

## EDWARD (TED) KENNA VC

Defence is deeply saddened by today's passing of Edward (Ted) Kenna VC.

Enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in August 1940, Private Kenna VC served in the 23/21st Battalion in Victoria and later in Darwin.

Private Kenna was awarded the Victoria Cross on 15 May 1945 for his actions near Wewak, New Guinea, when he exposed himself to heavy fire, killing a Japanese machine gun crew and making it possible for his company's attack to succeed. Private Kenna then left the AIF in December 1946.

The Victoria Cross is the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and is the Commonwealth's highest military honour. It is awarded to persons who, in the presence of the enemy, display the most conspicuous gallantry; a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice; or extreme devotion to duty.

Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Lieutenant General David Hurley, paid tribute to Private Kenna VC.

"We continue to be humbled by Private Kenna's extraordinary courage and his legacy and dedication will never be forgotten by the Australian Defence Force.

On behalf of the Australian Defence Force, I extend our deepest sympathies to Ted's family during this difficult time," said Lieutenant General Hurley.

Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie also expressed his condolences to Private Kenna's family and friends on behalf of the Australian Army.

"Ted was an inspiration to us all. His actions while serving in New Guinea epitomises the characteristics all soldiers strive for - bravery, loyalty and determination," Lieutenant General Gillespie said.

"His loss will be heavily felt by all members of the Army family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ted's family at his time."



*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 2009**

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 AUG 2009.

**DISCLAIMER**

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

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**EDITORS NOTE**

Welcome to the Winter edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH. We have been running low this quarter on submissions and fun emails from our world wide audience (must be something to do with the economic downturn!) If you have any suggestions feel free to email them in to

[wahorsesmouth@raeme.org.au](mailto:wahorsesmouth@raeme.org.au)  
 or through the WA RAEME ASSC website <http://www.raeme.org.au/WA/>  
 Your contributions into making this a better publication are appreciated. Now sit back and enjoy the ride for another season of THE HORSES MOUTH>

Ed.

of Australia, and is regionally and nationally significant. SWBTA is increasingly being used as a scientific reference area by private and public research bodies.

Modelled on the United Nations State of the Environment Report format, the Report aims to inform environmental regulators, scientists, the wider Australian community and Defence users of the condition of the area.

The State of the Environment Report for Shoalwater Bay Training Area 2008 is available at [www.defence.gov.au/environment](http://www.defence.gov.au/environment). Hard copies will be accessible through most National, State and University libraries across Australia by the end of April 2009.

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**AFGHAN TROOPS SEIZE  
BOMB-MAKING CACHES**

Afghan National Security Forces, with support from Australian Special Forces and other coalition troops, have uncovered several major bomb-making factories and munitions caches in a town to the east of Tarin Kowt, near the Zabol province border.

The daylight raid on Sunday found more than five tonnes of ammonium nitrate, the key ingredient to the Taliban's home-made explosives. While Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are a threat to coalition forces, Afghan civilians are often killed and wounded by indiscriminate IED emplacement.

The raid also seized almost 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 39 rocket-propelled grenades, a grenade launcher and automatic weapons, and a

significant amount of IED componentry.

The Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Command, Air Vice Marshal Greg Evans, said the cache was a major break-through in disrupting the manufacture of IEDs across the southern and eastern parts of Oruzgan province.

“The 5.3 tonnes of ammonium nitrate could have built several hundred Improvised Explosive Devices. It is a significant volume of material to be found in one location and its discovery and destruction will disrupt the ongoing road-side bomb emplacement campaign by the Taliban insurgents.”

The combined Afghan National Security Force and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operation took a day to clear the almost eight square kilometres of compounds and fields.

Air Vice Marshal Evans said that the removal of explosive material and its improvised components would make life safer for all Afghan people in Oruzgan and for the coalition troops who are supporting the Afghan National Security Forces.

“This operation highlights the commitment of Australian forces in Oruzgan to support the ISAF mission of protecting the population.”

Since January 2007, ISAF estimates that insurgents have caused 80 per cent of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

Air Vice Marshal Evans said the IED components had been destroyed and operations would continue in a bid to find further caches.

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Across all Australian military campaigns, more than 1.8 million Australians have enlisted into the Services to serve their country in times of need. Of these, more than 102,000 have died as a result of their service, more than 225,000 were wounded, and more than 34,000 were held as prisoners of war.

More than 3,000 Australian Defence Force members are currently deployed on operations, continuing the ANZAC spirit whilst serving Australia's national interests at home and in many countries around the world.

"Our service men and women are doing an exceptional job contributing to the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan, contributing to various UN missions, and assisting and enhancing security and stability in our region," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

Most of our deployed service personnel are in Afghanistan, other areas of the Middle East, East Timor, Solomon Islands and on border protection duties in Australia's maritime domain. Smaller numbers are deployed in Iraq, Egypt, Sudan and Darfur.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said the ANZAC spirit all lived on in the hearts and minds of Australians.

"Today we honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"ANZAC Day is also a time to acknowledge the vital role of all those

who serve, or have served, on the home front, providing support and boosting the morale of their deployed loved ones," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

### **STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA 2008**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP and the Member for Capricornia, Ms Kirsten Livermore MP, today announced the release of the State of the Environment Report for Shoalwater Bay Training Area 2008, a Defence report which highlights the commendable environmental condition of the training area.

"The Shoalwater Bay Training area (SWBTA) in central Queensland is an important asset for Defence, effectively integrating blue water naval forces with comparable air and land assets in military training," Dr Kelly said.

"The State of the Environment Report is the result of years of research and monitoring and provides a single reference document about the environmental attributes of SWBTA. The Report identifies the area's natural and cultural values and states that they are well managed and in good condition," Ms Livermore said.

"Defence takes its responsibilities to the environment very seriously and strives to minimise the environmental impacts of day to day activities and operations," Dr Kelly said.

SWBTA is the largest coastal area with high wilderness values on the east coast

### **DEFENCE TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

Applications open on June 1 for Defence Technical Scholarships 2010 and all students currently in Year 10 and Year 11

The Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for and interested in a technical trade career Defence, Science and Personnel, today are strongly encouraged to apply.

announced the 570 inaugural recipients of the Defence Technical Scholarships 2009.

More detailed information on the Scholarships can be found on the DefenceJobs home page [defencejobs.gov.au/DTS](http://defencejobs.gov.au/DTS).

"The Defence Technical Scholarships reward excellence in those students who are interested in pursuing a technical trade, and I congratulate the 570 students across Australia who have received this prestigious award," Mr Snowdon said.

"The Australian Defence Force is not immune to the nation-wide shortage of skilled technical tradespeople, and through the Defence Technical Scholarships the ADF is helping keep young people at school longer, so that they build a better foundation for their future trade career."

"I am pleased to see, not only that there are successful students from every state including 191 from NSW, 110 for Queensland and 156 from Victoria, but that 35 scholarships have gone to young women.

"This program is the first of its kind, and the successful students will be receiving Scholarships of \$2,000 for Year 11 or \$3,000 for Year 12.

"In addition during their Scholarship year they will get the opportunity to participate in Defence experiences, events, base and ship visits, although they are under no obligation to join the ADF on completion of their Scholarship," Mr Snowdon said.

Students will be notified of the result of their application shortly and schools will be receiving a consolidated list of successful students.

A call for submissions was released to the national press on Saturday, 18 April 2009.

### **INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT DUTIES**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today announced that the Independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into the recognition of Australian Defence Force (ADF) service for Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) counter terrorist and special recovery duties.

"I am pleased that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into the recognition of SASR duties," Dr Kelly said.

