

Visitors Log – Archived Messages – June to December 2006

FESR Visitors Log (<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.cgi>)

General >> Bulletin Board >> Defence to open gates

(Message started by: Bob Witt on Jun 2nd, 2006, 6:16am)

Title: **Defence to open gates**

Post by **Bob Witt** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 6:16am**

June 01, 2006: THE Defence Force will consider opening its doors to asthmatics, older people and those who admit using drugs in the past. Also on the agenda is a "try before you buy" proposal to allow young people to experience a "gap year" of military life. Defence Minister Brendan Nelson said yesterday he had received a report on recruiting problems and was considering its 59 recommendations. "I intend to see that as many as are practicable, and can be agreed, are implemented and fully so," he told the National Press Club. Defence faces problems attracting recruits and retaining skilled personnel in the face of private sector competition. Dr Nelson said he had already foreshadowed changes that included lifting age restrictions. He said he had recently received an email from a mother whose son had wanted to join the army, only for a recruiter at information seminar to say anyone with asthma should leave.

How long before we see **Foreign Nationals** invited to join ADF as we are seeing in the private sectors

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**

Post by **Joe** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 6:54am**

Maybe we could just buy a defence force from overseas? Make it much easier on the Government and they wouldn't have to strike medals, pay compo or pensions!! On the asthmas question - it could work. I didn't have asthma on entry but acquired it (another pussers perk!) about 2 years in and still managed to survive. Then of course I was a writer and we only did office work (and watch keeping; deck chipping, painting, scrubbing down asbestos pipe lagging with wire brushes, using grinders to polish the deck etc etc). I wonder if writers do that these daze?

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**

Post by **sluggo** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 9:10am**

we could have employed a ready made army when the poms disbanded the Ghurkas and sent them home, probably without proper pensions,,,they were some of the best and fiercest fighters in the world and would have fitted in very well in Australia, could have brought out their families and set them up and they would have fought for Australia and been loyal and trustworthy and fully trained,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**

Post by **stokerB** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 10:59am**

Aaah Yes.....the 'ol Australian Foreign Legion

jps

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 1:26pm**

Talk about Chelsea pensioners, what is wrong with employing some of the other troops that we have trained in the past by our Service people and who now grace our shores. The end is limitless. Eg. Malaysians, Indians, Pakis, P & NG, Pacific Islanders, Vietnamese, Indos, Africans, Singaporeans, Hong Congers, the odd Kiwi and a few other nations thrown in as well. They would be well trained and & up to scratch and probably would not need basic training! ;D

Ron

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**
Post by **boots** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 3:55pm**

I could still load and fire a 4"(bit slower though) if there is any left.

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**
Post by **irish50561** on **Jun 3rd, 2006, 9:00am**

Bob, I think you've hit on something, the way things seem to be going there will be 'Wheelchair Access Only' signs on every Recruiting Office. Recruiting from overseas would be scary, they would come from everywhere in their thousands.

Of course not to forget the IRISH.

They were so confused they not only fought as mercenaries and conscripts when the Spaniards invaded England onboard Spanish galleons but also in the same capacity on British Men-O-War.

Again the Irish volunteered in their thousands to fight at The Alamo alongside Mexico's Santa Anna, they even fought alongside Colonel Travis on the American side within the walls of the old Mission, strangely though there weren't any Texans there.

In Mexico there are memorials in Mexico City and Ensenada erected to commemorate 'The Gallant Patricos' or Irish Regiments who supported Santa Anna's cause. Again they were there on both sides at the kick-off when Spain's Generalissimo Franko, backed by Adolf Hitler, set about the his own people when he laid waste to Spain. And they were only 'Away Games', sadly over the years the Irish have had a few 'Home Games' as well..

Perhaps we could see the formation of the 'Australian Republican Army'? I believe the Irish would flock from everywhere. To be sure to be sure. Mate, the possibilities are endless. [tongue in cheek here, OK]

Regards. Irish.

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Jun 3rd, 2006, 10:29am**

Irish,

I guess that is why little Johnny went to Ireland on his last junket to pay homage to all our irish mirgrants. I'll pop the lid on a Guinness "Cheers"

Title: **Re: Defence to open gates**
Post by **Joe** on **Jun 3rd, 2006, 3:37pm**

When you think of it we probably have enough people already here who could be considered "illegals" and they understand hardship so we wouldn't have to pay them much!

Irish has hit the nail on the head - I think the Government still has a few Spanish galleons in mothballs that we can use. If that fails we can deploy the "Northern

Fishing Fleet" - they are already in our waters doing work ups (and stealing our fish so food wouldn't be a problem)! Most of them also go bare footed or wear thongs so the Army boot issue won't raise it's ugly head!!

Chookas

Joe

FESR Visitors Log (<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.cgi>)

General >> Bulletin Board >> Graham Edwards' speech to Parliament

(Message started by: tromb123 on Jun 2nd, 2006, 7:22pm)

Title: **Graham Edwards' speech to Parliament**

Post by **tromb123** on **Jun 2nd, 2006, 7:22pm**

This is Graham Edwards' speech to Parliament...(He's retiring next election)

Most of the issues are ones that I've seen here...somewhere or other...will we ever get a Government to do the right thing, do you think?

Speech:

Mr EDWARDS (Cowan) (7.44 p.m.)In dealing with the appropriation bills, I want to compliment the Minister for Veterans' Affairs for some decisions he has taken since coming into the portfolio and for his preparedness to review previous attitudes and venture where some previous government ministers dared not go. I appreciate his recognition and support for the great work done by Jim Bourke and his team on Operation Aussies Home. I also appreciate his support for the veterans of Rwanda. I also think the setting aside of funds in the budget, as per the request I put to the minister earlier this year in the parliament, to help Vietnam veterans commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan is a worthy initiative. It remains to be seen, however, how these funds will be spent.

I also want to express my appreciation to the ALP spokesman on veterans affairs, Alan Griffin. Alan has been like a breath of fresh air in the portfolio area and he has picked up the issues quickly. Indeed, he led on the Rwanda issue and placed the government in a position where it had no option but to follow and to recognise service in Rwanda. So I say: well done to the ALP spokesperson on veterans affairs well done, Alan. I encourage Alan in his duties as shadow minister and place on the record my support for the work he is doing. I also recognise that we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do if we are going to rebuild the support and trust of the veteran community. The ALP recognise this and we are keen to get on with the job. The government also have a long way to go, but I doubt that they recognise this. They still seem to me to take the veteran community for granted.

I want to refer to some budget comments which have come from within the veteran community. The first of these comes from the Vietnam Veterans Federation under the heading 'Here is the great disappointment, the great failure of the 2006 federal budget'. In their dot points, they say:

None of the long standing, substantial injustices suffered by the war veteran community was addressed.

No acknowledgment that the TPI pension has lost over \$80 in value since 1997 when the government omitted to reindex the TPI in the same way it reindexed the

Age, Service and war widows. No move either to reindex the whole of the TPI pension to stop it continuing to lose value compared with community incomes.

No move to solve the cyclical hiatus of General Practitioners and Medical Specialists refusing to accept the Gold Card.

No mention of funds to conduct the health study on the sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans despite the Minister having received a scientific report confirming its feasibility.

No move, either, to remove the age limit of 36 for the sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans seeking counselling at the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service.

No move to change the immoral practice of forcing war veterans to financially contribute to the treatment of their war caused disabilities through the continually increasing pharmaceutical co-payments.

No move, either, to stem the declining value, compared with community incomes, of veterans' military superannuation (DFRDB etc). So many veterans retiring as they did from the Services at young ages, watch their standard of living slide further and further behind that of the general community.

In summary, the 2006 Federal Budget has badly failed war veterans and their families.

It is signed by Tim McCombe. Tim is the President of the Vietnam Veterans Federation and is a Vietnam veteran. The other issue I want to refer to in the same vein is a media release put out immediately post the 2006 Costello budget. It is under the heading 'The Howard government budget 2006 has forgotten TPI veterans' and it says:

While the Howard Government continues to produce record budget surpluses their mean spirited attitude towards veteran's remains. Through an unfair indexation system not experienced by other government pensions, TPI veterans have lost \$80 per fortnight in the last 6 years. Unlike other pensioners, TPI's will see their compensation for loss of income due to their service related disabilities continue to be eroded and result in a lowering of the standard of living for them and their families.

Veteran's advocates across Australia are complaining of a tightening up of the granting of disability pensions by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. On the Government's own figures there has been a reduction of 8% in the number of disability pension increases across Australia in the last four years. This at a time when veterans are getting older and sicker. The day to day experience of many veterans reflects a Government, a Department and a Repatriation system that is becoming increasingly tighter and failing to meet the needs of veterans and their families. At the same time we have a government continuously prepared to put servicemen and women in harms way but turn its back on them when they need help as a result of their service.

The dissatisfaction of the ex-service community with the Howard Government has been apparent for some years. In 2001 and 2003 there were peaceful demonstrations by veterans outside parliament houses something unheard of in the past. There has been hundreds of letters and submissions sent to government only to be ignored. An organization has been formed of the Partners of veterans because they have not been listened to. The Clarke Review of veteran's entitlements attracted over 3000 submissions and again they were ignored. ... On ANZAC Day we had groups of frustrated veterans marching wearing orange ribbons as a sign of their frustration with the Howard Government. Even though the TPI Federation has 15,000 members consisting of the country's most disabled veterans, the office of the

PM refuses to speak to me.

The TPI Federation is now continuously under pressure from sick veterans to organize another major protest rally against the government. Prime Minister John Howard should be ashamed of his Government's handling of veterans issues. Veterans and their families are simply not important to the Government.

Those two critiques of the budget do give some reflection of the frustration and anger that is building in the veteran community, particularly in the ranks of the TPI veterans, many of whom are indeed needy and many of whom are simply watching their standard of living shrink in comparison with that of the rest of the community.

I have a very high regard for the Vietnam Veterans Federation and the TPI Federation for the work that they do. I do not agree with all that they pursue or all of their policy positions. However, I recognise that they are fearless in their pursuit of veterans' issues and that they put the welfare of their members first. They are not afraid to take on ministers or, indeed, shadow ministers, for that matter when they reckon that that minister is wrong. However, it is disappointing that the Prime Minister refuses to meet with the national president of the TPI Federation. There are many in the veteran community who feel that if the national president had been a brigadier, colonel or some other high rank he would have no problem getting in to see the Prime Minister. But of course the national president of the TPI Federation was a warrant officer. I would hope that that suggestion is not true but, as I said, it is a disappointment that the national president of the TPI association cannot get a meeting with our Prime Minister.

The other issue that I want to turn to relates to the recent announcement of the ADF medal issue which has been going on ever since the announcement of the national service medal some years ago. I want to quote a letter that I have received from a squadron leader a letter which he has also written to the minister. I do not intend to quote all of it, but I do intend to quote some of it, because it really reflects the high volume of correspondence that is coming across my desk and the desks of other members of parliament and it reflects some of the issues that are generating some bitterness within the current and former serving veteran community. This former squadron leader says:

As an ex veteran who has served in both the Regular Army and the RAAF I am very concerned about the changes recently made to the criteria for the issue of the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) that now allows National Servicemen to also be eligible for this medal without having to have completed a period of Voluntary Service that was applicable at the time.

... ..

The ADM was initially proposed in 2004 and was to be for Volunteers only. The original medal sample had printed on it 'For Volunteer Service' and the criteria was for Regular Volunteers and service was to be no less than six years.

The criteria for the ADM was changed in 2006 following complaints raised in regards to periods of enlistment that Volunteers could initially sign on for and to cater for personnel discharged on medical grounds, died whilst serving or were discharged due to Government policies at the time (e.g. servicewomen who married whilst still serving in the armed forces).

The things mentioned in the last paragraph were part of the ALP policy right from the word go. We recognise those things because of the very involved consultation that we had with the veteran community. I was very pleased when the government, I think under Minister Brough, adopted those ALP policy positions and put them into their amended policy. However, the policy was amended even further, but I will come to that shortly.

This squadron leader says in his letter to the current minister:

I would appreciate if you can answer the following questions:

a.

The Government claims it consulted with the ex-service community but nowhere can anyone be found who was involved in this consultation. It is the firm belief of the Volunteers that the National Service Association were the only ones 'widely' consulted and somehow convinced the Government that the ADM should be awarded to them as well. Why?

I think that is a fair question.

b.

How can the Government vary the qualifying criteria for a medal without consultation with the Defence and ex-service community?

I think that is a fair question.

c.

Why have National Servicemen of all conscription periods even been considered for a volunteer's medal (unless they had completed an additional period of voluntary service)?

d.

Why isn't the criteria amended to read its true worth?

Finally:

e.

Why is the Government destroying our Honours and Awards System?

He goes on to say:

I look forward to your comments and an early reply.

I hope that the minister will respond to that letter. I and the ALP welcome any recognition for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force. We are disappointed that, while the government accepted much of our policy in relation to the issues I have already mentioned, they did not adopt our whole policy. Since the most recent criteria for the ADM were announced and since the rush to get medals into the community around Anzac Day, there has been much complaint. Indeed, there has been bitter complaint about the policy and the change that the government made to its amended criteria without any apparent consultation with the broader veteran community.

I do not want to see the veteran community tear itself apart over these criteria. During the Vietnam era, national servicemen and regulars worked together, supported each other and were as one. I say this to the veteran community: we must stay as one. I would encourage anyone eligible for the medal to apply for it and to wear it with pride. I certainly understand the angst particularly surrounding the awarding of the medal to three- and six-month national servicemen of the fifties and sixties, where today the serving infantry have to complete four years to be eligible for that same medal. I might say that that is four years of fairly heavy operational service, if the current tempo continues. You can see the differences in criteria in terms of length of service, and you can understand why there is some bitterness over this decision. But, as I said, the veteran community of national servicemen and regulars served as one; we should stay as one.

The government have made their decision, and it appears to me that we are now stuck with it. I do not see how it could be changed retrospectively perhaps a couple of years down the track. What is still required, however, is distinct recognition of volunteer service within the Australian defence forces. I can assure the veteran community that the ALP will be consulting with them in the near future to ensure that

their voice is heard on the issue. It may well be that what we need to do is look at the idea of a clasp which recognises volunteer service and which could be worn on the most recent ADF medal. National servicemen certainly have their commemoration medal. They are recognised. It was a good move. It was a move supported by the opposition of the day. But there is without doubt a need to now end the division within the veteran community and ensure that, quite distinctively, volunteer service is recognised.

I say this in conclusion. Setting aside the issue of the criteria, there are still big problems being experienced by people putting in for the medal. I am in receipt of a letter from the Injured Service Persons Association, which points out a number of anomalies within the process of these medals being applied for and being either awarded or rejected. They have set out a number of examples where the same sorts of people have applied for the medal and one has been rejected and another has been accepted. This sort of stuff just cannot continue. When it came to medals, we used to be able to laugh at the Yanks. But we in Australia can no longer laugh at the Americans, because we have our own problems with our medals and they are problems that need to be sorted out and rectified. The sooner that is done, the better off and more harmonious the veteran community will be.

Title: **Re: Graham Edwards' speech to Parliament**
Post by **Webmaster** on **Jun 3rd, 2006, 11:41pm**

Thanks Tromb - I was asked (when I got back this morning from 80 Mile ,Broome and all those wonderful places to ensure the speech got onto the website - you've done it and I am thankful- what the response will be goodness knows but one lives in hope - Regards Ross

The FESR Visitors Log

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General >> Bulletin Board >> Crims get free drugs

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1150713211>

Message started by lan_McClure on Jun 19th, 2006, 8:33pm

Title: **Crims get free drugs**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Jun 19th, 2006, 8:33pm**

Crims get free drugs
By CARLY CRAWFORD
04jun06

VICTORIAN prisoners are exploiting free access to medication that Australia's war heroes have to scrimp to pay for.

Medication that costs war veterans almost \$5 a packet are available free of charge to inmates who are hoarding the drugs, insiders said.

Medication to treat anxiety, depression, blood pressure and cholesterol are free for people who have broken the law, but come at a cost to those who have served the country.

Aussie veterans feel cheated.

"It seems morally wrong," Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia state president Bob Elworthy said.

"How can the government give free medication to prisoners, but not to people who have served their country in times of war and come back traumatised, hurt and broken?"

But Veterans' Affairs Minister Bruce Billson said the support scheme for veterans' pharmaceuticals was generous.

Jail sources said sedative and anti-depressant use was rife in jails.

They estimate up to 85 per cent of our 3700-strong prisoner population is using prescription drugs, most commonly Imovane (sleeping tablets) or Largactyl, an anti-depressant. Both cost the public up to \$30 a packet.

Methadone, for narcotic addiction, is plundered while anti-anxiety drugs Xanax, Naltrexone and even aspirin are also popular in jail.

Prison sources say inmates at Port Phillip jail seek out prison doctors who they know will prescribe drugs.

Corrections Victoria refused to disclose the cost of prescription drugs to taxpayers, but conservative estimates, based on medication costs and prisoner numbers, put the figure at \$4 million a year.

Mr Elworthy said scores of veterans rely on Imovane.

Those eligible for repatriation concessions, such as war veterans, have to pay for most of their drugs at the discounted rate of \$4.70.

Vietnam vet Ern Hall served in Vietnam between 1968 and 1969. Now, daily, he needs 17 prescription drugs: "It's very unfair, prisoners get this stuff for nothing."

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General >> Bulletin Board >> Opposition questions \$2b chopper purchase

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1150711771>

Message started by Bob Witt on Jun 19th, 2006, 8:09pm

Title: **Opposition questions \$2b chopper purchase**

Post by **Bob Witt** on Jun 19th, 2006, 8:09pm

The Federal Opposition has urged the Government to act cautiously in the \$2 billion purchase of 34 new helicopters for the Army and Navy. Australia's ageing Sea Kings and Black Hawks are to be replaced with MRH-90 transport helicopters from a European consortium. Labor's Chris Evans has used Question Time in the Senate to ask why the Government's announcement did not include a delivery timetable for the new helicopters. "Is the Minister aware of European concerns that this helicopter's already significantly delayed? What confidence can the Australian people have, given the Government's appalling form on helicopter acquisition, that these helicopters will be delivered on time and within budget?" The Government's leader in the Senate, Nick Minchin, has defended the Coalition's record of helicopter purchases and is confident the new choppers will be delivered on time. "The best product for Australia was the Eurocopter, we've made that decision, it is a good decision and the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister have now made that formal announcement and we're very satisfied it is the right product for Australia and will be delivered on

Super Sea Sprites:Meanwhile, the Federal Government is still considering whether to cancel its troubled Super Sea Sprite helicopter program. The Sea Sprites have been grounded over safety concerns, following years of delays related to new computer systems. Defence Minister Brendan Nelson will not rule out scrapping the billion dollar project. "At the highest levels of Defence we are currently looking at all of the options in relation to Sea Sprites and examining the way ahead in terms of its further capability," he said. "When the examination of those options is completed and everything's on the table, I'll take some proposals to Cabinet for its consideration."

