



## Veterans' Support Group<sup>®</sup>

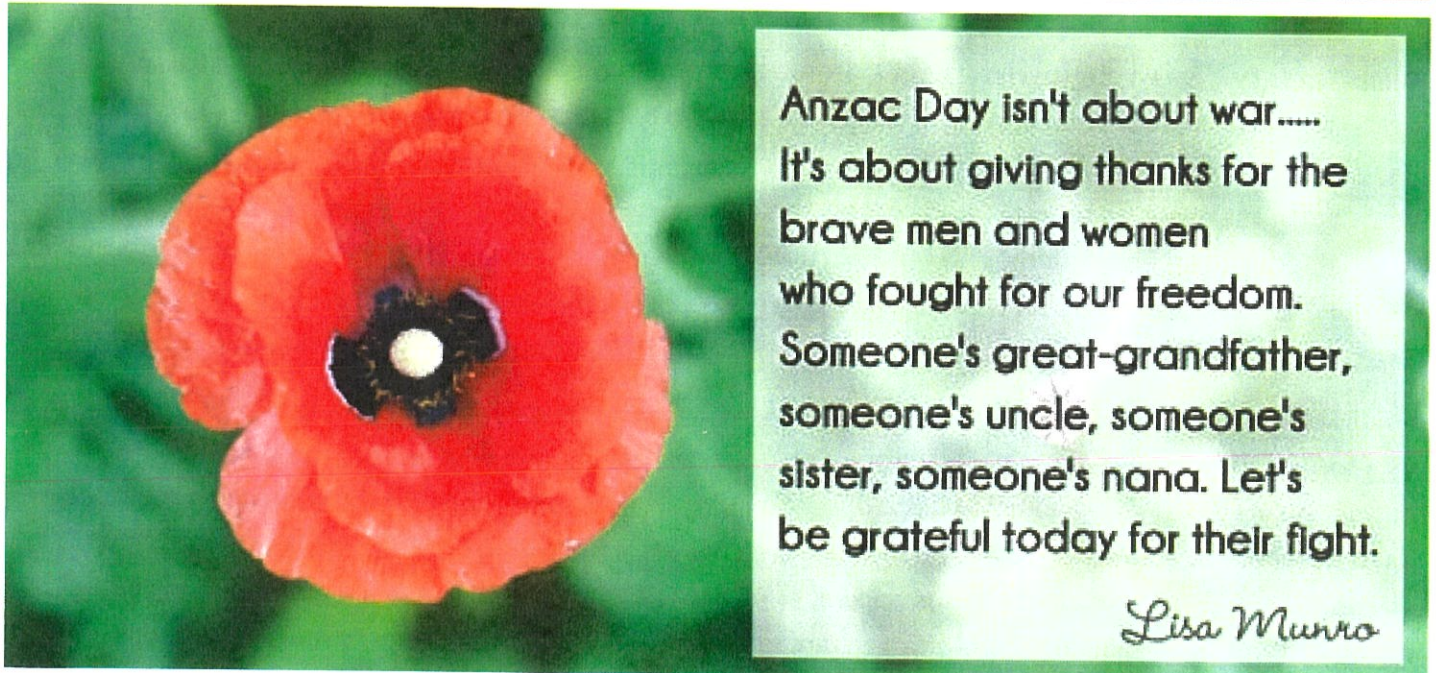
Founded by the  
Vietnam Veterans' Federation  
Qld Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 2817, Nerang Qld. 4211

Phone: (07) 55782233

Email: [admin@vvfqld.com](mailto:admin@vvfqld.com)

Web page: <http://www.vvfqld.com>



Anzac Day isn't about war.....  
It's about giving thanks for the  
brave men and women  
who fought for our freedom.  
Someone's great-grandfather,  
someone's uncle, someone's  
sister, someone's nana. Let's  
be grateful today for their fight.

*Lisa Munro*

# ANZAC DAY

**TUESDAY, 25TH APRIL, 2023**

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# EDITOR'S REPORT



Hello Everyone,

Well, Anzac Day is fast approaching with a promise of bigger and better than ever before. The numbers were increasing pre-covid so hopefully we can all attend again this year. I had the privilege of visiting Papua New Guinea many years ago. Our daughter was there with her husband and 5 year old son (now 22 years old). They took us to the War Cemetery in Bomana, just outside of Port Moresby. It was beautifully maintained with lovely gardens, gigantic Rain trees shading the cenotaph, immaculate lawns and the very carefully tended graves of our Aussie diggers and other Allies who were left so far from their homelands. The one thing that impressed me was how the people honoured the memory of these brave soldiers.

I met Soke, my son-in-law's driver and bodyguard, who was a grandson of a "fuzzy wuzzy angel". He gave us a tour of the cemetery. My uncle was one of the many young men who walked the Kokoda Track during the war. Soke's grandfather helped many of our soldiers with food and water during those terrible days. It struck us that he may have been there with my uncle. It gave us both goose-bumps and tears started rolling down our cheeks as we walked, arms over each other's shoulders, down the many paths between the graves. For that moment we were united in friendship and understanding of the plight of both the soldiers and the local people who helped them to survive.

Much of the food, secretly passed through fences and jungle trees in the dead of night, was the only food these angels had to feed their own families. My uncle said he knew when they were there by their eyes glinting in the dark, then a hand would reach out with a bilum bag of food. He always said that without the help of these generous people very few would have made it out alive.

Cheers Narelle.

DISCLAIMER: The material contained in this publication is in the nature of enlightenment for the members. Contributions are acknowledged, with thanks, from Service and Civil publications. The editor expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person, whether an association member or not. Views expressed may not necessarily be those held by the Executive or the members.

# ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

## **President's Report December, 2022**

### **President's Report – March 2023**

Our primary role is providing Advocacy Services for Defence Force veterans lodging compensation claims with DVA. At costs approaching \$200,000 our Advocacy Service has consistently produced the results for our clients. As a small organization, our large client base is directly related to current and previous clients recommending our Advocates to their mates. Our client base continues to grow. We thank you for your recommendations.

We do have a strong, knowable and successful team of Advocates and support Administration staff, most of whom, are volunteers. I personally would be happy to clear my desk and march off into retirement. However, being part of this team is rewarding and exhilarating. I am eager to come to the office, day after day, and be rewarded with the achievements for our clients. Achievements that are often lifechanging for the claimant and the claimant's family. I invite you to join our special team. Call me, you will not regret it!

Come and work alongside our Advocates as a volunteer. You will quickly learn the fundamentals.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Flavia Senter's Award for outstanding results and ability to manage a very demanding workload. All members of our staff are dedicated to obtaining the best possible results for all our clients.

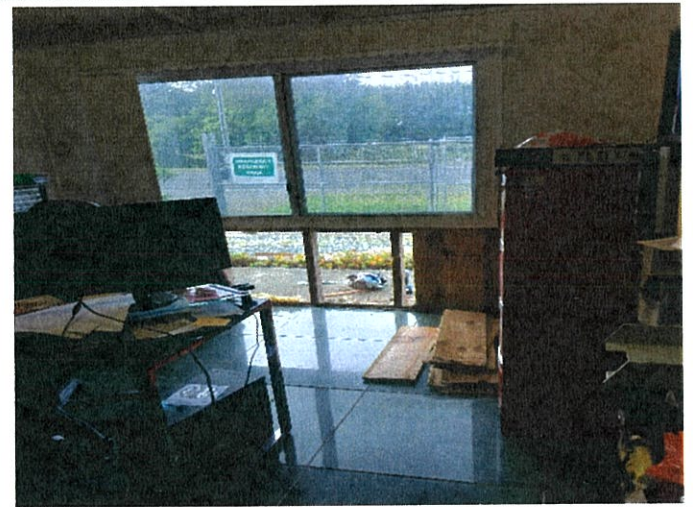
Currently, we have a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The Government is now consulting with veterans and Ex Service Organizations. The Government is currently proposing a single Act of Parliament to cover all ADF personnel compensation claims. If you are under 70 years of age you truly need to take a genuine interest what the Government is proposing. After all that said and decided, you will end up getting what you deserve.

Flavia will be attending a forum in Sydney next Wednesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> April which will put Flavia and our Advocacy team in an informed position as to the proposed changes for the single Act covering Veterans' Compensation Entitlements. Such changes could present better outcomes for some veteran, by either lodging their claims prior to the enactment of the new legislation and, for others, after the enactment of the new legislation.

It will take time for the drafting of the new legislation, tabling it in Parliament and the passing of the legislation in both Houses. Perhaps late 2024 or early 2025 the new single Act will take effect?

To our younger members, you must take an interest in what is being proposed.

## White Ant Infestation Repairs to the Queensland Branch State Office:



The above photographs are indication the extent of the damage and necessary repairs to our office building. The workflow of our Advocates has been interrupted but that interruption has been kept to a minimum. Our hot water system also collapsed about a month ago and it too has now been replaced.

Whilst the repairs were mostly covered by a funding grant from the Queensland Government's Gaming Fund, your membership fees are being put to good use. Additionally, funding from grants is often based on assisting as many people as possible. That is one other reason that we value your membership. The larger the membership the more likely grant applications will be approved.

Thank you for your continued membership.

Peter Handy President

DVA Pensions and allowances to rise from 20 March  
20 March 2023

From 20 March 2023, some veterans and their families will receive an increase to their pension payments in line with increases in the cost of living. You don't have to do anything to receive the increase, it will be automatically included in your next payment.

