

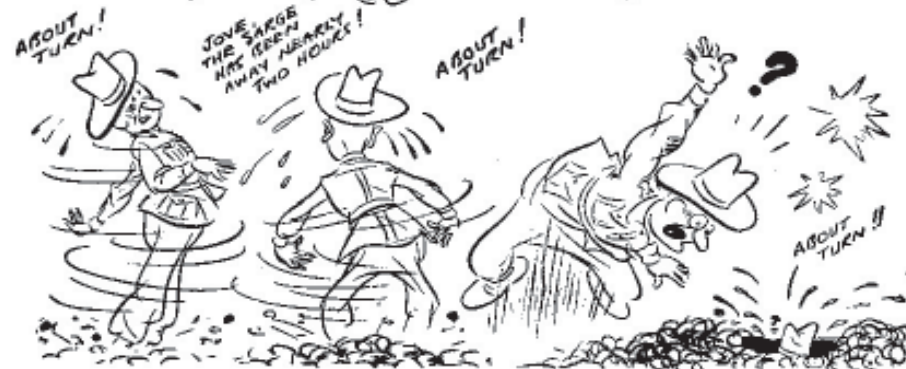
For all those who can remember!!

Even in the dark days of World War II, the humour of the Aussie Digger shines out. It has never left us!!!

ALL ABOUT TURN

LOOK, SON, YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN A BIT OF DRILL BEFORE YOU GO TO FIGHT THEM JAPS. WHY, YOU CAN'T EVEN DO ABOUT TURN YET!

NOW, I'M GOING AWAY FOR A WHILE. YOU JUST KEEP PRACTISING THE ABOUT TURN UNTIL I COME BACK. GIVE YOURSELF THE WORD OF COMMAND EACH TIME. THAT MAKES YOU SHAPPY!!



N 77503



The Role Of RAEME Is To :-

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

The Horse's Mouth

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

Spring 2004

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, Kings Hotel, 517 Hay Street, Perth, in Restaurant annex. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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

Colonel Commandant:**Colonel Mark MacKenzie**

The RAEME Association Committee

President:	John Klein	2 Wicks Street, Eden Hill	Ph. 9279 3080
Vice President:	Ron MacKenzie	94 Natham Square, Swan View	Ph. 9294 3044
Secretary:	John Curtis	2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater	Ph. 9271 4520
Treasurer:	Clare Curtis	2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater	Ph. 9271 4520
Editor:	John Curtis		
Welfare Officer:	Don Horsley	11 Celestine Way, Wanneroo	Ph. 9306 2946
Chaplain:	Fr. Howard MacCallum		
		39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant	Ph. 9364 4948
Chaplain (S-West)	Fr. Bill Hanson	17 Prowse Way, Dunsborough	Ph. 9755 3421
Physician:	Dr. Michael Daly		
Honorary Auditor:	Terry Barrett		

General Committee:

Peter Anthony	9407 7063	Tom Goodlich	9293 3944
Don Gunn	9345 1998	Peter Humpston	9306 4549
Michael Kerrison	9379 2682	Mal McWhinnie	9305 0085
Fred Ordynski	9377 1252	Mark Vincent	9307 8725

DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 22nd of NOVEMBER 2004.

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..

As I sit here thinking back, I have asked myself where does the time go. Either we are getting older or the time is moving faster. I have been writing these little episodes since 1998 and we have been already in existence for 7 years, still going well and still trying to uphold the "Aims of RAEME" our organisation. We have over the years made contact with our Sister Corps REME members and even receive mail as far as Canada. Now for other things, we shall have to start thinking of running or organise some family functions before summer arrives. I therefore ask all members to put on their thinking caps and come

forward with some ideas.

Also start thinking of the upcoming Corps Dinner in November because we need numbers to put bums on seats and no empty promises. We also need your help to locate ex corps members and make them members of the association. I still come back to my old theme, attend meetings and let's have your input, the more the better. We always have a good time when get together and there are always stories to be told.

Recently some of us attended young Peter Humpston's 80th birthday and we had a real good time. Next year Peter will receive an OBE (over bloody eighty)

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my sheep." Says the shepherd. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car. Then the shepherd says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a consultant." says the shepherd.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answered the shepherd. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew; to a question I never asked; and you don't know crap about my business."

"...Now give me back my dog."

For All Those "Senior Moments"

Two elderly women were eating breakfast in a restaurant one morning. Ethel noticed something funny about Mabel's ear and she said, "Mabel, did you know you've got a suppository in your left ear?" Mabel answered, "I have a suppository?" She pulled it out and stared at it. Then she said,

"Ethel, I'm glad you saw this thing. Now I think I know where my hearing aid is."

An elderly couple were on a cruise and it was really stormy. They were standing on the back of the boat watching the moon, when a wave came up and washed the old woman overboard. They searched for days and couldn't find her, so the captain sent the old man back to shore with the promise that he would notify him as soon as they found something. Three weeks went by and finally the old man got a fax from the boat. It read: "Sir, sorry to inform you, we found your wife dead at the bottom of the

ocean. We hauled her up to the deck and attached to her butt was an oyster and in it was a pearl worth \$50,000 . . . please advise." The old man faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap."

When I went to lunch today, I noticed an old lady sitting on a park bench sobbing her eyes out. I stopped and asked her what was wrong. She said, "I have a 22 year old husband at home. He makes love to me every morning and then gets up and makes me pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee." I said, "Well, then why are you crying?" She said, "He makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favourite brownies and then makes love to me for half the afternoon." I said, "Well, why are you crying?" She said, "For dinner he makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favourite dessert and then makes love to me until 2:00 a.m." I said, "Well, why in the world would you be crying?" She said, "I can't remember where I live!"

A funeral service is being held for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers are carrying the casket out when they accidentally bump into a wall, jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive! She lives for ten more years, and then dies. Once again, a ceremony is held, and at the end of it, the pallbearers are again carrying out the casket. As they carry the casket towards the door, the husband cries out: "Watch that wall!"

THE SENILITY PRAYER

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now, I think you're supposed to send this to 5 or 6, maybe 10.... oh hell, send it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are! Then something is supposed to happen. I think!!!

mite and tried to toss it out the window to see what would happen but apparently failed to notice the window was closed.

RUNNER UP:

Kerry Bingham of Tacoma, Washington, had been drinking with several friends when one of them said they knew a person who had bungee-jumped from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in the middle of traffic. The conversation grew more heated and at least 10 men trooped along the walkway of the bridge at 4:30 A.M. Upon arrival at the midpoint of the bridge, they discovered that no one had brought a bungee rope. Bingham, who had continued drinking, volunteered and pointed out that a coil of lineman's cable lay nearby. One end of the cable was secured to the bridge and the other tied around Bingham's leg. His fall lasted for 40 feet before the cable tightened and tore his foot off at the ankle. He miraculously survived his fall into the icy river and was rescued by two nearby fishermen. "All I can say," said Bingham, "is that God was watching out for me on that night. There's just no other explanation for it." Bingham's foot was never located.

AND THE WINNER

In Paderborn, Germany, overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant, Stefan, 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let it fly and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop! Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him," said flabbergasted

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

How Many Sheep

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the shepherd, "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers, "Sure. Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his AT&T cell phone, surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored.

He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with hundreds of complex formulas. He uploads all of this data via an email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturised HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 1586 sheep."

award.

John Curtis and myself are still plodding on with welfare work but at a diminished pace, but if any of you know of anyone that needs assistance do not hesitate to contact your own welfare officers.

In closing, I would like to wish Clare and John a pleasant trip to the land of the "Mummies" and let's hope they can find some "Daddies" to go with them. Come back safely and have a wonderful time.

Let's see more of our members at our meetings.

John Klein

Arte et Marte

Ed's Note: John and Clare are going to Egypt for a very well earned rest and do something for themselves. When they come back you can be rest assured that they will bore anybody who listens with their exploits in that ancient land. They have organised their trip so that they will be back for the Bruce Rock Bash and for the Corps Birthday Dinner. They say that they would not miss these two functions for the world (even Egypt).

Don Horsley to Retire

Don is a man who is practically the "Godfather" to our Association. Don has worked tirelessly for the Association, particularly helping Veterans and those still serving. Don is the dynamo that kept the Advocacy work done by the Association going, especially when it got a bit rough. He has always been there for the members.

BUT!! All good things must come to an end. Don has been forced to curtail his activities with the Association and with DVA because of illness. So, from the end of this year Don will become a retired person (finally says Ruth!).

Don has acted as an adviser, a mentor and all round good guy as far as the Advocates for the Association are concerned. He has managed to keep things going when even the tough gave out.

