

REMEMBERING YOU

*Remembering you in the quietness of the night,
I think of your lustiness and youthfulness and noise
And know that you would have me remember you so
Not miserable with cold, and starved and tired;
War causes that, and war's a man-made thing
Not God-made, as is your joyousness and pride.*

And so,

Remembering you,

I think of your laughter-and cry.

"VX147937"



*The Role Of RAEME Is To :-
" Provide Maintenance Engineering , Materiel Maintenance ,
Modifications , and Recovery Support to the Army."*

The Horse's Mouth

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

Winter 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 27th of AUGUST 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

Another AGM behind us and no change in the committee. We do, however, welcome Peter Anthony to our General Committee. I do appreciate being nominated and chosen as your president, but no other names seem to come forward. I do thank the members that were present at the meeting and have the confidence in me to be your president again for the period 2004/2005.

I was perturbed however to hear that members are very slow in paying the membership fees, money we do need to keep you informed and also to keep the association viable and to keep the

Newsletter going. We are, however, getting complaints from members not receiving the "Horses Mouth". This is because you are not financial. If you are not financial no Newsletter will be sent.

We have been looking around to get some firms or organisations to advertise in our newsletter but to no avail. Advertising will help in the production and postage of the "Horses Mouth". I would also like to point out to financial members who are on the net that we have a website. The website for the "Horses Mouth" is as follows:
<http://www.redbackwebs.com.au/horsesmouth>

I would like to stress that our regular

19. She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life, until she got a divorce.

20. I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.

21. Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.

22. Examination of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.

23. The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.

24. Skin: somewhat pale but present.

25. The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.

26. Patient fell over large brown stool ambulating in the hall.

27. Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

Sickies

Sent in by Anonymouse in the vain hope that the lynch mob won't find him.

1. Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

2. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says "Dam!"

3. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

4. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says "I've lost my electron." The other says "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

5. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

6. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour,

the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

7. A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."

8. Some friars were behind on their bell-fry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

9. Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him (Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good). A super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

10. And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did!

ing fine.”

(I) - And last but not least:

TECH SUPPORT: “O.K. Bob, let’s press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter “P” to bring up the Program Manager.”

CUSTOMER: “I don’t have a ‘P’”.

TECH SUPPORT: “On your keyboard, Bob.”

CUSTOMER: “What do you mean?”

TECH SUPPORT: “ ‘P’ on your keyboard, Bob.”

CUSTOMER: “I’m not going to do that!”

In Hospital

Room 302

Anyone who has ever had a loved one in the hospital will enjoy this:

A woman called a local hospital. “Hello. Could you connect me to the person who gives information about patients. I’d like to find out if a patient is getting better, doing as expected, or getting worse.”

The voice on the other end said, “What is the patient’s name and room number?” “Sarah Finkel, room 302.”

“I’ll connect you with the nursing station.”

“3-A Nursing Station. How can I help You?” “I’d like to know the condition of Sarah Finkel in room 302.”

“Just a moment. Let me look at her records. Mrs. Finkel is doing very well. In fact, she’s had two full meals, her blood pressure is fine, she is to be taken off the heart monitor in a couple of hours and, if she continues this improvement, Dr. Cohen is going to send her home Tuesday at noon.” The woman said,

“What a relief! Oh, that’s fantastic... that’s wonderful news!”

The nurse said, “From your enthusi-

asm, I take it you are a close family member or a very close friend!”

“Neither! I’m Sarah Finkel in 302! Nobody here tells me nuffin!”

Nursing thoughts

And they say our health service is still in good condition and we should be confident in hospital care.

Actual writings on major regional hospital charts...

1. The patient refused autopsy.
2. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
3. Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
4. Patient’s medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.
- 5 She has no rigours or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.
6. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
7. On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
8. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
9. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
10. Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.
11. Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
12. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
13. She is numb from her toes down.
14. While in ER, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.
15. The skin was moist and dry.
16. Occasional, constant infrequent headaches.
17. Patient was alert and unresponsive.
18. Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.

meetings are being held on the first Thursday of every month except January and we would welcome all members and prospective members and all ex-RAEME personnel to attend. There is always something to discuss so come along and revive old times with mates.

Well that is it from me and again thank you putting trust in me for another year. Don’t forget our regular meetings and if you cannot make we would appreciate a phone call.

Hope to see you at next meeting.

John Klein

President

Arte et Marte.

Honorary Colonel

The Corps of RAEME has a new Honorary Colonel to replace Col. Ian Stewart who has retired recently from service with the Corps. We wish Ian and Julie all the very best for the future and thank him for all the work he has done to look after the members of the Corps in Western Australia.

Our new Honorary Colonel is Colonel Mark MacKenzie. Mark is the Reliability, Availability and Maintainability Engineer at Raytheon. The next articles are about Mark and the work he has done in the “System”.

We welcome Mark and wish him a long and fruitful reign as our Honorary Colonel.

From our recently appointed Honorary Colonel

John,

Attached is my company CV. I am happy to have a chat with anyone who may find my career interesting or has run into me during one of my posts.

On a personal note:

I am a Perth boy. I have been married

for twenty years and have two boys, both of whom you met on the ANZAC Day parade. I moved into my own home in Canning Vale after 20 years renting various houses around Australia. I fill my spare time as the President of Brookland Greens Resident’s Association, helping coach my sons’ soccer teams, and tutoring all who will listen, often that includes my eldest son. I am still putting the finishing touches on the house but I feel this job may never be complete.

My sporting interests are mainly in the spectator area, although I did play an Aussie rules game this year. I follow the WCE not the Dockers. My interest in car mechanics has not seen too much action lately; however this interest should be rekindled when my eldest son begins driving in a couple of years.

Mark MacKenzie

Eds Note: The CV that Mark supplied for us has been slightly abridged to fit into the Horse’s Mouth and follows this message.

Mark Mackenzie

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master of Science in Reliability and Quality Engineering, University of Arizona
- Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) (Hons), University of Southern Queensland
- Associate Diploma in Personnel Administration, Royal Military College

CURRENT POSITION

- Reliability, Availability and Maintainability Engineer – Raytheon

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

- Honorary Colonel Commandant Western Region, RAEME
- CPEng

- Member IEAust

AWARDS

- US Meritorious Service Medal
- Land Commander's Commendation

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Mark has over 24 years of military experience where he has focused on maintenance and logistic support. He is a highly qualified engineer with a mechanical engineering background. He has specialist training and experience in reliability and logistic engineering.

Mark is the Obsolescence Team Leader and has recently set up reliability monitoring processes and simulation modelling to conduct supportability analysis of the COLLINS Class combat system. He has written a new Supply Chain Management process to for repairable items on the COLLINS Combat System.

He has run the Australian Army's centre of Excellence for reliability engineering where he conducted reliability training and provided reliability input for major Army projects. He spent a year with the US Army as an exchange analyst where he received a US Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding work and contributions.

Mark has managed marine and armoured workshops where he was responsible for the operational availability of Unit equipment.

APRIL 2001 TO DATE – RELIABILITY ENGINEER - RAYTHEON AUSTRALIA

The last two years I have worked as a Reliability and Logistics Engineer for the Combat System on the COLLINS Class submarine. I have been involved in implementation of a Supply Chain Management process (involving all levels of maintenance) and obsolescence management.

2001 – SO2 RAM, LAND ENGINEERING AGENCY

I managed the Army's RAM COE. I worked as a RAM Engineer providing RAM assessments and advice to several projects. I instructed on several Defence Reliability Management courses and undertook a major B vehicle analysis and the Bushranger evaluation.

2000 – EXCHANGE ANALYST, US ARMY EVALUATION CENTRE

I worked as an exchange reliability engineer. I conducted RAM evaluations and assessments on numerous projects including trailers and a new floating Ribbon Bridge.

1997 TO 1998 – OC 10 TERMINAL REGIMENT WORKSHOP

Officer Commanding a combined workshop responsible for the operational availability of a water transport squadron and a terminal operations squadron. I was responsible for the relocation to Townsville and amalgamation with 2 Fd Sup Bn.

1995 TO 1996 – SO3 MARINE, MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING AGENCY

I managed the Army's marine maintenance section. I worked on several marine related projects including landing craft, outboard motors and diving equipment. I was responsible for the introduction of the LAR VI CCBA and the 250 Hp OBMs.

