

WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



AUGUST 2013 Issue

**St Mary's Outpost the
'Train of Knowledge'**

St Mary's Vietnam Veterans Outpost & St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch Combined Newsletter



Photo courtesy Nic Peters

ANZAC DAWN SERVICE AT ST MARYS RSL

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VVAA St Marys Outpost President's Report (GREG CANT)

Well we all survived ANZAC Day okay and now have Vietnam Veterans Day fast approaching. The major dates for us this year will be :

Thursday 1st August, Veterans Day at St John of God, North Richmond

Sunday 11th August, Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces, march in Springwood.

Sunday 18th August RSL and VVAA Ceremony in Martin Place at the Cenotaph.

Sunday 18th August, St Marys Sunset Service at the guns, followed by refreshments in the RSL Club Ltd Auditorium.

Remember that a highlight of our sunset service will be the attendance by Ms **Dianne Lindsay** to perform her song "*Living in the Shadow of the Horseshoe*". Her husband, who is himself a Vietnam Veteran, will also accompany Dianne.

We are undertaking some major changes to the St Marys VVAA web page. We are aiming to make it more interesting to Vietnam Veterans, as well as including information and assistance to the Afghanistan, Iraq, and East Timor Veterans.

I also think that it is time we dipped a toe in the water as far as marketing is concerned. To this end, **Tony Mullavey** and I will be undertaking an exercise of photographing the major sellers in our catalogue. As we are not anywhere near ready to get into PayPal or any other form of Electronic E Trade at this point, we will opt for a downloadable order form that the customer can printout and then fill in and return by snail mail along with a cheque.

For those who do not get to the "Train" that often, I do suggest that you keep an eye on the web page as this will keep you up to date with the various activities that we are offering our members as well as various offerings and courses from VVCS. An example of this is the upcoming weekend rail trip to Seymour to have a look at the *Vietnam Veterans Wall* that recently opened. Now this is not an "officially organised" trip in that the Outpost is not organising transport or accommodation. However, a number of people have put their hands up to go, so the weekend of the 18th-19th & 20th of October is the nominated date. Travel is on the XPT down and back with overnight accommodation in Seymour on the Friday and Saturday nights. The flyer which is available at the *Outpost* has pricing for the XPT plus listings of local Motels and Hotels for accommodation.

(Continued next page)

Let me also remind everyone that the last Thursday of the month is BBQ Breakfast. All members are invited, and that includes family. Remember this association is not only for us but is also there to keep our wives and kids sane by getting us out of their way. So spoil them every so often and bring them down to the *Train* so that we can give them a lovely Bacon, Sausage, Onion and Egg breakfast. If someone you know is having a Birthday around the BBQ time let us know and we will of course supply a birthday cake with a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday.

Please also remember that the Fishermen are out there doing battle with those wile fined creatures of the fore shores of Sydney on the 1st Wednesday of each month. If you don't mind wetting a line in between a hot breakfast and a BBQ lunch, (morning tea slides in there as well of course) then come along and join us.



Don't Forget our Vietnam Veterans Day Service at St Marys on 18th August 2013. The official start time is 5.00pm, however, from 4.30pm we have the 1/18th Lancers Band providing some great music, the 'Sunset Singers' providing some 60,s & 70's tunes; and we will be featuring *Dianne Lindsey* (Daughter of the legendary Reg Lindsey) singing her new song "*Living in the shadow of the Horseshoe*" After the Service a function will be held in the RSL Auditorium where more entertainment will be presented including further renditions from *Dianne*. So come along and experience one of best Commemoration Services around, and a couple of convivial hours afterwards.

"See 'ya there"

OUTPOST EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT - JULY 2013

Come August the Outpost Education Program will have completed 9 years of operation. Over that period the footprint of the program has gradually increased. Initially secondary schools in the western suburbs were targeted. Presently the program is being delivered across Sydney and surrounds. School networks and teacher word of mouth have promoted the Education Program's presentation on Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, 1962-1972 and beyond in both government and non-government schools.

To date this year 37 presentation sessions have been delivered to a total of 3535 Year 10 students, attracting some generous donations to the Outpost. By years end similar outcomes to 2012 are anticipated.

This years 7th outreach visit and presentation to Monaro High School in Cooma are worthy of special mention in this report. Accommodation (B & B) for the team, Vin and Nancy Cosgrove, Greg Cant and Gary Fizzell was again very generously provided by Jeff and Jenny Mort, proprietors of Cooma's **Nebula Motel**.

Following the 2 hour school presentation to a very attentive student audience, a hearty lunch was hosted by the History Faculty at one of Cooma's trendy eateries.

Day 2 of the visit involved accompanying a coach load of enthusiastic Monaro students to the Australian War Memorial. This visit included a solemn Remembrance Service around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Hall of Memory; an educational and respectful gathering around the Long Tan Cross (loaned to the Australian War Memorial by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam); prior to a 2 hour wander with students through the Vietnam Gallery and concluded with students placing poppies on the Wall of Honour. Accompanying photos show these activities.