As pension rates are calculated on a daily basis, the pension paid on payday 23 March 2023 will be paid partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate. The first full payment at the new rates of pension will be payday 6 April 2023.

The maximum rate of single service pension will rise by \$37.50 to \$1,064.00 per fortnight and the maximum rate for couples will increase by \$28.20 to \$802.00 per fortnight (each).

The Special Rate of Disability Compensation Payment (T&PI payment) will increase by \$59.04 to \$1,676.20 per fortnight. The Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) rate will increase by \$31.90 to \$904.60 per fortnight and the 100 per cent General Rate of Disability Compensation Payment will increase by \$20.50 to \$581.90 per fortnight.

The pension paid to war widows/widowers will increase by \$38.20 to \$1,082.50 per fortnight (including the energy supplement), while the ceiling rate of the income support supplement will rise to \$321.10 per fortnight.

Payments will also increase certain benefits under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). The weekly MRCA wholly dependent partner payment will increase by \$19.10 to \$541.25. This is paid fortnightly (\$1,082.50).

The indexation factor used to index pensions each March and September can be based on either the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). For 20 March 2023, the indexation was driven by CPI.

For more information on the new pension rates, call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Current and historical pension rates are available on the CLIK website ([clik.dva.gov.au](http://clik.dva.gov.au)).

**New pension rates from 20 March 2023**

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,026.50	\$1,064.00	\$37.50
Couples (each)	\$773.80	\$802.00	\$28.20

Continued next page 

Single person – transitional	\$856.40	\$887.60	\$31.20
Couples (each) – transitional	\$690.90	\$716.10	\$25.20
<b>WAR WIDOWS</b>			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,044.30	\$1,082.50	\$38.20
Income support supplement	\$309.60	\$321.10	\$11.50
<b>DISABILITY PENSION</b>			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,617.16	\$1,676.20	\$59.04
Intermediate rate	\$1,072.10	\$1,111.30	\$39.20
EDA	\$872.70	\$904.60	\$31.90
100 per cent	\$561.40	\$581.90	\$20.50
10 per cent	\$63.07	\$65.12	\$2.05
<b>VETERAN PAYMENT</b>			
Single Person	\$1,112.30	\$1,153.50	\$41.20
Couples (each)	\$867.20	\$899.30	\$32.10
<b>MRCA*</b>			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,044.30	\$1,082.50	\$38.20
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,617.16	\$1,676.20	\$59.04

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

The first full payment at the new rates will be the payday 6 April 2023.

**\*Note that the MRCA payments in the bottom two rows are the fortnightly amounts, not the weekly amounts.**

# Winner of the Lazy Cat Award



# FUNNIES AND QUOTES



I returned my lizard to the pet store today as it wouldn't stop telling me jokes.

The store clerk said "that isn't a lizard, it's a stand up chameleon."

# *Sub Branch President's Report*

**Vietnam Veterans Federation  
Brisbane/Gold Coast Regional Subbranch Inc.**

## **President's Report – March 2023.**

Hello fellow veterans and members,

The first three months of 2023 have been and gone, with Easter coming up fast. The world is still in various stages of conflict and natural disasters, with Ukraine “celebrating” the one year anniversary of the war with Russia, and showing no signs of coming to an end. The devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria causing huge death tolls and in some cases complete city collapses with resultant massive numbers of refugees and homelessness, as well of course dealing with the overwhelming grief of most of those families. Our part of the world has not escaped the headlines either, with the destruction in Auckland New Zealand caused by the “passing” of a tropical cyclone headed for Norfolk Island. The NZ Prime Minister declared it a disaster area, with severe flooding and damage from high winds. Australia too has not escaped, with ongoing flooding along the Murray River and many roads underwater in the tropical north. Comparatively speaking though, we here in Australia have many things to be thankful for as we sit down to enjoy our “carefree” lifestyle.

The subbranch is continuing with the various projects needed to maintain the premises, both inside and outside. Repairs are about to commence on the termite damaged eastern wall of the Headquarters building, with one of our members, Frank Bosio, acting as liaison between the contractor and Qld. Branch. A grant of some \$42,000.00 to cover the cost of repairs was successfully obtained from the Gambling Fund, thus giving considerable breathing room on the bank account.

We continue to have a close working relationship with the Land Warfare Centre at Canungra, completing various woodworking projects for them, and as a thank you, they have elected to come down and cook for one of our Tuesday lunches. We continue to invite various organisations to come and give talks on subjects that will be of benefit to our members, the latest being a talk on Occupational Therapy by Debbie Casey on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

I take this opportunity to once again thank the various members who put in many hours of work to keep the sub branch and Men's Shed running. I also encourage those members who don't come to the shed on a regular basis, to visit us again and make use your shed fees and of the camaraderie that is the primary focus of all men's sheds. You may be surprised with the changes that have taken place since your last visit. I, on behalf of the sub branch and Men's Shed, wish all members and their families a healthy and successful 2023.

Andy Bryson  
President,  
Vietnam Veterans Federation  
Brisbane/Gold Coast Regional Sub Branch Inc.  
Veterans' Support Group Men's Shed, Nerang.





## Veterans Support Group Men's Shed, Nerang.

### 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2023 news update.

The welfare of our members continues to be an important part of our focus. Greg Wells has had a major setback with his leg, and the screws, bolts and rods had to be removed due to an ongoing infection, and he is currently waiting on the infection to heal, then a rod to be inserted up through the heel/ankle. Hopefully this time all will be okay, but he is still looking at another six months of rehab. Roger May recently had laser surgery on his throat, and not long after collapsed with a very low heartbeat. He subsequently had to have a pacemaker inserted, and is now on a recovery period.

Several projects commissioned by the public have kept the shed busy and funds incoming. These projects range from solid slab bench top and shelving, spinning wheel restoration, lounge chair restoration and display bee hives. Member projects are also ongoing, including elaborate mailboxes, custom design coffee table and hall shelf unit complete with drawers. The latest boat building project is well under way, as Noah and Bill work hard on the 4.2 metre clinker built open boat. The finished boat will have an outboard motor, seating and floor boards, and a trailer and safety gear, all ready for sale at a hopefully nice profit.

A vital part of the shed's operation is the sale of surplus items that are typically donated from members of the public, mostly from veterans or their families. Our very successful sales officer has been Roger May, but he has had to step back from this role after several years of Stirling effort. Hence, we are currently looking for a member to volunteer to take on this vital role, so if interested, please contact the committee executive and register your interest.

The Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers continue to be very active on our premises, and we enjoy the fruits of their labour in the form of tasty honey, the sale of which is an ongoing boost to funds. The beekeepers have regular meetings and hold demonstrations on every aspect of beekeeping, which all attendees greatly appreciate.

Bunnings BBQ's are still a good source of income for the sub branch, but since Covid 19, they have limited the BBQ's to weekends only, so we don't get them as often as before. Gathering the necessary volunteers to staff the BBQs is sometimes a hassle, but we appreciate those who do step up and donate their time. Any member wishing to help out on these occasions will be welcomed, and it is usually a happy and friendly event for all concerned.

The new sub branch committee is up and running since the AGM late last year, and this vital body give their all to keep the sub branch, and shed, a viable and happy environment for all members.

A visit to our website  
[www.vietnamveterans.net.au](http://www.vietnamveterans.net.au)

will give members an insight on what is happening on a regular basis, and if you have an interesting article or anecdote that might be suitable, please send it to

[president@vietnamveterans.net.au](mailto:president@vietnamveterans.net.au)  
for consideration.

Andy Bryson

President,

Veterans' Support Group Men's Shed, Nerang.



Spinning Wheel project

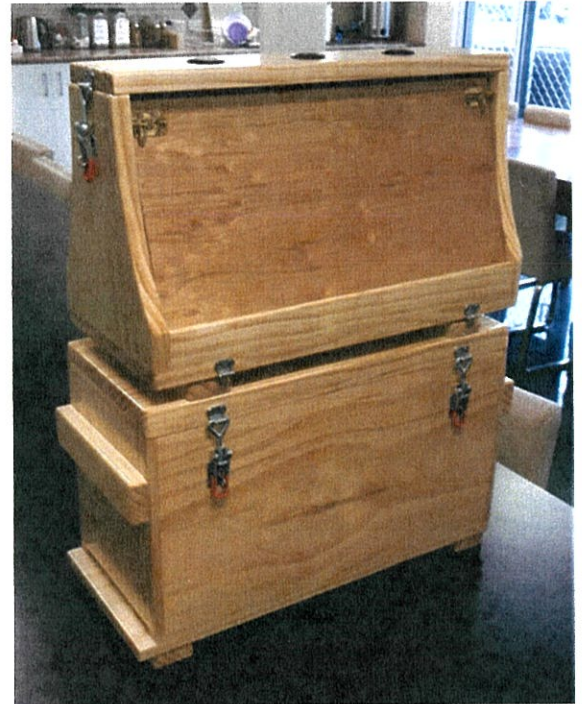
# Veterans' Support Group Men's Shed Nerang



Ongoing boat project.



Bee hives and display bee hive project.



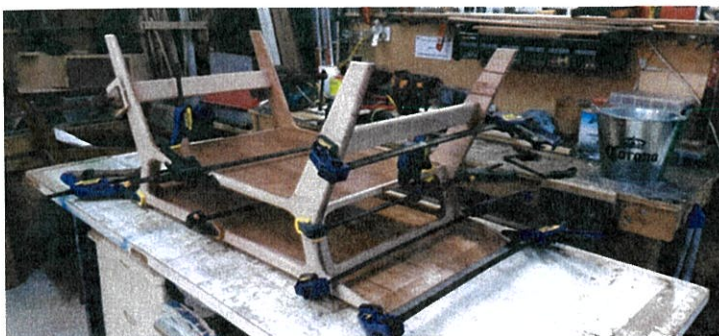
Display bee hive project.



