

WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



St Mary's Outpost the
'Train of Knowledge'

August 2010 Issue

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



BOER WAR SERVICE MAY 2010

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**FRONT COVER - BOER WAR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
SEE DETAILS INSIDE**

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VVAA St Mary's Outpost Veterans Centre
Presidents Report.



On Tuesday 13th July we again hosted the State conference of the NSW VVAA here in the St Mary's RSL Club's Northern Room. Thanks must go again to the Club Ltd and the café for providing the morning tea and light lunch. One of the things discussed at this meeting was the problems faced by people who wish to donate all or some of their organs after passing on. One of the major problems with this can be time. It is extremely important that you make your wishes known to your family well and truly beforehand. I know that a lot of us rely on 'Living Wills' etc that we register with our solicitors along with our normal wills, however, we need to realise that in some cases some organs are useless for transfer just hours after the person dies, so it is really necessary that the family knows what your wishes are and are in agreement with carrying them out.

The management group at the 'Train' have had discussions recently regarding our current web page and a decision has been made to have it up-graded. We will initially have the web page designed by a professional webmaster, but once the new page is up and running it will be maintained by members of the 'train' themselves. It is hoped that this new web page will take us into the 21st century. We will be looking at having separate pages for Train Washers and the Fishers' Club, Education Team, Merchandising, Pension Officers and Welfare of course. It is hoped that we can get a far more dynamic web site than what we currently have and will be able to include both photos and video of the various ceremonial events that we hold at the 'Train'. We would like to include some 'Then and Now' photos of our members, you never know what old friends may come crawling out of the woodwork when they find your details up there.

We recently received our CDSE grant from Rooty Hill RSL Club which could not have come at a better time as we also received acknowledgement from DVA regarding our BEST Funding. Unfortunately with the Government in "Claw Back Mode" to pay for the insulation and schools improvement program our Grant has been slashed by several thousand dollars, however, there are indications from DVA that a further 'Top Up' may be forthcoming at a later date. Initially for us, this may cause a small problem with the Welfare mileage allowance.

On a lighter note we are finally going to replace the small bar fridge in the tea room with a decent sized two door fridge that will better suit our needs.

(continued next page)

We currently have 10 Pension officers rostered through the week plus the Train Washers, Computer classes and Welfare dropping in and out - the small fridge has well and truly out-lived its viability.

The more observant of you will also have noted that we have a new addition to the 'Train' in the form of an Outdoor Setting and Umbrella that is situated on the platform opposite the locomotive. This was donated to us by Mr. Mark Bowden - the Choirmaster for the new choir that has formed out of the old Vietnam Veteran Soul Singers.

The new choir is called the 'Sundown Station Singers'. They are still based at the 'Train' but rather than being a little too political at times, this group is aimed at just having fun, singing at a few different events (including our own Vietnam Veterans Day) and will also be fully registered as a charitable organisation with its main goal of supporting an orphanage in Vietnam just outside of Vung Tau. New members are of course more than welcome at any time. Practice is on Tuesday Nights 6.30pm till 9.00pm at the 'Train'. You can join and just come along for practice or join and also do the concert performances. Absolutely no pressure is put on anyone (unlike in the past) and we also accept non-veterans i.e. local community members who wish to join.

Greg Cant
President

New Medal - The Australian General Service Medal Korea (AGSM Korea)

On 6th April 2009, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced that Her Majesty The Queen had given her in-principle approval to the award of the AGSM Korea. The establishment of the Medal was recommended by the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review which reported in December 2005. The AGSM Korea recognises the service of those former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days in South Korea during the post-armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956.

The medal is awarded for participation in Australian Naval, Military or Air Force operations in South Korea, including any location within 161 kilometers seaward from the coast of South Korea, in the period starting on 28 July 1953 and ending at the end of 19 April 1956.

Applications should be made to the following address: Directorate of Honours and Awards, T-1-49 Department of Defence CANBERRA ACT 2600

VVAA St Mary's Outpost Education Team Report July 2010

The Education Team (E-Team) has been in operation for almost six years now. It is a pro-active group of Vietnam Veterans with the appropriate and necessary skills required to work with and address school students studying and researching Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. (The Vietnam Topic is a compulsory unit of work for Year 10 students)

The E-Team operates under the management of the Outpost generally, has a Code of Conduct and dress standards appropriate for school and student interaction. Information flyers advertising the Team program are distributed to secondary schools in the Metropolitan West area annually. Word of mouth advertising, school to school and teacher to teacher communication, have promoted the Team program further afield.