Title: **Re: Opposition questions \$2b chopper purchase**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 20th, 2006, 7:59am**

G'day Bob

The article on the Eurocopters also went on to mention how they were to be doled out. The Fleet Air Arm is to receive six to replace the Sea Kings. The rest go to the Army. It goes to show how much emphasis the Govt is now placing on the FAA. Looks like it will be going downhill even faster. Looks as though Army will be flying on & off the two new troop carrying ships that are in the pipeline & not the FAA by the No. that they are to receive. :(

Ron

Title: **Re: Opposition questions \$2b chopper purchase**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Jun 20th, 2006, 3:19pm**

G'day Ron,

Unfortunately that has been the case since they got rid of the fixed wings,as for the Armychappies flying over water, I don't know, they wouldn't have any roads to follow. On the other hand we could give them the Super Sea Sprites they apparently don't fly at night. ;D

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General >> Bulletin Board >> Looking for

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1150971163>

Message started by Bodgie Sefton on Jun 22nd, 2006, 8:12pm

Title: **Looking for**
Post by **Bodgie Sefton** on **Jun 22nd, 2006, 8:12pm**

An O.D. doing his RP3 course at Watson in 1963. J.T.Polley reckoned that Lawrie Scott threatened him with an Anal assault, if you can rember the terminology of the day. Scotty was an A.B. I was the kellick R.P.1. With trying to instruct WRAANS and O.D's, no wonder I paid off and escaped to the West. :P :P :P

The FESR Visitors Log

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General >> Bulletin Board >> Costello urged to save asbestos fund

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151132510>

Message started by Bob Witt on Jun 24th, 2006, 5:01pm

Title: Costello urged to save asbestos fund
Post by Bob Witt on Jun 24th, 2006, 5:01pm

The Federal Opposition says it is dismayed at an Australian Tax Office (ATO) decision which has jeopardised a multi-million dollar agreement to compensate asbestos victims. James Hardie Industries says its Special Purpose Fund may no longer be viable because it has not been granted the same tax concessions as a charity. The ATO says the decision was made because the compensation fund does not meet the legislative requirements. Bernie Banton, from the Asbestos Diseases Foundation, says the decision is ludicrous.

"They're saying it doesn't meet the charitable criteria, which is ridiculous," he said. "This is a fund set up to pay victims." The Opposition's treasury spokesman, Wayne Swan, says the Government must step in. "There are tens of thousands of Australian who are affected by this," he said. "It has taken an enormous amount of work on the part of the union movement to get the company to the table and to fix this problem." It requires now urgent attention from Treasurer [Peter] Costello to fix this problem."

Ruling questioned

The Victorian Treasurer, John Brumby, also says the Federal Government help ensure asbestos victims are fully compensated. "Families who have already faced, I think, the cruelest of diseases will get little of the support to which they're entitled, to which they should be compensated for," Mr Brumby said. "I do call on the Prime Minister and Treasurer to examine the legislative response to ensure that funds can flow." New South Wales Premier Morris Iemma says the ATO's decision does not make sense in light of other rulings. "This issue of tax deductibility is no different to other large companies and the compensation payments that are made - CSR, BHP, many large companies," he said.

Source: ABC

Once again the Fat Cats have got it all wrong

Title: Re: Costello urged to save asbestos fund
Post by stokerB on Jun 25th, 2006, 12:26am

What disappoints here is Hardie hiding behind a dodgy ATO calling to further delay its "COMPENSATION" payout..... Implying this is a charity is to imply Hardie is being magnanimous to the thousands of affected workers who unknowingly and unwittingly used their bastard products, this implies they are now doing these sufferers a favour with their pissy payouts (should they ever receive them). As I read it, they were legally committed to set up and dispense this fund and shoulder the cost of doing so. Call me a cynical old bastard but this reaffirms my belief that big business is about profit not responsibility and while they smile we can do whatever it is losers do. Still I admit, at this point, some understanding by those toads we call politicians is called for if it expedites payment to sufferers

Bloody beaurocrats.....I hope all their kids are born with two heads and they go broke buying hats for them

"when are we not going to lie down.....when are we not going to turn the other cheek. Where was I looking when the servant became the master"

Title: Re: Costello urged to save asbestos fund
Post by Joe on Jun 25th, 2006, 4:35am

I'm non plussed! Surely the Government controls the ATO - if they don't who the feck takes all the

should stop pi*sing around and pay the compo and then they can collect it from Hardies - that way it would be paid!

I notice Costello has said it's not his place to interfere - hope his mother, father, brother, all his kids and his aunt become exposed and suffer - he might feel (oops pollied can't do that - no heart) do something.

(Settle boyho settle)

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Costello urged to save asbestos fund**

Post by **Bob Witt** on **Jun 25th, 2006, 5:07pm**

2:27 PM June 25 Taxpayers shouldn't fund Hardie compo: Howard

The Prime Minister, John Howard, says he does not want ordinary taxpayers to shoulder James Hardies responsibility to compensate workers suffering from asbestos-related illness. The Australian Tax Office has ruled that a fund set up by James Hardie for asbestos victims is not a charity and will decide within the next month whether the company's contributions to the fund can be tax-free. Labor and the union movement have called on the Federal Government to step in to make sure tax concessions are offered, saying victims will miss out on compensation payments if they are not.

Mr Howard says the company should meet its obligations without burdening taxpayers." The principle has to be that James Hardie bares responsibility for this," Mr Howard said. "It was their employees who were affected and they are entitled to the normal tax treatment but they are not entitled to shift some of their responsibility to the rest of us through some kind of special tax deal."

Source: ABC

Very interesting Quote in the last paragraph; it is a hopeful sign, that finally the Government is going to recognise that because they allowed asbestos material to be used extensively in their naval ships that they are going to accept responsibility for all those sailors who have contacted asbestos related diseases?

Title: **Re: Costello urged to save asbestos fund**

Post by **Joe** on **Jun 26th, 2006, 4:49am**

Bob

I've just been down to the pig farm and there are two very little pigs with tiny bumps on their sides - might possibly be wing buds but not sure!

Chookas

Joe

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General >> Bulletin Board >> The passing of a shipmate

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151372782>

Message started by wings on Jun 27th, 2006, 11:46am

Title: **The passing of a shipmate**

Post by **wings** on **Jun 27th, 2006, 11:46am**

illness. Dutchy was a Quickmatch shipmate, ex-Quickmatch Ass. sub-committee man and FESR member. Fair winds mate. Lest We Forget

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General >> Bulletin Board >> Parkinson's and fly-spray

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151400292>

Message started by tromb123 on Jun 27th, 2006, 7:24pm

Title: **Parkinson's and fly-spray**

Post by **tromb123** on **Jun 27th, 2006, 7:24pm**

It's interesting to note that in at least one of the mortality studies done on veterans, it says, in part, that:

"The second approach is to attribute any difference in mortality or health between the veteran and control groups to service in Korea in general rather than to pesticide or chemical exposure in particular".

UPI, however, reports:

(I can remember seeing something about this many years ago...

Maybe the 'SOP' for this will need to be changed, sooner or later...

Remember those spray things with a pump that we used in the navy to spray DDT, or whatever it was called?

Anyone seen any ads for "Louie the fly" lately??)

UPI reports:

WASHINGTON, June 26 -- People exposed to pesticides are at a higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease, according to the longest and largest study yet to support such a connection.

Study participants who reported regular exposure to pesticides had a 70 percent higher incidence of the disease than those who were not exposed to the chemicals.

"This is the first fairly clear evidence that some chemical exposure significantly increases risk for Parkinson's," said lead author Dr. Alberto Ascherio, an associate professor of nutrition and epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

"With the combined evidence of all the studies in humans ... it's extremely unlikely there is another explanation," he said.

An initial survey was done in 1982 and repeated in 1997, 1999 and 2001. The more than 140,000 responders to the 2001 survey did not have signs of Parkinson's disease before 1992. The researchers looked at the medical records of study participants who reported getting Parkinson's after 1992. Just over 7,800 people reported exposure to pesticides, and 413 people developed Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder that affects up to 1.5 million Americans, most of them older than 65.

Pesticides are a neurotoxin, designed to disable the brains of insects. Although scientists know the nervous systems of people are wired similarly to insects, they're not sure exactly how pesticides affect the human brain. One theory is the chemicals promote the aggregation of a protein, alpha synuclein, in the brain. When clustered on brain cells, this protein can cause Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative disorders.

The authors concede the study lacks detailed information about the duration and intensity of pesticide use, as well as which of the dozens of brands of pesticides are more harmful. Past studies have suggested chronic, low-dose exposure to pesticides raises the likelihood of getting

Ascherio plans to identify the specific types of pesticides that might be most dangerous to health. He also wants to research genetic variations in how people respond to pesticides. Some individuals possess genes that enable them to metabolize pesticides very easily, perhaps staving off Parkinson's, while others are more genetically susceptible to the chemicals. Figuring out the molecular pathways of the disease could help someday prevent its progression.

The study affirms what a lot of people have thought, said Dr. J. Timothy Greenamyre, director of the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of Pittsburgh.

Know anyone with Parkinson's??

Title: **Re: Parkinson's and fly-spray**
Post by **tromb123** on **Jun 27th, 2006, 8:04pm**

Look at this:

Link between Gulf War Syndrome and pesticides further identified

BRAIN scans on Gulf War veterans in the United States who are suffering from debilitating diseases may have resolved why 130,000 US and British servicemen and women complain of mystery illnesses.

Research discovered that disabled veterans of the 1991 war suffered chemical changes in their brains, similar to the onset of **Parkinson's and Huntington's disease**.

The findings of the research, which have not yet been published, were revealed yesterday at the second day of a US congressional hearing into so-called Gulf War syndrome, being held in the Palace of Westminster. **British veterans who were present looked shocked**.

After detailed medical examination of one battalion of 249 soldiers from the 700,000 US troops who were deployed to the Gulf, Robert Haley of the Southwestern Medical Centre at the University of Texas found that the brain cellular structure of the sick veterans had been damaged.

Speaking in a committee room of the House of Lords, Dr Haley said he had uncovered evidence of "chemical disturbance" in the brain. A similar study of British veterans by Goran Jamal, consultant physician at Imperial College School of Medicine, London University, which also revealed brain damage, had been ignored by the authorities, Dr Haley said.

His own research, he said, had also shown that Gulf War veterans were two to three times more likely to suffer from motor neurone disease than other people.

The damage to the brain was likely to have been caused by the use of organophosphate **pesticides to kill desert flies and lice** at the American and British tented camps in Saudi Arabia; the anti-nerve gas tablets and vaccines given to frontline troops and inhalation of chemicals after the Americans bombed an Iraqi chemical weapons store.

Title: **Re: Parkinson's and fly-spray**
Post by **Joe** on **Jun 28th, 2006, 4:31am**

and we have all been exposed to pesticides - think about the crap they used to fumigate the ships with to kill the cockies! Fair enough to clear the ship of personnel but I remember coming back on board and the place was simply covered with white powder - which we had to clean up!!! Just one instance and I look forward to hearing all the other instances. Maybe that explains the rash I have which never goes away!!

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> HMS Albion

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151804991>

Message started by jr67 on Jul 2nd, 2006, 11:49am

Title: **HMS Albion**

Post by **jr67** on **Jul 2nd, 2006, 11:49am**

Can anyone remember when the HMS "Albion" air group was a Albatross while the Albion was goodwill Sydney Around 1960?

Title: **Re: HMS Albion**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Jul 2nd, 2006, 7:51pm**

JR '67

You are testing the old grey matter now. Was that the occasion when one of the Fairy Gannets, (RN), from a visiting RN carrier pranged into "H" hangars door with its prop?. Brakes or something packed up and it kept going a bit. I think "Skinhead" Kelson was in the vicinity and had to bolt for his life when he saw what was about to occur. If it was then, it would have been sometime prior to March in '67 as I headed off with 725 Squadron Wessex on to the 'Sydney' for Vietnam runs then. Didn't witness it myself as we were in 'A' hangar.

Ron

Title: **Re: HMS Albion**

Post by **jr67** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 8:25am**

No I was on Melbourne in 67 I thought 61/2 but I am usually wrong these days. The only time I ever saw Skinhead move fast was around 1700 as those doors at the back of the dry canteen were opening.

Title: **Re: HMS Albion**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 9:23am**

JR67

You are right about Skinhead. I was wrong about the Albion. Was'nt it one of those troop commando carriers like the Bulwark and probably only had helos on board. I think it was '64 we did excercises with Albion up round Singers way again when I was on Sydney after dropping of our troops in Jessleton. Don't think those troop carriers carried fixed wing a/c come to think of it. I cannot recall any earlier that that as it was before my time. Have you tried the FAA site? Wouldn't hold my breath for an answer from that site as it is not very active if you have not visited it. About 3 posts per year perhaps!

Ron

Post by **jr67** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 9:54am**

It ended up a Commando Carrier along with Bulwark it was originally a true Carrier commissioned 1947. It was along with Bulwark at Suez but while in Australia it was still an operational Carrier the aircraft were always blowing tyres on landing kept the fire crews on their toes forgotten what type they were but it was the generation after the Venoms this is the RN aircraft Australia never had a post Venom till the late 60's.

Title: **Re: HMS Albion**

Post by **birdiehandler** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 12:10pm**

Don't know of any of "Albions" aircraft being at RANAS Nowra in my time, prior to 1963, but Albion was on the 1959 SEATO cruise up top with other carriers, "Melborne" & USS Yorktown. Albion has Gannets and Sea Hawks along with others I'm not sure of, funny enough at the last meeting in Brisbane George Onger (ex COOK) had a photo of Albion and thought it was Melbourne, that's why he was a Cook. :)

Title: **Re: HMS Albion**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 3:21pm**

That explains it all Ken. He would have been good for a night flying scran tho.

A few facts from google.....

The last HMS Albion was a 22,000-ton 'Centaur'-Class light fleet carrier built on the Tyne by Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson. Her keel was laid in 1944 and she was launched in May 1947, but the incomplete hull was laid up immediately after launch. She was finally completed in May 1954. In July 1958 the Albion had a foretaste of her future role when she embarked 42 Royal Marines Commando, together with all its vehicles and equipment, for deployment to the Middle East. In January 1961 she was taken in hand for conversion to a commando carrier, in which role she re-commissioned in August 1962, working up with two helicopter squadrons and 40 RM Commando before joining the Far East Fleet. In 1967 she was part of the RN task force covering the withdrawal from Aden, and in 1971 she was there for the withdrawal from Singapore and the disbandment of the Far East Fleet. In 1973 she was sold for conversion to a heavy lift vessel for North Sea oil exploration; however, this plan fell through, and she was broken for scrap at Faslane.

So, it must have been sometime after '62 and before '64 and during her heyday would have been laarge enough to take Gannets & venons. Have to stop talking about carriers and aircraft. Those from the small ships will be getting too excited and horny :P

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Cost of living changes to our income

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151906134>

Message started by boots on Jul 3rd, 2006, 3:55pm

Title: **Cost of living changes to our income**

Post by **boots** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 3:55pm**

I had a very big letter from DVA today my cost of living adjustment has risen a great deal.
i was getting 758.74 total

now as from 20 july i will get a total of
\$760.00
great stuff and vegies have gone up twice as much. great aint it.

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **evilCA** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 4:32pm**

The answer is simple mate ...Eat more meat.

Regards...CA.

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **boots** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 8:25pm**

meat has gone up too. be lawn clippins soon

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Jul 3rd, 2006, 9:37pm**

would that cpi rise we just got, i think about one dollar and a bit. probably be, because petrol is a bit dearer.....ernie "D" ;D ::)

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Joe** on **Jul 4th, 2006, 7:40am**

Don't go eatin' petrol soup mate - even the fumes make you see ddoouublllee!
Chookas
joe

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Jul 4th, 2006, 3:44pm**

Chookas
I have spent all day, (and now I have a headache) trying to think what I can buy with my latest windfall, the finacial pension increase! Crikey, I thought I might spend it on a bex, a cuppa tea, and a nice lay down, but alas dissapointment, I havn't got enough! Oh well, how much the smallest beer!
Ernie "D"

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Joe** on **Jul 4th, 2006, 4:32pm**

Ernie D
I'll buy you one mate when I see you (just worked out I can't see you for 2.5 years!!)
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **boots** on Jul 4th, 2006, 7:31pm

sorry fellas i reread the letter the increase was for rent assistance only.. >:(:(

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **boots** on Jul 4th, 2006, 9:30pm

sorry to get all your hopes up ;D :D

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **sluggo** on Jul 5th, 2006, 9:04am

Boots, thank god, I have been trying to work out why I didnt get that large increase,,was going to appeal, that would be nearly half a glass of beer that I may have missed out on,,glad you came up with the answer,,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **boots** on Jul 5th, 2006, 6:52pm

sorry mate got a bit over excited

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Joe** on Jul 6th, 2006, 5:55am

Boots.
What about Ernie D - I can't afford his beer now either - poor bugger! Maybe we can do a whip round.....
Chookas
joe

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **boots** on Jul 6th, 2006, 8:18pm

poor old bugga, he will have to buy his own now, and shout you as well. :(

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Ernie D** on Jul 8th, 2006, 10:48am

I'll have you all know, I can now get a bus ride to the end of th street (one section), trouble is I gotta walk back, and with my legs and breathlessnes thats a huge problem. Still on the bright side I can still get a ride to the end of the street on my new gained wealth increase, my new ambition is, just gotta get enough to be able to get a ride back from the end of the street.
Ernie "D" ;D ::)

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Joe** on **Jul 9th, 2006, 5:22am**

Ernie,
Take a tent and become a grey nomad?
Chookas
joe

Title: **Re: Cost of living changes to our income**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Jul 9th, 2006, 10:55am**

Joe
I would heed your advice, but its too cold down here in winter. Talk about the three brass monkeys!
One could finish up with a Fridget diget at this time of the year, if the grey brigade did what you suggest!
Even though it is inspireing mate..Ernie "D"

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> The Real Navy

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1152596213>

Message started by ronaldo on Jul 11th, 2006, 3:36pm

Title: **The Real Navy**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jul 11th, 2006, 3:36pm**

A little dit which I came across. I wonder if we all followed on in some of these traditions! ;D

Now this is the way a Navy should Run!

