

# *CONTACT !*



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and  
Associated Forces Inc.  
Newsletter*

*Pre Memorial Day August 2009*

# CONTACT !

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

© JOURNAL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.  
 incorporating RAAF VIETNAM ASSN. & QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSN.

ABN 74 645 329 198

CFN 17276

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

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## Your Committee

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<i>John Woolley</i>		<i>tel (02) 4754 3015</i>
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*2009 Committee Meeting Dates*  
*All meetings commence 1000hrs at*  
*Legacy Office, Raymond Lane*  
*Springwood*

09 August                      13 September

11 October                      08 November

## Welfare Officers

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT / MEMORIAL DAY INFORMATION**

Greetings to all. Once again this will be a brief report as there is a fair amount of detailed information on Memorial Day to follow. Glenn Daly is still laid up with only one knee but hopefully he will be back on deck for Memorial Day.

This year the 3 raffle prizes went to Association members. A special thanks to John Woolley for taking over the organizing of the raffle in my absence. In view of the hard economic times, the raffle was a success.

I'm chasing up the Premier's Department for the date of the annual Vietnam Veterans Reception at Government House this year. At the time of going to press I don't have the date of the function, but it is expected to be held in September. For anyone interested in attending the Reception, you could either ring me on 47544771 or the office on 47518528 or email the office at [secretary@bmvets.com.au](mailto:secretary@bmvets.com.au)

Hope to see as many members as possible on Memorial Day.

Cheers

*Jack*

Memorial Day, Sunday 16 August, will see a new format introduced, with the expectation that it will not be as tiring for our older members and visitors.

Prior to commencement of official proceedings, the Royal Hotel, in conjunction with the Association, will be providing finger food for patrons. As usual, we will be conducting a raffle at the Royal, the Licensee of which also assists us during Springwood Foundation Day.

The Service, commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle at Binh Ba, with Keith Payne VC OAM as our Guest of Honour, will commence at the War Memorial at noon with the Australian Defence Force Federation Guard mounting the catafalque party and flag orderlies. Please be in place by 1145 hours. Following the Service and wreath laying, there will be a less formal march to the Springwood Sports Club, expected to commence about 1300 hours.



*Continued on page 4*

The club management will provide entertainment from 1400 to 1600 hours, with Veteran Soul, the Vietnam Veterans' Community Singers and the Lithgow Highland Pipe Band performing during entertainment breaks.

Proceedings for the day will end with Beat the Retreat at the War Memorial at 1600 hours, performed by the Lithgow Highland Pipe Band, with the flag orderlies provided by army cadets from 21 ACU, Penrith.

**NOTES**

Attendees in uniform or wearing medals will be given free public travel on the day, thanks to the Minister for Transport.

To avoid long queues at the Sports Club, visitors should sign in prior to commencement of the Memorial Service.

In the case of wet weather, arrangements are in hand to hold the Service in the Civic Centre, with the BBQ in the undercover car park at the Club.

A free BBQ will be available at the Club for all participants and spectators, provided on behalf of the Association by volunteers from Rotary. "Quick service" points for the purchase of soft drinks and packaged beer will be available for a while, to ease the load at the bars.

Take the opportunity to have a look at our memorabilia cabinet in the club and make a purchase at our stall in the Club. We will hold a raffle during the afternoon.



*Members of the Federation Guard prepare to take post at the 2008 memorial Service .  
The Guard were spotless and as usual performed a flawless drill display...great work Fellas.*

## **Australian and other VC winners.**

Brian Day continues the June *CONTACT!* story on the deeds of Valour of  
2173 CPL Ernest Alfred Corey MM\*\*\* a story of valour

### **Part.2**

During the Winter of 1917-18 Ernie Corey served in the Messines sector. He went on leave to the UK in February 1918 and soon after became ill and spent 90 days in hospital before rejoining his unit in July 1918. In August and September he took part in the victorious advance along the Somme, and it was at Peronne on September 1 and 2 that he won the second Bar to his MM. Threading his way through shell and machine gun fire with characteristic determination, he dressed and cheered the wounded of several units and helped them to safety. Never sparing himself, Ernie Corey worked continuously until all the wounded in his sector were cleared.

