

1871

A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2013



2013

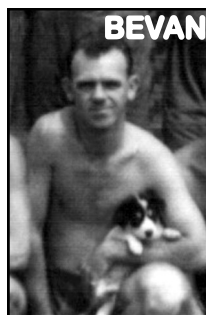
President Ron Bassan's Report

From the Presidents Chair.

G'day everyone,

Well, here we are in 2013, where did 2012 go. I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and I hope Santa brought you what you wished for.

On a sad note, we lost Bevan Filce on the 9th January. A lot of the members will remember Bevan as a very nice person; he was my Best Man at my wedding along with his first wife, Coral, who was Bonnie's Brides Maid. Bevan served in the Bty at Georges Heights, in Malaya during confrontation and at Holsworthy; he returned to Malaysia as a Sergeant with 102 Bty in 1963 and was posted to 4th Field Regiment in Vietnam as a WO2. May he rest in peace?



BEVAN

Everyone should know that there is to be a National Gunner Dinner hosted by the Australian Artillery Association and is to be held at Caloundra on the 23rd August, 2014. The price of the event will be \$145.00 per person. People who intend to go to this event (They don't happen very often) would let me know ASP, so we can make a group booking.

There is an information webpage which provides viewers with all the information to date. The URL is: <http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/2014-national-gunner-dinner.htm>.

We will hold our Annual General Meeting and Reunion to coincide with this dinner.

Everyone should know that this year's AGM and Reunion is to be held once again at Sawtell, (This is what everyone wanted at the AGM in 2011) so I hope we have a great attendance. The dates are from Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th September, 2013.

The programme and costs for the Reunion are:
Monday 9th: Meet and Greet, 1800hrs for 1830hrs. Sawtell RSL. Cost \$18.00.

Tuesday 10th: Annual General Meeting, 1000hrs. Sawtell RSL, upstairs, right hand room.

Tuesday Lunch: Own responsibility

Tuesday evening: Semi Formal Dinner, 1800hrs for 1830hrs, Princess room, miniature medals to be worn. Cost \$40.00.

Wednesday 11th: Recovery Breakfast, 0800hrs, Sawtell RSL. Cost 18.00.

Bus Trip: Depart : First Avenue, in front of RSL, 1000hrs. Cost \$30.00. Tour to be published in next newsletter. The tour will be in the Nambucca region, lunch at the Nambucca River RSL.

Farwell Barbecue: Sawtell Golf Club, 1830hrs for 1900hrs. Cost \$ 24.00.

Total all functions: \$130.00. I think this is a very reasonable amount.

Places to Stay.

The Sawtell Hotel.

51-55 First Avenue, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.

Phone: 02 6653 1213.

Web. Sawtellhotel.com

Coasters Motel & Apartments.

77 First Avenue, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.

Phone: 02 6653 1541.

Email. reception@coastersmotel.com.au

Web. www.coastersmotel.com.au

Sawtell Motor Inn.

57 Boronia Street, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.

Phone: 02 6658 9872

Email. info@sawtellmotorinn.com.au

Web. www.sawtellmotorinn.com.au

Elizabeth Bed & Breakfast.

Elizabeth Street, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.

Phone: 02 6658 2244

Coffs Coast Holiday Parks.

5 Lyons Road, Sawtell, NSW, 2452.

Telephone: 02 6653 1379

Free Call: 1800 200 111.

Email. info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au

Web. www.coffsholidays.com.au

I hope you all make the effort to come to this Reunion, so I hope to see a lot of old faces.

Remember 2014 is at Caloundra, interested people, please let me know.

Semper Paratus.....Tex

Sawtell on the beach

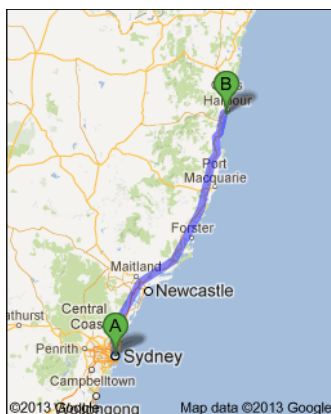
“Sunny Sawtell” is a beachside town just 10km south of the centre of Coffs Harbour., an attractive main street with great cafés and restaurants that are just a stroll from the popular swimming and surfing beach, and easy access to creeks and a National Park.

Sawtell’s First Avenue is characterised by the huge Moreton Bay fig trees in the colourful garden dividing the street. They protect and shelter not just the benches underneath but the entire main street. . Enjoy a movie at the renovated

1920s First Avenue Cinema or just take a look inside for its historic character.