Bench top and shelving commissioned by customer.



Custom designed coffee table.



# Serenity, Courage and Wisdom

Dear friends , It is a real pleasure and honour to be associated with Veterans Support Group Nerang.

What really impresses me is the integrity and poise that the advocacy role is discharged by our community members. Issues are presented dispassionately and with respect for all concerned. Moreover, difficult issues are not avoided but addressed practically. This is not the case in other areas of our Veteran community, especially with some veterans on social media who can be quite disrespectful, shoot from the hip, and spray their bullets wildly, without the facts or investigation. Equally there are veteran organisations that are silent on issues that demand attention. No doubt there are those in our community that get extremely frustrated; others that are fearful of rocking the boat and others that give up in despair. How do we healthily deal with the many conundrums that we face?

Most readers would be aware that the focus of my life and ministry these days is helping Veterans get healthier. One of the precepts that we share with Veterans to come to us with complex Health issues is to remind them that whatever they focus upon will get larger. If we focus upon what's not going well, our problems will increase. If we focus on what could be better, things can get better. When life presents us problems, we do best to promote solutions. We must be concerned about how veterans are treated, and we should acknowledge the problems, but we should not be overly consumed by them.

This is not a new conundrum. There is a wonderful prayer, initially attributed to St Francis of Assisi and more recently promoted by Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and the Alcoholics Anonymous movement , called the ***"Serenity prayer"*** which goes like this,

---

***"God give me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things that I can,  
and wisdom to know the difference."***

This was the approach that Jesus of Nazareth offered to humanity. Love your neighbour as yourself - do what you can to make the world a better place.

The programs that we have been running for Veterans over the last seven years, have been most successful because we are helping Veterans have the courage to change the things that they can - the way they look at life, the things they can do to improve their own health, but most importantly, helping them find new purpose in helping others in need. We serenely acknowledge things that we cannot change now, and choose to park them for the time being, mindful that others may be working on them, or their "time" for change may later emerge .

Don't give up, don't despair, have the courage to speak up on matters that we can influence. May we have the wisdom to focus our attention on the battles we can win, and not waste energy on matters we cannot change at this time. May all of us, not only seek to improve our own lives, but do something special to improve the life of someone else as this year rolls on.

May you be blessed with love and hope and peace,

Your Padre , Gary

Kind regards

Gary

**Gary Stone OAM**

The Veterans Padre

**President Veterans Care Association Inc**

Holistic Care for of Body Mind & Soul for  
Veterans, Families & Carers

P: 0403 270 515

A: 26D Boogard Place, Clagiraba 4211

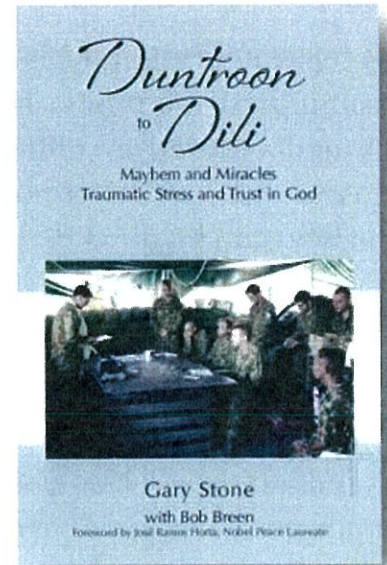
W: [www.VeteransCare.com.au](http://www.VeteransCare.com.au)

Gary Stone's Book - **Duntroon to Dili**

Available at Thriftbooks Australia

ISBN: **0992530113**

ISBN13: **9780992530112**



**Sunday School**



"Who's this 'Art in Heaven' guy you keep talking about?"



"God has heard your prayers, and they are really starting to creep him out." *Kamin*

**RHYMES WITH ORANGE** by Hilary B. Price



# Tony Scroope



**Wanted** - ANTIQUE MANTEL CLOCKS

Will pay cash

Tony Scroope is a long-standing member of our Organisation.

Mobile. 0408768787

ascroope@bigpond.net.au

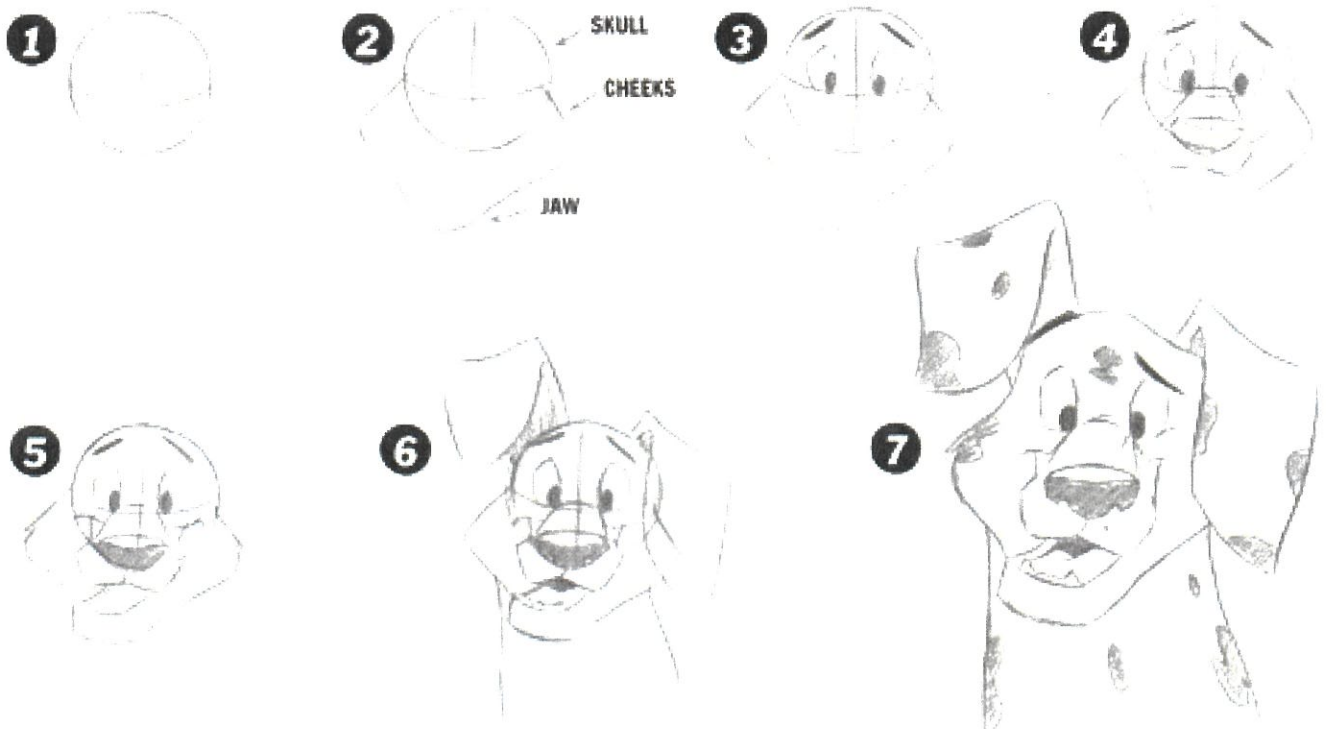
We are always supportive

of our members

PO Box 462, Harbour Town, Qld. 4216 Australia.

For all you budding cartoon artists out there here's your first challenge. Follow the diagrams from 1-7 to create your own playful dog. If you are struggling to make your "perfect" drawing turn the diagram upside down and copy the lines of each step. You will be amazed by the end result. With this formula in mind try a few different foundation shapes like an oval, stylized triangle, oblong or square to create your own unique dog. Try drawing different shaped eyes with the pupil in different positions within the eye. Ears can make a whole new canine. Let your imagination flow.

**Have fun!!!!**



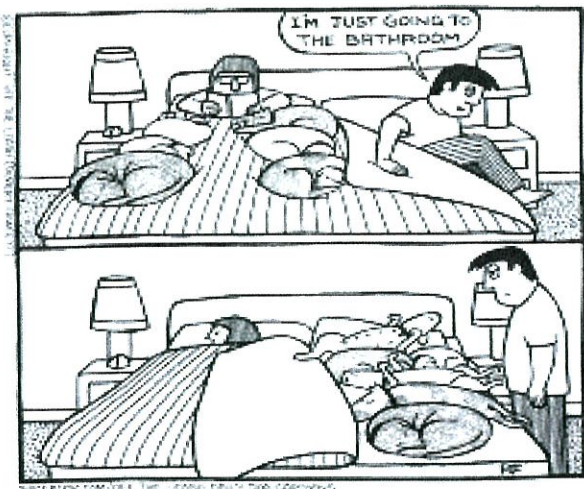
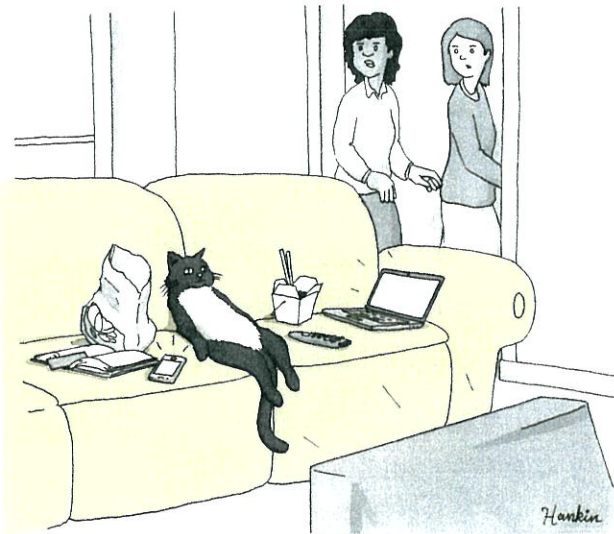


It's a cat's domain

WHEN YOU WANT TO SNUGGLE...