The Association is now in need of other members to nominate and do the training to become Advocates and help our fellow members. Even if you have never had training in the Advocacy field, but you want to help other members, we will get you nominated for any of the training courses required. The TIP Committee, which operates from DVA in the City, would love to get lots of course nominations. If you are interested you can call Don, or John, or John (all the numbers are on Page two of the Horse's Mouth). We will get you started on a voluntary job that is extremely rewarding, especially when you see a member get their entitlements.

Back to Don.

The Association would like to formally thank Don for all the work he has done on our behalf. He is a person who will be sorely missed, but, at the same time, thoroughly deserves resting on his laurels.

Don and Ruth, have a wonderful retirement (again!). As a group we all like to see Don and Ruth at our functions and we hope to see them at many more. Keep that cheeky smile going Don, and Ruth, don't let him get away with anything. You are both much loved within the Association.

John C

First Home Owners Grant and Operational Service

State and Territory Governments will be requested to take a sympathetic approach to the unique circumstances of military service when assessing

applications for the First Home Owners Grant.

Commenting on the case of a Gulf War veteran who had been fined by the Northern Territory Government because he could not occupy his home whilst deployed on short notice for operational service, Assistant Defence Minister, Mal Brough, said that the State and Territory Governments should recognise that sometimes members of the ADF will be posted and may not be able to meet all terms of the grant.

That simply requires a bit of flexibility and commonsense, and I will be writing to the relevant Governments asking them to reconsider their guidelines to account for anybody who may not be able to comply with all rules as a result of their service.

The rules are a matter for the respective State and Territory Governments and the arrangements between any home purchaser and those Governments is a matter for those parties alone.

However, ADF service and operational service often requires short notice postings and some rules relating to owner occupation in those cases may not be achievable.

Like many other Australians, our service people aspire to home ownership. They already make personal sacrifices and I would ask State and Territory Governments to take a sympathetic view on issues relating to short notice postings and operational service when enforcing the rules.

"I hope this particular case gets reviewed, and I will be asking the respective State Ministers to consider amending their guidelines, if necessary, to ensure Service men and women are not unfairly disadvantaged," Mr Brough said

Restoring honour is Glyn's major hobby

War medals have always given soldiers -- and their families - a sense of honour.

As medals pass from one generation to the next, knowledge of past family members - as well as the nation's history - is continued.

Sadly, many families are losing the opportunity to share this legacy with their children and grandchildren with medals being lost, stolen or sold.

Fortunately, people like Major Glyn Llanwarne, an Army officer stationed in Canberra, are helping to reunite these medals with their rightful owners.

But what Glyn does is extra special... he finds and returns medals as a hobby, FREE!

So far he has returned more than 70 individual medals or medal groups to the descendants of veterans, which he says have been received enthusiastically.

'Each group has a unique story of what they were awarded for, how they were lost and the story of the veteran after they returned to Australia,' Glyn said.

"No matter what the medal, they are all precious to the family... the satisfaction of connecting a family member with a piece of their heritage is incredible."

Glyn's hobby began when he was out looking for furniture with his wife, Anna.

Searching for good quality furniture at auctions and antique sales in country Victoria in the late 1990s, he noticed there were often display cabinets that contained medals and other militaria.

He thought this was a sad ending for a piece of family history, so after his return from East Timor in 2000, he began researching why medals were not with the recipient or their family.

Jim's Life in the US

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

The Army

Thirty-four years ago, Everett Davis, a Tennessee Mountain man was drafted by the Army. On his first day of boot camp, the Army issued him a toothbrush. That afternoon, an Army dentist yanked several of his teeth. On his second day, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon, an Army barber sheared his head. On his third day, he was issued a jock strap. The Army is still looking for him.

NEW Darwin Awards

DARWIN AWARD CANDIDATES: Those who are recorded as having done something to remove themselves from the human gene pool in order to strengthen the human way of life.

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

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

Buxton, North Carolina: A man died on a beach when an 8-foot-deep hole he had dug into the sand caved in as he sat inside it. Beach-goers said Daniel Jones, 21, dug the hole for fun or protection from the wind and had been sitting in a beach chair at the bottom Thursday afternoon when it collapsed, burying him beneath 5 feet of sand. People on the beach, on the outer banks, used their hands and shovels, trying to claw their way to Jones, a resident of Woodbridge, VA but could not reach him. It took rescue workers, using heavy equipment, almost an hour to free him while about 200 people looked on. Jones was pronounced dead at a hospital.

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

According to police in Dahlonega, Georgia, ROTC cadet Nick Berrena, 20, was stabbed to death in January by fellow cadet Jeffrey Hoffman, 23, who was trying to prove that a knife could not penetrate the flak vest Berrena was wearing.

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

In February, according to police in Windsor, Ontario, Daniel Kolta, 27 and Randy Taylor, 33, died in a head-on collision, thus earning a tie in the game of chicken they were playing with their snowmobiles.

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

In Guthrie, Oklahoma, in October, Jason Heck tried to kill a millipede with a shot from his 22 caliber rifle but the bullet ricocheted off a rock near the hole and hit his pal Antonio Martinez in the head, fracturing his skull.

In Elyria, Ohio, in October, Martyn Eskins, attempting to clean out cobwebs in his basement, declined to use a broom in favor of a propane torch and caused a fire that burned the first and second floors of his house.

Paul Stiller, 47, was hospitalized in Andover Township, New Jersey and his wife Bonnie was also injured, when a quarter-stick of dynamite blew up in their car. While driving around at 2 A.M., the bored couple lit the dynamite.

GOD that this week is over. I will also pray that next year my wife will choose a gift for me that is fun - like a root canal or a vasectomy.

Napisan

Dear NapiSan,

I'm writing to say what an excellent product you have! I've used it since the beginning of my married life, when my Mum told me it was the best. Now that I am older and going through menopause, I find it even better! In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse.

My unfeeling and uncaring husband started to berate me about how clumsy I was and generally started becoming a pain in the neck. One thing led to another and I ended up with a lot of his blood on my white blouse. I tried to get the stain out using a bargain detergent, but it just wouldn't come out.

After a quick trip to the supermarket, I stopped and got a tub of Napisan OxyAction with bleach alternative, and to my surprise and satisfaction, all of the stains came out! In fact, the stains came out so well, that some detectives who came by yesterday told me that the DNA tests were negative and then my lawyer said that I would no longer be considered a suspect! I thank you, once again, for having such a great product.

Well, gotta go, have to write a letter to Glad Wrap people.

Yours sincerely,
Relieved Menopausal Wife

Every Mum and Dad must....

At 4 yrs - Dad and Mum know everything

At 7 - Dad and Mum know a lot

At 8 - Dad and Mum does not know everything

At 12 - Well, Dad and Mum won't know anyway

At 14 - Dad and Mum are hopelessly old fashioned

At 21 - Oh hell, Dad's and Mum's time has long passed, how would they know?

At 25 - Dad and Mum know something, but not very much

At 30 - I'll just hear what they have to say, anyway

At 35 - Let's wait a while and hear what their opinion is.

At 50 - I wonder what they would have said

At 60 - Dad and Mum in actual fact knew everything

At 65 - I wish I could have discussed it with them.

Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

'It turned out that many medals of WW1 veterans were sold during the Depression,' Glyn said.

'Medals from other conflicts were stolen or simply misplaced during moves or lost when handed down.

'The resurgence in interest in Australia's military history over the past decade means that many families now want these pieces of their family history back.'

Today Glyn finds he no longer has to purchase medals.

He's sent them from all over Australia by people who would also like to see the medals they have in their possession returned to their rightful owners.

You never know, Glyn may have one of yours!

He can be contacted on (02) 6255-0226, by post at 10 Evella Court, Amaroo, ACT 2914, or by email at llanwarne80@hotmail.com

Eds Note: We thank the Army News for allowing us to reprint this article.

Australian Officer Awarded U.N. Special Service Medal

The UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan today presented Colonel Jeff Davie, AM with the UN Special Service Medal in recognition of his work as the Military Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary General in Iraq.

All members of the Australian Defence Force have congratulated Colonel Davie on his award, and the special recognition he has received for the unique contribution he made to the United Nations in Iraq.

Colonel Davie has shown exceptional service in Iraq in the most trying of circumstances.

His courageous efforts in rescuing in-

jured United Nations personnel trapped within the United Nations Headquarters immediately following the bombing in Baghdad on August 19, 2003 were exemplary.

The professionalism and dignity he displayed during the tragic period surrounding the loss of the Special Representative, Mr Sergio Vieira de Mello, as well as 21 other members of the United Nations staff was of the highest calibre and in the finest traditions of the Australian Defence Force.

