



## **NEWSLETTER - October 2014 Edition**

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **PATRON**

**George Jones AM**



## ***BENDIGO - THE RUSH IS ON***

### **What The Prez Sez**

**W**elcome to the October Newsletter,

*Trish and I have got one of the things off our Bucket list, Canada and Alaska is what it looks like in the brochures, we had a great holiday and a great adventure.*

*The Reunion planning is well under way as you will see in the draft agenda, we originally planned to have a full day off during the week but if you have a look at the times of scheduled events and the space in-between I hope you can see there is plenty of "time out" to put the feet up for a couple of hours. I have been working with the Caravan Park owners and they tell me they have closed the park off for us for the week we are there, the facilities look good, the managers of Langley Hall are very friendly people and the facilities there look really good, the Travelaction team are waiting to assist you with travel arrangements, put that all together and a good time can be had by all.*

*How good is to have so many responses from members saying they are attending the next reunion, if you know of anyone who is "thinking about attending the reunion" it would be wise to advise them to book sooner than later.*

*There have been a few on the sick list lately, on behalf of all our members, we wish you a speedy recovery and continued good health.*

*Sadly we have lost some good friends from the ranks, our thoughts are with their families. Lest We Forget.*

*The Victorian team is looking forward to hosting the reunion next year, we think we have things sorted out and we hope you are going to enjoy the events being organised for you, most of all come along and enjoy some good old fashioned Bendigo Reunion hospitality.*

*Kind Regards,*

*Cliff Richards*

## Mateship

***M**ateship - Synonymous with Aussie diggers and the Australian population in general.*

*The picture on the right explains it perfectly without words.*

*(One hopes his aim is good.)*

*And to think - some "dinky di Aussie politicians" lobbied to have the word **mateship** struck from the preamble of our constitution because it was sexist.*



## QUOTE

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if US plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by America.

He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders.

The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

You could have heard a pin drop.

**VALE - Brian Fletcher**

*It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of another mate. Brian "The Pink Panther" Fletcher passed away on Wednesday the 4th June 2014. Brian Fletcher, an ex-apprentice, served with 17 Construction Squadron Workshop from 16 May 1968 until 27 May 1969. He then returned for a second tour with the 1st Australian Task Force LAD between 28 Nov 1970 and 7 Oct 1971.*

*Gone, but not forgotten.*

*Our sincere condolences to Brian's family*

*Lest We Forget*

**VALE - Ray Cuddihy**

*Another sad announcement is the passing of Ray Cuddihy. Ray served with us as a Workshop Sergeant from 13 November 1967 until 12 November 1968.*

*"Ray served with me at 17 Wksp. As OC I recommended Ray for an award (which he did not get) for the design and hands on up-armouring of D8 dozers employed on land clearing ops. A top class tradesman who also built a steel incinerator for the destruction of dressings at a local Vung Tau hospital".*

*Geoff Hawker OC 17 Const Sqn Wksp 19 May 1967 - 9 April 1968*

*Lest We Forget*

**VALE - Julie Nunn**

*It is with the deepest regret that I inform you of the passing of Julie Nunn. Julie, wife of stalwart member Bruce passes away on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 after being rushed to Hervey Bay hospital on Thursday night with a burst blood vessel at the base of her brain. It was totally unexpected and a shock to all.*

*Julie made friends with many members during her regular attendance at our reunions and will be sadly missed by all.*

*To Bruce and his family our most sincere condolences from the members and partners of 17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association.*



*Rest In Peace*



# Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion

## About the Medallion

This web site ([www.vvfm.com.au](http://www.vvfm.com.au)) is focused on recognising and honouring those most responsible for supporting our veterans of all Wars, but particularly the Vietnam War, **THEIR FAMILIES**. THE VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEDALLION (vvfm) continues a tradition established in 1914 by the Australian Government when the Department of Defence issued the first Female Relatives Badge. This tradition continued through World War 1 and through World War 2 and has now been revived and expanded with the vvfm. This tradition will celebrate its 100 year anniversary, **THIS YEAR, 2014**.

Stars will be added to the bottom rectangular bar of the Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion so as to recognize particular family members of a Vietnam veteran, thus continuing this long established tradition. A gold star will be added to the bar for mothers, widows, wives, husbands and partners, a silver star for children of a Vietnam veteran and a bronze star for grandchildren.

To apply for the Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion you **MUST** be either a mother, widow, wife, husband, partner, child or grandchild of a Vietnam veteran and be able to advise that veterans Service Number. That and the other information supplied by the applicant on the order form will be checked against the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans, prior to the issue of the Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion.

The Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion incorporates certain undeniable, identifiable and iconic features of the Vietnam War. First of all, the centre piece is the Bell Iroquois helicopter, or "huey". The background colour around the "huey" reflects the green of the jungle of South Vietnam. Secondly, the top outside section of the medallion incorporates a horseshoe, reminiscent of the feature of the same name. The horseshoe, being a permanently manned fire support base, was established on a circular hill, north of Dat Do, about 8

kilometres from Nui Dat. It was permanently manned by Australian military personnel from 1967 to 1971. As everyone knows, the horseshoe is a symbol of good luck when hung upside down, so that the good luck cannot run out.

