



'Certa Queensland Cito'

Signals
Vietnam Veterans' Association
Queensland



July 2011 Issue

Committee			
President	Laurie Strickland	07 33855468	lauriestrickland@bigpond.com
Vice President	Andy Petersen	07 38866642	oonda@optusnet.com.au
Secretary	Ted "Snow" Osmond	07 32851247	tedandjan70@bigpond.com
Treasurer	Don Sutherland	07 32698298	don@au104.org
Recreation	Peter Kidd	07 38862914	pkid9699@bigpond.net.au
Merchandising	Allan "Lurch" Adams	07 32855693	aha122@bigpond.com
Editor	Denis "Rabbit" Hare	07 54387512	dhare@au104.org
Pension/Welfare	Geoff Sanders	0402 956595	vk4kel@gmail.com

Secretary	Recreation	Merchandising	Editor
Ted Osmond 184 Bray Rd Lawnton Qld 4501	Peter Kidd 9 Jillian St Kallangur Qld 4503	Allan Adams 1103 Dayboro Rd Whiteside Qld 4503	Denis Hare 7 Sharwill Court Glass House Mountains Qld 4518

Meetings	
<p>Meetings held third Saturday each month at the William Abell Community Centre (WACC), Pine Rivers RSL, 1349 Anzac Ave, Kallangur starting 3pm.</p> <p>Diary Note: Our next Meeting is the AGM on the 16 July</p> <p>Wive, partners, Rug rats all welcome!</p>	

President Report

It's time again for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and for the members to vote in a new committee - so this could be my last report. I thank the current committee and members for their support again this year.

We have had some great lunches, dinners, BYO BBQ breakfasts and trips away over the last year, which I commend to all members. It's a good way to relax in good company away from the grandkids and any other little distraction in life.

Remember the association is only as strong as the membership so get financial (only \$5). The membership form is at last page of the newsletter.

Finally, in November, the association is sponsoring the 104 Sig Sqn National Reunion on the Gold Coast and responsible for merchandising, which Lurch has been planning.

See you at the AGM, 3pm, 16 July and on the Gold Coast in November.

Laurie

Recreation Report

See the report from Uncle Don on the "Rodents Gate Crash BBQ" at the breakfast BYO BBQ at Laurie and Marion in May. It was great excitement for all.

The gathering at the Ettamogah Pub Luncheon was bigger than expected. The original booking was for 20 Persons, however, after a few phone calls (Incoming) from interested people, who wished to attend, a few more chairs were required. A few people who have been unable to attend our normal functions were able to make an appearance.

It was great to see the following members not sighted at functions/meetings for a little while; Geoff & Jen Saunders, Rosie & Jan Thorne, Bill & Margie Richter, Shady & Brenda Lane, Tony & Lyn Somers plus Dick & Joan Meager.

We also received apologies from Buddha & Kathy Winch, John & Dezi Bertini, Peter & Joie Scheinplflug plus Andy & Antse Anderson, as they could not make it to the Ettamogah Pub.

The altitude (stairs) was an inconvenience but like true troops managed to overcome the minor obstacle without complaining. For those who attended thank you and I hope you enjoyed your meal and window shopping.

The Annual Dinner at the Sea View Hotel on the 2 July was enjoyed by all that attended.

Capt Peter

Date	Day	Event	Location	Time
16 Jul 11	Sat	S.V.V.A Meeting	WACC Hall	1500
20 Aug 11	Sat	S.V.V.A Meeting	WACC Hall	1500
11 Sep 11 (corrected date)	Sun	Lunch Out Back Jacks (Not tested by Bon Appétit Uncle Don yet?)	Cnr Anzac Ave & Sutton St (Shop 2, Bluewater Sq Shopping Centre) Redcliffe Ph 3283 8125 UBD Map 92 B5	1200
17 Sep 11	Sat	S.V.V.A Meeting	WACC Hall	1500
15 Oct 11	Sat	S.V.V.A Meeting	WACC Hall	1500
4 - 6 Nov 11	Fri-Sun	104 Sig Sqn Reunion (All Signals Welcome) <i>Click</i> http://reunion2011.au104.org	Twin Towns Services Club Tweed Heads UBD Gold Coast Map 82 K1	
19 Nov 11	Sat	Last S.V.V.A Meeting for 2011	WACC Hall	1500
TBA		RASigs Assoc Xmas Dinner		
3 Dec 11	Sun	S.V.V.A Xmas Gathering (Dry Weather Ordered)	Banksia Beach, Solander Esp Bribie Island, UBD Map 52 H1	Early



SVVA Qld enjoying a meal and friendship at the Ettamogah Pub on the Sunshine Coast in early June

Editor Jottings

Well another newsletter hits the press and I have included an article from the internet on the History of Postal and Telecommunications in Australia for interest, seeing the NBN is coming.