Colonel Davie's award also recognises his support to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi, during the negotiations for the establishment of the Interim Iraqi Government.

As the senior UN military officer in Iraq, Colonel Davie provided specialist military and planning advice for activities that fell within the responsibility of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Earlier last month Colonel Neil Thompson replaced Colonel Davies as the United Nations Military Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq.

Australian Colonel Awarded the US Bronze Star

An Australian Army colonel serving with the Multi-National Force in Iraq has been awarded a United States of America Bronze Star medal.

Congratulations were extended to Colonel Peter (Ted) Acutt on his award, which acknowledged his exceptionally meritorious service with the coalition military headquarters in Iraq.

Colonel Ted Acutt's Bronze Star award brings great credit to him for his professionalism and dedication to duty.

Over the six months of his deployment

to Iraq, Colonel Acutt undertook a number of key and challenging tasks as deputy chief of staff at the Combined Joint Task Force - Seven headquarters in Baghdad, which later became the Multi-National Force.

He was instrumental in maintaining effective coordination between various coalition military elements, the Coalition Provisional Authority and emerging Iraqi ministries.

In particular, Colonel Acutt was a strong advocate of cooperative planning for security matters and some of his initiatives have assisted the transition to Iraqi sovereignty.

Major General Joseph Webber USMC, Chief of Staff of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, presented Colonel Acutt with his Bronze Star medal at a ceremony in Baghdad recently on the last day of Colonel Acutt's tour of duty. Also present at the ceremony was Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, commander of the Australian forces in the Middle East.

Colonel Acutt's award is a fine example of the high regard in which our coalition partners hold Australian Defence Force personnel, and also demonstrates the type of contribution that Australians continue to make towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq.

**CITATION FOR BRONZE STAR
AWARD COL PETER (TED) ACUTT,
AUSTRALIAN ARMY**

For exceptionally meritorious service as the Multi-National Force - Iraq Deputy Chief of Staff at Camp Victory, Iraq, from 2 January to 1 July 2004.

Colonel Ted Acutt was a key force in leading, strengthening and directing the staff efforts of the headquarters. He served as the critical link between Combined Joint Task Force - Seven (CJTF-7), and later the Multi-National

Force - Iraq (MNF-I) headquarters, and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) senior leaders and ministries.

He directed the forward Joint Operations Center during the April 2004 insurgency spike, working with the CPA and CJTF-7 main to protect outlying government team sites. He set the conditions for the new staff when MNF-I formed and established the processes for ongoing operations. His personal commitment to this headquarters and its success has been extraordinary.

His professionalism and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Australian Army and Multi-National force - Iraq.

**Working Party to investigate
Korean Medal Entitlements**

Following representations from veterans of the Korean War, the Government will appoint a working party to investigate the level of recognition for service following the armistice on 23rd July 1953.

It is estimated 3,000 Australians served in Korea following the armistice until 1957. During this period, there were frequent breaches of the cease-fire and lives were lost.

The working party would be established to investigate the level of recognition, including the appropriateness of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal and the Returned from Active Service Badge. Major General Warren Glenny AO RFD ED (Retd), President of the Defence Reserves Association, will chair the working party.

Government Representatives recently met with Korean War veterans in Nowra who convinced them of the need for this working party. The veterans described post-armistice conditions in Korea, and clearly, it was not a peaceful place to be in. These veterans served their country proudly and deserve to have their

alarmed that my pulse was so fast, but I attributed it to standing next to her in her Lycra aerobic outfit. I enjoyed watching the skilful way in which she conducted her aerobics class after my workout today.

Very inspiring. Belinda was encouraging as I did my sit-ups, although my gut was already aching from holding it in the whole time she was around.

This is going to be a FANTASTIC week!!

Tuesday:

I drank a whole pot of coffee, but I finally made it out the door. Belinda made me lie on my back and push a heavy iron bar into the air-then she put weights on it! My legs were a little wobbly on the treadmill, but I made the full mile. Belinda's rewarding smile made it all worthwhile. I feel GREAT!!

It's a whole new life for me

Wednesday:

The only way I can brush my teeth is by laying on the toothbrush on the counter and moving my mouth back and forth over it. I believe I have a hernia in both pectorals.

Driving was OK as long as I didn't try to steer or stop. I parked on top of a GEO in the club parking lot.

Belinda was impatient with me, insisting that my screams bothered other club members. Her voice is a little too perky for early in the morning and when she scolds, she gets this nasally whine that is VERY annoying.

My chest hurt when I got on the treadmill, so Belinda put me on the stair monster. Why the hell would anyone invent a machine to simulate an activity rendered obsolete by elevators?

Belinda told me it would help me get in shape and enjoy life. She said some other shit too.

Thursday:

Belinda was waiting for me with her vampire-like teeth exposed as her thin, cruel lips were pulled back in a full snarl. I couldn't help being a half an hour late, it took me that long to tie my shoes. Belinda took me to work out with dumbbells. When she was not looking, I ran and hid in the men's room.

She sent Lars to find me, then, as punishment, put me on the rowing machine - which I sank.

Friday:

I hate that bitch Belinda more than any human being has ever hated any other human being in the history of the world. Stupid, skinny, anaemic little cheerleader. If there was a part of my body I could move without unbearable pain, I would beat her with it.

Belinda wanted me to work on my triceps. I don't have any triceps! And if you don't want dents in the floor, don't hand me the *&%(#&***!!@*@ Barbells or anything that weighs more than a sandwich. (Which I am sure you learned in the sadist school you attended and graduated Magna cum laude from.)

The treadmill flung me off and I landed on a health and nutrition teacher. Why couldn't it have been someone softer, like the drama coach or the choir director?

Saturday:

Belinda left a message on my answering machine in her grating, shrilly voice wondering why I did not show up today. Just hearing her made me want to smash the machine with my planner. However, I lacked the strength to even use the TV remote and ended up catching eleven straight hours of the Weather Channel.

Sunday:

I'm having the Church van pick me up for services today so I can go and thank

4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
 5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
 6. You go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
 7. You make phone calls from home, you accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
 8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
 10. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
 11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
 12. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
 13. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
 14. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
 15. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
 16. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
 17. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
 18. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
 19. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
 20. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.
- AND NOW U R LAUGHING at yourself.

Don't Forget

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

A Week At The Gym

Or – for all those Gym Junkies!!!!

WEEK AT THE GYM; ONE MAN'S STORY - If you read this without laughing out loud, there is something wrong with you. This is dedicated to everyone who ever attempted to get into a regular workout routine.

Dear Diary...

For my forty fifth birthday this year, my wife (the dear) purchased a week of personal training at the local health club for me.

Although I am still in great shape since playing on my college football team 25 years ago, I decided it would be a good idea to go ahead and give it a try.

Called the club and made my reservations with a personal trainer named Belinda, who identified herself as a 26-year old aerobics instructor and model for athletic clothing and swimwear. My wife seemed pleased with my enthusiasm to get started!

The club encouraged me to keep a diary to chart my progress.....

Monday:

Started my day at 6:00am. Tough to get out of bed, but found it was well worth it when I arrived at the health club to find Belinda waiting for me. She is something of a Greek goddess - with blond hair, dancing eyes and a dazzling white smile.

Woo Hoo!

Belinda gave me a tour and showed me the machines. She took my pulse after five minutes on the treadmill. She was

concerns investigated.

The working party will consult with Korean War veterans and relevant veterans organisations, and report its findings to Government.

The Korean War lasted for three years, from June 1950 until July 1953. During that time approximately 17,000 Australians served. Service during this period is recognised by the Australian Active Service Medal (1945 -75) - Korea and the British Korea Medal. The United Nations Service Medal was awarded for service from 1953 until 1954.

Malaysian Medal

A letter has come to our attention recently in which we were told that the Malaysian Government is negotiating with the Australian Government for recognition of a medal struck for those who served in Malaysia in the 50' and 60's. The letter is reprinted below and we thank Garry Burgoyne Korea & South East Asia Veterans Association (Inc) Western Australia Branch for bringing this matter to our attention.

The Hon. Mal Brough
Minister for Employment Services
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence
Parliament House
Canberra.

MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT MALAYA / MALAYSIA SERVICE MEDAL

Dear Sir,

It has come to our notice that the Malaysian Government has struck a Medal honouring service by those who served in Malaya / Malaysia during the Emergency, Thai - Malaya Border and Confrontation Theatres of Operations. At this time we are led to believe that discussion re the issue of the above to suitably qualified Veterans, has been

entered into by both the Australian and Malaysian Governments. We appreciate that nothing has been finalised with regard to the above, but take this opportunity to request that we be advised of any decision reached in order that our members may be able to take – up any offer with respect to same. Your comments re the fore-going would be appreciated.
Yours sincerely,
Garry Burgoyne
State President

Medal to Recognise Service in Defence of Australia

The Government has today announced the intention to establish a new medal that recognises volunteer service in the Australian Defence Force.