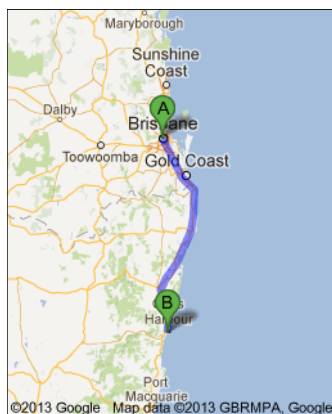
The Sawtell RSL provides plenty of entertainment options, while your dining choices are endless with anything from spicy Thai, exotic Indian and traditional Chinese to fresh local seafood and modern Australian cuisine.

This is the first of our of all our future AGMs to be held in Sawtell. Contact Tex Bassan now to confirm your attendance. Book your own accommodation, some good ones on the front page.



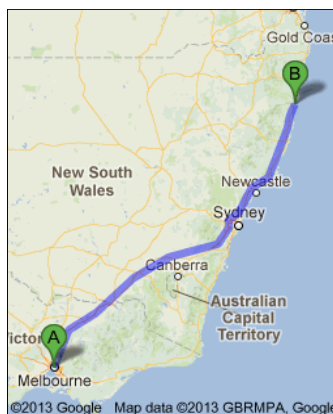
Driving from: Sydney To: Sawtell

Time: 5 hours 55 mins
Distance 525.0 km
Route: Pacific Hwy



Driving from: Brisbane To: Sawtell .

Time: 4 hours 34 mins.
Distance 402.5 km.
Route Pacific Hwy



Driving from: Melbourne To: Sawtell .

Time: 14 hours 10 mins.
Distance 1,393.6 km.
Route: National Highway

By plane You can fly to Coffs Harbour

Qantas (ph 131313) from Sydney or Lord Howe Island

Virgin Australia (ph 136789) from Sydney or Melbourne

Brindabella Airlines (ph Qantas) from Brisbane.

The airport is usually referred to by airlines as Coffs Coast and is located about a five minute drive outside the town. There is bus that runs into town from the airport. Taxis are also available

Sydney to Sawtell Train Service

	Cost.	Daily.	Daily.	Daily.
Sydney Central		07.15	11.35	16.12
Broadmeadow	\$20.99	09.35	13.55	18.32
Taree	\$46.80	12.38	17.10	21.33
Kempsey	\$58.91	14.33	18.54	23.15
Macksville	\$62.14	15.13	19.38	00.02
Sawtell	\$66.17	15.57	20.25	00.49
Coffs Harbour	\$66.17	16.05	20.33	00.57

Brisbane to Sawtell Train and Coach Service

Daily.	Train.	Coach
Roma St. Brisbane	07.30	15.10
Coffs Harbour	12.25	22.10
Sawtell	12.36	22.18

Country Link Phone bookings 13 22 32

email bookings @ countrylink.nsw.gov.au



Sawtell is a short distance from the Pacific Highway and about 5kms south of Coffs Harbour. If you are travelling North, look for the Sawtell sign 7kms south of Coffs Harbour. Leave the Pacific Highway and turn right onto Lyons Rd. Follow the road into Sawtell township.

If you are travelling south, drive through Coffs Harbour on the Pacific Highway. Leave the highway just before you see a Mobil Service Station. Turn left onto Sawtell Road and follow it to Sawtell.

Sawtell RSL Club is a bright and colourful meeting place for Members and their guests. We are renowned in the area as the Entertainment Centre of the coast, with activities ranging from International Touring Acts down to our weekly raffles and Bingo.

Facilities include a vast variety of Dining alternatives, Indoor and Outdoor lounge areas and a Family friendly atmosphere.

**Tuesday 10th.Semi Formal
Dinner in Princess Room,
miniature medals to be worn.**



To be attended by all Batteries in the year 2014



GUNNER DINNER

et plurimus praeclarus spectaculum

Saturday 23rd August, 2014

- SPECIAL 3 HOUR MILITARY CONCERT AT THE CALOUNDRA EVENT CENTRE
BY THE SUNSHINE COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

\$145 pp

- THREE COURSE DINNER WITH DRINKS PACKAGE**

**SHOW: 1400 - 1700 HRS DINNER: 1830 - 2130 HRS
CONCLUSION 2359 HRS**

The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful and special evening bringing together all Gunners of all eras to share In this momentous occasion.

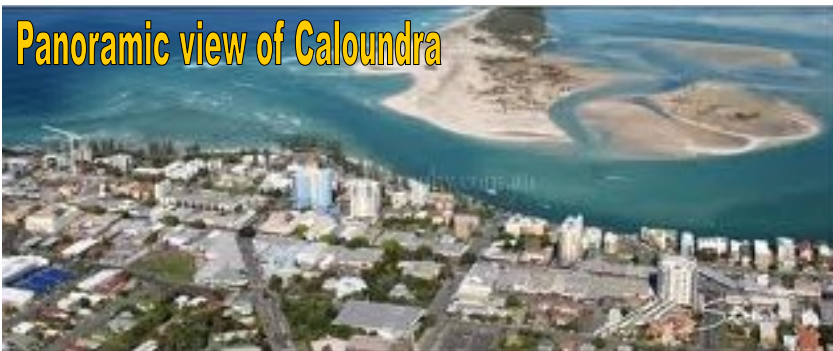
This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime opportunity to all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event.
DON'T MISS OUT !!