"This new inquiry represents a continuation of reviews into long standing Defence honours and awards issues identified by the Government in 2007."

As part of this inquiry, the Tribunal will also consider the service of other ADF elements seconded to the SASR in the past, and those that fulfill current counter terrorist and special recovery responsibilities.

“Many people have written to me concerning recognition for SASR duties and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission to the Tribunal,” Dr Kelly said.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal  
Locked Bag 7765  
CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT  
2610

Or via email to  
DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

The terms of reference for the inquiry and guidance on how to make a submission can be obtained at: [www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au](http://www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au)

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### **Beaches too sandy, fish scare the kids: it's a Fawlty Towers world for some tourists**

**Mark Russell**

*April 12, 2009*

DAMN those wide sandy beaches and oceans full of fish. And let's not get started on the consistency of gravy. Honestly, it's enough to ruin a perfectly pleasant holiday, according to a list of recent complaints by not-so-intrepid British tourists.

Consider this “it's all your fault” rant by a woman who returned to Britain with an unexpected holiday souvenir: “My fiance and I booked a twin-bedded room, but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant.”

Her complaint and scores like it,

compiled by the Association of British Travel Agents and Thomas Cook, have done nothing to dispel the whingeing Pom cliché.

In one case, a British guest at a Novotel hotel in Australia made a fuss about his soup being too thick and strong. He had been supping from the gravy boat.

Another culinarily challenged traveller grumbled that “on my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all.”

Other British tourists found their holidays were spoiled because “the beach was too sandy” and “no one told us there would be fish in the sea; the children were startled”.

One disgruntled wife declared that topless sunbathing should be banned because her “holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women”.

While Australians love a rant as much as the next ticked-off customer, they are more likely to see the funny side of a bad situation than British tourists, Flight Centre spokesman Haydn Long said.

“Australians tend to be a little bit more adventurous and when you take the more adventurous option, you tend to be more tolerant of things not always being perfect.”

Peter Hook, spokesman for the country's largest hotel group, Accor Asia Pacific, said Australians have a more laid-back attitude to travel because we've had to “overcome the tyranny of distance”.

“When you fly 24 hours to the UK, a park bench looks attractive compared to an economy airline seat.

“Travel is in the blood of Australians and they also see the humour in situations. Other nationalities can be far more irritable.”

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On the farm lived a chicken and a horse, both of whom loved to play together. One day the two were playing, when the horse fell into a bog and began to sink. Scared for his life, the horse whinnied for the chicken to go get the farmer for help! Off the chicken ran, back to the farm. Arriving at the farm, he searched and searched for the farmer, but to no avail, for he had gone to town with the only tractor. Running around, the chicken spied the farmer's new Harley. Finding the keys in the ignition, the chicken sped off with a length of rope hoping he still had time to save his friend's life. Back at the bog, the horse was surprised, but happy, to see the chicken arrive on the shiny Harley, and he managed to get a hold of the loop of rope the chicken tossed to him. After tying the other end to the rear bumper of the farmer's bike, the chicken then drove slowly forward and, with the aid of the powerful bike, rescued the horse! Happy and proud, the chicken rode the Harley back to the farmhouse, and the farmer was none the wiser when he returned. The friendship between the two animals was cemented: Best Buddies, Best Pals. A few weeks later, the chicken fell into a mud pit, and soon, he too, began to sink and cried out to the horse to save his life! The horse thought a moment, walked over, and straddled the large puddle.

Looking underneath, he told the chicken to grab his hangy-down thingy and he would then lift him out of the pit. The chicken got a good grip, and the horse pulled him up and out, saving his life. The moral of the story?

(yep, you betcha, there is a moral!)

“When You're Hung Like A Horse, You Don't Need A Harley To Pick Up Chicks.”

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### **ADF REMEMBERS SERVICE TO NATION ON ANZAC DAY**

On the 94th anniversary of Australia's first significant military action, past and present members of the Australian Defence Force today paused to remember those who have contributed to all Australian military operations.

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, said ANZAC Day was a time to reflect on the contribution made by all our past and present service men and women who had displayed great courage, discipline and self-sacrifice in choosing a life of service to their country.

“On ANZAC Day, we remember not only the original ANZACS who died on 25 April 1915, but every one of our service men and women who have served and died in all wars, conflicts, peacekeeping, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance missions,” Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

A call for submissions will be released shortly in the national press. Submissions to the inquiry close on Monday, 24 August 2009.

“Many people have raised issues concerning recognition for ADF service in Somalia and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission,” Dr Kelly said.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

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Locked Bag 7765  
CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE, ACT  
2610

or via email to  
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## **Boer War Memorial**

The Boer War of 1899-1902 was the first war in which Australians served and died as part of a national contingent, but Australia has no national Boer War Memorial (BWM) in Canberra. The purpose of this email is to inform you of what is being done to establish one, and to ask your help in achieving it.

The Australian colonies federated in 1901, during the course of the Boer War. Before Federation, Australians served in contingents drawn from each colony (which then became the states in the new nation). At the war's end, as the site for

our national capital was not yet agreed there was no obvious site for a national memorial and each state set up a memorial for its own soldiers. By the time Canberra had been built as the capital, the losses of World War 1 were foremost in the minds of Australians and the Boer War essentially became the ‘forgotten war’. Both the Governor General and the CDF are patrons of the National Boer War Memorial and there are a variety of ways to become involved if you too are interested. If you (or anyone else you know) is a descendant of a Boer War veteran it is very simple to register this on the BWM website (<http://www.bwm.org.au/>). You can also help promote the cause just by discussing it with interested persons – the more people who know about it the better. Even better, you can also make a tax deductible contribution to the BWM fund, or sign on as a volunteer to work with your state committee (details on the website).

Although there are many competing demands on our time and wallets, this is an important cause – the Boer War was not only the first time Australia went to war as a nation, the nation actually came into existence during it. More Australians served and died in the Boer War of 1899-1902 than in any other conflict except the two World Wars. These are our military ancestors and we owe it to them to ensure they are not forgotten.

COL John Haynes (ret'd) BRIG Iain Spence

President CDF Representative

National Boer War Memorial Committee

A Horse, A Chicken & A Harley

## **How do you tell when a plane full of British tourists has landed? A selection of complaints from travellers from the UK**

\* We bought Ray-Ban sunglasses for five euros (\$9) from a street trader, only to find out they were fake.

\* The brochure stated: “No hairdressers at the accommodation.” We’re trainee hairdressers — will we be OK staying here?

\* There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish. The food is Spanish. Too many foreigners.

\* We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it was white.

\* We had to queue outside with no air-conditioning.

\* I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts.

\* It’s lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during “siesta” time — this should be banned.

\* I was bitten by a mosquito — no one said they could bite.

\* We booked an excursion to a water park but no one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels.

## **PRMIE MOVERS**

9FSB TO TEST NEW VEHICLE RANGE

By Sgt Dave Morley

SOLDIERS from 9FSB have been selected to and the Joint Strike Fighter project is to test drive a range of new medium/heavy weight Air Force vehicles as the evaluation for Phase 3 of Land 121's Project Overlander gets under way.

Several new medium/heavy weight vehicles are already lined up at Monegeeta Proving Ground, Victoria, ready for testing.

Program Manager Project Overlander Brig David O’Brien said the first stage of the selection process was a comparative evaluation to shortlist from four companies down to two.

“This will be based on the technical performance of each vehicle tested,” he said.

“Whatever we give the soldier it’s going to be the best we can.”

Brig O’Brien said four companies had provided vehicles to undergo rigorous trials at Monegeeta Proving Ground with a Defence test and evaluation team.

“Then we get soldiers into the cab,” he said.