1991 – OC 4 SHOP, BANDIANA LOGISTIC GROUP

Officer Commanding the workshop responsible for the 113 armoured personnel carrier and Leopard rebuild lines.

1989 TO 1990 – 2IC VEHICLE WING, RAEME TRAINING CENTRE

I performed administrative tasks to ensure the efficient conduct of vehicle trade training. I also spent six months as the Coordination officer.

1988 TO 1989 – STAFF CADET –

to control with the dust cover on. The cover turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.

(c) - Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "Send" key.

(d) - Yet another Dell customer called to complain that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling up his bathtub with soap and water and soaking the keyboard for a day, then removing all the keys and washing them individually.

(e) - A Dell technician received a call from a customer who was enraged because his computer had told him he was "Bad and an invalid." The tech explained that the computer's "bad command" and "invalid" responses shouldn't be taken personally.

(f) - A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it "couldn't find printer." The user had also tried turning the computer screen to face the printer-but that his computer still couldn't "see" the printer.

(g) - An exasperated caller to Dell Computer Tech Support couldn't get her new Dell Computer to turn on. After ensuring the computer was plugged in, the technician asked her what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response, "I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happened." The "foot pedal" turned out to be the computer's mouse...

(h) - Another customer called Compaq tech support to say her brand new computer wouldn't work. She said she unpacked the unit, plugged it in and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what hap-

pened when she pressed the power switch, she asked, "What power switch?"

(i) - Another IBM customer had trouble installing software and rang for support. "I put in the first disk, and that was OK. It said to put in the second disk, and had some problems with the disk. When it said to put in the third disk, I couldn't even fit it in..." The user hadn't realised that "Insert Disk 2" implied removing Disk 1 first.

(j) - A story from a Novell NetWare SysOp:

CALLER: "Hello, is this Tech Support?"
TECH: "Yes, it is. How may I help you?"

CALLER: "The cup holder on my PC is broken -and I am within my warranty period. How do I go about getting that fixed?"

TECH: "I'm sorry, but did you say a cup holder?"

CALLER: "Yes, it's attached to the front of my computer."

TECH: "Please excuse me. If I seem a bit stumped, it's because I am. Did you receive this as part of a promotional at a trade show? How did you get this cup holder? Does it have any trademark on it?"

CALLER: "It came with my computer. I don't know anything about a promotional. It just has '4X' on it."

At this point, the Tech Rep had to mute the caller because he couldn't stand it. He was laughing too hard. The caller had been using the load drawer of the CD-ROM drive as a cup holder and it had snapped it off the drive.

(k) - A woman called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer. The tech asked her if she was "running it under windows." The woman responded, "No, my desk is next to the door. But that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window and his printer is work-

out of bed with no clothes on and ran around screaming, then she tripped over the rug and went flying out the front window and now she's dead."

"Oh my God!!!!!! And what about your Uncle Frank?"

"He jumped out of bed with no clothes on too and he was all scared and he jumped out the back window into the swimming pool.....but he must have forgot that last week you took out all the water to clean it, so he hit the bottom of the swimming pool and now he's all real dead too."

long pause

Then Daddy says, "Swimming pool???? Is this 555-7039

ADF Voice Mail Message

"Thank you for calling the Australian Defence Force. I'm sorry, but all of our units are out at the moment, or are otherwise engaged. Please leave a message with your country, name of organisation, the region, the specific crisis, and a number at which we can call you. As soon as we have sorted out PMKeys, SSDS, East Timor, Bougainville, Afganistan, Iraq, Bali, Refugees, the Defence Efficiency Review, the Commercial Support Program, and compulsory 'Fraud Awareness' and 'Workplace Equity and Diversity' training, we will return your call."

"Please speak after the tone, or if you require more options, please listen to the following numbers."

"If your crisis is small, and close to a secure domestic airport, press 1 for the 3rd Brigade."

"If your concern is distant, with a tropical climate and good hotels, and can be solved by 1 or 2 low risk bombing runs, please press 'Hash' for the Royal Australian Air Force. Please note this service is not available after 1600 hrs,

if it is overcast, at weekends or Public Holidays."

"If your inquiry concerns a situation which can be resolved by either over-priced and expensive submarines without combat capability, or by World War II relics that cannot keep up with Indonesian fishing trawlers, or by a really good marching band, please write, well in advance, to the Chief of Navy, Russell Offices, Canberra."

"If your inquiry is not urgent, please press 2 for the Rapid Deployment Force."

"If you are in real, hot trouble please press 3, and your call will be routed to Sandline International."

"If you are interested in joining the ADF and wish to be shouted at, paid little, have premature arthritis, put your wife and family in a condemned hut miles from civilisation, and are prepared to work your arse off daily, risking your life, in all weathers and terrains, both day and night, whilst watching the Department of Finance eroding your original terms and conditions of service, then please stay on the line. Your call will shortly be connected to a bitter, passed-over Recruiting Sergeant in a little office down by the railway station."

"Have a pleasant day, and thank you again for trying to contact the Australian Defence Force."

Technologically Challenged? Take Heart!

- Anyone among you who believes he or she is technologically challenged, you "ain't seen nuthin" yet. This is an excerpt from a Wall Street Journal article:

(a) - Compaq is considering changing the command "Press Any Key" to "Press Return Key" because of the flood of calls asking where the "Any" key is.

(b) - AST technical support had a caller complaining that her mouse was hard

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DUNTRON

I graduated with the RAEME Prize.

1987 – LONG TERM STUDENT, 1 TRAINING GROUP

I completed the Army Education Course to gain my HSC.

1986 TO 1987 – ACTING TROOP SERGEANT, 7 FIELD SQUADRON

I performed administrative tasks for the troop. Conducted and participated in NBC and high risk engineer search training.

1985 TO 1987 – WELL DRILLING SECTION CORPORAL, 22 CON- STRUCTION SQUADRON

I conducted well drilling training for 22 Const Sqn members. I deployed the section to South Australia to drill wells in several military installations.

1983 TO 1985 – WELL DRILLING SECTION CORPORAL, DCP VANUATU

Established a well drilling section for the Vanuatu Government under the Defence Cooperation Program. I trained several local crews in well drilling and water supply.

1980 TO 1983 – WELL DRILLING SECTION CORPORAL, 22 CON- STRUCTION SQUADRON

I drilled numerous boreholes in various locations around Australia. Perth sites included Bindoon Range, Campbell Barracks, Irwin Barracks, and Kingston Barracks

1979 TO 1980 – TRAINEE, SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

I undertook Initial Employment Training as a Field Engineer.

1979 – RECRUIT 1 RECRUIT TRAIN- ING BATTALION

I undertook Recruit Training.

Australian Memorial - Lone Pine

Address at the ANZAC Service
25 April 2004

We gather at this now peaceful spot to honour all those who served and those who never returned from battlefields like these. On this day we remember the loss of so many Australians and the grief that their deaths caused in so many homes.

Lone Pine has a special place in the hearts of Australians. At this place some of the harshest fighting of the Gallipoli campaign took place. Given a near impossible task, the ANZACs managed to capture this position, though at a dreadful cost.

The attack tied up significant Turkish forces and incidentally helped our friends from New Zealand who were attempting to take Chunuk Bair, just a few kilometres north of here.

It is indicative of the bravery shown here that seven Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australian soldiers. Attacking on the evening of the 6th August, the Australians arrived at this position to find trenches covered by heavy pine logs and earth. Heaving off these covers with strength born of desperation, they fought their way down into the darkness. There, fighting hand-to-hand, they took the trenches. For four days the Turkish defenders launched wave after wave of counter attacks, but were unable to retake this ground.

In those few days over 7000 men were killed, 2000 of them Australian. Regardless of their nationality, they poured their lives into this earth and for all of us here today it is sacred ground.

United by shared loss, there are now no enemies here. Lone Pine has another significance for ANZACs. This memorial commemorates the almost 5000 Australians and New Zealanders

who fought in this campaign and who have known no grave, or who were buried at sea. They were the first of the missing who have not returned to the lands of their birth. Many have followed them.

Yet some of them did return. In the cemetery today we see growing a pine tree descended from a pinecone recovered from the battlefield. From this source trees were grown for sites of remembrance throughout Australia. These trees are now a living symbol of the link between this place of sacrifice and our responsibility to preserve the legacy of those who died.

