

# The Slouch Hat

Issue 3, 2007

31/07/2007



*This Newsletter is a publication of the Geelong & District Sub-Branch of the Vietnam Veterans of Australia Asso-*

## Sub-Branch Honours Brownie with Tommy Simpson Award

At his funeral last Tuesday, the G&DVVAA Sub-Branch honoured Graham Brown with the **Tommy Simpson Award** in recognition of his work and support for fellow veterans. Sub-Branch President, Michael Mutton, presented the Award to his son

Jordie. The Citation that accompanied the Award read:

*The GDVVAA would like to express its appreciation for your outstanding efforts in serving the welfare needs of Vietnam Veterans throughout Geelong and the surrounding districts over many years. Your expertise in diverse leadership roles including Sub-Branch President, Secretary and Treasurer set benchmarks for all to follow. Your genuine concern for the welfare of fellow veterans and demonstrated ability to encourage others promoted a strong sense of teamwork and purpose. We thank you for your out-*

*standing dedicated contribution to the welfare of Vietnam Veterans and their families.*

Graham, or Brownie, as he was universally known, was the first President of the Sub-Branch. In later years he also held the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. A popular man, who was never afraid to speak his mind, Brownie was widely respected. He was told he was to receive the Award a few days before he passed away and he was very moved by the honour.



Graham's funeral was well attended by fellow veterans.

Aldona, his wife, spoke of the times she had with Graham over their long married life; the good times and the bad. One of the 'bads' were ANZAC Days; with Graham getting out of bed at 5 o'clock in the morning and not seeing him again until three o'clock the following morning.

Graeme was diagnosed with cancer in December last year.

The picture (above) was taken at the 2007 Dawn Service at Point Danger. After he was diagnosed, Graham resolved to live what remained of his life as normal as possible. This is picture testimony that Graeme managed to do whatever he set out to do.

Vale Graham Brown, 3797143, 86 Transport

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### NEXT MEETINGS

**August 13, 7:30 PM  
Geelong RSL**

**September 10, 7:30 PM  
Geelong RSL**

**October 8, 20:30 AM,  
Torquay RSL,**



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# Vietnam Veterans of Australia Geelong & District Sub Branch

Honour The Dead But Fight Like Hell For The Living

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\* Committeemen assisting the Vice President responsible for Ceremonial Events

# Committeemen assisting the Vice President responsible for Fund raising Activities

+ Minute Secretary

## **The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is made up of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, The Secretary, and the Treasurer.

An Executive Committee meeting will be convened at least once per month.

## **The Committee**

The Committee is made up of the Executive and the remaining Committee members. A Committee meeting will be convened at least once per month, excusing the Minute Secretary.

## **ADVISER GROUP FINANCIAL PLANNING**

*For personal financial advice including Centrelink and DVA issues*

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# The President's Report

Michael Mutton

We are now one-third of the way through the GDVVAA year. Your new committee set some goals that would improve the

Not only was this the first meeting of the sub-branch held outside Geelong, it was also the first scheduled day-time meeting. Six veterans from as far

We make an effort to reach as many veterans as we can each Vietnam Veterans Day. This year, as in years past, we will hold an annual dinner, march and



capability and competence of the sub-branch.

The good news is that we are on track with meeting our goals. The executive and full committee have met regularly to discuss a range of issues.

## Admin Instructions

We now have administrative instructions to serve as guides for the conduct of meetings and ceremonial protocols.

We are currently developing a formal health, welfare and well-being policy for the sub-branch; and we are preparing a structure for preparing and managing a sub-branch budget.

The new admin instruction for Meetings promotes a healthy and enjoyable environment, and reduces the potential for destructive confrontation.

## Colac Meeting

A successful visit to Colac for our monthly general meeting was held on 9th July.

afield as Stoneyford (near Cobden) joined 19 Geelong veterans and some partners for a very productive meeting and lunch at the Colac RSL.

Our Welfare Officer, Les Fuller, who is also the Manager of the Geelong Veterans Welfare Office, returned to Geelong with three new pension and welfare cases.

Our next *away* meeting will be in October at Torquay.

