



The Slouch Hat

February
2013

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

Next meeting for members is on March 12, due to the long weekend.



THE NEW COMMITTEE: (Back left) Ken Baker , Frank Cunningham, Mick Hoare, Aivar Mickelsons, David Weeks, (Front) Steve Strevens, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Gary Ryan. (Absent) Mick Mutton, Nigel Wilson, Les Fuller, Bruno Tarticchio, Colin Walters, Kevin Benson, Colin Pearson.

AGM elects new committee

The recent annual general meeting was well attended with over 30 members participating in the election of office-bearers for the next year. Reports were given by outgoing president Ken Baker, secretary Bruce Ellis and treasurer Mick Hoare, as well as those from other executive members. Incoming president Rieny Nieuwenhof addressed the meeting, thanking members for their faith in electing him and promising an important and united year ahead. Read his address on page 4.

Our Ken is State VP

The outgoing president of the GDVVAA, Ken Baker, was elected as one of the two State vice presidents at the AGM in Horsham last week. Ken is looking forward to continuing to help veterans, only now in places right across the state.

More on the conference: Page 5.





Vietnam Veterans of Australia Association Geelong & District Sub Branch

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



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Geelong, 3220

Visit us

Osborne House
Geelong

Contact Us

Ph: 5277 0311
Fax: 5222 5566

Website

ww.geelongvietnamvets.com

Email

gdvvaa@bigpond.com

Executive Committee

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

The Committee

The Committee is made up of the Executive, the Minute Secretary, and the remaining Committee members.

Meetings

A members meeting is convened monthly, usually on the second Monday of the month, while an executive meeting is held on the fourth Monday of the month.

Executive

Rieny Nieuwenhof **President**

0417 414 698
rnieuwenhof@gmail.com

Ken Baker **Past President**

0409 586 669
kenbaker69@gmail.com

Gary Ryan **Vice president, merchandising and bar manager**

0400 862 727
gryan1948@gmail.com

Steve Strevens **Secretary and Public Officer** **The Slouch Hat editor**

0418 534 526
sctrevo@hotmail.com

Mick Hoare **Treasurer**

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David Weeks
Membership co-ordinator
0419 347 194
dvdwks@bigpond.com



SEYMOUR MILITARY HERITAGE WEEKEND

The Seymour Military Heritage Weekend will be held on March 9, 10. There is a list on the notice board at the centre for those wishing to attend and take a bus. Please add your name if you wish to go.

Besides displays and the like around Seymour, the Tank Museum at Puckapunyal and Light Horse Park will be open all weekend.

The opening of stage 2 of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk will see the Commemorative Wall with the names of Vietnam Veterans listed thereon, a replica Long Tan Cross and Remembrance Panel opened and dedicated.

The Wall is approximately 86 metres in length. a replica Long Tan Cross will be located among some flora in an area adjacent to the Commemorative Wall.

The Remembrance Panel has the names of those who died while on service in South Vietnam and is located in a small clearing also adjacent to the Commemorative Wall.

The Commemorative Walk area already has a replica of the Luscombe Bowl where the entertainers strutted their stuff at Nui Dat, and a Cenotaph dedicated to service in South Vietnam.

There is a Centurion Tank in permanent display and although not there as of the date of this message, there will be a Huey Helicopter and an Armoured Personnel Carrier will also be on permanent display when they are delivered.

New GDVAA website

The much anticipated new website is now up and running for everyone to use.

Mick Mutton and Michael Byrne, our two resident experts when it comes to IT, have worked hard over many months to provide us with a website to be proud of and that other organisations will envy.

They have certainly achieved their aim.

If you haven't yet visited the site, do so soon.

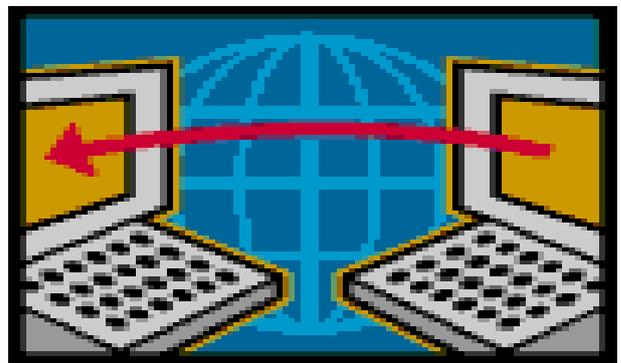
Please click on the following link or copy and paste it in to your browser.