We come here today not just to remember those who fell at Gallipoli, but those who have served in other theatres of conflict - in Flanders, New Guinea, El Alamein, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Let us also not forget those who currently serve, be it in East Timor, Iraq or the Solomon Islands. The ANZAC spirit that sustained those men 89 years ago is alive within our current defence forces.

As we stand here today and look back, we are shocked and appalled at the terrible suffering that characterised the Gallipoli campaign as well as much of the last century. Indeed the last century was the bloodiest that humanity has ever seen.

Yet this period of great suffering need not lead us to think that a more peaceful world is not possible. It would be a tragedy if the sacrifices of past generations were squandered. Today the world is as close as it has ever been to a global community. A commitment to work tirelessly for it to be a peaceful community would be the greatest legacy we can offer the ANZACs.

Our one-time Turkish adversaries are now our allies and friends. They care for the ANZACs who lie in this place

as if they were their own. For that we will be ever grateful.

We now have a relationship of mutual respect with Turkey, from which we can jointly share the pain of the past and work cooperatively together for a better future. It's a good example of what can be achieved between nations.

Before we leave here today, let us remember the ones that did not return home. They will never be forgotten. May they rest in peace.

ANZAC Day in Perth

ANZAC Day this year had some changes and a lot of friendship and memories.

This year our Corps began the ANZAC Services by having a night service at the plaques of two of our Corps members who paid the Supreme Sacrifice in Borneo during World War II. Both had been prisoners at Sandakan. The plaques are situated in Marri Walk just behind the King's Park Tennis Club. The two members are **Craftsman Denzil H JONES** and **Craftsman Charles R McKenna**. About 40 Corps Members and the families of both members attended the service. Major Perry Beor, OC 13 CSSB Workshop Company, conducted the service ably supported by the Chaplain for 13 CSSB.

At the conclusion of the service the Padre paid the last post on his bugle. To hear the last post in the dark and in King's Park sent a feeling of awe through the group. It was quiet and the sounds of the bugle echoed through the bush. It was a fitting sound to honour our fallen with. The final word from Major Beor touched the families when he called the Roll Marker for the Workshop and directed that both Cfn JONES and Cfn McKenna be marked present on the Roll of the Workshop for ANZAC Day.

After the service the members were all

trees is sick today."

Blonde Joke of the Day!

A young redhead goes into the doctor's office and says that her body hurts wherever she touches it.

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

She takes her finger and pushes her elbow and screams in agony. She pushes her knee and screams, pushes her ankle and screams. Everywhere she touches makes her scream.

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

"No," she says, "I'm actually a blonde." "I thought so," the doctor says. "Your finger is broken."

Uncle Frank

Telephone rings...

pick up

"Hello?"

"Hi, honey, this is Daddy," "Is your Mommy near the phone?"

"No, Daddy. She's upstairs in the bedroom with Uncle Frank,"

After a brief pause, Daddy says, "But you haven't got an Uncle Frank, honey!"

"Oh Yes, I do, and has upstairs in the bedroom with Mommy, right now!"

"Uh, Okay, then.....heres what I want you do. Put down the phone, run upstairs and knock on the bedroom door and shout to Mommy and Uncle Frank that Daddies car just pulled up outside the house."

"Okay, Daddy!"

A few minutes later, the little girl comes back to the phone. "Well, I did what you said, Daddy."

"And what happened?" he asks.

"Well, Mommy got all scared, jumped

through."

Bob's wife goes out and moves her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast, the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 10 to 12 centimeters of snow today. You must park your car on the odd numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through."

Bob's wife goes out and moves her car again.

The next week they are having breakfast again, when the radio announcer says "We are expecting 12 to 14 centimeters of snow today. You must park....." then the electric power goes out. Bob's wife is very upset, and with a worried look on her face she says, "Honey, I don't know what to do." Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowplow can get through?

With the love and understanding in his voice like all men who are married to Blondes exhibit, Bob says, "Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?"

Blonde Guy Joke

At last a male blonde joke.

There were two blonde guys working for the city council. One would dig a hole, the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked furiously all day without rest, one guy digging a hole, the other guy filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I appreciate the effort you are putting into your work, but what's the story? You dig a hole and your partner follows behind and fills it up again.

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, normally we are a three-man team, but the guy who plants the

THE MORSE CODE: When you rearrange the letters: HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES: When you rearrange the letters: CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY: When you rearrange the letters: IS NO AMITY

MOTHER-IN-LAW: When you rearrange the letters: WOMAN HITLER

SNOOZE ALARMS: When you rearrange the letters: ALAS! NO MORE Z'S

A DECIMAL POINT: When you rearrange the letters: I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES: When you rearrange the letters: THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO: When you rearrange the letters: TWELVE PLUS ONE

And for the grand finale: PRESIDENT CLINTON OF THE USA: When you rearrange the letters (With no letters left over and using each letter only once): TO COPULATE HE FINDS INTERNS

Yep! Someone has waaaaaaaaaaaay too much time on their hands! But isn't that interesting!

Smart Guy.

Marty wakes up at home with a huge hangover. He forces himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins and a glass of water on the side table. He sits down and sees his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. Marty looks around the room and sees that it is in

perfect order, spotless clean. So is the rest of the house.

He takes the aspirins and notices a note on the table "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to go shopping. Love you."

So he goes to the kitchen and sure enough there is a hot breakfast and the morning newspaper. His son is also at the table, eating.

Marty asks, "Son, what happened last night?"

His son says, "Well, you came home after 3 A.M., drunk and delirious. Broke some furniture, puked in the hallway, and gave yourself a black eye when you stumbled into the door."

Confused, Marty asks, "So, why is everything in order and so clean, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?"

His son replies, "Oh that! Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you said, "Lady, leave me alone, I'm married!"

A self-induced hangover - \$100.00

Broken furniture - \$200.00

Hot Breakfast - \$10.00

Saying the right thing - priceless

Blondes again

Bob and his blonde wife live in Calgary. One winter morning while listening to the radio, they hear the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 centimeters of snow today. You must park your car on the even numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get

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.

invited to a small celebration at the Blue Note Tavern. Quite a group turned up and we had a really good time talking and swapping stories and the inevitable ales. Recognising that the Dawn Service was a very early "get-up" the celebrations came to an end just after 220 hours.

The Dawn Service was conducted, both at Irwin Barracks 13 CSSB and at Palmer Barracks for the Veterans. The service, of course, was followed by a "Gunfire" Breakfast in both units.

0900 saw most serving and veteran groups forming up in the city for the march past. The Service this year had a departure from tradition because of the work being carried out on the Perth-Mandurah Railway. The march went in the opposite direction and the service held on Langley Park.

After the service the veterans met in the Ibis Hotel and the festivities rapidly got underway. All in all a good time was had by all. But in the back of our minds were our comrades in arms who were not there to celebrate with us. We will never forget them.

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC DAY.....

TO THE MECHANICAL &
ELECTRICIAN ENGINEERS
VETERANS GROUP OF WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

Tomorrow (here) or "today" (down under) it is "ANZAC" day when you all honour & remember the sacrifices of the Australian New Zealand Army Corps for the past almost full century of service. It is with the deepest honour that I may claim to be friends and brothers with you. One day, before I die I would love to march with you in the ANZAC DAY march. Never forget—Freedom is never free-it has a high price. We all here in America are being reminded of that this weekend. Pat Tillman a pro-

fessional football player with the Arizona Cardinals National Football League team 2 years ago walked away from a 3.6 MILLION dollar contract, and of his own choice joined the US Army, and became a army ranger. He was killed Thursday evening in a firefight in south-eastern Afghanistan. He gave up a secure & rich future to serve the country he loved. I will send John Klein the article.

God bless you all and may God Bless America AND Australia—"Advance Australia Fair"

Jim Otto

Eds Note: Jim contributes the "Jim's Life in the US" for which we are grateful. He gives us another look at our world through different eyes.

Remembering the prisoners of Sandakan

Sandakan Remembrance Day on Saturday, 29 May, serves as a reminder of one of the darkest episodes in Australia's wartime history.

The annual day of remembrance commemorated more than 2000 Australian and British prisoners of war (PoWs) who died in Borneo working as slave labour and on death marches in the last months of World War II.