BOOKINGS & INFORMATION:

**If you plan to attend this extraordinary event in 2014
Contact Tex Bassan now (details on back page)**

Panoramic view of Caloundra



The BreakFree Grand Resort, Caloundra



CA-BEAUTIFUL-LOUNDRAS

This will be a very special meeting attended by all the Artillery Batteries, allowing you to catch up with friends you may not have seen for many years.

Although still 18 months away our President Ron Bassan would like you to confirm your attendance asap, you will find all of his contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

This years AGM at Sawtell is important and you should confirm with Tex now, apparently there will be a large number attending, including a few West Aussies. However the Caloundra gathering of gunners will become a historical event so put your hand up now to become part of this unique artillery assembly.



The Events Centre's facilities include:

- Six main meeting rooms
- Room for up to 900 delegates
- Banquet room for up to 600 people
- Award winning catering to suit any budget
- Expansive flat floor space to accommodate exhibitions and trade shows
- Meeting rooms available to suit from 15 to 1750 people
- State of the art sound and lighting equipment and a full range of business facilities
- Large registration and foyer area



Marchout of 41 Platoon, 14th December 2012.

The weather in Wagga was very hot but overcast. I arrived at the Kapooka main gate at around 8 am and joined the line of cars waiting to park.

After parking I met up with Brad Cairnduff and we proceeded to the bus line.

We toured the camp on the bus and walked to parade ground seating area. As per last time we were seated in the VIP pavilion along with Colonel David Hay, commandant of 1 ARTC, some of his family members, Legacy members and several other dignitaries.

The parade went smoothly until towards the end when one male from 41 Platoon and one female from 42 Platoon passed out and had to be assisted from the parade ground to the waiting medical staff.

The male recruit fully recovered by the end of the parade and was able to join the families for lunch in the Edmondson Club, unfortunately the female did not get back from hospital in time for lunch.

These were the first two such occurrences this year. The band did their usual comedy routine at the end of the proceedings and were warmly applauded.

Of note is the fact that Lt. Albert Jessup has been promoted to captain since our last visit and will be transferring to a RACMP (Military Police) unit shortly.

He said he will fully brief his replacement on our association's affiliation with 41 Platoon and that the invitation to our members to attend marchout parades will continue.

After morning tea in the Officers' Mess and meeting several other officers, we were driven by Captain Jessup to the Edmondson Club.



Colonel David Hay, Commandant,
1 Army Recruit Training Centre
Kapooka and Dodger Noonan



Lt. (Now, Captain) Jessup,
Dodger Noonan and Brad Cairnduff

park at about 1.15 pm.

On return to Wagga both Brad and I adjourned to the RSL club and partook of the delightful beverages available in that establishment.

It should be noted that guests of the RSL Motel have private access to the club using their room key card. Meals may be purchased and taken back to your room if desired or eaten in the club. A very civilised arrangement I must say.

I headed back to Sydney on Saturday morning (a 4.5 hour drive) while Brad said he would take advantage of his proximity to Tumut, and try a bit of trout fishing.



Lt. Jessup giving me a grand tour
of the 1 RTB Officer's Mess

As usual a good time was had by all, but the after-event drinks were a bit sparsely populated. Captain Jessup had some family members present who had travelled up from Melbourne and mentioned that it was only a four and a half hour drive from there (Come on Victorians, its not that far to go, up one day and back the next).

We would like to see a few more of our number at the next one, probably in March, but firm dates and timing will be notified closer to the day.

I thought this was just going to be a paragraph or two at the most but its turning into another "War and Peace" so I will stop now. Dodger Noonan.



The Band, clown it up

After a quick tour of the Souvenir shop and several purchases later, we found some seats in the club. Speeches and presentations were made by the officers.

The food was excellent and served with the staff's usual military precision and efficiency.

As usual we were requested to be off the camp premises by 1.30 pm so we left on the bus for the car

It Wasn't my Fault, Sir!!

The editor received some emails from Brad Cairnduff containing harsh criticism that plans to visit the Kapooka march out were not included in the newsletter, he went on to complain that the Kapooka visit was far more important than some of the fillers put in to top up the pages.

The editor agrees that a lot of unimportant stuff is published but this newsletter relies on a small band of contributors, Tom Caldwell, Max Vandyke, Ray Alcorn etc.

I have advised Dodger and Candy that the reason for not including the Kapooka attendance advice in the last newsletter was that



the information was sent to the webmaster and not to the editor.

Dodger has accepted this but Candy remains grumpy and seems to think there is a hidden agenda.

