there calls out to Christ
While yet another conjures up a homely scene.
And that one fights for breath
As once he did in mud and over-green,
Infested jungle paths.

Their bodies rest; their spirits tread
The fearsome corridors of night.

Go quietly now. Nor laugh.
There is no humour here, no comedy
Contained in words, in phrases and in sighs that leap
Between the latticed shutters of their sleep.

And as you go, remember this-
These sleeping ones are men, as you and I.
Their loneliness finds tongue
Within the darkened hours.
They voice their hopes, their longings, and desires,
These sleeping ones.
Tread quiet now. This hour is theirs.

FRANK FENTON



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.)**

Winter 2008

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.)
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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 22nd of AUGUST 2008.

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.

10 years ago this Association was formed and at the time many ex-members were present at this occasion. So as you can see this is our first decade and, I was thrown into the fray as your President. I have enjoyed this time and I suppose I will hang around for another ten years if the big man up top will allow me.

At our March meeting we decided to have every other gathering as a committee meeting and the other as a get together with no official business, except when urgently needed of course. Our meetings do not last that

long so we can sit around for a chat which would be a change. We are fast approaching our Annual General Meeting and I would like to see the younger members taking part in the committee decisions making, but I suppose it is asking a lot. I was hoping to take a rest from the top position and I hope this is not falling on deaf ears, I have been there for ten years, I think it is time the younger generation takes over.

I think our membership is pretty steady and we have all the regulars attend our meetings, but we need more interest from other members who do not attend our meetings. There are things to be

backwards, totally out-of-control, creating an unusual vista for the other skiers. The woman skied back under the lift and finally collided violently with a pylon.

The bad news was that she broke her arm and was unable to pull up her ski pants. At long last her husband arrived, putting an end to her nudie show, then summoned the ski patrol. They transported her to a hospital.

While in the emergency room, a man with an obviously broken leg was put in the bed next to hers.

"So, how'd you break your leg?" she asked, making small talk.

"It was the darndest thing you ever saw", he said. "I was riding up this ski lift and suddenly, I couldn't believe my eyes! There was this crazy woman skiing backward, out-of-control, down the mountain, with her bare bottom hanging out of her pants. I leaned over to get a better look and fell out of the lift." "So, how'd you break your arm?"

Moses

A Bitter Experience Remembered.

Recently, while going through an airport during one of his many trips, President Bush encountered a man with long gray hair and beard, wearing a white robe and sandals, holding a staff. President Bush went up to the man and said, 'Has anyone told you that you look like Moses?' The man didn't answer. He just kept staring straight ahead.

The president said, 'Moses!' in a loud voice. The man just stared ahead, never acknowledging the President. The President pulled a Secret Service agent aside and, pointing to the robed man, asked him, 'Am I crazy or does that man not look like Moses to you?' The Secret Service agent looked at the man and agreed.

'Well,' said the President, 'every time I say his name, he ignores me and stares straight ahead, refusing to speak ..

watch!' Again the President yelled, 'Moses!' and again the man ignored him.

The Secret Service agent went up to the man in the white robe and whispered, 'You look just like Moses. Are you Moses?'

The man leaned over and whispered back, 'Shhhh! Yes, I am Moses. The last time I talked to a bush, I spent forty years wandering in the desert and ended up leading my people to the only spot in the entire Middle East with no oil.'

Always follow the directions!

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea.

As he sat facing her old Hammond organ the young minister noticed a cut-glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat.

The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

"Miss Beatrice" he said, "I wonder if you would tell me about this?" pointing to the bowl.

"Oh yes" she replied, "Isn't it wonderful?" I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground.

The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter"

one of the French engineers came back into the room saying 'Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?'

A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: 'Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships. How many does France have?'

Once again, dead silence.

3. A US Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included admirals from the US, English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks, until a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?'

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied 'Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.

You could have heard a pin drop!

Skiing?

Even if you aren't a skier, you'll be able to appreciate the humour of the slopes as written by a New Orleans paper:

A friend just got back from a holiday skiing trip to Utah with the kind of story that warms the cockles of anybody's heart. Conditions were perfect... 12 below, no feeling in the toes, basic numbness all over... the "tell-me-when-we're-having-fun" kind of day.

One of the women in the group complained to her husband that she was in direct need of a rest room. He told her not to worry, that he was sure there was relief waiting at the top of the lift in the form of a powder room for female skiers in distress. He was wrong, of course, and the pain did not go away.

If you've ever had nature hit its panic button in you, then you know that a temperature of 12 below, doesn't help matters. So, with time running out, the woman weighed her options. Her husband, picking up on the intensity of the pain, suggested that, since she was wearing an all-white ski outfit, she should go off into the woods and no one would even notice. He assured her, "The white will provide more than adequate camouflage."

So she headed for the tree line, began lowering her ski pants and proceeded to do her thing. If you've ever parked on the side of a slope, then you know there is a right way and wrong way to set your skis so you don't move. Yup, you got it!!! She had them positioned the wrong way. Steep slopes are not forgiving...even during the most embarrassing moments.

Without warning, the woman found herself skiing backward, out-of-control, racing through the trees... somehow missing all of them and onto another slope, her derriere and the reverse side were still bare, her pants down around her knees, and she was picking up speed all the while. She continued

organised and this cannot be done by the same members all the time. So how about coming to our meetings and become involved. Our meetings are not that hard to forget, every first Thursday of the month, except January. So put this day in your diary and come and meet old friends. We must not forget the aim of the Association " To keep the spirit of the Corps alive and to keep in touch with old friends."

Well, friends I have rambled on enough, I leave it up to you, but don't forget you're always welcome. Hope you can come along at the next meeting at the Baysie.

John Klein
President.

Bougainville, East Timor

Personnel Needed For Study

Thousands of veterans of the Near North have been urged to take part in a major ongoing study of the physical and mental health effects of overseas deployments.

Under the Department of Defence's Deployment Health Surveillance Program, the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health at the University of Queensland is conducting the study of more than 12,000 service personnel who have deployed to East Timor and Bougainville.

The centre will invite veterans to participate in an examination of the physical, emotional and social effects of service in East Timor from Operation FABER in mid 1999 through SPITFIRE, WARDEN, TANAGER, CITADEL and Operation SPIRE up until May 2005.

Personnel deployed on peace monitoring duties to Bougainville between 1997 and 2003 as part of Operations BEL ISI I and II will also be invited to participate in the study along with a comparison group of personnel who did not deploy, but were otherwise

eligible.

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, and Repatriation Commissioner Brigadier Bill Rolfe (Retd) have encouraged veterans to join the study.

The ADF would be able to better protect the health of ADF members undertaking and preparing for future deployments with the knowledge gathered by the study, they said.

Participants in the voluntary study will complete a survey about their health and service history which, on consent only, will be linked to Defence health and psychological records.

Veterans of the Solomon Islands were invited to participate in a separate study last year.

FOR BACKGROUND: The CMVH is a consortium of the University of Queensland, University of Adelaide and Charles Darwin University, which is dedicated to innovatively seeking solutions to military and veterans' health issues through research, education, e-Health and public debate.

The Centre has been commissioned by Defence to carry out the study.

Former and current service personnel and their families seeking more information about the DHSP can contact the Research Team on 1800 886 567 or by emailing dhsp@cmvh.uq.edu.au or viewing the web link www.uq.edu.au/dhsp

M113 Upgrade Project Back On Track

It was recently announced that the M113 upgrade project was now back on track and estimated to meet its original schedule and specifications within budget.

The Land 106 project will deliver 350 upgraded M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier vehicles with improvements in their protection, firepower, mobility and

supportability.

The M113 project experienced some well-known technical problems in the development phase, and it was feared these problems would impact on the cost and schedule of the project.