All relevant approvals are now being sought to allow the award of this medal.

Those who had served for a total of six years in the Australian Defence Force, regular or reserve, would be eligible and the medal would be backdated to recognise past service.

The Australian Defence Medal also reflects the fact that when serving in a modern Defence Force, it becomes difficult to discriminate between those who serve directly on operations and those who support those operations.

The Australian Defence Medal reflects the fact that by serving in the Australian Defence Force individuals make a contribution to the national interest, whether they served the country on operations, or whether they remained in Australia in a support role.

The war on terrorism has redefined the notions of a frontline or even an easily definable Area of Operations.

Some tasks undertaken by soldiers, sailors and airmen remain invisible to the community at large but are very

important to our nation's defence. These may include preparation and planning, intelligence and, indeed, other classified activities that for national security reasons can't be recognised by a specific award.

The Australian Defence Medal will recognise all of these circumstances of service.

The Australian Defence Medal would be retrospective from the end of World War Two, in order to recognise that many people in the past had served their nation in a variety of forms, sometimes arduous, but had not been recognised by an operational medal. However, those who completed National Service would not be eligible unless they subsequently volunteered and completed the requisite six years volunteer service.

Six years reflects a length of time that we could be reasonably certain that most people would have completed the requisite training and experience in the Regular or Reserve forces, to be considered fully deployable should they have been called upon.

We believe these conditions also give effect to a motion from the Returned and Services League who agree with our desire to further recognise ADF service.

The implementation of the medal will be a significant undertaking and the issue of medals to past servicemen will take time. It is estimated that up to 400,000 ex-servicemen and women may apply for this medal. It is anticipated that once a design has been finalised and the medals have been struck, the issuing of medals could begin around middle of 2005.

Operational and other demanding overseas service will still be recognised under the current arrangements. Processing and issuing of operational

awards will take priority as the new Australian Defence Medal is being implemented.

Nonetheless, the Australian Defence Medal provides the Government and the Australian people the ability to recognise those service men and women who do volunteer and serve the flag in a variety of roles and are prepared, should the call come, to put their lives on the line.

New Australian Defence Medal

The following info was received from the Directorate of Honours and Awards reference the new ADM.

1. Detailed eligibility criteria is yet to be established, in essence, it is for six years volunteer Regular / Reserve service.
2. It will be retrospective to the end of WW2.
3. The design will be developed along with regulations for the medal. These have to be approved by the Queen, and production will not begin before the approval is received.
4. The first of the medals are not expected to be issued before mid 2005.
5. The ADM is not to replace the DFSM or DLSSM. These awards remain for the intention of recognising long service.
6. Applications are not being accepted now. A special application will be designed and made available after details of eligibility are established and approved. This will be the subject of a later media release.

Regards Jeff

Jeffrey. Hansen
WO1
RSM Ceremonial/Army
R8/9/046
Russell Offices
Canberra ACT 2600
Ph: (02) 6265 4091
Fax: (02) 6265 3715

Life According to Perry

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

Basic Guide to Aussie Life

1. The bigger the hat, the smaller the farm.
2. The shorter the nickname, the more they like you.
3. Whether it's the opening of Parliament, or the launch of a new art gallery, there is no Australian event that cannot be improved by a sausage sizzle.
4. If the guy next to you is swearing like a wharfie he's probably a media billionaire. Or on the other hand, he may be a wharfie.
5. There is no food that cannot be improved by the application of tomato sauce.
6. On the beach, all Australians hide their keys and wallets by placing them inside their sandshoes. No thief has ever worked this out.
7. Industrial design knows of no article more useful than the plastic milk crate.
8. All our best heroes are losers.
9. The alpha male in any group is he who takes the barbecue tongs from the hands of the host and blithely begins turning the snags.
10. It's not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to hold.
11. A thong is not a piece of scanty swimwear, as in America, but a fine example of Australian footwear. A group of sheilas wearing black rubber thongs may not be as exciting as you had hoped.
12. It is proper to refer to your best friend as "a total bastard". By contrast, your worst enemy is "a bit of a bastard".
13. Historians believe the widespread use of the word "mate" can be traced to the harsh conditions on the Australian frontier in the 1890s, and the development of a code of mutual aid, or "mateship". Alternatively, Australians may just be really hopeless with names.

14. The wise man chooses a partner who is attractive not only to himself, but to the mosquitoes.
15. If it can't be fixed with pantyhose and fencing wire, it's not worth fixing.
16. The most popular and widely praised family in any street is the one that has the swimming pool.
17. It's considered better to be down on your luck than up yourself.
18. The phrase "we've got a great lifestyle" means everyone in the family drinks too much.
19. If invited to a party, you should take cheap red wine and then spend all night drinking the host's beer. (Don't worry, he'll have catered for it).
20. If there's any sort of free event or party within a hundred kilometres, you'd be a mug not to go.
21. The phrase "a simple picnic" is not known. You should take everything you own. If you don't need to make three trips back to the car, you're not trying.
22. Unless ethnic or a Pom, you are not permitted to sit down in your front yard, or on your front porch. Pottering about, gardening or leaning on the fence is acceptable. Just don't sit. That's what backyards are for.
23. The tarred road always ends just after the house of the local mayor.
24. On picnics, the Esky is always too small, creating a food versus grog battle that can only ever be solved by leaving the food behind.

Living in 2004

You know you're living in 2004 when...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.

faint, has only about 10 seconds! left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest, and a cough must be repeated about every 2 seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Your Feet

Have you ever given your feet a thought?

How many of us have tired and aching feet at the end of the day?

Who checks their feet every day?

Most of us do not even give our feet a thought. Feet are the most used and abused part of our bodies. We should all follow the basic foot care that would help prevent problems. As we grow older our feet need just that extra bit of attention. Look after them and they will look after you.

As a precaution to avoid injury to your feet the following steps should be performed daily:

1. **CHECK YOUR FEET:** This is important, as the sensation to your feet may be impaired. If you have trouble reaching your feet, use a mirror to check the soles of your feet. You should be aware of any cuts, scratches, abrasions, blisters, cracks, corns and calluses.
2. Wash your feet well and dry them carefully, check between the toes.
3. Moisturise your feet with a suitable

cream (Eulactol or similar).

4. Use clean cotton or woollen socks that are not too tight.
5. Protect your feet indoors and out with a shoe that fits well.
6. Cut toenails straight across, and file the corners to prevent sharp edges.
7. Avoid corn plasters or any products with acids unless directed to do so by a trained health care professional.
8. In case of injury, wash and pat dry the area. Apply a good antiseptic (Povidine Iodine or Betadene are a good choice) and cover with a sterile dressing. If no improvement is noted within 24 hours seek professional help to avoid complications.

Remember, if you have any problems or are not sure about something, see your doctor or podiatrist. Your feet carry you around, so it is wise to use them, not abuse them.

Thanks to Centrepod Podiatry Centre for this advice on foot care.

Damn Women Drivers???

This morning on the 401 I looked over to my left and there was a woman in a brand new Cadillac doing 140 kph with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner.

I looked away for a couple seconds and when I looked back she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup.

As a man, I don't scare easily. But she scared me so much; I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the doughnut out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my cell phone away from my ear which fell into the coffee between my legs, splashed, and burned Big Ed and the Twins, ruined the damn phone, soaked my trousers, and disconnected an important call.

Damn women drivers!!!!!!!!!!

The Medal DesignThe obverse of the medal is based on the WWII Volunteer Service Badge, awarded to all Armed Forces personnel who did not receive the Returned From Active Service Badge. It includes the Crown denoting the Sovereign, the wings of the RAAF, overlaid by the Rising Sun, and then the RAN Anchor.

The Reserve side includes an Australian Wreath of Wattle with the Federation Star at the top centre. The words "FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE" appear in the centre of the device.

The Ribbon is a black and red colour of the Flanders Poppy representing the ANZAC Spirit of the Australian Armed Forces. The white stripes divide the red into three, denoting the three Services. The white stripes also denote peacetime service.

Government helps ADF partners find jobs

More than 400 partners of ADF personnel have found work in new posting locations since the launch of the SWAPP program last October.

Families and partners are the unspoken backbone of the ADF. They shoulder an enormous burden because of the frequent moves and employment changes.