WHEN YOU NEED TO WORK...



It's a dog's world

# Impossible Pie

## Ingredients:

- 2 cup baby spinach
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 cup grated tasty cheese
- 1 cup diced ham
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta
- 2 cup milk
- 4 eggs, beaten lightly
- 60 gram butter, melted
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan



## A delicious savoury pie to enjoy.

## Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Lightly grease a 24cm pie dish.
2. Blanch spinach by placing in a bowl and covering with boiling water. Soak for 1 minute, drain, and refresh under cold water to stop cooking process. Drain again.
3. Sift flour into a mixing bowl. Stir in cheese, ham and feta.
4. In a jug, blend together milk, eggs and butter. Whisk into flour mixture with spinach.
5. Pour mixture into prepared pie dish. Sprinkle evenly with parmesan.
6. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until golden and set. Serve warm or cold with salad.

1. Why do ants never get sick?

Because they all have anty bodies.

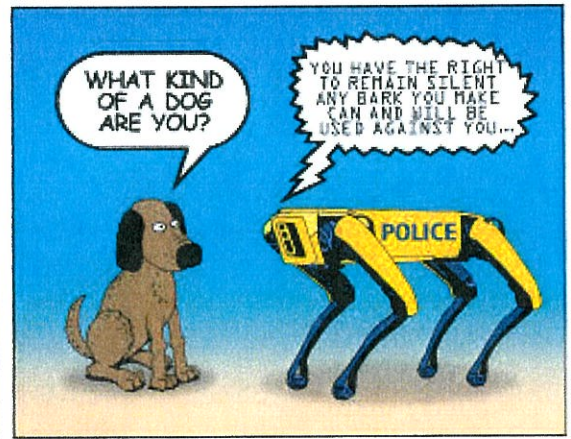
2. What happened to the frog's car when it blew up?

It was eventually toad away.

3. I love raising caterpillars as pets.

It always gives me butterflies.





## Robot Dogs Deployed to Defend Nellis Air Force Base

The Air Force calls them "**Quadrupedal Unmanned Ground Vehicles**" (Q-UGV) and they look like the "Metalhead" nightmare from an episode of "Black Mirror." During the September 2020 test of the Defense Department's Advanced Battle Management System, the robot dogs were deployed and tested as part of a data-gathering aspect of the exercise.

The Ghost Robotics Q-UGV: Neither bark nor bite, because no head. (John Goddin)

Not much is known about the Q-UGV dogs, but designer and manufacturer of Ghost Robotics claims the robots are "unstoppable" and designed for all-terrain stability in a variety of missions, with modular designs and multiple sizes.

### The fake report card:

I failed the first term of a class in grade 6, so I made a fake report card. I did this every term that year. I forgot that they posted the end-of-year report cards to our homes, and my mum got it before I could intercept it with my fake. She was PISSED—at the school for their error.

The teacher had retired that year and had already thrown out his records, so they had to take my mother's "proof" (the fake ones I made throughout the year) and "correct" the "mistake." I've never told her the truth.

Don't believe it dad... it's fake news from a failing school!



© MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERSTOONS.COM



ANDERSON

"If he's doing so bad, why is it called a progress report?"



# Think Trailer, Think Swiftco

11 Precision Dr, Molendinar QLD - (07) 5618 8118 - Hours and services may vary

1. What did the goose say when she purchased a new lipstick?

Put it on my bill.

2. How can you know the gender of ants by placing them in water?

If they sink, girl ant. If they float, buoyant.

3. Why did the team of witches always lose their cricket matches?

Their bats kept flying away.

## Origins of the Ode

Have you ever wondered where The Ode came from. It has been recited at services all over the world over the last century. Here is a short explanation and the whole poem that it came from is on the following page.

The Ode of Remembrance has been recited to commemorate wartime service and sacrifice since 1921.

Reading a poem at a commemorative service can help the audience to understand the wartime experience of service men and women. Well-known wartime poetry is often used during commemorative services.

The Ode is the 4th stanza of the poem *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon. The poem was first published in British newspaper *The Times* on 21 September 1914. The poem later appeared in many anthologies of war verse.

In 1919, Binyon's poem was selected to accompany the unveiling of the London Cenotaph and was adopted as a memorial tradition by many Commonwealth nations. The poem was read at the laying of the Inauguration Stone at the Australian War Memorial in 1929.

### Variations of the Ode

Other versions of the Ode exist, such as those used at Last Post ceremonies hosted by the Australian War Memorial and RSL branches. This gives some flexibility to the service.

### About the poet

[Laurence Binyon](#) was an English academic and poet. He worked as a medical orderly with the Red Cross on the Western Front during World War I. By the time Binyon's poem was published in *The Times*, the British Expeditionary Force had already experienced devastating losses on the Western Front.



# For the Fallen



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they sere, spirit of her spirit,  
fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
and glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
they fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
they sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
they have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
they sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hope profound,  
felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
to the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

By Laurence Binyon



# Poets' Corner

## Anzac Day

Brave men we salute you  
and remember you today  
Fighting on the battlefields  
in lands so far away.

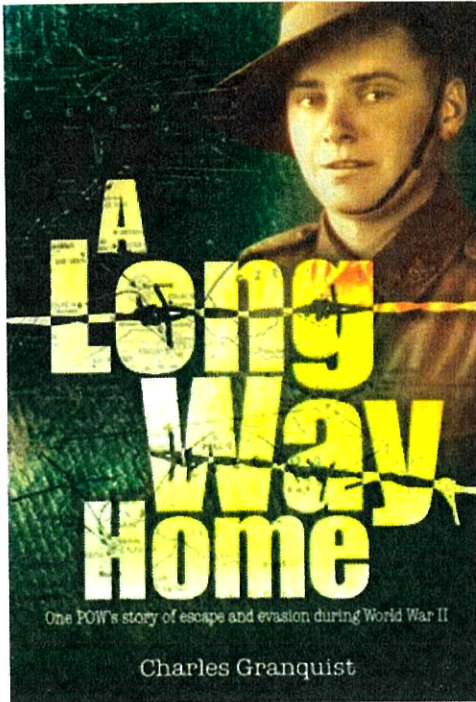
Australians and New Zealanders  
who fought so gallantly  
Side by side together  
for all of us to see.

Many died and some came home  
Their lives were not the same  
The Anzacs were heroic  
In body and in name.

## Lest we Forget

By Jennifer Bates

# Book Review



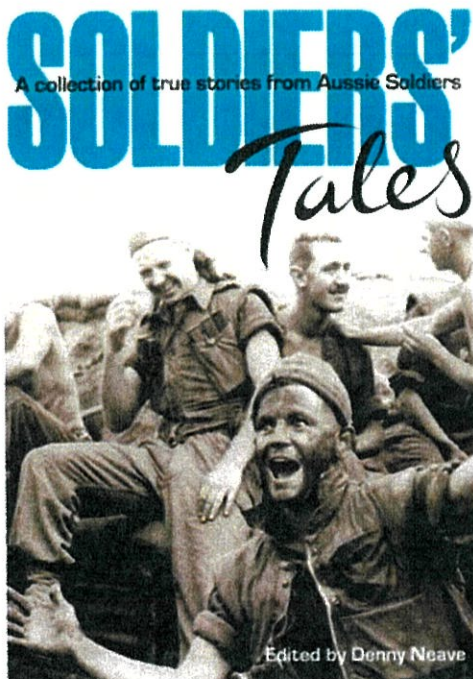
A Long Way Home book buy now from the military specialists. One POW's story of escape and evasion during World War II There is one thing that a POW learns very quickly and that is only four things matter for survival. They are food, water, shelter and clothing. The absence of any of those essentials makes life very precarious. Having them all allows you to exist, but there is one other thing that makes such an existence bearable: mateship. It shines like a beacon through the gloom. It provides the strength to battle on and survive till the sun shines again. To all my old mates, most of whom have since left this earth for that big Stalag somewhere - Thank you! I think of you often with reverence. Charles Granquist the son of a World War I veteran, Charles Granquist was 17 when war was declared with Germany in 1939. He lied about his age, joined the infantry and was sent to Egypt. Like so many other young men at the time, Granquist did not know what to expect. All he really cared about was doing his duty and serving his country. He never even contemplated his chances of becoming a prisoner of war. Captured by the Germans in Greece, Granquist was determined to continue carrying the war to his captors "any way I could". In his memoir, A Long Way Home, he describes his shame at becoming a POW and how he believed he had failed himself, his mates and as a soldier. He orchestrated a remarkable five escape attempts, all of which ended unsuccessfully. Yet Charles refused to give up, determined to fulfil his duty as an Aussie Digger and make his own small contribution to the war effort. His story takes the reader on the rollercoaster of escape, recapture and 196 days of solitary confinement before his eventual return home with his Russian war bride. Granquist's account of his wartime experiences adds another important chapter to the story of Australian World War II POWs, while showcasing the spirit, humour, persistence and ingenuity expected of an Aussie Digger. A Long Way Home is a tribute to one veteran's spirit and the mateship he still holds so dear today.