Where possible all school invitations are addressed. Currently, more than 75 secondary schools utilize the program. (Primary schools are not targeted directly.) Invitations come from Government and Non-Government schools large and small and from both high and low socio-economic communities. Additionally, school audiences often comprise a multi-cultural and religious mix of students who are first, second and third generation Australians or are recent arrivals. The importance and value of E-Team programs to student audiences and our veteran community now and in the future, are therefore, very significant.

The number of schools utilizing the E-Team program annually and the positive feedback from teachers and students are a clear indication of the value they see in this Outpost project.

Sincere thanks to all Outpost members for their personal involvement or support of the E-Team.

Vin Cosgrove
Education Team Co-ordinator.



**Team that attended
COBHAM ANZAC
Service**

**(Back Row) Tony Fryer,
Greg Cant, Jeff Perry,**

**(Front) John Kinsella,
David Patterson, Nancy
Cosgrove, Don Watters,
Vin Cosgrove.**

Feedback Comment From School By Email.

“Dear Vin, Nancy & Jeff: Thank you for visiting the school and presenting your views on Vietnam to the students. The feedback we have had has been tremendous. Students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the feedback is that it will help them immensely in their SC. Most loved the dressing up side of things again. The students actually wrote up a positive report which is included in the latest parent bulletin and I received a lot of good quotations on an evaluation I did with my class. You may be able to see it on our school website. I must admit year 10 were better behaved than what I expected them to be. A pity I had to rush off to teach year 7, I would have like to talk a lot longer. Next time I will arrange the time better. Your work is so valuable to our students as they don’t often get opportunities firstly to talk to veterans not even to visit Canberra for the War memorial. So by having a vital resource such as yourself and the team, it is an asset for us as teachers. We can only give them so much information but you can fill in the blanks for us and make it become real for the students. I hope to again support your program next year - even though I may be at a different school. Thank you again for your teams’ visit and I look forward to perhaps seeing you in August at the Vets Day - I have put it in my diary already.

Regards, Denise Ford-Davis



**School children
in the “Dress Up”
Phase of the
Presentation.**



**The Outpost
E-Team have a
wide range of
memorabilia
donated by
members**

DAY CLUB REPORT
Allan Greenwood - Coordinator

Hi everyone; it has been a long time since the last Day Club Report and a lot has appended since then. Firstly, but sadly, I must belatedly report that the Club lost one of its favourite members in Ella Robertson on ANZAC Day this year aged 91. Unfortunately, I was overseas when this happened, but from all reports many members attended the funeral in which I believe was a solemn affair. Our thoughts go out to Ella's family for their sad loss - she will be sadly missed at the Day Club.

We have been having a bad trot with illness recently with a lot of our members coming down with all sorts of ailments, mainly due to the cold weather. We wish them all a speedy recovery and hope they will be back at the club ASAP, especially Edna Pepper, Lorna Sowter, Ivy Stevens and Andras Papp who is doing it extra tough lately.

Two new members have joined us recently: Enid Cusack and Marjorie Moir, they have settled in well and they are enjoying their time with us.

We have had several outings and entertainment over the past few months; "Bring a friend day" was moderately successful. They were given a presentation on ancient firearms, knives etc presented by Paul Martin of Australian Military History, which was a great insight to all who attended. Paul's stories were compelling listening. A great luncheon was provided for a measly \$4.00, thanks to our great kitchen staff especially the two Margaret's, Miriam & Lil who worked tirelessly in providing the meals for us all.

By the time this newsletter goes to print we will have hosted Gerry Daley and his ballroom dancers, Veterans Health Week and Xmas in July at the Henry Lawson Club and predictably all will be a great success.

The Club has applied for grants from VSEG and CDSE but so far has received no news. I have also submitted a proposal to the Memorial Fund. You know the old saying: "The more we get the more we do".

I will take this opportunity to announce that our Sixth Birthday will be held in the St Mary's RSL Auditorium on 13th October 2010. Entertainment, food etc needs to be finalized, but I am sure it will make a great function, so pencil this date into your diaries folks.

(Continued next page)

We had a great surprise by the Group 90 (G90) team, (This is a group of veterans that attended a group session at St John of God Hospital and have continued on as a Social Group). They very generously presented the Club with a cheque for \$500.00. I was lost for words at this kind gesture by the volunteers of the Group who work tirelessly at fund raising activities to provide for various charities in the Penrith Area. A big heartfelt thanks to you all.

