

*The 25th Anniversary of the
Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
and Associated Forces Inc.
1985—2010*

CONTACT !



2010
ANZAC Edition

CONTACT !

Patron: Major General CMI (Sandy) Pearson AO DSO OBE MC (Rtd)
Office address: Allied Services Centre, 108 Macquarie Road , Springwood NSW 2777 Australia
(next to Springwood Civic Centre)

© JOURNAL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.
 incorporating

RAAF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION and the QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSOCIATION

ABN 74 645 329 198

CFN 17276

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN ALL POST WORLD WAR II CONFLICTS

Your Committee

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Committee Member	John Woolley	(02) 4754 3015
Association Padre	Bill Wheeler	(02) 4754 4575
CONTACT! Editor	Graham Glasson	(02) 4736 7070

2010 Association Meeting Dates
All meetings commence 1000hrs at
Legacy Office, Raymond Lane
Springwood

16 th May	08 th June
11 th July	08 th August
12 th September	10 th October
14 th November	12 th December

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the President, (who has wife Sue and a caravan in tow, travelling the country) I would like to thank our 2009 Committee Members for their efforts during the year and appreciate that they were elected unopposed at the AGM for 2010. With a very successful year behind us, we can look forward to continuing that trend. I know that the Secretary and his offsiders are well advanced with preparations for Memorial Day with some good input from Graham Glasson (see details on page 12). I cannot let it go unsaid that Darrell Carter has been a great support to John Fenton and Wendy. John has also been very proactive with a number of applications for grants already submitted. Of course, our next big task is the mid year raffle, with visits to a few new sites.

Yet again, the Blue Mountains City Council has raised the matter of occupation of the "Prospect Electricity" building in Springwood, but it insists that the future tenants must make good the building structure at an estimated cost of \$70,000, then outfit the dilapidated and damaged interior. Any work must be done by qualified/licensed personnel and volunteers cannot assist. At the same time, the Council is considering the redevelopment of Springwood, including our current premises. That said, your committee has decided that no further action should be taken to seek occupation of the old building.

In closing I wish to thank all those who represented our Association at the various local ANZAC services.

Glenn Daly
Vice President

WELFARE WAFFLES

The Parramatta VAN Office has been updating ESO Welfare Officers on several topics at Workshops throughout their area of responsibility. Below is a summary:

Podiatry Services

Podiatry services include diagnosis, routine maintenance, soft tissue surgery & physical therapy on your feet & may include prescription of medical grade footwear, footwear modifications & orthoses. There is a selection of 500 shoe styles available on the DVA list of approved footwear.

DVA will pay for:

Gold Card holders to meet your clinical needs, and

White Card holders who require podiatry services because of an accepted war or service caused injury or disease.

To access the DVA podiatry service with a practitioner who is registered with Medicare Australia a referral is required from your LMO/GP, Specialist, Hospital Discharge Planner or another Podiatrist. Refer to DVA Fact Sheet HSV20.

Home Front & Veterans' Home Maintenance Line (VHML)

All DVA Gold & White Card holders are entitled to an annual FREE home safety assessment which is designed to prevent falls & accidents around the home. An assessor will look for potential hazards (cluttered walkways, unsafe steps & railings, poor lighting etc). After an assessment & if the veteran agrees, a registered tradesperson will carry out the work & DVA will assist with the cost of the work. The VHML has a toll free number (1800 80 1945) to provide advice on general home maintenance matters, provides referral to reliable local tradespeople, provides 24 hour access for emergency repairs. In this instance the costs are borne by the Veteran.

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PADRE'S CORNER

April is a month of remembrances. Early on it was Easter – but more on that later. At the end of this month Anzac Day is upon us. There are those who have described this commemoration and the concept of the ‘Anzac Spirit’ as an Australian folk religion. I guess that is a reasonable description if a religion is something you believe in and live by. Anzac embodies a spirit which goes a long way to expressing our national character. A spirit which became evident in World War I and which has been enhanced over subsequent years in many different spheres of our national life, particularly through our Defence Force

It is a privilege and an honour to pause and pay our respects, to thank God for the sacrifices made by men and women who served with and supported our grandparents, our parents and us in times of conflict. Also let us not forget those who today have placed their lives on the line and those who support them. These men and women made us what we are today – a freedom-loving, independent and proud people taking our place in the world and ever-ready to assist those who are less fortunate. We honour their memory – LEST WE FORGET.