## Robust Social Calendar

On the social/recreational side of things, the sub-branch continues to support activities that involves veterans in healthy exercise and social interaction.

For each activity there always seems to be at least one newcomer taking part.

Events and activities are promoted in The Slouch Hat, and also in our new electronic newsletter called **Listen Up!** which is sent at least twice weekly to some 90 vets who have supplied us with their email address.

remembrance service on the weekend prior to August 18. Our guest dinner speaker this year is Dr Maureen Spicer who was a member of the Civilian Surgical team in South Vietnam while the speaker for our remembrance service is Colonel Jan McCarthy a retired Army nurse and Vietnam Veteran. Our service is also attended by serving officers of the Australian, NZ and U.S. Armed Forces.

## Vale Brownie

Finally, it has been another sad year for the sub-branch with the passing of yet another highly respected member of the sub-branch

*"The new admin instruction for Meetings promotes a healthy and enjoyable environment, and reduces the potential for destructive confrontation"*

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## Listen Up! New Electronic Newsletter

*“More than 50% of our members now have an Internet connection”*

In an organisation such as ours, communications are so important. Whether it be social events, welfare issues, or membership matters, it's important to get information to our members while its fresh and relevant.

The Slouch Hat newsletter is an important communications tool for many years and will remain so.

However, more than 50% of our members now have an Internet connection.

This provides our sub-branch with the opportunity to make use of short electronic newsletters through email.

The first edition of Listen Up! was published by email less than four weeks ago and already we have published 18 editions.

Some of the news items in the newsletters included:

- VV Day events
- The Inverleigh Golf Day
- Warrnambool Train trip
- The Colac Meeting
- Media releases from DVA and the Shadow Minister
- The Value of your medals
- The John Den Besten Memorial Golf Day.
- Bruce Picken's book "Viet Nam Diggers' Lan-

guage”.

If you have an email address and are not receiving Listen Up!, email me: [mpbyrne@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mpbyrne@ozemail.com.au)

Listen Up! Had a few start-up problems not to mention a software glitch that saw almost 30 copies end up in the In-Box of some recipients. Apologies for this but hopefully it was a one-off.

If members need articles published in listen Up!, please forward them to me



## John Den Besten Memorial Golf Day

Your Committee has planned a golf day at the Inverleigh Golf Club in September that we hope will become an annual event.

The event is named after keen golfer John Den Besten, who passed away earlier this year. It will be an Ambrose competition. Laurie Evans says playing Ambrose is the best fun you can have standing up. Laurie doesn't get around that much.

Nevertheless, it will be a great day for both the hacker and the low handi-

capper.

Inverleigh is an ideal course for this kind of event.

Set among picturesque stands of gum trees, the course is a tribute to the Man above.

Golfers share the fairways with kangaroos and all kinds of parrots. It's a sand-scape course with long fairways and huge bunkers. OK, the bunkers are not so huge but it's still a good course. Actually, there's no bunkers.

The event will be fol-

lowed by a barbecue. The dozen or so members who enjoyed a day out at Inverleigh earlier this month were very impressed with the facilities and the surroundings.

The event will take place on **Thursday, September 27, commencing at 10:30 sharp** with a Shotgun start.

The tournament is limited to 32 starters so get in early. Non-starters will be welcome to walk the course and hang it on the players.

Lyn Den Besten will pre-

# Expanded Vietnam Nominal Roll

I am writing to advise you of progress with the expanded Vietnam Nominal Roll. You may recall that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Bruce Billson MP, launched an interim Vietnam Nominal Roll website on 15 August 2006. He also announced that an expanded Vietnam Nominal Roll website would be published in August 2007.

I am very pleased to say that the development of an enhanced website is well in hand and will present many features for people to access. For example, the site will contain additional fields of information. As well as being able to search by service number and name, information on the website can be obtained by searching by the unit name, dates of service in Vietnam as well as dates of birth, place of birth, honours and awards received. I should mention that the Department has received a number of enquiries from veterans and their families about the lack of availability of this feature on the current website.

The website can also generate a printable Certificate of Service for each individual highlighting their Vietnam service. It will also be possible to view a photo for each of the 520 official commemoration plaques dedicated to the war dead from this conflict.