Again many thanks to the Women's Auxiliary for providing the monthly hampers to the Club for raffles, this is a grand gesture which provides much needed funds for the Club. Finally, many thanks to all the volunteers who have supported the Club throughout the years, we would not be the success we are without them. We still have vacancies for volunteers and members, should you wish to enhance your life and do something meaningful, contact me or any volunteer or member.

Regards.....*Allan*



**Allan receiving
cheque**

**Group 90
members with
Robert and
Darren from
VVCS**



Volunteers of World War 1 -(Gary Fizzell)

I have been reading a booklet donated to the Sub-Branch by the St Mary's Historical Society entitled 'Timeless Heroes - Duty Called' the story of the Volunteers of WWI from the St Mary's District NSW. The booklet gives details of those diggers from our local area who volunteered to go to war, gives extracts of letters sent back home and the thing which struck me was, in many cases in their dialogue they were very concerned about their families back home with regard to their health but showing no concern for their own welfare; most of them did not return, although their letters showed they were looking forward to coming home. Here are some extracts:

Athol Garner - Age 22, Born St Mary's 1896. Writing to his parents on 29 November 1916 from England, Pte Athol Garner says, "I dare say you will be surprised to learn that brother **William** is here in England. He only landed last Tuesday. I am going to see him this week, and I believe he had some send-off at St Mary's. I am applying for a transfer into his company. Fancy, the two of us going into the trenches together, and I sincerely hope we'll give the "Huns" something to remember us by, and have sufficient luck to get back to the dear homeland again, of which I am always living in hope of doing soon, but we have a very big hurdle in front of us, and my opinion is we'll want all the men we can get from the homeland to keep our end up, and help to settle the pretensions of the enemy. The weather here is beastly cold and it takes a fellow a while to get acclimatized after the sunny atmosphere of Australia."

"We'll be shortly leaving for the trenches and I hope the cold and slush is not as bad as we are told it is over there. But we must stick it out, however bad it is and get the better of "Fritz" at all hazards...the soldier's life is a very strenuous one I can tell you Dad, **and I'm proud to be here, as an Australian soldier**, doing his duty by his country, think what tales I'll be able to tell you when I get back - enough to make you laugh for twelve months without stopping. You and mother will feel a bit lonely I expect, but I know you'll keep a good heart as usual, and think for the best. Imagine that **Will** and I are arriving back home again, don't believe that either of us are killed, not even if you see a report in the papers, for I feel that by this time next year, we'll be safely home again, just think how proud you'll feel when your "soldier boys" will be carrying you shoulder high through Main Street, St Mary's in the latter part of 1917."

Unfortunately Athol was Killed in action in March 1918.

William was Killed on 11th August 1918 at France aged 31 - His body was never found, his commemorative plaque is at Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

Commemoration Of The Boer War
St Marys RSL Sub-Branch
30th May 2010

On Sunday 30th May 2010, St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch members and their guests attended a special commemorative Service at the memorial Stone in the grounds of St Mary's RSL Club. It was the only such Service that day in Western Sydney. Invitations were extended to Sub-branch members, descendants of Boer War veterans, local community, and to our neighboring RSL Sub-branches.

The week of inclement weather before and after the day was broken by a magnificent, sunny, still winter Sunday morning. The 71 who attended participated in a Service that was dedicated to the memory of the many thousands of Australians who, more than 108 years ago, volunteered to answer Australia's first call to arms, and of the hundreds who paid the ultimate sacrifice whilst serving Australia.

Ted Fish did a masterful job as MC on the day, delivering the Address as well as introducing the various speakers; 'RSM' Ron Kelly brilliantly commanded the Guard (Reno Ciantar, Bill Heath, Chris Winmill and Ted Spencer as well as our 'flagman' Don Watters) including the installation and removal of the Boer War Pith Helmet; prayers were read flawlessly by Terry Burn, Trish and Phil Parsons, and Burke Rogge; Mick Mahboub put in a tremendous effort with the Ode; and John Fitzgibbon capably led us in singing the National Anthem.

Hymns were replaced by the reading of appropriate poems by Jeff Perry and Greg Cant - one, by a Boer War Correspondent, Banjo Patterson, entitled "The Last Parade" (see page 8) I believe all attending will have felt the true significance of the poem's words & its relevance to this Service. Music was well-cued by Garry Luscombe.