<http://geelongvietnamvets.com/index.php>

Scroll down the home page to see recent posts of coming events/activities/meetings.

Over 195 members have been included in the database to date but so far only about 45 have taken the trouble to login to the members section.

To access all the information on the website, don't forget that your user ID is your first name initial followed by your



surname—all one word, all lower case.

Your password is your service number.

Air Force and Navy vets, don't use the leading letter of your service number, use the numbers only.

Any problems just use the contact page and someone will help you out.

There has been a lot of time, effort and expertise used in getting the site to its current status, so make sure you put it to good use. After all, it was done for you, the members of the sub-branch.

Important notice for Osborne House liquor licence

GDVVAA has a Restricted Club Licence for use at Osborne House.

A summary of our licensing obligations and requirements are:

- Supply of liquor is to members and guests of members.
- Our licence is for restricted hours that cover our regular social functions and commemorative functions.
- Liquor is only to be consumed in the Branscombe Room and the outside paved area on the east side of the building. Not on the adjoining grassed area.
- Members and guests are not permitted to bring alcohol into O.H. or to take alcohol away.
- Guests are to sign the Guest's Register. Members continue to sign the Member's Register located at the front door.
- Those under 18 are allowed in the licenced area providing they are with a member or a guest.

President's message



After his election at the recent annual general meeting, incoming president Rieny Nieuwenhof addressed the meeting.

Thanks to everyone

Well, gentlemen, thank you for the confidence you have shown by electing me your president for the next 12 months. I look forward to the challenges ahead

and with your support believe we can continue to enhance the welfare of our members and other veterans.

To the former president Ken.

The first thing I want to do is to recognize the very significant contribution Ken Baker has made as president. I also wish to thank Robin for her support of Ken and the association in many different ways. I wish Ken all the very best with his nomination for the vice presidency at the state level.

I also want to thank for our outgoing members, especially our secretary, Bruce Ellis, for all their work in the past years.

My thanks as well go to the new and re-elected 2013 committee members and executive for accepting positions. Teamwork will be our motto!

As for the future, I see it as being all positive for the G & D VVA, and our recent meeting with Keith Fagg and Eddy Kontelj, suggests that we have a home here at Osborne House well into the future.

Continued liaison with both, and the COGG officers, will be important for us.

As we, as members, grow older the purpose and function of the association will have to adapt. I'm not sure what it is going to look like, but I believe we do need to be more proactive in making contact with our members, others in the community and the new veterans.

I hope that a meeting with Paul Copeland, National Advisor for the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veteran's Association can be organized soon.

I would like our co-operation with the Geelong and District National Servicemen's Association strengthened and intend to meet with Brian Dunn, and his executive committee.

Our continued co-operation with the Osborne Park Association will be to our mutual interests and therefore I intend to help the association continue to work closely with Cheryl, Susan and Graham.

I also think that we need to develop stronger ties with the Geelong and Surf Coast Veterans Welfare Centre, its counselors and advocates.

The new website will be an important vehicle for our association and I thank the two Michaels for their work in getting the website up and functioning. With Steve, our editor of The Slouch Hat, I am confident we can reach out to our membership more effectively.

I believe as an association we need to be more pro-active in communicating with our membership and getting them to come along more often to functions.

With Ken, hopefully on the state executive as vice president, we will get some ideas about how we can be even more effective in the Geelong and District in helping veterans.

As I said, I look forward to the next 12 months and hope I can serve you with thoughtful and enterprising leadership.

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Feeling thirsty?



If you are then drop into Highton Cellars in the Highton Village and choose from their vast range of wine, spirits and beer.



Our people, from the inside

Rieny Nieuwenhof

For those who don't know much about Rieny, the new president provided The Slouch Hat with this brief background on his life.



While I am new to the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association, my involvement over the past 18 months has been most fulfilling and rewarding.

I know I lead a bunch of people committed to the general welfare of veterans, whether they are active members or those "in the shadows."