It is 59 years since about 530 weak, malnourished and sick Australian and British prisoners were marched out of the Sandakan PoW camp on a forced march to Ranau. Most died of illness or starvation, or were killed by their Japanese guards when they grew too weak to carry on. By the time they reached Ranau 26 days later, only 142 Australians and 41 British PoWs were left.

Those who made it to Ranau found only six other men left alive from a group of 455 prisoners who had been marched from Sandakan four months earlier. Back at Sandakan itself, those

who had been too weak to join the marches were killed or left to die.

Only six Australians survived the death marches, all by escaping.

It took many years for the story of Sandakan to be fully told. The annual Sandakan Remembrance Day is an opportunity to reflect on the suffering endured by these men, and to honour the spirit of the PoWs who put aside their own suffering to ease the passing of their mates.

All Australians are encouraged to take the time to learn the story of Sandakan, so that new generations will understand the courage of those who serve in the defence of our nation - and the price that has been paid for that service.

New Leading Edge ASLAVs Boosts Army Capability

A squadron of 25 new state-of-the-art Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) are to be formally delivered to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Darwin recently providing Army with a major boost in land capability.

The new ASLAVs are equipped with the Army's premiere night-fighting equipment, the latest target locating system and fire control measures, which incorporate advanced thermal imager technology.

A new electric turret drive system has replaced the earlier hydraulic-drive system improving the ASLAV's weapon aiming capability and crew safety.

Additional improvements to the vehicles suspension system will also improve on and off road handling. The new ASLAVs would make a significant contribution to 1st Brigade's ability to be a readily deployed combat capable force able to meet a wide range of possible threats and tasks.

The new ASLAVs have been delivered on schedule and on budget as part of

Project LAND 112. The squadron being delivered today represents only one element of the \$700 million program.

The complete acquisition program involves the procurement and staged delivery of a total of 144 new ASLAVs and the upgrading of the current 113 vehicle fleet to incorporate the new enhanced capabilities. The 2nd Cavalry Regiment will be the first of two Land Command units to receive the enhanced ASLAVs. Defence will hand over another squadron of ASLAVs later this year to 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, Queensland Mounted Infantry in Brisbane. All ASLAVs have undergone an extensive retrofit at the General Dynamics Land Systems facility at Pooraka in South Australia.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment, based at Robertson Barracks, will mark the occasion with mobile, static and live fire demonstrations conducted at the Mount Bundy Training Area highlighting the enhanced capability provided by the newly acquired vehicles.

Six soldiers suffer minor injuries in Iraq ASLAV accident

An ADF Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) was involved in a motor vehicle accident outside Baghdad on Friday. The vehicle accident occurred at about 4.00pm (Eastern Standard Time) while moving with a second ASLAV on a routine convoy task about 10 kilometres north-west of Baghdad.

Six Australian soldiers travelling in the ASLAV were injured, mainly suffering minor injuries and lacerations. The soldiers were given immediate first aid before being evacuated by helicopter to a military hospital in Baghdad where they received specialist treatment and care. Five of the soldiers were released from hospital, with one soldier remaining overnight for observation and expected to be discharged on Saturday.

"Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming right up." the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink he says, "Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?"

The old woman replies, "Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Water, however, is a whole other issue."

Perceptions

And all that trouble I got in for bad spelling.

Try to read this honestly, you'll be amazed.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdgnieg THE PAOMNNEHAL PWEOR OF THE HMUAN MNID.

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

Monaro

A middle aged man bought a brand new Holden Monaro convertible. He took off down the road, pushed it up to 130 km/h and was enjoying the wind blowing through his (thinning) hair. "This is great," he thought and accelerated to an even higher speed.

But then he looked in his rear-view mirror, and there was a police car behind him, blue lights flashing.

"I can get away from him with no problem" thought the man and he floored it

some more, and flew down the road at over 210 km/h to escape being stopped. Then he thought, "What the hell am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing" and pulled over to the side of the road, and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

The policeman pulled in behind the Monaro and walked up on the driver's side.

"Sir, my shift ends in five minutes and today is Friday the 13th. If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding - that I've never heard before - I'll let you go."

The man looked back at the policeman and said, "Last week my wife ran off with a policeman, and I thought you were bringing her back."

The policeman said, "Have a nice day."

Speeding Ticket

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

She replied in a huff, "I wish you guys would get your act together.

Yesterday you took my license away and today you expect me to show it to you!"

Scrabble

Someone out there either has too much spare time or is deadly at Scrabble. (Wait till you see the last one!)

GEORGE BUSH: When you rearrange the letters: HE BUGS GORE

DORMITORY: When you rearrange the letters: DIRTY ROOM

EVANGELIST: When you ! rearrange the letters: EVIL'S AGENT

PRESBYTERIAN: When you rearrange the letters: BEST IN PRAYER

DESPERATION: When you rearrange the letters: A ROPE ENDS IT

Life According to Perry

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

The Five Most Dangerous Things In The Army:

A Private saying, "I learned this at Kapooka...."

A Sergeant saying, "Trust me, sir..."

A Lieutenant saying, "Based on my experience..."

A Captain saying, "I was just thinking..."

and a Warrant Officer chuckling, "Watch this excrement..."

Service Life

YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW

SPC Schwarz was stationed with the US Army in the Balkans. SPC Schwarz was either very clever or very bored; but probably both, since he managed to attempt or be warned about 213 things he wasn't allowed to do. He collected those things into a hilarious list and posted them to the web. Here are some of them.

. Not allowed to add pictures of officers I don't like to War Criminal posters.

. Don't take the batteries out of the other soldier's alarm clocks (Even if they do hit snooze about forty times).

. Our medic is called 'Sgt Larwasa', not 'Dr. Feelgood'.

. Camouflage body paint is not a uniform.

. An order to 'Make my Boots black and shiny' does not involve electrical tape. An order to put polish on my boots means the whole boot.

. The proper response to a lawful order is not 'Why?'

. Command decisions do *not* need to be ratified by a 2/3 majority.

. Woad is not camouflage makeup.

. May not bring a drag queen to the battalion formal dance.

. May not form any press gangs.

. A smiley face is not used to mark a minefield.

. Two-drink limit does not mean first and last. Two-drink limit does not mean two kinds of drinks. Two-drink limit does not mean the drinks can be as large as I like.

. I should not drink two litres of blue food colouring before a urine test.

. When detained by MP's, I do not have a right to a strip search.

. 'A full magazine and some privacy' is not the way to help a potential suicide.

. We do not 'charge into battle, naked, like the Celts'.

. May not challenge officers to 'Meet me on the field of honour, at dawn'.

. Not allowed to lead a 'Coup' during training missions.

Scotch on the rocks!!!

This story is for Senior Citizens. If you don't qualify, save a copy 'til you do!

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

As the bartender gives her the drink, she says, "I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and its today."

The bartender says, "Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me."

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says, "I would like to buy you a drink too."

The old woman says, "Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming up." says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, "I would like to buy you one, too."

The old woman says, "Thank you."

Back To The Bush Reunion 2004

The Veterans of Bruce Rock in conjunction with the Bruce Rock Shire and residents, invite you to join us again for the "2004 Back to the Bush Reunion."

Veterans of all wars and conflicts are welcome to join us for this years "Back to the Bush Reunion". This year we plan to continue the great week we have had in the past. The week will be from the 1st November through to the 7th November 2004.

Bruce Rock boasts all the amenities you would expect in a larger town in Country Australia. This includes a Recreation Ground with a fully lit oval that caters for football, cricket, hockey, netball, basketball and tennis. A newly upgraded Aquatic Centre including a gym and BBQ area. Hospital, Resident Doctor and Golf Club.

The Recreation Centre is available for caravans, motor homes and tents. There is a small fee of \$5 per site per night to help cover costs of the week. Showers and toilets are available, but no power. There is limited accommodation at the Hotel-Motel and Caravan Park.

The main activities are over the weekend of 5th-7th November, with a concert at the Amphitheatre on Friday night, Markets and entertainment on Saturday until the parade at 3.30pm which proceeds to the Anglican Church for a short service and the re-lighting of the Peace Candle.

There will be a Bards Night at a location specially constructed for this reason with a big fire pit for all to enjoy the many yarns, poems and songs.