This what I call stores management!

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!).

However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." [smiley=thumbsup.gif]

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. [smiley=2vrolijk_08.gif]

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. [smiley=beer.gif]

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each. :P

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water. :o

GO NAVY!

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> 3 billion big ones for Veterans

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151060251>

Message started by ronaldo on Jun 23rd, 2006, 8:57pm

Title: **3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 23rd, 2006, 8:57pm**

Latest info from DVA :o

Ron

VA049 Friday 23 June 2006

\$3 BILLION TO INCREASE HOSPITAL ACCESS FOR VETERANS

The Australian Government will spend more than \$3 billion over the next four years to expand veterans' access to private hospital services, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Billson, announced today.

Mr Billson said as a result of the first national private hospital tender conducted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs members of the veteran community and their treating doctors would have much greater choice of, and a wider access to medical facilities.

"As a result of the tender process we have doubled the number of private hospitals across Australia that are approved to provide high-standard health services for veterans," he said.

All hospitals contracted by DVA to provide services to veterans are licensed, quality accredited, and have agreed to provide preferential access to veterans, subject to clinical need.

Each year, more than 60,000 veterans access private hospitals for medical and surgical services paid for by the Australian Government.

"These new arrangements mean veterans can access a full range of treatment services from large metropolitan surgical hospitals, regional facilities and small local hospitals close to family and home.

Mr Billson said until now doctors had been required to seek prior approval from DVA before admitting a veteran patient to some hospitals.

"Most prior approval requirements have now been removed, simplifying hospital access and streamlining administration," he said.

"The hospital to which a veteran is admitted is determined by their treating

flexibility. For example, a veteran from a rural area requiring major surgery could have the operation in a large metropolitan facility, but be moved closer to home and their family as they recuperate and no longer need specialised care."

Veterans in Brisbane and Perth will continue to have access to the full range of services currently offered by the former Repatriation hospitals - Greenslopes in Brisbane and Hollywood in Perth. However, depending on their clinical needs, they now also have the option of being treated at one of 13 other hospitals in Brisbane and nine additional facilities in Perth.

The Minister thanked Ramsay Health Care, for the care provided to veterans through Greenslopes and Hollywood Hospitals for the past 10 years.

Mr Billson said contracted hospitals have also been offered incentives to improve the quality of care for veterans.

"For example we are funding some chronic care pilot programs and there are incentives for hospitals to develop treatment plans for chronic conditions commonly experienced by veterans such as diabetes, coronary disease or respiratory disease.

"The aim is to help veterans to improve their quality of life and reduce the time they need to spend in hospital. This might include developing innovative care strategies, arranging visits by community nurses, or providing veterans with the knowledge and skills to better manage their own conditions so they can avoid unnecessary hospital admission.

"As well as preventing hospital admissions we are also encouraging hospitals to ensure veterans are well and have suitable post-hospital arrangements in place before being sent home," he said.

Mr Billson also noted that these private hospital arrangements supplement agreements with each State and Territory Government under which the Commonwealth meets the full cost of veteran treatment in public hospitals.

"These new arrangements clearly demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to provide best possible quality of health services to our veteran community," Mr Billson said.

Editors Note: A complete list of contracted hospitals can be found at http://minister.dva.gov.au/misc/hospital_list.htm

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **evilCA** on **Jun 24th, 2006, 1:06am**

I guess we should be optimistic and grateful, but I can't help having some concern and that is in the wording**"Subject to clinical need"**

On my last incident (In the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Melbourne) I was refused a bed or any treatment as the "Clinical assessment" was that there was nothing wrong with me and despite my protest I was sent home.

On arrival home I called an ambulance to take me back. Fortunately they did and convinced another

I guess they have to have an escape clause to send you away???.

Regards...CA.

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 24th, 2006, 7:59am**

Clive

It will be interesting to see if more medicos will now accept the gold card.

Ron

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **tromb123** on **Jun 24th, 2006, 10:58am**

When one considers the numbers of private hospitals in eg NSW, there are really few that are participants in this scheme and, as well, the "3 Billion" was already there, ie, budgeted for, I think you will find, and the whole exercise sounds like a political spiel to me. (ie The press release said nothing about an "Extra \$3 billion" did it??) And the small numbers joining the scheme haven't been as a result of any supposed financial spending by the Government, but by a TENDER PROCESS, ie small private hospitals probably couldn't even compete. And, as well, we don't know what the provisions of that 'Tender Process' were...there may be those in the community here who know, and it would be interesting to find out...ie does the tender process provide such competitive terms that smaller hospitals can't compete on purely financial terms, or is there some other sociological, cost-cutting, or ethical considerations incorporated into the terms? (eg a willingness to provide comprehensive reporting systems to the government ?)

The nearest participating private hospital to me is 110km away. The Government needs to get the public hospitals fixed up first before worrying about their mates running Private Hospitals.

Read the blurb carefully...it says, in part, that:

"This might include developing innovative care strategies, arranging visits by community nurses, or providing veterans with the knowledge and skills to better manage their own conditions so they can avoid unnecessary hospital admission.

"As well as preventing hospital admissions we are also encouraging hospitals to ensure veterans are well ."

Of course, there is nothing wrong with that, but I do not think this government ever does anything out of the goodness of it's heart.

eg:

The 'Editor's Pick' from 'The Morning Bulletin' (Rockhampton 22 June 2006) says (in part) that:

"The troops in East Timor get an extra \$78.60 per day, Federal Politicians as of last week get \$190 a night for being in Canberra! The Prime, Foreign and Defence Ministers have described East Timor as a "dangerous mission". The troops will probably do three months there and get one non-active service medal. Dedicated volunteer ADF personnel, both regular and reserve, with multiple years of service get one medal...

Is it really a case of "Let's we forget", rather than face the true values of "Lest we forget"? Another means of presenting the views of veterans, serving and ex-service persons and their families is long overdue. The former have been betrayed, the Government willingly misled (the AWB and Defence scandals) and the electorate far too easily duped.

One fellow wrote into the paper in reply and said that unless ex-service people spoke out, it would be increasingly harder for them to look younger veterans in the eye...

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 24th, 2006, 3:07pm**

Trombie

Yeah. Time will tell. I had to smirk at the headlines of this newsclip from the Sun Herald. You have to give it to some of them Journos with what they think up. Apparently this was slipped thru Parliament about 3-4am hoping probably no-one would notice. I do not begrudge a good Pollie receiving any form of increase, as long as they are doing a good job as good bucks can be earned there if you are up and qualified. EG my son-in-law was a mechanic in the Army. Worked and put himself thru uni and now is a partner in a big firm. Salary, around the 300K mark. But with all this new legislation which they bought in regarding workplace contracts, they should be subject to say pay rises and conditions as they expect others to be.

Ron

Pollies get their crackers ;D
24-06-2006
From: Herald-Sun

AUSTRALIA'S politicians have hit the jackpot, winning pay rises of at least \$7800 a year.

The generous 6.9 per cent salary boost was quietly announced yesterday as the nation celebrated its World Cup success.

The rise is more than twice the inflation rate, which is running about 3 per cent.

A federal backbencher's salary will jump to \$118,950, but senior politicians do much better.

Prime Minister John Howard scored a \$20,280 pay rise, bringing his annual salary to \$309,270.

The wages win follows an effective wage freeze for 1.6 million minimum-wage earners, whose annual rise will be delayed for four months.

The Federal Remuneration Tribunal posted the latest salary adjustment on its website yesterday.

Made up of a 4.4 per cent annual rise and a special 2.5 per cent rise, the adjustment will kick in on July 1 and flow to all state and federal MPs.

Premier Steve Bracks's salary will rise by \$15,600 to \$235,016, while state backbenchers get the basic \$7800 rise, taking their pay to \$109,708.

Opposition Leader Kim Beazley will pocket an extra \$14,430, taking his pay to \$220,057, while federal ministers take home an extra \$13,455, boosting their wage to \$205,188.

MPs will also benefit from income tax cuts, which offer big savings to high-income earners.

Low-paid workers got a \$17 increase in June 2005, lifting their pay to \$484.40.

This year, their pay will be determined by the Government's new Fair Pay Commission, which is not expected to rule until November.

ACTU secretary Greg Combet said the MPs' rises were scandalous.

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **Joe** on **Jun 25th, 2006, 4:28am**

I thought JH was jumping outa his chair to celebrate the Socceroos win - looks like I mighta been wrong!

Joe

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **sluggo** on **Jun 25th, 2006, 11:58am**

just as well it wasnt a merit based pay rise, or they would all have their pay docked about the same amount in reverse,,,,,pollies, the blight of the earth,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 25th, 2006, 3:33pm**

Good to see you back on deck Shep. Hope the wing is OK now and you are able to lift up a stubby or three ;D

Ron

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **boots** on **Jun 25th, 2006, 6:52pm**

good to see the hospital administration are going to get a bit more of a pay rise. we could even get clean bedding once a week instead of once a month.....

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **boots** on **Jun 25th, 2006, 6:55pm**

I am very sorry about posting my last but I an tpped up with painkillers at the moment and dont really mean to be so nasty. SORRY.

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 26th, 2006, 8:15am**

Boots,

That isn't Manly Hossy is it? I hear over the air waves last week that they are that short of the old funds that they are serving the meals up using disposable plates as Admin. hasn't the coin to replaace or repair their broken dishwasher! :(

Ron

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **sluggo** on **Jun 26th, 2006, 10:32am**

Ron, am having to use the left hand when I go to the toilet as I cant lift a couple of kilos with my right,,,,have it in a sling for about 6 weeks, it is very sore at the moment and looking forward to being ok again,,,slows down my typing,,,as I said only one armed but well armed heh hehr,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Jun 26th, 2006, 10:48am**

On the list, Bega valley day care is just that, there have no facilities for overnight stays or looking after long term patients. Bega Public hospital is in shams, and only have a couple of private rooms that are always taken. when I had my massive heart attack they treated me excellently in casualty, however there was no monitor, so they had to send me 200 odd kilometres to Cooma hospital to get me one as the four at Bega hospital were all being used by other casualty patients. So much for veterans staying close by their families, I thought I was going to die, which I almost did and had no one there with me, not even another vet. And boots your right mate, At cooma hospital they have a sign on the wall, bedding linen only to be changed once a week regardless. I had a Jerry can(thank god it was my own) spilt over me accidently I was patted down with paper towling (and the bed), the linen was not changed whilst I was there! I was then taken to the National Private in Canberra that is an excellent facility, I was then transfered to the national public for bypass surgery, as this operation (bypass surgery) was not done at the private hospital, and although the public national hosp is under staffed, tendered to my comfort and saved my life for another shot.
Ernie "D" ;D :(:-/

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **evilCA** on **Jun 26th, 2006, 10:48am**

I guess it would be difficult to lift Sluggo., particularly if it's dead weight. :-[

Regards...CA.

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jun 27th, 2006, 7:58am**

Either that Evil or before he left NSW for the West, he played too many of those one armed bandits!

Glade to hear its on the mend Shep.

Re the Hossys, every States sounds the same as if they are in a hell of a mess. Especially the ones in the country. It is going to take mega bucks to try and bring them all back on line.

Ron

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **tromb123** on **Jul 13th, 2006, 11:28pm**

This is from Senator Bishop's 'Veteran's newsletter'...it's about the 2005/6 budget... is long, but may be of interest...

Veterans - Policy Free Area

As I've affirmed to Annual Conferences of the RSL in NSW and Tasmania, and the VVAA, policy issues in veterans' affairs have now been put in the too hard basket.

The Clarke report has disappeared without trace and there are no signs of any initiatives for veterans on the Government's horizon.

Clearly, the Government's preference this year is for commemoration – which, while good in itself, is no substitute for providing for veterans.

Scrutiny of Performance

Nevertheless, we persist in our scrutiny of the Government's performance in veterans' affairs.

going on and in large part, sets out detail of the 2005-06 Budget.

Newsletter Feedback

May I say how much I appreciate the feedback on this newsletter by both those who responded to my recent survey and those who simply call my office.

To those who write to me on a whole range of matters, I do endeavour to respond. This includes the many who appended comments and remarks on the survey. For an analysis of the survey responses see the questionnaire section later in this newsletter.

2005 – 2006 Budget Report

The obvious comment to make on next year's budget for veterans is that it does very little for veterans. In fact, it complies with the Treasurer's belief that future spending should avoid increasing benefits, which add to future financial liabilities.

This is due to concern about the rapidly increasing costs of an ageing population, with a smaller proportion of taxpayers to provide the revenue needed. This is despite record revenue from taxes, which the Government has decided to hoard in its Future Fund – which will probably appear before the next election.

The Bottom Line

For the first time in memory, savings in the veterans' affairs portfolio exceeded new budget measures.

Savings made in DVA total \$82.3 million – but new budget measures total only \$10 million.

Therefore, in real terms the veterans' budget has gone backwards.

All the savings measures flow directly from the Health and Aged Care portfolio and new restrictions on pharmaceuticals.

Generosity Misleading

The Government's propaganda that its generosity is responsible for a total budget increase of \$411 million is misleading. All of that growth is the result of indexation provided for in legislation, and in increased costs.

For example, indexation alone produces an increase of \$311 million. That's automatic.

Likewise, increases in disability pensions caused by new claims and claims for increase result in added costs of \$53 million.

Increases in usage rates of health care as people get older will cost an additional \$350 million. This too is automatic under the legislation. It's not due in any way to Government generosity.

It is also interesting to note that, for perhaps the first time, service pension costs will reduce by \$136 million, due to falling numbers.

Figures suggest that war widows' numbers will peak in two years time - well in advance of earlier predictions.

New Benefits

The only changed entitlement in this budget is an increase in the levels for some high cost dental work (crowns, etc) from \$749 to \$2,000.

Health Costs

It is interesting to note that compared with community health costs, which are increasing annually at around 7%, veterans' health costs are increasing at 8%.

When considered that the card-holding population is falling by about 8,000 per year, the real increase is much higher.

This no doubt reflects the increasing age profile of veterans as well as the rising costs of medical treatment, including costly new drugs and technology.

Cost of Gold Card

Increasing health costs are reflected in increased costs of the Gold Card, which is now approaching \$14,000 per head gross per year.

This is interesting, as the cost of satisfying demands from some groups for extension of this entitlement is likely to be very expensive.

There are for example, an estimated 60,000 people who enlisted for WW II who did not serve overseas.

Further, it is understood there are 43,000 British Commonwealth and Allied veterans who would also like the Gold Card.

Dentists

Included within these costs are increases for dentists who were campaigning for increases to their schedule of fees – over and above normal CPI indexed increases every year.

This entailed routine negotiations, which occur periodically, as they do with all sectors of the health industry.

Funding is provided in the same way as for all other cost increases.

their services in the same time honoured way, and to other allied health providers.

Summary

In summary, the increases in percentage terms for each new schedule of fees are as follows:

Chiropractors and osteopaths: 8% at 2% per year over 4 years;

Dieticians: 10% at 2.5 per year over 4 years;

Occupational therapists: 6.8% at 1.7% per years over 4 years;

Psychologists 24% at 5% per year for 4 year;

Social workers: 20% at 5% per year over 4 years;

Speech pathologists: 55% at 13.75% per year over 4 years;

Dentists: 13.6% at 3.4% per year over 4 years;

Anaesthetists: 20% immediately plus a further cash adjustment.

Routine Outcomes

While painted as great government initiatives, these increases are nothing of the kind. They are simply routine outcomes of negotiations, which bring veterans' health providers up to market rates for each specialty.

Despite this, DVA still acknowledges that, in the national interest, a discount is given by most of the health industry as a mark of respect to veterans' service.

The only salutary outcome is that the threats posed to veterans' health service delivery in campaigns run in the last year, by dentists and anaesthetists in particular, will not come into play again for perhaps 4 years.

Veterans Used As Bargaining Chips

The disappointing down-side of this process however, has been the use of veterans as bargaining chips to get more money.

Military Compensation Costs

As was expected, the shift away from the old Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme (MCRS) to the new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme (MRCS) sees a large decrease in liabilities for the MCRS and a greater increase in liabilities for the MRCS.

This dramatic shift is explained by the fact that both schemes pay lump sums not pensions. Claims in the MCRS pipeline are quickly reducing and those under the new MRCS are increasing slowly.

The estimated liability under the new MRCS next year is \$13 million.

Savings – Pharmaceuticals

The \$82.3 million savings in the veterans portfolio referred to above, largely flows from initiatives taken in the portfolio of Health and Aged Care where there is a concerted effort to contain the costs of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

For example, the Government will require a price reduction of at least 12.5 % when adding the first new brand of an existing listed medicine to the PBS.

The estimated saving next year alone is \$139 million in total with \$10 million attributed to veterans.

Over 4 years the total saving will amount to \$1.035 billion.

Hoarding

Hoarding of pharmaceuticals has long been a problem, therefore the Government has moved to change the rules with respect to repeat prescriptions within 20 days.

From 1 January next, such repeats within 20 days of the first prescription will not count towards the safety net.

Apparently, the practice of filling repeat prescriptions, although not required, is escalating in order to reach the safety net limit more quickly.

This does not include prescriptions where repeats within 20 days are authorised. This will save \$70 million in total over 4 years.

Safety Net

An increase in the safety net threshold from 52 to 54 prescriptions per year for concession card and all Gold Card holders and increasing by two prescriptions each year until 2009. This will save \$140.2 million over four years.

Calcium Tablets

The removal of calcium tablets from the subsidised PBS list will save \$36 million over 4 years.

Whether this will in fact apply to veterans has yet to be decided.

A suitable calcium substitute will need assessing, as veterans are generally an older group of people more susceptible to osteoporosis.