Written by Charles Granquist.

Paper back 224 pages.

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*A collection of true stories from Aussie Soldiers* by Denny Neave



A collection of stories that are entertaining, emotional and humorous, Soldiers' Tale is a wonderful tribute to the Aussie digger.

Australian soldiers share their stories and anecdotes from World War One to the modern day conflict, the stories that are usually saved for Anzac Day or a catch-up with mates over a cup of tea or an icy cold beer.

In their own words, they provide a fascinating glimpse of the many funny and touching moments that our diggers often hold tight to their chest.

The collection of stories featured in Soldiers' Tale vividly provide a taste of what a soldiers life is like in both war and peace.

From the pyramids of Egypt where a pint-sized captain used lateral thinking to gain respect, Anzac day on the porch with Banjo Patterson or a scorpion in the pants in Vietnam, their stories showcase the laconic sense of humour of the Aussie digger - that wonderful ability to get the job done with a sense of fun and a helping hand for a mate.

Soldiers' Tale is a collection of yarns to warm the heart and bring a smile to your face or a tear to the eye.

A wonderful collection of stories that will delight readers of all ages and linger on well after the book has been put aside.

With its stylish design and easy reading a Soldiers' Tale is the perfect gift book for all ages

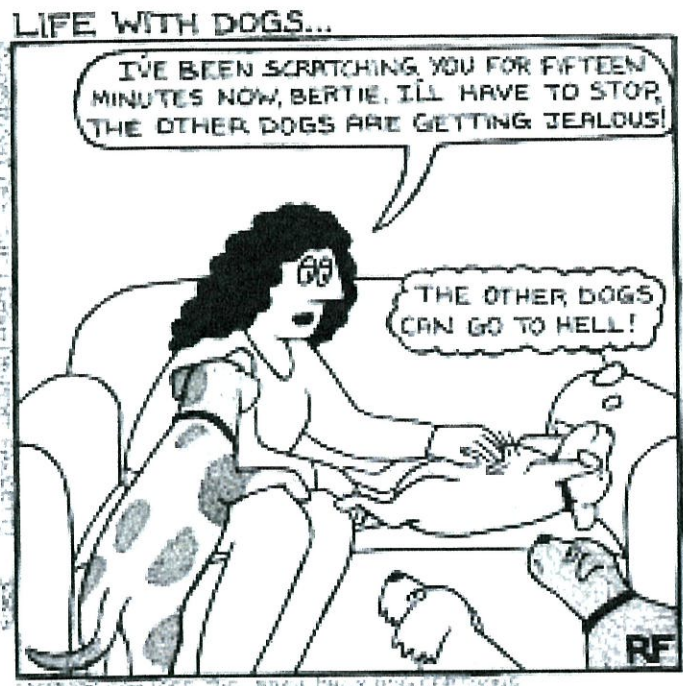
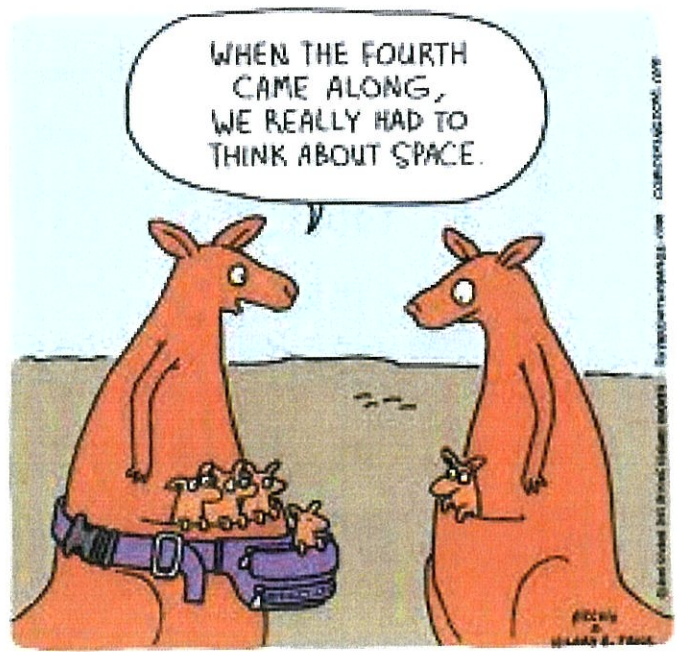
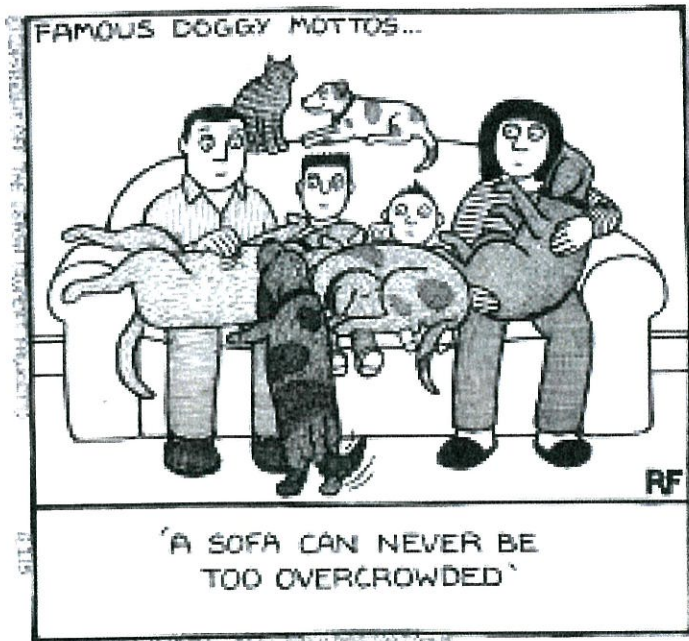
CROSS		FATES
	Can you	
	turn	
	CROSS	
	into	
	TRAIT	
	in 10	
	moves	
TRAIT		CROWN

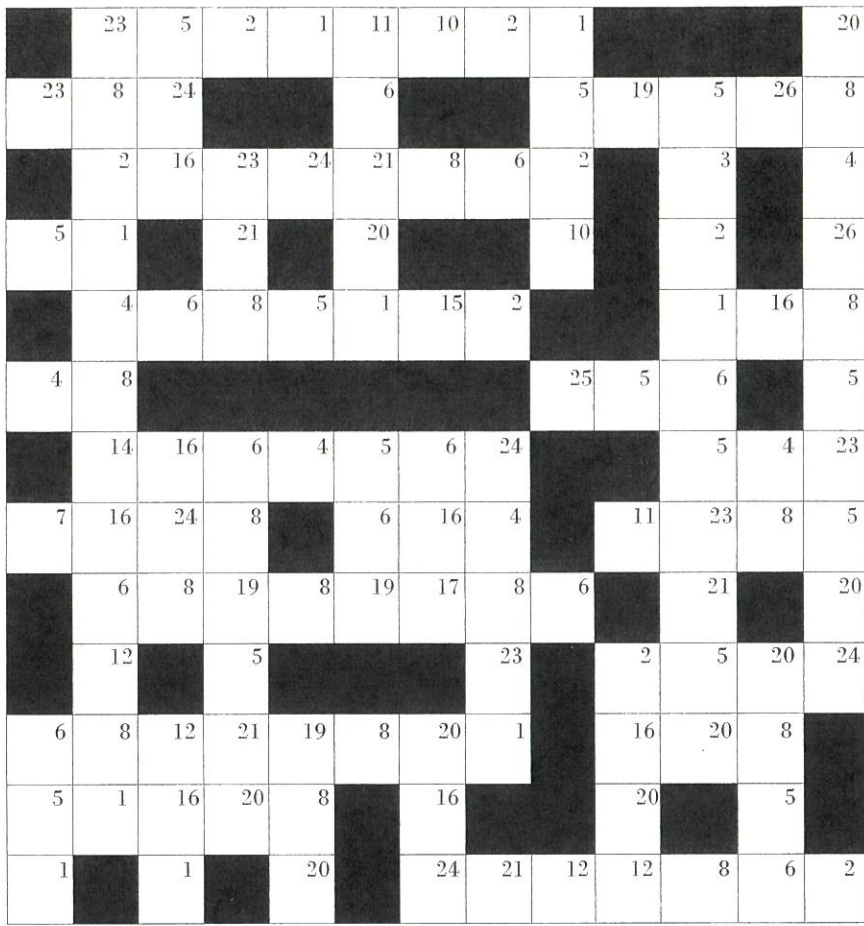
Can you  
turn  
FATES  
Into  
CROWN  
in 10  
moves ?