Program

Monday 1st to Friday 5th November

Local events for everyone to participate in include: Tennis, Bowls, Golf, Rifle Shooting and enjoyable nights at the local club, hotel and roadhouse. Check

All other members of the armoured vehicle convoy were uninjured and assisted at the scene of the accident.

The families of the injured soldiers have been notified and provided with all necessary support through the Defence Community Organisation. The soldiers' names will not be released without their consent.

The Australian Commander in the Middle East, Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, and his staff are working with our Coalition partners to establish the circumstances of the accident. There is no indication that the accident was a result of terrorist action.

Medical Evacuation Helicopter Crash in Timor Leste

Five Australians avoided serious injuries when an UN-contracted Bell 212 helicopter crashed near Same, Manufahi District in Timor Leste on Wednesday afternoon (02 Jun 2004).

The helicopter was carrying a doctor and nurse in response to an emergency request to evacuate a pregnant Timor Leste woman for life-saving medical procedures available only in Dili.

Initial reports indicate one of the three-person crew has a broken leg and one of the Australian Defence Force passengers is reported to have suffered a broken jaw and a back injury.

Timor Leste police (PNTL) and UN police technical advisers (UNPOL) secured the site and administered first aid to the injured before they were air-lifted by a second helicopter to the UN Hospital in Dili.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Timor Leste has been informed and investigations are under way.

The next of kin of the injured civilian crew and the two ADF passengers have been notified.

out the local history at the Museum, see the local attractions all close to town.

Friday Night 5th November

Concert at Bruce Rock Federation Amphitheatre. Come along and be fed and entertained, don't cook, come and enjoy the feed that will be on sale from local groups.

Saturday 6th November

9.00am ~ Markets. Come along and get some great bargains. On going entertainment in the adjacent amphitheatre.

3.30pm ~ Assemble for Parade to Anglican Church.

Saturday evening ~ BBQ and drinks at the Recreation Ground. A great chance to catch up with friends, entertainment will be provided.

Sunday 7th November

Breakfast provided at the Recreation Grounds. Thank you concert at the local club.

Highlights of the weekend will be the 10th Light Horse display and a contingent of Military Vehicles assembled by the Veterans Car Club.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the RAEME Association of WA was held in the Lecture Room at 113 FD WKSP on Saturday 29th of May 2004. Attending were 20 members with 16 Apologies.

The President reported on the happenings during the year with reference to people attending the meetings and becoming involved with the Association; the Annual Dinner, both last year and this year; and the work that the committee of the Association has done during the year.

The Treasurer and Welfare Officers gave their reports, which are dealt elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Major Perry Beor then took the Chair and conducted the elections for the new incoming committee. All of the Principle Officers remain as they are and the committee is essentially the same with the inclusion of a new face in WO2 Peter Anthony. We welcome Peter into our group and we are sure that he will represent the still serving members equally as well as Tom Goodlich and Mark Vincent.

With that the AGM was closed and Perry Beor gave the group a very interesting talk on the 507th Maintenance Company and the problems they had when serving in Iraq. This was the Company in which Private Jessica Lang won her Bronze Medal, the 3rd highest honour that can be given to an Army member.

After the talk the gathering repaired to the O'Sullivan Club for drinks, a sausage sizzle and generally a good time.

When our visit to the club came to an end, the group was invited to attend another talk by Capt Jas Newman. This talk was on improvised explosives found in Iraq. Again a most interesting talk, especially to the Old and Bold. It gave us a good insight to the problems faced by those serving in Iraq.

Those that attended had a great time; good friends and interesting talks.

RAEME ASSOCIATION OF WA Financial Report AGM 2003

This past year has seen the elected Treasurer stand aside because of work pressures within his own business. We thank Alan for the work that he did. Clare Curtis volunteered to fill the post at the June 2003 meeting and has maintained the accounts since that date.

The **Incorporation of the Associations** has been finalised and the Association is now called **RAEME ASSO-**

what you can do !!

Our association here in WA has taken a sponsorship with MIVAC, I recommend other Assoc's consider doing the same. May be a good gesture on ANZAC DAY?

REGARDS
MICK RYAN
RAEA WA

UBIQUE

Government Delivers Landmark Legislation For Military

The new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (MRC) Scheme will be fully operational on 1 July 2004 and the appointments to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission that will administer the new scheme will be announced in the near future, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Danna Vale said recently.

Mrs Vale welcomed the passage of the MRC Bills through Federal Parliament today allowing the Howard Government to deliver on its commitment to provide a modern, military specific, compensation scheme.

"Australia's long standing commitment to those who serve in the defence of our nation will enter a new era with the passage of legislation to establish the new MRCS," Mrs Vale said.

"This landmark legislation sets out the framework for a 21st century repatriation system and brings together the best elements of the Veterans Entitlements Act and the Safety Rehabilitation Compensation Act, to meet the needs of a new generation of service personnel and their families."

The Senate Committee's inquiry demonstrated that the Government had got it right for future service personnel and was happy to accept the two legislative amendments recommended.

"The scheme will now provide all wid-

owed partners with a death benefit of \$103,000, regardless of whether the member was engaged in warlike, non-warlike or peacetime service," Mrs Vale said.

"This is in addition to the choice of a war widow's pension or an age-based lump sum compensation payment, free comprehensive health care through the Gold Card and other benefit, military superannuation entitlements and compensation benefits for any dependent children.

"Further, all ADF members, regardless of their service, have the option of applying to the Veterans' Review Board as their first avenue of appeal, ensuring serving members and veterans seeking a review of their case are treated consistently under the new scheme.

"The Government also has acted to pass a range of minor technical amendments to improve the operation of the scheme in relation to support for disabled members seeking to return to work and the calculation of incapacity payments for injured Reservists.

"The Department of Veterans' Affairs will be working in coming months to inform the defence and veteran communities about the new scheme, ensuring serving members receive the care and support they need."

Eds Note: This is a news release put out by the Minister for Veteran's Affairs. The Government thinks that all is rosy. But those of us who have read the MRC Bill, and have attended talks about its implications, have some misgivings about the way that the changes will effect the Veteran Community. All those members who are already in receipt of a DVA Pension or who have claims submitted will not be affected. Personnel with previous service may or may not be affected.

RAF during World War 2 in England, Egypt, Malta and Palestine. He immigrated to Australia in 1951 to join the Australian Army. During his 25 years of service Ernie served with U/L Eastern Command, 1 Fd Engr Regt, JTC, 26 Engr Stores Sqn, 7 Indep Fd Sqn, 7 Fd Sqn, 23 Const Sqn, HQ RAE 1 Div and HQ Trg Comd. Ernie spent two years in Korea with 5 Works Sect (Oct 53-Oct 55). He was posted to 1 Fd Sqn RAE on 12 April 1960 to 12 September 1967 which included overseas service in Sabah (3 Dec 64 to 5 June 65) and SVN (7 Sept 66 to 12 Sept 67).

Regards

Derek Elmes

Returned Service And Ex/Service Veterans.

Mates, Volunteers and Health Educators – a Recipe for Health and Well-Being.

Veterans are at the forefront of a program which is aiming to raise awareness of men's health issues by encouraging Veterans in the community to share the responsibility for managing their health and well being.

Veterans committee members from the (Men's Health Peer Education Program), sponsored by the Federal Government through the Department of Veterans Affairs, Volunteer Facilitators now working to introduce their mates to the benefits of adopting a healthier lifestyle. If you are interested in coming to a meeting or talking with some one, it's a chance to help yourself or your mates.

Back when we were in the Armed Forces, we stayed healthy because our lives depended on it. That hasn't changed and staying healthy is probably more important now that we are all that little bit older, you're wealthy if

you are Healthy.

Returned and Ex/Service Veterans and their Families can find out more from Men's Health Peer Education Website at www.dva.gov.au/health/menshealth

Or by contacting Facilitators.

Volunteer Lester Leaman on (08) 93592969

Volunteer Phill Quartermaine on (08) 94545065

Or find out your Volunteer Facilitator in your area or Country Town.

Phone Nick Mar Men's Health Educator. Veterans Affairs on 133254.

Veterans Promoting Healthy Lifestyle For Veterans.

Eds Note: In our Association we have three Men's Health Facilitators, our President, John Klein, our Secretary, John Curtis and our Treasurer, Clare Curtis. If a group want to have a speaker, you can contact any of us.