Education Program presentation bookings for school Term 3 are now being addressed. August is shaping up to be rather busy.

Vin Cosgrove
Outpost Education Program



Cooma-Monaro High School Students at the AWM with Education Team



St Marys RSL Sub-Branch Report



How quickly the year is flying by! After we have recovered from a series of very successful Commemorative Services (for ANZAC and the Boer War) and the formal opening of the *Corridor of Honour* situated in the RSL Club, we are well into the planning for our next event this time in conjunction with the VVAA Outpost, Vietnam Veterans Day on 18th August.

There's been a couple of developments that are at various stages of resolution:

1. **Nepean Public Hospital:** On the Welfare front, you may not be aware that the Welfare Team has been trying for 6 years to be allowed to visit patients in Nepean Public Hospital - but to no avail. At all other hospitals in the greater area of Western Sydney that receive visits from our dedicated Welfare Officers, there has been little difficulty; in fact, most are very supportive of the visits in the full knowledge that the outcome of such visits often facilitates a quicker recovery period for the patient. At the time of writing this Report, we are one step closer to success (at least a list of DVA patients is made available; it's just that the wards won't reveal the bed numbers!) Hopefully, in the near future, commonsense will prevail.
2. **School Scholarships:** Students from Year 10 at the 6 scholarship schools have begun compiling their entries in an effort to secure one of the attractive scholarships that the Sub-Branch offers for a worthwhile effort. These will be determined in October and presented in the annual Scholarship Awards Evening at St Marys RSL Club on Thursday 21st November at 7pm. If past years are any indication, we expect to see some awesome entries again this year. A selection of these will be made available for viewing in the *Corridor of Honour* later in November.

Just a few important reminders for members of the Sub-Branch:

- Does the Sub-Branch have your email address and do you want to receive email advice on items of interest? If not, please send an email to the Sub-Branch at stmsub@tpg.com.au
- Have you signed a Benevolent Fund form or has there been any change in the details you have given us previously? Again, contact us by either email or phone **Tony Fryer 0404 557 692**.
- Have you diarised the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except December) for our monthly General Meeting and dinner, commencing at 6.30pm?

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- Are you or your doctor planning on an operation for you? If you will be in hospital for a couple of days or more, please ring the Sub-Branch's Welfare Coordinator, John Foeken 0409 329 688 so a fruit basket or book voucher can be organised for you.
 - Have you taken the opportunity to spend good time meandering through the *Corridor of Honour*? Every month or so, you may detect changes that are scheduled to occur on a regular basis....photos will change; more features added to the computer; enhanced displays in the cabinets. So, if you are visiting the Club, take the time to stroll through to see the changes.
 - Take the time to occasionally look at your Sub-Branch website:
http://www.vvaastmarys.com.au/StMarysRSL_Sub-Branch/

Till next time, pleased stay safe and well. If you can, come along to the next General Meeting and have a 'goffa' or something harder with your colleague members.

Tony Fryer
Secretary



The War Memorial in Victoria Park St Marys undergoing a much needed 'face lift'

Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Media Release - Honesty needed on Veterans' claim processing times

The Government is regularly misreporting average claim processing times for veterans returning from recent conflicts making claims for compensation for their service-related conditions.

Evidence given in Senate Estimates by the DVA confirmed that the average claim processing time of 120 days was not being met. In fact, the working average is actually 155 days.

Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, said Labor was fudging figures in the Budget to the detriment of veterans.

“Two years ago, Veterans' Affairs Minister Warren Snowden said the claims process was ‘complex, unwieldy and slow’, but it appears Labor has actually done nothing tangible since then to meaningfully reduce claims processing times”, Senator Ronaldson said.

“Labor knew in March this year that average processing times for compensation claims was 155 days, but decided that the Budget papers released just three weeks ago would misreport that number. Labor's Budget papers say the actual ‘mean processing time for 2012-13 was 120 days. Departmental officials confirmed this was incorrect.”

“Veterans and their families will take cold comfort from the Labor Government knowingly misreporting important statistics, such as average claims processing times, as they deal with the anxiety of the compensation claims process.”

“Warren Snowden needs to explain why he allows such manipulation of Departmental figures and statistics to hide a problem - a very serious problem confronting the community.”

Senator Ronaldson said the expected growth in new claims - confirmed at 8 per cent per annum - required leadership from the Minister to end the dodgy reporting.

“The Department of Veterans' Affairs acknowledged in Senate Estimates that there is an issue and that processing times are well behind where they want them to be. Minister Snowden should also acknowledge that there is an issue rather than trying to manipulate figures to present a different reality.”



Governor King Day Club
Sponsored by St Marys RSL Sub-Branch
“An RSL Service to the Community”



Address All Correspondence to:
Co-ordinator
PO Box 3168 St Marys South NSW 2760

During the past three months we had our ups and downs however, we are still managing to attract an average of thirty members each week.

We have had many guest speakers which have included **Mr Paul Barber** who spoke about “**Bob the Bastard**”, a horse that was used in WW1 to carry injured soldiers from the front line to hospital camps.