Then it struck me, of course Candy is an ex copper and would demand a more complicated and lengthy statement as evidence so here is a really true and honest, yet highly confidential report.

It wasn't my fault, Sir !!

An investigation is progressing to determine that not reporting the Kapooka March Out Parade in the newsletter was the cause of Dodger and Candy being the most likely suspects in attendance.

It wasn't my fault Sir!.

The true reason was that I got a

call from Julia saying that she would prefer the newsletter a little earlier as parliament was set to become very busy and she and her senior staff preferred to take their time enjoying this fine read.

Pause for a moment and consider your response to these instructions from the country's highest and most respected leader.

Yes; of course there can be no debate about respecting our gracious first lady's charming request.

Your confidentiality regarding this factual report is requested to maintain government security, failure to comply with this direction could result in a term of imprisonment in Canberra Jail, sharing a cell with Peter Slipper

He will solemnly swear that.

It wasn't my fault Sir!.



"A" Field Battery Association Inc. Committee Meeting.

Held at Ian and Wendy Levens' residence at 345 Teven Road, Tevern, NSW, on the 12th. December 2012.

Meeting Opened: Opened by President Mr. Ron Bassan at 1105 hours

Present: Tex Bassan, Greg Kittelty, Bob Cunningham, Ian Leven, Don Sinclair, Ray Alcorn.

Apologies: Nil.

Visitors: Wendy Leven, Margaret Kittelty.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting which was held at the Maroochy Coach House, Maroochy, Queensland on the 8th. September 2012 were read by the Assistant Secretary Mr. Ray Alcorn and were confirmed by Bob Cunningham as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Seconded by Ian Leven. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes: Nil.

Inward and Outward Correspondence: The Inward and Outward Correspondence was read by the assistant secretary and it was moved by Greg Kittelty that the Inwards Correspondence be received and the Outwards Correspondence be endorsed.

Seconded by Don Sinclair and carried.

Treasurer's Report: As per attached statement. The report was read by the Treasurer Mr. Bob Cunningham. The Treasurer moved that the report be received and the following cheques be passed for payment: 766994 to 767002.

Seconded by Ray Alcorn and carried

General Business:

1. Life membership discussion. A discussion took place on the proposal for life membership for Alan Williams. Moved by Ron Bassan that Alan Williams be granted Honorary Life Membership due to him being the founding member of the Association and a Korean veteran.

Seconded by Ian Leven. Carried

2. Financial Discussion. Don Sinclair commented that the interest on investments will eventually negate the costs over subscriptions. Bob Cunningham spoke about Future Fund to deliver donations to organisations.
3. Ron Bassan discussed the progress of the "Henry Green Room". There is no building yet to house this Association's memorabilia. Ron suggested that we draft a letter regarding our concerns for the loss of important historical records to:

Minister for the Army.....Shadow Minister for the Army.....HAAC Society.....Unit Commander A Field Battery.....Chief of Defence Force.

Note: 1st. Regiment museum dismantled and in storage. No accommodation available.

4. AGM Sawtell, NSW. The dates have been set for the next AGM. 9th. 10th. 11th. September 2013
Monday 9th. September.....Meet and greet at 6.30 pm.

Tuesday 10th. September...AGM Meeting to commence at 10 am.

Regimental Dinner, 6.30pm for 7.00 pm start. (Coat and tie with miniatures etc... Tuxedos optional)

Wednesday 11th. September... Recovery Breakfast. Followed by a bus trip

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled at Greg and Margaret Kittelty's residence at 6 Pearwood Lane Robina, Qld. For Wednesday 6th. March 2013 at 1000 hours EST.

Meeting Closed: The meeting was closed by the President at 12.30 hours ESTDT>

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Mr Geoffrey Leonard GRIMISH,
78 The Esplanade, Cronulla NSW 2230
For service to the community through fundraising activities.

Has made large donations to a range of organisations including;
The Children's Hospital at Westmead.
Kidney Health Australia.
Pittwater Friends of Soibada; support group for the village of Soibada, East Timor.

12th Field Regiment (Vietnam)
Association.

Sydney University.

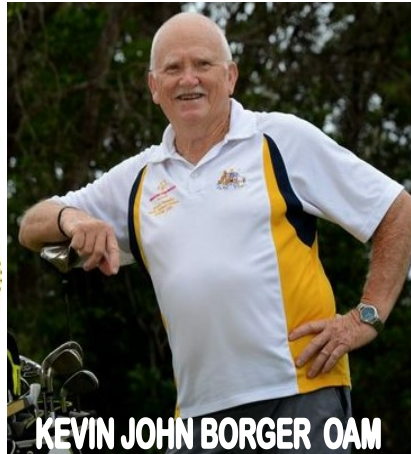
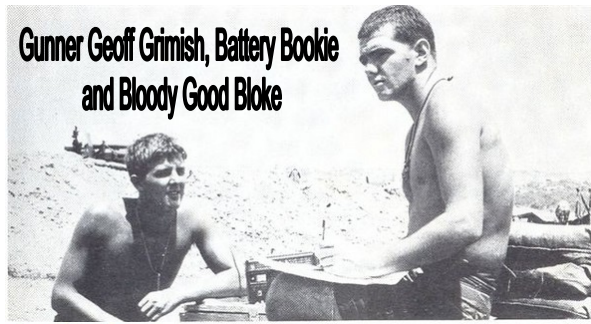
Hoc Mai Foundation for Vietnam.