John Barlow distributed the wreaths which were laid around the Pith Helmet. The ceremony was done a little differently - Sub-Branch member Steve Tolsher's wife, Dawn, was flanked by Secretary Ron Kelly and Vice President Terry Burn in laying a wreath for the Sub-Branch. Dawn is a descendant of a Boer War veteran. VVAA Outpost President, Greg Cant, and Vice President Uwe Schoenherr flanked Brian (Snow) Marshall, a Vietnam Veteran, in laying the wreath for the Outpost - Snow is also a descendant of two Boer War veterans. Other wreaths were laid by Jackie Greenow (on behalf of Penrith City Council), Harry Griffiths (St Mary's RSL Club), Ted Addicott (descendant of a Boer War veteran) and Di Kelly (relative of a Boer War veteran descendant).

Prior to the 30th May, we received great support by way of an article in the Nepean News (thanks Kerrie) and some on-air promotion on radio Vintage FM 87.6 (thanks Rosco). Penrith City Mayor, Kevin Cameri was very supportive—Councillor Jackie Greenow attended, whilst the Penrith Press carried notices in the Council News section. Further support came from Council - a magnificent display was located in Penrith Library for June, thanks to Vanessa Stockford. It explored in great detail the contribution made to the Boer War by the Penrith/St Mary's district. (17 Served).

Thanks to all who assisted to set-up, conduct and pack away at the Service; thank you to all St Mary's Sub-Branch members who were able to attend; and to their partners and others in the community who attended.

Tony Fryer
Service
Co-Ordinator
1st June 2010.

**Ron Kelly
Dawn Tolsher
Terry Burn
Lay a Wreath for the
Sub-Branch**

**The Boer War
Commemorative
Service**



THE LAST PARADE

By A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson 1900, Published 1902.

With never a sound of trumpet, with never a flag displayed,
The last of the old campaigners, lined up for the last parade.

Weary they were and battered, shoeless and knocked about;
From under their rugged forelocks, their hungry eyes looked out.

And they watched as the old commander read out, to the cheering men,
The nation's thanks and the orders, to carry them home again.

And the last of the old campaigners, sinewy, lean and spare,
He spoke for his hungry comrades. "Have we not done our share?"

"Starving and tired and thirsty, we limped on the blazing plain;
And after a long night's picket, you saddled us up again.

"We froze on the windswept kopjes, when the frost lay snowy white.
Never a halt in the daytime. Never a rest at night!

"We knew when the rifles rattled, from the hillside bare and brown,
And over our weary shoulders, we felt warm blood run down.

"As we turned for the stretching gallop, crushed to the earth with weight;
But we carried our riders through it - carried them perhaps too late.

"Steel! We were steel to stand it - we that have lasted through,
We that are old campaigners, pitiful, poor and few.

"Over the sea you brought us, over the leagues of foam,
Now we have served you fairly, will you not take us home?"

"Home to the Hunter River, to the flats where the Lucerne grows;
Home where the Murrumbidgee runs white with the melted snows.

"This is a small thing surely! Will not you give command
That the last of the old campaigners go back to their native land?"

They looked at the grim commander, but never a sign he made.
"Dismiss!" and the old campaigners moved off from their last parade.



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.
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ROOTY HILL CLUB NEWS

AMF Bowling opens at Rooty Hill RSL. For over 50 years, AMF Bowling has been providing leading entertainment, leisure and sporting venues in Australia and the brand new AMF Bowling Rooty Hill RSL will be the largest continuous lane bowling centre in Australia. Open just in time for winter, bowling is a great choice of entertainment everyone can enjoy, no matter what the weather, your age or skill level.

M9 Laser Skirmish: The interactive M9 Laser Skirmish arena is over 400 square metres and can cater for groups of up to 30 people. This is an action-packed indoor laser adventure game, without the pain of paintball.

Armed with advance laser weapons and combat vests, players manoeuvre through the shadowy metropolitan underworld and state-of-the-art integrated lighting, an intricate maze, and multi-level vantage points. The new entertainment complex also includes one of the largest games area in any AMF Bowling Centre, with the latest arcade games, a fully licensed bar and café, and all-inclusive birthday parties and group function packages.

Manpower Australia coming soon to Rooty Hill. After performing around the world Australia's Number 1 Male Revue is about to embark on an encore tour. With dynamic dancing & state of the art lighting, this fully choreographed 2-hour stage spectacular has been wooing women all over the world since 1989.