9FSB soldiers will road test the trucks on a drive from Victoria to Townsville.

Brig O’Brien said the trucks would then be driven around HRTA to test them for operational purposes.

“The soldiers are very much a part of the trial,” he said.

“They will have to fill out checklists and comments on this vehicle and that vehicle and drive them all over the HRTA as well.”

According to Brig O’Brien, the trials will be fair to all contenders and conducted straight down the line. “We have some very good trucks,” he said. “And no doubt at the end the soldier will be satisfied and Army will get a great capability.”

Project Overlander is Army’s largest project and is as important to Army as the Air Warfare Destroyer project is to Navy

## WHAT THE NEW TRUCKS HAVE TO OFFER.

Stall starts will become a thing of the past with all the new vehicles having automatic transmission.

Protected cab vehicles will have protection against projectiles and IEDs, and include air conditioning, suspension seating and room for stowage.

New vehicles are able to be fitted with modules to equip them for specialist roles including ambulance, command post, mobile workshop and general cargo transport among others.

Integrated load handling systems will be introduced to load shipping containers and special pallets without assistance, significantly reducing turn-around time.

About 5000 soldiers will be trained to operate the new vehicles by the time they roll out in 2013.

### REUNION 12th INTAKE ARMY APPRENTICES

Friday 11th to Tuesday 15 December  
2009

Invitation

The Graduation Day for the 12th Intake Army Apprentices was held on Mace Oval at Balcombe on Saturday 12th December 1959.

The 12th Men will gather and be on bended knees to kiss the hallowed turf of Mace Oval on Saturday 12th December 2009 for a reunion in the period 11 to 15 December 2009 to celebrate the golden anniversary of our graduation.

Reunion 2009

- a. Meet & Greet Function -Friday 6pm to 9pm on 11 Dec 09 at Rosebud RSL( \$20 per pers)
- b. March Past - Saturday Midday 12 Dec 09 "blessing the turf" & a casual stroll around the parade ground & Mace oval at Balcombe
- c. Celebratory Dinner - 7pm for 7.30pm Saturday 12 Dec at the Rosebud Country Club (\$45 per pers)
- d. Dress - Smart Casual to both Meet & Greet and Celebratory Dinner
- e. Family BBQ on the Rye foreshore on Sunday 13 Dec 09 .(P.O.A)
- f. Farewell Dinner Tuesday 15 Dec, venue to be decided. (P.O.A)

Response to Date.

Some 60 (12th, spouse/friends) have expressed interest in attending the reunion by either paying up front \$130 per couple or \$65 for a single person.

Add \$35 to purchase Barry Booth's book "The 12th Men" . Barry has put together a new 200 page book packed full of adulthood experiences including service details of the 12th graduates post Balcombe. There will a limited publication print run. Few if any will be available at the reunion.

### VALE

WO2 Kevin Wotzko has passed away. His Funeral was held in the Purslow Funeral Home 15 Scarborough Beach Rd, North Perth at 1000 hrs Monday the 31st Aug 09

Farewell old mate

The Government has agreed to reform the way Defence is funded, to better align Defence funding with the costs of delivering the future force required for the defence of Australia and its immediate region. This involves a new funding model, which includes the continuation of 3% real growth in Defence funding to 2017/18, with a commitment to growth, in real terms, at 2.2% per annum beyond. This would maintain Defence funding at a broadly constant share of Australia's Gross Domestic Product.

"This is a necessary White Paper that brings with it essential reforms of how Defence is managed to delivers the Defence Force Australia needs and deserves," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

### MEN'S HEALTH IN SPOT- LIGHT

THE CDF has joined a list of high profile Australians including singer and former Australian of the Year Lee Kernaghan and former rugby league player Gary Belcher to endorse International Men's Health Week 2009.

Men's Health Week runs from June 15-21 and is aimed to increase awareness of men's health issues. The theme for 2009 is preventative health and healthy behaviours men can adopt to improve their health and wellbeing. The sad reality is that every hour, five

men die of a preventative illness. The CDF appeared in a national television ad campaign which reminds men to see their GP once a year and to know their family history. He said Men's Health Week underscored the need for men to pay due regard to their health, both physical and mental. "All of us need to remember that it's important to have regular check ups and that we shouldn't be afraid to ask for help," ACM Houston said. "It's something I'd encourage all ADF members to remember not just during Men's Health Week but every day of the year."

### DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS TRIBUNAL INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE IN SOMALIA

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced today that the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition of Australian Defence Force (ADF) service in Somalia between 1992 and 1995.

"I am pleased that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for service in Somalia. This inquiry is another in a series of reviews into long-standing Defence honours and awards issues identified by the Australian Government in late 2007," Dr Kelly said.

As part of this inquiry, the Tribunal will consider the establishment of a campaign medal for service in Somalia, recognition for HMAS Tobruk and HMAS Jervis Bay and recognition for 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Group.

**THE 2009 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER –  
THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE  
WHITE PAPER OF THE MODERN  
ERA**

The Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence today released the most comprehensive Defence White Paper ever produced by an Australian Government.

“Representing over 14 months of hard work, involving all areas of Defence and the complete re-examination of Defence strategy, capabilities, business processes and resources, this is the most comprehensive White Paper ever released,” said Mr Fitzgibbon.

The new White Paper affirms the Rudd Labor Government’s commitment to the defence of Australia, the security and stability of the regional security environment, and a rules-based global security order.

The primary outcome of the White Paper is to build a future force required for the defence of Australia and the security of the immediate region. In meeting this aim, the existing force will be fixed to bring it up to its intended strength after years of under investment and over commitment by the former Liberal Government.

This White Paper confirms the centrality of the alliance relationship with the United States, and reaffirms Australia’s commitment to the United Nations system.

The White Paper notes the increasing uncertainty of the strategic environment, and better positions

Defence to respond to the broad range of possible conflicts and contingencies likely to impact upon Australia’s future security.

“The capabilities outlined in the White Paper will, over the next 20 years, create one of the most capable Defence forces in our region, with the world’s best people, equipment and support systems,” said Mr Fitzgibbon. “The Australian Defence Force we are creating will have access to leading edge technology, the finest equipment and the most professional and capable soldiers, sailors and air men and women.”

To achieve this, the Government has directed the most complex and far reaching reforms of Defence business ever undertaken, with the redirection of significant internal Defence financial resources to the development of new capability.

Fundamental reform to Defence personnel management arrangements will also take place through the creation of an integrated workforce that has the right balance of military, civilian and contract personnel. This will be combined with a new People Strategy that will drive a range of initiatives to recruit and retain the right people.

To ensure Defence optimises the resources available for its core business, Defence will standardise and consolidate shared services and develop smarter methods of undertaking support functions such as facilities management, major equipment maintenance, logistics, procurement and business information systems.

**Quickie in the Bushes.**

There are two statues in a park; one of a nude man and one of a nude woman. They had been facing each other across a pathway for a hundred years, when one day an angel comes down from the sky and, with a single gesture, brings the two to life.

The angel tells them, ‘As a reward for being so patient through a hundred blazing summers and dismal winters, you have been given life for thirty minutes to do what you’ve wished to do the most.’

He looks at her, she looks at him, and they go running behind the shrubbery.

The angel waits patiently as the bushes rustle and giggling ensues. After fifteen minutes, the two return, out of breath and laughing.

The angel tells them, ‘Um, you have fifteen minutes left, would you care to do it again?’

He asks her ‘Shall we?’  
She eagerly replies, ‘Oh, yes, let’s! But let’s change positions this time, I’ll hold the pigeon down and you shit on its head.’

AND WHAT WERE YOU  
THINKING????