Particular veterans may not wish to have their details displayed on the website. These veterans can now request, in writing, that some of those details be suppressed from publication. This is a major policy change from the current website where it was

an 'all or nothing' situation. Any veteran who may wish to avail themselves of this option is best advised to contact the Nominal Rolls Team on 1300 780 133 and the new procedure can be more fully explained for them. Building the expanded version of the Roll has required that approximately 60,000 service records and thousands of other original service-related documents be manually checked. These records and documents are located in three different states and territories and are held by four different Australian Government agencies (DVA, Australian War Memorial, Department of Defence and the National Archives of Australia). Despite this volume of work and the logistic challenges, we estimate that we will have at least 97 per cent of the details complete by the relaunch date. All Vietnam veterans will be on the Roll, except those who have requested that their details not be published. A small percentage will not have full details until their remaining information is confirmed. The outstanding details will likely be those where, for some groups, there are quite complex documentation to search for relatively few members. These details will be published on the website as they are completed and I will write to you again when we are satisfied that the task is finished.

You should also be aware that we will remove the names of about 20 people from the Nominal Roll who were found, during the ex-

## VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY DINNER

6:30 for 7:00 PM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 2007

Guest Speaker

**Maureen Spicer**

Maureen was member of a Civilian Surgical Team Nurse in Vietnam

To reserve tickets or book tables, please contact Max Ingles on 5241 2274 or on 0414 412 274, or by email on [ailmax@hotmail.com](mailto:ailmax@hotmail.com).

amination of service records, not to have Vietnam service. The bulk of this group is made up of part-time members of the then Citizen Military Force who were scheduled to visit Papua New Guinea (PNG) as part of their training. The PNG visits were mistakenly included as Vietnam visits.

Where it is considered that a name has been shown in error, the Department will attempt to contact each person to advise them of this situation and to discuss and settle any contrary view.

The enhanced Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans has been a significant undertaking by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, honouring those members of Australia's armed forces who served during that conflict. It is an accessible tool by which the veteran and general communities can easily research infor-

*"As well as being able to search by service number and name, information on the website can be obtained by searching by the unit name, dates of service in Vietnam as well as dates of birth, place of birth, honours and awards received."*



## Simpson Desert Diaries **Frank Cunningham**

OODNADATTA TRACK, FRENCH  
LINE, BIRDSVILLE

07 MAY – 20 MAY, 2007

After Kevin's extensive planning and careful selection of a team for the trip, we met on several occasions to fine-tune all avenues for a well balanced journey, even to the extent of electing chefs, tour guide, bush poet, engineers, clergy and seasoned adventurers, one of whom came from across Bass Strait. The only thing about this guy that was straight was the Bass.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May we gathered at a secret place north of the Geelong CBD to pack and stow things in the trucks. At this point, on behalf of all, a special thanks to the wives for packing our trunks and ports for us. It was quite a solemn moment that Sunday!

### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May.**

No doubt the rest of the team would have experienced the same as I did: lumps in the throat, tears, hugging, caressing, hand shaking and of course cheers from the ones who weren't taking part in the adventure. We finally left the car park at Fyansford at 0815 hrs. There was deathly silence from all four trucks, then much to my disgust, there was cheering, yelling and all sorts of carrying on over the two way radios as we crossed the Moorabool River at Fyansford. At this stage I was beginning to wonder what sort of trip the tour leader was taking us on, as I can assure you readers I have never experienced such carry on of happiness from one person as he was leaving his wife on her own to cope with the duties he usually performs. It was quite an eye opener for myself, being a dedicated country lad.

We pushed on through Ballarat, stopping in Beaufort for a cuppa and a stretch, bearing in mind it

was just 0950 hrs, much to the disgust of a couple of team members. Then on to Nhill for a take-away lunch of pies, sandwiches and salad rolls. Then through Yanak to Murriville via the Big Desert. It was noted that one team member's mother was the first female to drive a motor vehicle across the desert in approxi-



mately 1928-1930.