Word ladder  
rules.  
You can only change  
one letter at a time  
for each move  
down the ladder.  
No foreign words.  
solution P 29


## Important Phone Numbers

<p>Department of Veterans' Affairs 1800 55254 regional 133254 local generalenquiries@dva.gov.au Get started <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au">www.dva.gov.au</a></p>	<p>Open Arms Veterans and Counselling Service. Ph. 1800 011 046 Veterans and Veterans families Counselling Services <a href="http://www.vvcs.gov.au">www.vvcs.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme</b> 1300 552 662</p>	<p><b>Voluntary Work Scheme</b> <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au">www.dva.gov.au</a> Fact sheet MC36</p>
<p><b>VAN Robina</b> Department of Human Services Level 5 Robina Town centre 19-33 Robina Town Centre Dr, Robina. 07 55832023</p>	<p><b>VAN Tweed Heads</b> Department of Human Services 100 Blundell Boulevard Tweed Heads South 07 55697525</p>
<p><b>VAN</b> (Veterans' Access Network) 133 254 <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au">www.dva.gov.au</a> Veterans' Home Maintenance Line 1800 80 1945</p>	<p><b>War Widows' Guild of Australia (Qld) Inc.</b> Ph. 32 211391 Toll free : 1800 061945</p>





C	R	I	E
R			
O	I	C	S
S			
S	T	A	M

**W** **Word Maker :**   
**O** How many words,  
**R** 3 letters or more,  
**D** can you make from  
 these letters.  
*Military Terms: Treaty*

SPECIAL ANZAC CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1. 

18	8	6	21	14	22
----	---	---	----	----	----

  
 2. 

18	6	5	22
----	---	---	----

      3. 

9	3	5	22
---	---	---	----

The letters have been replaced by numbers. Each number represents a different letter. I have given you 2 letters to get you started. Think about the most used letters and how many of any one number there is in the grid. Have fun. When you have solved the main puzzle see the Extra clues (3) above right. *Solution P. 29*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

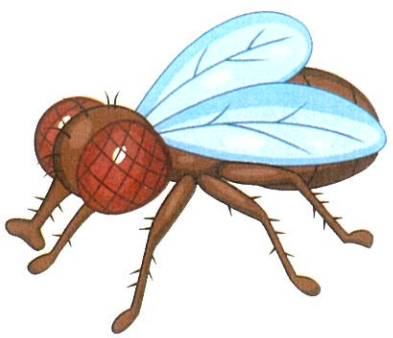
  

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

		8						
	4		8	9		3		
9	2	7		5		4		
	9			6			3	
	8	1	3		7	6	9	
4				8			2	
		9		1		3	4	2
	1		2		5		8	
							1	

A gianormous fly was attacking the police station so they sent out the 'swat' team.

Sudoku: Complete the grid so that every row and column contains the numbers 1-9. *Solution Page 29*



What do you call a monkey walking through a mine field?  
 A baboom!  
 The Energizer bunny has been arrested.  
 He was apparently charged with battery.

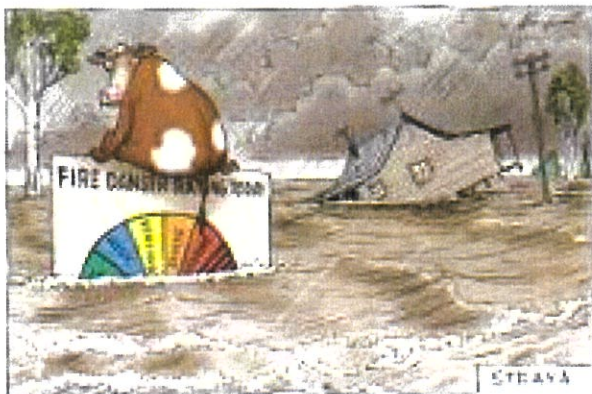
# our history

- \* Swimming - In 1838 it was declared illegal to swim at public beaches during the day! This law was enforced until 1902.
- \* The secret ballot was first used in Victoria and South Australia following the granting of responsible government. Other states introduced secret ballots as follows: 1856 - Victoria & South Australia 1858 - New South Wales & Tasmania 1859 - Queensland 1893 - Western Australia. The secret ballot was referred to as '*kangaroo voting*'. World wide, secret voting is often referred to as the '*Australian ballot*'.
- \* Female vote - Australia was the second country to give women the vote.
- \* In 1932, Francis De Groot, a retired cavalry officer, managed to get himself selected as part of the honour guard at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. When the ribbon was about to be cut, he galloped forward on his horse and slashed the ribbon with his sword, declaring the bridge open in the name of 'the decent citizens of New South Wales'. The ribbon was then tied back together and the ceremony continued. De Groot was carried off to a mental hospital, declared insane and later fined for the replacement cost of one ribbon.
- \* Independence for WA- In April 1933, 68 per cent of West Australians voted in favour of seceding from the Commonwealth of Australia. However, they needed permission from the British Parliament before they could officially become a new country. Meanwhile, Australia's Federal Parliament was arguing that Britain should not interfere in Australian politics. The end result was that Britain never made a decision. Consequently, Western Australian remained part of the Commonwealth.
- \* In 1954, Bob Hawke was immortalised by the *Guinness Book of Records* for sculling 2.5 pints of beer in 11 seconds. Bob later became the Prime Minister of Australia.
- \* Sir John Robertson, five times premier of New South Wales, was said to have drunk a pint of rum every morning for 35 years. Later said: 'none of the men who have left footprints in this country have been cold water men.'
- \* Prime Minister Harold Holt went for a swim at Cheviot Beach, near Portsea on 17th December 1967, and was never seen again. The event has been referred to as 'the swim that needed no towel'.
- \* Until 1984, Australia's National anthem was "*God save the Queen/King.*"
- \* Cartoonists - A cartoon is a drawing that makes a satirical, witty, or humorous point. On 17 July 1924, the world's first society of cartoonists, the *Black and White Artists' Society*, was formed in Sydney.
- \* Yowie sighting - In 1987, the Alice Springs police station received a call from a frightened family. The family had stopped for a cup of tea after a morning of rabbit hunting. Then a huge ape like creature, two meters tall and covered in hair, leapt out of an empty water tank and began walking towards them. The family fled to their truck and the creature ran after them before disappearing into the bush. The man, *Frank Burns* believed it was a man however the woman, *Phyllis Kenny*, told the press she could tell the difference between man and beast and this was definitely a beast. The following day police searched the area and found a man, 203 centimetres tall weighing an estimated 127-159 kg sitting naked by the roadside. The man was then taken to a local mental hospital.



# TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In which year did New Zealand become a separate colony from N.S.W.?
2. In which year was Neighbors first broadcast?
3. Lawrence Hargrave was a pioneer in which field?
4. Which animal was introduced into Australia in 1859 to be hunted for sport?
5. How many ships made up the 'First Fleet' of British vessels which arrived in Sydney in 1788?
6. In which decade did Bob Hawke become Australian Prime Minister?
7. What was the name of the island between Australia and New Zealand which became a penal colony.
8. There is archaeological evidence for people on Australia how many years ago?
9. In which city was the first Australia v England cricket test match played in 1877?
10. How many feral rabbits are there in Australia?
11. Around 18,000 years ago, Australia separated from which island due to rising sea levels?
12. Transportation of convicts to N.S.W. was stopped in which decade?
13. Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith was the first to fly across which ocean?
14. What was the name of the first Australian born Governor General?
15. Which sports brand was founded in Sydney in 1914?
16. In which year did Advance Australia Fair become the national anthem?



# 42 for 42

In 2016, four Afghanistan combat veterans founded the non-profit organization 42 for 42 to raise funds to build a Memorial Garden in Brisbane that would honour their fallen mates and educate the public about why the war occurred.

17th February, 2021

An important aspect was to represent the unknown soldiers who were losing their battle back home and falling victim to suicide.

Having had struggles returning home themselves, this was and is an issue that is close to their hearts. Every deployment sent to Afghanistan faced different circumstances and had different outcomes. It's important that we don't forget that this was Australia's longest war and a war on terror, which has shaken the world. The Afghanistan War Memorial Garden will be built as a storyline around each deployment, incorporating our fallen soldiers and our Victoria Cross winners.

After WWI, Australian soldiers came together and built the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. This was a source of inspiration when establishing a plan for The Afghanistan War Memorial Garden in Brisbane. It has always been the main project of the 42 for 42, and has been a collaboration of many veterans, their families and proud Australians coming together to do their bit. It will continue to serve as a place to remember and honour all the deployments to Afghanistan and educate the next generations to come.

42 for 42 began with a 42-hour challenge, in which Afghanistan veteran Sean Mulqueen walked the concourse and stairs of Suncorp Stadium for 42 hours straight carrying 42 kilos in a military pack. As each hour passed, a kilo was removed from the pack by members of the 42 - families of the fallen, veterans and supporters of the 42. It represented lightening the load for soldiers.

This led to the annual 42 hour challenge at Suncorp Stadium every November for anyone to participate in. 42 represents the 41 soldiers Australia lost in Afghanistan, with the 42nd being the soldiers we have lost to suicide and those who are still struggling with their wounds and injuries post-war.

The team quickly expanded as the 42 for 42 are dedicated to supporting the families of fallen Afghanistan soldiers as well as combat veterans who have returned from active duty in Afghanistan, and their families. The 42 for 42 members have worked hard to maintain a positive environment, where veterans and families can join, participate and contribute to the organization as they wish. It supports the Afghanistan veteran community by helping acknowledge, establish, and increase awareness of events, groups, support programs, job help and financial assistance when required.

Please feel free to contact the 42 for 42 through their website:

<https://www.42for42.org.au/>

or follow them on social media and watch how the memorial will come to life.

*By Sean Mulqueen, co-founder and President*



# WORD SEARCH : ANZAC words

This one will get your brain boxes working. Read all the instructions below.