The serious technical risks faced by the project have now been resolved, the schedule pressures have been reduced, and the project does not face cost pressures.

The upgraded Armoured Personnel Carriers have successfully concluded a long and rigorous testing program and our troops are receiving a reliable vehicle that delivers increased firepower, protection and mobility.

Sixteen vehicles have now been delivered to the Army's 7RAR (mechanised infantry). Another nine vehicles (six initial production vehicles and three pre-production vehicles) are being operated in training at Puckapunyal and Bandiana. A further ten vehicles will be issued for training shortly.

Production at Tenix's Bandiana facilities is now being ramped up from approximately four vehicles per month to more than 10 vehicles per month to achieve the delivery of the final vehicle by December 2010, in accordance with the original schedule.

Under the project, a total of 329 vehicles are due to be upgraded to the 18 tonne M113AS4 standard, and 21 vehicles will be upgraded to the 15 tonne M113AS3 standard. I would like to thank both Tenix and DMO for all of hard work in providing a way forward for this project.

Proving You Are Who You Say You Are

DVA has amended its proof of identity requirements so that people authorised to certify copies of original documents must now provide extra information.

Claimants lodging their first claim with the department are required to provide certain documents as proof of their identity (such as birth certificates). These may be the original document or a certified copy of the original document.

Under DVA's new arrangements, certifiers must now include their address and telephone numbers used during business hours on the certified copy.

Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations (States other than WA) are exempt from this requirement, but they must provide their registration number and the state in which they are registered.

DVA's general guidelines for people certifying copies of documents require that:

- certifiers come from the list of professions attached to the DVA claim form;
- the copy is marked with the words 'certified true copy';
- the copy is signed and dated;
- the certifier's name and profession or qualification is recorded;
- the certifier's address and telephone number during business hours is recorded.

Fact Sheet DVA06 explains DVA's complete requirements. Contact your nearest DVA or VAN Office for more information.

DFRDB and the Medicare Levy

Hi to you all.

It has come to my attention (you may already know about all this) that DFRDB are taking 1.5% out for Medicare whether you pay tax or not.

If you have a GOLD CARD this should not happen.

I phoned DFRDB this morning AND YES, they are taking it out!!!

The fix is: Phone them on 1300 001 677 to ask the question "Are you taking

blonde on the opposite bank. "Yoo-hoo!" she shouts, "How can I get to the other side?"

The second blonde looks up the river then down the river and shouts back, "You ARE on the other side."

AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

A gorgeous young redhead goes into the doctor's office and said that her body hurt wherever she touched it.

"Impossible!" says the doctor. "Show me."

The redhead took her finger, pushed on her left shoulder and screamed, then she pushed her elbow and screamed even more. She pushed her knee and screamed; likewise she pushed her ankle and screamed. Everywhere she touched made her scream.

The doctor said, "You're not really a redhead, are you?"

"Well, no" she said, "I'm actually a blonde."

"I thought so," the doctor said. "Your finger is broken."

KNITTING

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting!

Realising that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, "PULL OVER!"

"NO!" the blonde yelled back, "IT'S A SCARF!"

BLONDE ON THE SUN

A Russian, an American, and a Blonde were talking one day. The Russian said, "We were the first in space!"

The American said, "We were the first on the moon!"

The Blonde said, "So what? We're going to be the first on the sun!"

The Russian and the American looked

at each other and shook their heads "You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!" said the Russian

To which the Blonde replied, "We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!"

IN A VACUUM

A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. It was her turn. She rolled the dice and she landed on Science & Nature. Her question was, "If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?"

She thought for a time and then asked, "Is it on or off?"

FINALLY, THE BLONDE JOKE TO END ALL BLONDE JOKES!

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"

"HELLLOOOOOOOO.....," answered the blond. "They're watch dogs!"

Three dumb questions - Three great answers.

1. While in England at a fairly large conference, US Secretary of State Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if US plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush?

Powell answered: 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

It became very quiet in the room.

2. Then there was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break

1957 - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good caning by the Principal. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra money from state because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbour's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1957 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normally, goes to uni, and becomes a successful businessman.

2007 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care and joins a gang. Psychologist tells Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their Dad goes to prison. Billy's Mum has affair with psychologist.

Scenario: Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1957 - Mark shares aspirin with Principal.

2007 - Police called, Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Pedro fails high school English.

1957 - Pedro gets extra tuition, passes English, goes to Uni.

2007 - Pedro's cause is taken up by state. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. Class action lawsuit filed by anti discrimination commissioner against Education Dept and Pedro's English teacher. English banned from core curriculum. Pedro given diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers, puts them in a model aeroplane paint bottle, blows up an ant bed.

1957 - Ants die.

2007 - Local police & AFP called.

Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, parents investigated, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated, Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario: Johnny falls while running during morning tea and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him. 1957 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2007 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in prison while Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

Blonde Jokes

Two blondes living in Oklahoma were sitting on a bench talking, and one blonde says to the other, "Which do you think is farther away... Florida or the moon?"

The other blonde turns and says "Hellooooooooooooo, can you see Florida ??????"

CAR TROUBLE

A blonde pushes her BMW into a gas station. She tells the mechanic it died. After he works on it for a few minutes, it is idling smoothly.

She says, "What's the story?"

He replies, "Just crap in the carburettor".

She asks, "How often do I have to do that?"

SPEEDING TICKET

A police officer stops a blonde for speeding and asks her very nicely if he could see her license.

She replied in a huff, "I wish you guys would get your act together. Just yesterday you take away my license and then today you expect me to show it to you!"

RIVER WALK

There's this blonde out for a walk. She comes to a river and sees another

1.5% out of my DFRDB for Medicare?"

They will want a certified copy of the gold card to stop it coming out with a covering letter addressed to.;

DFRDB

PO Box 22

Belconnen ACT 2616

Further to as above - I've found out the following from DVA this morning;

1. The Medicare Levy should be stopped at the point (date) where a member of DFRDB has 365 days Medicare Exemption.

2. Find out from DVA as to what date your 365 days exemption started - use this date when writing to DFRDB.

3. In the first instance, the member is to write to DFRDB to stop Medicare Levy and request a back-payment by either a certified copy of the Gold Card or sending the above forms.

4. If they will not, then the next avenue is the tax office, as DFRDB would've paid the levy to the tax office.

5. After that - if no response, then the Minister Allan Griffin on (02)6277 7820 or email: allan.griffin.mp@aph.gov.au

Hope this has been of some help. Maybe this issue really needs to be looked into.

Cheers

Robbo

Bruce Eklom - 18th Elec Fitter - Seriously Injured

Unfortunately, this information has come to us over the past month, so it was decided to put it all in. If Bruce was any tougher he would rust!

Good afternoon Everyone,

I have received a message from Jock Hart and Pedro Kenny advising that Bruce Eklom has been seriously injured in a motor bike accident in the USA.

Bruce was an 18th intake Apprentice, Elec Fitter and served with 106 Fd Wksp in Vietnam from 19 Dec 68 until

17 Dec 69.

From what Jock Hart has told me Bruce was in America on a Vietnam Veteran's Bike Run when he crashed his bike.

The news is not good. Bruce was/is in an induced coma and although it is early stages the doctors have indicated that Bruce will be a paraplegic when it is all over, if not a quadriplegic.

This is really all the news that we have at this stage however, we thought it was important for you to be aware that Bruce has had a serious accident and he is obviously not in good shape.

Regards

Len

Received from Ian (Ernie) Hartshorn

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 11:17 AM

Subject: **Bruce Eklom update 14 May '08.**

Gents,

Bruce is sitting up in his hospital bed and can move his knees and toes without assistance. Seems that the bruising and swelling in the spinal area has reduced and the signals are now getting through to his lower body despite the fact that the initial diagnosis was a broken neck. Great news.