Thirdly, the medallion incorporates the Long Tan Cross, crafted and erected to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan where 108 soldiers of Delta Company, 6 RAR, engaged an enemy force in excess of 2,000 in number, on the 18th August 1966 and prevailed.

The neck band or ribbon from which the Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion is suspended is 25 mm in width and consists of green and white stripes. This ribbon is in a similar colour and pattern to that of the ribbon for the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Your VVFM will be posted by Australia Post, signature on delivery, and the cost of postage, packaging and handling are included in the purchase price of \$97.00. The medallion will be delivered in a matte black cardboard presentation box with VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEDALLION in gold coloured lettering. This maintains the tradition of delivery of service medals in cardboard boxes.

To purchase, please fill in the details on the Order Form, on the following page and send payment by cheque or money order payable to Vietnam Veteran Family Medallion, **together with completed ORDER FORM** and post to VVFM, P.O. Box 245, Bribie Island Qld 4507.



# VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

## VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEDALLION ORDER FORM

First Name:	
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	
Street Address:	
Suburb	
State & Postcode:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address	
	<b>VIETNAM VETERAN INFORMATION</b> <b>Note: All fields below must be completed</b>
First Name:	
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	
Relationship:	
Service Number:	
Unit Details:	

### **COST: \$79.75 PER Medallion**

The above fee includes Postage by Australia Post, registered mail, signature on delivery.

Note: Each medallion is individually numbered.

SEND ORDER FORM AND CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER TO:

VVAA NATIONAL MERCHANDISE

PO BOX 89

HUONVILLE TAS 7109

PHONE 03 6266 6467 FAX 03 6266 6467 Email...rkcoxon@netspace.net.au

PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY

Card No...../...../.....

Expiry date...../.....

Type .....





## LOST MEMBER - Gordon Young

*Steve Fanetti, Ric Bowley and Les Hall are looking for GORDON YOUNG. They have asked that you attend the Bendigo reunion, they want to catch up and have a beer, they believe that it's your shout. Come on Gordon, pull your finger out mate, contact us and come to Bendigo.*

o o O o o

## A Message From A Mate - Rod Traill

The following message was received by the Secretary/Treasurer along with a \$50 cheque:

***“Hello to all. Enclosed cheque for \$50.00 to have a beer for me. I am too old and crook to be travelling about now”. Regards Rod Traill***

*We certainly will Rod, thanks for your kind thoughts - Your mates.*

o o O o o

## MISSING MEMBERS

*The following is a list of members whose mail or email has been returned from our last mailer. If you know the whereabouts of any of these members, please contact the member concerned and request him to contact the Secretary/Treasurer with their updated details.*

*Rob BRADLEY, Len COOPER, Michael SHEAHAN, John STEGGLES, Brian WEBSTER.*

### ***URGENT Request***

**S**ome members have made a booking at the caravan park but have yet to inform the Secretary that they are attending the reunion. If you have made your booking and your name does not appear on the next page under “Those Who Have Responded”, please fill out the Reunion Registration form and send it in **OR** click on the following link and register your details ASAP:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r454KYPHST8qECBoKU8KmrCaAoGovz8TLc2Kb3A4F2k/viewform?c=o&w=1&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r454KYPHST8qECBoKU8KmrCaAoGovz8TLc2Kb3A4F2k/viewform?c=o&w=1&usp=mail_form_link)

**If you DO NOT register. You CANNOT be included in any of the reunion activities.**

***I** t is not too late to attend the reunion. Please click on the following link and follow the instructions. (if it does not open, cut and paste into your browser). Link details:*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r454KYPHST8qECBoKU8KmrCaAoGovz8TLc2Kb3A4F2k/viewform?c=O&w=1&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r454KYPHST8qECBoKU8KmrCaAoGovz8TLc2Kb3A4F2k/viewform?c=O&w=1&usp=mail_form_link)

OR

*Go to the end of this newsletter and fill in the details and post it to:*

***The Secretary/Treasurer***

***33 Kanimbla Way***

***Morley WA 6062***

**\*\*\* Please Note \*\*\***

**You need to reply NOW - URGENTLY**

## **Those Who Have Responded**

Tres	Adams	Ian	Craft	Peter	Ingrey	Macca	McDonald	Noel	Tucker
Brian	Bailey	Ryan	Critchlow	Jenko	Jenkinson	Bruce	Nunn	Rob	Vear
Ian	Betteridge	Mike	Culley	George	Jones	Peter	Ouyden	Philip	Vitale
Jeff	Blythman	Denis	Cush	Phillip	Jones	Kevin	Pearce	Sandra	Walker
Wally	Bohlmann	Bill	Dallas	Roger	Keegan	Brian	Pope	Bazza	Warn
Rick	Bowley	Daisy	Day	Dave	Kelly	Pratty	Pratt	Geoff	Weston
Stewy	Brett	John	Farmelo	Henry	Kolek	Allan	Puli	Snow	Whykes
Kevin	Brosnan	Gerald	Detmar	Keith	Lawry	Jack	Reeves	Geoff	Williams
Bob	Callinan	John	Fenton	Bob	Lee	Cliff	Richards	Tony	Zammit
Eric	Campbell	Steve	Finitti	Derro	Lennox	Graeme Richter			
Greg	Carson	Ruffy	Fleiner	Steve	Lowe	Kerry Ryan			
Bob	Cook	Vic	Fratus	Wes	Lugowski	Bob Shewring			
Chalkie Chalk		Lance	Gillespie	Lynch	Lynch	Don Sims			
Chatty	Chattin	Lofty	Herrod	Steve	MacFarlane	Andrew Smithett			
Frank	Clayton	Tom	Hurford	Doggie Martin					