Other Saving Initiatives

Quality Medicine Prescriptions

prescriptions and drug usage by providing better advice to doctors and so reducing waste. This will save \$44 million over 4 years

Nursing Homes Checks

Health and Aged Care have also decided to increase their checks on nursing home proprietors, ensuring the correct claiming of Commonwealth subsidies. The projected savings are over \$60 million in the next three years.

Debt Recovery

In past editions of this newsletter, regular reference has been made to the tightening up of surveillance and data matching between departments to ensure that people are not providing different information on income and assets to different agencies.

This is not a new program but it continues to catch out many people where their tax details are inconsistent with pension information.

Sadly, some people fail to get it right and court action has resulted and in some cases losing their house when they are unable to repay any overpayment.

In this budget, the estimated saving over the next five years to Centrelink alone by cross checking data with DVA held information is \$37 million. This will entail an intensification of fraud detection efforts.

Hence, another reminder to make sure that the details held by DVA on income and assets are correct and are consistent with all other information given to the Australian Tax Office and Centrelink.

Debt recovery from health providers is also being intensified. This will not affect veterans directly, but it is important to note that fraud is a generic issue and needs tight surveillance.

Seniors' Concession Allowance

Only holders of the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card for self-funded retirees originally received this \$100 allowance (paid twice a year to a total of \$200).

This meant that Gold Card holders who had no need of the CSHC missed out, even though they were eligible.

In fact, some applied for the CSHC to get the allowance. Whether deliberate or an oversight, this anomaly will be removed.

Gold Card holders will henceforth receive this allowance. This will cost \$44 million over four years and will benefit 44,000 veterans.

The legislation, already introduced into the Parliament, will not be retrospective and the first payment is not due until after 1 December 2005.

Accommodation Bonds

The Government previously announced that accommodation bonds paid for access to low-level care aged homes would not be included in the assets test.

This also includes the value of the former home and any derived income, if rented, used to pay bonds by instalments.

This will benefit many veterans and will cost \$63 million over five years. This is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Aged Care.

MCRS Legal Services

Those readers who followed the controversy in Brisbane last year will recall that DVA were sending reconsiderations out to private law firms. In some cases, these referrals sought a negative decision. In total last financial year, MCRS spent \$6.8 million this way.

Given that ex-service personnel have no access to legal aid, this was seen by many as a very unfair practice – particularly where the decision was negative.

As a result of this revelation, thankfully the practice of directing decisions seems to have ceased.

However, outsourcing to private law firms continued unabated – until now.

In this year's budget, \$0.5 million of the lawyers' allocation will be transferred to DVA to employ reconsideration staff, including lawyers.

This should be sufficient to employ at least 6 staff, and it should result in faster decisions on reconsiderations. It should also mean that DVA will be able to build up more expertise within the organisation.

In 2003/04, private lawyers handled 493 cases contracted out for reconsideration. It will be interesting to see what shift occurs as the result of this initiative to employ staff instead.

DVA has always employed in-house lawyers for this work under the Veterans' Entitlement Act, so perhaps the judgement now is that this is a better model, and likely cheaper.

Ballarat Memorial

An election promise made by the Government to provide the Ballarat City Council with \$300,000 for the maintenance of the new POW memorial sparked controversy during budget week when the

To add confusion Senator Troeth (Victoria) confessed that it "had been removed". This was incorrect, but it did result in a phone call from Treasurer Costello to the Mayor, assuring him that it was safe.

The facts are that the \$300,000 was included in the 04/05 Budget in Additional Estimates in February, but as yet is unspent. If it remains unspent on 30 June, the Government will no doubt roll it over into next year's budget.

This is a common practice, but it does depend on the Government and Ballarat City Council reaching an agreement.

Population Statistics

As indicated above, expenditure in the veterans' budget of service pensions is falling and costs for war widows are expected to start falling in two years time. Those statistics are as follows:

2004	138,700
2005	130,200
2006	121,400
2007	112,800
2014	60,000

War widows' projected numbers are:

2004	114,418
2005	114,500
2006	114,400

Health Studies

Health studies on a range of deployments and military activities since WW II have now become a standard approach to better inform the provision of health care and compensation.

In some cases evidence to support veterans' fears that their service has had a detrimental effect on their health have been forthcoming. In other cases, there has been no evidence forthcoming.

In cases such as the atomic testing program and BCOF, ex-service personnel have never believed historic government research, which showed that there were no effects from exposure to radiation. Consequently, we have seen new studies, repetition of previous studies (Vietnam) and revisions of data from old studies (radiation).

The following is a brief update on progress – excluding BCOF on which it is regretted there is no information available.

Korea Health Study

The first draft of this report issued last year has subsequently been subject to a process of verification by a scientific advisory committee.

The release of the final report, once printed, is subject only to ministerial whim.

Atomic testing

There are three aspects to this work.

The first is a review of the data obtained historically on the level of exposure and the measurement of dosage received by individuals. The report on this has been completed and sent to the scientific advisory committee for consideration.

The second element is a mortality study, entailing a complete search of death registers in Australia so that causes of death can be established for those who were exposed to radiation during the testing program. That report is almost complete.

The third element is a cancer incidence study conducted by the University of Adelaide. That is also complete, so the next stage is for the scientific advisory committee to review all three reports and finalise findings in the next few months.

Consideration of the report findings by the Repatriation Commission will follow. They can then make recommendations to the Minister. However, this may take until the end of 2005.

Unfortunately, this work is way overdue. However, the results will prove very interesting.

Ex-service personnel who have long fought Government, believing their health seriously affected by exposure, may be vindicated. If they are, compensation will then become a very hot topic.

Vietnam

The third mortality and cancer incidence study has now been underway for some time.

The cancer incidence study is complete and once printed will be released in the near future.

The mortality study is also close to finalisation.

The Repatriation Commission will consider both studies once complete.

With the passing of time since conducting the first studies, these results will be very interesting given that many cancers develop very slowly.

Dapsone

by the Army was apparently not as effective as hoped, particularly in the wet season. Although considered very effective, there were some complications with Dapsone and therefore usage ceased, and the former drug recommenced. An earlier Dapsone study failed to reveal any relationship between its use and any disease. With this second study, due for completion by the end of 2005, it is hoped the results will be more conclusive.

Children's Health Study

This is only a feasibility study to test whether a full study of veterans' children's health is realistic, and whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant what could be a huge task. A consultative forum of ex-service personnel, most concerned with veterans' children's health, has been established and it is understood that work is almost complete. It is currently expected that a final draft report could be completed by end June. The government will then decide, on the basis of that report, whether to proceed with a full health study or pursue other approaches. Included in these might be smaller studies using samples of the population, or to begin with a study on twins. The largest difficulty seems to be that of finding Vietnam veterans' children in sufficient numbers to prevent statistical bias in any results. One suggestion has been that first a census of some kind would be required. There is also a question as to whether any future study should deal with the past, the present or the future. There does seem to be agreement however, that the focus of the consultative forum should be on health treatment, not compensation. Those interested in reading more on this process can log on to mc2.vicnet.au

F 111 Deseal/Reseal (SHOAMP)

With the draft report of this investigation, released last year, the government announced that those exposed to the 200 toxic substances would receive lump-sum compensation as well as standard compensation. Overall, the SHOAMP Study did not find any statistically significant health effects of exposure, compared with the normal population of service personnel not exposed. The study found some elevation in certain levels of disability including diminution of neurological function. This resulted in some psychological disability, reflected in a general loss of cerebral function with evidence of increased anxiety, depression and other psychiatric disorders. Also noted was an increased incidence of cancer in those exposed to toxic substances against those not exposed. However, the difference was not sufficient to draw a firm conclusion on cause and effect. A scientific advisory committee specially selected for their scientific expertise is currently reviewing these results. The committee's view is, on balance that there was a real elevation in the incidence of cancer. The original SHOAMP study involved a complete medical examination of all participants, with some emphasis on finding malignancies.

New Cancer Screening Program

A new cancer-screening program currently in development will eventually process all those exposed.

This would help to corroborate the report's findings.

The Repatriation Medical Authority, which drafts the Statements of Principle, the basis of all compensation claims, will consider the outcomes of this work once approved by the scientific advisory committee.

Following this consideration, existing SOP's may be revised or new ones drafted to reflect the advance of world medical science on the health effects of such exposures to toxic substances.

F 111 Deseal/Reseal Lump Sum Payment

In addition to disability compensation for those affected by their work on the F 111 deseal/reseal project, there is also the matter of compensation by lump sum for exposure to the toxic chemicals, which the government promised late in 2004 when the first health study was released.

Cabinet decided this matter late in 2004 and the Minister for Defence made the announcement. Since that time, the Government has been completely silent on the detail as to who will be eligible, what the amount will be, the criteria, and the process.

The excuse given by DVA is that there are complex interactions with disability and workers' compensation schemes, including Queensland Workcover, as it affects 25 civilians.

Workcover

Recently, Queensland Workcover resolved their difficulty with the Commonwealth, so we might

been resolved, because the wait for those seriously affected by illness is proving extremely stressful.

Those affected rightly ask why it is that the lump sum which was supposed to be independent of normal disability compensation now seems to be linked in some other way.

Not helping is the confusion as to who is responsible. DVA says it is a Defence matter. Defence say it is a DVA matter.

Precedent

Others affected by exposure to a wide range of toxic substances during their service would also like to know where they stand on this lump sum precedent.

This could include atomic radiation, herbicides and pesticides; asbestos, beryllium and depleted uranium just to mention a few, regardless of any obvious health effects. DVA simply cannot answer that question.

Claims

So far, 173 people in total have claimed disability compensation under both the VEA and MCRS, and health care is being provided to 223.

The exact number of people exposed is unknown, but it's thought that there could be 460 RAAF personnel who worked directly on the fuel tanks, and possibly a further 200 who worked in the vicinity of the hangars.

The timing of any Government announcement on the detail is unknown, but it appears that the Minister will take it back to Cabinet.

Overall, this is becoming an extremely serious matter of neglect and indecision from which too many innocent people are suffering.

For those wanting to be more involved there is a F 111 deseal/reseal support group in Queensland which meets regularly. Details can be obtained from the office of Mr. Arch Bevis MP, Shadow Minister for Defence, Planning, Procurement and Personnel.

Financial Advice

Some years ago when the income and asset testing rules were being tightened to cover a new range of financial investment options appearing in the market, DVA established what was called the 'Veterans' Affairs' Financial Information Service' to help veterans better understand the complexity of their financial arrangements with respect to means testing. Each state office had staff specialising in giving that advice.

Complaint has now been made on the disbanding of this service, except for two staff in the Melbourne office.

Inquiries are now being directed to Centrelink, which has retained its expertise, but of course, access is time-consuming due to the lengthy wait for assistance on the phone.

DVA has promised more advice, which will be included in the next edition of this newsletter.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation has not been a feature of the Veterans' Entitlement Act for many years with respect to encouraging veterans back into the workforce.

Indeed, with the Government's new drive to force people on the Centrelink Disability Support Pension onto the dole and into the workforce, this seems a little contradictory.

DVA does run a rehabilitation scheme whereby T&PI veterans in particular are encouraged to seek work, but without the threat of losing their special rate pension should they succeed in the short term.

This is a useful safety net, although it seems not a very popular one.

The reduction to next year's projected budget for this program, due to decreased interest and demand, is disappointing.

It indicates that those who might well benefit from this scheme have either given up or lost the incentive to work, even for its therapeutic value.

It is notable however, that rehabilitation in the MCRS is the first compulsory step, not an add-on option, after work inability has been accepted. In fact, payments of compensation can be deferred if participation in rehabilitation is avoided.

Hellfire Pass Memorial

There has been recent consternation expressed at news of the removal of the crucifix in the memorial at Hellfire Pass and its replacement with the non-Christian symbol "in memory".

Further, complaints have been made that rails and sleepers within the cutting have been removed as part of a larger refurbishment of the memorial site.

Most upset stems from the fact that the ashes of a number of POW's have been scattered at the site, including those of Weary Dunlop.

The strength of feeling from ex-POW's, some of whom frequently return to the site, is indeed understandable.

Inquiries to establish the facts have begun and the next issue of my newsletter will include further

Office of Australian War Graves would have been advisable.

DVA's View

DVA's view is that the inclusion of the crucifix was never part of the design, but placed there by others.

Further, they have stated that there is a long-standing convention not to use the Cross of Sacrifice in any cemetery. As the Government has not challenged this assertion, we can only assume that this is the Government's policy. If readers have an objection to this concept, they ought to write to the Minister expressing their views.

DVA thereby justifies the replacement of the crucifix at the Hell Fire Pass Memorial by the increased interest by Asian descendants of the 9,000 who died on the railway.

Given that this was originally a memorial to allied servicemen lost, with a strong Christian ethos, this attitude seems to be more of an historical reconstruction.

Many will know that at Australian memorials around the world, there are crucifixes in place, and indeed commemorative services are often conducted in the Christian tradition.

International Significance

DVA also believes that while the memorial, first erected in 1998, was originally designed in recognition of those POW's of all nations who died across SE Asia, including Australian, British, Dutch and Americans, it has also attained great significance for the Thai people.

For this reason, the refurbished memorial is now bilingual, enabling the Thai people an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the horrors of the Burma Railway Project.

Beryllium

Exposure of ADF personnel to beryllium, especially in the Navy, continues to be controversial.

Beryllium is a very hard but highly toxic metal used in the needles of Jason pistols used by the Navy to remove rust and paint from ship hulls.

It's also used in hard-wearing components of aircraft and other equipment where great care must be taken. Inhalation of dust in this process can cause berylliosis and malignant neoplasm of the lungs.

Hotline

Because of the concern expressed by ex-service personnel in particular, Defence has set up a hotline on which those concerned can register their details.

Information was distributed widely in newspapers and on web sites.

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation conducted tests. The results of those tests will be referred to the Repatriation Medical Authority, which will then review the Statements of Principle on which compensation claims must be based.

A fresh letter containing all this information is currently being sent to all those who have registered through the hotline.

Despite the fact that risk exposure seems to be restricted to the Navy, management of the matter has been passed to the Defence OH&S specialists. To date 1,806 calls have been logged on the hotline, which is a dramatic indicator of the concern being expressed by those worried about their health.

Thirty-five claims for compensation have been lodged with DVA. Previous advice from DVA was that the success rate of claims was low, but now with more heat being applied, and a larger number of claims, this may change.

After radio talkback and the item in the Daily Telegraph attacking the Minister and the Government, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs applied strict internal controls within Defence on public communication.

This is a sign of a worried Minister and an indication that all is not well on this matter.

The Minister's approval was mandated for all public communication from Defence however the departmental acknowledgement of that Ministerial instruction was leaked in full.

At a very minimum all those people fearful of their exposure ought to be provided with full medical tests, at Defence cost, consistent with the approach taken with those exposed to toxic substances in the F 111 saga at Amberley RAAF base.

They should not have to pay their own medical costs as some are presently having to, and nor should they be impeded in their access to their medical records, some of which inevitably will be inadequate if history is any guide.

DVA Reorganisation

A recent paper, written for the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), by Mr Des Moore, recommended that DVA services be mainstreamed into other service provision agencies such as Centrelink. This is not a novel suggestion at all and is both silly and mischievous.

Dedicated Agency

The ALP will never do that and has, in fact, committed to the retention of a dedicated agency for service delivery to veterans.

Further, the ALP has also moved its policy for veterans into the Defence Chapter of its Platform, just

Incidentally Mr Moore, who is a former Treasury official and a very dry economic theorist, and an occasional writer for The Australian, recommended that veterans' pensions be indexed by CPI alone.

Unsurprisingly, the ACCI's letterbox filled very quickly with protests from veterans, thereby hopefully allaying any further venture into this area.

Review

There is an internal review underway within DVA in recognition that, as the veteran population declines, the organisation must also change.

Over recent years, some rationalisation of certain specialisation has occurred and these services concentrated in some states.

For example, Hobart managed payment of all Australian veterans' pensions overseas. Brisbane and Canberra handle all MCRS reconsiderations.

It is therefore likely that there may be more of this, though DVA assures us that the shopfront service will remain unchanged.

Call Centres

As many veterans know and understand, these days with computers and good telephone access, the answering of inquiries can be done from anywhere in the world.

That is what call centres do very efficiently – though we also know that the service can be simply awful.

We must ensure any dilution of service does not happen in DVA and hope none of DVA's business is sent abroad as many companies are now doing.

Inevitably as DVA and Defence work continues to merge with respect to post service functions, it might be expected that further change will be focussed on all ex-service personnel as well as veterans.

Gold Card Tasmania

Access to specialists by Gold Card holders in Tasmania continues to be a problem.

The standard DVA response is that this is the same problem as for all Tasmanians, that is, there are not enough specialists in Tasmania.

This seems a bit flimsy given that DVA's Charter is to give special care to veterans above the public standard.

The excuse given by DVA therefore doesn't wash.

The issue for specialists is money and as the specialists no doubt say, why take the Gold Card when you can make more from other patients?

Areas of Shortage

Areas of shortage remain in urology, neurosurgery and orthopaedics.

Fortunately, for the Howard Government, the Premier of Tasmania has weighed in with a commitment in the recent State budget to support 25 new specialist positions in those specialties in the State.

Whether this helps or not we will have to wait and see as these positions, no doubt, will be focussed on the public system.

In addition, the specialists have yet to be recruited.

DVA seems confident that new arrangements they have put in place in both Hobart and Launceston will ease the need to transport veterans to Victoria, but the test will be the numbers still requiring treatment on the mainland.

DVA also defends itself by saying that it has always flown veterans to the mainland. However, the fact remains that the number has been much greater than usual.

DVA says that in 2004 only 10 veterans, out of 43, required flights to the mainland as the result of the specialist shortage in Tasmania. This entailed 77 trips.

One of the other difficulties has been the problems faced by carers who accompany the veteran.

Often carers are left high and dry, and if the treatment requires an extended stay, then the costs are extremely prohibitive. This requires much more attention.

Changi Gaol Relics

All of Changi prison has now been demolished except for a 180-metre section of the perimeter wall facing the main road. The front gates have been reassembled alongside this wall.

However, as the site is now a construction site, the wall will be inaccessible for two years.

Some relics have been obtained by the Australian War Memorial and brought to Australia; two brass cell door number plaques, two steel anti-climbing hooks and a cell door from the prison.

A cell door, a concrete block from the prison wall, a cell toilet and ventilation grille have been sent to the Goulburn (NSW) War Museum Memorial.