He has unlimited health cover in the US. His story has made a big impact on US television and updates are a regular feature following the political mayhem in the evening bulletins. Many US Vietnam Veterans and their families are so touched by Bruce's story that they are rallying to the cause and sending donations! This guy is amazing.

The rest of the bikers are travelling to Washington DC and the Vietnam Memorial Wall which has the names of 58,245 Americans killed or MIA in Vietnam.

They had T-shirts printed and are selling them across the States. On the shirt front are the Aust and US flags with the word "MATES" below. On the back are the words "WORLD'S No 1 TAG TEAM" with a list of the conflicts that the Aussies have fought with the Yanks since day one.

This is to promote an awareness of the close association between the two nations. Framed shirts will be delivered to the White House and presented to George Bush, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Mc Cain. What a coup!

Will send further updates as they come through.

Peter Board.

Hello everyone, I have received this from Cheryl Eklo, Bruce's sister in law:

Hello Ian

At the stage if all goes well - they will be transferring Bruce back to Brisbane via Air Ambulance from Bakersville - He departs there around 4 pm their time and arrives here approx 8 - 8.30 a.m. this Wednesday our time - unfortunately Ljuba cannot travel with him - but I have arranged a flight for her from LA to Brisbane arriving 6 a.m. the same morning.

Just a couple of days ago things seem much better - he spoke a little - but today did not talk - each day things seem to change.

We hope and pray that he will be OK to fly on Monday from Bakersville - we will not know definitely until the doctors to a final assessment that day to see if will be ok to transfer him home (fingers crossed).

Hope this is of some assistance - again thanks to everyone for their support - may also be on the news after his arrival - the VVMC want to escort the Ambulance to the PA Hospital - channel 9 are getting on board - VVMC

are setting up the trust fund.

Will let you know how things go.

Regards

Cheryl

102 FD WKSPS

Seeking ex-members of 102 FD WKSP RAEME in Vietnam 1967 - 68: MAJGEN John KINGSTON (Rtd), John SCULLY, Frank DOYLE, Clive DE JUSSING, Doug CROSSDALE, or any other ex-members of that period. Contact Tony REEVES, (07) 5578 3682; 0428 776 373 or cesky@bigpond.com.au

Defence Fairness And Resolution Centres Open For Business

Defence Fairness and Resolution Centres are being officially launched around Australia, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel announced recently.

Defence has made real progress in overhauling the military justice system, supported by improvements in the handling of internal complaints and workplace conflict.

These seven Fairness and Resolution Centres will help Defence advance the cultural change needed to exclude unacceptable behaviour, harassment and discrimination from the workplace.

They will provide ADF and Defence civilians with access to qualified dispute resolution practitioners for expert advice and assistance about workplace conflict and other complaints within Defence.

This pro-active way of managing disputes seeks to resolve complaints quickly, at the local level, through consultation and the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution processes like conflict coaching, mediation and workplace conferencing wherever possible.

Jim's Life in the US

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

Top 8 Morons of 2007 (So Far)

1. WILL THE REAL DUMMY PLEASE STAND UP? AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package. Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence.

2. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS: Police in Oakland, CA spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them in the police line, shouting, "Please come out and give yourself up."

3. WHAT WAS PLAN B? An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two different automated teller machines, during which the kidnapper proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts.

4. THE GETAWAY! A man walked into a Topeka, Kansas Kiwi Stop and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

5. DID I SAY THAT? Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot," the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

6. ARE WE COMMUNICATING? A man spoke frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart." "Is this her first child?" the doctor asked. "No!" the man shouted. "This is her husband!"

7. NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED! In Modesto, CA, Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun. Unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket. (Hellooooooo!)!

8. THE GRAND FINALE!!! Last summer, down on Lake Isabella, located in the high desert, an hour east of Bakersfield, CA, some folks, new to boating, were having a problem. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn't get their brand new 22 foot boat, going. It was very sluggish in almost every manoeuvre; no matter how much power they applied. After about an hour of trying to make it go, they putted into a nearby marina, thinking someone there may be able to tell them what was wrong. A thorough topside check revealed everything in perfect working condition: The engine ran fine, the out-drive went up and down and the propeller was the correct size and pitch. So, one of the marina guys jumped in the water to check underneath. He came up choking on water, he was laughing so hard. They still had the trailer attached to the bottom of the boat.

How times have changed

SCHOOL 1957 vs. 2007

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fight after school.

1957 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up mates.

2007 - Police called, SWAT team arrives, arrests Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

how about giving a senior citizen a break?’

He ignored us and continued writing the ticket so I called him a Nazi turd.

He glared at me and began writing another ticket for having worn tyres.

Then Cecily called him a shithead. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first.

Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, we didn't care. We'd come into town by bus.

We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired. It's important at our age.

Old Folks New Army

Any war:

Send Service Vets over 60!

I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military. They've got the whole thing ass-backwards. Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 55.

For starters:

Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy. Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. 'My back hurts! I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry' We are impatient and maybe letting us kill some bastard that desperately deserves it will make us feel better and shut us up for a while.

An 18-year-old doesn't even like to get

up before 10 a.m. Old guys always get up early to pee so what the hell. Besides, like I said, 'I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up, I may as well be up killing some fanatical son-of-a-bitch.

If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

Boot camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training.

Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start up a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten coward terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million pissed off old farts with attitudes and automatic weapons who know that their best years are already behind them.

If nothing else, put us on border patrol....we will have it secured the first night!

An added benefit of this approach is that all parties are actively engaged in the resolution process and outcomes are mutually agreed, reducing the time that lengthier and more formal grievance processes might take.

ADF personnel will always have access to administrative law provisions and formal complaint resolution procedures should they wish or where alternative resolution is not appropriate because of the nature of the complaint.

The Fairness and Resolution Centres also administer Defence's Equity Adviser network. Equity advisers are embedded throughout Defence to provide advice and training on workplace equity and diversity and to assist with management of complaints.

The Fairness and Resolution Centres are an important step in building on the progress made in recent years.

Equipping The Soldier Of The Future

Politicians sampled Special Forces ration packs this afternoon at a Defence Science and Technology showcase at Parliament House, hosted by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP.

"We all know an army can't march on an empty stomach and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) has been doing a lot of work on improving the nutritional value and importantly the taste of Army's patrol and combat rations," Mr Snowdon said.

Also on display was the new 'hot weather' ration pack, which the Defence Science and Technology Organisation designed for operations in tropical and hot environments.

The contents of the prototype ration pack are designed to require little or no heating and can be consumed while the soldier is on the move. Making rations easier to eat will help to ensure soldiers

are fit, well and energised while operating under challenging conditions.

"Ensuring Australian soldiers have access to the best technology is a priority of the Australian Government," Mr Snowdon said.

"A lot of behind-the-scenes research is undertaken across Defence to continually improve the equipment we provide to soldiers."

Designed to provide Parliamentarians with a personal and in-depth understanding of the work being done by Defence to enhance the protection and performance of Australian soldiers, the briefing covered a number of new technologies.

Technologies on display included next-generation camouflage uniforms, modular combat body armour, ballistics protection, personal role radios and a sophisticated thermal imaging rifle sight.

2008 Government Budget

Ed's Note: This letter was circulated because of the need to show people what the DFWA is doing for all its ex-service members. The DFWA is an association who looks after both Regular and Reservists alike and our Association supports it 100%. After the budget was read we found that there was practically no benefits for the Veterans.