Show details: **Friday 4th September in Tivoli Showroom.**
Tickets \$29.00 (Adults only)

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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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Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange Are At Increased Risk of Aggressive Recurrence of Prostate Cancer - Researchers Report

A study of 1,495 veterans who underwent radical prostatectomy to remove their cancerous prostates showed that the 206 exposed to Agent orange had nearly a 50% increased risk of their cancer recurring despite the fact that their cancer seemed relatively non-aggressive at the time of surgery. And, their cancer came back with a vengeance: the time it took the prostate specific antigen, or PSA, level to double - an indicator of aggressiveness - was eight months versus more than 18 months in non-exposed veterans.

“There is something about the biology of these cancers that are associated with prior Agent Orange exposure that is causing them to be more aggressive. We need to get the word out,” says Dr Martha Terris, chief of urology at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Centre in Augusta and professor of urology at the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine.

Dr. Terris, corresponding author on the study published in the May issue of *British Journal of Urology International*, says she wants her colleagues following prostate cancer patients with Agent Orange exposure to know those patients may need more meticulous scrutiny and so-called salvage therapy quickly if their prostate cancer returns. “Not only are their recurrence rates higher but their cancers are coming back and growing much faster when they do come back,” the Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar says.

The PSA of prostate cancer patients is typically measured every three months for two years after surgery then every six months for life. After surgery to remove the diseased prostate, the PSA should be zero, but any prostate cancer cells left behind continue to make PSA, a red flag of recurrence, Dr Terris says. The PSA often “percolates along” so physicians tend to watch it for a while to determine if additional therapy is needed. However in patients with Agent Orange exposure, radiation or hormone therapy to kill remaining cells may need to be done sooner rather than later, she says.

Dioxin is also found in herbicides and pesticides used by U.S. farmers, forestry and chemical plant workers who studies have shown to have an increased cancer risk. Scientists suspect dioxin activates regulatory regions of genes to enable the uncontrolled cell division that is a cancer hallmark. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and trails lung cancer as the second leading cause of cancer death.

Source: Medical College of Georgia.

Increased Lump Sum Advances

From July 1st 2010 you will continue to be able to receive interest free advances of your pension, which are repaid over 13 fortnights. Under the new system there will be a maximum and minimum advance, depending on your rate of pension. You will be able to receive multiple advances as long as you do not exceed the maximum amount in a 13 fortnight period.

Lump Sum Advance Amounts - The maximum and minimum advances you can receive:

	Minimum	Maximum
Single	\$335.25	\$1005.75
Couples (Each)	\$252.70	\$758.10
Illness Separated (Each)	\$335.25	\$1005.75

It will depend on your own rate of pension as to whether you can receive the maximum advance. Any other advances you have received during the past 13 fortnights will be deducted from your maximum advance at the time DVA calculates your maximum sum advance.

For more information on Lump Sum Advances contact your VAN Office.

**MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALD
SOLICITOR**



**Level 8
65 York Street Sydney 2000**

Phone: 9283 2500 or 0419 440 990

**FAX: 9283 2600
ABN 18095746334**



Computer Training Classes

Computer Classes are conducted at the Vietnam Veterans Train at the St Mary's RSL Club in Mamre Road St Mary's as follows:

Tuesday: 9.00 am - 12.00pm
12.00pm - 2.00 pm

Wednesday: 9.00AM - 12.00 pm (Ladies Class)

Thursday: 9.00 am - 11.00 am

Thursdays class Digital Photo manipulation using Photoshop Elements 5, only 5 students at a time. **Bookings essential.**

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

Aussie Banner & Flag Co. Pty Ltd (ABF Signs)

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1/20 Hall Street St Mary's 2760

Contact: Tom Bell 0418 447 389

Phone: 9623 2937

Fax: 9623 2934

ausban@pnc.com.au

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)
Scholarships for Children of Veterans intending
Tertiary Studies in 2011

In 2011 the AVCAT is expecting to give financial assistance for up to 65 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children in need of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

Applications open on 18th August 2010. To apply you must be:

- A. Within the means test. That is eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.
- B. Enrolled, or planning to enroll in a full-time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length and at undergraduate level.
- C. The child or grandchild or a person who has operational service with the Australian Navy, Army or Airforce, or if not has three or more year's continuous full-time service as a member of the ADF.
- D. Under the age of 25 when applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran's service exist.

The largest scheme is the Long Tan Bursary funded by the Australian Government. There are 50 new bursaries each year. They are valued at \$9000.00 each which is paid at \$3000.00 per year for three years. There are selection quotas for each State and Territory. To apply you must be the child of an Australian Vietnam Veteran, be resident in Australia, be entering any year of tertiary study, having not previously received a Long Tan Bursary.