Great to see the two commandos case got kicked out of court. It will be interesting to see what happens with the Officer's case, which is still ongoing!

See also in the newsletter that the government have shafted the Ex Military members that are DFRB/DFRDB superannuant!

I will not write about the "carbon tax" as it may add to the costs of this newsletter! Also no farting was involved with its production to ensure no carbon issues!

Rabbit

Rodents Gate Crash BBQ !!

Breakfast at the Strickland's began in the usual sedate SVVA manner with pleasant conversation interrupted only by the subdued clink of utensils and the occasional slurp from the odd coffee cup. I threw some big mushrooms on the grill and our host said, "Hang on the grills not lit" and with a self confident flourish he turned a knob. 30 seconds later the morning tranquility round the BBQ was shattered by the smell of scorched fur and the scrabble of little clawed feet as half cooked young rats threw themselves from under the grill and lay smoking on the patio.



A moment of stunned silence was followed by the crash of our host's jaw hitting the patio and while trained killers dithered Laurie's daughter-in-law calmly took charge, removing the bodies and directing her father-in-law to pick up his jaw, remove the drip tray from under the grill and dump what was left of the nest and the remaining cremated bodies in the bin. After several pointed remarks alluding to the wisdom of occasionally cleaning the Barbie things returned to a semblance of normality.

The mushrooms tasted fine by the way but I was a little disappointed we didn't think to bring bread rolls as I believe Rat-on-a-bun is quite a delicacy in some societies.

Uncle Don

History: Postal and Telecommunications in Australia



From the earliest days of European settlement in Australia, communication services have been seen as the almost exclusive responsibility of government. For the first decades of British governance no reliable mail service existed on the new continent. Messages, both between the colonies and internationally, were sent primarily by an ad hoc system of favours and paid messengers.

It was not until 1821 that the first regular postal service began, initially operating only within New South Wales. Even then there were no truly reliable postal services within the new colonies until 1832, when Tasmania established the first post office as a Government Department. The other colonies quickly followed and soon Australia's fledgling mail network was entirely run and regulated by government. This began a pattern that was to dominate the communication industry for the next 150 years - almost complete government control of Australia's communications services.

The Postmaster-General's Department (PMG) was created at Federation in 1901 to control all postal (and later, telecommunications) services within Australia. Its minister was the Postmaster-General. In mid-1975 it was disaggregated into the Australian Telecommunications Commission (trading as Telecom Australia) and the Australian Postal Commission (trading as Australia Post). It also controlled radio and television broadcast licensing, which is now controlled by the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Telecom Australia changed its name to Telstra in 1995.

The government sold our Telstra to its owners (us), made lots of money and now we go back to the past, with the government sponsored/owned National Broadband Network (NBN) coming! Also snail mail is dropping as people use the internet for communications, so changes are on the way for the 100 year old postage service (Australia Post) in the future!

Stop Press on Telecommunications

UHF Radio

40 channel UHF radios to be replaced with 80 channel system. The 80 (77) channel law came into effect on the 26th May. <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2011L00862/Download>

If you recently bought a UHF then you should be able to get an upgrade to 77 channels. If you buy a UHF that is 40 channels only, you'd want to make sure it is dammed cheap. It will be illegal to use in 5 years.

VAST

New Satellite system , the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) is now being rolled out for Outback Homesteads, caravans, mobile homes, etc. Basically you can access all the channels available in major centres on the road in remote sites. Ideal for viewing TV from Pandanus Park!
<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/what-is-the-switch/VAST-service.aspx>

Veterans Bayoneted and Deserted by the ALP

A shameful act of bastardry in the Senate on the 16th June, when the Senate failed to pass the Fair Indexation Bill, especially due to a negative vote by Senators Lundy, Brown and Xenophon (despite all their reassurances to the veterans prior to the last election that they supported a fairer indexation).