The Services Workforce Access Program for Partners (SWAPP) helps partners of serving members gain work when they move to new locations.

The \$3 million SWAPP program offers a broad range of services including professional recruitment and career assistance, individually tailored transition to work services, training, access to childcare and help with long distance learning for those in remote localities.

This program has been a great success since its launch in October 2003, with 416 partners accessing one or more of

the SWAPP services.

The Government understands how the Defence lifestyle impacts on the careers and employment of ADF partners - so we try to lessen the burden on Defence families and provide as much support as possible.

ADF members who are preparing for a move on posting can contact their local Defence Community Organisation (1800 020 031) to find out more about SWAPP and other programs they and their families can access.

\$938,000 In Defence Grants For The Support Of Service Families

Family support projects and groups across Australia will receive a total of \$938,000 in Defence Family Support Funding grants in 2004-05, Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Fran Bailey MP, announced today.

The Federal Government recognises the important contribution and sacrifices made by families in supporting the men and women of the ADF.

Those who have chosen a Service career have chosen not only a job but a way of life. For their families this can mean frequent moves and a significant amount of time 'on their own'.

The Family Support Funding Program provides money to develop programs and activities that best suit the needs of Defence families.

The 111 projects to receive grants in 2004-05 support Defence family groups across Australia. The grants assist the operations of family support groups such as Defence neighbourhood houses and community centres, local Defence newsletters, craft groups, the Defence Special Needs Support Group and playgroups.

These projects would help Defence families to stay connected and to bet-

ter deal with the mobile nature of their lifestyle.

Families support each other through the friendships that develop from these projects - they share information and ideas that help them manage with the uncertainty often associated with the military lifestyle.

Animal Conservation

The RAE Association of WA has adopted the African Painted Hunting Dog as an animal conservation project. This animal is becoming quite rare and full marks to the RAEWA for taking on such a project.

Mick Ryan has sent me a copy of an email which includes photos of some T-Shirts that they have arranged to be made. Anyone who would like to support the RAEWA can purchase one of these shirts. Unfortunately the photo cannot be reproduced to give the shirts any credit.

Jon and his team have taken a lot of care to ensure a good quality product is being offered for sale. Like the Painted Hunting Dog, they are unique in design and are only available from PDCInc. The animation style logo is now owned by the Association and all rights have been assigned to us by the artist. There are two styles, one is with the Association logo and the other is a stylised animation type dog, both have the website neatly block lettered at the base of the shirt on the back.

These T-shirts, priced at \$30.00, are available in a variety of sizes and colours.

Please contact Jon at, jon_keates@hotmail.com, for further information and ordering, state the size you want. Should you have any difficulty in contacting Jon please contact the Mick Ryan at, email at the head of this note, He will arrange to pass a

message on to Jon.

The Marketing Sub Committee is currently working on reusable calico shopping bags and has been invited to participate at the All Creatures Expo run by the RSPCA. Details will be provided to you when finalised.

ADF Says Goodbye to 'Huey' Helicopter Gunships

An important chapter in Australia's military aviation history closed recently as Defence formally farewelled the UH-1H Iroquois 'Huey' Helicopter gunship at a ceremony in Brisbane.

The Huey has played an important part in Australia's military history and proved its value on the battlefields of Vietnam. It reinforced the importance of aviation in military operations.

There are many personnel from both the Air Force and the Army who have worked with the 'Huey' gunship over its 35 years of Australian military service. All have a profound respect for the machine and the flying and maintenance of the gunship.

The Army is withdrawing the gunship element, specifically the minigun and rocket system that is attached to each side of the aircraft in preparation for introduction of the 'Aussie Tiger' Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter.

The first Aussie 'Tiger' will be delivered to the Army in December this year. The Tiger will carry on the proud tradition of Defence Aviation begun by the Huey in Vietnam. The Tiger carries an extremely capable weapon system and will greatly enhance the Army's reconnaissance and strike capability,"

The Chief of the Defence Force, General Peter Cosgrove, Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy and Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Angus Houston at the farewell. Air Marshal Houston, a former Iroquois pilot, flew

To bring Our TPI's up to Speed on New Matters

A message from Blue Ryan of the TPI Association

Could you please pass this on to as many TPI's as possible.

Cheers and thanks
Blue Ryan

38 Meridian Drive
Mullaloo WA 6027
Ph: 08-93071017
Fax: 08-93071383
Mob: 0422 817 510

Senator Andrew Bartlett
Leader of the Australian Democrats

Dear Senator Bartlett

I am writing to express our gratitude for your ongoing support of the TPI Federation in our endeavours to gain fair treatment from the Government. I want to particularly thank you for attempting to move amendments in the Senate during the Budget session to have all of the TPI payment indexed to Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) as other pensions are.

Whilst we welcome the fact that 62% of the TPI payment is now treated fairly we do not accept the Government's view that only this portion is income support and as such to be indexed to MTAWE with the other 38% being indexed to the CPI. This still means that unlike other pensions such as the Old Aged, War Widows, Disability and Service Pension ours will continue to decline in real value. Centrelink, the Family Law Court and the Child Support Agency have always counted the total amount of the TPI payment as being income support when TPI's have had to meet their responsibilities to those agencies.

Senator, the TPI community is most appreciative of your efforts, both personally and as the leader of the Demo-

crats, in providing a clear voice on veterans' issues in the Federal Parliament. Both the Government and the Labor party have ignored the calls from this Federation and the wider ex-service community to address the erosion of veterans' pensions as well as a range of other issues. I hope that we can continue to rely on the Democrats to speak up on our behalf and to maybe, just maybe, get one of the major parties who aspire to govern to commit to an appropriate policy for the ex-service community prior to the election.

Good luck.

Yours sincerely

John (Blue) Ryan
TPI National President

From the Welfare Crowd

Here are a couple of points with our health that many do not know and which would help immeasurably.

This is worth reading.

If everyone who gets this sends it to 10 people, you can bet that we'll save at least one life. Let's say it's 6:15 p.m. and you're driving home (alone of course), after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home; unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You've been trained in CPR but the guy that taught the course neglected to show you how to perform it on yourself. Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed to be in order. Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel

Refreshments - I have been able to contact a supplier who can deliver Castle Lager, Hansa Lager and Windhoek Lager (Australian beers also), I also have the ingredients for 'Dom Pedros' for all you 'Groot' pers.

ANZAC Day - attend the RAE Dawn Service at SME and the Gun Fire Breakfast. Then train it into Sydney from Holsworthy station (free travel on ANZAC Day), meet at the Grand Hotel Hunter Street, march with 17th Construction Squadron Association (Blue Berets optional) and then to the Macquarie Arms Hotel for the RAE get together. If the above is a bit over the top for some, I am open to suggestions (please be polite). I also hope that I can gain some support from 17th Construction Squadron. As I have stated at the beginning this is only being sent out to gain expressions of interest, it is only a plan so far. Hope to hear from you soon

Regards
WO1 Bob Dooley
RSM
5CER
(02) 4721 9255

Anyone who is interested in attending can contact Mick Ryan or Bob Dooley for further information.

Australia-US Joint Combined Training Centre

Defence training areas in Queensland and the Northern Territory will be upgraded to establish a network of state-of-the-art facilities where Australian and United States forces can undertake joint training, Defence Minister Robert Hill has announced.

Australia and the US agreed to develop a Joint Combined Training Centre at the annual Australia-United States Ministerial consultations (AUSMIN) in Washington today.

The centre was a long-term commitment that would create jobs and pro-

vide Australia with the world's best joint training facilities and high technology equipment.

It would include state-of-the-art technology that allowed commanders to oversee the exercises in real time, then replay missions in debriefs to personnel.

Under the concept, facilities at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland and the Bradshaw Training Area and Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Northern Territory will be further developed and able to be linked with American facilities.

Our initial priority will be to upgrade the Shoalwater Bay facility to support the first of the Talisman Sabre series of biennial joint training exercises that will be undertaken in 2007.

Talisman Sabre will see tens of thousands of Australian and US military personnel undertake land, sea and air training in operations such as full-scale amphibious landing, airstrike bomb runs using live munitions as well as high-tech computer simulated scenarios.

It will provide training for Australian and US forces in the planning and conduct of combined operations - vital experience given the increasing need for our military to work together in coalitions in these uncertain times and to prepare for future challenges.

We also plan to further develop and link Bradshaw and Delamere into the training centre so that similar training exercises can be undertaken there. The agreement was a long-term commitment to further strengthen the Australian-US alliance.

The Alliance is not just a symbolic statement of principles - it enables the Australian Defence Force to access the expertise of the world's only superpower.

Today's historic agreement is further evidence of the close ties between our nations.

one of the helicopters as they did a fly past over Brisbane to farewell the gunships.