There was Mrs **Norma Thorburn** from the St Marys Historical Society who spoke about local men who served in the First World War. Mrs **Gloria Carter** attended and spoke about Alzheimers, and during her visit we found out that as an eighteen year old girl she travelled to Vietnam as an entertainer with Little Pattie and Col Joye. Gloria also attended the *Train* and was warmly greeted by **Gary Fizzell** who showed her around.

We were once again entertained by the **Gerry Daley Dancers**, they are a group of very young dancers that compete in various stages of competition and I might add, very successful in that regard.

Michael Reilly, Wal Charlwood, Frank Woodford, together with **Kathryn Hodgkinson**, from DVA attended the Volunteers Expo at Panthers Leagues Club which proved successful, we obtained a new volunteer and two new members for the Club.

Penrith RSL is looking to start a Day Club, **Mick Reilly** attended the meeting and offered some credible advice and assistance which was duly appreciated by the Members, the Penrith RSL and DVA Co-ordinators.

On a sadder note, we lost two of our ladies, both passed away within a week of each other. They were strong supporters of the Day Club and will be very much missed.

Unfortunately, at this time of year some are missing through illness and we wish them a speedy recovery and return to the activities.

Our Ladies, **Miriam, Debbie, Dianne and Pat** are still looking after us with delightful morning teas and lunches. We are looking forward to our Christmas in July luncheon at the Function Room at St Marys RSL on 24th July.

On the 10th July, we bid **Michael and Jean, Debbie and Terry** a safe journey as they commenced their three month trip to the Northern States. We believe that **Mick** is attending the **Mt Isa Rodeo**, looking forward to seeing his riding techniques.

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Our thanks go to all that have helped us during the past three months, including the RSL Club, the RSL Sub-Branch, members of the *Train* and most certainly the Ladies of the St Marys Ladies Auxiliary, “Thank You”.

Michael Reilly
Wal Charlwood

Co-ordinators



Some of the ladies enjoying the entertainment with the Band

Reno's 'Train' and Fishing Report

The *Train Washers* still get together every Thursday to do the general work around the Station. That is we cut the grass, trim the hedges and any other general work that needs to be done. There is a group that wash the *Train*; there are others that keep the guns looking good, the remainder spread themselves out carrying out general maintenance. There can be upwards of 20 men that turn up on Thursdays to do all this work and we generally have a lot of fun in the process. Once the work is finished we go down stairs in the double-decker for morning tea which can be an experience on its own, everyone trying to talk at the same time.

You don't have to be a Vietnam Veteran to join us, everyone is welcome, so if you find yourself looking for something to do, then come down to the *Train* on Thursdays and join in; The work does drop off a little in the winter months, however, come on down and we will find a job for you, or you can hide around the front on the *Seat of Knowledge* where you will find someone to talk with. We meet at around 7.15am and head home around 10.30am.

Fishing: We head off on the first Wednesday of each month, hopefully, to catch a feed. There are 10 trips in the year, 8 land based and 2 in boats on the Hawkesbury River. Apart from the fishing group trips, we organise 2 charter boat trips in the year - 'bottom bouncing'. Now it must be stressed that our fishing days are more social days than serious fishing. A typical day starts by leaving home at 5am to head to our fishing spot for the day, in most cases it is Clarke Point reserve, we usually arrive around 5.45am where we have breakfast, solve the problems of the World then off to the 'catch of the day'. At 9.30am we stop for Morning Tea, continue with 'World problem solving' then back to fishing. Lunch is about 12.30pm then we pack up and head home before the workers start their daily crawl home in Peak Hour. There are times when we have actually Caught Fish!! If you are a serious fisherman then maybe this group is not for you, as I said earlier, this is a fun day and the view from Clark Point is one which tourists pay big bucks to see. You could do worse than having a day out with us, but a great day out is guaranteed.

Have a look at the Poem written for us on Page 21, sounds very much like us.

Till next time...*Reno*

St Marys RSL Bowling Club

The bowling club invites all members and visitors to utilize the excellent facilities available with our two greens, spacious bowls lounge and function room. We have a great social bowls programme and free coaching for those interested in starting out. Bowls are available from the club, so there is no cost outlay to start your new pastime.

We also have a strong representation in both male and female pennant teams (representative) which is available to any member to enter. You don't have to be a champion bowler to play pennants. So come along and join in the fun.

Social Bowls Programme

Tuesday	Any Pairs	9.30am Start
Wednesday	Any Pairs	10.30am Start
Thursday	Ladies Bowls	9.30am Start
Friday	Mens Pairs	1.00pm Start
Saturday	<u>Free Coaching</u>	10.00am – 12 noon
Saturday	Any Pairs	1.00pm Start
Sunday	Turkey Trots(mixed Bowls)	9.30am Start

Contact the Bowls Office via Club Reception on 9623 6555



Bowling Club Greens and Function area.



What's on at Rooty Hill RSL?