Over the last few weeks Margaret and I have at last been able to attack the contents of our ‘store room’. Boxes and cartons, carted from posting to posting over the years, are having their contents revealed and evaluated. What an accumulation!! Some of our finds are historical, some sentimental, some useful and even some real treasures, but there is a lot of what could only be described as rubbish or junk. The recycling bin has been getting a work-out! In a way this clutter and clean-up activity could be an analogy for our lives, yours and mine. Over the years we have all accumulated a lot of ‘rubbish’ we need to get rid of – past failures, broken relationships, selfish actions, bad conduct – there are quite a few things in our lives that we are ashamed of. Things that have created barriers between us and other people, but especially between us and our Creator God.... We need to get rid of those barriers, those shadows.

Recently we celebrated Easter. In this celebration we are reminded of the way to get rid of those barriers and shadows between us and The Almighty. Chocolate eggs, hot cross buns, sea food, the Show and of course that strange creation, the Easter Bunny, all have their place, but the real and original celebration of Easter is to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus the Son of God. Here is the way to get rid of those barriers and shadows. He died to take them away for us and rose again to prove that He had actually done just that. Our only response necessary is simply to believe He did that for us personally; to ask Him to forgive us and to lay our trust in Him. April is a great month for remembrances and thankfulness in so many different ways.

Bill Wheeler

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The President, Committee and Members of the BMVV&AF would like to
Welcome the following New Member into the Association.

**Mr. Louis Edwards ex: A/Able Seaman RAN service included BCOF Japan,
New Guinea, Guam, , UK, Philippines, Post Tropical Services**

We hope that we are able to be of mutual help and benefit to each other and that we can compliment each other, feel free to contact the Secretary if you can find the time to hop into some volunteer tasks. In addition to our latest full member, your Committee has offered Associate Membership as a token of our esteem and gratitude to the following ladies who, in time of conflict brought moments of sanity to an otherwise insane situation. The President, Committee and Members have great pleasure in advising that the ladies have accepted Associate Membership of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces inc. and they are:

**Patricia Amphlett OAM
Dinah Lee**

**Lorrea Desmond MBE
Sylvia Raye
Nicki Gillis**

**Lynn Fletcher
Jacqui De Paul**

Brian Day continues his series on Australian and other VC recipients and Conspicuous Gallantry Awards presented to members of Australian and Allied Forces. We started 2010 with another story of bravery but as I mentioned last February this one has an odd twist Read on

Pte Henry Tandey VC, DCM, MM, MID** Part 2**

Welcome back to the continuing story of Henry Tandey VC DCM MM MID**** You will recall that after surviving the *war to end all wars* Henry left the Army, settled in Leamington where he married and settled into civilian life as a Commissionaire (Plant Security Officer) for Triumph. On 13 March 1919 a supplement to the London Gazette announced that Tandey had been awarded the Military Medal (MM). The following day he was discharged from service and only one day later he re-enlisted into the Duke of Wellington's 3rd Battalion on a 'Short Service Engagement'. Three days later (18 March 1919) he was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal (A/LCpl). He remained with the 3rd Battalion on 'Home Service' until 4 February 1921, when he transferred to the 2nd Battalion. Four days later on 8 February 1921 he requested to revert to the rank of Private. Tandey saw service with the 2nd Battalion in Gibraltar from 11 April 1922 to 18 February 1923, in Turkey from 19 February to 23 August 1923 and finally in Egypt from 24 August 1923 until 29 September 1925. He was finally discharged from the army on 5 January 1926, with the rank of Sergeant.

In 1938 Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940), Conservative PM from 1937-40, made his gloomy trip to Munich to meet Chancellor Hitler in a last ditched effort to avoid war which resulted in the ill-fated 'Munich Agreement'. During that fateful trip Hitler invited him to his newly completed retreat in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, a birthday present from Martin Bormann and the Nazi Party. Perched 6017 feet up on Kehlstein Mountain it commanded spectacular views for 200 kilometres in all directions. While waiting the Prime Minister explored the Fuehrer's hilltop lair and found a reproduction of Matania's famous Marcoing painting depicting allied troops, puzzled by the choice of art Hitler explained,



"that man came so near to killing me that I thought I should never see Germany again, providence saved me from such devilishly accurate fire as those English boys were aiming at us".