Advice has also been received that the Singapore Tourist Board is arranging for padlocks from the prison to be mounted and presented to national and state branches of the RSL.

As part of the 2005 year of commemoration of the 60th anniversary of VP day (or VJ day for those who prefer that), the Government has allocated \$10,000 for commemorative activities in each federal electorate.

Applications for the funding of commemorative activities are being organised by Members of Parliament, who will submit those bids to the Minister for approval.

Ex-service organisations wishing to make application separately or in conjunction with other groups should contact their local federal Member of Parliament.

Labor supports this new scheme, but is naturally wary of the Government's record on grants administration due to its appalling record of pork barrelling.

Fair Administration

The current Minister's record, prior to the last election, is a case in point. In fact, allegations have been made that grants were approved before applications were lodged.

Veterans' organisations should therefore be wary of approaches from Government Senators for example, reported to have solicited grant applications in Labor-held seats.

As the Minister has total discretion on grants approval, we will be watching very carefully to ensure fair administration of this program.

Politicisation

As has been referred to previously, the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs has long been managed in a non-partisan way.

Under the regime of former Minister, Danna Vale, this began to change.

Those receiving my speeches will have also noticed criticism of the Government's politicisation of commemorative activity.

Stories abound about RAN ships being 'delayed' to cater for the Prime Minister's diary.

The timing of grant announcements, such as the Long Tan Bursaries, are at a "suitable" occasion at the Minister's convenience, which is well into the academic year, rather than for the convenience of winning students.

Further, 'shell' media releases drafted by DVA for the use of Government Members and Senators only, on a wide range of announcements, particularly grants, are issued by the Minister's office.

Invitations to commemorative functions are increasingly becoming exclusive to the Minister and the Government.

When grants to national and state ex-service organisations with CBD addresses are omitted, grants to ex-service organisations in Government electorates significantly outweigh others.

Petty Politicking

This has now grown to an extent where Opposition Members of Parliament have been refused invitations to attend schools in their electorates for the dedication of new Commonwealth-funded flagpoles.

The only exception, made belatedly, was for MP's who are also veterans, such as the Hon Graham Edwards.

The once bipartisan attitude to veterans' matters no longer applies.

Commemoration

Gallipoli 2005

This year I once again had the honour of attending Gallipoli.

Readers may have read my speech to the Senate, in which I reported on the controversy that surrounded this year's ceremony.

This controversy was very disappointing and it must be said that the impression created in Australia by the media was somewhat distorted.

It needs to be understood that the commemorative site at Gallipoli is restricted in size, and has only limited facilities.

Despite this, it must also be said that the attendance of so many young Australians was wonderful and totally respectful.

The issue of the destruction of the local seafront at Anzac Cove by the construction of the new road is the subject of a Senate inquiry, which will hold a hearing in Canberra on Friday 17 June.

Borneo

Best wishes are extended to those veterans travelling to Borneo as part of the commemoration of that element of Australia's defence 60 years ago.

These trips are arduous for those in their advancing years, but it is hoped that the journey proves to be memorable.

The itinerary is very extensive but will no doubt be conducted at a comfortable pace. We wish them all well and a safe return.

Bones Display in Papua New Guinea

Readers may have seen press reports that human skulls, allegedly of WW II soldiers were on display in Oro Province as part of a tourist attraction.

bones, if Australian, had not prompted a search for the rest of the remains and an appropriate burial.
DVA has provided assurances that the bones were not of an Australian serviceman. Given that so many Australian servicemen went missing in the PNG campaign however, the likelihood of bones being revealed in this way is not surprising.
The PNG Government has also undertaken to ensure that the bones be removed from display, and have apologised for any distress caused.

Medals

The saga on the issue of medals continues, with further evidence of confusion from within the Department of Defence during recent Senate Estimates Committee hearings.
The Government has blown its trumpet very loudly on medals, but its implementation has been a disaster.

The National Service Medal

The National Service medal issue is yet to be completed and advice from Defence is that while the estimated entitlement was 350,000, only 120,000 have been issued.

Applications have decreased significantly this year, with only 2,368 issued against 7,289 applications. This shows how ponderous the process is.

The section in Defence which administers medals comprises of 56 full time positions and has an annual salary budget of \$3.48 million.

The budget over the next 4 years for the issue of the new medal is \$12.6 million. This simply shows that administration of defence medals is a large operation and an expensive one.

Given past delays and the issue of campaign medals, it is very questionable whether even these resources will be adequate.

Australian Defence Medal for Volunteers The experience of the issue of the National Service Medal, translated to the new Australian Defence Medal for Volunteers, spells more chaos.

The possible number entitled could be as high as 450,000. Defence's ambition is to issue 2,500 per week, equating to 120,000 a year. This is very ambitious and with only an extra 10 staff, applicants will need to be very patient.

At present, advice from Defence is that three designs for the Australian Defence Medal are currently under consideration and about to be put before the Chief of Defence Forces. After that they go to Minister Kelly, the Prime Minister, the Governor General and the Queen.

The selection of a tenderer, dye casting, pressing and packaging follows. With this process, it is not surprising that the expected commencement date of issue is late 2005.

Priority will be given to serving personnel and those over 70 years of age.

Where checking of records is necessary, delays could be extensive, and no doubt will result in some disputes.

In tandem with the logistics, there is still some confusion on eligibility. Regulations have not been finalised, and many questions remain unanswered. For example, while the main criteria is 6 years service, shorter periods will be acceptable where restrictive enlistment arrangements, cases of death and medical discharge during service apply.

Labor's spokesperson on all medals matters is the Hon Graham Edwards MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence

Questionnaire

There was an amazing response to this survey. Over 46% of those surveyed took the time to complete and return the questionnaire, many appending personal comments which I very much enjoyed reading.

It was also most gratifying that readers find my newsletter a valuable source of information on a range of veterans' issues.

Tasmania

The majority of respondents came from two age groups: those 55 years and over, who served in the Vietnam War or veterans' aged over 70. Both groups rated health care and pensions as the most important issues to them.

Northern Territory

Interestingly, the Top-end results showed that respondents were mainly involved in the Vietnam War and deployments since that time. Once again, health issues were of primary importance along with information on legislative processes.

NSW

Over 50% of respondents served during WWII and so listed the areas of health and pensions as their primary concern. Almost a third of respondents had served during the Vietnam War and while health information rated highly with this group, they are also seeking information on legislative processes.

Respondents between 45 and 64 years of age listed information on children's issues last.

Again, pensions rated highly as did general information for veterans. The majority of respondents were aged 65 years or more, with 25% in the 55 to 64 age group.

Queensland

Queensland respondents ranged in age from 35 through to 90 years and over with 20% of readers aged 80 and over.

With such a diverse range of age groups and categories of service, primary issues of interest were health, pensions and general information. Also considered of high importance was Parliamentary and Legislative information.

South Australia

Respondents were evenly divided between WWII veterans and those who served in the Vietnam War.

Issues of interest were again pensions, health and legislative processes.

Western Australia

Western Australia, like Queensland had a diverse range of age groups amongst respondents.

Information on issues affecting widows rated highly as did health and pensions.

Victoria

Almost 80% of respondents were aged 75 years or over.

Interest in issues, however, was spread almost evenly over all veterans' topics.

It is interesting to note that many responses indicated a desire for more information on parliamentary and legislative news.

Ex-service and Veterans' Groups

An excellent response from these groups around Australia provided an insight into the issues and concerns of their membership.

It was also interesting to note how these organisations redistributed the newsletter to their membership. One organisation informed my office that the newsletter is hung above the photocopier and keeping up with paper supplies is becoming increasingly difficult.

Summary

It was not surprising that health and pension issues were of main concern given the age group of respondents.

What did surprise me was that children's issues came a long way last, especially as prior to the last election this issue was raised with me on many occasions.

Keeping You Informed

Speeches

Since the last edition of the newsletter, I have addressed various issues of concern in the Senate and at meetings of various ex-service organisations.

Copies of the following speeches are available from my office:

Battle of Fromelles 07/03/2005

Defence Amendment Bill 2005 07/03/2005

Department of Defence: Accounts 09/03/2005

Family & Community Services & Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Further 2004 Election Commitments & Other Measures) Bill 2005 09/03/2005

Australian Defence Force: Personnel 09/03/2005

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Bill 2004 {2005} 15/03/2005

ANZAC Cove 15/03/2005

ANZAC Cove 16/03/2005

The Victorian Association of WWII Veterans from the Ex-Soviet Union 07/05/2005

60th Anniversary of VE Day 10/05/2005

ANZAC Cove 11/05/2005

90th Annual Congress RSL Tasmanian Branch 13/05/2005

89th Annual Congress RSL – NSW Branch 25/05/2005

Annual Congress VVAA National Council 27/05/2005

Media Releases

Government Culpable on Gallipoli 16/03/2005

Howard Culpability on Gallipoli Confirmed 16/03/2005

Veterans' Gold Card Loses Value Under Kelly 31/03/2005

Howard Wrong on Gallipoli 26/04/2005

Howard Shifty on Gallipoli 06/05/2005

Veterans' Budget – Smoke and Mirrors 11/05/2005

Howard's Gallipoli Road – Inquiry by Senate 11/05/2005

Cheers

Title: **Re: 3 billion big ones for Veterans**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jul 14th, 2006, 8:15am**

Bloody hell trombie old mate. You have been busy. Thanks for the read. If I had posted that, there would have been mistakes left right & centre. Will read & digest. ;)

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> fesr medal

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151661070>

Message started by firecrew on Jun 30th, 2006, 7:51pm

Title: **fesr medal**
Post by **firecrew** on **Jun 30th, 2006, 7:51pm**

anyone advise me how to purchase this medal
thanks

Title: **Re: fesr medal**
Post by **evilCA** on **Jun 30th, 2006, 10:36pm**

We would like to know a bit more about you first mate.

Regards...CA

Title: **Re: fesr medal**
Post by **evilCA** on **Jun 30th, 2006, 10:37pm**

evilCA wrote:

We would like to know a bit more about you first mate.

Maybe a name and a few ships you served on????

Regards...CA

Title: **Re: fesr medal**
Post by **Webmaster** on **Jul 1st, 2006, 12:26pm**

Hi Firecrew - if you look further down this Bulletin Board area you'll see a lot of posts re the FESR Medal. If I remember rightly the address of a website to gain the information as to the FESR Medal is there. The details of what qualifications are necessary are there also - any problems let me know - Regards Ross

FESR Archive (www.fesrassociation.com)

Documents appear as originally posted (i.e. unedited)

Title: **Re: fesr medal**
Post by **birdiehandler** on **Jul 1st, 2006, 6:47pm**

Firecrew,
You can make further enquiries re: the FESR Medal to,...
The Medal Co-ordinator, The HMAS Sydney & VLSVA (Inc. Vic.)
(03) 9729 6874 after 1930 hrs Mon-Fri.

Hope this is of some help to you. ;)

Title: **Re: fesr medal**
Post by **firecrew** on **Jul 2nd, 2006, 4:11pm**

Thanks Mate, george here back from the Europe trip safe and sound

Title: **Re: fesr medal**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Jul 28th, 2006, 8:56pm**

evilCA wrote:

We would like to know a bit more about you first mate.

Regards...CA

That was a rather arrogant statement as he is an accepted member!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ::) ::) ::)

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Vale

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1154149077>

Message started by firecrew on Jul 29th, 2006, 2:57pm

Title: **Vale**
Post by **firecrew** on **Jul 29th, 2006, 2:57pm**

It is with regret i advise all the passing of EX LEM David Gardiner R55921, David passed away at home in Perth Friday 29/7/06 as a direct result of Abestosis.

" Lest We Forget"

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Directory costs

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1154125804>

Message started by tromb123 on Jul 29th, 2006, 8:30am

Title: **Directory costs**

Post by **tromb123** on **Jul 29th, 2006, 8:30am**

This was passed on to me by the out-going Secretary of the Royal Australian Navy Band Association:

For all Australian respondents....
Telstra Phone book

Hi everyone,

For anyone contemplating using the Sensis directory service number, 1234, DON'T!

Sensis, as you may or may not know, is a subsidiary of Telstra. The 1234 number is replacing the Telstra 12456 directory assistance number, but this time with outrageous costs attached: 40c to call the number, then 4c A SECOND!

By law, Telstra have to provide a FREE directory assistance number, because they are still majority owned by the government. They choose however not to pass this number on to the public. What's the number?..... 1223

Thumbs up to Telstra for finding a way to charge for a service that is supposed to be provided for free.

Of course, feel free to forward this on.

Ben Hardwick
Lawyer
Commercial Litigation Department
Slater & Gordon
GPO Box 4864VV
Melbourne, Vic, 3001

Cheers, Barry

Title: **Re: Directory costs**

Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Jul 29th, 2006, 11:21am**

Barry

If you read the fine print, you will find that the "Free" call for 121233 (also 12455) are subject to the following conditions.

"Free for calls from a Telstra residential fixed phone, where the customer has selected Telstra for their local calls.

Free from Telstra operated Payphones.

A directory Assistance fee applies from business and mobile phones"

It is obviously Telstra looking after its own customers on fixed line residential and Payphones, the rest have to cough up with a 40c connection and 4c/sec fee, which is what they are charging on 121334

Caveat emptor!!

:o :o

Title: **Re: Directory costs**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Jul 29th, 2006, 4:14pm**

Hey Doc

Does that translate as, 'let the buyer beware' of Lawyers, or of Telstra or of both? Hee Hee ;D I reckon its both myself!

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1150164920>

Message started by DofExB on Jun 13th, 2006, 12:15pm

Title: **Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **DofExB** on **Jun 13th, 2006, 12:15pm**

:) Greetings ...

New features include improved security measures; a new layout; additional message options; and the ability to upload picture attachments (single upload, 100kb max per message, file formats are jpg or gif - for a limited time we will also accept html and txt however please note, multiple uploads per member are not permitted as we simply do not have the space. The attachment feature is in trial mode only. If we find that this option is being abused it will be removed - TIP: if you would like to upload a photo then try saving it as an 80% jpg - you will find the file size is much smaller - not sure how to do that??? An excellent image program is Irfanview, it is available for FREE from here: <http://www.irfanview.com/>).

Please note that we expect a few teething problems so your patience and understanding during this embryonic phase would be appreciated.

Afterthought: a few members have expressed concern regarding navigation:

To start a new topic use the **Start New Topic** button located at the top of the message board.

To reply to an existing topic use the **Reply** button located at either the top or the bottom of the message.

If you find yourself 'lost' then simply hit the **Home** button at the top of the log or the link marked **The FESR Visitors Log** at the top of each board. This will take you back to the start of the forum.

For those having problems with login email me at **fesrmailbag-vlog (at) yahoo.com.au**

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Jun 13th, 2006, 12:40pm**

The new improvements are most agreeable. Thanks mate
:):)

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **irish50561** on **Jun 13th, 2006, 1:12pm**

Erica, sadly the time and effort you take to ensure we old blokes are able to stay in touch is not appreciated by a sick few posing under false colours as 'Members'.
I know that a simple 'Thank You' from your loyal fans is far from enough but please accept our heart felt thanks for your unstinting dedication to our cause. Regards. Irish.

PS: Personally I believe that the name of the game should be to name and shame this sick minority of low lives and fellow travellers who lurk in our midst and mean us harm..

Reply: Have no fear Irish, they were identified and dealt with ;) Best Wishes, Erica

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **David_A** on **Jun 13th, 2006, 2:45pm**

Agree with you 100% Irish. However my ambition to have CPO aftermy name is now dashed.
Aiming to be a full member is nothing new as I was there many times.
David A

Reply: In recognition of your loyalty I hereby bump you up to a three star rating - I know how annoying it can be to lose your rank on the board, at least with the new log I can fix it!

;) Erica

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **Joe** on **Jun 13th, 2006, 5:23pm**

I couldn't get in ...I thought Dr. Tooheys had made me bugga up - no it was the dastardly spammers! I've grown accustomed to my daily hit of FESR Forum (most addicts become accustomed to things they like very quickly!!) - humble thanks - I don't think I would have your dedication!!! Nice to see the white hats win another one.

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Jun 14th, 2006, 11:25am**

Thanks Erica
A Welcomed effort, although I have lost my Admiral status! but if thats what it takes to know whom we are talking to, then so be it!
Regards Ernie "D" ;) ;D

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **Webmaster** on **Jun 14th, 2006, 8:32pm**

In Line with all the comments I thank Erica immensely for the work she has done - the website should now be a more secure and more pleasant place - it is a huge task to learn and protect such a site that mean so much to all of us - we are fortunate to have Erica's dedication and readiness to jump in at the cost of many hours of work -BZ Erica - Regards To all Ross

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Jun 19th, 2006, 6:39am**

Hi All,
back again after a trip to the far north(Townsville) have just been catching up with the new board.
Well done Erica all the hours you have spent so us old salts can chat with each other is very much appreciated.**Bravo Zulu**

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Jul 28th, 2006, 9:01pm**

Webmaster wrote:

In Line with all the comments I thank Erica immensely for the work she has done - the website should now be a more secure and more pleasant place - it is a huge task to learn and protect such a site that mean so much to all of us - we are fortunate to have Erica's dedication and readiness to jump in at the cost of many hours of work -BZ
Erica - Regards To all Ross

Totally agree ,Great job and if possible , please please keep it up. ;D ;D ;D ;D ;D ;) ;) ;) :)

Title: **Re: Welcome to the new FESR Visitors Log**
Post by **Tom29216** on **Jul 29th, 2006, 6:42pm**

Erica,
A humble thank you from an old fart who has trouble turning his computer on. :)

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Treatment for nuclear test survivors

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1151469224>

Message started by lan_McClure on Jun 28th, 2006, 2:33pm

Title: **Treatment for nuclear test survivors**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Jun 28th, 2006, 2:33pm**

Treatment for nuclear test survivors

28jun06

ALL surviving Australians who took part in British nuclear tests in Australia between 1952 and 1963 will be eligible for free cancer treatment under a policy announced today by the Federal Government.

The access to free health care for cancer sufferers follows the release of the results of a seven-year study into the link between the tests and the incidents of cancer in those who took part. It also comes despite a finding of the study that there was no connection between exposure to

Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Billson said the study had found that the rate of certain cancers among the test participants was higher than in the general population.

“(But) it did not find any link between the increase in cancer rates and exposure to radiation,” Mr Billson said.