Frankie J Holden & Wilbur Wilde

Take two legends of Australian Rock & Roll who also just happen to be legends of television shows in Melbourne Tonight and Hey Hey it's Saturday, put them on stage with a hot band, and you have the recipe for superb, crowd pleasing entertainment.

Back doing what they do best, Frankie and Wilbur will have you dancing and singing along to the hit songs of OL'55, the multi-platinum band that launched them onto the Australian show business and into the hearts of Australian audiences, and a whole lot more knocked out 1950's nifties.

Songs like *Looking for an Echo, Diana, Ruby, the Wanderer, Get a Job, This little Girl, Two Faces have I* and much more great rock n' roll, presented in an energetic and hugely entertaining stage show that can best be described as 'controlled mayhem'.

Frankie and Wilbur have enjoyed careers that have traversed the entire spectrum of show business - film/television/stage/radio, but now they are returning to where it all began, live on stage playing great sounds.

Friday 20 September

Time: 8pm

Tickets: \$30.00

"See you there"

St Marys RSL Sub-Branch – Recent Activities

Over recent months the Sub-Branch has been extremely busy preparing for and conducting two successful ANZAC Commemorative Services, a special function to formally open the new *Corridor of Honour* within the St Marys RSL Club, and conduct of the only annual Boer War Commemorative Service within the immediate Nepean district.

ANZAC Sunday

Our annual ANZAC march along Queen Street took place on Sunday 21 April under ideal conditions, concluding as usual, in Victoria Park, where our ANZAC Commemorative Service was conducted. A broad range of community groups joined Sub-Branch members in the march and participated with the public in the subsequent Service.

Federal member for Lindsay, Mr David Bradbury MP, delivered a thoughtful address. Other guests included our Patrons, Cr Greg Davies and Cr Jackie Greenow, NSW Police (St Marys LAC) Superintendent Ray Filewood, Mayor of Penrith, Cr Mark Davies and our Chaplin, Rev. David Wrightson.

The success of the Service was largely thanks to the tremendous support and involvement of 5 CER (ARes), 21 ACU (Cadets), St Marys Brass band, St Marys Pipes and Drums, and the Sunset Station Singers, as well as the members of the St Marys RSL Sub Branch. Special thanks also to the NSW Police (Sgt Mark Elliott and his colleagues) for overseeing the march and our Parade Marshall.

ANZAC Dawn Service

Approaching 5.30am on Thursday 25th April, the Banner party positioned the Australian and New Zealand flags and the Catafalque Party mounted in front of a record crowd estimated to easily exceed 3,000. The live TV video broadcast to a large screen on the train carriage, ensured that those who wanted, could witness the activity in the Service. The Service was most successful ... with many taking the opportunity to lay a tribute in remembrance of a loved one. It was particularly pleasing to see so many young people, many neatly attired in school uniform, taking time to honour their forebears. After the Service, record numbers moved into the Club for breakfast.

Corridor of Honour Opening 2013

Around 200 Sub-Branch members, families and friends witnessed the official opening of the newly constructed "*Corridor of Honour*" at St Marys RSL Club on Sunday 21st April. With the Club's approval, the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch engaged the services of WOW Displays to assist it design and then construct inside the Club, a suitable memorial to all Australians who have played a part in all conflicts around the globe, and with particular focus on contributions from the St Marys district.

Rita Thomas (sister of Jack Jewry, killed in the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam on 18 August 1966) and Judith Gavin (mother of Luke, killed in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on 29 October 2011) – both were local lads – added significant meaning to the occasion when they cut the ribbon to open the "*Corridor of Honour*".

The Corridor, linking the café to the Auditorium, features a visual display, representing each major area of conflict; a map depicting all peacekeeping operations involving Australian service personnel; three TV screens presenting ever-changing slide-shows of a military nature; three re-vamped display cabinets containing a wide range of military memorabilia; a computer providing ready access to a broad selection of unique information; and light background music from the various conflict eras together with an audio description of the Corridor layout.

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Immediately following the formal opening of the Corridor, a special presentation of 50 Year RSL Membership was presented to our Sub-Branch member, **Ernie Holden** – congratulations Ernie. Then, **David Bradbury** presented an Australian Flag to members of the St Marys RSL Youth Club to replace the one lost some time ago.

Sunday 26th May – Annual Boer War Day – Commemorative Service

On a bright sunny Autumn morning, 54 folk came together at the guns memorial of St Marys RSL Club, to pay homage and remembrance for those who participated in Australia's first conflict, the 2nd Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. In a brief Commemorative Service, we heard poems from Banjo Patterson ("Moving On" – presented by **Leslie Ayres and George Evans** ("Eland's River" presented by **Reno Ciantar**), the later poem providing a graphic description of this major battle in 1900 where the Australians were up against eight times their number in a drawn out conflict over 12 days. **Ted Fish** was again our excellent MC and **Tony Fryer** presented an overview of Australia's part in the War, finishing with a recent relevant quotation from our Governor General in reference to the Eland's River battle. Local MPs David Bradbury and **Tanya Davies** were accompanied by a number of descendants of Boer War veterans, as well as patrons and members of the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, their families and other interested folk. Whilst a very different format to those services associated with ANZAC, the same respect and reverence was paid by those participating.