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL OFFICE
PO Box 4166, KINGSTON ACT 2604

Patron: His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

17 January 2008
Budget Policy Division
Department of the Treasury
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600

CC: Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Governance

Background Information on the Defence Force Welfare Association

Formed as the Regular Defence force Welfare Association, DFWA was established in 1959 as a direct response to the unfair and inequitable provisions then existing in the superannuation conditions for serving and former regular members of the ADF. It has since become a nationwide organisation concerned with the welfare and conditions of service affecting all serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

The Association's principal roles are;

- ❖ Advocating improved conditions of service for ADF members,
- ❖ Campaigning for fair and equitable treatment and retirement benefits for former ADF members, and
- ❖ Providing advocacy services on behalf of serving and retired personnel who may have a claim on Government under various Commonwealth legislation covering superannuation, compensation and veterans' entitlements.

The Association works closely with other ex-service organisations. It is a contributing member of the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations, and the Australian Veterans' and Defence Services Council (AVADSC).

Underlying Principles for our Submission for the 2008-09 Budget

Two interconnected principles should guide the Government and form the philosophical context within which decisions on employment conditions for service men and women made. These are the 'unique nature of military service' and the need to compensate members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for that uniqueness in their pay,

superannuation, invalidity and death benefits, and other conditions of service. The following are the characteristics of military service which, when taken collectively, distinguish it sharply from employment in the broader Australian community.

The main characteristics of military service are:

- ❖ liability for combat operations leading to multiple deployments at short notice;
- ❖ a military discipline code;
- ❖ a regimented way of life;
- ❖ long and irregular working hours;
- ❖ retiring ages well below the community norms;
- ❖ high standards of physical fitness;
- ❖ frequent relocation; and
- ❖ separation from family.

In the above context the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) believes the following areas outline issues where not only are the above principles ignored but in some instances subject serving and former ADF members to discriminatory treatment at the hands of the Government. We therefore submit the following policy proposals relating to the Government's support of serving and former ADF personnel for consideration in the 2008-09 Budget. All of the proposals in this submission have been raised with Ministers in the previous Government and only a brief explanation of each is included in the annex.

Proposed Budget Initiatives

Recommended Budget policy initiatives:

- ❖ Indexation of all military pensions using the general community standard of "the higher of MTAW or CPI" as the indexation rate, to maintain the relative living standards of pensioners;
- ❖ Adjustment of the provisions of "Better Super" affecting military retirement and disability pensions;
- ❖ Immediate adoption of up to date Life Expectancy Tables for DFRDB

frog.

The man said, 'Are you talking to me?'

The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up! Then, kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all of your friends are envious and jealous because you will have me as your bride.'

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front shirt pocket.

Then the frog said, 'What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride.'

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, 'Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog.'

Why, Why, Why,

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough money?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do they use sterilised needles for death by lethal injection?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that no matter what colour bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialised?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologises for doing so, why do we say, "It's all right?" Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, "That really hurt, why don't you watch where you're going?"

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

And my FAVOURITE.....

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends — if they're okay, then it's you.

Retirement is a gas

This is for your futures

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

We find plenty to do. For example, the other day Cecily and I went into town and went into a shop. We were only in there for about 5 minutes.

When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket. We went up to him and I said, 'Come on man,

- can sound rude, while “scuse me” is always polite.
30. You know what it’s like to swallow a fly, on occasion via your nose.
31. You understand that “you” has a plural and that it’s “youse”.
32. You know it’s not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle.
33. Your biggest family argument over the summer concerned the rules for beach cricket.
34. You shake your head in horror when companies try to market what they call “Anzac cookies”.
35. You still think of Kylie as “that girl off Neighbours”.
36. When returning home from overseas, you expect to be brutally strip-searched by Customs - just in case you’re trying to sneak in fruit.
37. You believe the phrase “smart casual” refers to a pair of black tracky-daks, suitably laundered.
38. You understand that all train timetables are works of fiction.
39. When working on a bar, you understand male customers will feel the need to offer an excuse whenever they order low-alcohol beer.
40. You get choked up with emotion by the first verse of the national anthem and then have trouble remembering the second.
41. You find yourself ignorant of nearly all the facts deemed essential in the government’s new test for migrants.
42. You know, whatever the tourist books say, that no one says “cobber”.

Only an Aussie could pull this one off!

A true story from the Mount Isa in Queensland.

Recently a routine Police patrol car parked outside a local neighbourhood pub.

Late in the evening the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so intoxicated that he could barely walk.

The man stumbled around the car park for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity and trying his keys on five vehicles. The man managed to find his car, which he fell into.

He was there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off (it was a fine dry night). Then flicked the indicators on, then off, tooted the horn and then switched on the lights.

He moved the vehicle forward a few cm, reversed a little and then remained stationary for a few more minutes as some more vehicles left. At last he pulled out of the car park and started to drive slowly down the road.

The Police officer, having patiently waited all this time, now started up the patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and carried out a random breathalyser test.

To his amazement the breathalyser indicated no evidence of the man’s intoxication.

The Police officer said ‘I’ll have to ask you to accompany me to the Police station - this breathalyser equipment must be broken.’

‘I doubt it,’ said the man, ‘tonight I’m the designated decoy’

With Age Comes Wisdom!

An old guy loves to fish.

He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, ‘Pick me up.’

He looked around and couldn’t see any one. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice says again,

‘Pick me up.’ He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a

commutation arrangements and restoration of the full DFRDB pension after repayment of the lump sum commutation amount for existing DFRDB pension recipients;

- ❖ Adjustments to Defence widows’ pensions indexation arrangements;
- ❖ Adjustments to War Widows’ pension offsetting provisions;
- ❖ Adjustments to offsetting arrangements for special rate disability pensions under MRCS.

Yours sincerely
David Jamison. AM
National President

**Annex to
DFWA 2008-09 Budget submission**

Indexation of all military pensions using the general community standard of “the higher of MTAW or CPI” as the indexation rate

Military pensions were originally indexed at CPI to maintain their relative value as income support for the pensioner. In the last 15-20 years, national standards of living have increased in real terms, which is not reflected if relying on the CPI. Acknowledging this in 1997 the then Government changed the method of indexing the Age/Service Pensions from CPI to a combination of CPI and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAW). The parliament further extended this treatment to a whole range of payments to veterans earlier this year. Military retirement and disability pensions now stand out in being more harshly treated than almost every other payment subject to regular indexing to maintain their value. DFWA has analysed the cost of implementing this change and we believe the increase for FY 2006/2007 for example would have been less than \$18M. This figure is a mere 0.1 of one per cent of the 2006-07 budget surplus of \$17.3 billion and would remove a major discriminatory provision imposed on service men and women.

Proposal

We ask that the same community standard of indexation be applied to all military pensions. Provisions of “Better Super” affecting military retirement and disability pensions Military pensions are paid from “untaxed” superannuation funds and, under the taxation changes introduced by the Better Super changes, those pensions are included in pensioners’ total income for tax purposes. Contributions to DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS were compulsory and contributors could not choose to pay or not pay tax on their contributions. There having been no choice it seems unfair to deny former ADF members tax-free pensions. The present provisions have an additional effect of taxing military pensions at the taxpayers’ marginal rate, which puts them at a significant disadvantage when compared with taxpayers receiving pensions from “taxed” funds. This is another example of the “unique nature of military service” not being recognized by previous governments.

Proposal

We ask for the removal of income tax on DFRDB/MSBS military superannuation including invalidity pensions in line with the most of the remainder of the Australian community but if that is not agreed to we ask for a separation of taxed military pensions from other taxed income on the taxpayers’ tax return. Adoption of up to date life expectancy tables and restoration of the full pension after repayment of the lump sum commutation amount Military DFRDB pensioners who commute part of their pension into a lump sum have their pensions reduced permanently by an amount which is calculated to ensure that the lump sum is repaid when the pensioner reaches a life expectancy figure that has been calculated using the 1962 Life Tables. The continued use of these old out of date life expectancy factors unfairly reduces the retirement

pension of the former ADF members subject to this treatment. Life expectancy has increased markedly since the DFRDB Scheme was introduced in 1972/3 yet the same out of date life tables continue to be used.