I was educated at St. Joseph's College, Newtown, graduating in 1966. I completed a two year teacher training course at Geelong Teacher's College and was appointed Headmaster at Werrangourt Primary school in 1969.

I was called up during 1969 and entered the Army in January 1970 (with Mick Hoare, Dick Brady and others) .

I served in South Vietnam with 131 Divisional Locating Battery, as the Bombardier in charge of the Arty Intelligence section, at Nui Dat and the Horseshoe FSB, during 1971.

I was discharged from the Army in November 1971 and returned to teaching part-time, as I studied at La Trobe University. I entered secondary teaching in 1975 at Parade College, Bundoora.

I was a teacher until I retired at the end of 2011. I have been a co-ordinator of students and curriculum, deputy principal and principal at various schools, in Geelong, South Australia, Gippsland and Melbourne.

Most recently I was the Director of Mission at Saint Ignatius College, Drysdale.

Somehow I managed to complete 42 years in the teaching profession.

I had never been active in veteran organisations until I returned to Geelong and joined the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association. It was the ONLY group where I felt really welcomed and had a sense of belonging.

I want to convey that feeling to those who may not be as regular in attendance as we would all like.

Since joining I have made an effort to get to know members and become involved. There are still many I don't know, and many who don't know me! I will try to rectify this and promote a united sub-branch.



Be impressive.™

2 Wesley Place, Geelong 3220

Ph: (03) 5222 1088

Fax: (03) 5222 1465

Email: print@geelong.kwikkopy.com.au

Support the businesses that support us

It's good to know that even though this is our first newsletter for a long while, there are some things that haven't changed. One of those is the support from John at Kwik Kopy who has agreed to print the newsletter free. We thank John for his long-standing support and encourage members to return that support. If you or anyone in your family has a wedding invitation, 21st birthday party, anniversary or anything else that requires top-quality printing then head down and talk to John, he'll look after you.

2013 State Conference in Horsham

There was a very good attendance at the State conference with over 70 delegates and observers discussing matters critical to the association as well as electing office bearers for the next year. Bob Elworthy was re-elected as president after a ballot with Jim Coghlan. Jim was then elected as vice president along with Geelong's Ken Baker. Peter Bright stayed on as secretary along with Martin Rudelbach as treasurer. Another highlight for Geelong was when our committee member David Weeks was presented with a certificate to mark his years of dedicated service to the organisation.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Opening speeches and welcome to delegates; David is congratulated by Jim; Ken and Jim plotting in the corner; Peter Bright awarded Life Membership; Rieny and Ken catch up with Bob Elworthy and Jim Coghlan



Opening Day clean-up

LEFT TO RIGHT: Most were hard at work at the opening day clean-up. But there were a couple standing around talking—perhaps they were organising.



Bunnings barbecue

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bruno takes it easy; Three blokes join him; the punters queue; one with the lot please; Andy's grandkids; Tack prepares for battle; and Nigel has his hand in the till.