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Hitler seized the moment to have his best wishes and gratitude conveyed to Tandey by the Prime Minister, who promised to phone him on his return to London. It wasn't until this time that Tandey became aware that the man he had in his gun sight 20 years earlier was Adolf Hitler and it came as a great shock, given tensions at the time it wasn't something he felt proud about.

The story first broke in 1940 but no one gave it much thought at the time, however in recent years it has generated greater interest. Some historians are doubtful as it sounds too good to be true; however, it has an unmistakable ring of truth to it. No one in their right mind would make up a story about having spared the life of a tyrant who, at that time had just fire bombed Coventry, was Blitzing London and mass murdering people on the continent. Hitler's regiment was in the Marcoing region at the time although his presence cannot be verified, a great deal of German records for the Great War were lost in WWII due to allied bombing of Berlin which resulted in the destruction of a significant amount of the State Archives. So documents showing Adolph Hitler's exact whereabouts on 28 September 1918 are not available, Hitler biographers have differing opinions. There is however, irrefutable evidence that Hitler possessed a copy of the famous Matania painting featuring Tandey as early as 1937, acquiring it from Tandey's old regiment. Colonel Earle said that he had heard from one Dr. Schwend that Hitler had expressed a wish to have a large photograph of the Matania painting. Obviously one was sent because Captain Weidmann, Hitler's Adjutant, wrote the following to Colonel Earle:

"I beg to acknowledge your friendly gift which has been sent to Berlin through the good offices of Dr. Schwend. The Fuhrer is naturally very interested in things connected with his own war experiences, and he was obviously moved when I showed him the picture and explained the thought which you had in causing it to be sent to him. He has directed me to send you his best thanks for your friendly gift which is so rich in memories."

The Tandey family were in no doubt of the story's authenticity, they were present when Prime Minister Chamberlain phoned, Tandey's nephew, William Whateley, from Thomaby, calls to mind a mysterious phone call almost 60 years ago, when the storm clouds of war were brewing and Prime Minister Chamberlain was futilely appeasing Herr Hitler. One evening the telephone rang and Henry went off to answer it, when he came back he commented matter-of-factly that it had been Mr Chamberlain. He had just returned from a meeting with Hitler and whilst at Berchtesgaden had noticed the painting by Matania of the 2nd Green Howards at the Menin Cross Roads in 1914. Chamberlain had asked what it was doing there and in reply Hitler had pointed out Tandey in the foreground and commented, *"that's the man who nearly shot me"*

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The reproduction was destroyed or stolen by allied troops who ransacked, looted and badly damaged the Eagles Nest as the war approached its end. British troops were preparing a truck load of explosives to blow it off the face of the earth. When American officers arrived on the scene they were appalled by the waste of time and munitions that was about to be used and ordered them back to the real war.

Tandey was haunted the remainder of his life by his good deed, the simple squeeze of a trigger would have spared the world a catastrophe which cost tens of millions of lives. He was living in Coventry when the Luftwaffe destroyed the city in 1940, sheltered in a doorway as the building he was in crumbled and city burned like a scene from Dante's Inferno. He was also in London during the Blitz and experienced that atrocity first hand, he told a journalist in 1940, "if only I had known what he would turn out to be. When I saw all the people, woman and children he had killed and wounded I was sorry to God I let him go".