MIVAC

We received this message from the President of the RAEA WA. The charity is a very worthy cause and should be supported.

MIVAC is a non profit organisation started by Vietnam Vets and the idea of Rob Woolley to help people affected by mines and war. They spend all money donated or raised on the jobs (often done by mates/members) not on administration. Their intention is always to spend as close to 100% of money on the job.

Rob is ex 1 TP, 1 FD SQN Vietnam . I urge all ex sappers to help this group, they work on a shoestring but achieve what they set out too . Col Sandy Macgregor MC is MIVACs patron. The membership fee is small ...but the effects are out of proportion. Give Rob a call merle_woolley@hotmail.com see

CIATION OF WA Inc.

The **S1 Account** or Membership Account began the year with **\$55.66** and completed the year to date with **\$294.60**.

The **S2 Account** or Memorabilia Account began with **\$622.15** and completed the year with **\$248.31**.

The **S6 Account** or Dinner Account contained **\$4.17**. This account is a Holding Account for the Annual Corps Dinner and at present has **\$272.98**.

The **S1 Account** has increased somewhat during the year. This is due largely to more members joining the Association and the committee being able to cut costs in some of our expenditures, mainly in the costs of the Horse's Mouth. We have removed about 60 members from the mailing list who have not been financial members of any of the RAEME Associations in WA for two years. People who do not receive the Horse's Mouth at home are not financial.

You would have noticed that the Horse's Mouth has had occasional advertisements from Various Companies, Write-ups, Stories from other Units and the Odd joke or two. We are anxious to get regular correspondents to help fill up the Horse's Mouth. More articles about those who are serving here in Western Australia. If anyone fancies himself or herself as a journalist, please start writing for the Horse's Mouth. You can contact the editor at any time.

Currently it costs us approximately \$240.00 per quarter for each Issue of the Horse's Mouth. We have been very lucky to be donated paper for the printing and we have attended "sales" around the shopping malls and have managed to get a supply at 3.80 per ream. To those who donated the paper to help the Association, we thank you.

The **S2 Account** is down, but we have

memorabilia stock held, amounting to a value of approx. \$1600.00. The Association has earned \$2,043.66 during the year from sales of memorabilia (Caps Polo Shirts, Plaques Badges, Stubby Holders, etc) and have spent \$2,417.50 purchasing items for sale and to hold as a stock items for members. We thank Tom Goodlich for acting as our Property Manager. Tom can be approached for any memorabilia that you would like to buy.

The **S6 Account** began with \$4.17, but ended the year with \$272.98. The account usually has a very small amount in reserve to keep it open. This year, however, we received more funds than we actually paid out. Hence the larger figure. This money will be used to pay functions such as the sausage sizzle to be held after the meeting.

The Association has had some sound recording equipment donated so that we can follow on with our recording of the history of the Corps in WA. We thank the donors for their generous gift.

Clare Curtis

Treasurer

RAEME Association of W.A. Inc

RAEME Association of WA Welfare Report AGM 2004

The time period 01 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 has been a very busy one for the Association Welfare Officers. They have dealt with 131 cases (not all RAEME). 115 have been successful with a new pension or an increase awarded to the claimant. Of the remainder, 6 have gone to the Veteran's Review Board (VRB) and are still to be heard and a decision to be made. All in all, the Association has had a great deal of success in this area. The case numbers represent an 88% success rate, a rise in the rate we have maintained for the past four years (85%).

The Welfare Officers both work from

home and from the Ex Service Organization Office in the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) on a regular roster. All members of the Association have direct access to the Welfare Officers with their phone numbers on Page 2 of the Horse's Mouth. Should a serving or ex-service person who is not a member require assistance, the Welfare Officers can be contacted through any of the committee, through DVA or personal recommendation. They will be assisted just as any member would.

The Welfare Officers, in the past 12 months have been getting an increasing number of MCRS cases and offer assistance to any Reservist who is injured in the course of their military service. Should anyone require assistance, DVA or MCRS, an appointment can be made, or, alternatively, arrangements made for the Welfare Officers to attend the unit on a formal parade day. This assistance is free to all

Welfare Officers and Pension Officers who can be called upon by the Association were heavily involved with the Training & Information Program in the Department of Veteran's Affairs. At present there are seven members of the Corps who are fully trained to help other members. We also have a female Associate member who can deal with women's issues within MCRS and DVA.

Unfortunately, a matter of ill health has dogged some of our recognised Welfare Officers and they have been forced to stand aside for a period of time. They, however, assure the Association that they will be back. In the meantime, Mr. Don Horsley has volunteered to assist any of our members who require help.

Most of our Welfare Officers are also recognised by the RDFWA to assist their members as well. This is an ar

rangement that is working very well.

John Klein, John Curtis & Don Horsley
Welfare Officers

Government Urges Employers to Adopt Defence Reserve Leave Guidelines

Employers have been urged to consider new guidelines for leave for members of the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

The guidelines were announced today by Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Mal Brough and unveiled by Chief of the Defence Force, General Peter Cosgrove at a gathering of senior business people from around Australia, at Fort Denison in Sydney.

Reservists account for more than 42 per cent of the Australian Defence Force and are increasingly being utilised to support the high tempo of operational deployments seen over the past few years.

Reservists need to be confident that their employer supports their involvement in Defence training and their employment is secure.

These guidelines provide a framework for employers to develop policies that provide that support."

Mr Brough said the guidelines were not compulsory, but the Australian Government encouraged employers to adopt them.

The Government has already introduced the Employer Support Payment Scheme, which financially compensates employers while their employees are undertaking Defence service.

More than 2400 employers have claimed around \$28 million since the scheme was introduced in 2001.

The guidelines are another demonstration of the Government's commitment to stronger partnerships between the Defence Force and the private sector.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Gloria, and to his children.

Lest We Forget.

Don Horsley

Ernie Elmes - 1 Fd Sqn 1960-67

A lot of us served with Engineer Squadrons and came to know a lot of the "Ginger Beers". Mick Ryan asked if we would put this message into the Horse's Mouth to let all those who knew Ernie know of his passing. Even at this late date I am sure that Derek would appreciate a note from his dad's friends. So read on...

My name is Derek Elmes. My father is Ernest Elmes. Dad was with 1 Fd Sqn RAE on 12 April 1960 to 12 September 1967. This included stints in Sabah (3 Dec 64 to 5 June 65) and SVN (7 Sept 66 to 12 Sept 67).

Dad died on 23 April 2004.

I don't know if you knew Dad or if you know anyone who did, but I am writing in hope that you may be able to pass on to anyone you know who did, that they would be most welcome to attend his funeral that will be held at the Eastern Chapel at the Rookwood Crematorium, Lidcombe, at 11.15am this Thursday (29 April 2004). I know that is a bit of an ask, but I thought I'd give it a shot.

Regardless, I've written a brief Vale for inclusion in "Tunnel Tails" if you would be so kind. Dad didn't start marching on ANZAC Day until the mid 80's. But when he did, given his long military career (1942-1976), I asked which unit would be march with. Dad didn't hesitate - 1 Fd Sqn RAE - SVN was the only choice for him.

Vale Ernie Elmes

Ernie Elmes died after a battle with cancer on 23 April 2004. Born in 1921 in Kent, England, Ernie served in the

Vale Syd COLE

It is with great regret that we have read of the passing of Syd COLE. Even though we were not in the same Corps as Syd, we still had a close working relationship with him, both professionally and socially in the Sgt's Mess. Syd was a friend to all even though we had our differences at times. We would stir Syd about being in the Infantry and he would stir us about being "Spanners". It was always good-natured and in good fun.

All those in our Corps who knew him will miss Syd. He was popular with us because when there is a job to be done, Syd got down and did it, no fuss, no bother. That is the ethos of our Corps and Syd would have fitted in very well had he been in our Corps.

On behalf of the President and members of the RAEME Association of WA and of all our Corps members still serving, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Cole Family. They broke the mould when they made Syd. He was one in a million.

Lest We Forget

Vale - WO2 Lee Bailey

It is with great regret that we have to advise of the passing of WO2 Lee Bailey.

Lee served mainly in the Victoria region at the Melbourne Area Workshops and at 3 Base Workshops as an Artificer Armament.