I hope Senators Wong, Brown, Lundy and Xenophon can sleep well at night as they all must have a guilty conscience. I bet they have never had a shot fired at them or seen one of their mates fall in action, or seen how difficult it is for a surviving spouse to live on 5/8th of the measly superannuation, a DFRB/DFRDB superannuant was being paid (average payments about \$23,600.00 per annum). I bet they do not cry out that the Nation cannot afford their next pay rise, which by the way has been increased by the inclusion of all their allowances. This gives them an even greater pension when they get kicked out after 10 - 12 years. The poor old DFRB/DFRDB superannuant had to serve a minimum of 20 years to be entitled to his/her super which, by the way, is still subject to tax, albeit with a 10% rebate.

Go to the DFWA web site for update details:

http://www.dfw.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=42&Itemid=59

Veteran Assistance

Queensland Fire Alarm Subsidy for Deaf and Hearing Impaired

With the present onset of cold weather and the high use of heating appliances it is important for our deaf and hearing impaired veterans to have suitable smoke alarms for their well being and most of us are aware of recent changes requiring all homes and units throughout Queensland to be fitted with smoke alarms. Many of our elderly and infirmed are not aware of a Department of Community Safety Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Smoke Alarm Subsidy Rebate Scheme for the deaf and hearing impaired that will pay up to \$400 to help pay for smoke alarms designed to meet their needs.

To qualify for this subsidy you must live in Queensland as a permanent resident and be the holder or a dependant of the holder of a DVA Gold Card or White Card (issued for conditions that include hearing loss) or a Centrelink Concession Card or Health Care Card. You must also be able to provide signed confirmation from a qualified GP or hearing practitioner (audiologist or audiometrist) recommending your suitability for the scheme based on their assessment that your level of hearing loss may prevent you from hearing a standard smoke alarm.

A list of authorised retailers where you can obtain a quote for a system of your choice that needs to include a flashing strobe and vibrating pad is included in the application form that may be obtained online at <http://www.fire.qld.gov.au/communitysafety/smokealarms/legislation.asp>.

Wicked – Free Road Trip for Vietnam Veterans

Wicked Campers is currently offering all Vietnam Vets a FREE road trip. The special entitles each Vietnam Vet to complimentary campervan rental for five days. Wicked owner John Webb said the aim of the deal was to say thank you for the huge contribution the Vets have made to our country. "It's my way of showing our appreciation," he said. "For any Vets who have a bit of spare time, it's a great way to see more of Australia for free." The approximate value of the giveaway is \$300.

Wicked Offer for Vietnam Veterans

- 5-day complimentary road trip for Vietnam Vets (subject to availability).
- Vans available from Wicked Depots in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Airlie Beach, Alice Springs, Broome, Byron Bay, Cairns, Darwin, Exmouth, Hervey Bay and Hobart.

Wicked vans sleep 2-3 people and are fully equipped with a kitchenette, camping stove, internal table and lounge, and a camping table and chairs. The deal is available for 2 or 3 seater models. Re-location deals are also often available for only \$1 a day.

Wicked Campers are in 14 locations across Australia, with around 900 vans nationwide. They provide an affordable way for travellers to see the country, combining transport and accommodation into one cheap price. Wicked has also expanded overseas, with depots in Canada, USA, Thailand, Chile, Africa, New Zealand and the UK.

To make a booking, phone Wicked Campers on 1800 246 869. www.wickedcampers.com

Cruise with P&O Cruises Australia, Princess Cruises or Cunard

Carnival Australia has introduced a new program onboard its fleet to pay tribute to serving and former members of the Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces. Under the program, all Defence Force personnel including discharged and retired servicemen will receive an onboard credit of up to \$250 when booking a cruise with P&O Cruises Australia, Princess Cruises or Cunard. The program is eligible to all three branches of the Defence Force, including the Royal Australian Navy, Air Force and Army.

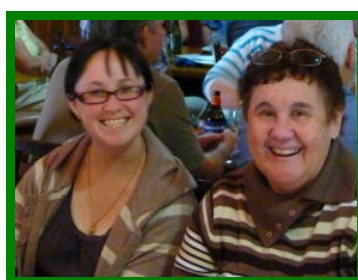
Carnival Australia Senior Vice President Jenny Lourey said the company was extremely proud to introduce the program.

“We think it’s a great way of acknowledging the men and women who give so much for their countries,” Ms Lourey said. To receive the benefit, servicemen simply need to provide documentation at the time of booking, demonstrating their service in the Australian or New Zealand Defence Force. www.pocruises.com.au

Australia Zoo

Australia Zoo offers free entrance for a serving Defence Force members, Veteran and any accommodating partner. Just show current Military ID or DVA card. Note any accompanying children are not discounted. www.australiazoo.com.au

The SVVA Photo Year



Joke Corner

Fable of the Porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.