When war erupted the 49 year old tried to rejoin his regiment to see to it that, "he didn't escape a second time", but failed the physical due to wounds received at the Battle of the Somme. Nonetheless he did his bit on the home front, volunteering wherever he could be of service but was always haunted by an act of decency to an indecent man. Henry Tandey VC DCM MM died without issue in Coventry in 1977 aged 86, in accordance with his wishes he was cremated and interred at the British Cemetery in Marcoing alongside fallen comrades and close to where he won his Victoria Cross 60 years earlier. His widow sold his medals three years later for a record £27,000 and on Armistice Day 1997 they were presented to his old regiment, the Green Howards, by Sir Ernest Harrison OBE at a special ceremony at the Tower of London and are displayed with great pride at the Green Howards regimental museum.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the Tandey story, I know I was really struck with it when I put it to paper, thoroughly enjoyed hogging the computer over the past few weeks. The whole prospect of the event is difficult to believe, can you imagine what would have happened if Tandey pulled the trigger ...**what if**. We could postulate forever, or at least until the Diet Coke runs out, what story, We hope you enjoyed your Easter break, but didn't over do the ANZAC Day festivities....OK.



The Editor

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

On the 26th February we received invitations from The ARVN Veterans Association of Australia to attend their function that bids farewell to the old Luna Year (The Year of the Buffalo) and celebrate the incoming Lunar New Year, The Year of the Tiger. The function was attended by at least 200 people from the Vietnamese Community as well as members from Veteran organizations across NSW including our own John King OAM and his wife Norma, RSL Sub Branches, the Mayor of Fairfield and many other local dignitaries. The evening was a busy affair with speeches, music, drinking, dancing, singing, eating, drinking, talking and drinking You know how it goes. A great night was had by all and the ARVN VAA were the perfect hosts.



Above Janet and Graham giving the Coca Cola a nudge.



Pictured above is Norma and John King OAM enjoying a pleasurable night .

On behalf of the BMVV&AF President a very big thank you to the ARVN VAA for a great night, Rolls Royce service, and to all the marvellous Entertainers that were on the job from go to whoa. A fabulous night of friendship.



Sharing good food & wine are a mixed group from different organizations: Jim, Doreen, Les and Sherriel Eldridge, Dianne, John, Greg Cant, and Graham Glasson (Greg's better half, Jude, is hiding behind GG and GC)



Vale

Mr. Albert Hoath
 20 November 1930 -17 April 2010
 A12902 Warrant Officer LOADM Supply Supervisor Grade 2
 Base Support Flight 23/11/1967-06/09/1968
 Headquarters, Australian Force Vietnam (RAAF Element)
 28/07/1968 - 20/11/1968



Mr. Donald Lovell
 09 February 1929 - 26 March 2010
 A45006 Corporal Airframe Fitter
 35 Squadron 03/12/1968 - 04/12/1969

Lest We Forget

Obituary

Fiona Brownjohn 6 March 2010 36 years

The President, Committee and Members wish to pass their sincere sympathy to Tom and his Family following the sudden and sad passing of their wife and mother, Fiona. Tom has been a stalwart of the Association for many years and even though not a full member, Tom has always maintained an offer to Veterans of a discounted service if sought.

Taken too early

MID YEAR RAFFLE TICKET SALES COMMENCE 1st MAY 2010

This year we will be spreading our wings a little further in order to give more locals a good chance of scoring one of the Gift Vouchers. This mid year period will see the good people of Richmond and Windsor, our usual local haunts and, of course, along with all our members near and far in with a chance of collecting: \$1000 first prize, \$400 second prize and \$300 for third prize. As with previous raffles the prizes are Gift Vouchers of your choice.

Ticket sales will commence on May 1st and cease on July 10th and the prize winners will be drawn at the July 11th Association Meeting, winners will be contacted by phone and results will be published in the Blue Mountains Gazette and **CONTACT!** *as an aside please remember that all members are welcome to attend any / all Association Meetings.*

With President Jack on a grand tour of our beautiful country for about 3 months, I will be organising the raffle arrangements. As usual the raffles are only as successful as the number of people on the ground, as such I would appreciate your assistance in conducting the sales. I will try to make phone contact with the usual suspects very soon to slot you into the roster. If there are any other members who would like to help out, please let me know,

my contact details are: home -- 4754 1393 and mobile -- 0418 518 538

Glenn Daly Vice President

New Zealand National flag Presentation to the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces inc.

Recently the Association was honoured by a visit from the New Zealand Consul General, Ms. Sarah Craig. Ms. Craig presented the Association with her Nation's flag as a reminder of the common bond that Australia and New Zealand have always shared, particularly in times of conflict.