He had served more than 20 years with the Corps when he decided that retirement was for him.

After his discharge he lived in Ned Kelly country at Glenrowan in Victoria for many years. In the last 3 years of his life he moved to Launceston in Tasmania and set up home there. Lee passed away just prior to Christmas 2003.

The Third Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer has the responsibility for providing ceremonial units and honour guards for state occasions, White House social functions, public celebrations and interments at Arlington National Cemetery and standing a very formal sentry watch at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The public is familiar with the precision of what is called "walking post" at the Tomb. There are roped off galleries where visitors can form to observe the troopers and their measured step and almost mechanically, silent rifle shoulder changes. They are relieved in a very formal drill that has to be seen to be believed.

Some people think that when the Cemetery is closed to the public in the evening that this show stops. First, to the men who are dedicated to this work, it is no show. It is a "charge of honour." The formality and precision continues uninterrupted all night. During the nighttime, the drill of relief and the measured step of the on-duty sentry remain unchanged from the daylight hours. To these men, these special men, the continuity of this post is the key to the honour and respect shown to these honoured dead, symbolic of all unaccounted for American combat dead. The steady rhythmic step in rain, sleet, snow, hail, heat and cold must be uninterrupted. Uninterrupted is the important part of the Honor shown.

Recently, while you were sleeping, the teeth of hurricane Isabel came through this area and tore hell out of everything. We had thousands of trees down, power outages, traffic signals out, roads filled with downed limbs and "gear adrift" debris. We had flooding and the place looked like it had been the impact area of an offshore bombardment. The Regimental Commander of the U.S. Third Infantry sent word to the nighttime Sentry Detail to

secure the post and seek shelter from the high winds, to ensure their personal safety.

THEY DISOBEYED THE ORDER

During winds that turned over vehicles and turned debris into projectiles, the measured step continued. One fellow said "I've got buddies getting shot at in Iraq who would kick my butt if word got to them that we let them down. I sure as hell have no intention of spending my Army career being known as the damned idiot who couldn't stand a little light breeze and shirked his duty." Then he said something in response to a female reporter's question regarding silly purposeless personal risk... "I wouldn't expect you to understand. It's an enlisted man's thing." God bless the rascal... In a time in our nation's history when spin and total b.s. seem to have become the accepted coin-of-the-realm, there beat hearts - the enlisted hearts we all knew and were so damn proud to be a part of - that fully understand that devotion to duty is not a part-time occupation. While we slept, we were represented by some damn fine men who fully understood their post orders and proudly went about their assigned responsibilities unseen, unrecognised and in the finest tradition of the American Enlisted Man.

Folks, there's hope. The spirit that George S. Patton, Arliegh Burke and Jimmy Doolittle left us ... survives.

On the ABC evening news, it was reported recently that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabel approaching Washington, DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They refused. "No way, Sir!"

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honour that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

The guidelines, developed by the Defence Reserves Support Council, will be distributed in the coming months, along with a booklet featuring examples of effective partnerships between employers and Reservists.

Employers can access the private sector leave guidelines for Defence Reservists at www.defence.gov.au/drsc or by calling 1800 803 485.

Memorial Stone Dedication

The following email and photos were sent to one of our members. The Memorial Stone commemorates those members of the Corps of REME who paid the supreme sacrifice on operations in Northern Ireland.

Hi Jake,
Thought you might like to know. The dedication of the Stone to the REME guys, who lost their lives on ops in Northern Ireland, went extremely well. Two of the families were able to attend along with close to two hundred serving and Association members from all over the UK. Attached jpegs for the album.

Further information, SE District standard bearer, N. Ireland standard bearer (Davy Aston, double hatted, he is also the treasurer of the branch.) Col PT McCarthy. Regi-

mental Colonel. NE. District standard bearer, Davy Young (outgoing chairman of the NI branch, also the brainchild behind the memorial stone) HQ (Arborfield) standard bearer and Teeside Branch standard bearer. Families, the Seddons and the Bradwells.

Have a nice day BOBW

Eds Note: We were given photos of the families. However space did not allow us to use them.

Army tests Reserves response to terrorism

The Australian Army will test how



The REME Memorial Stone



The Branch Standards

quickly reservists can be ready to help police respond to a terrorist incident during a national exercise recently

The exercise was one of a series designed to ensure the Reserve Response Force established last year was available at short notice to respond to domestic security incidents. Public notice was being given to avoid causing alarm.

Reserve Response Force soldiers could be called on within hours of a terrorist incident to assist police and the Australian Defence Force.

The exercise saw the Army practice its call-out arrangements for the approximately 750 Reservists that have been trained around the country since the Reserve Response Force was raised last July.

During the exercise, each member of the five Reserve Response Forces will be contacted and asked to report to their respective barracks in uniform and with their equipment. If they are unable to report they will need to explain why.

The test will also confirm if contact details are correct and test the time taken to enact the call out. Once all members have reported to barracks their portion of the exercise is ended.

Other exercises to test the effectiveness of the RRF will continue over the next 12 months.

A RRF has been established in each Reserve Brigade in Australia and in Special Operations Command: 4 Brigade in Victoria; 5 Brigade in New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory; 9 Brigade in South Australia/Tasmania; 13 Brigade in Western Australia and 1 Commando Regiment in New South Wales/Victoria. In due course RRF's will also be established in 8 Brigade (NSW) and 11 Brigade (North Queensland).

They can undertake tasks including cordoning off areas, static protection of important locations and sites, low risk search, traffic control, logistic and communication support.

Reserve personnel are an increasingly important part of the structure and capability of the Australian Defence Force.

They add another layer to our domestic security arrangements, supplementing the existing high readiness, full time ADF counter terrorism and domestic security elements such as the Tactical Assault Groups and the Incident Response Regiment and the regular response forces in Townsville, Brisbane, Darwin and Sydney.

Defence Minister praises ADF counter-terrorism response

Defence Minister Robert Hill recently praised the contribution of the Australian Defence Force on the national counter terrorism exercise held across the nation this week.

Senator Hill said Exercise Mercury 04 had validated the arrangements put in place by the ADF's counter terrorist force for use in domestic security situations.

The ADF has demonstrated its ability to work with Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities to resolve simultaneous terrorist hostage incidents.

Exercise Mercury has proven the newly created Special Operations Command's ability to coordinate Defence's response and tested the new Special Forces units established by the Howard Government post-September 11.

It tested the capabilities of both Tactical Assault Groups made up of Special Air Service Regiment and 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiments troops, the Incident Response Regi-

tal and wholehearted. In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter. And with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection. Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements, I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability. It is he who commands the respect I protect. His bravery that made us so proud. Surrounded by well meaning crowds by day alone in the thoughtful peace of night, this soldier will in honoured glory rest under my eternal vigilance.

More Interesting facts about the Tomb of the Unknowns itself:

The marble for the Tomb of the Unknowns was furnished by the Vermont Marble Company of Danby, VT. The marble is the finest and whitest of American marble, quarried from the Yule Marble Quarry located near Marble, Colorado and is called Yule Marble. The Marble for the Lincoln memorial and other famous buildings was also quarried there.

The Tomb consists of seven pieces of rectangular marble:

Four pieces in sub base; weight B- 15 tons;
One piece in base or plinth; weight B- 16 tons;
One piece in die; weight B- 36 tons;
One piece in cap; weight B- 12 tons;

Carved on the East side (the front of the Tomb, which faces Washington, D.C.) is a composite of three figures, commemorative of the spirit of the Allies of World War I. In the centre of the panel stands Victory (female). On the right side, a male figure symbolises Valour. On the left side stands Peace, with her palm branch to reward the devotion and sacrifice that went with courage to make the cause of righteousness triumphant.

The north and south sides are divided into three panels by Doric pilasters. In each panel is an inverted wreath. On the west, or rear, panel (facing the Amphitheatre) is inscribed: HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

The first Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a sub base and a base or plinth. It was slightly smaller than the present base. This was torn away when the present Tomb was started Aug. 27, 1931. The Tomb was completed and the area opened to the public 9:15 a.m. April 9, 1932, without any ceremony.

Cost of the Tomb: \$48,000
Sculptor: Thomas Hudson Jones
Architect: Lorimer Rich
Contractors: Hagerman & Harris, New York City
Inscription: Author Unknown

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.