Much to the relief of one member, we stopped for a quick look around the Murriville Hotel. At Pinnaroo, on the South Australian border, a very well spoken lady at a check point told us we would have to surrender all fruit and vegies as we were now entering a fruit fly free state. Our friend from across Bass Strait told us that apparently fruit flies have no wings so have to travel in vehicles. Another team member suggested that the fruit and vegies are distributed to the needy around the district.

We decided to stay at the Loxton Caravan Park, on the Murray River. The setting up of the camp was very colourful, and I don't just mean the tents and extras. The language was also colourful, something to which I am not accustomed.

A widow of a Vietnam vet, a friend of one team member, was our dinner guest at the local. Everyone had a great evening, including Marlene. After seeing her

safely home and tucked in, the team was all settled in their own quarters by 10ish.

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May.**

Our team leader was on the job early since he was the only one who slept. It was mentioned by the remainder of the team that a generator or some such thing had given everyone a rather restless night. Anyway, we were on the road by 0900 hrs after a well prepared breakfast. We had a short stop at Waikerie to replenish our supply of fruit and vegies, then on to Orrooroo for lunch. We arrived at Farina Ruins, a ghost town on the old Ghan track, and admired the ruins of the old Post Office, bakery, blacksmith's shop and homes. We set up camp as there was heaps of history to fossick through. Thanks to the four kitchen staff for our excellent evening meal.

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

From Farina Ruins we traveled to the ochre cliffs then to Cowards Springs. This oasis is a must. Some of the team washed their smalls in the hot springs, and I was told by a couple of the team that small fish were nibbling their legs and whatever while they were standing in the water. We set up camp here and retired after another great meal.

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

From Cowards Springs we traveled to the Warriner Creek rail bridge and then to William Creek, where we had a quickie in the hotel. Another interesting place. The day was cut short by four hours or so when a fuel tank parted company with one of the trucks. We lost about one hundred litres of fuel. After setting up camp on the track we had an early happy hour. One of the team retired early. We think he had been over ambitious to try and fix the vehicle. The rest of the team had a great evening

repair job were accessed. It would have been easier to go to the convenience store, which of course was very handy. The truck was up and running by 1330 hrs, with thanks to the training team. Their training included catering, finance, generator warming, transport and being good Aussie blokes. A special thanks to the team member who held back the water. Some were acting as human jacks (not the "I'm all right" type), some were handing spanners, bolts, drivers and some offering advice, while others kept the meals and drinks on the boil. Most valuable were the ones who kept out of the road, for what reason I cannot say, and some did housework. The recovery effort can only be appreciated by such men that at one time or another have experienced a similar situation in the past.

After packing up in the rain we pushed on to Dalhousie Springs, where we arrived at 1430 hrs. We set up camp then drove to Mt. Dare for fuel and a resupply, and for repairs to a flat tyre. On returning to camp the team had a hot spa before another great evening meal.

#### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May.**

After a good night sleep we were on the track at 1000 hrs, heading east across the French Line towards Birdsville. We lunched at Purni Bore.

Put up camp on the edge of the line among some trees which we could use as firewood. Ernie (Dingo) came close to our camp and one member took a couple of shots (camera) at it. We could hear the dingoes through the night although one member was not the least concerned about them coming into the camp as there was enough noise, the equivalent of six chain saws cutting through wood, to keep them away.

#### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

We let the pressure in the tyres down to 13-15 lbs to enable the trucks to hold traction across the fine, loose sand. Called into Poeppel's Corner, where we hit a few golf balls from Queensland across into the Northern Territory and into South Australia. Although there were some good



drives, there were no Greg Normans. After leaving the corner, we crossed somewhere between 800 to one thousand sand dunes.

We camped just off the French Line again that night, and the RAASC catering did a great job, under the guidance of the RAN.

#### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May.**

Crossed country similar to that of yesterday. We met five other



trucks heading west. We had a couple of hiccups with air and dirt in the fuel, a flat tyre, and a couple of creek crossings. While crossing one of the creeks, one team member shared with us that he had been woken the previous

night by his tent mate, who thought he was wrestling with a fresh water crocodile, but discovered in fact that it was the zipper in his sleeping bag.

Arrived in Birdsville at 1700 hrs. We set up camp and had a chat over happy hour. After our evening meal we retired early for a well earned rest. We all needed a bit of re-charging.

#### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

Lay day in Birdsville. The team did a little cleaning of clothes, trucks etc. and general tidying up. Had a look at the working museum, which is a must. The owner of the Birdsville bakery is an ex navy man, so one of our team chewed the fat and offered to make a real pie. The owner declined the offer – he just didn't know what he was missing out on.

#### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Rolled out of Birdsville 0927 hrs towards Maree, stopping at Mungeranie for an \$18 hamburger, a drink and a chat with the locals. After checking into the dongas at Maree the team had a very enjoyable meal at the local hotel, along with a chat with a few of the locals. After one of the members was stooaged over a couple of games of darts he decided he didn't want those who had stooaged him in the trenches beside him if ever the time arose.

#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May.**

Left Maree at 0915 hrs and headed towards Arkaboola in the Flinders Ranges, via Copley for a couple of wheel balances. We arrived in Arkaboola, a very swish joint, at 1530 hrs. Our chefs cooked an excellent lunch, but the dinner was even better – silver service. Butterfly roast lamb with seven vegies! I

must say at this point that if anybody is planning a similar trip, make a point of chasing down an ex seaweed eater cook. I can personally recommend him.

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

On the track at 0915 hrs, heading towards Broken Hill, and had quite a down pour of rain on the way. We arrived in Broken Hill 1600 hrs and checked into the very old "Black Lion Hotel". One would wish that the walls could talk. We cleaned up for happy hour, went for a stroll around town then had our evening meal at the "Entertainment Club". Very swish. Retired early.

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

It was suggested that we have breakfast halfway between Broken Hill and Wentworth, so we left Broken Hill at 0800 hrs and arrived at the half way eatery at 0930hrs. This remote eatery served breakfasts so big they had to be held together from top to bottom with a Waratah steel stake. Our on board chef decided it would have to have been prepared by someone connected to the Senior Service and the owners confirmed that it was indeed the result of the Navy's inspiration. The only complaint was the shortage of vegemite, but the problem was soon solved when a truckie over heard the conversation and without any to-do went out to his rig then handed over a full jar of Vegie to the complainant. Our hosts wished us well on our departure and told us the next time any of the team come through this way to call in. They could guarantee the service and meals would be the same. We drove through to Wentworth, stopping for some of the team to reminisce at the place where the two great rivers – the Murray and the Darling – meet. It was another touching experience.

We arrived at Swan Hill, and after a rather long wait for our last meal together, our talented catering team presented a magnificent banquet. What an amazing array of talents this unique team has, considering the difficulties that the team had experienced over the journey.

At the conclusion of this banquet one of the members suggested that any of the team could clear the table of left overs and assist with the washing up, in other words the tip rats and seagulls should take their turn. Fortunately



their consciences kicked in and soon everything was packed away. We played a couple of hands of cards, had a look at the Swan Hill R.S.L. and retired around 2130 hrs.

This brings me to acknowledge the members of the team:

- Kevin Bate, Team Leader.



Should check the actual distance before making a noise (21 kms). Thanks Kevin.

- Gary Ryan. A very quiet achiever and it was rumoured that Gary was very grateful that Kevin included the rest of the team as at one stage Gary thought it was only Kevin and him on the trip.

- Les Fuller. What a legend! Very quiet until the flaming and the friggin take effect. Les was the prime mover in getting the truck back on the road after the mishap with the fuel tank. Thanks Les.

- Ray Watt. Now this man is a legend. Brand new to all of us, Ray put up his hand to join us when the trip was advertised through the newsletter. This man befriended us and I must admit behaved like a perfect gentleman. Unlike myself. Ray thank you for coming on board for an adventure that hopefully you will never forget.

- Allan Woodyard. I am lost for words. I consider that without the expertise of Alan we would have been in the history books like Burke and Wills. Alan took me under his wing and nurtured me for the entire journey. A special and personal thanks Alan, from me and the rest of the team.

- Hank, surname? Who knows? Something like "Real Barrow". Hank fitted in with the team as if he had been around as long as the rest of us, even though he's a junior. Fifty-three I believe. He was a carer and personal assistant and very obliging toward the rest of the team for whatever reason. Only Hank will tell.