After a while, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the earth.

Wisely, they decided to go back to being together.

They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

The moral of the story is: 'Just learn to live with the Pricks in your life!'

Five pearls of Scottish wisdom to remember

1. Money cannot buy happiness but somehow, it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes Benz than it is on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy but remember the bastard's name.
3. Help a man when he is in trouble and he will remember you when he is in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problem, but then neither does milk.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Signals Vietnam Veterans' Association Queensland at William Abell Community Centre (WACC) on Saturday, 18th June 2011

Meeting opened at 1540hrs by President Laurie Strickland

As per attendance register, there were six members. Apologies were received from John Bertini, Peter Thorne, Denis Hare, Caryll Harvey, Alan Adam

Minutes from previous meeting held on 21st May 2011 were read. Moved as true and correct record by Peter Kidd. Seconded by Andy Petersen. Carried.

Secretaries Report. There was no Inwards or Outwards Correspondence.

Treasurer's Report. Bank statement \$2319.52 at hand

Social Report. The Ettamogah Pub outing was a good turnout. Next social gathering is 2nd July at the Seaview Hotel for the Annual Dinner. The address is 65 Pier Avenue Shorncliffe, timing at 1800 hrs. Peter Kidd said he has been checking out a few sites for future trips away. Dickie Beach Caravan Park might be a good contender.

General Business. Don Sutherland said a few veterans living in Vietnam had conveyed their intention to visit the 104 Signals Reunion in Nov.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 1600 hrs.

Reunions

104 Sig Sqn National Reunion 2011 (All RASigs welcome)

4-6 Nov 2011 - See special web site at **Click** <http://2011.au104.org> for details.

Already record numbers have booked accommodation and registered. Help the "reunion committee" by getting you registration in ASAP and "yourself" by booking accommodation now!

RASigs 40th Anniversary Reunion, Vietnam

It's the RASigs 40th Anniversary Vietnam Reunion, 15-22 August 2012 commemorating with withdrawal of Signallers from South Vietnam in December 1972.

The format will be over eight days starting at Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and then moving to Vung Tau for a couple of days and then back to Saigon. Little Pattie will be entertaining us at one of the do's Gregg Dickson and his committee are organising. Prices at this stage range between \$US700 and \$US800 plus airfares and any non reunion travel. All the details are on the website at **Click** http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rasigsau/avietnam_2012_reunion.html

Any queries please send an email to **Gregg Dickson** at rasigsvn@hotmail.com

SVVA Merchandising

Lurch has lots of goodies and always attends the meeting with a suitcase of merchandise which you can buy. If in the area drop in to the meeting and check our range. Have a beer also with the members of SVVA. Details and order form also on the 104 Sig Sqn Web Site at www.au104.org Goto **Click** "[Merchandise](#)" page.



\$\$\$\$\$ Special Clearance Sale at below cost \$\$\$\$\$\$

A very limited supply of 'Collector quality Unit Stubby Holders' made of durable rolled aluminium with polystyrene insert and etched with either **145**, **103**, **110**, **104** or **SVVA** (SVVA badge) are yours at the special below cost price of \$15 each (at our monthly meetings) - add \$5 postage if by mail order.

These items are no longer available "anywhere else" and we have the last of them!!



Stop Press

NSWRL has officially released a cockroach supporter helpline

It is 1800 101010

That's right 1800 won nothing, won nothing, won nothing



Signals Vietnam Veterans Association Queensland

Established 21 November 1987

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

 Full Associate

Surname: Given Names:

Preferred or Nick Name:

Address:
.....Postcode:.....

Phone: Mobile:

Email;@..... (Preferred Newsletter Delivery)

Vietnam Service

Regimental No:

Unit(s) Dates

NOK

Name: Relationship:

Address: Phone :
(or as above)

Annual Fee \$5

(All Cheques/Money Orders made payable to, [Signals Vietnam Veterans Assoc](#))

Postal Address: The Secretary
SVVA Queensland
184 Bray Rd.
LAWNTON Qld. 4501

Signature Date

Note: If you have email, the SVVA Qld Newsletter will be forwarded electronically along with other notices from time to time, to cut down on association costs and manpower effect. Anyone without internet will receive the newsletter by normal post in black and white.