Northcote Disability Services.

There is arguably no more selfless act than fighting for your country however giving just seems to be something that Vietnam veteran Geoff Grimish just keeps doing.

Last Saturday at Rosehill was The Kidney Foundation's fund raiser with 6 of the 8 races named after a particular aspect of the Kidney cause.

Geoff's filly Red Tracer beat the boys seemingly twice her



size. She collected a first prize cheque of \$42,000 when she won the Kidney Kids Handicap.

Before the race, Geoff had mentioned to organisers that he would donate the prize money if his filly was to win. She won and he donated.

Our advocate, Dick Morrison was elated with the news that his head advocate at VVA Kevin Borger was awarded the OAM

Kevin John Borger, Pottsville, NSW.

For service to veterans and their families, and to people with a disability Kevin was surprised. "It was something that I never aspired to," he said. "I just get a buzz out of helping the veterans."

Kevin was a national service infantry soldier 5th battalion RAR first tour

Report on Annual General Meeting 2012 held at Maroochydoore.

With our President Tex Bassan out of town, the meeting was presided over by me, the Vice President Don Sinclair, at the Coach House, Maroochydoore, on 8th September 2012.

The numbers were very disappointing this year with only some 18 members present, our lowest attendance ever for an AGM. There were only six apologies given, so it may have been a protest of the venue, or perhaps the dictatorial manner of the Vice President. But it did give us a short and sweet meeting. I took my gavel to ensure control.

Members were upstanding to observe a minutes silence for departed comrade Jack Holtman. Jack will be remembered for his physique in Malaya in 1959 which had him known as The Man with the Million Dollar Body (and because of some blunders) and the Ten Cent Head. Jack was a good bloke and well liked and had a long and successful career in the Military.

All positions were declared vacant and our Patron, Barry Campbell took the chair and elected the incoming committee. The present committee was re-elected unopposed again as no one seems to want to change or replace the current committee. Brian Miller had to withdraw due to other commitments.

After the election I again advised that I would have liked to have been replaced but no one had come forward. Shorty Callahan said he may be interested but on hearing of the duties and the costs incurred decided he would not be interested. Don't blame him for that.

A new member was admitted to the association, John Francis Sheenan, after a unanimously vote of approval by members.

A discussion was held concerning the Gunners Dinner to be held at Caloundra in 2014 and once again everybody seemed happy with the proposal.

The Financial Report by our treasurer Bob Cunningham shows we doing well financially and moving closer to our

target of having \$40,000 invested. A large block of this money is made up from the Life Membership fees which we are obliged to hold in trust. Bob is doing a great job on the investment side and when our capital reaches the desired amount, it will mean it will provide funds to cover the running of our assoc. The \$20 annual subs hardly covers the newsletter and admin costs.

Hopefully in the future there will be some monies available for other things, but not yet.

As can be imagined with the small turnout, the dinner lacked some of the enthusiasm we have enjoyed in the past. But the food was good and Lloyd Sinclair along with his girls put on an entertaining show for us.

If we had kept going to this venue for our AGMs we may have started to believe that Lloyd really was Elvis Presley.

But after all these years, this is of course our last visit to the Coach House and the word is that the Lloyds have now left.

Sunday morning saw the usual farewell breakfast with all the goodbyes and "see you next year at Sawtell."

The Saint



**Heartbreak Motel
You left me so lonely
baby !!!**



I wasn't expecting a Bulldog Tale for this newsletter as I heard that Tom was suffering some serious health problems, so when I got his regular and welcome story I sent an email to Tom's wife Sheila enquiring about his problems. This is her reply, it will validate the reason we call him Bulldog.



Thanks for your email Butch, yes, now Tom has added a stroke to his ever growing list of ailments.

Tom went down to the local milk bar for his paper, only a few minutes away, on the way back he suffered the

stroke, failed to give way to the car on the right, as a result the car is now in for extensive repair.

On the bright side Tom has not been left with any permanent health issues which is the main thing.

He is struggling a bit what with the after math of the Lung Cancer a couple of years ago.

Tom has been receiving support from Harry Cook, Barry Olver, David Harris rang him also and must not forget The Saint otherwise he will not speak to me again.