There are eight UH-1H modified for gunship operations. These will continue to be flown as "slick" (troop lift) aircraft. It is planned to retain the UH-1H until withdrawal from service commencing 2007 on introduction of the Troop Lift Helicopter under project Air 9000. Only the gunship element of the Iroquois and not the aircraft itself will be retired today.

With the recent return of the Black Hawk detachment from East Timor, this is the first occasion in almost six years that all of Army's Aviation elements are at home in Australia and not on operations.

The UH-1H Gunship capability was developed by the RAAF in Vietnam in 1968-69 with 9 Sqn Gunship Flight formed on 23 April 1969.

Who is it?

Who got their picture on page 19 of the latest Craftsman Magazine? Give you a few guesses!

He was in the 9th Intake of Army Apprentices who have just celebrated 50 years since their enlistment. He rose to the rank of Major during his service. He also was a vehicle examiner for the Department of Infrastructure and Planning until his retirement.

No prizes for this guessing game. John, you sure look chirpy sitting at that table.

Stories Of The Defence Of Australia – 1942

In 1942, the people of Australia were called upon for the first time to defend our own shores. Throughout that year, supported by their allies, Australians fought to turn the initial defeats of 1942 into the beginnings of victory in the Pacific. A series "Stories of the Defence of Australia" was issued by the

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, to mark the 60th anniversary of the defence of Australia, highlights some of the key events of those 12 momentous months.

EL ALAMEIN

Throughout 1942, Australians at home were largely focused on the growing threat to the north, following the Fall of Singapore, the bombing raids on northern Australia and the Japanese invasion of Papua New Guinea. But in the deserts of North Africa, Australian forces were about to become a part of another chapter of wartime history.

On the night of 23 October 1942, Lieutenant General Leslie Morshead, General Officer Commanding, 9th Australian Division, wrote to his wife from Egypt 'that in exactly two hours by far the greatest battle ever fought in the Middle East will be launched'. During the following 12 days, Morshead's soldiers and other British, New Zealand, South African and Indian divisions engaged a German and Italian force, led by 'The Desert Fox', Erwin Rommel, in a struggle that decided the outcome of the war in North Africa – the Battle of El Alamein.

Since July, the opposing forces had fought out a stalemate at El Alamein, about 110 kilometres from Alexandria on the northern coast of Egypt. 'Operation Lightfoot', under the new Allied commander Lieutenant General Bernard Montgomery, was to be the plan that broke the stand-off.

The 9th Division, transferred to Egypt from Syria the previous June, took the northern front of the Allied assault on 23 October. Despite initial success, the enemy line was not fully breached and British tanks were unable to break through. The focus of the offensive now switched towards the coast to cut off a German division. Between 25 October and 4 November, virtually every element of the 9th Division became in-

volved in this assault, designed to pull the full weight of the Germans upon the Australians.

Despite being weakened by their own attacks and in the face of powerful enemy counter-attacks, the 9th Division held their positions. Rommel, however, was forced to remove key units from other parts of his line. The next Allied thrust, 'Operation Supercharge', broke through on 4 November.

The Axis lines collapsed and Rommel began a retreat that ended in final German defeat in North Africa the following year.

Of the British Eighth Army's 13,560 killed, wounded and missing at El Alamein, 2,694 were from the 9th Division. General Morshead said: "I do not believe you have ever fought with greater bravery or distinction ... you broke the German and Italian armies in the Western Desert."

**"STOP PRESS"
TAKE NOTE - THIS ONE DAY
COULD AFFECT YOU!!**

Prior to departure last year on my 21-month journey around Australia, I rang DVA Defence Housing (Insurance) and Redcliffe City Council (Rates) advising that I had house sitters looking after our house during our trip. They ALL advised me that there were no problems as long as the house sitters were not paying rent. I assured all of the above 'that there would be no rent money paid. During our trip I called into DVA Offices in Canberra, Adelaide, Darwin, Toowoomba and Townsville (July) by up date the paperwork on our allocated pensions and investments.

Upon returning to Townsville in September I had new paperwork to be photocopied and forwarded to Brisbane Office. I was asked how long had we been on the road. As I had been

up-front with our trip details with everyone from the start, I informed the lady, 19 months. She then advised me that our house would have to be assessed as an asset after 12 months away, and our caravan would now be our principle place of residence. I was flabbergasted and advised her that all Offices we had updated paperwork with had all asked about our holiday and no one had mentioned anything about a regulation about being away from the house for more than 12 months. **She said "sorry, but the legislation is there, and I would have had a copy of it, with the first lot of correspondence when I originally qualified for a part-pension."**

As the paperwork was at home, I did not argue. A week later I received paperwork advising me of the regulation and a letter explaining that I owed DVA over \$3,000 pension paid since February and I now had 28 days to work out repayment details with DVA.

My pension has now been reinstated from the 21st of October, the date we returned to our residence. I hope that my experience can be of use to other members out there who may be planning a holiday longer than 12 months.

Regards, Kev (Ruwie) Ruwoldt.

PVA. Qld Branch Inc. acknowledges VVAASC for allowing us to reprint this important information.

DVA Fact Sheet IS88 "Assets Test Overview" does state in effect that absences greater than 12 months causes a person's own home to no longer be exempt from assets test assessment.

A Trip for the Kids
Vietnam

Following the success of our first expedition to Vietnam in January and February 2004, Oz Quest, in partnership with the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, is offering the children

George 's AIF number was WX827.

This was an exceptional soldier and man. Someone with great inner strength.

As a young man he served in the ME in WW2 then Crete where he became a POW of the Germans. He escaped so many times the Germans moved him from camp to camp. They eventually put him into a condemned coal mine in Poland near Auschwitz, where he stayed underground for years. The German Government sought him out in the 80's and paid him a pension for ill-treating him in WW2. He was a WO2 Troop Comd at the newly raised 22 Const Sqn and later at 13 Fd in the 60's as a Tp SSGT. George took part in the 900km forced march from Poland to Austria ahead of the Russians at wars end .The Germans didn't feed the marchers. They ate grass or whatever they could find under the snow.

George was a true gentleman, and a modest one. He gave the first talk to the RAEA WA many years ago after I prodded him, the members were gob smacked when they heard his story, many had known him for years and had never heard him mention any of it.

A true ANZAC.
Mick Ryan RAEA WA

**Lest We Forget
Ubique**

15 year UNTAG Reunion

Another message from Mick Ryan for those who served with 17 Const Sqn.

Firstly, if I have sent this to personnel who did not serve with 17th Construction Squadron RAE, UNTAG, please disregard this E mail.

Introduction:

Over several years many members who served in Namibia during 1989 and 1990 have attended the ANZAC Day March in Sydney, marching with the 17 Con-

struction Squadron Association. This has been a great opportunity to catch up with a lot of people. Some years there is a large group of us, while on others only a couple attend. I have also run into several people both at ANZAC Day services in Brisbane and in the street. (Rugby World Cup last year).

At the ANZAC Day March this year, a remark was made that next year 2005 marks the 15th year since the last members of 17th Construction Squadron UNTAG returned home to Australia.

Over several beers it was discussed how good it would be to try and organise a re-union of both the first and second contingent personnel.

I am fully aware that a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then and many of us have served overseas since, however our trip was the first large formed body of Australian troops (mostly Engineers) to go to a foreign country since the Vietnam conflict.

With this in mind, I am writing to gain expressions of interest for the conducting of a re-union. I ask that you pass this onto as many other members you can. Those who I have been unable to gain an address (I have been able to source a full list of personnel from both contingents via Overseas Conditions - Deployments, Russell - over 700 names).

The Plan:

Hold the re-union at the SME Sportsman Club on the night before ANZAC Day 2005 (I have contacted Rus Parrish, RSM, SME and he is pretty keen to hold this event at the Corps School).

Timings - approx 1800h till late.

Meals - a BBQ dinner (with 'Garlic Snails')

Accommodation - Motels, tentage or live-in lines on a first in best dressed basis.

eas too dangerous for human entry. "We're working at the edge of chaos," says Mr Ryan. "There's a fine line between systems which are too ordered and stagnate; or systems which are too chaotic and collapse into total disorder."

"Swarm behaviour as such is not what we are after," he says. "Swarms - like the notorious killer bees - concentrate on attacking a single enemy in vast numbers. Our aim is rather to develop an intelligent and communicating network."

"Each 'agent' in the network has its own utility function while there is an over-arching utility function for the whole system. It is vital that the agents don't work at cross-purposes, and they must each be able to react to unexpected circumstances."