Australia Day cricket on the village green

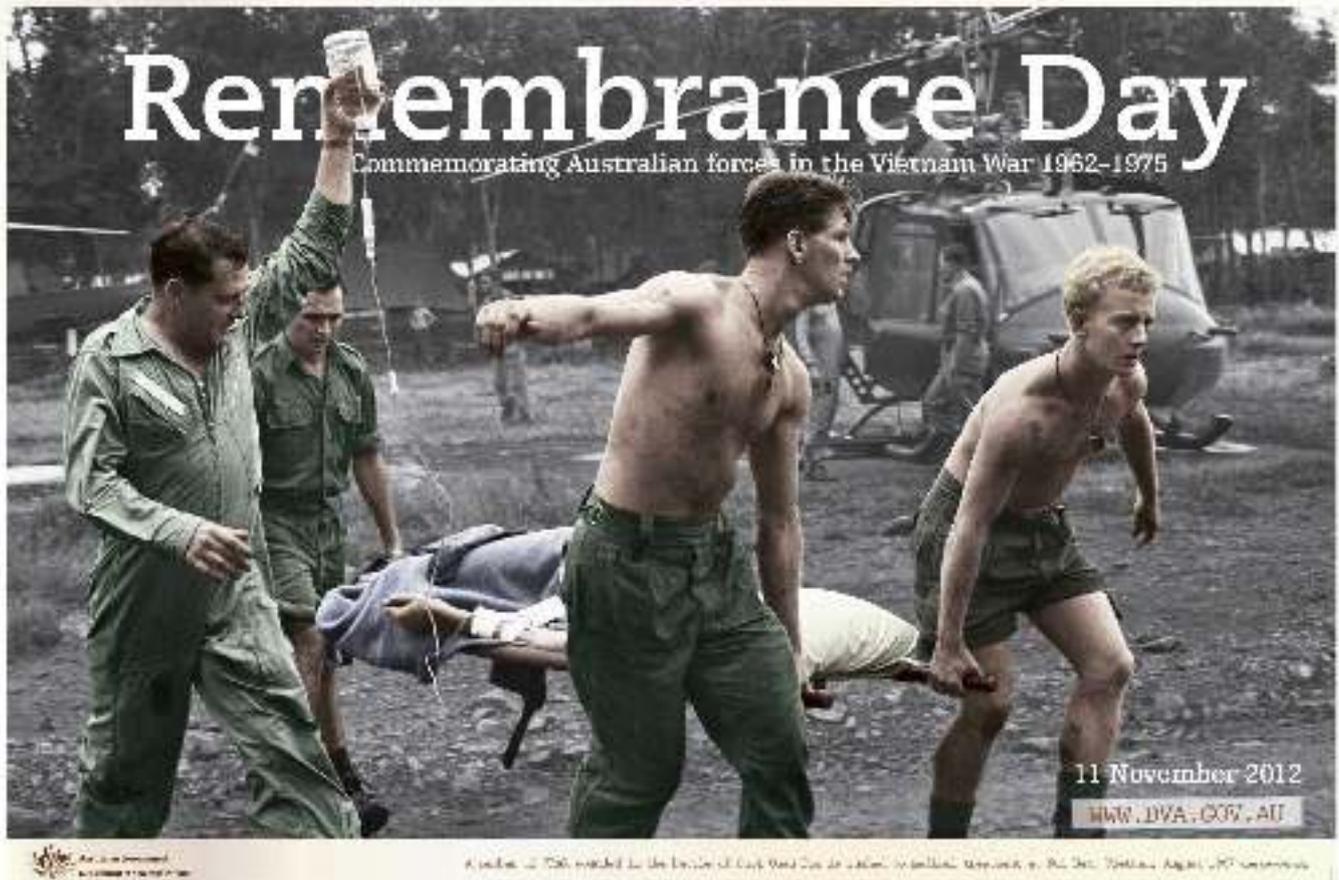
LEFT TO RIGHT: Setting the field; “The Demon” Bruno; you’re kidding that’s not out; Got ‘Im! Yes!; from outside leg; what’s the score; stylish; this is going; tricky Les; David faces up.



Australia Day barbecue

LEFT TO RIGHT: Kevin's been working out; a nice chat; catch up; young love; old codgers; group celebrations; tucker time; and "who is this bloke?"





This year's Remembrance Day poster brought back memories of Jack Blomley (1927- 1973), 8 Field Ambulance, Vietnam, 1967, AKA Jack the Quack from Nui Dat. In this photo Jack was supposed to be the bloke wearing Air Force overalls holding the drip. But was it him?

Who is Jack the Quack from Nui Dat?

Since the above photo was published in The Slouch Hat, there has been much speculation about the bloke in overalls carrying the drip. Who is this man?

Emails have flooded the system debating whether in fact it is Jack the Quack at all. Many believe it is LAC Kerin Williams, including our esteemed member Mick Mutton who served with Kerin and knew him by sight.

Dave Mehigan agreed, as he too served with Kerin. Geoff Casey however, said it was definitely Jack the Quack, as he was there at the time. Geoff also sent in a copy of the Field Ambulance newsletter showing Jack's sister with the Remembrance Day poster and telling stories of her brother.

Then Steve Hartigan of 9 Squadron in which Kerin Williams served, conducted a survey of his members which, remarkably, resulted in two other names being floated, but the majority were for Williams.