- Hank was most grateful for the invitation to join the adventure of a lifetime with chaps who all speak the Queen's English. At times, Hank had to sit back and listen before he asked questions rather than embarrass himself.

Last of all I am very humble to admit to being invited on this trip, one that I shall never forget. Friendship, comradeship, loyalty, trusting and forgiveness for whatever reason. Personally, I will always remember this trip and the

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# The Men From The Simpson Desert

*Read to the verses of The Man From Snowy River by  
AB "Banjo" Patterson*

There was movement at the Association and the  
word was passed around,  
That a trip to the SIMPSON was about to leave the  
town.  
So all the cracks are gathered to the fray, all the  
noted trekkers from their  
Homes near and far had mustered at the Fyansford.

For the 4W drivers love hard driving where the diffi-  
cult tracks are,  
And the drives cherish the battle with delight.  
There was FULLER, who made his pile when Tulloch  
won the cup,  
The old man with his hair as white as snow, but few  
could drive beside him  
When his blood was fairly up – he would go where  
ever 4WD & man could go.

And BATE from Lara came down to lend a hand, no  
better 4W driver ever  
Held the reins; for never vehicle could throw him  
while the tyres would stand,  
He learnt to drive while roaming on the plains.  
And one was there, a stripling, a small and weedy  
beast,  
He was something like a tiger undersized, with a  
touch of determination,  
And dogged to say the least, and such as are by 4W  
drivers prized.  
He was hard and wiry, just the sort that won't say  
die  
And he wore the badge of gameness in his bright  
and fiery eye  
And the proud and lofty carriage of his head.

But still so slight and weedy, one would doubt his  
power to stay,  
And all the men said, "That 4W driver will never do.  
For a long and trying drive – FRANK, you had better  
stop away,  
Those hills are far too rough for such as you." So he  
waited sad and wistful – Only ALAN stood his friend  
– "I think we ought to let him come", he said.  
"I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at the  
end.

For ALAN and he are Corio bred.

So he went – they assembled the 4WD's by the river  
Murray –

They raced up the Oodnadatta track,  
And the old man "BATE" gave his orders, "Boys, go  
at the dunes in a hurry.

No use to try fancy driving on this rugged sandy  
track.

And, Gary, you must keep the group tight, try and  
drive them to the right.

Drive boldly boys, and never fear spills.

For never yet a driver that could keep the convoy  
tight.

If once they gained confidence of those hills."

He was right behind the 4WD's as they climbed the  
further hill,

Saw him hit the accelerator, he was right amongst  
them still,

As he raced across the clay pans in pursuit.

Then they lost him for a moment, where the two  
sand dunes met

In the dunes, but a final glimpse reveals

On a dim and distant dune the smoking 4WD's rac-  
ing yet,

With GARY from Highton at their wheels.

And he chased them single-handed 'til his 4WD  
started to groan.

He followed like a bloodhound on their track,

'Til he halted exhausted and beaten and was a long  
way from home

And alone his 4WD sat with the fuel tank lying on its  
back.

His hardy Nissan didn't have a drop.

He was bloody disappointed of this problem to in-  
cur;

We set up camp in the Simpson and stayed right on  
the spot.

For we didn't want this problem to reoccur.

And on to Birdsville, where the Diamantina lays,

The team are embattled and dry,

Where the air is clear as crystal, and the white stars  
fairly blaze

At midnight in the cold and frosty sky,

And where around the Diamantina the reed beds  
sweep and sway

# VIET NAM DIGGERS' LANGUAGE

Abbreviations, Acronyms, Terms and Jargon  
of the Viet Nam War



Bruce Picken

Viet Nam Diggers' Language is a book intended to help all those who struggle with Army, RAAF and RAN jargon and need to make sense of their acronyms and abbreviations. The emphasis is on the Viet Nam War era but the majority of references in the book still apply today.

There is also much valuable background information on all combatants: hand-signals, command appointments in all forces, National Service statistics, civilian medical teams, RAR battalion tour dates and much more. This is a valuable reference for researchers and a journey of nostalgia for the Viet Nam Veterans.