Mr Ryan says that many small, simple and inexpensive UAVs, costing less than \$20,000 each, are a more practical answer than larger, more sophisticated vehicles costing millions of dollars.

Mr Ryan also says that much work needs to be done to reduce the imbalance between unmanned vehicles, and the people who control them. "At present, each unmanned aircraft needs a ground crew of about thirty people," he says.

Australia too poses its own special problems, as imported technology may be quite unsuitable for our topography. "We are in a 'littoral' region, with miles of coastline and chains of islands. And we have a vast interior. These geographical features make quite special demands on the design of unmanned aerial vehicles," Mr. Ryan says.

Vale Ron CLIFFORD

It is with great regret that we must report the passing of Ronald William CLIFFORD. Ron was the Secretary of

the RAEME Association in Victoria. He died at home after 2 and a ½ years fighting the big fight. He was in Bacchus Marsh Palliative Care Unit until he requested that he be allowed to return home where his wife Norma nursed him.

Over 300 people attended Ron's Funeral on the 6th of July. These came from all walks of life, such as Ron's efforts to help the community at large. It is also a strong testimony of the work he did for the RAEME Association in Victoria.

We would join with other members of the RAEME Fraternity in expressing our sincerest condolences to Ron's wife, Norma and to all Ron's family.

Lest We Forget Arte et Marte

Vale P M Robinson

Hi All,

I was notified by Ron Dyne who was notified by Ross Grant that P M (Peter/ Bushmush) Robinson retired Col passed away in Melbourne last night. I understand funeral arrangements will be in the Melbourne Sun on Wednesday.

I have included all ex army people on my address list.

Jim Hislop

Eds Note: Our Sincerest condolences go out to Peter's Family. We should have more information about Peter in our next issue.

Lest We Forget Arte et Marte

Vale WX 837 GEORGE ANDERSON

Eds Note: Received this dispatch from Mick Ryan, RAEA WA. Those who served with the Engineers may remember George. George was 2 / 11 Bn, 22 Const Sqn (WO2 Tp Comd post war) and 13 Field Sqn (Tp SSGT 1960's).

George Anderson's funeral was on Thursday 31 July at 0900hr at Karrakatta.

of Vietnam Veterans the opportunity to experience Vietnam for themselves, seeing it as a thriving country that has retained its unique culture and natural beauty, despite its troubled past.

Contribute to community service projects.

In teams of ten, each group will spend time assisting two local community organisations. In Ba Ria, we will assist the Australian Veterans Reconstruction Group with maintenance and improvement of a local orphanage and kindergarten (and of course, spending plenty of time with the kids!). We will also work with local guides at Cat Tien National Park, assisting with conservation and environmental management activities, including weed eradication and track clearing. Working with people who have so little but give so much will leave you with a deep respect and appreciation for this incredible culture.

Explore the environment.

A 'high five' and a wave hello as we ride through rural villages will brighten your day, as we spend four days cycling around the vibrant and bustling atmosphere of the Mekong Delta area. Experience an area where the livelihood of its people revolves around its river system. Getting on a bike is a great way to get a taste for the true atmosphere of the area.

Challenge yourself...

The aim of the expedition is to provide the children of Vietnam veterans with the opportunity to have some experience of a country that had a significant effect on the life of their parent. You will see Vietnam as it is today, and the expedition will present personal challenges that can be achieved with a group of like-minded Aussies who want to make a difference! One of our community projects will take us to Ba Ria - Vung Tao province, the area where most Australian troops were based

during the War. Exploration of this area will incorporate visits to significant sites, including the Long Tan Memorial to Australian soldiers who died in the area.

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service will provide support and assistance if needed to the children of Vietnam Veterans and their families who apply for this expedition.

See the real Vietnam..

The expedition will be based in the south of Vietnam. After arriving in HCMC, we will travel in smaller groups to rural areas to spend 9-10 days on the first community project, before meeting again to go on the cycle tour together. The second project will run for 9-10 days, before we re-group, spend some time exploring HCMC, and then depart for Australia. Throughout the expedition, there will be plenty of time for sightseeing, shopping, and relaxing. The expedition is guaranteed to leave everyone involved with lasting memories and a special place for Vietnam in their heart....

Dates: January - February 2005 (4 weeks—Exact dates TBC)

Price: \$2,490

Group Flights: Depart Melb & Syd approx. \$1045

Depart Bris & Perth approx. \$1005*

Inclusions: All food, accommodation, adventure activities and permits, local staff costs, donation to the community projects, group flight arrangements (optional).

Exclusions: Visa, personal gear and clothing, inoculations, passports, flights, taxes, personal travel insurance, spending money.

Group size: Maximum 30

Oz Quest uses basic accommodation at all times. Depending on location and practicality, this may include camping (tents supplied), dormitories, local hostel accommodation and basic hotels. Prior to departure, Oz Quest supplies

participants with all the information they need regarding gear, inoculations, culture & climate, etc. Individual expedition groups are also decided prior to departure, after participants submit preferences.

For a full itinerary (and latest updates), visit www.ozquest.org/vietnam. Oz Quest in a non-profit program run by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Victoria. Oz Quest takes young people overseas to participate in expeditions incorporating community service and adventure.

*Flight prices quoted are based on the use of reserved group seats booked and arranged by Oz Quest through our nominated travel consultant.

All prices, projects and dates are subject to change.

Not sure if you can afford it?

As a non-profit program, Oz Quest aims to keep costs as low as possible. We are more than happy to assist you to gain sponsorship or give you ideas for fundraising. The earlier you start, the easier it is! Call us on 03 8412 9393 or email office@ozquest.org to find out more.

Find out more...

Our website, has all the details about the 2004 expedition, with stories and photos of the team in Vietnam.

To apply

Call (03) 8412 9393 or log on to www.ozquest.org for an application form. Fill it out and return with your deposit. All applications are accepted on a 'first in, first served' basis.

Service History Binders

Ed's Note: This is a letter we received from a company called Australian Protocol Services. If you are interested in having your military history put into one of these folders, have a look at them on the internet. I asked some ques-

tions and they were very quick to come back to me with the answers. The binders do look quite good.

Dear Sir

We would firstly like to introduce ourselves, my friend and partner Wayne Talbot is a Sergeant and recently retired member of the NSW Police Force with 20 years service and a previous 10 years serving in the Royal Australian Navy. My name is Bob Stedman, I am a current serving Sergeant in the NSW Police Force with 25 years service.

Wayne and I recently started a company 'Australian Protocol Services' www.ausprotocol.com.au.

This initially came about while discussing war stories over a beer and bragging about certain awards we had each obtained over the years. We quickly discovered that between us we had collected a considerable number of awards, citations and certificates, not to mention the odd piece of memorabilia. However, the sad part for us was each and every item was stored away in a drawer somewhere gathering dust.

It was at that point we decided to do something about this situation and we set about developing a suitable storage container, now known as the 'Service History Binder'. Originally the binder was for our own use and it was a display or resume of our own individual achievements that could be kept as a show piece and handed down to our kids at a later time. However after showing the finished product to our work mates it quickly became apparent that many of our colleagues were in the same boat with Service History items and we received request after request to create a similar item for them.

Basically this was the start of 'Australian Protocol Services', we decided to

in 1907, the Australian Army's Intelligence Corps pre-dates its United Kingdom and United States of America equivalents and has seen service in both World Wars, Korea, the Malaysian Emergency, Borneo, Vietnam, and more recently in Somalia, Rwanda, Bougainville, Gulf War, East Timor, Solomon Islands and Iraq.

Canungra's \$17 million Defence Intelligence Training Centre became operational earlier this year. The new purpose-designed facility is used to train Navy, Army, Air Force and Department of Defence intelligence analysts.

You May Be Interested

Eds Note: Those of us with mobile phones may be interested in a note sent into the Horse's Mouth by Carol Pickering. What she writes is well and truly worth recording and give any would be thief.

You might have already seen this, but I thought it would be a ?community service? to distribute this information as far as possible

Subject: How to disable your stolen mobile phone

A bit of useful information if you have your mobile stolen. May be of interest to those Mobile Users among you.

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on

Can We Help You

The RAEME Association is concerned about the welfare of RAEME members in Western Australia, Particularly if they have a disability or getting a bit on the elderly side. We would like to set up a practical help and support group who can provide a voluntary service such as gardening, home help, transport, or assistance with shopping, etc.

So, if you are fit and healthy and are willing to give a little of your time to help other members of the Corps, contact the Secretary and let him know. We will maintain a database of helpers and expertise.