F	E	V	E	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	D	U	M	C	S	A	S	V	B
A	P	R	O	T	O	C	O	L	Q	U	A	R	A	N	T	I	N	E	O
N	D	S	H	X	D	I	S	M	O	U	N	T	C	I	T	R	A	L	N
O	O	M	C	B	A	Y	O	N	E	T	D	S	G	N	R	S	R	O	Z
G	U	M	I	A	I	P	A	R	A	P	E	T	O	D	I	T	E	C	E
S	R	N	A	R	P	V	A	S	T	E	M	T	R	U	P	R	D	I	R
O	C	E	F	N	A	E	O	E	R	N	I	A	D	C	C	I	E	T	V
M	M	O	E	R	S	L	G	U	B	I	L	L	E	T	O	K	M	Y	I
M	E	I	L	N	O	L	T	O	A	Q	I	D	R	T	N	E	O	G	C
E	H	N	L	L	L	N	A	Y	A	C	T	I	O	I	S	M	B	A	T
N	E	D	C	I	E	I	T	N	A	T	A	R	F	N	C	A	I	L	O
C	L	H	E	O	T	C	N	L	D	T	R	I	8	T	R	T	L	L	R
A	I	O	C	G	M	A	T	E	I	T	I	G	A	E	I	E	I	A	I
M	O	W	S	A	E	M	R	I	A	N	S	I	T	R	P	S	S	N	A
P	G	I	A	A	V	N	A	Y	V	M	E	B	T	N	T	H	E	T	C
M	R	T	A	R	L	A	E	N	J	I	N	L	L	M	I	I	R	R	R
E	A	Z	U	A	C	V	L	R	D	U	S	E	E	E	O	P	G	Y	O
N	P	E	I	R	R	R	A	R	A	E	N	M	S	N	N	P	E	A	S
T	H	R	A	N	K	D	Y	G	Y	T	E	T	S	T	R	E	A	K	S
C	T	B	U	L	L	Y	B	E	E	F	E	R	A	K	Y	D	E	S	K



- |              |              |                 |                |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ADMIRALTY    | DEGENERATE   | HOWITZER        | SALVAGE        |
| AIRSTRIKE    | DEMILITARISE | INDUCT          | SCAPEGOAT      |
| AMNESTY      | DEMOBILISE   | INEPT           | SHIPPED        |
| ANZAC        | DESK         | INTERMENT       | SNARE          |
| ARISEN       | DISMOUNT     | MATESHIP        | SOMME          |
| BAYONET      | DIRIGIBLE    | MEN             | STEAM          |
| BILLET       | ENCAMPMENT   | MILITARY JUNTA  | STREAKS        |
| BIVOUAC      | FEVER        | NO MANS LAND    | STRIP          |
| BONZER       | FRONTLINE    | ORDER OF BATTLE | TRIAL          |
| BULLY BEEF   | GALLANTRY    | PARAPET         | TURK           |
| CAVALRY      | GDP          | PROTOCOL        | VAST           |
| COLLECTIVISM | GREEN LINE   | QUARANTINE      | VELOCITY       |
| COMMANDEER   | HARD         | RANK            | VICTORIA CROSS |
| CONSCRIPTION | HELIOGRAPH   | SERGE           | WARCRY         |

*ANZAC day is Australia's finest example of leadership that it has shown the world. Although it is a military day, it is not used to demonstrate power, continue feuds, or glorify war. ANZAC Day is simply a time for Australians to remember the anguish of war, build bridges with past enemies, and praise the character of soldiers who did it tough, but showed great character in the face of adversity.*

- 13 letters left over
  - ANZAC term during battle
  - one letter is replaced by a number.
- Answer Page 29

*Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, their first president and mastermind of the Turkish resistance in the Gallipoli campaign. In respect for those who fought and died on both sides, Ataturk said:*

**"Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well."**



# Holiday Centres

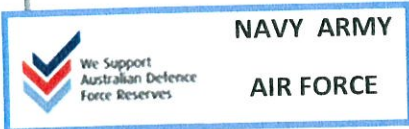
*Holidays for Veterans  
at a reasonable price*

Navy Canteens operates holiday centres across Australia with great discounts for Navy members. Destinations include Amblin Holiday Park (WA), BIG4 Bungalow Park on Burrill Lake (NSW), Forster Holiday Village (NSW) and Pandanus Pocket Villa (NSW). A great range of discounted holiday options across Australia and overseas are also available to all Australian Navy, Army, Air Force and Defence APS personnel.

## WELCOME TO ST GEORGE'S DEFENCE HOLIDAY SUITES

St George's Defence Holiday Suites at The Garland are for Service and ex Service Personnel, their Spouse and dependent school age children. St George's Defence Holiday Suites are operated by the Service Personnel Anglican Help Society Inc, an independent and charitable organisation. Prior to accepting a

booking we require a copy of your Service ID or Discharge Certificate to verify your eligibility to stay at St George's.



**St George's is for Only Military people - Exclusive for Military.**

**Website: [stgeorges.net.au](http://stgeorges.net.au)**

The Garland Building incorporating St George's Defence Holiday Suites opened in December 2016. The holiday Suites are located on the first 3 Levels with a BBQ and large Community area located on the 1st Level.

The Garland Apartments are located 4th floor and above and are for all holiday families and is not part of the St George's Defence Holiday Suites and doesn't offer the St Georges discounted rates for Defence Families. Situated in Coolangatta Qld.



St George's Defence Holiday Suites incorporating The Garland Luxury Apartments

192 Marine Parade,  
Rainbow Bay,  
Coolangatta,  
Gold Coast Area  
Queensland 4225

# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

## Number Crossword Puzzle Solution :

Page 22 - 1=T; 2=D; 3=U; 4=W; 5=A; 6=R; 7=C; 8=E;  
9=Q; 10=K; 11=P; 12=G; 13=V; 14=F; 15=H; 16=O;  
17=B; 18=X; 19=M; 20=N; 21=I; 22=Y; 23=L; 24=D;  
25=J; 26=Z.

SECRET WORDS/TERMS: CROSSWORD PUZZLE PAGE 23  
VERIFY, X-RAY, QUAY.

## Solution to Sudoku puzzle Page 21

1	3	8	6	4	2	9	7	5
6	4	5	8	7	9	2	3	1
9	2	7	1	5	3	4	6	8
7	9	2	5	6	4	8	1	3
5	8	1	3	2	7	6	9	4
4	6	3	9	8	1	5	2	7
8	5	9	7	1	6	3	4	2
3	1	4	2	9	5	7	8	6
2	7	6	4	3	8	1	5	9

I'll never forget the  
on the cashiers face,  
when she scanned  
the packet of bird  
seed and I asked her  
"how long does it  
take for the birds to  
grow once I plant  
them?"

CROSS	FATES
GROSS	HATES
GROWS	HARES
GROWN	HARPS
BROWN	CARPS
BRAWN	CORPS
DRAWN	COOPS
DRAIN	CROPS
TRAIN	CROWS
TRAIT	CROWN

Word Ladder solutions from p21.

**Word search: Counter attack**  
**8 for a B** - 14 across, 12 down

Bruce the Aussie builder was going through a house he had just built for the woman who owned it. She was telling him what colour to paint each room.

They went into the first room and she said, "I want this room to be painted a light blue."

The builder went to the front door and yelled, "GREEN SIDE UP!" When he went back into the house, she told him that the next room was to be bright red. The builder went to the front door and yelled "GREEN SIDE UP!"

When he came back, the woman said, "I keep telling you colours, but you go out the front and yell 'green side up' - what is that for?"

The builder said, "Don't worry about that, I've just got a couple of Kiwis laying the turf out front."

## Word Maker Solution P 21:

*How many more words of 3 letters or more you can find is anyone's guess.*

Ace, air, are, arm, ARMISTICE, art, ate, cam, came, car, care, cart, cast, caste, cat, cite, cram, crate, crest, ear, eat, emit, ire, ism, item, mace, mar, mare, mart, mat, mate, mast, master, meat, met, mice, mire, mist, mister, mite, race, ram, rat, rate, react, remit, rest, ret, rice, rise, rite, rim, same, sat, sate, scam, scar, scare, scat, scram, seam, seat, set, sir, sire, sit, site, star, stare, stem, stir, stream, tam, tame, tar, tare, tea, team, tear, term, time, timer, tire, trace, tram, trim.

*I found 86 words -*

*how many more are there?*

How did Noah see the animals  
in the Ark at night time?  
*With flood lighting*



The RAAF Welfare Recreation Company Charter is articulate through its Aim, Mission and Corporate Goals:  
**Aim**

To provide access to discounted recreational accommodation and to manage and promote RWRC owned recreational facilities for RAAF members, their families and other eligible persons, and to provide financial support to, and assist in the provision of, recreational amenities and services to RAAF members.

### Mission

To manage the activities of the RCWTF as a sustainable entity through a strategy of diversification and with broad long term vision in order to optimise the benefits to eligible persons in the provision of discounted recreational accommodation and welfare recreational amenities.

If you help  
someone when  
they're in  
trouble - they  
will remember  
you when  
they're in  
trouble again.

### Corporate Goals

#### Objective 1 – Recreational Facilities

To provide access to discounted high quality recreational accommodation and facilities for members of the RAAF, their families, and other eligible persons through the provision of the RCWTF owned or leased holiday apartments, joint commercial ventures with other corporate bodies or promoting the use of other Service owned facilities. The recreational facilities may be owned solely by the Trust, owned by virtue of a joint venture, or by economically viable short or long term leasing arrangements.