The citation for his second Bar records:

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations at Peronne on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918. This man who is a stretcher bearer, dressed and carried wounded of several units throughout the whole of the operation. Although the enemy artillery and machine gun fire was exceptionally heavy, this did not debar this man from carrying on. He worked continuously and arduously and was the means of saving the lives of many of the wounded. He was most unselfish throughout and cheerful at all times and under all circumstances. His careful handling of the wounded and his knowledge of first aid helped greatly to relieve their sufferings. Throughout the operations he set a fine example of courage, coolness, determination and devotion to duty, under heavy fire."*

Three weeks later Ernie was promoted corporal and put in charge of the regimental stretcher bearers.

The Battalion's next fight, north of Bullecourt on September 30, was its last operation of the war, and it was here that Corey, who had come unscathed through every battle of his unit in the past 18 months, received his first and only wound, and added the unprecedented third Bar to his MM. By this time his gallantry had become a by-word in the Battalion.

On one occasion he noticed two German stretcher bearers about 70 yards off, preparing to take a wounded Australian away on a wheeled stretcher. They beckoned to Corey, who went about halfway towards them and called out: "Can you speak English?" One of the Germans replied: "We have Australia. You take him. Too heavy."

*Continued on Page 10.*

## Vale

Edward "Ned" Kenna VC  
 2nd/4th Australian Infantry Battalion  
 6 July 1919 — 8 July 2009  
 Won the Victoria Cross on May 15 1945 south of Wewak, New Guinea



"Such men are rare," the Reverend Anthony Toms said. "Ted Kenna VC was one of the rarest." .....and from a Grandchild the greatest tribute:

"So many people followed you because you were an extraordinary man," one said. "I followed you because you were my special Pop."

*Lest We Forget*

Quoted passages courtesy of The Australian 17 July 2009

### **A PLEA FOR HELP FROM THE BLUE MOUNTAINS LEGACY**

Legacy is looking for volunteers, particularly in the Upper Blue Mountains to help with their major fundraising event 'Legacy Week'; by selling Legacy badges, pens and wristbands in shopping areas throughout the Mountains. Legacy Week commences Monday 31st August through to Friday 4th September 2009. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated — If you are able to help please contact Trish at our office on 4751 5994

**COME ON ALL LOCAL MEMBERS LET'S SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE WONDERFUL WORK THAT LEGACY DOES FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED. THE MORE THEY GET THE MORE THEY GIVE.**

Members, all too often, copies of *Contact!* are being returned undelivered and it is costly in time and money for the office staff to obtain new details. Please contact the Secretary of any changes of address/phone numbers etc. that have happened recently or even if you may have had some changes in the past that may not be registered on the Association Data Base. The Secretary is contactable by: Phone 02 4751 8528, Fax 02 4751 8538 or email [secretary@bmvets.com.au](mailto:secretary@bmvets.com.au) Check on your mates when you see them.....Help us help you.



## The History of the Dawn Service

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day has become a solemn Australian and New Zealand tradition. It is taken for granted as part of the ANZAC ethos and few wonder how it all started. Its story, as it were, is buried in a small cemetery carved out of the bush some kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton.

Almost paradoxically, one grave stands out by its simplicity. It is covered by protective white-washed concrete slab with a plain cement cross at its top end. No epitaph recalls even the name of the deceased. The Inscription on the cross is a mere two words - "**A Priest**". No person would identify the grave as that of a dedicated clergyman who created the Dawn Service, without the simple marker placed next to the grave only in recent times. It reads:

**"Adjacent to, and on the right of this marker, lies the grave of the late Reverend Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England Clergyman and Padre, 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion, First Australian Imperial Force. On 25<sup>th</sup> April 1923, at Albany in Western Australia, the Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of a Dawn parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured, Australia wide ever since."**

Reverend White was serving as one of the padres of the earliest ANZACs to leave Australia with the First AIF in November 1914. The convoy was assembled in the Princess Royal harbour and King George Sound at Albany WA. Before embarkation, at four in the morning, he conducted a service for all the men of the battalion. When White returned to Australia in 1919, he was appointed relieving Rector of the St John's Church in Albany. It was a strange coincidence that the starting point of the AIF convoys should now become his parish.