Hope this finds the rest of the blokes keeping as well as they can, getting older is not much of a joke is it. Stay Safe. Tom & Sheila



The Long Bay Incident, how to lose a Battery without going into action.

I think that everyone will remember our illustrious A

Battery leader Red Ned, who was preparing the Battery for over seas deployment.

We were camped on the Anzac Rifle range at Long Bay and our BC. Red Ned who was a stickler for physical fitness decided that on the morning of this incident an early morning swim in the Long Bay surf would be appropriate.

Well it went something like this. When all the Battery was marched down to the surf the order was given for all of the non swimmers to form up separately.

Due to a heavy night on the turps and not feeling too well my mate and I decided to fall out with the non swimmers thinking that we may have a little sun bake on the beach.

We should have known that we could not escape the evil eye of our TSM who was quite aware that we could both swim but we were dogged, there was no way that we were going into the water that morning.

The TSM barked at us with warnings that we would be charged

with failing to obey a lawful order of command.

By this time the rest of the Battery was into the surf, as commanded by Red Ned. It came to light later on that Long Bay beach was one of the worst places on the coast for rips and it didn't take long for most of the swimmers to get into trouble.

Fortunately for the swimmers a life saver was taking a jog along the beach, that morning and he stripped down to the all together and rushed into the swirling water and fearlessly rescued quite a few.

Luckily the Battery also had a few strong swimmers who were able to save themselves and others, incredibly there were a few others who found themselves swept about two miles down the beach.

It must have been very embarrassing for a red faced Red Ned once the press got onto the story, earlier on we were all ordered not to talk to the press but it still made all the papers.

As for all those pending charges that were threatened to the swimmers that did not enter the surf, they all seemed to disappear so that we could suffer our hangovers in triumphant peace. And so ends another tail.

Bull Dog



Bulldog and his mate prefer to stay on the beach



ANZAC DAY 25th April, the Brisbane river cruise will be on again this year. If you intend going on the cruise we have to book numbers.

To reserve your place on the vessel please notify the President/Secretary by 25th. March, on 07 4942 5433 or email, texbassan@yahoo.com.au as soon as possible.



BBQ and drinks on board



Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk

Opening of Stage 2

The Commemorative Wall, which will include both the names of all Australian veterans who served in the Vietnam War and the photographic timeline, will be unveiled at Seymour on...

Saturday 9th March at 1pm – High St, Seymour



Enquiries to
Mr. Ross Gregson on
03 5792 3227,
Mob. 0417 973 573.
email
vvaamitchell@westnet.com.au

Seymour is a town of approximately 6000 people about an hours drive north of Melbourne Victoria, and is well serviced by road and rail, again just over an hour from Southern Cross Station.

The town also has a proud military history dating back to the Boer War when troops were trained in the surrounding hills prior to embarkation.

January 2010 was celebrated as the 100th anniversary of Lord Kitcheners visit to the area where he approved of the proposed plans for a more extensive training facility to be built here. Light Horse Park, 3 Km east, was the centre of training for the Light Horse Regiments during the First World War.

There are literally scores of plaques in the surrounds of Seymour highlighting various units' bases for the Second World War. Army personnel old and young are well aware of Puckapunyal, 12 Km west of town, even if they have never been posted there, still used to this day as a major training facility. The Commemorative Walk is not to memorialise those who

served in Vietnam and/or those who paid the ultimate price, but to commemorate the service of all who played their part in what turned out to be a tumultuous part of Australia's history.

It will, in the interpretive centre give an accurate history of the times prior to military commitment, the period of our involvement and the aftermath.

The Walk will be a meandering red earth path set in native trees and grasses that resemble rubber trees

and rice paddies. These two plants are synonymous with Vietnam.

Along the length of this Walk will be walls made up of panels of DigiGlass with the name of every Serviceman and Servicewoman who served in their various capacities.

The names will be separated only by the Service in which they served in alphabetical order.

The plinths on which the panels stand will have holes for Poppies; the effect is to have a field of Poppies under the names.

Behind the names is the picture story of the Vietnam conflict.

There will be areas of contemplation for people to use along the length of this walk.



Troops board a ship in Brisbane in 1967, bound for Vietnam

(Australian War Memorial photo)



The wall will feature the names of all service men and women who served in Vietnam

Our hard working Assistant Secretary, Ray Alcorn has been researching his ancestors and has been kind enough to share two interesting results with us

Private Ernest Edgar Hough

was the great uncle of Ray Alcorn, he was born in Windsor, NSW, which is Ray's home town. Private Hough enlisted in the 1st Battalion, 1st. Brigade, 1st. AIF.

He landed in Gallipoli in the third assault wave on 25th. April 1915. After Gallipoli he was sent to the Western Front. Returned to Australia 23 October 1918

After the war he settled down at 9 Nickson St. Surrey Hills, NSW.