After that, Bob Bald from the Field Ambulance association wrote to Steve Hartigan, disagreeing with him and insisting the man in question was Jack the Quack. The photo, he said, was acknowledged by Jack's son and sister as being of him. It was also confirmed by two other grunts in the photo together with other members of 8 Field Ambulance who served with Jack. Mick Mutton said he worked in the same hanger as Kerin and therefore should know him. The Slouch Hat agrees with Mick. Now the dust has settled (so to speak) The Slouch Hat believes in the memory of Mick Mutton and Dave Mehigan and agrees that the person in the poster is Kerin Williams. The AWM has confirmed it as well.

So there you have it. We wonder if there any other theories that will come up?

For all that, the story about Jack the Quack was interesting nonetheless.

Lastly, there are two very interesting parts to do with all the talk and conjecture surrounding this.

The first is how on earth did DVA (who gave out the names) get it wrong and if they didn't, how did Jack the Quack even come to be mentioned?

The second part is that it was nice to know that The Slouch Hat was so widely read and caused a bit of debate.



Tack Reither and Ted Gray preparing for their barbecue shift

Bunnings barbecue report

Thank you to all who helped with the recent barbecue at Bunnings North Geelong.

Thanks also to those who helped with the preparation work, including blanching of the sausages at the VVC.

Gross takings for the day were \$1717.30.

Cash expenses were: sausages \$540.00, bread \$64.80, drinks \$79.80. Total expenses \$684.60.

There were about 300 sausages left over which were frozen and used at the Heritage Meats Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 26th January.

We haven't taken into account the cost of serviettes, gloves, sauces, onions (donated), cleaning materials etc which came from the VVC.

These were estimated at \$100.00.

Net profit for the day was \$1032.70.

A great team effort!

RANC Centenary at Osborne House



Osborne House, circa 1890.

There has been an overwhelming response to this event and all GDVVAA members have been invited to attend the celebrations.

The official event is on Saturday, March 2 at Osborne House, starting at 10am. There will be a march by serving and former personnel along Swinburne Street to be received by dignitaries.

Many former and current cadets, together with senior Naval officers will be in attendance.

A commemorative plaque will be unveiled, the RAN band will be there, as will the Geelong Brass Band.

An exhibition of memorabilia and artefacts is sure to create a lot of interest.

It will no doubt be worth a visit.

Calling all bike riders

Vetride 2013 will be held from Saturday to Monday, 16-19 March when Vietnam Veterans will gather in Myrtleford to cycle and enjoy the north east's wonderful rail trails. Last year, vetRide conducted a very successful fund-raising ride from Echuca to Melbourne with the proceeds donated to the Vets Museum at Phillip Island. This year it's much more low key and social.

It is suitable for everyone from first timers (we can supply a bike) to those who like a challenge.

Our base, Myrtleford, is situated on the scenic Great Alpine Road, set against the stunning backdrop of a dense forest mountain range and is perfectly located for access to all forms of recreational cycling.

When not on the bike you can partake of the many and varied attractions that the region has to offer, or just relax and enjoy the comradeship of fellow cycling enthusiasts. See our website www.vetride.org/ for accommodation and entry details, and for more information about the area, have a look at the Murray to Mountains website: www.murraytomountains.com.au/.

Cost: \$100 which includes breakfasts, a barbecue welcome on Friday and a great night out on Monday, accommodation and all other meals at your cost. vent is suitable for everyone from first timers (we can supply a bike) to those who like a challenge.

Cycle through the diverse countryside of the North East Victoria - natural bushland, open farmland, hidden valleys and some of the most beautiful mountain ranges in Australia.



We need your money!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership subscriptions for the period
1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013
are now due and payable.

Membership Subscriptions for 2013 are:

Ordinary (Service) Membership	\$28
Associate Membership	\$10
Second Membership	\$10
Donations Appreciated	\$...

Please renew your membership by updating your contact details below and returning this form, together with your payment:

By post to Secretary, G&DVVAA, PO Box 484, Geelong Vic 3220; or

In person at Vietnam Veterans Centre, Osborne House, 51 Swinburne Street, North Geelong, 10 am to 3 pm Mon –Fri; or

By Electronic Funds Transfer into Westpac Bank, BSB 033344 Account No 123400, Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association. (Please enter your name in the Reference Box to enable issue of receipt and membership card.)

G&DVVAA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2013

NAME:

ADDRESS:
.....
.....

PHONE: HomeMob.....