Cheers, Tony Fryer - Secretary



The '*Corridor*' looking through from the Auditorium towards the Cafe

TAB FACILITIES

Sports Bet
FOX Sport
SKY Channel

TERRACE CAFE

Check Board for Specials
Open Daily for Lunch & Dinner
Serving Light Meals, Snacks, Sweets & Coffee

Monday

Bingo 11.30am
Rock & Roll Dancing 7-10pm

Tuesday

Bingo 7.30pm

Thursday

Bingo 11.30am
Texas Hold'em Poker 6.30pm
DJ Stuart plays 60's,70's & 80's in the Lounge
and MEMBER'S BADGE DRAW
\$3000-\$5000 From 7pm

FRIDAY

Bingo 11.30am
DJ Stuart In Lounge 8pm -12.30

Saturday

Meat Run 4-6pm
Duo in Lounge Area 7.30pm-Midnight
Live Band in Audi 1st Sat/Month

Sunday

Raffle, Trivia & Music 4-8pm

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This is an edited version of a letter from a serving Female Veteran: “Women In Combat”

“I’m a female veteran. I deployed to Anbar Province, Iraq. When I was active duty, I was 5’6, 130 pounds, and scored nearly perfect on my PFT’s. I naturally have a lot more upper body strength than the average woman: not only can I do pull-ups, I can meet the male standard. I would love to have been in the Infantry. And I still think it will be an unmitigated disaster to incorporate women into combat roles. I am not interested in risking men’s lives so I can live my selfish dream”.

“We’re not just talking about watering down the standards to include the politically correct number of women into the unit. This isn’t an issue of ‘if a woman can meet the male standard, she should be able to go into combat’. The number of women that can meet the male standard will be miniscule - I’d have a decent shot according to my PFT’s, but dragging a 190 pound man in full gear for 100 yards would destroy me - and that miniscule number that can physically make the grade and has the desire to go into combat will be facing an impossible situation that will ruin the combat effectiveness of the unit”.

“First, the close quarters of combat units make for a complete lack of privacy and **everything is exposed** to include intimate details of bodily functions. Second, until we succeed in completely reprogramming every man in the military to treat women just like men, those men are going to protect a woman at the expense of the mission. Third, women have physical limitations that no amount of training or conditionings can overcome. Fourth, until the media in this country is ready to treat a captured/raped/tortured/mutilated female soldier just like a man, women will be targeted by the enemy without fail and without mercy.”

“The military PFT doesn’t measure the ability to jump. Men, with more muscular legs and bones that carry more muscle mass than any woman can condition herself to carry, can jump higher and farther than women. That’s why we have a men’s standing jump and long jump event in the Olympics separate from women. When you’re going over a wall in Baghdad that’s ten feet high, you have to be able to reach the top of it in full gear and haul yourself over. That’s not strength per se, that’s just height and the muscular explosive power to jump and reach the top. Having to get a boost from on the men so you can get up and over could get that man killed”.

“Without pharmaceutical help, women just do not carry the muscle mass men do. That muscle mass is also a shock absorber. Whether it’s the concussion of a grenade going off, an IED, or just a punch in the face, a woman is more likely to go down because she can’t absorb the concussion as well as a man can. And I don’t care how the PC forces try to slice it, in hand-to-hand combat the average man is going to destroy the average woman because the average woman is smaller - period. Muscle equals force in any kind of strike you care to perform. That’s why we don’t let female boxers face male boxers”.

“I say again, I would have loved to be in the Infantry. I think I could have done it physically, I could have met almost all the male standards. I would never sacrifice the mission for my own desires, and I wouldn’t be able to live with myself if someone died because of me”.

- **Sentry**



Computer Training Classes

Computer Classes are conducted at the Vietnam Veterans Train situated at the St Marys RSL Club in Mamre Road St Marys as follows:

Tuesday: 9.00 am - 12.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00AM - 12.00 pm (Ladies Class)

Thursday: 9.00 am - 11.00 am

Thursday classes teach Digital Photo manipulation using Photoshop Elements 5, only 5 students at a time. **Bookings essential.**

The Tuesday and Wednesday classes are informal and we teach mixed classes from the 'beginner' to the more experienced and retired seniors wanting to familiarise with current software and learn to use the Internet to send E-Mails and carry out research & other technology related issues.

**For more info call Keith 9833 4700 or email
vietvet@tpg.com.au**

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DVA Letter dated 14/06/13 from Neil Bayles
A/G First Assistant Secretary - Rehab. And Support Division.

I am writing to advise that the Repatriation Commission has endorsed revised Guidelines on the Special Rate (TPI) and Intermediate rate of disability pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)*.