The other national schemes are the AVCAT Bursary, the two RSL Scholarships, three Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Scholarships and Defence Force Welfare Association Scholarship. George Quinsey Scholarships directly pay tuition fees for economics, commerce and accountancy studies. There are also regional scholarships. In NSW, there are three from Brisbane Water Legacy covering Gosford/Wyong NSW and one from the NSW TPI Association. Some private donors offer two scholarships to resident NSW applicants. In SA, the VVAA also offers a scholarship.

Schemes vary between \$3000.00 and \$5000.00 per year each. Some restricted to location of residence or studies. Most require veteran service in Vietnam but others are broader in eligibility criteria. Most schemes continue payments for later years of study. All scholarship schemes but one pays monthly instalments. That scheme helps with tuition costs for courses in commerce, economics and accountancy. In addition to the above there is one grant per year to assist a handicapped eligible veteran's child or grandchild with special extra costs of transition to tertiary studies or employment.

To receive an application form register interest on 1800 620 361.
Applications close on 31 October each year.

PARLIAMENT PASSES BUDGET BILLS TO BENEFIT VETERAN COMMUNITY

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Alan Griffin welcomed the passage of the Budget Measures Bill through Parliament, delivering benefits to veterans and ensuring more veterans are recognised for their service.

"The measures passed show this Government is delivering on key election commitments," Mr Griffin said.

"Long overdue recognition will be provided to military personnel who participated in nuclear tests at Maralinga, Emu Field and the Monte Bello Islands.

"From 1 July 2010, a new category of service will be created under the *Veterans Entitlements Act 1986* to be known as British nuclear test defence service, providing eligible former members or their dependants with access to pensions and other benefits and allowances.

"Up to 890 former submariners will benefit from a reclassification of certain submarine special operations between 1978 and 1992, which will provide eligible members and their dependants with access to pensions and associated benefits.

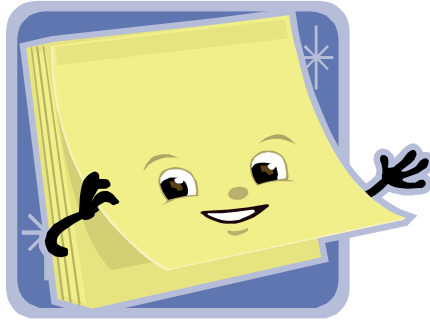
"British Commonwealth or allied defence force members, aged between 18 and 21 at the time of enlistment and therefore too young to have their domicile of choice as Australia, will gain access to pensions and benefits as Australian veterans, as a discrepancy in the *Veterans Entitlements Act* will now be removed.

"From 1 July 2010, service in Ubon in Thailand between 31 May 1962 and 27 July 1962 will be reclassified under the *Veterans Entitlements Act* as qualifying service, providing eligible members and their partners with access to service pensions. Eligible members will also qualify for a Gold Card at age 70.

"The final measure ensures equal treatment of widow/ers who enter de facto relationships, with those who remarry, in the right to claim a war widow/ers pension from 1 October 2010.

"These changes demonstrate the Government's ongoing support for Australia's current and former service personnel and their families."

These measures were part of a \$246.4 million package of new initiatives announced in the 2010-11 Budget.



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.

St MARY'S RSL SUB-BRANCH REPORT
GARY FIZZELL - PRESIDENT

The first half of the year has been rather quiet, even our monthly meetings have been very uneventful. Thankfully our membership remains steady with new members still rolling in, some transferring from other Sub-Branches.



Possibly, the most important activity was our inaugural 'Boer War' commemorative Service on 30th May 2010, we were one of the few Sub-Branches in the Western Region to hold such a service and I must congratulate Tony Fryer for putting together a most memorable Service. Unfortunately, I was in Queensland attending an RSL conference and was unable to attend myself. Well done Tony and to all those that assisted him on the day.