**RECERVE RECORDS  
EASIER TO ACCESS**

ADF members with reserve service in their history will find it easier to get information together to support their

application under the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS).  
The Reserve and Employer Support Division (RES D) is now able to provide a means for individuals to obtain a record of their recorded days going back to the 1991-92 financial year. Records earlier than this will take a little longer to source and obtain. Head RES D Maj-Gen Greg Melick said the new system would prove more useful, meeting the needs of most ADF personnel with reserve service. “A single page recording service undertaken can be printed and attached to the application to confirm eligibility for DHOAS,” he said. DHOAS support is based on financial years of service only, whereas eligibility for Honours and Awards is based on enlistment and anniversary dates.

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**Reference the issue of the AGSM as stated in the Winter 2009 edition of the “HORSES MOUTH”. Even if you have already been issued with the ASM 1945/75 you may still qualify for the AGSM. This all depends on the dates you served KOREA**

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### Psychiatrist vs Bartender

Ever since I was a child, I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night.

So I went to a shrink and told him

.....

'I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it.

I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy.'

'Put yourself in my hands for one year,' said the shrink. 'Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears'.

'How much do you charge?' I asked.

'Eighty dollars per visit', replied the doctor.

'I'll sleep on it', I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street. 'Why didn't you ever come back to see me about those fears you were having?' He asked.

'Well, eighty bucks a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money! A bartender cured me for \$ 10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought a new pickup truck!

'Is that so!' With a bit of an attitude he said' and how may I ask, did a bartender cure you?'

'He told me to cut the legs off the bed! - Ain't nobody under there now! ! !

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### HIGHEST EAST TIMORESE HONOUR FOR ARMY OFFICERS

President of East Timor, His Excellency, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, yesterday awarded the Timor-Leste Medalha de Merito (Medal of Merit) to two Australian Army Officers for their service to East Timor during the past ten years.

Major General Mick Slater, DSC, AM, CSC, and Major Michael Stone, received the Medal at the President's Office in Dili. The Timor-Leste Medalha de Merito is the highest recognition that can be bestowed by the President of East Timor.

President Horta said Major General Slater's contribution to East Timor exemplifies the values of the Australian Defence Force and noted, in particular, his leadership of the International Stabilisation Force which was deployed in response to the break down in security in 2006.

Major-General Slater also received the Medalha Solidariedade de Timor-Leste (East Timor Solidarity Medal) during the presentation.

Major Stone was honoured for the unique role as a peacemaker he has played in East Timor during the past decade. President Horta said his profound understanding of Timorese culture and language has enabled him to promote peace and reconciliation throughout the country, gaining the respect of its people.

Both men accepted the medals at a small ceremony that was attended by guests including the Commander of the East Timor Defence Force, Brigadier Taur Matan Ruak, Australian Ambassador to East Timor, Mr Peter Heyward, and the Commander of the International Stabilisation Force, Brigadier Bill Sowry.

Major-General Slater, now Commander of the Army's 1st Division, led the Second Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment during the original Australian deployment into East Timor in 1999. He

Improved methods of detecting, warning and protection from chemical, biological and radiological weapons will become available from 2011.

Vehicles

The ASLAV upgrades remain in Land 112 Phase 4. The expected replacement program for land combat vehicles (Land 400) will appear in later plans. Additional phases have been added to Land 121 to deliver light protected vehicles, as well as vehicles to meet training requirements.

Gap crossing

There are plans to enhance Army's capability to cross a range of wet or dry gaps in support of combat operations (Land 155 Enhanced Gap Crossing). Subject to decision, initial operating capability is planned for 2016 to 2018.

Battlespace

Several programs – including JP 2044 Phase 4 (Digital Topographical Systems Upgrade), JP 2064 (Geospatial Information Infrastructure), JP 1770 (Rapid Environmental Assessment) and JP 1771 (Geomatic Support System) – are expected to enhance the ADF's ability to understand and exploit the battlespace.

Networking

Existing projects to network the ADF will continue. These include JP 2072 (Battlespace Communications System, Land), Land 75 (Battlefield Command Support), and JP 2089 (Tactical Information Exchange). Since the last Defence Capability Plan in 2006, there have been substantial changes to satellite communications as a result of joining the US Wideband Global Satellite program. The required ground infrastructure will be addressed in new phases of JP 2008 (Military Satellite Capability).

A police officer pulls over a speeding car.

The officer says, 'I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, sir.'

The driver says, 'Gee, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60;

perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating.'

Not looking up from her knitting the wife

says: 'Now don't be silly,

dear — you know that this car doesn't have cruise control.'

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife

and growls,

'Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once !! ?'

The wife smiles demurely and says, 'Well dear you should be thankful your radardetector went off when it did or your speed would have been higher.'

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar

detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth,

'Woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?'

The officer frowns and says, 'And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir.

That's an automatic \$75 fine.'

The driver says, 'Yeah, well, you see, officer, I had it on, but I took

it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket.'

The wife says, 'Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving.'

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket, the driver

turns to his wife and barks, 'WHY DON'T YOU PLEASE SHUT THE F\*\*\* UP??'

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, 'Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?'

'Only when he's been drinking!!'

### **High hopes for hard and fast**

The latest blueprint for Defence spending confirms a commitment to growth and, while Australian industry stands to benefit, the Army's aim is for the ultimate winners to be those in the front line.

THE Army is confident the Defence Capability Plan 2009 will boost its ability to hit hard and fast.

Unveiled on July 1, the \$60 billion plan includes new Steyr variants, networked mortars and new 155mm artillery, backed up by F-model Chinooks. Enhanced battlespace communications are also a priority.

Defence Minister John Faulkner said the openness of the plan would also help industry plan ahead and deliver on time.

Speaking at the Defence + Industry Conference in Melbourne, Senator Faulkner said a strong and effective ADF would require growth in both capacity and capability.

"The Government wants to ensure that Australian industry shares in that growth," he said.

The Government has promised to maintain 3 per cent real growth in the Defence budget until 2017, and 2 per cent growth from then until 2030. There is also an index-linked safety margin of 2.5 per cent.

"No other sector has such a solid predictable growth plan locked in for the future," Senator Faulkner said.

The big-ticket Army projects are:

Chinook replacement

Previous plans for piecemeal improvements have been ditched. The idea now is a wholesale replacement of the Army's existing D-model fleet with seven new Fmodel aircraft (Air 9000). Subject to a final decision in

2010-11 to 2011-12, the new fleet is expected to reach initial operating

capability between 2016 and 2018.

Indirect fire

The 105mm Hamel gun and M198 towed howitzer will both be replaced at the end of their service life by a mix of towed and self-propelled 155mm artillery. First-pass approval is complete and initial operating capability is scheduled for 2012 to 2014. A new project will link existing 81mm mortar capability into a joint fires environment using a networked ballistic calculator, and acquire advanced munitions (Land 136 Mortar Replacement). Some Reserve artillery units will also be equipped with a mortar capability. The planned upgrades are scheduled to take effect from 2014 to 2016, subject to a decision in 2012-13 or 2014-15.

Body armour

As part of Land 125, soldiers will get improved modular body armour, as well as ballistic and eye protection to better shield them from blasts, projectiles and lasers. These are expected to be ready for use between 2011 and 2013.

Steyr rifle

The Steyr will be developed to commander, marksman, grenadier and standard variants. The enhancements are expected to improve target acquisition, probability of hit and cooperative engagement. The rifles are due to be ready for action by 2011 to 2013.

Non-lethal weapons

In peace-keeping operations, the ideal is to have the option of a nonlethal response. JP 3011 will develop weapons that should become available for operations between 2014 and 2016.