No doubt it must have been the memory of his first Dawn Service those many years earlier and his experiences overseas, combined with the awesome cost of lives and injuries, which inspired him to honour permanently the valiant men (both living and the dead) who had joined the fight for the allied cause. **"Albany", he is quoted to have said, "was the last sight of land these ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold a service (here) at the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them."**

That is how on ANZAC Day 1923 he came to hold the first Commemorative Dawn Service.

As the sun was rising, a man in a small dinghy cast a wreath into King George Sound while White, with a band of about 20 men gathered around him on the summit of nearby Mount Clarence, silently watched the wreath floating out to sea. He then quietly recited the words: **"As the sun rises and goeth down, we will remember them"**. All present were deeply moved and news of the Ceremony soon spread throughout the country; and the various Returned Service Communities Australia wide emulated the Ceremony.

Eventually, White was transferred from Albany to serve other congregations, the first in South Australia, then Broken Hill where he built a church, then later at Forbes NSW. In his retirement from parish life, he moved to Herberton where he became Chaplain of an Anglican convent. , Soon after his arrival however; (on September 26, 1954) he died, to be buried so modestly and anonymously as **"A Priest"**.

White's memory is honoured by a stained glass window in the all Soul's Church at Wirrinya, a small farming community near Forbes NSW. Members of the parish have built the church with their own hands and have put up what they refer to as **"The Dawn Service Window"**, as their tribute to White's service to Australia.



*Following the 2008 Memorial Service we gathered in the Oriental Hotel ('The Ori') for some snacks and where President Jack congratulates our Patron, Major General CMI (Sandy) Pearson AO DSO OBE MC (Rtd) on his coming of age, 90 years young, refuses the offer of a jeep for the old march format and is still a picture of health. We are blessed with such a man. Looking on from left are: Dick Adams, Brian Day, Federal Member for Macquarie the Honourable Bob Debus MP, President Jack Lake, Sandy and Glenn Daly Vice President.*

The Mountain Men form up in column of gaggle. Note Sandy 3rd from right with his favourite hat, ready and waiting. There isn't an RSM around that could sort this lot out !!!



***A few military 'isms' that are very close to the bone.....In precedent order of course....***

*'Any ship can be a minesweeper..... Once.'*

*'Five second fuses only last three seconds.'*

*'If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.'*



The Skippy Squadron team always attend and some travel quite some distance to participate in the Memorial Day Service. Still known to be able to carry many beers on a tray and not spill any even in turbulence. Where PANAM had heaps of Stewardesses to meet the R&R booze demand (minimal Australians on board), where on RTA it only took a few Skippy Stewards.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans Motor Cycle Club always turn up in considerable numbers rain hail or shine. We are not sure what they are saying most of the time, primarily due to the decibel contest they appear to run. God love you boys and good luck on the CAREFLIGHT Musicfest. See our page 12, be in it if you can, for a great cause.



*Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.*

*continued from page 5 — CPL E.A. Corey MM\*\*\**

Corey told them to leave the stretcher, and when they walked off he made his way to it and found that the man was Private Randall of the 55<sup>th</sup>, who had lain all night with a wound in the back, and had been bandaged by the Germans. Corey picked him up in his arms, carried him back 40-50 yards and placed him in a shell-hole, telling him that he would return for him later. Meanwhile the Germans came back for their stretcher and waved goodbye to Corey.

Corey continued dressing the wounded – there were many of them in the area – for a further two hours, after which he and his bearers began carrying the wounded to the rear. At about 11 a.m. when on his way to bring in Captain R.A. Goldrick, whom he had earlier bandaged, Corey was blown up by a high explosive shell, receiving wounds in the right groin and thigh. He crawled five or six yards to his first aid bag and put a tourniquet over his femoral artery to stop the bleeding. He then started to crawl back and had covered about 300 yards when Lieutenant Luther Chadwick and Sergeant Clark of his own battalion found him and carried him to a dressing station a mile away.