The Guidelines have been revised in response to the Full Federal Court decision in *Repatriation Commission v Connell* and the Commission's decision of 2 February 2012 that the court's interpretation in *Connell* should also have applicability to Special Rate (and Temporary Special Rate) claims. In addition, the Guidelines include information on Intermediate rate of pension claim determinations and incorporate individual feedback received from Ex-service Organisations Roundtable (ESORT) and operational Working party (OWP) members on the Guidelines last year.

The effect of the *Connell* decision is a broadening of the interpretation of paragraph 23(1)(c) of the VEA. The Full Federal Court in *Connell* found that Mr. *Connell's* reduction in work hours satisfied the criterion of being "*prevented from continuing to undertake remunerative work that the veteran was undertaking.*"

The new Guidelines reflect the application of the *Connell* decision in that the requirement of being "*prevented from continuing to undertake remunerative work that the veteran was undertaking*" must include consideration of any restrictions to the nature and quality of the veteran's work, for example, reduction in their work hours.

This change of interpretation may mean some individuals are now eligible for Special rate or Intermediate Rate pensions, when they would not have been prior to the *Connell* decision. It is important to note that all other eligibility criteria remain unchanged.

Determinations made prior to the *Connell* decision remain valid as they were based on interpretation of the 'prevented test' at that time. However, any individual who believes they may be eligible for Intermediate Rate pension in light of the *Connell* decision, are advised to lodge an application for increase with the Department. The revised Guidelines are titled CM6882 *Special Rate and Intermediate Rate of Pension* and replace the existing Special rate Guidelines CM5011 and are available on the Departments Consolidated Library of Information and Knowledge (CLIK).

Disturbing My Peace (A Fishing Story)

Relaxing in a little boat
Line in hand I gently float,
Its peaceful, calm, quiet, still,
I drift along at the currents will,
I'm smiling, happy, feeling fine.
Then a tug upon my line disturbs
the peace and quiet I feel, So I
wind the line back on the reel,
Over the side I take a look,
A nice big Flatty on the hook,
I could cut him up and cook a fillet,
With Garlic butter in a skillet, Too
much work ahead for me,
So I cut the line and let it free,
Relaxing in a little boat,
Line in hand I gently float



***Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans Women's Support
Group***

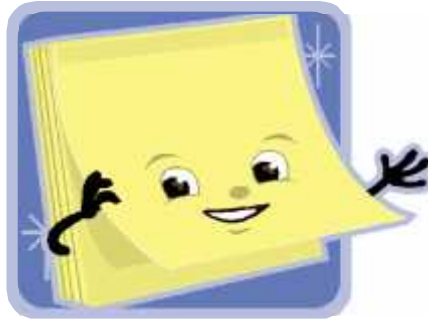
***This is a non-profit community based support group for
wives of veterans and are part of the VVAA St Marys.***

The group meet on the second Thursday of each month

at 10.00 am at the

St Mary's RSL Youth Club Hall.

Phone: Cheryl Mullavey 9625 9363



IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING DAYS OF OPERATION FOR PENSIONS AT THE VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST

Pension claims at the 'Train' are now carried out on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday between the hours of 9.30am to 1.00pm, however, these timings are flexible depending on availability of Pension Officers.

Anyone wishing to see a particular Officer should phone the office first to ensure they will be in attendance.

Veterans attending the 'Train' for the first time to start a claim should allow for at least two hours for the interview as initial interviews can be time consuming.

Interviews are carried out on a 'first in first served' basis

No Pension claims are carried out on Thursdays, this being kept clear for administration and maintenance.



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Keep Our FLAG.

Our flag bears the stars that shine at night In a southern sky of blue
And a little old flag in the corner-is part of our heritage too
It's for the English-the Scotts and the Irish, who were sent to the ends of
the earth
The rogues and the schemers-the doers and dreamers who gave
modern Australia birth.

And YOU who are shouting to change it—You don't seem to understand
It's a flag of our law and our language---not a flag of some faraway land
Though there's plenty of people who'll tell you-how when Europe was
plunged into night
That little old flag in the corner-was a symbol of FREEDOM and LIGHT..

It doesn't mean that we owe an allegiance-to a forgotten imperial dream
We've the Stars to show where we're going—The old flag to show
where we've been...

Compliments of Bert Cockerill Southport Qld.



What affects the Rate of the Service Pension?

Your living arrangements and your income and assets affect the rate of your Service Pension. For example, if you live with your partner your Service Pension is paid at the couples rate not the singles rate. If you have dependent children, you may be eligible for additional allowances paid by Centrelink.

If you receive a disability pension under the VEA, or a permanent impairment payment or special rate disability pension under MRCA as well as a Service Pension, the disability pension or MRCA payment is not counted as income for service pension purposes, although it can affect how much rent assistance you may receive.

The Battle of Long Tan – the aftermath: Not to be taken seriously.....

Version in our galaxy: On 18 August 1966 D/6RAR fought the battle that changed the balance of power in Phuoc Tuy Province and the region.