Whilst on the topic of commemoration services; for the past few years both Rooty Hill RSL Sub-Branch and St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch have combined to hold a VP Day Service at the 'Waterhole' Park, which is actually in the Rooty Hill electorate. I approached the Rooty Hill President and Secretary, after consultation with our Management Committee, to hand the organisational aspect of the Service back to Rooty Hill. This idea came about after I had a conversation with the Rooty Hill President, Sean Plunkett, early in April. The Rooty Hill Secretary and management committee members I spoke with were all in agreement with the proposal which means that they will now conduct the ceremony; our members are welcome to attend the VP Day ceremony as normal, which will be held this year on Friday 13th August. The purpose of the change was brought about because of our heavy commitments throughout the year with Commemorative events, particularly now that we have adopted the Boer War Commemoration which comes just a little over a month after our ANZAC Services. There was no objection raised by the 89 members in attendance at the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch meeting held on 14th July 2010 to the proposal. Just to remind you of the Services we are involved with:

- ANZAC March at St Mary's (The Sunday before ANZAC Day)
- ANZAC Dawn Service (Held in St Mary's RSL)
- Boer War Service (30th May)
- Vietnam Veterans Day (Held in conjunction with VVAA St Mary's 18th Aug)
- Battle for Australia Day (1st September)
- Remembrance Day (11th November)

(continued next page)

Our school scholarship scheme still continues to be very well supported by the participating schools. The new school scholarship Deeds have been prepared and they have been returned from our solicitor and they include the one primary change i.e. three differing amounts to be awarded viz \$2500; \$1500; and \$1000 - still totaling \$5000 for each school. The awards night is held each year in the RSL where we normally select previous winners to give an address on how the scholarship assisted them. The way the topics are structured brings some outstanding results from the students.

As well as the Scholarships, the Sub-Branch very generously donates \$500 each to a number of schools in our area for the purpose of purchasing books for their libraries, this takes the form of several members of the committee attending the schools for morning tea and then presenting the cheques.

The Sub-Branch is proud to be part of this school initiative, and we expect it will continue, the schools in turn are very supportive with their attendances at our Commemorative Services.

ATTENTION WIVES OF VETERANS

Did your husband serve in the Gulf War? Timor? Somalia? Rwanda? Iraq? Or Afghanistan?

Do you have issues you'd like to discuss though you feel no one would understand?

Do you feel alone? Socially isolated? Or just want to meet other wives in a similar situation.

Our women's support group will be holding a morning tea at the Youth Centre, St Mary's RSL on the corner of Mamre Road and Hall, St Mary's on 19th August 2010 at 10.00am

For catering purposes please RSVP by 16th August 2010.

For more info please call Maree 0411 679 230 or Cherryl 0425 339 702 or Maureen on 0418 253 199 anytime.

Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans Women's Support Group Inc.

This is a non-profit community based support group for wives of veterans. The group meet on the second Thursday of each month at

10.00 am at the

St Mary's RSL Youth Club Hall.

Phone: Cherryl Mullavey 9625 9363

New Veteran Health Cards Being Rolled Out

The Minister for veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, announced the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients would begin receiving their new and improved Repatriation Health cards.

Around 40,000 new gold, white and orange Repatriation Health Cards will begin arriving in the letterboxes of clients soon.

Mr Griffin said to coincide with old Repatriation Health Cards expiring this year, new cards had been designed to include a number of new and improved features.

"New cards will now have a magnetic strip which will contain data including the veterans' full name, file number, card type and expiry date. Micro-printing and the addition of a DVA registered hologram will ensure enhanced security and reduce the likelihood of reproduction," Mr Griffin said.

The mail-out is expected to be completed by the end of August 2010.

"New cards will work the same way as Medicare on private health fund cards just one swipe will enable health providers to immediately access the client's information and streamline the claims process," Mr Griffin said.

Mr Griffin said for the first time, all clients living overseas will be issued with a Repatriation Health Card.

"Distributing cards to clients residing overseas will remove the need for them to contact the Department to obtain a 'letter of authority' when seeking medical treatment within Australia," he said.

Mr Griffin said health providers will accept both the old and new cards during the transitional process.

"These new cards will ensure veterans receive a more efficient service when visiting the local health provider," Mr Griffin said.

For more information DVA Repatriation Health Cards visit the **DVA treatment cards website: DVA Media Centre**. Providers wanting to take advantage of this upgrade can contact DVA at: **dvacards@dva.gov.au**

Kapooka Army Base Tragedy - 1945

On a crisp clear May afternoon in 1945 Australia suffered its worst military training accident. An explosion at the Kapooka Army Base killed 26 men.

Trainee sappers and Royal Australian Engineers Training Centre staff were conducting training in the preparation of hand charges when a massive explosion destroyed the dugout they were in, and killed 26 men.