EMAIL:

Welfare and pensions

Many of us are, from time to time, in need of some welfare or pension advice. Or perhaps you know someone who could do with some help. When that arises, contact the Welfare and Pensions Centre at 151 Myers Street or call them on 52226003. You can also email them on gvwc@geelongvets.org.au. There are plenty of qualified, caring blokes there who can help you or someone you know sort out what can be a very trying time.



Gary's Gear

If you're looking for some great gear to wear proudly or to give someone as a present, then get in touch with Gary Ryan (pictured counting the money on his abacus) who has plenty of embossed clothing and a wide variety of other products for you. Remember, all profits, meagre though they are, go to Veteran's welfare.

Special!

Name badges are now available, a must for all members. Order yours now.



Here's a few more suggestions.

Polo tops @ \$33 (2 colours, grey or black).

Rugby tops (new this year) @ \$43 (navy with denim collar or black with red or navy collar).

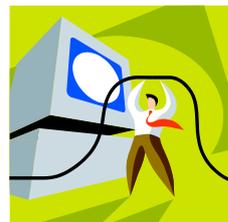
Blue Shirts @ \$40, long sleeve or short sleeve.

Stadium Jacket (new this year)@ \$53. Good value for money.

Baseball caps @ \$15 and supporters caps @ \$15

Colour Bar stickers for motor vehicles large and small @ \$5 & \$8 respectively.

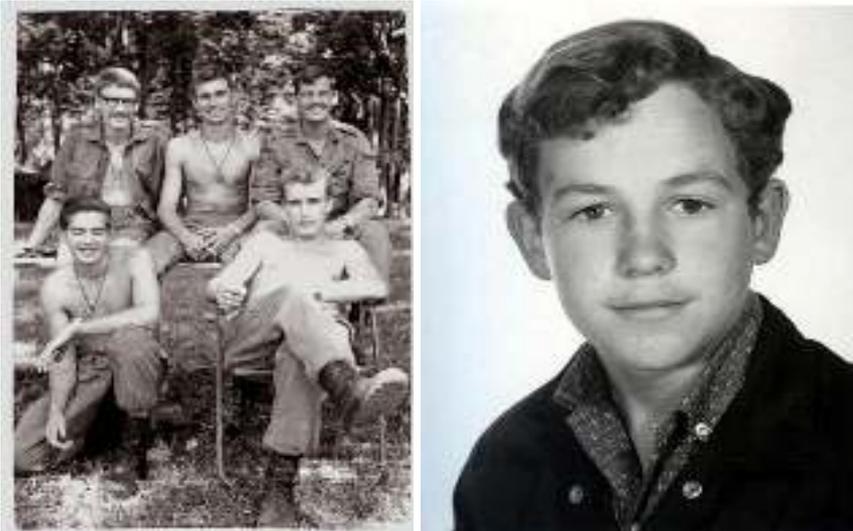
All this and more, but sorry, no steak knives! Whatever you want, you can get it from Gary. Drop into the centre to make your choice.



Warning!!

Due to rising costs and more importantly, convenience, this is the first newsletter sent through the ether. The Slouch Hat will be emailed from now on. There will be some printed versions available at the centre if required. If you have updated your email address or just joined the internet generation, then let us know your email address. Please!

Who are these people?



Recognise any faces? If anyone can correctly identify the person on the right and the soldier top centre in the left hand picture of RAEME Armourers during 5RAR (2nd Tour 1969) they'll win a ringside seat to the next contest between Frank "Crusher" Cunningham and Andy "Animal" Treffry. Entries close at the next members meeting.

Warning!

As anyone who watches television will know, there are an unbelievable amount of advertisements shown about funeral insurance. But be careful if you are considering taking up their offer.

One of the problems with all this is that no matter how cheap and easy it sounds at the time, the premiums rise over time and can be quite expensive in the later years. And you still only get the sum insured back. If it is what you really want to do it is far better to have your own account at a financial institution. If you are backing yourself to live a reasonable amount of time, make sure you do all the figures and talk to your accountant.

You will be much better off.

Cartoon corner



Our esteemed treasurer, among other things, spends a bit of time checking out jokes. He passed this one on for the enjoyment of the members.