Jim's Life in the US

Jim is an expert when it comes to things about his own country. This time Jim has sent us an article about a place that is very dear to the American Serviceman - The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. He tells it through the Servicemen who guard the Tomb.

Excellent information on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

By Lee Fritz

INCREDIBLE. Well worth the time spent to read all of it.

Here are some real interesting facts.....

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
Interesting facts about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Sentinels of the Third United States Infantry Regiment "Old Guard"

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honour given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds, for the same reason as answer number 1.

3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? No, he carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed? April 1 to September 30: The guard is changed every thirty minutes. October 1 to March 31: The guard is changed every hour, on the hour

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must

be between 5'10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".

Other requirements of the Guard:

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. They cannot swear in public FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way.

After TWO YEARS, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first SIX MONTHS of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorise who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame. Every guard spends FIVE HOURS A DAY getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

The Sentinels Creed:

My dedication to this sacred duty is to

ment and support from both the Navy and Air Force.

Defence command and control arrangements were also tested during the Exercise as part of the coordinated national approach to a domestic security incident."

Senator Hill said Mercury 04 was the first major test of the new national counter terrorist arrangements since the extensive preparations that were made for 2000 Sydney Olympics.

The exercise has provided an invaluable opportunity to test our counter terrorism preparedness and serves to highlight the crucial role the ADF plays in the defence of Australia and the protection of critical national infrastructure.

Since the 2001 terrorist attacks in the US, the Howard Government has committed more than \$1.3 billion to the ADF to fight war against terror. The money has been spent not only on helping with the international effort to capture and kill al Qaeda and their supporters in Afghanistan, but also to strengthen our defences at home.

This exercise demonstrates again that we are better prepared than ever to respond to a terrorist threat.

Senator Hill said the ADF's Reserve Response Force, which provides an additional layer of capability to counter terrorism measures, would also be tested over the coming weekend during an exercise in Melbourne. During the exercise, the RRF will be tasked to secure a high profile conference facility.

Help 17 Const Sqn Rebuild Their History Lost In The Holsworthy Fire 2 Years Ago.

These two e-mails sent to us by Mick Ryan, President of the RAEWA Assoc. Illustrates the loss by members of 17 Const. Sqn when their facilities were

destroyed in a recent fire. If anyone has material that can be donated, copied or loaned to the Unit, I am sure they would be grateful. Contact Mick Ryan in the first instance if you do have material. Email ssm1@inet.net.au or Phone 9307 2385.

Mick,

Yes, I'd love to get anything available on 17. It's not until you become a member of this unit that you realise what a great history they have. They lost so much in the fires a couple of years back and none of it was documented. In regard to the honour boards I am seeking info prior to 1977 and not 1970. Every time I get chatting to the Old and Bolds they give me new info on the unit, and it's always good listening.

I appreciate the info coming through and thanks for your help.

JO

Sappers ,

WO1 Noel ' Jo ' Johanson SSM 17 Const Sqn is after photos, anecdotes, names etc of his unit's ex members. He is also seeking details of old OC's / SSM's to replace a unit board lost in a recent fire. Jo can be contacted at noel.johanson@defence.gov.au if you can get a cd together I know that Jo and his little bears will appreciate it. Let's give em a hand!!!!

Mick Ryan

Many of us have served with the Engineers and have worked well together. Lets pitch in and help 17 Const get their history back. If you have anything that can be donated or copied please give Mick Ryan a call or email (see information above).

Priceless

An elderly Canadian gentleman arrived in Paris by plane. At French customs he fumbled for his passport. "You have

been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. The old gent admitted that he had been to France before. "Then, you should know enough to have your passport ready for inspection," snapped the irate official. The Canadian said, "The last time I came to France I didn't have to show my passport."

"Impossible, old man. You Canadians always have to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The old Canadian gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then, with the feel of acid on his words, calmly stated, "I assure you, young man, that when I came ashore on Juno Beach in Normandy on D-Day in 1944, there wasn't a Frenchman anywhere on that beach.

PRICELESS *****

The Arborfield Apprentice

Dear Editor,

Further to our conversation of yesterday, I am sending -a review for want of a better word, in regard to the book "The Arborfield Apprentice" by Peter Gripton. I received the book as a gift from a member of my intake, one Tony Guy. We keep in contact with one another and have done for a number of years.

"The Arborfield Apprentice"

The training of young tradesmen in the Army is by no means a recent innovation. In fact the system of Technical Schools started back in 1923. Prior to World War 11, Artificers, Armourers and other tradesmen for technical corps were trained at Woolwich, Hilsea and Chepstow.

By the early, 1930's it was clear that the Army would be unable to obtain sufficient tradesmen for its needs from adult enlistment. 200 Fitter Apprentices were recruited and enlisted on Octo-

ber 1st 1936. Some of these served in France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) There was still a shortage of specialist Soldier Tradesmen, so it was decided to build three new Army Technical Schools. These were built at Arborfield, Chatham and, Jersey.

This book is the history of the Arborfield Technical School, and I have found it to be excellent reading.

Sincerely,

Brian Atkins

Veterans Benefits From the Last Budget

Veterans' Health Care

Veterans' access to free, comprehensive medical care will be assured with an additional \$158 million over four years to increase fees for medical specialists.

Specialists already receive 100 per cent of the Medicare Benefits Schedule fee to treat eligible veterans. Additional payments will ensure that eligible Gold and White Card holders will continue to receive quality specialist care across Australia.

In addition, \$21.5 million will be provided over four years to continue the Managing Health Care Information programme to improve the purchasing of health services for the veteran community. Continued improvements in the management of contracts with service providers will reduce outlays by an estimated \$63.5 million over four years.

Veterans and war widows will also benefit from the promotion of the Pathways Home programme, making the transition from hospital to home easier for elderly patients through the greater use of 'step-down' and rehabilitation services. This will reduce hospital outlays by an estimated \$2.7 million over four years.

The Government also has allocated \$0.9 million over four years for the continuation of the important Vietnam Veterans' Children Support programme and will transfer it from the Department of Health and Ageing to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. This is in keeping with the commitment to provide ease of access to services for Vietnam veterans and their families.

Aged Care for Veterans

Older members of the veteran community will benefit from the Government's \$2.2 billion response to the Hogan Report, announced tonight.

In addition, the Government has decided that no former prisoner of war will pay a daily care fee in an aged care facility from 1 January 2005.

The Government has allocated \$1.8 million to pay the daily care fees for former prisoners of war in low-level aged care facilities. This will align the daily care fee arrangements for all former prisoners of war across all levels of aged care and return, on average, \$250 a fortnight to former prisoners of war.

Income Support

Changes to assist students, retirees and sugar cane farmers receiving income support from Centrelink will also apply to veterans, including those in receipt of benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, at a net saving of \$13.3 million over four years.

The exemption of all fee-waiver and fee pay scholarships from the income test will also benefit the children of veterans. This will end an anomaly that may have discouraged some students from taking up scholarships to support their further education.

The Government will provide greater choice for retired veterans by providing a 50 per cent assets test exemption for a new non-commutable income

stream product that provides returns linked to the investment market. It will also reduce the assets test exemption currently available on certain non-commutable purchased income streams to 50 per cent from 20 September 2004.

Latest ambush trends - Iraq

Things are still fairly quiet in the south of the country at the moment. Lots of people have pulled out over the threat of kidnap, and the increased risk of attack over the past 2 weeks.

Latest intelligence reports put the number of suicide bombers in Basrah at 27. Where they get this intelligence from and its reliability, I don't know.

Most of the incidents from the Basrah area don't usually make the news, or for some reason, the intelligence reports. IED's, RPG, grenade and SAF attacks occur on a daily basis. The last time I travelled from Basrah to Al Amarah there were 19 checkpoints that I had to negotiate on the way through. Which of these were real police, I don't know. Usually there are only about 6 checkpoints.

20 Armoured Brigade is now in the middle of the hand over with the 1st Mech Brigade, so I'm sure things will heat up again until the new guys on the block get settled in again. ! Mech were here for the big push last year, so they know the area well.

That's about it from here mate,

Keep safe,

Cheers,

Chris "Buzz" Tierney

Ed's Note: This is an email sent to us by Mick Ryan who gave permission for us to print it. The article gives a bit of an indication what is going on when propaganda is not the order of the day.