IEDs

JP 154 includes a "technology refresh" on methods of dealing with IEDs, and new ways of detecting them. The technology will start entering service from 2010.

CBR Defences

subsequently commanded the International Stabilisation Force in 2006. Major Stone saw two deployments to East Timor from 1999 and deployed twice again as an advisor to the East Timor Defence Force. He currently serves as an advisor as part of the Defence Cooperation Program in East Timor.

### **Guns fire last shots**

**By Tpr Matt Whitby**

THE guns of 7 Fd Bty have fired for the last time, ending an era of 40 years of service in the Australian Army.

The M2A2 105mm howitzers were used in the Vietnam War and were brought across to the Army Reserve in 1976. Soldiers from the battery, which is part of Karrakatta based 13 Bde, fired the guns at the Lancelin training area last month. Despite inclement weather conditions, around 100 past members and families, including Vietnam veterans joined soldiers to witness a historic silencing of the guns. The battery now takes up a new role, utilizing 81mm mortars to replace the ageing artillery.

Bty Commander Maj Steve Mathers said it was a sad day for all involved.

"It is the start of a new era for 7 Fd Bty and we will be able to fulfil another important role for the Army Reserve," he said.

Commander 13 Bde Brig Stephen Cain said he was exceptionally impressed with the conduct of the final shoot.

"The professionalism of the soldiers in extremely trying weather conditions, demonstrated the capability of reservists to achieve standards of the highest level," he said. "The transition to mortars represents a great opportunity for reservists to maintain the capability of providing indirect fire support to the Army."

A ringer from a huge cattle station in outback Australia appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the ringer offered. "Once, on a trip to the backblocks of Broken Hill out in New South Wales, I came across a gang of bikies, who were threatening a young shiela. I told them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed bokie and smacked him in his face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground.

I yelled, "Now, back off!! Or I'll kick the s... out of the lot of ya's!" St. Peter was impressed, "When did this happen?"

"This morning..."

I am trying to get in touch with as many old pals from my time in Singapore with the ANZUK Workshops from 1972 to 74. One chap already in touch, Graeme Unmack', looking for Neil Zander (Cpl) who was with our group with the NAVAL BASE Det, we were responsible for most of the Islands servicing and first line repairs. Our boss was Capt. Lord RNZEME, our AQMS was an Aussie, can't remember his name though. There were about five or six Aussie's in total along with a couple of Kiwi's and three REME Sgt's and myself as a Cpl. Hope you can help. any contacts via e-mail [iantilson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iantilson@yahoo.co.uk)

I have pictures if anyone would like a copy. Please email me at the Horse's mouth and i will forward them on.  
ED.

Two Aussie blokes, Kev and Bruce die at the same time and find themselves in Hell. The Devil pays them a visit to see how they're getting on and finds them in shorts and t-shirts, enjoying a BBQ....

"Is this place not hot enough for you?" asks the Devil.

Bruce says "Oh mate..we're from Australia ...we love the heat. It's just like a summer's day."

Feeling angry, the Devil decides he'll fix these two and turns the heat up to maximum. Everywhere in Hell, people are wailing and moaning from the heat and satisfied with the result, the Devil decides to check back in on the two Aussies.

He's furious to find Kev and Bruce flipping the snags on the barbie, knocking back a couple of stubbies in their thongs and singlets, laughing and chatting. "How can you guys be comfortable in this heat?" screams the Devil. Everyone else in Hell is absolutely miserable, but you two are actually enjoying it!"

"Awww come on mate...says Kev. I spent last summer in Darwin . It's actually nice to have some dry heat for a change"

The Devil storms off, scheming how to fix these two. After thinking about it for a while he hits on an idea. If the two Aussies love the heat so much, he's gonna turn it all off, which he does. After a night without heat, Hell is 40 below. Icicles are hanging off the roof and if the residents were unhappy about the heat, they are now bitterly miserable from the cold.

The next morning the Devil checks back

in on the two Aussies. He finds them jumping for joy, laughing and carrying on like they're having the time of their lives. The Devil is beside himself with rage and screams "WHAT IS GOING ON? How can you two be happy about this?"

Kev says...Mate, don't you know? Hell's frozen over!...the Dockers must have won the Premiership!

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### Technical Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regt Reunion 2009

Hello Everyone,  
Life has a habit of interrupting the greatest of ideas.

Just to put you in the picture, my brother-in-law Stephen (37) died tragically in November (four days before his joint birthday with my wife, Susan).

In December, my Father-in-Law Ken was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he is battling on.

Just to top things off. My beautiful sister Sonya (35) died in her sleep on 1 May after an epileptic seizure.

As such, not a lot of reunion organisation has gone ahead from me. Mark and Elona have had a rough year as well with health, family and employment issues. She has had no time either to organise much.

I suppose the question that I should be asking is, can you help with the organisation of the reunion?

We currently have about fifty ex-members on the books plus families.

If I can't get things well on the way by 30 July, we may have to postpone. Any thoughts?

Cheers for now,  
BUZZARD

operational environments and I thank them on behalf of the Australian Government.

"As the operation has now successfully concluded Defence will consider suitable opportunities for public recognition, which may include parades in appropriate locations," Senator Faulkner said.

"The success of Operation CATALYST has been a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of all Australian Defence Organisation personnel over the last six years," the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said.

"Australian personnel from each of the three services have conducted security, stabilisation and training operations during their deployment in Iraq."

"I congratulate each and every one of our people who have been involved with our mission in Iraq and thank them for their hard work and dedication," Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said.

The completion of Operation CATALYST today accords with the date agreed with the Government of Iraq in December 2008 and reflects Iraq's improved levels of security and stability and the steady normalisation of our bilateral relationship.

The ADF maintains a small presence in Iraq comprising a detachment providing security to the Australian Embassy in Baghdad (Operation KRUGER) and two members directly supporting the United Nations mission in Iraq (Operation RIVERBANK).

In accordance with the CDF's Directive, troops returning from operation CATALYST at the end of their deployment

have been welcomed home by a senior member of the ADF. Major units have generally conducted Welcome Home activities including parades in local communities as part of their recognition of service at the close of their tour of duty.

Operation CATALYST force elements included; Battle Groups in Al Muthanna province and Dhi Qar province; the Royal Australian Navy led Iraqi Coastal Defence Force Training Team; Royal Australian Navy Major Fleet Units and embarked flights; the Australian Army Training Team - Iraq; personnel embedded in various coalition headquarters; combined logistics and communication elements; medical elements; Task Force 158 Fleet Battle Staff in the North Arabian Gulf; provision of personnel to the Coalition Air Operations Command; a RAAF P3-C Orion detachment; a RAAF C-130 Hercules detachment; a combat support element providing air traffic control; Defence civilian advisers in the Iraqi Ministry of Defence; and a Joint Task Force headquarters.

Under Operation CATALYST, Australian personnel were responsible for training approximately 36,000 members of the Iraqi Army, Navy and Marines, including the conduct of specialist training in logistics support, counter-insurgency operations and maritime interception and interdiction operations in protecting Iraq's vital offshore resources so critical to its economic future. Australian forces also had the honour of being involved in the first transfer of an Iraqi province, Al-Muthanna, to the provincial security control of Iraqi forces.

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“Defence recognises the importance of harnessing the skills and experience of its qualified and professional men and women and is very much focused on enhancing its overall employment package to support retention,” Mr Combet said.

### **GUADALCANAL REMEMBERED**

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Mark Evans, has today joined US State and Military officials to remember one of the most decisive campaigns to secure the South Pacific during World War Two.

Lieutenant General Evans said the landing of US Marines on Guadalcanal in August 1942 and the subsequent fighting in the Solomon Islands was a critical factor in halting the Japanese advance.