**IMPORTANT - Change to Reunion Agenda**

**A**t the last meeting of the Association it was decided to hold our Bendigo Reunion during the week and to allocate a rest day mid-week. This motion was carried by the meeting. Through the process of organizing the reunion activities it was decided to include a day trip to Seymour and visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk. To include this activity was impossible if we had a rest day, we just could not fit it into the agenda. So a decision has been taken by the organizing committee to remove the rest day from the agenda.

You will notice by the below agenda that the reunion is not a packed event

**BENDIGO AGENDA**

**Monday 19th October** Mid Morning - Welcome and Registration followed by BBQ

**Tuesday 20th October** Morning - Unit parade and wreath laying at Soldiers Memorial

Light Luncheon RSL Complex

Afternoon - Battle of Fromelles presentation

**Wednesday 21 October** Visit Viet Veterans & RSL Sheds for morning tea - men

General Meeting for men

Bendigo Tram Tour with morning tea - Ladies

Lunch at Chinese Museum Gardens

Evening - Formal Reunion Dinner

**Thursday 22 October** Day Trip - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk Seymour

**Friday 23 October** Bendigo Pottery Visit including light lunch

BBQ at Caravan Park - Wrap up reunion

The agenda above is only a draft at this stage and may be subject to change, but the general structure will remain the same. Thursday will be a day trip, but Wednesday will include the Formal Dinner, so that will be the only day that is full which includes lunch and the evening meal.



## Reunion Travel & Accommodation

*We have, once again, employed the services of a Travel Agent for this reunion so that members can organize their travel to co-ordinate with our accommodation and activity timings. The following details are those of our Travel Agent of Choice.*

*Please ensure that you tell **Erin** you are from 17 Construction Squadron Workshop and you are attending the reunion.*



**Erin Pearce**

*Travel Manager*

### **Travelaction Bendigo**

112 Wills St Bendigo, Vic 3550

Australia

Phone: (03) 54422111

Fax: (03)54413806

Email: [erin@travelaction.com.au](mailto:erin@travelaction.com.au)

Website: [www.travelaction.com.au](http://www.travelaction.com.au)

***F**or our accommodation we have selected the **Big 4 Bendigo Ascot Holiday Park**. There has been a very strong response and most of the accommodation is booked. However, we have the park booked for our members only but hurry up if you have not made your booking.*

*Please call **Shirley** on 1800 062 340 (8am - 8pm). Please tell her you are attending the 17 Construction Squadron Workshop reunion.*

\* o o O o o \*

*For something a little more **up-market**, we have chosen **Langley Hall**, which is only a short distance from the Holiday Park. If you are interested in staying here, please call Jenny Gurry on 0409518669 or email [anthony@juven.com.au](mailto:anthony@juven.com.au). Please tell her you are attending the 17 Construction Squadron Workshop reunion.*

**Langley Hall has only six rooms available**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY BOOKED YOUR ACCOMMODATION**

**PLEASE DO IT NOW**

# REUNION Attendance Questionnaire

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE ATTENDING WITH YOU: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARTNER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF OTHER PEOPLE ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION DO YOU REQUIRE:

Caravan Park Powered Site: ☐

Caravan Park Cabin: ☐

Hotel Accommodation: ☐

DATE OF ARRIVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF DEPARTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WILL YOU BE TRAVELLING: \_\_\_\_\_

(eg car, fly, train, bus etc.)

WILL YOU BE REQUIRING THE USE OF A TRAVEL AGENT: YES ☐ NO ☐

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

(eg Wheel chair access, vegetarian, etc)

# REUNION Merchandise Questionnaire

We will be once again be purchasing a reunion Polo Shirt. This year we intend to have a pocket which will include the reunion details and will be similar to the Clare Polo Shirt. It is anticipated that the shirt will be in the range of \$20.00 - \$25.00 each.

If you are attending the reunion would you prefer a Cap or a Floppy Hat.

You can place your order by clicking (or cutting and pasting) on the following link

<http://goo.gl/forms/7ZKPIBIsrf> **NOTE - You can TRUST this site**

OR

Fill in the details below and post it to the Secretary/Treasurer **NO LATER THAN 30th June 2015**

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer a floppy hat or a cap Cap

☐

Floppy Hat

☐

I would like to purchase a Bendigo Reunion Polo Shirt(s)

	Size	Qty
Small	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Medium	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Large	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>