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

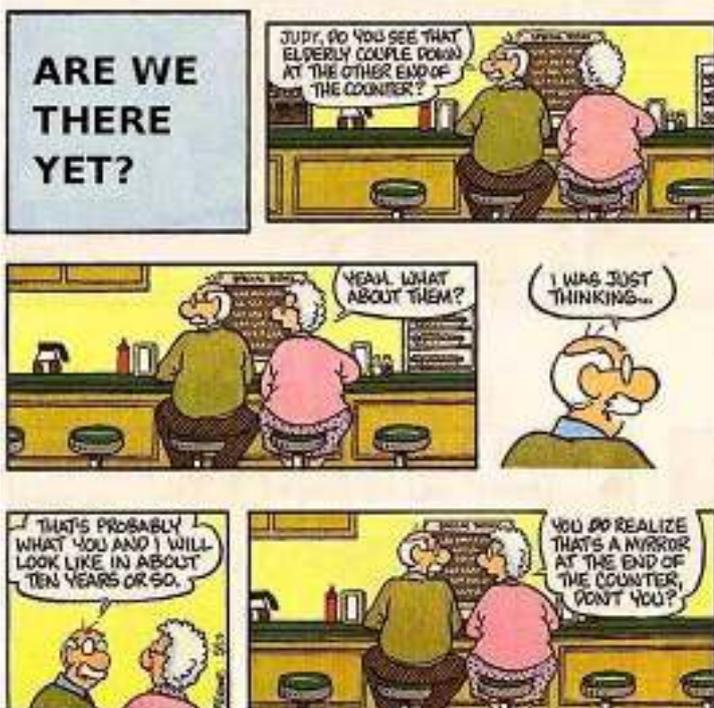
He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

Where's my toast?'



Got any news?

Have a story to tell or an idea to share? Maybe you want to write a letter to the editor, or send in a photo.

If so, then please contact Steve Strevens, editor of The Slouch Hat.

Call 0418 534 526 or email scestrevo@hotmail.com.

You can also send your contribution to the centre and it will be forwarded. Send stories as simple Word docs (no formatting please) and photos as jpegs.



Check out the website

Don't forget there are more photos and other news on our new website. Log on to www.geelongvietnamvets.com

One of Frank Cunningham's many talents is writing poetry (with a bit of help from his mates, of course, and inspiration from Shakespeare.) This is an offering from the days spent at Puckapunyal.



Shakespeare

Bless us all

We're the boys from Pucka,
10 weeks of square bashing we'll do.
By then we'll know who's who,
"Maybe."

Good 'ol Charlie Company, we are the best
Before we leave they'll give us a test,
Some can't seem to get off the nest
"Lift up those arms you idle beast."

The first in line is 12 Platoon
Lurchy Meade, he'll give us the turn
We're never around when he wants us to be
"You salute me properly, sonny."

Sarge is always right on the ball
He'll find dust where there's none at all
CWA should never have lost a man like him
"Come on you funny people."

Two-hook corporals are our famous twins
Ya know who I mean – ol' Cone and King
Without them we wouldn't learn a blooming thing
"Look out sweetheart pousy wousy."

Lancy Pove he's quite a storm
Still doesn't know what year he was born
He's the best man for inspecting Gats and Jocks
"I am Cunningham's uncle stroker."

Poor 'ol Woodsies off to school
He forgot the golden rule
Never ride a bike round God's own acre
"You'll wear an A4."

Corporal Spencer, he's a friend of Dick Tracy
Around his legs he wears pink lacies
The company comedian he has proven
"Ewik, ewik, I'll cut off your orangatang."

We'll learn how to march and turn
In the end we'll have medals to burn
If we get out of this place in 10 weeks
"Would you believe two !#%!!*ing years."

CALLING ALL GOLFERS



Geelong-Surfcoast Regional Veterans' Centre



Presents:



DIGGERS DAY

CHARITY GOLF EVENT

At

PORTARLINGTON GOLF CLUB

Monday 25TH March 2013

Men's & Ladies 4BBB STABLEFORD Events

9:30 Assembly for 10:00am SHOT GUN START

Entries close on Monday 18TH March 2013

Phone: 5259 2452

Entry Fee: \$85.00 per player PAYABLE WITH ENTRY F



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M

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