For his actions that day he was awarded the third Bar. The citation records: *For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as NCO in charge of Battalion stretcher bearers during an attack on the Hindenburg Line north of Bellincourt on 30 September 1918. Although enemy machine gun and shell fire were intense, this gallant NCO directed the operations of the Battalion stretcher bearers with the utmost skill and bravery. Regardless of personal danger, he, on numerous occasions although the enemy were firing upon him and other bearer parties, attended to men and carried them from the most exposed positions. His efforts were untiring and he set a splendid example to all ranks until he was severely wounded. It was mainly due to his magnificent work that the wounded were safely removed from the danger zone.”*

From the dressing station Corey was sent to a casualty station where he was operated on, and was then transported to a general hospital at Le Havre, where he was again put under the surgeon’s scalpel. He was later transferred to a hospital in Bristol, England.

End of part 2. Part 3 will be published in the next issue. Part 3 will have a look at the life and times of Ernest Corey MM \*\*\* post World War 1 until his sad passing in 1972.

*Brian Day*

***Men are from earth, Women are from earth. Deal with it. Embrace your differences. Love each other.***



## VIETNAM VETERAN & COMMUNITY SINGERS (VETERAN SOUL)



A few quick words on Veteran Soul's progress. The journey has been a great experience despite some disappointments and negative comments which are, I am sure, thrown in jealousy. The best performance yet, based on audience numbers, has to be our mid June night at the Casula Powerhouse for Father Chris O'Brien's 'Kids Of the Street Programme' This gig was in front of the Honourable Alan Griffin MP, Minister for Veteran Affairs along with a host of various dignitaries and a great audience. Many of the choir were singled out by strangers as they were leaving and congratulated for the sound. That was a buzz, another buzz was the knowledge that Lorrae Desmond <sup>[1]</sup>, our Patron, Little Pattie and Normy Rowe were happy to support our first official gig. In fact Lorrae introduced us as a choir and Normy heralded us onto the stage. All in all a great night was had by all.

We are also honoured to sing for our friends at St John of God Nth Richmond on August 6<sup>th</sup> and also by the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces inc. who have invited us to share the members' and guests' entertainment at the Springwood Sports Club following the August 16<sup>th</sup> Springwood Memorial day Commemorative Service.

All Vietnam Veterans and their family members are welcome to join the choir. For those residing in other parts of the State or Interstate and would like to create a local Choir Chapter please contact Francis at [franced@bigpond.net.au](mailto:franced@bigpond.net.au) or by telephone on 9660 2595 or mobile 0458 993 268.

[1]. After five tours Lorrae was awarded an MBE for Welfare of Australian Troops serving overseas and for Contribution to Australian Show Business.



This beautifully built and maintained Monument commemorating CPL Corey's heroism was created by the residents of Cooma NSW .

VIETNAM VETERANS' MC AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY CHAPTER  
PO Box 1185 MENAI



INCORPORATED  
CENTRAL, NSW 2234

Are proud to  
All funds raised are

sponsor this Musicfest.  
in aid of CAREFLIGHT

# LIVE MUSICFEST

Charity Fund Raiser

Saturday 19th September 2009

*Bands Appearing*

*Christina Crofts*

*Midnight Ramblers*

*Rockfest*

*Highway to Hell (The AC/DC Show)*

*Black Label*

*and more....*

**WHERE :** *Corner Old Illawarra and Menai Roads, Menai.*

*Food and Drink stalls will be available - the premises is Licenced*

**PARKING :** *Available by GOLD COIN donation*

**Entry Fee : \$25.<sup>00</sup>**

***Come along and give CAREFLIGHT a helping hand***

***GATES OPEN AT 1400HRS (aka 2pm)***

*For any further information please contact "Feral" (seriously)*

*on mobile N<sup>o</sup>. 0402 226 631*

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