Proposal

To remedy this injustice we ask that;

- ❖ For current DFRDB pensioners, the full pension should be restored when the pensioner reaches life expectancy as defined in these tables; and
- ❖ The immediate adoption of up to date current Life Tables for all future retirees who are members of the DFRDB scheme.

Adjustments to Defence Widows' Pensions

Only a portion of Defence Widows' pensions is indexed and then only at CPI. That means their pension loses relative value even faster than it would have if the Defence pensioner had stayed alive. This is unjust on particularly vulnerable members of the community.

Proposal

We ask that all components of the Defence Widows' pension be indexed.

War Widows' pension offsetting

War Widows receive a lump sum on the death of their husband if killed on operational service. This is paid back out of the War Widow pension forever, even after they have repaid the original lump sum.

Proposal

We ask that the full payment amount be restored when the lump sum has been recovered.

Offsetting of special rate disability pensions under MRCS

A recipient of both a lump sum and an income stream paid as compensation for the same disability suffers a reduction in his/her income stream to offset the lump sum, even though it may have been payable under a

different Government scheme and that reduction continues throughout the life of the recipient and is never reduced, even when the lump sum has been paid back in full.

Proposal

We ask that the full payment amount be restored when the lump sum has been recovered.

102 "Coral" Battery: First Army Honour Title Awarded

In a moving ceremony on Mount Pleasant in Canberra earlier today, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC, CVO, MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, presented Army's 102 Field Battery with the Australian Military's first ever Honour Title.

The Honour Title Coral was awarded to 102 Field Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, in recognition of its actions during the Vietnam War. Head of Regiment, Brigadier Phil Winter CSC, welcomed the award on behalf of the Army and gave credit to the outstanding actions of the unit during the long battle.

"This is an important day for the Australian Defence Force, and brings deserved recognition to the Gunners who fought so valiantly to hold their position in Vietnam 40 years ago," Brigadier Winter said.

"I welcome the title Coral on behalf of the Australian Army, and hope that the story of this battle provides inspiration to our current Diggers who are serving on operations today."

Today's ceremony forms part of a series of activities to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the battles of Coral and Balmoral, which took place in South Vietnam during May and June of 1968 and played a significant role in securing Saigon from further attack.

"The battles were the largest and most sustained engagements of the Vietnam

Life According to Perry

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

How do you tell if you are a true Aussie?

You know you're Australian if ...

1. You know the meaning of the word "girt".
2. You believe that stubbies can be either drunk or worn.
3. You think it's normal to have a leader called Kevin.
4. You waddle when you walk due to the 53 expired petrol discount vouchers stuffed in your wallet or purse.
5. You've made a bong out of your garden hose rather than use it for something illegal such as watering the garden.
6. You believe it is appropriate to put a rubber in your son's pencil case when he first attends school.
7. When you hear that an American "roots for his team" you wonder how often and with whom.
8. You understand that the phrase "a group of women wearing black thongs" refers to footwear and may be less alluring than it sounds.
9. You pronounce Melbourne as "Mel-bin".
10. You pronounce Penrith as "Pen-riff".
11. You believe the "I" in the word "Australia" is optional.
12. You can translate: "Dazza and Shazza played Acca Dacca on the way to Maccas."
13. You believe it makes perfect sense for a nation to decorate its highways with large fibreglass bananas, prawns and sheep.
14. You call your best friend "a total bastard" but someone you really, truly despise is just "a bit of a bastard".

15. You think "Woolloomooloo" is a perfectly reasonable name for a place.

16. You're secretly proud of our killer wildlife.

17. You believe it makes sense for a country to have a \$1 coin that's twice as big as its \$2 coin.

18. You understand that "Wagga Wagga" can be abbreviated to "Wagga" but "Woy Woy" can't be called "Woy".

19. You believe that cooked-down axlegrease makes a good breakfast spread.

20. You believe all famous Kiwis are actually Australian, until they stuff up, at which point they again become Kiwis.

21. Hamburger. Beetroot. Of course.

22. You know that certain words must, by law, be shouted out during any rendition of the Angels' song Am I Ever Gonna See Your Face Again.

23. You believe, as an article of faith, that the confectionary known as the Wagon Wheel has become smaller with every passing year.

24. You still don't get why the "Labor" in "Australian Labor Party" is not spelt with a "u".

25. You wear ugh boots outside the house.

26. You believe, as an article of faith, that every important discovery in the world was made by an Australian but then sold off to the Yanks for a pittance.

27. You believe that the more you shorten someone's name the more you like them.

28. Whatever your linguistic skills, you find yourself able to order takeaway fluently in every Asian language.

29. You understand that "excuse me"

to Woolworths

Why Woolworths?

HELLOOOOOOOOOO!?

Woolworths is the largest re-tailer in the world!!!

The Girl On The Beach

A Couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day. She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around furtively, then speak to them.

Generally, the people would respond negatively and she would wander off. But occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money and something she carried in her bag.

The couple assumed that she was selling drugs and debated calling the cops, but since they didn't know for sure, they just continued to watch her.

After a couple of weeks the wife said, "Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other electronic devices?"

He hadn't — and said so.

Then she said, "Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing."

Well, the plan went off without a hitch and the wife was almost hopping up & down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave.

The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road.

"Well, Is she selling drugs?" she asked excitedly.

"No, she's not," he said, enjoying this probably more than he should have.

"Well, what is it then? What does she

do?" his wife fairly shrieked.

The man grinned and said, "She's a battery salesperson."

"Batteries?" cried the wife.

"Yes ..." he replied -

OOOOH - You're gonna dislike me for this.

"She sells C cells by the seashore"

And they ask why I like retirement !!!

Are We Getting Older?

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked,

"How old was your husband?" "98," she replied.

"Two years older than me"

"So you're 96," the undertaker commented.

She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman:

"And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's licence.

Know how to prevent sagging?

Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

War involving Australian troops, and were the first Australian all arms brigade-sized operation since World War II," Brigadier Winter said.

"Approximately 2,500 Australians participated in the battles and this is an opportunity to thank them for their service, and remember those who did not return home."

A National Commemoration Ceremony was held at the Australian War Memorial yesterday, and on Monday a reception was hosted by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, at Parliament House and attended by veterans, dignitaries and guests. Group commemorations in Townsville and Canberra are planned over the coming weeks.

Combat History Of The 2nd D&E Platoon In The Vietnam War

Parliamentarians met recently with veterans of the 2nd D&E Platoon who served in the Vietnam War as part of the Australian Task Force (ATF), to discuss the acknowledgment of the Platoon and its history in that conflict.

For many years now the surviving members of the Platoon have been battling to have their record and role in the Vietnam War officially recognised.

It was announced that this long struggle has been bought to a conclusion by confirming that the Government and the Defence Department have been able to determine that the Platoon did indeed exist and engaged in a series of important actions in Vietnam as part of the Australian Task Force.

Particular tribute was paid to the courage and dedication of the men of the 2nd D&E Platoon. They were a team that was effectively born in battle, not having been formally raised and trained as a sub-unit in Australia before deploying to Vietnam, but being assembled in country in response to the particular security requirements of

the ATF. They were able to come together as an effective fighting force thanks to the professionalism of the soldiers and in particular the Non-Commissioned Officer who led them, Corporal James Bertram Riddle.