“Sixty seven years ago these islands were the site of some of the most decisive battles that turned the tide in the Pacific campaign,” Lieutenant General Evans said.

“And today it is pleasing to see our American allies continuing to engage with the Solomon Islands Government and people so long after the days of World War Two.”

The US Military-led Pacific Partnership program for 2009, which focuses on increasing Pacific Islanders’ access to engineering and medical services, commenced work in the region yesterday.

“The program is an important example of ongoing international engagement with

the Solomon Islands, and one of which Australia is proud to be a part,” Lieutenant General Evans said.

Completing his visit to the Solomon Islands, Lieutenant General Evans met with Australian troops serving in the Combined Task Force of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

“The work that you and your colleagues from throughout the region are doing here is enormously beneficial to the people of the Solomon Islands,” Lieutenant General Evans said.

“RAMSI has made great strides in bringing security and stability to the Solomon Islands and is something the whole region can be proud of.”

### **ADF CONCLUDES MISSION IN IRAQ**

Today marks a significant milestone in the history of the Australia Defence Force (ADF) with the conclusion of Operation CATALYST in Iraq, Defence Minister, Senator John Faulkner said.

Operation CATALYST was the ADF’s contribution to the stabilisation and rehabilitation of Iraq.

“Today officially concludes a six year mission. From 2003, approximately, 20,000 ADF personnel served in Iraq as part of Operation CATALYST with professionalism and dedication,” Senator Faulkner said.

“Our service men and women again proved the Australian Defence Force’s high reputation in complex and difficult

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### **And you also find out interesting things when you have sons, like:-**

1. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 200 m2 house to a depth of 10 cm.
2. If you spray hair spray on dust balls and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
3. A 3-year old Boy’s voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
4. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 20 Kg boy wearing Batman underwear and a Superman cape. It is strong enough, however, if tied to a paint can, to spread paint on all four walls of a 6m x 6m room.
5. You should not throw cricket balls up when the ceiling fan is on. When using a ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can hit a cricket ball a long way.
6. The glass in windows (even double-glazed) doesn’t stop a cricket ball hit by a ceiling fan.
7. When you hear the toilet flush and the

words ‘uh oh’, it’s already too late.

8. Brake fluid mixed with bleach makes smoke, and lots of it.
9. A six-year old Boy can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year old Man says they can only do it in the movies,
10. Certain Lego’s will pass through the digestive tract of a 4- year old Boy.
11. Playdough and microwave should not be used in the same sentence.
12. Super glue is forever.
13. No matter how many jelly crystals you put in a swimming pool you still can’t walk on water.
14. Pool filters do not like jelly crystals.
15. VCR’s do not eject ‘BL&T’ sandwiches.
16. Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
17. Marbles in petrol tanks make lots of noise when driving.
18. You probably DO NOT want to know what that smell is.
19. Always look in the oven before you turn it on; plastic toys do not like ovens.
20. The fire department in Brisbane, Qld, has a 5-minute response time.
21. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy.
22. It will, however, make cats dizzy.
23. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.

80% of Women will pass this on to almost all of their friends, with or without kids.

80% of Men who read this will try mixing the bleach and brake fluid

## NEWNAMEFORSYDNEY COMMANDOS

Army's 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment (4 RAR (Cdo)) was today renamed 2nd Commando Regiment (2 Cdo Regt) during a ceremony at Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy.

The ceremony, reviewed by Chief of Army Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, saw the march-off of the 4 RAR colours and the unfurling of the new 2 Cdo Regt flag.

"I am very pleased that 4 RAR (Cdo) is now nearing maturity as a special operations unit. The name change celebrated today recognises this achievement as well as the skills and qualifications of its members," Lieutenant General Gillespie said.

"The name 2 Cdo Regt more accurately reflects the roles and capabilities of the commandos and their command structure, which are distinct from our conventional infantry battalions."

"4 RAR will remain on Army's Order of Battle with its history, colours and traditions preserved for future service as and when required by our nation. So too will we continue to celebrate the battalion's service and the sacrifice of those who served under its colours."

"2 Cdo Regt will not forget its origins and will continue to support the 4 RAR Association where it can, specifically through the provision of facilities for annual meetings, unit birthdays and Anzac Day," Lieutenant General Gillespie said.

4 RAR began commando transition in

1996 when Government directed Army to establish a second commando regiment with the ability to conduct special recovery and strike operations.

The name 2nd Commando Regiment was chosen as it logically complements the existing 1st Commando Regiment, but more importantly it reflects the unit's historical links to the Australian Independent Commando Companies that operated in the Southwest Pacific in the Second World War.

2 Cdo Regt joins the Special Air Service Regiment, Incident Response Regiment, 1st Commando Regiment, the Special Forces Training Centre and the Special Operations Logistics Squadron as part of Army's Special Operations Command.

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## Australian Defence Force Family Health Trial

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, said about one quarter of Defence dependants were now eligible to register for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Family Health Trial.

Mr Combet said that the expansion of the ADF Family Health Trial will see approximately 13,300 additional Defence dependants able to register for free basic healthcare.

"Stage 2 of the trial includes Defence families residing in Townsville and Tully in Queensland, Puckapunyal in Victoria, Darwin, Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, and Broome and Kununurra in Western Australia," Mr

reminder of the dedication and service to the Australian Army by the many thousands of soldier tradesmen and women who served in those units. This will be a chance to join with your mates in a farewell to the Bulimba Workshops and all the other RAEME Units, which were based at Bulimba

Timings:

10.00 to 1030 arrival of Guests  
1030 to 1100 Dedication of Memorial  
1100 to 1200 Stroll down memory lane through workshop  
12.00 to 1500 Sausage sizzle with drinks at the Quarry club on the river

Location: Tugulawa Park, Apollo Road, Bulimba, adjacent to the entrance to Bulimba Barracks. Parking will be available within the Barracks.

Dress: Smart casual, medals optional

Following the Dedication please join us in a walk down memory lane through the main workshop followed by a sausage sizzle and drinks at the Quarry club

The old SGT's Mess

RSVP (Essential for Barracks Security and catering purposes. Include partners): By NLT 20 November 2009, to the Secretary: At the above address or Phone 0733991300

Phone

email: [secretary@raemeqld.org](mailto:secretary@raemeqld.org)

Chairman Memorial Sub-Committee

Peter G. Snowdon

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## DEFENCE FORCE SEPARATION RATE LOWEST IN DECADE

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science today announced that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is currently experiencing its lowest separation rate in the last decade, with the 12-month average separation rate falling to 9.4 per cent in July 2009.

"The Navy, Army, and Air Force have experienced significant decreases in separation rates with current figures of 10.8, 10.3 and 6.4 per cent respectively, down from 12.4, 11.9 and 9.0 per cent since July 2007," Mr Combet said.

"The ADF is expecting further decreases in separation rates throughout the next quarter, followed by the rates stabilising in 2010."

"Another pleasing aspect of this result is that more young people are getting first class training from the ADF at a time when Australia needs to build its workforce skills base."

Mr Combet said the decrease in separation rates, and associated increased retention of trained and skilled personnel with operational experience, will place Defence in a good position to achieve the growth and capability requirements outlined in the 2009 Defence White Paper, Force 2030.

ADF personnel strength is currently 56,522, representing a growth of 1,919 permanent members over the last year and including 1,454 Reservists on full time service. This growth includes 259 more women than last year serving in a wide variety of roles. The ADF has also benefited greatly from the re-enlistment of personnel with prior military service.

## AFGHAN TROOPS SEIZE BOMB-MAKING CACHES

Afghan National Security Forces, with support from Australian Special Forces and other coalition troops, have uncovered several major bomb-making factories and munitions caches in a town to the east of Tarin Kowt, near the Zabol province border.