“Despite the lack of association between cancer rates and radiation exposure, the Government has decided that it would be appropriate to provide health cover for nuclear test participants who have any form of cancer.”

Some 16,000 Australians participated in the tests conducted at Emu Field and Maralinga in South Australia and at the Monte Bello Islands off the West Australian coast.

Of those, more than 11,000 participated in the health study which began in 1999. Since the study began half of the participants have died.

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Title: **Re: Treatment for nuclear test survivors**
Post by **Joe** on **Jul 1st, 2006, 4:43am**

Yeah sure Bruce! ...and anyone else who wasn't exposed even if they weren't there will also get free cancer treatment just because the Gov't is kind and compassionate!! What a crock. They should be compensated!

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Treatment for nuclear test survivors**
Post by **tromb123** on **Jul 2nd, 2006, 5:02pm**

Half are deceased, and no doubt those surviving are of pension age, with most, but not all on medicare benefits in any case. Of course, having a 'White card' may mean getting treatment a little more quickly, with access to, perhaps, better qualified/experienced specialists. Too little, and patently too late for many.

Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Billson said the study had found that the rate of certain cancers among the test participants was higher than in the general population.

“(But) it did not find any link between the increase in cancer rates and exposure to radiation,” Mr Billson said.

If there is a higher incidence of certain cancers, then simple probability laws (maths) would do no else than point at 'Radiation'.

7 years to work this out?? Spare me!!

Title: **Re: Treatment for nuclear test survivors**
Post by **tromb123** on **Aug 5th, 2006, 9:27am**

I still don't believe, one iota, that this government has got it right in their treatment of those exposed to nuclear testing.

UPI reports:

Study: French nuke tests linked to cancers

PARIS, Aug. 4 -- A French study has found an increase in thyroid cancer among people living within 1,000 miles of the country's most recent nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Florent de Vathaire, a cancer expert at Inserm, a medical research institute, said that the number of cancers attributable to the tests is small but significant, The Independent reported.

Before 1966, France conducted most of its nuclear tests in North Africa. Between 1966 and 1996, it conducted 193 tests at Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls. In 1995, President Jacques Chirac made the controversial decision to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific, justifying it on the grounds that there was no risk to human health.

The Inserm study was the first to show a definitive link between the French tests and disease, the newspaper said. High levels of radiation were detected on some Pacific islands immediately after the tests.

Vathaire urged the government to fund more studies, including screening of military personnel involved in the

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Problem at DVA

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1155258516>

Message started by Ernie D on Aug 11th, 2006, 11:08am

Title: **Problem at DVA**

Post by **Ernie D** on **Aug 11th, 2006, 11:08am**

INCIDENT AT MELBOURNE DVA OFFICE

Early this afternoon a male veteran known to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) attended a Departmental office in La Trobe Street in Melbourne and in an apparent act of self harm has died.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Bruce Billson expresses his sincerest condolences to the family and friends of the man, and assistance has been offered to the family.

Staff present at the time were not physically harmed as a result of this incident. Victoria Police arrived a short time later.

"This tragic incident has come as a great shock to us all at DVA and is now being investigated by the police and my department is assisting with these enquiries. Out of respect for this gentleman's family it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage," Mr Billson said.

DVA has put in place appropriate counselling and support arrangements for staff affected by this incident.

Minister Billson urges any members of the Veteran community who may be requiring support to access the free and confidential, 24-hour counselling service provided through the Veterans Line on 1800 011 046.

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

Title: **Re: Problem at DVA**
Post by **ceeveedee** on **Aug 11th, 2006, 11:46pm**

Is this the same incident that happened quite a few days ago?

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Phone number for DHA ?????

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1155885906>

Message started by k markey on Aug 18th, 2006, 5:25pm

Title: **Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **k markey** on **Aug 18th, 2006, 5:25pm**

If someone has the phone nbr for Dep Hon Awards, handy, please post it here.
I have seen it on this site, somewhere! but going troppo trying to relocate it.. HELP!!!!

>:(>:(>:(
KJM

Title: **Re: Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **Mick Wheeler** on **Aug 18th, 2006, 6:30pm**

do you mean..

Awards and Culture Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
3-5 National Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6271 5604
Fax: 02 6271 5662

Title: **Re: Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **Ray Norton** on **Aug 18th, 2006, 7:22pm**

Keith requested number 1800 111 321 Ray

Title: **Re: Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 20th, 2006, 8:00am**

Mick
'Awards & Culture' !!! Now only the Oz Government could have a department called that!!!!!!
Wouldn't the Head of Department have to speak posh... hahahaha
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **ceeveedee** on **Aug 20th, 2006, 9:33am**

Wasn't the head of Awards and Culture, Sir Les Patterson of Barry Humphrey's fame!!!!!! :) ;D

Title: **Re: Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **stokerB** on **Aug 22nd, 2006, 10:03am**

The numbers Mick posted get you through to Sir Les Pattersons Dept of Awards and Kulcha who then refer you to 1800-111-321 who then refer you to

<http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe>

there you go down the bottom of the page to the honours & awards link and voila!

If I remember correctly someone posted saying they were informed of their eligibility over the phone, apparently this is a nono, I tried

cheers

jps

Title: **Re: Phone number for DHA ?????**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 23rd, 2006, 3:36am**

Several years ago I sent a very sarcastic follow up email after waiting 18 months after applying for medals and only receiving a "be patient we will be in touch shortly" letter. Lo and behold I received a reply email and there down the bottom was a direct number (yep - couldn't believe it!!). Gave that a try and was through on second ring! Spoke with the lass who was totally disinterested. One week later got a letter and two months later the medals turned up! I tried to find out what would get them moving. Being an ex writer I remembered whenever we received a signal 'The Minister has made inquiry..' or such then things happened very quickly. I suggested to her I would be having a discussion with my Federal Local Member who knew the Minister of Defence...nothing. I then mentioned the local press and Nation TV programs - bingo she got quite flustered. Seems the hot button these days is the dreaded 'meedjaa' ! Unfortunately my old computer later crashed and died at the same time my then ISP went out of business and with it my emails....and the direct number...bugga.

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> FESR Plaque On Monument Hill

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156323452>

Message started by jackmehartywa on Aug 23rd, 2006, 6:57pm

Title: **FESR Plaque On Monument Hill**
Post by **jackmehartywa** on **Aug 23rd, 2006, 6:57pm**

also sec: of the Ex-Service Alliance which was formed 8 years ago to take care of Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, During which time the Alliance has raised nearly \$500,000 from Various Authorities, and have lobbied the City of Fremantle to pass various laws to protect the site which was being damaged by skateboarder and motor vehicles WE also put the 11 acre site on the heritage list also the national trust, We also reactivated the service for November !!th remembrance day which is now attended by hundreds of school children, the list goes on what we have achieved, I even helped "China" to mark out the site for the RANVV memorial. I would like to finish by saying we will give every assistance in establishing Your plaque on the hill. and welcome you to the Alliance, aye regards Victor Humphries

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> REPATRIATION COMMISSIONER'S TERM EXTENDED

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156396001>

Message started by **Ian_McClure** on Aug 24th, 2006, 3:06pm

Title: **REPATRIATION COMMISSIONER'S TERM EXTENDED**

Post by **Ian_McClure** on Aug 24th, 2006, 3:06pm

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence

Thursday, 24 August 2006 VA087

REPATRIATION COMMISSIONER'S TERM EXTENDED

Former career officer in the Royal Australian Navy, Rear Admiral Simon Harrington's (Ret'd) term as the Services member of the Repatriation Commission has been extended, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Billson, announced today.

Mr Billson said RADM Harrington took up his original three-year appointment as Repatriation Commissioner on 25 August 2003.

"RADM Harrington's term expired today however I have asked RADM Harrington to stay on as Repatriation Commissioner until November while his replacement is being finalised. The Services member of the Repatriation Commission is appointed from nominations received from the ex-service community and this process is underway," Mr Billson said.

The Repatriation Commission is the agency charged with meeting Australia's commitment to care for those who have served our nation in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

"With the support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission delivers compensation and health benefits and discharges the nation's obligation to remember and honour our servicemen and women," the Minister said.

"During his period as Commissioner, RADM Harrington has displayed a depth of operational and administrative experience that has been invaluable during what has been a challenging period for the Repatriation Commission.

"This has involved the implementation of the new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme, which has delivered a modern, military specific compensation scheme for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force. RADM Harrington is a founding member of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC), which is held in conjunction as Repatriation Commissioner."

RADM Harrington joined the RAN at the age of 15 and, after graduating from the Royal Australian Naval College, served in a number of ships including HMAS Vampire and HMAS Yarra during the Vietnam War.

His 39-year Navy career includes service in the Far East Strategic Reserve and in Papua New Guinea, before commanding HMAS Canberra in 1987-88 and HMAS Adelaide in 1992-93. RADM Harrington also served in positions including Commanding Officer of the RAN College at Jervis Bay, Director General Recruiting and Support Commander – Navy, and was Head of Australian Defence Staff and Defence Attaché at the Australian Embassy in Washington for three years until retiring in 2002.

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> How Things Have Changed

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156455709>

Message started by Bob Witt on Aug 25th, 2006, 7:41am

Title: **How Things Have Changed**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 7:41am**

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS TO CREW OF HMAS BALLARAT: The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson will tomorrow (Friday) attend the presentation of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) to 120 crew members of HMAS Ballarat at HMAS Stirling naval base in Western Australia. The crew of Ballarat have recently returned from their six-month deployment in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation CATALYST. Mr Billson had the pleasure of visiting the crew on Ballarat when he visited the Middle East Area of Operation in April. "I was privileged to see first hand the wonderful work the crew was doing in the Northern Persian Gulf to help protect our national interests. Their professionalism and dedication to their duty was quite inspiring," Mr Billson said.

Ballarat's role in the Middle East included protecting Iraq's offshore export oil terminals from the threat of maritime terrorism. Ballarat also provided essential engineering, technical and logistical support to the oil terminals. Ballarat also assumed responsibility for a variety of other important tasks while in the North Persian Gulf, including monitoring, intercepting and boarding vessels suspected of illegally trafficking cargo. This role was of vital importance to the security and stability of the region. Mr Billson said the successful completion of Ballarat's tasks and deployment is testament to the abilities, dedication and training of the ship's crew - and the Royal Australian Navy.

"Indeed, the outstanding work by Ballarat ensures that the proud heritage established by the original HMAS Ballarat, during World War Two, is continued today," he said "The officers and sailors of Ballarat have represented their country admirably during their deployment and it was with great pleasure that I will attend the presentation of their medals to recognise their commitment and dedication." Senior Naval Officer Western Australia, Commodore Richard Shalders, CSC, RAN, is to present medals to the crew members.

Fifty years down to five months that is some change ;) ::)

Title: **Re: How Things Have Changed**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 9:55am**

Bob ;)

The older ya get
the more they forget :'(
:(:'(>:(

Title: **Re: How Things Have Changed**
Post by **j.q_fleming** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 1:37pm**

Well, it's good to see that things have changed for the better.
Good on the crew of the Ballarat and good on the Minister for having a go.

Cheers,

JQ

Title: **Re: How Things Have Changed**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 26th, 2006, 4:45am**

Hope the Minister, The Minister Assisting the Minister, The Secretary to the Minister and the Secretary to the Minister Assisting the Minister and their assistants and assistant secretaries are all standing by to help the crew with their TPI applications in a year or so - my guess you won't see hide nor hair of any of them - but I am a cynic!

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Call for more veteran health funding

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156335433>

Message started by lan_McClure on Aug 23rd, 2006, 10:17pm

Title: **Call for more veteran health funding**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Aug 23rd, 2006, 10:17pm**

Call for more veteran health funding
August 23, 2006 09:59pm
Article from: AAP

WAR veterans are missing out on medical care because funding shortfalls are preventing specialists offering them the longer consultations they require, doctors said today.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) says the Federal Government is underfunding the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme (RPPS), designed to give veterans with Gold Cards the same access to health care as privately billed patients.

An AMA survey of almost 1800 specialists, released today, found 41 per cent could not continue to

This number had soared from a similar survey just two years ago, when only 23 per cent of specialists were considering cutting back on treating veterans.
AMA President Mukesh Haikerwal said specialists were not being adequately funded to provide the more detailed medical consultations veterans needed.
"The Government is not properly funding this scheme to keep up with the escalating costs of providing the specialist care that veterans need and deserve," he said.
"The survey indicates that many more specialists would like to participate in the RPPS, but only if the government increases funding for the specialist care of veterans, who suffer more complex and chronic conditions than others in the community."
Australia owed its veterans the best possible health care, Dr Haikerwal said.

Title: **Re: Call for more veteran health funding**
Post by **Mex** on **Aug 24th, 2006, 8:30am**

The matter of medical care for veterans is an ongoing battle and always will be. The government has extended issue of the gold card to personnel over the age of 70 years with certain service, but quite possibly with no injuries or conditions associated with their service. Good on the lucky ones, but I think this tends to identify the card as merely an ex-service persons perks rather than 'special conditions for the treatment of injuries and ailments resulting from specified service'. Some doctors appear to look on the gold card as a ticket to provide a welfare type of service, others are just not interested in the gold card, one suggested to me that I would be just as well off to use the medicare card and show my 'age pension' card. If the government is fair dinkum and intends to provide total medical care to veterans with sufficient service caused medical problems to warrant the issue of a gold card they should pay 'the going price' to enable the treatment to be provided without delay. If the government wants to penny pinch and get offside with the medical profession then in due course the doctors will just say 'sorry but we have plenty of ordinary patients so we are not interested in your gold card', then the system will break down. Perhaps there is a case for the development of a new card that would identify a..... 'TPI or veteran with sufficient service caused injuries/ailments to warrant full medical cover irrespective of the cost'..... The existing gold card could remain for all other members unable to meet that strict criteria and including the over 70 years age group. At least the medical profession would, or should provide appropriate treatment to holders of the new card irrespective of the cost, knowing the accounts would be paid by the government. This issue with the medical profession will not go away so sooner or later the government will have to decide if it intends to provide appropriate treatment at the going price or provide only bargain basement cover. That is how I see it anyway.

Title: **Re: Call for more veteran health funding**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Aug 24th, 2006, 2:58pm**

Mex

Some good thought there, but what your forgetting is that these over seventies men/women have to have qualifying service before they can qualify for the gold card at that age. Where I find things out of whack is the issue of a TPI status to a non combatant. Also why did they do away with an invalid pensioner status? those that received a IP could not work. They should have made it those receiving a disability pension in time could possibly return to work, if proved they couldnt then they are shifted to IP status
Regards..Ernie "D"

Title: **Re: Call for more veteran health funding**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 4:23am**

Should be a big chance for RADM Harrington to do something before finishing up as Repat Commissioner (see other thread). Surely he would have a vested interest in health issues and welfare and he obviously has the political position and therefore clout to be heard. As far as I know it might be the first time he was heard (did anyone know the name of the Commissioner prior to

to the ex service personnel to enhance not erode benefits.
Someone should also bring the state of treatment or lack thereof to the attention of The Right Honorable John Howard who has just announced the raising of a further two Army battalions for Australia over the next couple of years!
Being a cynic I'm not surprised they are talking about lowering the barriers to enlist. If everyone has health issues on joining then the Government won't have to pay anyone compo or pensions further down the track! One size fits all seems to be the attitude today.
Question : Should we all lobby the Repat Commissioner?
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Call for more veteran health funding**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 7:52am**

With the lowering of standards into the services that are currently being looked at, I wonder if 'drug use' will be looked at at a cause for 'operational service' injuries. Maybe overeating as well ;)

Ron

Title: **Re: Call for more veteran health funding**
Post by **Mex** on **Aug 26th, 2006, 12:12pm**

I do not know the fine details of the rules applicable to the gold card. However, I have personal knowledge of a distant relative that recently died and he had a gold card. He was a cane cutter in Qld and was called up in WW2. He completed the basic training (Army) and was then sent back to cutting cane. He did not leave Australia or complete any further service. I am pretty sure his total time in the Army was a little over 1 year. He had a hearing problem (claimed to be from firing weapons during initial training), in later life he had a stroke and died age 90 years. No doubt the rules have changed over the years but I saw his gold card and I know from talking with him that what I have said above about his service is true. I am not sure when he got the gold card.

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Pocket Crests

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1150362726>

Message started by Bodgie Sefton on Jun 15th, 2006, 7:12pm

Title: **Pocket Crests**
Post by **Bodgie Sefton** on **Jun 15th, 2006, 7:12pm**

G'day all, does any State Division have blazer pocket crests in their "Slop Chests" if so could you please advise me of numbers available and cost including postage.

Denis "Bodgie" Sefton
WA State Secretary

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Aug 22nd, 2006, 11:08am**

I dont know about having a Ships crest as a blazer pocket Badge , but what about one that would cover all of us.

A Blazer pocket badge with NAVAL VETERAN on it.

We could all wear it proudly anywhere and any time.

Suggestion only and please don't jump down my throat for it.

I know I would wear it with pride , and it would certainly have more meaning than the ADM , which with the changes made to it I refuse to wear that.

Anyone feel this is worth a comment , either positive or negative????????????????????

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**

Post by **Tom29216** on **Aug 23rd, 2006, 10:58am**

Millview,

I agree with your suggestion. :)

I purchased a baseball cap on a visit to the Port Adelaide branch of the NAA and it had a single strand map of Australia with the words Navy veteran under it.

I then made a ribbon Bar of minies of my few and stitched it under the word veteran and it looks great. 8-)

Have had a lot of "Where can I get one but have no answer to that question.

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**

Post by **Joe** on **Aug 24th, 2006, 5:58am**

Tom

Looks like you need to get out the old housewife and go into business mate - great opening!!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**

Post by **Ernie D** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 7:39am**

Chookas Joe

I wonder if they get housewife kit these modern days? Now they have no bellbottoms do they still give em wax? Do they still fight over the only iron on the messdeck ? Is muster for leave and inspection still the go? Can you still sling a hammock (whats dat) over the messdeck table? Does men/ women these days on stoppage of leave, chooks, cda patients still fall in outside the coxswains office before rounds at sea, so everyone can be flaunted?????