If you need assistance because of age or infirmity, let us know. We will be only too glad to make sure that you have the help you need. And the best part of it is that it is all part of the service.

your phone:

* # 0 6 # (Star Hash Zero Six Hash)A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. Should your phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the Sim Card your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you now that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody did this, there would be no point in stealing Mobile phones.

Future Warfare?

Swarms on the edge of chaos

Swarms of small expendable unmanned aircraft may become part of Australia's defence arsenal in the future.

Mathematician Alex Ryan from the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) is part of a research team that is using advanced mathematics and state-of-the-art computing to design 'collective intelligence' for groups or swarms of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The UAVs could be used for surveillance of possible enemy activity, as small weapons carriers, or to investigate ar

get to go two by two up to the Memorial listing their names and place a poppy before it. Don Horsley and I went to it together and placed our poppy before it, a very emotional and awe-inspiring moment.

The Service finished with a bugler sounding the last post and then two minutes silence in remembrance and contemplation.

After the Service the veterans rallied around the banner and had drinkies and a general chat before going to the Greek Restaurant in Subiaco for a subsidised lunch. It was a happy and friendly bunch who enjoyed that lunch and the company. The food was excellent and we were well looked after by the staff of the Restaurant.

The group broke up at about 1530 and we left vowing to return next year for the next Lon Tan Day.

The troops were all reminded about the "Back to the Bush" week at Bruce Rock from the 1st to the 8th of November 2004. Those who haven't been to one of these weeks culminating with the Weekend of Parades and Services, Music, Barbeques and the compulsory standard Breakfast on Sunday, should make time to go to Bruce Rock. You will be guaranteed of having a great time.

For those who wish to support the Vietnam Veterans and commemorate Lon Tan Day (becoming known as Vietnam Day), you can do no better than to attend the Service at the Vietnam Memorial.

John Curtis

**Army's Intelligence Corps
Awarded Governor-General's
Banner**

The Australian Army Intelligence Corps has been presented with the Governor-General's banner for out-

standing service recently as recognition for its valuable contribution to the Australian Defence Force.

The Governor-General will present the banner at a special ceremony at Canungra, in the Gold Coast hinterlands in Queensland. The ceremony will be attended by Defence Minister Robert Hill, the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, the Member for Forde, Kay Elson, and about 160 past and present members of the corps.

Senator Hill congratulated the members of the Intelligence Corps for their professionalism, dedication and integrity.

The Governor-General's banner recognises the enormous contribution of members since the Corps was established in 1907. Australia is fortunate to have such an outstanding intelligence capability within the Army to assist in the planning, preparation and execution of operations. The corps provides intelligence personnel in every formation headquarters from Battalion to Army Office. At a national level it provides military intelligence personnel to Headquarters Australian Defence Force, the Defence Intelligence Organisation and other agencies. Corps personnel provide specialist intelligence capabilities that provide support to the Defence Force in peace, or in war in the fields of combat intelligence, counterintelligence, imagery intelligence, interrogation, language translation and interpretation, technical intelligence, special reconnaissance and operations, psychological operations, field intelligence, field security, and electronic warfare. The work of intelligence officers is often done behind the scene and today's parade is an opportunity to publicly recognise their contribution. The Governor-General's Banner is traditionally awarded for great service or efficiency. This custom began with the presentation of 20 King's Banners in 1904 for service in the Boer War. Established

produce a hard wearing and attractive 'Service History Binder' that a Service Member could display with pride. Wayne, having a strong Military background, quickly convinced me there was a need for the same type of product to be offered to both past and present members of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

We have maintain a high standard of quality with the 'Service History Binder' and kept the costs to a minimum to hopefully make it affordable for all. We invite you to visit our recently developed website at www.ausprotocol.com.au to have a closer look at the product, its inclusions and other items we have now made available.

If you consider our product worthy of the men and women it is meant for perhaps you could pass along the relevant information to your members who may be interested in our product and service. Consideration would be appreciated to also adding our website to links on your own websites.

Please feel free to contact us on Telephone 0266 744531 or Mobiles 0412657221 and 0412999006. Our email addresses are wayne.talbot@ausprotocol.com.au or bob.stedman@ausprotocol.com.au or sales@ausprotocol.com.

Thankyou for your time.

Wayne Talbot and Bob Stedman

Ed's Note: This is the response I received from the Company, so you can see the level at which they go to produce the goods for you.

Good morning John,
Our Service History Binders are personalised for each individual. The binders are divided into four main sections which are separated by milar coated tabbed inserts. These sections are AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS, POSTINGS AND PROMO-

TIONS, COURSES AND QUALIFICATIONS and MEMORABILIA . The binder itself is a 3 ringed binder and can accommodate a large number of loose leaf plastic sleeves to hold documents. The binders come with a title page for the individual. An Australian Army title page would indicate the owners name and rank as well as date of enlistment and date of disengagement (if appropriate). In your case John, the title page would have the Army emblem and the Air Force emblem and we would customise it for your specific requirements. We also supply medal certificates for inclusion in the binder. The certificates are UNOFFICIAL and UNSIGNED. They are designed for insertion in the binder to show future employers or family members that the owner of the binder has received the awards indicated on the certificate. This is a modest way of accomplishing this without carrying or wearing medals to interviews etc.

At an additional cost (approximately \$90 including the binder, depending on the amount of work) APS will compile the owners individual service record to go with the binder. We can embed favourite photos of the owner in the documents we produce which gives that individuality. The binder is designed to allow for expansion as the owners career progresses or if different items are collected.

If you require any further information or images of the binders etc, please fell free to call us.

Also John, our product is becoming very popular and I have dealt with a similar number of inquiries.

**Very Important Regarding Visa
Card Scam**

This may be worth reading and will save you quite a lot of money. It was received from a friend who is a serving Police Officer

This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & Mastercard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. Thanks to Dr. Pat Cloney for passing this on. Those con artists get more creative every day.

My husband was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard". The scam works like this:

Person calling says, "this is <name>, and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by <name> bank. Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes". The caller continues... "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control number" The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "he needs to verify you are in possession of your card". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers. There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are your

card number, the next 3 are the 'Security Numbers' that! verify you are in possession of the card. These are the numbers you use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. Read me the 3 numbers". After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct. I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then Thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charge on our card.

Long story made short, we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA card, and they are reissuing us a new number. What the scammers wants is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card direct. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement, you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost to late and/or harder to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they

are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening. Please pass this on to all your friends. By informing each other, we protect each other.

Army Decision On Six Soldiers Accused Of Animal Cruelty In Townsville

The six soldiers who were found guilty of cruelty to animals in Townsville earlier this year are all to be discharged, the Army announced today.

It was decided that the behaviour of the six soldiers was well below the standard expected of a soldier and all six soldiers' retention was not in the interests of the Australian Defence Force.

This followed an extensive review of their formal response to termination notices by an impartial agency - The Commanding Officer of the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA).

Australian soldiers have a reputation for compassion, humanity and discipline that has been tested on battlefields and peacekeeping missions all over the world. The behaviour of these six soldiers was not consistent with the values of the Army or the Australian people. They have brought shame and discredit to the Australian Army.

The Commanding Officer of SCMA considered each soldier's case individually on its merits and sought legal advice before making his decision.

He considered a number of factors in recommending discharge whilst ensuring due process and natural justice were applied. Issues considered included the seriousness of the offence, the age and rank of the offender at time of involvement, length of service and the likelihood of repetition (remorse, contrition and cooperation during investigation and trial).

In addition, their service history, conduct record, civil and Service convictions, character and work performance, and the unit Commanding Officer recommendations were also considered.

The soldiers are able to appeal the decision through submission of an application for Redress of Grievance (ROG). Their discharge will then be held in abeyance whilst the ROG is dealt with.

The Army will not further discuss the details of each individual case due to privacy considerations.

Lon Tan Day

August 15th this year saw the Vietnam Veterans celebrating Lon Tan Day at the Vietnam Memorial, Western Power Park in Kings Park. About 500 Veterans and their families attended the service. The RAEME contingent featured quite a number of our well known members.

Prior to the Service the group had a quick meeting and were informed that the luncheon would be held in a Greek Restaurant in Subiaco. Of course, the inevitable drinkies were supplied for the attendees by the Veterans Group.

At 1045 hours everyone lined up some distance from the Memorial and the marched, with the Army Band, Banners flying and flags waving to the memorial. In front of the memorial shelter is a beautiful bronze statue of an Australian Soldier and a Vietnamese Soldier standing together and looking out over the Western Power Park.

The gathering moved around the shelter and awaited the arrival of the Governor. As soon as he arrived the service began. During the course of the Service, Veterans were requested to pay their respects to the Western Australian Servicemen who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Vietnam War. It is a very moving part of the ceremony when you