The daylight raid on Sunday found more than five tonnes of ammonium nitrate, the key ingredient to the Taliban's home-made explosives. While Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are a threat to coalition forces, Afghan civilians are often killed and wounded by indiscriminate IED emplacement.

The raid also seized almost 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 39 rocket-propelled grenades, a grenade launcher and automatic weapons, and a significant amount of IED componentry.

The Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Command, Air Vice Marshal Greg Evans, said the cache was a major break-through in disrupting the manufacture of IEDs across the southern and eastern parts of Oruzgan province.

"The 5.3 tonnes of ammonium nitrate could have built several hundred Improvised Explosive Devices. It is a significant volume of material to be found in one location and its discovery and destruction will disrupt the ongoing road-side bomb emplacement campaign by the Taliban insurgents."

The combined Afghan National Security Force and International Security

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Assistance Force (ISAF) operation took a day to clear the almost eight square kilometres of compounds and fields.

Air Vice Marshal Evans said that the removal of explosive material and its improvised components would make life safer for all Afghan people in Oruzgan and for the coalition troops who are supporting the Afghan National Security Forces.

"This operation highlights the commitment of Australian forces in Oruzgan to support the ISAF mission of protecting the population."

Since January 2007, ISAF estimates that insurgents have caused 80 per cent of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

Air Vice Marshal Evans said the IED components had been destroyed and operations would continue in a bid to find further caches.

## INVITATION TO ATTEND THE DEDICATION OF THE RAEME MEMORIAL AT BULIMBA

28 NOVEMBER 2009

**An invitation is extended to all members of RAEME who have served at Bulimba**

At a ceremony to dedicate the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers memorial to the Units and their Craftsmen who served in the Bulimba Barracks since 1945 is to be held on 28 November 2009, commencing at 10.00 AM.

This memorial will be a permanent

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Australia.

Combet said.

"Under the trial, dependants visiting these doctors will be bulk billed for eligible medical treatments such as general practice consultations, diabetes, asthma and mental health care, health assessments and both cervical smear testing and obstetric care to name a few.

"Doctors have been very supportive across the Stage 2 regions with just under 100 registered to date.

"Under the Government's ADF Family Health Care trial, registered dependants are also able to claim \$300 each calendar year for all non-cosmetic dental treatment.

"With a large number of dental practices now utilising electronic claims processing, the ADF Family Health Card will enable most claims to be completed at the time of service, reducing the amount of out-of-pocket expenses.

"Dentists are not required to register for the trial, and the benefits associated with the trial can be accessed at any dentist in

"The ADF Family Health Trial is one way we can support Defence families as they support our Defence men and women," Mr Combet said.

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## Artillery Barracks

The Artillery Barracks, home of the Army Museum of WA, will reach its 100th anniversary next year. Did you or your family member live or serve at the Barracks? Seeking photos (to copy and return), information, personal and family stories from any time - 1910 to 2008 —for a history being compiled. Contact: Helen Birch, 82 Florence Road, Nedlands 6009. Tel. 9386 2396 (evening). Email: hbirch@inet.net.au,

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## 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.

## **TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF INTERFET**

Today marks the 10th Anniversary of the Australian-led International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), which deployed to Dili on 20 September 1999 to restore peace and security.

Reflecting on the success of the mission, Minister for Defence Senator John Faulkner, paid tribute to the courage and professionalism of Australian and coalition troops who rapidly worked to assist the fledgling nation and prevent further bloodshed.

“The speed and effectiveness of Australian forces in stemming the violence during the early days of INTERFET bears testimony to the quality and professionalism of Australian troops.”

At its height, around 5,700 Australian troops consisting of three infantry battalion groups and a headquarters were deployed as part of the INTERFET mission, making it the largest deployment of Australian troops since Vietnam. Australian forces were ably supported by troops drawn from 21 regional and international partners.

“All INTERFET veterans, many of whom were deployed more than once to East Timor, should be particularly proud of the contribution they have made to regional security efforts”, the Minister for Defence said.

“They served their country with distinction and on the 10th Anniversary of INTERFET, we recall and honour their service.”

Australian troops from every state and territory, both regular and reserve, have served in East Timor. Over the last ten years, approximately 44,000 individual deployments to East Timor have occurred, and of these, around 2,200 have been women.

The work of INTERFET and its successor missions have been crucial in establishing the security conditions necessary for nation building efforts.

“Australia looks forward to a continued partnership with the government of East Timor, the United Nations and the international community to further consolidate stability in East Timor.”

## **FROMELLES EXCAVATION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED**

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, today announced that the archaeological excavation at Pheasant Wood, Fromelles, France has now successfully concluded.

“A total of 250 sets of remains and 1200 artefacts have been excavated from six graves. This is lower than the previous estimate of 300 remains,” said Mr Combet.

“An early analysis of the remains and the artefacts indicates that a large number of those recovered appear to be Australian.”

The focus of the project will now fall upon the identification of the remains and their reinterment at the purpose-built Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military cemetery.

## **REUNION 12th INTAKE ARMY APPRENTICES**

Friday 11th to Tuesday 15 December 2009

Invitation

The Graduation Day for the 12th Intake Army Apprentices was held on Mace Oval at Balcombe on Saturday 12th December 1959.

The 12th Men will gather and be on bended knees to kiss the hallowed turf of Mace Oval on Saturday 12th December 2009 for a reunion in the period 11 to 15 December 2009 to celebrate the golden anniversary of our graduation.

Reunion 2009

- a. Meet & Greet Function -Friday 6pm to 9pm on 11 Dec 09 at Rosebud RSL(\$20 per pers)
- b. March Past - Saturday Midday 12 Dec 09 “blessing the turf” & a casual stroll around the parade ground & Mace oval at Balcombe
- c. Celebratory Dinner - 7pm for 7.30pm Saturday 12 Dec at the Rosebud Country Club (\$45 per pers)
- d. Dress - Smart Casual to both Meet & Greet and Celebratory Dinner
- e. Family BBQ on the Rye foreshore on Sunday 13 Dec 09 .(P.O.A)
- f. Farewell Dinner Tuesday 15 Dec, venue to be decided. (P.O.A)

Response to Date.

Some 60 (12th, spouse/friends) have expressed interest in attending the reunion by either paying up front \$130 per couple or \$65 for a single person. Add \$35 to purchase Barry Booth’s book “The 12th Men” . Barry has put together a new 200 page book packed full of adulthood experiences including service details of the 12th graduates post Balcombe. There will a limited publication print run. Few if any will be available at the reunion.

Tourist Information. Mornington Peninsula Visitor Information Centre Booking Service Call: 1800 804 009 or (03) 59873078 Email: info@tourism.mornpen.vic.gov.au <<mailto:info@tourism.mornpen.vic.gov.au>> Web: [www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org](http://www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org) <<http://www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org/>>

Cheers from Dennis Anspach (reunion coordinator) 9 Sept 2009  
Contact: Dennis Anspach, 12 Paperbark Crt BANORA POINT NSW 2486. Ph:07 5524 5798 or deemallaraba@bigpond.com

Snail mail attendees please include a stamped self addressed envelope.(SAE).Register & pay by 7th October 2009

**VETERAN'S REUNION****BACK TO THE BUSH****2-9 November 2009****Bruce Rock**

The reunion is a week of activities as follows:

Mon 2 Nov – Set up on Oval Surrounds – Individual local tours;

Tue 3 Nov – Camping on Oval (\$7.00 / Night), Melbourne Cup Lunch (Booking Required at Bruce rock district Club 08 9061 1003 or Bruce Rock Hotel 08 9061 1310 or Bruce Rock Road House 08 9061 1174), Jam Session at Rec Centre at 700pm;

Wen 4 Nov – Card Making Activity, Local Bus tour, Bingo, DVA Medical seminar;

Thu 5 Nov – 900am Card Making, 12.30 Bingo, 100pm Golf, 1830 School Concert;

Fri 6 Nov – 9.15am The Oscars at the Shackleton Garden Club (Booking essential), 1000 rifle and trap shoot, 1300 Lawn Bowls, 1800 Friday night at the Amphitheatre;

Sat 7 Nov – 0830 Street Market, Local Bands at the Amphitheatre, 1430 Form up for march;

Sun 8 Nov – 0630-0830 Free B/Fast at the Amphitheatre, 1000 Rec Centre for entertainment by Brass band, and Lunch at the Ardath Hotel.