One man survived, Sapper Allen Bartlett, who was profoundly deafened and badly injured after the force of the explosion imbedded him in the clay wall. One of the instructors killed was Sgt Herbert 'Jack' Pomeroy. It was his birthday.

The funeral brought the town of Wagga Wagga to a standstill, with four semi trailers carrying the coffins of the soldiers through the town. About half the town's population lined the street to watch this part of the funeral, Australia's largest military funeral.

For many years this event has been considered a 'forgotten tragedy', but a new memorial near the site of the explosion ensures families, the military and members of the public can pass by and remember what happened on May 21st 1945.

Until now the site was marked by an inconspicuous plaque. The actual site of the bunker now lies on private land just across from the new memorial, and a change in boundary fencing means the memorial site is open to the community, previously it had been within the lines of the Kapooka Military Area.

Each year the memory of these soldiers will be honoured with a special service at the memorial site at 2.30pm - the time of the explosion.



The Memorial.

**Photo & Story by
Anne Delaney**

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NOTICE

KIDS OF VETERANS

The kids of veterans now have a web site with all the information on joining and updates on activities, you can also email Leanne:

Web: veteranskids-nsw.ning.com

Email: kidsofveterans-nsw@hotmail.com.au

Heavenly Celebration Funerals believe that families want honest and comprehensive answers regarding their funeral arrangements. Our funeral home Web Site provides you with vital information to help relieve some of the burdens of this difficult time.

At Heavenly Celebration Funerals, we pride ourselves on providing quality products and dignified service at an affordable cost. We understand that the emotional and financial burdens can be overwhelming and our goal is to alleviate as much stress as possible during this time.

Cremation at a Nominated Crematorium \$3880 incl GST	Direct Cremation No Service \$2500 incl GST	Dignified Burial At Nominated Cemetery \$2890 Plus Applicable Cemetery Fees
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Phone: 02 9623 6656 fax: 9980 7370

Email: wecare@heavenlycelebrations.com.au

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Freedom Taxation Services supports the VVAA St Mary's Outpost

Veterans' Affairs Minister Slams False Allegations Over Henry Tax Changes

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, strongly rejected claims that Australian veterans would be worse off under the Rudd Government tax reforms.

Mr Griffin said these claims were not only false, but irresponsible given the potential distress this could cause to veterans and their families.

"Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs Louise Markus should read the Government's press release, issued on 2 May 2010, before making false allegations that any reductions in pension indexation are being even considered as part of responding to the Henry Tax Review, and to recommendation 84 in particular," Mr Griffin said.

"Veterans' pensions will not be affected by the Henry Tax review."

"The Government's press release of 2 May 2010 categorically states that it has rejected any reduction in the indexation of pensions in response to recommendation 84 of the report into Australia's Future Tax System"

"Veterans know, even if Louise Markus does not, that the rate of service pensions is the same as the age pension paid by Centrelink. The link is firmly established in the Veterans' Entitlements Act and the Social Security Act."

"The Government will not reduce the current indexation arrangements for veterans' pensions, including disability pensions and war widows/ers pensions," Mr Griffin said.

The Government strengthened indexation arrangements in September last year as part of the Australian Government's Secure and Sustainable Pension Reforms and pensioners are already benefitting from a higher level of indexation.

All veterans' pensions will continue to be indexed by the higher of the Consumer Price Index or the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost index and then brought up to the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) benchmark if necessary.

Source: Media Release Dated 6 May 2010



DON'T FORGET!

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

18th AUGUST 2010

SERVICE BEGINS 5.00pm

**FREE SUPPER AND
REFRESHMENTS**

**SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE IN
THE NORTHERN ROOM OF THE
ST MARY'S RSL CLUB
BETWEEN 6.00 - 9.00 pm**

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.

St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch Committee

President:	Gary Fizzell	0418 114 976
V/President:	Terry Burn	0407 834 499
V/Pres:	John Foeken	0409 329 688
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	02 9623 6555
Secretary:	Ron Kelly	0411 543 719
A/Secretary:	Tony Fryer	0414 557 692
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:	Uwe Schoenherr	0414 063 957
Secretary:	Brian Abson	9833 4700
Treasurer:	Ted Fish	9833 4700

Management Committee Comprises:

The Executive plus:

Reno Ciantar Vin Cosgrove (Education Co-ord)
Terry Burn John Foeken JP (Welfare Co-ord)
John Mulherron Neville Wood
Tony Mullavey Keith Woolfenden
John Taylor A/Sec. Tony Fryer
Burke Rogge Gary Fizzell

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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