The action for which the 2nd D&E Platoon should particularly be noted for was the successful ambush they executed together with 2 Troop, B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, in May 1969 at Thua Tich. This was a ferocious battle that involved the engaged troops taking on a much larger enemy force beyond artillery support and through many heroic individual and collective efforts were able to soundly defeat the enemy without loss. Their success was a tribute to their professionalism and the outstanding leadership and courage of Corporal Riddle whose personal actions ensured the survival of many members of the Platoon who would otherwise surely have been killed.

These proud veterans were advised that their role in the war would be forever enshrined and acknowledged in the Official History of the Vietnam War, which is soon to be published. The parliamentarians were privileged to have been able to meet with them personally and thank them for their service to the country and the Australian Army. They served and performed in the finest traditions of the Australian Defence Force and they will have an honoured place in its history. Education and training in the ADF will ensure that our future generations of Army leaders will have the opportunity to not only be aware of this legacy but to have the opportunity to learn from it.

Ron Dyne-OCS 66

Gidday Barry

One of our Junior Classmates has done good! Ron Dyne graduated in DEC 66 and was a "Bluebell" to boot!

For the unaware he was a member of the RAEME Corps and served in SVN during 1971!

He is now Mayor of Gympie, well done I would have thought! Persevere

Bernie

Robert "SUNSHINE" Raine

Old Friends,

10th Intake VM Bob SUNSHINE Raine has taken a sudden severe downturn in his post operatic treatment for secondary large melanoma tumour removal from the rear lower (behind left ear 5 in scar) of his brain a few months ago. His surgery was followed by radiation and chemotherapy but a couple of weeks ago he was advised the condition was not responding and the growth was returning - inoperable with maybe 90 days life expectancy.

Bob accepted his fate and told me he was not afraid of impending death but he was sad to miss out on watching his grand kids grow up and not sharing a decent retirement period with his beloved Rosalie.

This week instability returned and after a couple of heavy falls he was admitted to St John of God Murdoch Hospice where he is bedridden, drowsy but conversing with visitors.

Unfortunately Bob's condition is now too severe for home management and Rosalie does not see how he will be able to come home again.

Bob's son is inbound from Canada where he now lives.

A very sad situation for the Raine Family a few days short of a final Christmas they were planning to share together.

A clever make it happen great smiley bloke who served his Trade, Country, Corps and friends in a skilful, clever and distinguished manner.

Over recent years Bob has given

exceptional volunteer service as the ASM of The Army Museum of WA Fremantle coordinating the outside workers, refurbishing the large equipment guns, trucks, tanks and horse wagons to display standards. His services will be greatly missed.

Norm Wells

Vale Greg Allison

243426 WO1 Greg ALLISON RAEME passed away on the 26Mar08, his funeral was held at Conway's Funeral Home at 2pm on Tuesday 01Apr08. One of Gregs final wishes was that his RAEME and TPI comrades farewell him.

Thanks mate,
Ian Hartshorn

Vale Bruce Dittmar

FYI - Courtesy Andy Turner, President Bandiana Chapter, RAEME Association of Victoria

BRUCE DITTMAR OC 1 Independent Armoured Squadron Workshop RAEME PUCKAPUNYAL & NUI DAT OC 1 Armoured Squadron Workshop RAEME NUI DAT

Following early advice from the Dittmar family I wish to advise the peaceful passing of Bruce Dittmar today in a Canberra nursing home.

In 1967 Bruce was the OC Armd Regt LAD. On the announcement that Cents would go to SVN Bruce was posted as OC 1 Independent Armoured Squadron Workshop. Along with his senior NCO's they slogged long and hard to establish the unit, receive 95 odd march ins draw 100% of the units equipment from 1 COD Bandiana - prepare it for export and have it on Sydney Docks within 60 days of the unit's forming. The troops on march-in had to be processed - sent to JTC for tree weeks then home across Australia on Pre- em leave for a week plus travelling time and be back ready for deployment to Nui Dat in around sixty days.

a pint goes flat after I draw it, it would taste better if you bought one at a time'.

The Irishman replies, 'Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days we all drank together'.

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks the same way: he orders three pints and drinks the three pints by taking drinks from each of them in turn.

One day, he comes in and orders two pints. All the other regulars' in the bar notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, 'I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss'.

The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then the light dawns in his eye and he laughs. 'Oh, no,' he says, 'everyone is fine. It's me.....I've quit drinking!'

A Little Slice Of Heaven

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world.

So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'.

The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for.

The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God.

The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same sign under it.

He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was.

She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God.

'O.K., thank you,' said the American.

He then travelled all across America, Europe, England, Japan, New Zealand...

In every church he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same '\$US10,000 per call' sign under it.

The American decided to travel to Australia to see if Australians had the same phone.

He arrived at Mollmook on the N.S.W Coast, in Australia and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same looking golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '40 cents per call.'

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. 'Father, I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in all of them the price was \$10,000 per call.

Why is it so cheap here?'

The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Australia now, son - it's a local call'.

The Woolworths Cat

A blonde was weed-eating her yard and accidentally cut off the tail of her cat which was hiding in the grass. She rushed her cat, along with the tail over

give it a try”!

The blonde headed out toward the river, determined to catch a crocodile!

Later in the day, as the shopkeeper is driving home, he pulls over to the side of the bank where he spots the same young woman standing waist deep in the murky water, shotgun in hand.

Just then, he spots a huge 3 metre croc swimming rapidly toward her.

With lightning speed, she takes aim, kills the creature and hauls it onto the slimy banks of the river. Lying nearby were 7 more of the dead creatures, all lying on their backs.

The shopkeeper stood on the bank, watching in silent amazement.

The blonde struggled and flipped the Croc onto its back. Rolling her eyes heavenward and screaming in great frustration, she shouts out.....

“DAMN, DAMN, DAMN, THIS ONE’S BAREFOOT, TOO”!

Interesting Point of View

I like this guys thinking!!!

I work, they pay me.

I pay my taxes and the government distributes my taxes as it sees fit.

In order to earn that pay cheque, as I work on a mine site in Kalgoorlie construction project, I am required to pass a random urine test, with which I have no problem. What I do have a problem with is the distribution of my taxes to people who don't have to pass a urine test.

Shouldn't one have to pass a urine test to get a welfare cheque because I have to pass one to earn it for them?? Please understand - I have no problem with helping people get back on their feet. I do, on the other hand, have a problem with helping someone sit on their backsides drinking booze & smoking dope. Could you imagine how much money the state would save if

people had to pass a urine test to get a public assistance cheque?????

How To Call The Police When You're Old And Don't Move Fast Anymore.

George Phillips of Gold Coast, Australia was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. (Boy does this sound familiar!)

George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked “Is someone in your house?” and he said “no”. Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available. George said, “Okay,” hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

“Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them.” Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response Unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George: “I thought you said that you'd shot them!”

George said, “I thought you said there was nobody available!”

(True Story) I LOVE IT - Don't mess with old people!!

Irish Joke Of The Year.

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finished all three, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender says to him, ‘You know,

Bruce arrived with the unit Advance Party of 25 in Nui Dat on 28 Dec 67. Across the next month the Wksp Adv Pty allocated a plot of rubber and Banana plantation set about building defences on two separate TF perimeters Armd Regt & Wksp, laying 45,000 sandbags, building unit facilities, messes, theatre, tent lines, hot water systems, perimeter fencing and finally establishment in conjunction with 17 Const Sgn the Workshop facilities particularly a little later the building that became known as the Opera House and the centre piece of the later 106 Fd Wksp.

In late January the Wksp Main Body a party of 55 arrived from Australia two days before the South Vietnam nation erupted with the 68 Tet Offensive and Nui Dat came under assault and for a time 24 hr Stand To was the plan. Bruce Dittmar was OC Wksp throughout this period in fact the unit was the largest Unit Workshop ever raised in the history of the Corps.