The author, Bruce Picken, was born in Geelong, Victoria, in 1947 and educated at the Geelong College. He is a member of the G&DVVAA.

In September 1970 Bruce was posted to the 4RAR Battalion stationed at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville and on 12 May 1971, he and 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion left for Viet Nam on a shortened tour of duty.

In 1995 Bruce lives in Colac, Victoria, with his wife Lexie and has three daughters and one son. Viet Nam Diggers Language is available from:

## Vets Merchandise

- Beanies with VVAA colour bar logo \$ 12.00
  - Hat, Vietnam Veteran Supporter \$14.00
  - Peak Caps with VVAA colour bar Logo \$12.00
  - Polo Shirts with VVAA Logo \$28.00
  - Stubby Holders \$8.00
  - Denim Shirt only in long sleeve \$32.00
  - Windcheaters with Logo, crew neck \$30.00, V Neck \$32.00
  - Chambray cotton blue shirt long slv \$32.00, Short slv \$ 31.00
  - 1/2 Zip Windcheater with collar \$ 39.00
  - 1/2 Zip Fleecy Jumper \$32.00
  - Full Zip Fleecy Jumper/ Jacket \$ 44.00
  - Geelong Sub -Branch name tags \$15.00
  - Medal Holder (Plastic) \$7.50
  - Colour Bar Stickers Small \$3.00 Large \$5.00
  - VVAA Lapel Badges, Small \$6.00, Large \$ 7.00
  - Key Rings various \$7.00
  - Number Plate surrounds (4 Types) \$ 12.00.
  - Belt Buckles various \$26.00
  - Ties \$29.00
- All items on sale at the Vets Office - Peter Sullivan.

## CAMP ON THE GLENELG

Last year the G&D Vets enjoyed a great weekend camping (or caravanning) on the Glenelg River at Nelson.

It's on again in November 2007, from the 3rd to the 11th.

If you want to join the gang, book into the **River Vu Park**, Ph (08) 8738 4123

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday August 12, at 10:00, the Salvation Army will conduct a memorial service to honour fallen and departed comrades.

The service will be held at the South Barwon Citadel at 10:00 AM

**Corio Bay**  
Sports Medicine Centre

Department of  
Veteran's Affairs -  
Physiotherapy

283 Latrobe Tce., Geelong 3220  
• Ph: (03) 5221 8822 • Fax: (03) 5229 4847  
email: cbsmc@pipeline.com.au

- Sports Medicine
- Physiotherapy
- Neurological Physiotherapy
- Massage
- Podiatry
- Acupuncture
- Dietitian
- Sports Psychology
- Hand Therapy
- Hydrotherapy

# G&DVVAA ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

The following activities take place throughout the year on a weekly basis. They are for the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association (GDVVA) community, and in most cases are subsidised by the Association.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
<b>Yoga</b>	Monday 5.00pm	Yoga Centre, 215 Moorabool Street, Geelong	S Pepperdine 52291838 G Miles 52434683
<b>Badminton</b>	Tuesday 6.00pm	Scout Community Hall,	R Meeke 52415529
<b>Yoga</b>	Wednesday 7.30pm	Ocean Grove	B Clancy 52562633
<b>Tennis</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10.30am	All Saints Tennis Courts	N Wilson 52433465
<b>Bushwalking</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10.00am	Geelong RSL, Bel- mont	M Mutton 52440580

Also, members are involved in Golf Days  
and Weight Room Memberships at Deakin University

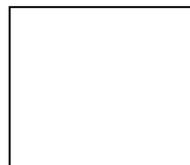
Your Annual Subscription may be due. If so please send \$26.00,

**The SECRETARY  
G&DVVAA  
PO Box 484  
Geelong 3220**



to:

Subscriptions may also be paid in person at the Geelong Veterans Welfare Centre, Clancy House, St. John of God Hospital, 80 Myers Street, Geelong, during office hours Monday to Friday.



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G&DVVAA  
Po Box 484  
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**We're on the web!**

[www.geelongvets.org.au](http://www.geelongvets.org.au)



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## **Honour The Dead But Fight Like Hell For The Living**

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You may find some errors in this Newsletter. That is in keeping with our policy of having something for everyone.