Interesting...Ernie "D"

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Aug 25th, 2006, 7:48am**

Dunno wot's happened to pusser's nowadays. Uniform has changed, the ranks have changed, the tea of crew on board ship has changed, naval terminology has changed, technical things has changed. Wonder if there are still some dic.eads around who plugged their domestic irons into dc powerpoints & vice versa, after they did their dhobying. :)

Ron

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**

Post by **Joe** on **Aug 26th, 2006, 4:35am**

Ah yes, how I meremba it all - twas when they was needin' 'em and not feedin' 'em eh! I certainly hope today's Navy has changed. The whole world has changed (or so I'm told). I tend not to take much notice of it and just grab the good bits I like and pregnant dog like buggery about the bits I don't - like manners and decency.....Don't get me started.....

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**

Post by **ceeveedee** on **Aug 26th, 2006, 9:41am**

Information for new recruits direct from the Defence Web site (Navy)

NOTE****You can bring your own iron and ironing board!!! Don'y know what you would do with them when you went to sea?

The first payday for new entry recruits is either 10 or 17 days after joining HMAS CERBERUS. You will need to bring some money with you for incidental expenses that will occur before you receive your first pay.

At least \$150 - \$200 will be sufficient to cover such items as:

- Dry cleaning of uniforms
- Purchase of toiletries
- Telephone calls
- Washing powder, starch, boot polish etc.

Also bring

Lockable suitcase or soft bag to store your civilian clothes
Plastic sealable container (lunchbox size) to store foodstuff
Small radio and/or compact disc player
Up to four personal photographs

You may bring the following items of equipment with you or purchase them at the Recruit

School Canteen:

Ironing Board

Steam iron

Laundry Detergent and stain removing soap

Black 'Parade Gloss' shoe polish

Polishing cloths

Stationary items (to write home)

Expect to use toiletries daily or twice daily or more often if required. Personal hygiene is extremely important for your own well being and that of others with whom you have to live and work. Ensure that you bring with you or purchase on arrival the following items:

Personal soap

Hair shampoo

Nail scissors/clippers and brush

Hair comb

Tooth brush and tooth paste

Deodorant

In addition to the above, you should bring the following items:

Male Recruits

Swimming trunks - speedo style

Nightwear - minimum boxer shorts and Tshirt

Thongs to wear in the shower

Toiletries (as above)

Female Recruits

1 piece bathing suit

Sport bra/s

Nightwear - minimum boxer shorts and Tshirt

Thongs to wear in the shower

Hair-combs / bobby pins / hairnets (long hair is required to be put up in a bun)
Nail scissors/clippers

Title: **Re: Pocket Crests**
Post by **irish50561** on **Aug 27th, 2006, 8:49am**

Bodgie old son, still got a couple of FESR blazer pockets for sale at an amazing \$20 each which includes postage, just send cheque or money order to me at the address below made out to 'FESR Assoc'.

Laurie Irish Shaw
PO Box 754
Wyong
NSW 2259

Ph: [H] 02 43539196
Email: maingalley@netscape.net

Millview,
good one old son, I had a basball cap made up with F.E.S.R 1955-1960 embroidered on it just above the peak, not too over the top and creates a bit of interest. Old mate Ernie Gibbins spotted it some time ago and asked me to have one the same made up for him. There'se a 'Cap' shop in my local Westfield Tuggerah shopping complex that will do designs, at a price of course. Regards. Irish.

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Scarred squadron learns to be Sea Kings again

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156723464>

Message started by lan_McClure on Aug 28th, 2006, 10:04am

Title: **Scarred squadron learns to be Sea Kings again**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Aug 28th, 2006, 10:04am**

Interesting reading.
starvo

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/cleansing-as-a-scarred-squadron-learns-to-be-sea-kings-again/2006/08/27/1156617213446.html>

Title: **Re: Scarred squadron learns to be Sea Kings again**
Post by **j.q_fleming** on **Aug 28th, 2006, 5:48pm**

I am impressed.
Couldn't think of a better way to get things back on track.

Cheers,

JQ.

Title: **Re: Scarred squadron learns to be Sea Kings again**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 29th, 2006, 4:42am**

A top good news story. Great to see such a positive outcome in progress - hope the Board of Inquiry results don't deflate the project.

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Govt. Admits to Responsibility

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156827050>

Message started by ronaldo on Aug 29th, 2006, 2:50pm

Title: **Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Aug 29th, 2006, 2:50pm**

Good on those who were injured and are entitled to the compo. :) I hope you all receive your fair share. A pity they don't nod their heads to a few other occurrences. (Kevin Herridge was as I understand, the senior sailor in charge of the Engine room at the time. Don't know what rank he held.)

>:(

Ron

AM - Tuesday, 29 August , 2006 08:28:00

Reporter: Daniel Hoare

TONY EASTLEY: After eight years and three separate inquiries into the deaths of four sailors on HMAS Westralia, the survivors of the incident can now finally go ahead and sue the Federal Government.

AM can reveal that the Government is now admitting liability for the fire which was caused by a burst fuel hose in the ship's engine room.

The Government's acceptance of responsibility comes after it reached a settlement with the two defence sub-contractors it'd previously blamed for the fire.

And the Veterans' Affairs Minister Bruce Billson says claims for compensation will now be considered.

As Daniel Hoare reports, the claims could cost the Government millions of dollars. :o

DANIEL HOARE: Kevin Herridge has never recovered from the engine room fire aboard HMAS Westralia in 1998.

The Perth father of two was in charge of the engine room that day. He's suffered severe post

He's been attempting to sue the Federal Government over the fire and its aftermath, which he says may have prevented him ever working again.

KEVIN HERRIDGE: It's an ongoing process, and yes, I'm still seeking medical help from the fire, yes. I see a psychologist weekly and a psychiatrist monthly.

DANIEL HOARE: Do you believe you'll be able to work again?

KEVIN HERRIDGE: (Sighs) I would like to say I will, but time will tell, time will tell. I really don't know how to answer that one.

DANIEL HOARE: Kevin Herridge says he and his colleagues from the Westralia have been shunned by the Federal Government.

KEVIN HERRIDGE: We were just left to fend for ourselves, really.

DANIEL HOARE: Kevin Herridge's lawyer, Emma Hynes, from the firm Slater & Gordon, says the Federal Government's decision to accept liability is a significant one.

She says it's cleared the way for the seven former seaman she represents to go ahead and seek compensation from the Federal Government.

EMMA HYNES: It's taken six years for them to concede that they breached their duty of care to my clients, and we'll now be asking the court to enter judgement of that fact and also to then arrange for an assessment of the appropriate amount of compensation.

DANIEL HOARE: What does this mean for the seven sailors that you represent?

EMMA HYNES: Well, what this means is that it's no longer a discussion about whether these men and women are entitled to compensation for the injuries that they suffered, but how much compensation is appropriate?

DANIEL HOARE: What sort of compensation are we talking about here? Is it right that it could be in the order of \$10 million?

EMMA HYNES: There's been no set sum fixed, because we're not yet at that point of the court proceedings. That will come over the next coming months. But certainly that is a reasonable estimate of what the total amounts might be.

DANIEL HOARE: The Federal Government had blamed its sub-contractors, the companies Jetrock and Australian Defence Industries, for the fire aboard the Westralia.

But a settlement believed to be in the order of \$30 million was recently reached between the Government and those companies. And as part of that settlement the Government is now admitting liability

The Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Bruce Billson, says the Government will now begin discussing the sailors' claims for compensation.

BRUCE BILLSON: The Commonwealth has settled the matters concerning the maintenance of the ship with those involved with that part of this tragedy. ::)

And the Commonwealth is in a position to work with the lawyers of the victims and their families to resolve the outstanding claims that they have concerning the ADF members.

TONY EASTLEY: Veteran's Affairs Minister Bruce Billson. That report from Daniel Hoare.
P

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **ceeveedee** on **Aug 29th, 2006, 6:34pm**

Not before time!!!!!!!!!!!!

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 30th, 2006, 5:28am**

Did I read that right. The Government got \$30 mil and expect to pay out \$10 mil? Not a bad earn!
Maybe they can use the other \$20 mil to compensate other vets?

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Aug 30th, 2006, 8:41am**

Joe

Don't forget that whatever amount of compo is received, the Govt. will ask for and get any monies from the claimants lump sum that they have already paid to them in welfare or disability allowances. The there is the fee by the lawyers etc etc and the outcome will probably be only half of the amount claimed. Friggin lawyers! Frigging Govt. Been there done that! :(

Ron

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Aug 30th, 2006, 9:01am**

it's no wonder we sneer at politicians of all persuasions, they created the system, the system stinks and I have been saying for years now, that we desparately need reform and the best place to start is the Constitution followed by law and run the broom right through all facits of government at every level.

As the late Don Chipp said "Keep theetc."
[smiley=dankk2.gif] [smiley=angry.gif]

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **boots** on **Aug 30th, 2006, 10:26pm**

rest in peace Don you did try.

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **Joe** on **Aug 31st, 2006, 4:28am**

He was just a bit before his time. I reckon if he was to start the same party today it would be a thundering success but that devil time takes its toll when it wants!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Aug 31st, 2006, 8:04am**

If my memory serve me correctly, I also think at one stage during my service, he was Minister of the Navy. I seem to recall him at one stage visiting one of the ships that I was on. He always struck me as an honest sort of bloke whenever & wherever he was interviewed. Also I did not know that he was ex-RAAF WW2.

Ron

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**

Post by jr67 on Aug 31st, 2006, 9:50am

If Fraser had of granted him a place in the Ministry the Democrats would not have been. ::)

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**

Post by Joe on Aug 31st, 2006, 1:02pm

Met him when he was Minister for Navy. Came to HMAS Lonsdale Port Melbourne. I as a raw boned Writer asked him why we couldn't have wine and spirits in the Junior Sailors mess together with some decent chairs etc - just like real adults. (At that time we had a couple of laminex tables and the standard kitchen/dining chairs only). He said to go for it. Capt of Lonsdale (Harle I think) was also Deputy Naval Officer in Charge (Victoria). We applied - naturally recommended by D/NOIC(Vic) and got it approved. Think it was about 1964 - the first Junior 'Wets' in Pussers with wine and spirits - wahoo - great bloke Don Chipp.

Chookas

Joe

PS : It's alright I was already a p*sspot!!

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**

Post by Cyril Doc Rice on Aug 31st, 2006, 1:19pm

8-)

Joe

If you want something DON'T go through the right channels, just drop a word in the right ear.... ::)

EH!!! ::)

[smiley=thumbsup.gif] [smiley=thumbsup.gif]

Title: **Re: Govt. Admits to Responsibility**

Post by ronaldo on Aug 31st, 2006, 2:01pm

So, my memory did serve me correctly Joe. I might be right now for another half century or so. Been reading a lot about all these blokes having triple by-passes lately, wonder if it has been to overcome this.....

Keep this philosophy in mind the next time you either hear a rumor, or are about to repeat a rumor.

In ancient Greece Socrates (469 - 399 BC) was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say.

The first filter is truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter - the filter of usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No , not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

Maybe some of the polities about nowadays ought to take note of old 'Soccerates' or whatever his name was! ::)

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Recognition!

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158124909>

Message started by ronaldo on Sep 13th, 2006, 3:21pm

Title: **Recognition!**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 3:21pm**

Nice to have been thought of! :(

VA094 Wednesday 13 September 2006

\$200,000 FOR AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING MEMORIAL

A national memorial to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian peacekeepers is closer to reality, with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Billson, today handing over a cheque for \$200,000 towards its construction in Canberra.

Mr Billson presented the cheque to the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial Project Committee of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans'

"The Australian Government is pleased to be able to lend its support to this important project, in acknowledgment of the outstanding contribution of our peacekeepers to international peace and security," Mr Billson said.

"Since 1947, Australia has been involved in many peace operations around the world, mostly under United Nations mandate, and also through groups such as the British Commonwealth and the South Pacific Forum.

"We have earned a good reputation for our past and present peacekeeping in many of the world's troubled spots, including the Middle East, Cyprus, Cambodia, former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and closer to home in East Timor, the Solomon Islands and Bougainville.

"Whether acting as military observers, maintaining law and order or clearing mines, our peacekeepers have put their lives on the line to ensure peace, safety and delivery of humanitarian aid for refugees and many vulnerable populations across the globe," he said.

Minister Billson said Australian peacekeepers were characterised by their diversity, and included men and women from the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police and state police agencies as well as civilians.

"To date some 30,000 Australian men and women have served and 10 have died in peace operations around the world," Mr Billson said.

"I am confident the Australian Government's funding support will help establish a fitting memorial that will honour past, present and future Australian peacekeepers; celebrate Australia's contribution to world peace and security; and help raise community awareness about Australian peacekeeping," he said.

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

:(Ron :(

Title: **Re: Recognition!**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 3:25pm**

It is nice to see the group recognized for their deeds which they richly deserve but, by gee, hasn't FESR, SEATO & ANZUK been missed by the Govts.

Ron

Title: **Re: Recognition!**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 5:14am**

Not missed Ron - try ignored!
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Recognition!**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 5:45am**

Try **BMB** bureaucratic mental block

Title: **Re: Recognition!**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 11:15am**

"Bob
As well as DD&A "Defence Dennial and Animosity"
Ernie "D" :-/

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> \$600M BOOST TO VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158034946>

Message started by Ian_McClure on Sep 12th, 2006, 2:22pm

Title: **\$600M BOOST TO VETERANS' HEALTH CARE**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Sep 12th, 2006, 2:22pm**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence

Tuesday 12 September 2006 VA093

\$600M PACKAGE TO FURTHER BOOST VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

Veterans holding a Gold or White card will benefit from a \$600 million funding boost from the Australian Government to ensure that veterans continue to enjoy access to free high quality health care, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Bruce Billson announced today at the RSL National Congress in Perth.

Mr Billson said the package was a strong demonstration of the Australian Government's continued commitment to recognising the service and health needs of veterans and war widows.

The Government has worked closely with health practitioners and the ex-services community in developing the package.

"It is important that our nation's special duty to those who were sent into harms way, were damaged as a result of their service and war widows, is carried through with continued timely and convenient access to the highest quality of health care," Mr Billson said.

"I am pleased to announce this package, worth more than \$600 million over the next five years, which secures veteran Gold and White Card holders' continued access to free health care services.

"More than 300,000 veterans and war widows with Gold or White Cards continue to access the health care professionals they know and trust.

"This package recognises the high level of health care provided to Gold and White Card holders by specialists, general practitioners, allied health care providers, dentists, optometrists and pathologists," he said.

"With 70 per cent of veterans over the age of 75, it is important that Gold and White Card holders enjoy peace of mind, knowing that if they require treatment, they will be looked after.

"Health care groups have expressed their strong support for the initiative. It provides a significant

our nation's veterans."

A Gold Card provides the holder with treatment and care for all health care conditions at government expense, while a White Card identifies the recipient as being eligible for treatment and care for specific conditions.

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

Title: **Re: \$600M BOOST TO VETERANS' HEALTH CARE**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Sep 12th, 2006, 4:06pm**

:-?
lan

Interesting figures..... \$12m/yr. over5yrs.....the Gov. would spend that much on Commonwealth cars!!

70% of veterans are over 75.....

The gold card is issued at 70, so what % is there over the age of 70. :)

Seems like a spin to shut us up.....oh well!.. better than no top up at all. :-/

Title: **Re: \$600M BOOST TO VETERANS' HEALTH CARE**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 7:50am**

Cynical Ron Again! And that is not allowing for yearly allowances in CPI and Health costs/Dr & etc allied health necessities, rise in fees and whatever else they will try & cut back on to save the odd quid every budget. :(

Ron ;D

Title: **Re: \$600M BOOST TO VETERANS' HEALTH CARE**
Post by **sluggo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 8:54am**

Doc, thats \$120m p/y over 5 years,,that sounds a bit better,,,,,how about our \$80 p/f to bring the TPI up to date also,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: \$600M BOOST TO VETERANS' HEALTH CARE**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 11:19am**

Sluggo
What about (Poor mans TPI) those on EDA? :(
Ernie "D"

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Search for the grave of the unknown sailor

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158441051>

Message started by lan_McClure on Sep 17th, 2006, 7:10am

Title: **Search for the grave of the unknown sailor**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Sep 17th, 2006, 7:10am**

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/search-for-the-grave-of-the-unknown-sailor/2006/09/16/1158334735697.html>

Search for the grave of the unknown sailor

September 17, 2006

A GRAINY photograph taken on an old Box Brownie camera could help Australian naval forensic investigators solve a 65-year-old wartime mystery.

The photo - taken in 1950 of an unmarked grave on Christmas Island - could identify the final resting place of the only sailor known to have escaped the sinking of the HMAS Sydney on November 19, 1941.

In Australia's worst wartime disaster, the warship went down with all 645 men on board after a furious battle with the German raider Kormoran.

Three months later on February 6, 1942, a decomposing sailor's body in a raft washed up on Christmas Island. Although he could not be identified, the Carley float he was in was similar to the ones used on HMAS Sydney.

The sailor was hastily buried in an unmarked grave in the Old European Cemetery before everyone on the island was evacuated just days later to escape the advancing Japanese. The story of the sailor was forgotten and all traces of his grave were lost for decades. In 2001 a Navy team failed to find the grave.

Now, former sailor Brian O'Shannassy, 81, has given naval investigators a copy of the photo he took of the unmarked grave in 1950 that clearly marks the spot.

"The grave was shown to me by Jim Pettigrew, the man who fished the body out of the water in 1942 and helped bury him," Mr O'Shannassy said.

"I took a picture which should identify the grave to within a couple of metres. I reckon there is a good chance of being able to identify the remains as I remember Jim said a doctor remarked he had perfect teeth.

"I hear the Navy's dental records show there were only three men on the Sydney who had perfect teeth, so with DNA we might be able to find out who he is."

On Saturday Mr O'Shannassy will go back to Christmas Island with a naval forensic team to find the grave site.

Meanwhile, a search for the wreck of HMAS Sydney lying somewhere off the West Australian coast may get under way next month.

Source: The Sun-Herald

Title: **Re: Search for the grave of the unknown sailor**
Post by **oldmech** on **Sep 17th, 2006, 4:19pm**

It is to be hoped that modern forensic medicine may just be the thing to provide an answer to this one.