What was achieved in high pressure time frames, from the time the unit was raised in Puckapunyal until the unit began its role of supporting the Centurions in SVN, following their arrival in late Feb 68, was a great credit to

those who made it happen and Bruce Dittmar was the OC coordinating that accomplishment.

In Nui Dat the endless walking about on rough surface aggravated Bruce's amputated toe stump (put his foot under a lawn mower in a PNG Wksp) and the MO declared him unfit for Nui Dat duty hence his transfer to 102 Fd Wksp (vice Brian Coulter) in mid 68.

Bruce served as Cfn in Korea and later saw service in PNG, Adelaide, RTC Bandiana Veh Wing, 1 Armd Regt LAD, SVN, 4 Base Wksp Bandiana then Corp transferred to RAAOC for his final posting as a Major in 31 Sup Bn Bandiana. Retirement saw him work in Howlong for a number of years before moving to Canberra after his civilian retirement.

Farewell Bruce - you always did your best - Rest in Peace old Soldier.

Norm Wells
1 Armd Sqn Wksp

Vale Brendan Downs

You may be aware Brendan Downs passed away last Tuesday night (25 March 2008) in Papua New Guinea. It was quick but tragic; the doctors believe that it was an infarct to the left side on

Bayswater Hotel

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.

his heart or an aneurysm. Brendan was known by many and well respected. The funeral service will be at the Lismore Crematorium (NSW) this Friday at 1230pm local time. Condolences and sympathies can be sent to:

Frances Downs
3/27 Booyong Street
Evanshead. NSW. 2473

Brendan separated from the ARA Jun/ Jul 1999 after 21 years service. Units that Brendan has been posted to are listed below:

Broadmeadows Workshop Bn
102 Fd Wksp (LT)
Pukapunyal Wksp
1 Armoured Wksp
RAEME Trg Centre
1 JCU Woomera
7 Signals Wksp
DCPM / DME(A)

Yours in the Association

Ian Hartshorn

Help Please

Seeking ex-Army Apprentices who served at the old Balcombe camp who have stories and photos to share. Contact Terry MUSSARED, 2 Webb Street, SEAFORD, Vic 3198. Email terryamus@unite.com.au

Gap Year Marches On

Their brass was polished, their shoes were glossed and the creases on their uniforms pressed razor sharp as the latest group of Army Gap Year recruits lined up for their March Out Parade.

It was impossible to distinguish between the Gap Year and regular recruits as the hundred-strong parade marked the finish of 12 weeks' basic training.

Commandant of Army's Recruit Training Centre Colonel Bill Hanlon said the Gap Year participants were fully integrated and entitled to the same pay and benefits as any other member.

"This is a unique opportunity for school leavers to sample Army life, as well as gain independence and skills while being paid," Colonel Hanlon said.

"It gives these young Australians space and resources to make good decisions about what they are going to do with their life," he said.

The Gap Year Program is part of the Government's \$3.1 billion commitment to boosting ADF recruitment and retention.

Members of the program have no obligation to Defence following the agreed 12-month term of employment.

The members are, however, entitled to a \$10,000 bonus if they re-enlist into the regular Army on completion of a civilian trade or tertiary qualification.

Colonel Hanlon said he was very pleased with the way the recruits had developed over the past three months.

"There are some very fine young Australian men and women marching out here today and they should be justly proud of what they have achieved so far," Colonel Hanlon said.

Members of the group will now go on to be trained in a specific employment stream before being posted to a Land Command unit.

Making Women Welcome In The ADF

An external Reference Group on Women has been established to advise the Australian Defence Force (ADF) on the recruitment and retention of servicewomen.

Members of the reference group are senior women who have a track-record of success in male-dominated professions or have been responsible for innovative strategies to increase the participation of women in their workplaces.

The reference group, established by the Chief of Defence Force, Air Chief

over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes.

Then the policeman came across the road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feeling?'

'Now what would you say?'

True Love

An elderly gent was invited to an old friends' home for dinner one evening. He was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms such as: Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.

The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love. While the wife was in the kitchen, the man leaned over and said to his host, 'I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names'

The old man hung his head. 'I have to tell you the truth,' he said, 'Her name slipped my mind about 10 years ago and I'm scared to death to ask her what it is!'

Tragic Mine accident

The seven dwarfs always left to go work in the Mine early each morning. As always, Snow White stayed home doing her domestic chores. As lunchtime approached, she would prepare their lunch and carry it to the Mine.

One day as she arrived at the Mine with the lunch, she saw that there had been a terrible cave-in. Tearfully, and fearing the worst, Snow White began calling out, hoping against hope that the dwarfs had somehow survived.

"Hello, hello!" she shouted. "Can anyone hear me? Hello!" For a long while, there was no answer. Losing hope, Snow White again shouted, "Hello! Is anyone down there?"

Just as she was about to give up all hope, there came a faint voice from deep within the Mine, "Vote for Obama, Vote for Obama!!!"

Snow White fell to her knees, crossed herself and prayed, "Oh, thank you, God! At least Dopey is still alive."

The Bank Robbery

A man charges into a bank wearing a balaclava and wielding a handgun.

He shouts "this is a raid - everyone get on the floor!!", and proceeds to empty the cash drawers.

As he runs towards the door with the loot, a brave customer yanks off his balaclava.

The robber immediately shoots the customer in the head and shouts.. "Did anybody else here see my face?"

The robber notices another customer peering from behind a counter and goes over and shoots him in the head also.

"Did anybody else see my face?" he shouts again, waving his gun around.

There is silence for a few seconds before an elderly male voice is heard from a distant corner..

"I think my missus caught a glimpse...."

Those Blondes Again!!!

A blonde was on vacation and driving through Darwin. She desperately wanted to take home a pair of genuine crocodile shoes but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking.

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

The shopkeeper said with a sly, knowing smile, "Little lady, just go and

Looking For

Graham John West 2789958, 106 Field Workshop Nui Dat S VN 1969-70. Contact Laurie Clark, (03) 6268 6207.

Looking For 2

Information on **Driver Joseph Geoffrey Smith, VX64638**. Posted to 22/27 Independent Workshop. Sailed to Java on *Marella* in Feb 1942. Transferred into 2/2 Pioneer Battalion on Java. Captured and held as PoW till end of war. Sailed home on the hospital ship *Manunda* with the PoW nurses in Oct 1945. Contact son, Peter Johnson, 543 McClures Rd, Harrow Vic 3317, (03) 5583 1510, jpjson@activ8.net.au.

Looking For 3

Craftsman **Jack Asker** 2/2 A/A Regt Workshop AEME, served Lae, New Guinea 1943-44, Strathpine 1945. Contact Doug Samuels, 1 Ritchie St, Barmera SA 5345, (08) 8588 2429.

Reunion Queensland

Annual RAEME Res/CMF Reunion 17 August, Sherwood/ Indooroopilly RSL, Qld. Contact John Parfitt (07) 3376 1778 or jparfitt@bigpond.com. RSVP 10 August

Apprentice Reunion

Army apprentices wanted. 60th anniversary reunion & memorial dedication, Albury/ Bandiana, 24-26 October. Contact Frank Maloney (13thVM), 0418 728 181 or www.austarmyapprentice.org

1 Armoured Reunion

Members of **Technical Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment** 1985 for reunion. Contact Anthony "Buzz" McKenzie, 70 Jacka St, Crib Point Vic 3919, (03) 5983 9128, suseanthony@mysoul.com.au.

Irish Farmer

A farmer named Seamus had a car accident.

In court, the lorry company's hot-shot solicitor was questioning Seamus.

'Didn't you say to the Police at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?' asked the solicitor.

Seamus responded: 'Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favourite cow, Bessie, into the...'