But in a galaxy not so far away.... 21 August 1966, Parliament House Canberra; the Senate. A Greens senator suddenly shrieked, went into hysterics and, sobbing and moaning, had to be carried from the chamber on a stretcher. Investigation showed the senator had a copy of a report on the Battle of Long Tan and when reading about the role of artillery in the battle, became distressed at the damage to the flora and fauna inflicted by the large number of shells expended, and the long-term effect on the environment around the site.

The ALP Opposition combined with the Greens, Democrats, independents and a few rebel Country Party representatives to demand an investigation into the effect of artillery on the environment. The Prime Minister stated that he had never been informed of the effect of artillery, but would not be unhappy to have artillery in his electorate, however, ever-mindful of Australia's international position on preservation of the environment and desire for world peace, established a bi-partisan committee to investigate and report on the matter within a week.

28 August 1966. The 'Artillery Committee' tabled its report in Parliament. Artillery had been found to contribute to unacceptable levels of noise pollution, extensive damage to flora and fauna merely in getting into position to fire its big guns, and the big explosive shells caused huge damage and destruction by the effects of blast and shrapnel to the locations where the shells burst.

30 August 1966. DArty informed the committee that Artillery understood the expense to the nation incurred in supply of the vehicles, guns and ammunition, and would much prefer to keep all this equipment in first-class condition in barracks rather than fire the guns and cause deterioration, wear and the cost of maintenance, but in a caring spirit of collaboration with fellow soldiers, really only ever fired big guns in response to a continuous stream of pleas from the Infantry, who seemed to want expensive shells fired at every opportunity. DArty said that infantry subalterns even requested the guns fire on selected geographical positions as an aid to cross-country navigation. (Greens senator collapsed on hearing this; adjournment while psychological assistance provided.)

DInf admitted that subalterns did sometimes call for a round of artillery to fall at a location as an aid to navigation, but this was unofficial and could have been stopped by Artillery refusing to fire, though in his experience the gunners loved to fire, and no amount of practice seemed to improve their accuracy, for which they blamed all sorts of airy-fairy things collectively titled ballistics. Anyway, DInf went on, the infantry was very thoughtful and caring in its movements through and use of the environment, and every soldier was required to observe the 'burn, bash and bury' policy. The Green/Democrat alliance issued a statement denouncing the widespread damage caused: 'burn' released noxious fumes which attacked the ozone layer, 'bash' ingrained the use of violence in the military; 'bury' disturbed the natural state of the ground and introduced foreign matter into it, so constituting a hazard to the normal life forms in the region.

2 September 1966. The Prime Minister announced that, after due consideration, the CGS had been instructed to disband the Artillery (RAA), but to replace it with the Arbour Service (AS); all the big guns would be sold for scrap; 50% of RAA vehicles and men would be transferred to AS and a nation-wide program of tree-planting employing AS would begin. Natural justice would be served in that the Infantry would search for, collect and arrange transport of all shrapnel previously scattered in training areas in Australia and overseas battle areas such as Long Tan. The establishments of Infantry, RAASC and RAAOC units would be increased to cope by absorbing the other 50% of RAA. The new corps badge would be a symbolic tree with 'Ubique' at the base, all surrounded by a floral wreath. Greens demanded that endangered species be included in the design. RSL national office announced that a Guard would be mounted on the gun outside every RSL to prevent removal.

DInf was reported as saying that the dogs of Australia would be glad of the extra trees, but this was later denied, and that DInf really had used military terminology and said that '**Foxhound**' elements would be glad of the trees for camouflage and concealment. A spokesperson for the Greens/Democrats/Socialist collective said the trees were not for the use of soldiers, but peace-loving poets, students and workers and trade union picnic parties.

The Rats of Tobruk Association issued a statement saying that today's young soldiers knew nothing about fighting in a real war, and at Tobruk the Diggers did not need trees to hide behind when they gave old Rommel the fright of his life. **No trees, a good field of fire and cold steel were the answers**; the Association supported Artillery in all its forms and suggested Engineers be employed to remove trees to assist the Infantry. (**sounds like Cpl Jones of 'Dad's Army'**)

Greens and Democrats announced they would go to South Vietnam to conduct an inventory of trees in Phuoc Tuy and would hold frequent inspections to check their continued survival. The Opposition urged that military maps include the locations of all endangered species and that all ranks be issued a copy before operations.

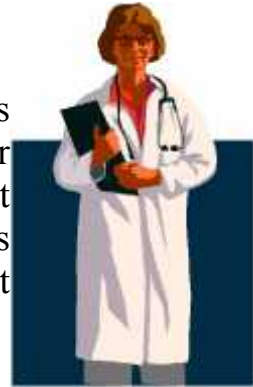
The Chief of the General Staff (CGS) called in SO1(Pers) and reminded him that this whole blasted thing was caused by those Infantry fellows and to arrange for all Officers and NCO's to be posted at once, unaccompanied, to that place in Tasmania where the Boffins were researching field rations. The Boffins had requested a detachment of 100 personnel of any rank for two years to provide corporate continuity, and at the moment were about to begin testing on something described as "spicy prune omelette with castor oil dressing" as an answer to constipation in the field.