He committed suicide on 8th. February 1924 by self administering strychnine poisoning and is buried with his brother, who was also in the Great War, at Rookwood Cemetery in NSW.

Ray's Grandmother lost both of brothers from the Great War

Regimental number 944
Religion Roman Catholic
Occupation Tram driver
Address Baker Street,
Windsor, New South Wales
Marital status Single
Age at embarkation 29
Next of kin Father,
Charles, Hough, Baker Street,
Windsor, New South Wales

Enlistment date 18 Aug. 1914
Rank on enlistment Private
Unit name 1st Battalion, H
Company

Unit embarked from Sydney,
New South Wales, on board
Transport A19 Africa on 18th.
October 1914



Private Ernest Edgar Hough

Corporal Richard Dawes

was the great, great, great, grandfather of Ray Alcorn. He enlisted in the British Army at Sunderland on the 3rd. April 1809 to the 4th. Regiment of Foot.

Corporal Dawes fought in Spain under the Duke of Wellington and at Waterloo; both times against Napoleon's French forces.

He was wounded twice, first time at the Battle of Salamanca in 1812 and the second time at the Battle of San Sebastian on 31st. August 1813.

Richard was discharged on the 24th. May 1817 having served 6 years and 191 days as a Private and 1 year and 226 days as a Corporal.

On returning to England he was admitted to the Chelsea Hospital in London as a Chelsea Pensioner, after recovering from his wounds he volunteered to enter the Royal NSW Veteran Company to guard the convicts in the colonies of Sydney Cove and Van Diemen's Land.

Electing to stay in Australia after his service, he was discharged in Sydney on 24th. March 1830 and he was given a Veteran's Grant of land at Bilpin of 100



Ray Alcorn standing beside Richard's grave at the Whittingham Anglican Cemetery, a few kilometres from Singleton, NSW. Getting there go along John St. towards Putty Rd., South turn left into Carrington St. and follow the dirt road to the end.

acres (near Windsor in NSW) by Governor Darling.

He was awarded two medals:

1. The Military General Service Medal (Peninsular War) with 6 clasps and 2. The Waterloo Medal. (Medals were finally awarded to enlisted men in 1848 by Queen Victoria. Before then only officers in the British Forces were awarded medals for campaigns.)

Richard Dawes died in 1847 and is buried in the Whittingham Anglican cemetery near Singleton NSW just off the Putty Road. Ironically he would never have known that he was awarded these medals before he died.

His gravestone reads:

**Richard Dawes
Veteran**

H.M. 4th. Regiment

An interesting side to the awarding of medals in the British Army is that only the veteran can claim the medals. If he does not claim them no other relative is entitled to do so. I hope this has changed. In addition, if the veteran does not claim his medals then he

will not appear on the medal rolls for historical purposes.

However I have a collection of primary documents relating to Richard's service.

The following stressful article was submitted by Lofty Bond, a caring and concerned Vietnam veteran .

Lofty is saddened by the birth defects of children so many years after this chemical defoliant rained down upon the parents.

During the Vietnam War, between 1962 and 1971, the United States military sprayed nearly 20,000,000 US gallons of chemical herbicides and defoliants in Vietnam, eastern Laos and parts of Cambodia, as part of the aerial

defoliation program known as Operation Ranch Hand.

The goal was to defoliate forested land, depriving guerrillas of food and cover and clearing sensitive areas such as around base perimeters.

The program was also a part of a general policy which aimed to destroy the ability of peasants to support themselves in the countryside, forcing them to flee to the U.S. dominated cities, depriving the guerrillas of their rural support base.



Agent Orange victims' descendants need more support

HA NOI — Ho Quang Thai has never been able to stray far from his parents even though he is 18 years old; he is paralysed.

He is an 'indirect' victim of Agent Orange, a deadly toxin that was used by the US during the war.

Thai is the second son of Ho Minh Quang, who lives near the Bien Hoa airport area in southern Dong Nai Province.

The war ended four decades ago but the suffering continues for Quang and his family. Quang said that though he had not joined resistance forces, he had still been exposed to the toxin. "When I was a child, I often played at Bien Hoa airport but I did not know what Agent Orange was," he said sadly. When his two children were born with severe deformities, he realised that he had been contaminated with the toxin.

Nguyen Thi Thuy, a resident of Tan Phong Ward in the province's Bien Hoa City said that since 2009, the number of AO victims in her neighbourhood had seemingly been increasing.

Some people came from other parts, were young and had never taken part in any war, but their children still suffered from birth defects, Thuy said.

Four of Nguyen Dang Ninh's six children are blind from birth and have six fingers and six toes. Ninh, who lives in Ho Nai Ward, said he was really in a tough situation. He did not think that his children could become infected by the chemicals, and he blamed the tragedy on destiny.

Now, he is very worried about his two healthy children, concerned that they too could be affected by the toxin without warning. "Even our future generations may not be safe," said Ninh.