'I didn't ask for any details', the solicitor interrupted. 'Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'?'

Seamus said, 'Well, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road...'

The solicitor interrupted again and said, 'Your Honour, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the police on the scene that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident, he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question.'

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Seamus's answer and said to the solicitor: 'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favourite cow, Bessie'.

Seamus thanked the Judge and proceeded. 'Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favourite cow, into the trailer and was driving her down the road when this huge lorry and trailer came through a stop sign and hit my trailer right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurt, very bad like, and didn't want to move.

However, I could hear old Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident, a policeman on a motorbike turned up. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went

Marshal Angus Houston, AC, AFC, will consider the issues of Defence culture, attitude and behaviour, alongside an examination of the current range of family-friendly policies in the ADF which are not fully utilised.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said, "These women are very busy people who are leaders in their fields and I am delighted that they have agreed to join us in confronting the challenges the ADF faces in recruiting and retaining servicewomen."

"It is important that the ADF also finds ways to address community perceptions about the career opportunities and lifestyle for women in the Navy, Army and Air Force, and removes any career obstacles," said Air Chief Marshal Houston

To assist in the task a round of consultation with women who already serve in Defence will be taking place.

Women make up approximately 46 per cent of the Australian workforce but only 13 per cent serve in the regular forces.

This means that the ADF is not maximising the potential of a largely untapped source of recruits.

A fresh look at the issues and barriers confronting women in the military is needed, and I will be seeking that from the women who know exactly why they joined, and why they've stayed.

The first consultative meeting will be held today, followed by many more around the country, and the comments and experiences will be fed back into the external reference group and into Defence's senior leadership.

The number of women in the ADF is the same today as it was a decade ago, and Government will be working with the service chiefs to see that situation improve.

An ADF that draws on the full potential of the Australian workforce will reflect

the diversity, ethnicity, and strengths of the nation, and at around 7000 women, Defence has a long way to go."

ADF REFERENCE GROUP ON WOMEN**Overview**

The aim of the Reference Group on Women is to assist Australian Defence Force (ADF) leadership understand the current progress on attracting and retaining women and to make recommendations based on reference group members' own experiences, including in traditionally male workplaces, to achieve improved outcomes in the employment of women within the ADF.

This may include recommendations to overcome systemic, cultural, attitudinal and behavioural aspects that directly or indirectly negatively influence the recruitment, retention, development and management of women.

Membership

Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner

Margaret Gardner, AO., Vice Chancellor, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Sam Mostyn, Group Executive Culture and Reputation, Insurance Australia Group

Christine Nixon, APM., Chief Commissioner, Victoria Police

Elizabeth Proust, Company Director

Christine Charles, Regional Director, Environment, Social Responsibilities, Newmont Mining Asia Pacific.

New Defence And Industry Eportal

It was recently announced that a new Defence and Industry ePortal would become operational at the beginning of July 2008.

The ePortal will incorporate, among other facilities, an Industry Capability

Information System that will contain publicly searchable data on the capabilities offered by Australian and New Zealand Defence companies.

This will allow Defence contractors to find Australian suppliers. It will also allow companies seeking partners with complementary capabilities to find each other.

It has been a longstanding problem to find easily accessible, accurate and current information on the capabilities of companies in the Defence industry sector.

When the Defence and Industry ePortal is launched in early July, it will be preloaded with data on about 400 Australian companies. New companies will be able to register as users, and then add their company capabilities to the database. Contractors looking for Australian partners will be able to search the database to find the capabilities they require.

This will greatly increase the opportunities for Australian Defence companies, particularly small to medium sized enterprises, to participate in Defence's acquisition and sustainment activities and also to compete in the global Defence market.

The Defence and Industry ePortal will also provide links to forthcoming Defence business opportunities and to other relevant Defence and Government sites.

It will also have a secure feedback tool to allow companies to provide feedback to Defence either on procurement matters or about the ePortal facility itself. The ePortal will provide access at all hours online.

A Robot Watchdog To Sniff Out Radiation

Australian scientists have developed a prototype remote-controlled robotic vehicle to detect radiation, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

announced recently.

This is a significant leap forward for Australia's defence and national security agencies.

It will greatly enhance our ability to respond to radioactive incidents.

The concept vehicle, known as RASP, for Remote Advanced Sensor Platform, was developed jointly by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

It's small and light and can be operated from distances of up to 350 metres with full control of the robot.

It could be deployed in almost any area or location, from aircraft to cargo containers.

For the first time, we will also be able to provide our national security agencies with the ability to remotely identify the nature of the radioactive sources.

Emergency officers who detect the presence of radiation with their handheld instruments would be able to send in RASP and quickly discover if it has a half-life of several days or fifty thousand years.

Mid-year scenario trials will be taken at ANSTO. The scenarios will closely emulate a real event involving radioactive material.

Quote from General Giap

Regards

Don Horsley

BELIEVE IT. Ron do you think John Lenehan would remember Coleman?

What we always knew. This is what makes soldiers cry.

General Vo Nguyen Giap.

General Giap was a brilliant, highly respected leader of the North Vietnam military. The following quote is from his memoirs currently found in the Vietnam

Camping on the Oval will be available from Tuesday 28th October 2008.

There will be **Concerts** at the Federation Amphitheatre, A School Concert Thursday night and a Musical Concert Friday night

Saturday 1st November is the Special day, with Street Markets. A town hall full of info booths, covering a wide range of health issues, Flag Association, PVA, TPI etc. 10th Light Horse Museum, Historical Military vehicles, Brass Bands and much more.

At 2.45pm all Veterans and interested persons are asked to form up outside the Shire Hall for a March through the town to St Peter's for a relighting of the memorial candle at the Vietnam Veterans PEACE Window.

This will be followed by a free barbecue, drinks and entertainment at the recreation centre. A Free Sunday morning breakfast will follow for those having to leave us. But, we hope you will stay and enjoy the Brass Band entertainment at the District Club. Take a leisurely drive to the Ardath Hotel for lunch (90651046 Accommodation also available). Then rest a while for an evening around the Bards Pit, where you entertain us!

So, come prepared to enjoy real Country Hospitality, have a great time and catch up with old mates and make new ones!!

For further info, or to leave your contact details for a more informative flyer contact:

Chris Pickering: 90611604
Email: crpick@bigpond.com

or

Colin Turner: 90611773
Email: turner.colin@bigpond.com

www.brucerock.wa.gov.au

war memorial in Hanoi:

"What we still don't understand is why you Americans stopped the bombing of Hanoi. You had us on the ropes. If you had pressed us a little harder, just for another day or two, we were ready to surrender! It was the same at the battles of TET. You defeated us! We knew it, and we thought you knew it. But we were elated to notice your media was definitely helping us. They were causing more disruption in America than we could in the battlefields. We were ready to surrender. You had won!"

General Giap has published his memoirs and confirmed what most Americans knew. The Vietnam war was not lost in Vietnam — it was lost at home. The exact same slippery slope, sponsored by the US media, is currently well under way. It exposes the enormous power of a biased media to cut out the heart and will of the American public.

A truism worthy of note: Do not fear the enemy, for they can take only your life. Fear the media far more, for they will destroy your honour.

Back To The Bush

Time to Mark your Calendar! Time to Book your Holidays!

It's on!

Once again you are invited to **BRUCE ROCK** for the usual great week of relaxation, comradeship, fun and laughter.

BACK TO THE BUSH VETERAN'S REUNION, 28TH OCT - 2ND NOV. 2008, BRUCE ROCK, WA

The activities will be the same as previous years **Golf, Bowls, Bingo, Rifle Shoot, A Garden Party Feature, Town Tours and New this year will be Card making.**

The usual informative evening on a Health subject, conducted by a Medical Professional in the field.