Pictured above are from left: Roger Lawlor (Hon. Treasurer), Darrell Carter (Member), Sarah Craig (Consul General NZ), Jack Lake (President), Angus McDonald (Member) and John Fenton (Hon. Secretary). *(Thanks to Springwood Legacy for the use of their facilities)*

Welfare From page 3.

National Relay Service

This is a Commonwealth Government initiative funded by a levy on Telecommunication Carriers (Telstra, Optus etc). The service is not provided by DVA but is recommended by them, it is a free service.

I can't hear but I can speak
 I can't speak but I can hear
 I can't hear & don't use my voice
 I'm hard to understand on the phone

There may be the need for equipment which your telecommunication company can provide (such as TTY). The service is available 24/7 & provides a Relay Officer who either speaks on your behalf to anybody you are phoning if you have a speech impediment or will type onto a screen the spoken word from somebody you are phoning so that you can read whatever the called person or caller is saying if you have a hearing impediment. The Relay Officer is totally silent or neutral & experience shows that customers initially are concerned that a third party is involved in a private telephone conversation but this is soon overcome with usage.

For more information on any of the above subjects contact your Association Welfare Officers who can provide you with more details & contact numbers.

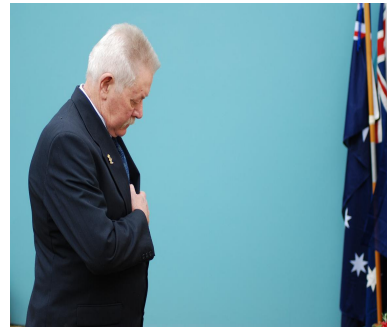
John Fenton for Ray Westwell

ANZAC DAY



The Springwood march was reportedly a great success with approximately 70 Returned people marching plus the normal numerous Schools and Organisation that never fail to support the march. The Association's John Woolley took on the role of Senior Marshall ably assisted by Darrell Carter. Another day with a wet Dawn Service but beautiful day for a march. For those who do not know the march starts at the Fire Station and ends at the War Memorial in Macquarie Road (same as our Memorial Day march). At left above BMVV&AF resident Padre

Bill Wheeler (ex 2SQN) taking the service at springwood.
(Editor's note: please do not phone or write reference Bill's medals, the photograph provided is mirror reversed)



Past President Col Field honouring fallen comrades and at left checking the alignment of ranks during the march.

The above photos provided courtesy of Damien Madigan of the Blue Mountains Gazette , thank you .

At right a study of Brian Day from Maiden Gully Victoria by local News Paper photographer remembering old friends' past and present, at his local district Commemorative Service.



Lest We Forget

MEMORIAL DAY MARCH and SERVICE

A reminder for all members and organizations that read our '**CONTACT!**' that this coming Memorial Day will be held on **Sunday 15 August 2010**. The event will be the Full Monte unlike last year's much reduced activities and as such a reduced attendance. We have been in contact with many organizations and individuals to advise the normal march and activities has returned. We can advise that the Association has confirmed some special Guests are attending, they are: Lorrea Desmond MBE, Lynn Fletcher, Dinah Lee, Sylvia Rae, Jacqui De Paul and from the current era Nicki Gillis. BUT that's not all as our Guest of Honour will be Patricia Amphlett OAM (aka Little Pattie). See you there and let's make them all welcome on our special day

BE THERE

Events and Happenings (continued)

A smaller event but none-the-less a prestigious event was had at a quiet Sunday afternoon in April in the Beautiful Blue Mountains. The Editor and his wife attended a very cheerful and vibrant Abstract Art Exhibition at the **OLDE BLOCK FACTORY GALLERY**. *BUT the people you run across when you haven't got your 12 gauge*. We now have established proof that Peter Jones (PJ) has a very different side to his known Lawn / Yard Maintenance persona, ably assisting Marlene, his very talented wife; not only a champion in keeping PJ under control but a really competent Artiste, recognised and admired by many for her works. While I am not normally a lover of Abstract I was amazed, verily blown away by the depth and use of colours, it was truly a beautiful and highly admired exhibition.



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A PARTING THOUGHT

On closing have a Fantastic few months and here is something to remember, being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond your imperfections and the imperfections of others.