Editor:

1. **As stated earlier - author unknown but obviously someone with a warped sense of humour, and was reproduced here very much with 'tongue in cheek' no offence to those who took part in the 'real' battle.**
2. **Foxhound: A wireless appointment title used in Signals Voice Procedure.**

So, your going into hospital!

You can help the the hospital staff to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with your medicines. Your hospital doctor, nurse and pharmacist need to know what medicines you are taking and about any recent changes. This includes any over-the-counter medicines that you buy without a prescription.



Before your admission: Ask your community pharmacist or family doctor to update your Medication list. This may be in the form of a print-out from the pharmacy's computer or a Medilist Card, also available from your pharmacy. Make sure you have a full list of ALL your medicines, even those bought from supermarkets or health food shops.

What to bring to hospital with you.

Please bring your updated Medication List and/or all your medicines (in their original labelled containers) to hospital with you.

When you arrive at the hospital.

When you are admitted into hospital, you will be asked what medicines you are taking at this time. It is important to tell the doctor about all of your medicines. Show your updated Medication List and/or give your own medicines to the nurse for safe keeping during your hospital stay.

This helps to make sure that you receive the right medicine, at the right dose, and at the right time, while you are in hospital. It also helps to spot any medicine related problems.

During your Hospital stay.

The hospital pharmacist can provide important advice about possible side effects and interactions with other medicines or food. This advice is particularly important for older people, children, people with a number medical conditions, or those who take a lot of different medicines.

The doctor will usually be on hand to discuss any changes to your medication. If you like more information, you can also ask your hospital pharmacist (if available) or nurse to talk you through any changes. Not all hospitals have visiting ward pharmacists, check with your ward staff.

On Discharge from Hospital.

On discharge from hospital you may be provided with a supply of medicine or prescription to take. If in doubt about these medicines ask your Doctor.

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Some Irish Humour

An Irishman was flustered not being able to find a parking space in a large mall's parking lot.

"Lord," he prayed, "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up drinking me whiskey, and I promise to go to church every Sunday."

Suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun shone on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the man said, "Never mind, I found one."

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the priest.

The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?"

The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

One night, Mrs McMillan answers the door to see her husbands best friend, Paddy, standing on the doorstep.

"Hello Paddy, but where is my husband? He went with you to the beer factory"

Paddy shook his head. "Ah Mrs McMillen, there was a terrible accident at the beer factory, your husband fell into a vat of Guinness stout and drowned"

Mrs McMillan starts crying. "Oh don't tell me that, did he at least go quickly?"

Paddy shakes his head. "Not really - he got out 3 times to pee!"





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Divorcees Splitting Hairs Over Loved Pets:

Aussies fight like cats and dogs in court for pet custody during divorce settlements. One in 12 people said they had lost their pet following relationship break-down. A further one in 5 said the family pet would be a major issue if they were to separate from their partner. The emerging trend was revealed in a study commissioned by legal experts Slater & Gordon after lawyers noticed more Australians battling to keep their furry friends after their marriage break-down.

Up to 1000 people interviewed believed the family court would help arrange shared custody but family lawyers warned that was not the case. One lawyer said: "I have seen some very emotional separations of a person and a pet during negotiations, people are arguing over who has the dogs or the cat over the weekend but the courts won't do visiting rights".

Pets ranked behind real estate and money - but ahead of vehicles, boats, and furniture - when survey respondents were asked to rank which jointly-owned assets would be most difficult to divide. People fight about things like who gets the car, who gets the house but it is different when it comes to animals.

"Why can't they get along like us"



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St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch
Corner Mamre Road and Hall St.

The RSL Sub-Branch monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 6.30 pm in the auditorium, refreshments provided. The office is open most mornings between 10.00am-12noon and can be contacted on **9623 6555**.

St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch Committee

President:	Ron Kelly	0408 684 276
V/President:	Terry Burn	0407 834 499
V/Pres:	John Foeken	0409 329 688
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9623 6555
Secretary:	Tony Fryer	0414 557 692
A/Secretary:	Ron Blakely	0411 131 849
Committee:	Greg Cant	0425 208 622
	Michael Wiesel	02 9623 6555

VVAA ST MARY'S OUTPOST COMMITTEE

PHONE: 02 9833 4700 FAX 9833 4022

President:	Greg Cant	0425 208 622
V/President:	Tony Mullavey	0416231993
Secretary:	Sam Vecchio	9833 4700
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	9833 4700
A/Sec/Office Mgr:	Gary Fizzell	0418 114 976

This newsletter is produced and printed at the VVAA St Mary's Outpost in association with the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch. It is provided free of charge to members of both associations. Views and statements made within the magazine are not necessarily the views of the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch or the VVAA St Mary's; the Editor and the organizations are not giving legal, accounting or other professional advice and therefore do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the opinions or information contained in the magazine. We believe that the sources are accurate at the time of publication. Care should be exercised by readers who attempt to use this publication as a source of reference material for any purpose other than its intended use, which is light informative reading on topics of interest for the veterans of both associations.

Gary Fizzell - Editor

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