Dao Nguyen, chairwoman of the province's Association for Victims of Agent Orange, said there



were more than 13,000 AO victims in the province with 62 per cent of the total being long-time residents. Nearly one forth of these AO victims are under 16 years of age.

The five neighbouring wards around Bien Hoa airport were the most severely affected areas, with the number of victims increasing year by year.

Nguyen said that during the anti-American war of resistance, US armed forces kept more than 98,000 tankers of Agent Orange and other kinds of toxic chemicals in the area. They also sprayed toxins over 50 per cent of the province. "Companies supplying the toxin must take responsibility," she stressed.

Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Van Vinh, Chairman of the Vietnamese Association for Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA) which represents more than three million Vietnamese AO victims, said that the airport area was expected to be the second dioxin contaminated "hot spot" to be cleaned using the thermal remediation technique.

The new technology uses heat to treat contaminated soil, and was first applied at Da Nang Airport in central Viet Nam. The work at Bien Hoa Airport started yesterday.

Efforts by the Vietnamese Government, people and international opinion on appealing a judgement that cleared the chemicals companies of responsibility have brought initial positive results. "However, the companies must take responsibility for not only cleaning the environment but also providing health care services for the disabled," he told Viet Nam News.

The association would continue pushing for justice for Vietnamese AO victims while mobilising assistance from foreign and domestic organisations and individuals to ensure AO victims have a better life.

During the first six months of the year, foreign and domestic groups and individuals contributed to more than VND68 billion (US\$3.2 million) in funds to the association, bringing the total sum of support received to VND440 billion (\$20.9 million).

The money will be used to build houses, provide health care services and supply financial support for AO victims' families.



Children born with deformities sit in the Peace Village at Tu Du hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, February 3, 2004.

This is one of the less horrifying images



They shall not 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.

KEN. AGNEW
TOM. BANFIELD
CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN
TREVOR. BEER
FRANK. BERRIER
S.J. BLANCH (OAS. Malaya)
DOUG N. BRYAN
MALCOLM J. BUGG
GORDON CARMICHAEL
TOM. CARRUTHERS
KEITH. CHRISTENSEN
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya)
PAT. DALY
TOM. DAWSON
JOHN. DOWNES
BEVAN FILCE
MAURICE FONTAINE
GEORGE. FORSYTHE
M.K. FUSSELL (KIA, Afghanistan)
ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY
NEIL HARDEN
MICK. HARKEN
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS. Malaya)
KEN. KENNEDY
BOBBY. LEWIS
JOHN. MACDONALD
I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
R.J. (JIM) PONTING
DAVE. QUIRK
PETER. RAINSBURY
CLIVE. RALFE
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
ALAN. SINGH
NOEL. SMALL
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WHITELAW. AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
GUS. WOOLFE
JOHN. WORBOYS

Warrant Officer Bevan Filce



VALE

16529 WO2 Bevan W. D. Filce

27th Mar 1938 — 8th Jan 2013

**Bevan was highly respected
as a friend to all, we are
saddened at his passing, yet
treasure many fond and
wonderful memories of our
time together.**

**On behalf of all members of
A Field Battery Association
we convey our genuine
sympathy to his loving
family.**

**A brief summary of Bevan's extensive Military
service is as follows:-**

**Joined the Australian Regular Army Special
Reserve 4th. Apr 1955 to 4th. Dec 1961**

**Transferred to Australian Regular Army
5th. Dec 1961 to 1st. May 1976**

Rank on Discharge; Warrant Officer Class 2
Malaya: 19 Sept 1957 to 18 Oct 1959
Singapore: 14 Nov 1963 to 28 Aug 1964
UK: 29 Aug 1964 to 8 Nov 1964
Singapore: 9 Nov 1964 to 27 Apr 1965
Sarawak: 27 Apr 1965 to 14 Aug 1965
Singapore: 14 Aug 1965 to 20 Oct 1965
New Zealand: 14 Oct 1966 to 6 Nov 1966
Saigon: 4 Nov 1970 to 12 May 1971

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An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the
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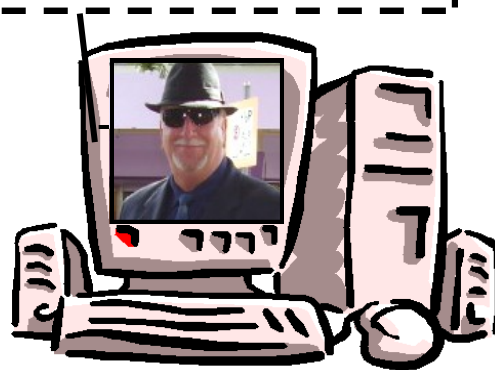
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membership fee now to



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There are still 16 who have not paid their 2013 dues.
Please send the \$20 to Tex. Now !

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