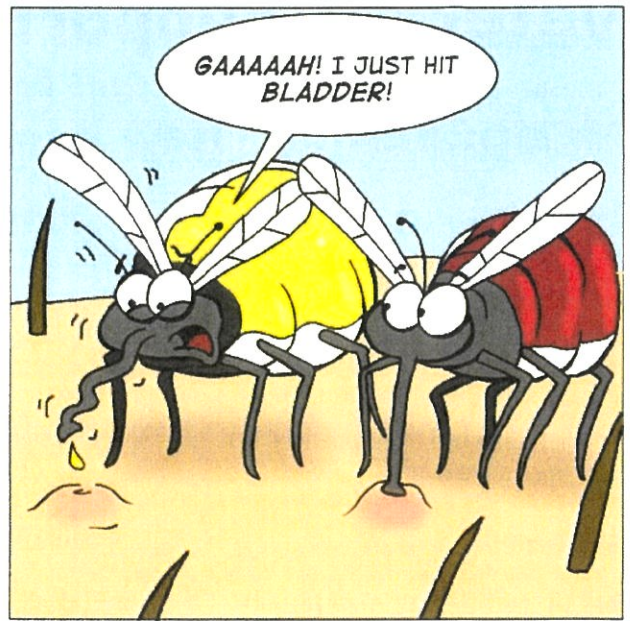
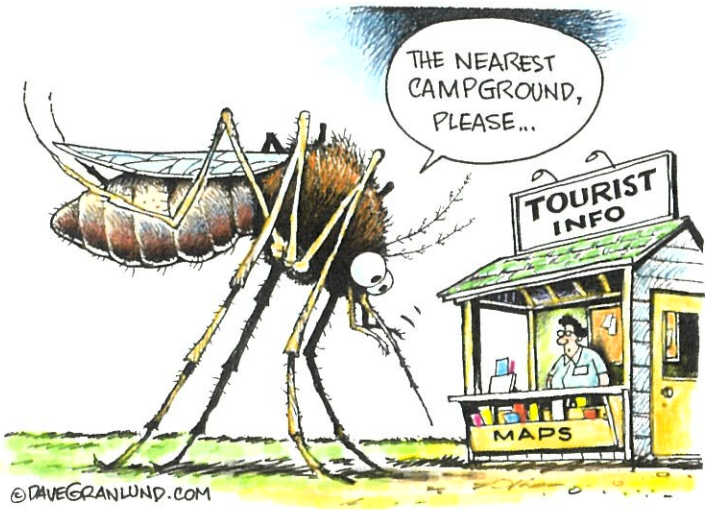
#### Objective 2 – Recreational Amenities and Welfare Activities.

To provide financial assistance via loans and grants in the provision of recreational amenities and Service recognised welfare activities.

#### Objective 3 – Mutual Cooperation and Marketing.

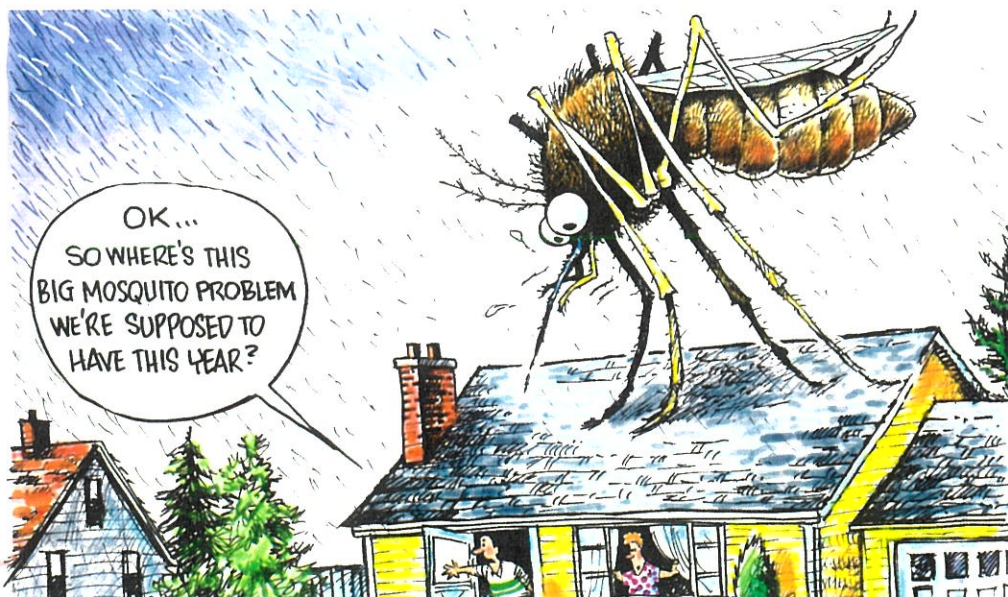
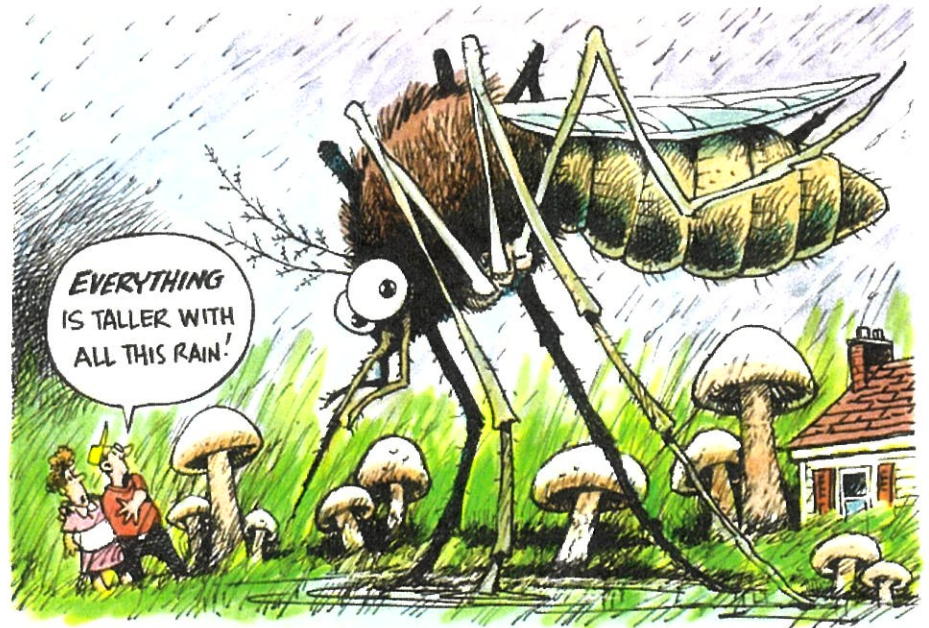
To foster relations with the providers of Navy, Army and other Allied nations in order that RAAF personnel and other eligible persons can access their similar amenity benefits. To promote, in accordance with the RWRC marketing plan, RCWTF holiday facilities, other affiliated recreational accommodation, and other welfare amenity benefits available to eligible persons.

[raafholidays.com.au/about/charter](http://raafholidays.com.au/about/charter)



Há, Há, Há...

Only in  
Australia !!!!



# Veterans Support Group® - (Advocacy Services)

Founded by the **Vietnam Veterans Federation Australia Queensland Br. Inc.**

## MEMBERSHIPS - New Applications (Section A)

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

Address: .....

Email: (only if you use email) ..... Phone: .....

Partners can join as full members at \$30 also: Please complete partner's details on next line if required.

### Partner's Details

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

Email: (only if you use email) ..... Phone: .....

### Service details:

(A) Service No. .... (B) Navy / RAAF / Army (C) Other .....

(D) Service No. .... (E) Navy / RAAF / Army (F) Other .....

Please use (D), (E) and (F) above for the Partner if you and your partner have both served in the Australian Defence Force.

## MEMBERSHIPS - Renewals (Section B)

### Your Details

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

Address: .....

Email: (only if you use email) ..... Phone: .....

Partners can join as full members at \$30 each (\$60 total): Please complete partner's details on next line if required.

### Partner's Details

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

**Thank you for your support** Our Advocacy team of Flavia, Brad, Kerry, and Michelle are achieving results for all veterans. That team is supported by a further 9 admin volunteers. All Membership subscriptions are allocated to our Advocacy Service. The more members, the better chance we have to receive the funding Grants needed to meet our expenses. In 2020/21 we received Government Funding of \$105,680.20 towards our Advocacy Services. We needed to raise over \$63,000 to cover our actual costs. **Every single membership is important and we thank the many members who add a donation when paying their membership fees.**

**Membership Fees: \$30 per annum per member (1 July to 30 June).** Half fees apply for new members only:- 1st January to 30th June at \$15.00. All renewals fall due on 1st July yearly. All membership Applications can be completed online "veteransupportgroup.org.au"

<b>Paying:</b>	Membership Fees of \$.....	Donation of \$.....	Total \$.....
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Pay by direct deposit into our bank account BSB 124065 A/c No. 20454340 and use your name as the Payee Reference **OR** send online, OR by email to [admin@vfvqld.com](mailto:admin@vfvqld.com), OR post "Veterans Support Group, PO Box 2817 Nerang Qld 4211, OR bring your Membership Application to our office. We process your payment by phone: 07 5578 2233. Office hours: - 9.30am to 2.30pm Mondays to Thursdays (incl.).

Our Quarterly Newsletters are available by (A) Email Hyperlink (B) Post or (C) Not required. Please circle your choice A, B, or C. Our National Newsletter is only available by post or on website. Do you require the National Newsletter posted to you? Yes / No (please circle your option)

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