For catering purposes and for the number of people attending events, it would help us enormously if you could respond to the information below and return post to:

BTTB Vetran's Group

C/- C Pickering

18 Farrall Street

BRUCE ROCK WA 6418

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Program:	Number Attending (1,2,3 etc)
Medical Seminar Evening: _____	Booking Essential
Card Making Class Wen: _____	Booking Essential
Card Making Class Thur: _____	—Booking Essential
Shackleton Garden Club: _____	
Bowls: _____	
Golf: _____	
Bingo _____	
Rifle Shoot: _____	

If you are a member of the PVA, will you be attending their luncheon ? Yes / No

Thanks look forward to seeing you here

“As part of the identification of the remains LGC Forensics is undertaking a comprehensive analysis of DNA samples taken from the remains to assist in DNA matching against living relatives,” Mr Combet said

“In conjunction with this process further analysis of artefacts and remains will continue throughout September and October at Oxford Archaeology’s on site laboratory to see if any evidence can assist with the identification process.

“This information will be presented to the Joint Identification Board in March 2010 where the British and Australian Governments will consider the results and determine any appropriate further action that should be taken.

“While identification of the remains is an extremely complex process I remain hopeful that we will be able to identify a number of those that we have found.

“As the formal identification is a complex process that may take many months, and in some cases years, every soldier will be buried initially without a permanent headstone.

“The burials will commence on 30 January 2010 and continue through February until every soldier is laid to rest with full military honours. Members of the public are welcome to visit the site during reburials and view the proceedings from outside the cemetery.”

A commemorative event to open the cemetery is scheduled for the 94th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 2010.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Oxford Archaeology, and all of their staff, for their hard work and dedication throughout this excavation. Both the Australian and British Governments have been very pleased with their performance,” said Mr Combet.

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**NOTICE OF  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING  
FOR THE RAEME  
ASSOCIATION WA**

The AGM that was scheduled for the 30 Aug 2009 was unable to be held due to a lack of members attending.

The AGM is to be rescheduled to the 29 Nov 09 as a concurrent activity with the RAEME Birthday Lunch.

All members are requested to attend or submit their apologies to the secretary.

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**CRAFTSMAN'S PORT**

This year TST SASR has the honour of hosting the RAEME CRAFTSMAN PORT.

The port is a red tawny port from the Swan Valley Wines winery located in the Upper Swan winery region North of Perth.

The cost for each 750ml bottle is \$20 Proceeds from the sale go to the RAEME Assoc

Orders are limited to 1500 bottles See your local RAEME Port rep to get your order in NOW!

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## Best Irish Joke in a long Time

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Paddy had been drinking at his local Dublin pub all day and most of the night celebrating St Patrick's Day. Mick, the bartender says, 'You'll not be drinking anymore tonight, Paddy'. Paddy replies, 'OK Mick, I'll be on my way then'.

Paddy spins around on his stool and steps off. He falls flat on his face. 'Shoite' he says and pulls himself up by the stool and dusts himself off. He takes a step towards the door and falls flat on his face,

'Shoite,

Shoite !'

He looks to the doorway and thinks to himself that if he can just get to the door and some fresh air he'll be fine. He belly crawls to the door and shimmies up to the door frame. He sticks his head outside and takes a deep breath of fresh air, feels much better and takes a step out onto the sidewalk and falls flat on his face.

'Bi', gracious... I'm fockin' focked,' he says.

He can see his house just a few doors down, and crawls to the door, hauls himself up the door frame, opens the door and shimmies inside. He takes a look up the stairs and says 'No fockin' way'. He crawls up the stairs to his bedroom door and says 'I can make it to the bed'. He takes a step into the room and falls flat on his face. He says 'Fock it' and falls into bed.

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The next morning, his wife, Jess, comes into the room carrying a cup of coffee and says, 'Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night ?'

Paddy says, 'I did, Jess. I was fockin' pissed. But how'd you know?'

'Mick phoned . . . you left your wheelchair at the pub.'

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## 'TIGER' ACHIEVES MAJOR MILESTONE FOR ARMY

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science today announced the achievement of a major milestone in project AIR 87, the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter project.

The Initial Operational Test and Evaluation Readiness milestone marks the point where the project transitions focus from individual flying, maintenance and support qualifications to collective training and development of Army Aviation warfighting skills.

"This is a critical milestone in the development of this important capability which will provide Army and the Australian Defence Force with one of the most technologically advanced combat helicopters in the world," Mr Combet said.

"The crews of the 1st Aviation Regiment in Darwin will now focus on team training with multiple aircraft, and utilising the sensors and outstanding weapon systems of the Tiger in the combined arms environment of the landforce battlespace.

"The Tiger is made of high strength

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## Single vs. Engaged vs. MARRIED!!

Sipping her drink, the single girl leered and said, "Last Friday at the end of the work day I went to my boyfriend's office wearing a leather coat. When all the other people had left, I slipped out of it and all I had on was a leather bodice, black stockings and stiletto heels. He was so aroused that we made passionate love on his desk right then and there!"

The engaged woman giggled and said, "That's pretty much my story!

When my fiancé got home last Friday, he found me waiting for him in a black mask, leather bodice, black hose and stiletto pumps. He was so turned on that we not only had sex all night, he wants to move up our wedding date!"

The married woman put her glass down and said, "I did a lot of planning. I made arrangements for the kids to stay over at Grandma's. I took a long scented-oil bath and then put on my best perfume. I slipped into a tight leather bodice, a black garter belt, black stockings and six-inch stilettos. I finished it off with a black mask.

When my husband got home from work, he grabbed a beer and the remote, sat down and yelled, 'Hey, Batman, what's for dinner?'"

lightweight composite materials and it incorporates a number of cutting edge technological and digital systems that required extensive certification and integration efforts by both the Commonwealth and the prime contractor, Australian Aerospace.

"The integration of the US Hellfire missile system to the Tiger has been very successful, providing the aircraft with exceptionally accurate firepower out to eight kilometres by day and night.

"Based on the Australian success integrating the Hellfire missile, France has announced their intention to fit this weapon system to their next version of the Tiger helicopter.

"One of the key features of the Tiger is that weapons targeting information is displayed directly onto the pilot's visor. The cannon can also be controlled through the helmet which points it in the same direction that the pilot is looking. This reduces the time needed to engage a hostile threat during low level reconnaissance missions.

"I congratulate Australian Aerospace, the Defence Materiel Organisation and the Army personnel who worked many long hours to introduce this highly complex but most capable level of military equipment," said Mr Combet.

Australian flight test and operational crews have now flown over 4300 hours and fired 16 hellfire missiles, 475 rockets and 4000 rounds of the 30 millimetre canon. The Australian Tiger is closely related to the helicopters being provided by Eurocopter to France, Germany and Spain.