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Pulp mill admits gross dioxin error

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158709958>

Message started by **Ian_McClure** on Sep 20th, 2006, 9:52am

Title: **Pulp mill admits gross dioxin error**

Post by **Ian_McClure** on Sep 20th, 2006, 9:52am

Check this one out.

starvo

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/pulp-mill-admits-gross-dioxin-error/2006/09/19/1158431711270.html>

Title: **Re: Pulp mill admits gross dioxin error**

Post by **Mick Wheeler** on Sep 20th, 2006, 12:25pm

very interesting [disturbing].. interesting to note that a 'safe' level in Tasmania is 13 picograms. In Tokyo the standard limit is 1 picogram.

[0.6 picogram for one cubic meter of air and 1 picogram for one litre of water.]

Gunns are claiming that their revised estimate at 3.376 picograms a litre is 'safe'.

Stuffed if I will be eating any fish from that area of Bass Strait. Gunns are going to pump 73 million litres of treated effluent into Bass Strait each day.

Trouble is, with our food labelling laws, we will not be able to tell if the fish are indeed from that area that we are eating.

Title: **Re: Pulp mill admits gross dioxin error**

Post by **Joe** on Sep 20th, 2006, 2:02pm

Thoughts of Malaya and Vung Tau harbour and as Croc Dundee might say "...that's not dioxin - this is dioxin"!!

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> RSL Leader under fire

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158912549>

Message started by **Ian_McClure** on Sep 22nd, 2006, 6:09pm

Title: **RSL Leader under fire**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Sep 22nd, 2006, 6:09pm**

Here's an interesting one for members of the RSL.
starvo

<http://www.gopetition.com/signatures.php?petid=9606>

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Recognition!

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158124909>

Message started by ronaldo on Sep 13th, 2006, 3:21pm

Title: **Recognition!**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 3:21pm**

Nice to have been thought of! :'(

VA094 Wednesday 13 September 2006

\$200,000 FOR AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING MEMORIAL

A national memorial to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian peacekeepers is closer to reality, with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Billson, today handing over a cheque for \$200,000 towards its construction in Canberra.

Mr Billson presented the cheque to the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial Project Committee of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association, at a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

"The Australian Government is pleased to be able to lend its support to this important project, in acknowledgment of the outstanding contribution of our peacekeepers to international peace and security," Mr Billson said.

"Since 1947, Australia has been involved in many peace operations around the world, mostly under United Nations mandate, and also through groups such as the British Commonwealth and the South Pacific Forum.

"We have earned a good reputation for our past and present peacekeeping in many of the world's troubled spots, including the Middle East, Cyprus, Cambodia, former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and closer to home in East Timor, the Solomon Islands and Bougainville.

"Whether acting as military observers, maintaining law and order or clearing mines, our peacekeepers have put their lives on the line to ensure peace, safety and delivery of humanitarian aid for refugees and many vulnerable populations across the globe," he said.

Minister Billson said Australian peacekeepers were characterised by their

Australian Federal Police and state police agencies as well as civilians.

"To date some 30,000 Australian men and women have served and 10 have died in peace operations around the world," Mr Billson said.

"I am confident the Australian Government's funding support will help establish a fitting memorial that will honour past, present and future Australian peacekeepers; celebrate Australia's contribution to world peace and security; and help raise community awareness about Australian peacekeeping," he said.

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

:(Ron :(

Title: **Re: Recognition!**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 3:25pm**

It is nice to see the group recognized for their deeds which they richly deserve but, by gee, hasn't FESR, SEATO & ANZUK been missed by the Govts.

Ron

Title: **Re: Recognition!**

Post by **Joe** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 5:14am**

Not missed Ron - try ignored!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Recognition!**

Post by **Bob Witt** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 5:45am**

Try BMB bureaucratic mental block

Title: **Re: Recognition!**

Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 11:15am**

"Bob

As well as DD&A "Defence Dennial and Animosity"

Ernie "D" :-/

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Agent Orange victims still fighting for justice

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1156721905>

Message started by lan_McClure on Aug 28th, 2006, 9:38am

Title: **Agent Orange victims still fighting for justice**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Aug 28th, 2006, 9:38am**

Thought this might be of interest.
starvo

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/agent-orange-victims-still-fighting-for-justice/2006/08/27/1156617213226.html>

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justice**
Post by **tromb123** on **Sep 6th, 2006, 7:26pm**

The Veteran's Mortality Study was released today: Let there be no doubt that the earlier report about the distillation of water poisoning sailors was spot on.

The report, in part, says:

Navy veterans had the highest incidence of cancer overall (22-26% higher than expected). Army veterans had an 11-13% higher than expected cancer incidence, whereas, the cancer incidence for Air Force veterans was 6-8% non-significantly higher than expected. Veterans from all Service branches had a significantly higher than expected incidence of genitourinary cancers (primarily prostate cancer) and melanoma. Navy and Army veterans also had a higher than expected incidence of cancers of the lung and oral cavity, pharynx and larynx. Among Air Force veterans, the incidence for these cancers was no different than for the Australian population. Also, Army and Air Force veterans had a higher than expected incidence of Hodgkin's disease.

Veterans from each Service branch had a significantly higher than expected incidence of leukaemia but the type of leukaemia differed by service. Incidence of myeloid leukaemia (Scenario 1 only) was higher than expected for Navy veterans, among Army incidence of chronic lymphoid leukaemia was higher than expected and among Air Force acute lymphoid leukaemia incidence was higher than expected, but based on very small numbers.

Cancer incidence among specific Navy units

The protocol of the study proposed to explore the association of cancer incidence with aspects of Navy service in Vietnam. Calculation of SIRs for specific groups and development of regression models were employed to investigate two broad issues:

- the association of number of cancers diagnosed with service on specific ships or types of ships (ship-by-ship analysis or ship model), and
- the association of number of cancers diagnosed with time in Vietnamese waters (time in Vietnamese waters or water model).

To minimise confounding, analysis for the ship model was restricted to Navy personnel who served on one ship only (n = 9512, or 71% of the Navy cohort) and excludes those who served in in-country units.

SIRs were calculated to compare cancer incidence for crews of specific ships to the Australian male population. This analysis was limited to the larger groups only due to power considerations in the ability to detect a statistically significant result. SIRs were calculated for those who served on HMA Ships Melbourne only (n = 1,176), Sydney only (n = 3,472), and gunline ships only (HMA Ships Brisbane, Hobart and Perth, n = 1,039). The gunline voyage of HMAS Vendetta was not included in this analysis but was included in the regression analyses.

Those who served on HMA Ships Melbourne only or Sydney only had higher than expected cancer incidence for all cancers similar to the SIR for the all Navy

Barry

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 7th, 2006, 4:54am**

So now, of course, they will contact every one who has been exposed and pay for tests to ensure the early detection and appropriate treatment for any cancer they find and update SOP's immediately to cover the problem and ensure everyone entitled is looked after properly? Be interesting to see if they conclude or even suggest that there might be other side effects that can't be measured so easily. There must be many people out there who have a multitude of physical and mental problems (most probably passed on to their children and grand children) caused by the ingestion of toxins provided by their employer (Department of Defence). It's a safe bet that most have not even sought treatment but muddle through the best way they can watching their life screw up as they go. Ah well...at least they are mentioning it. Cynical me says they should do something about it to cover the majority by about 2020 - bit late but the then few will benefit!!

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 11th, 2006, 12:46pm**

Still no mention of Service in Malaya and waters where they first used agent orange profoundly, they thought it was such a great idea they would use it in Vietnam.
When will a study include Naval veterans from the Malayan Era
Ernie "D" :-/ :(:exclamation

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 12th, 2006, 5:00am**

Always more of the same Ernie - first the b's have to recognize you blokes were there - oopps first they have to recognize that there was a problem in Malaya! Bluddy shame on 'em.

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 12th, 2006, 10:27pm**

Chookas
No Justice for all Malayan Emergency Blokes including all who served wether Navy, Army or Airforce. This stuff (Agent Orange) was just as potent in Malaya as Vietnam, and the government departments concerned know that this is right but is all hush hush as we dont want widows ansick people from that era making claims on government do we! Lets keep it as unjust and outstanding claims by a bunch of rednecks and pretenders, regardless of which service in Malaya, and make out it only happened in Vietnam never before that....Lets go quietly...Eh! Dont lets Rock the boat...
Regards Ernie "D"

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **phil** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 9:27am**

DAM :-? :-? :-?
Have a good day
Phil

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 3:04pm**

Phil

I'll drink- no; it should be worded a little differently, I've drank to that and copped a dose as well . I'm not talking about NSU either! :(

Ron

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **phil** on **Sep 13th, 2006, 4:30pm**

Ron

I Could put up with nsu now, probably have a heart attack having fun getting it.
have a good day
Phil ;) ;D :o

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 5:10am**

I think I remember how you get NSU but don't think there's much chance of me getting it anymore!
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 7:45am**

That's about right at our age. I wouldn't 'stand up' for that sort of nonsense! [smiley=cry.gif]
[smiley=smiley_down.gif]

Ron

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 9:33am**

;)Joe, Ron

C'mon fellas. At our age we've gotta get a grip of things [smiley=thumbup.gif]

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **sluggo** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 5:20pm**

sorry about this fellas,,,,,they cant have an enquiry about Malaya because the same ships were

say is that nothing can be proved for Malaya,,,,I have all the symptoms,,,heart problems, diabetes, cancers, PTSD and probably arthritis can be caused by it too, so I think the government has us over a barrel,,,,if the RSL wa fair dinkum they would push the government into admitting that it was used and that should be all the proof they should need to compensate us or give more the TPI, but it is about time all the generals who run the RSL resign and give some one the job who understands the needs of the veterans instead of some bloke who retires with an over generous pension and doesnt need any further money so why kick up a fuss, mightnt get his AO or CSC,,,,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Sep 14th, 2006, 6:21pm**

Les :-/

The only thing you will get from the RSL is a letter asking for donations to the Eternal Flame Foundation :(

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 5:46am**

Hey Doc
Is that where they send old unrecognized veterans?
Chookas
Joe!

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 11:04am**

sluggo
your spot on old son, unfortunately i got everything you got except for the big "C". But give it time, My last report from a week ago, was my asbestosis and Plural plaques are more profound now in my xrays, whatever is meant by that!
Regards Ernie "D :) [smiley=thumbsup.gif] [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif]

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **phil** on **Sep 25th, 2006, 10:40am**

Good day guys
on this forum some one said that a xray picks up asbestos plural plaques better than a scan. The specialist i am seeing is sending me for a scan to confirm the xray that picked up plural plaques found in persons who has been exposed to asbestos.
as i have been short of breath for years and have not smoked for 30 odd years,could any one shed some light
MANY THANKS
Phil
:-/ :-/

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Sep 25th, 2006, 2:33pm**

Phil,

normal xray did not pick up asbestos relation or so I have been informed by Specialist and doctors. I would advise anyone who has breathing problems and pain to get their GP to refer to a Specialist who should arrange a Scan. **Landmark Decision for Pleural Plaque Pain Case**
Professor Tess Cramond of the Royal Brisbane Hospital Multidisciplinary Pain Centre, gave evidence to the effect that a pleural plaque can directly impinge on a nerve in the chest area causing pain and that even though a pleural plaque may be directly impinging on a nerve in the area, this can cause the pain to radiate through the whole nerve path and also into the nerve roots; meaning the pain can also be felt in the abdomen area. The Dust & Dirt Tribunal accepted, Professor Cramond's expert evidence and has awarded one of the largest awards of damages for pain and suffering that the DDT has made to a Sufferer of pleural plaque pain. this article was taken from a recent issued Newsletter

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **oldmech** on **Sep 25th, 2006, 7:53pm**

Phil and Ernie

I agree with Bob. The only way I was diagnosed with pleural plaques was with a CT Scan after a chest XRay picked up something that was suspicious.

I had been having chest XRays annually for years prior to this being picked up.

Regards ColN

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **phil** on **Sep 25th, 2006, 8:18pm**

Guys

thanks for your coments i will go with the flow

many thanks

Phil

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **sluggo** on **Sep 26th, 2006, 10:39am**

Phil, Ernie and Oldmech, sorry to hear about your chest problems,,,my cancer was accepted by the Navy as war caused, thank god that I have (had) two kidneys as the two cancers one 2cmm and the other 4cmm was inside and outside the kidney, anyway a total nephrectomy in 1993 was the only treatment I had and it is now 13 years and no further trouble and I was lucky to find out in time that I had it,,,just decided one day to have a check up and asked for a urinary tract exam with ultra sound and it showed up the two cancers,,,I had an Aunty and Uncle married to each other and they didnt find it till too late (can be herediatory) he was my Fathers brother,,,anyway mates all the best for the future and I hope the future brings better health,,,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 26th, 2006, 1:47pm**

Oldmech, Phill, Sluggo, crew,

Yep, you blokes are spot on again, thats how mine was picked up in the first place by a CT Scan. However it is beeing easily seen now on just ordinary regular chest x-ray, especially the asbestosis in both lungs. They have accepted this as war caused but never did compensate me for it or pay me extra pension. At the time I was on 100% and that didnt alter anything until I had the Heart attach and triple by-pass, they whipped me up to EDA in no time flat..but i remained on 100 % for yonks! So I would miss out on TPI I suppose....

Regards...Ernie "D" :(::) [smiley=happy.gif] [smiley=shocked.gif] [smiley=thumbsup.gif] [smiley=cry.gif]

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 27th, 2006, 4:50am**

Seems to me that the DVA like the Lord move in mysterious ways!
Keep taking the pill and potions lads and be as happy as possible - most destructive disease I know resides in the brain box!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 27th, 2006, 8:14am**

Doc

Hope you posted yours back with the donation. I did'nt. The only time you hear from them is when they want a bit of money. I recall about two years ago at a local Branch where I knew a few of the boys, they raised money like billyo for their cause. Only trouble was when one of the washing machines of a local RSL Widow washing machine broke down, they had to seek permission from head office for them to supply funds to purchase another one for her and during the interim period the powers to be at HQ, were spending money left right & centre on themselves ordering wines etc to the tune of many dolleros at their lunches. The ,local boys were most irate but since then that have had a change of leaders. That was the league which they belonged to and not an ex-service RSL club. I am only a member of one to enable me to go into Clubs for other than RSL meetings. I think they are fast becoming a spent force.

Ron

Ron

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Sep 27th, 2006, 8:30am**

Ron

It's a real shame mate, but all too true :(:(

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **David_A** on **Sep 27th, 2006, 2:10pm**

There must be two RSLs as the one I belong to has no resmbence to the one you write about. I am president of my Sub-branch, Secretary of my Region, a member of the State Advisory Board and a member of the State Veterans' Affairs, Welfare and Aged Care Coordinating Committee. In all of these positions I work with returned and ex service people from all conflicts and peace keeping areas.

In my Sub-branch or Region if a widow needs something such as a washing machine, she gets it. I am just an old, and getting older, pussers cook but I have found that one gets out of any organisatio just what one puts in.

David A

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Sep 27th, 2006, 6:26pm**

David ;)

If the whole organisation was, as you find it, then no one would be complaining.
The reason that there are so many complaints (and I've got plenty) should point to the fact that there is a fair degree of discontent among the members about the Administration. :-/
I wish it were not so, but there is very little I can do about it. :(
Any suggestions seem to fall on deaf ears >:(

Title: **Re: Agent Orange victims still fighting for justic**
Post by **ColinS** on **Sep 27th, 2006, 6:34pm**

David_A

I whole heartly agree with you re two types of RSI's I also am President of my Sub-Branch have been for 5 years also have been Secretary, Treasurer and dog's body, and still am a dog's body, if any widow or anyone for that matter needs help they get it. My Sub-Branch has not got the backing of a club, we raise all our funds from a weekly raffle etc but we can still our state branch to butt out where our money goes.

We only meet every two months in the family room of our local pub. :) :) :D :D ;D ;D

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1159387404>

Message started by Bob Witt on Sep 28th, 2006, 6:03am

Title: **XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Sep 28th, 2006, 6:03am**

TWO Australian soldiers will receive the military's third-highest bravery award The Medal for Gallantry after combat operations in the remote Taliban heartland of Afghanistan that were fought on a scale not seen since the Vietnam War. A warrant officer class two, identified only as Z, will receive the Medal for Gallantry for trying to save the life of his Afghan comrade. A second Medal for Gallantry will be awarded to a patrol commander identified as Y, who, while under "intense fire" from enemy militia, recovered a machinegun in order to "neutralise enemy fire positions". Both were with the special forces taskforce in Afghanistan. Congratulations to the two soldiers involved whoever they are? Typical ADF clandestine media propoganda the old adage from WW11 must still be in vogue "Loose Lips Sinks Ships"

Title: **Re: XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Sep 28th, 2006, 7:36am**

Bob

Yes congratulations to each of them for their very brave actions. They certainly carried on with the traditions of the Aussie fighting soldier. It is a pity that we are likely not hear, read or see anymore about those actions, or the battles in which they fought, due to current Govt. policy. They most likely were from 'Alpha' & 'Bravo' companies of 'Charlie' force and fought in battles code named "Delta" & "Echo" in the hills surrounding the town of 'Fox-trot' of Afghanistan.

Ron

Title: **Re: XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 28th, 2006, 4:44pm**

Its all XYZ to me! Its possible I am wrong, and it could be just ABC!!!! 8-) :-/ [smiley=thumbsup.gif]

Title: **Re: XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals**
Post by **oldmech** on **Sep 28th, 2006, 5:42pm**

Fella's ,
It is just great to see the old Aussie Digger tradition still well to the fore.
I can understand the secrecy bit to a certain degree, because the old 'loose lips' policy certainly could jeopardise those who are still in the area.

It's very much like the Second World War really, we would hear of bravery awards in some cases, but not in others because the enemy were, even then easily able to identify the whereabouts of units by finding out the members' names.

Anyway congratulations to them both, and may they both return home safely, if they already haven't done so.

CoIN

Title: **Re: XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals**
Post by **tromb123** on **Sep 30th, 2006, 6:53pm**

Considering the relatively easy access to the internet and mobile phones, it gives a whole new meaning to "Loose lips sink ships..."

Barry

Title: **Re: XYZ Factor Diggers awarded bravery medals**
Post by **oldmech** on **Sep 30th, 2006, 8:05pm**

Barry,
How true, how true. God help us if ever another global conflict similar to the Second World War ever broke out.

The word 'Fifth Columnist' would take on a whole new meaning, and the old 'Mail Censor' would be tearing his hair out by the roots trying to keep up with emails.
And, the word Electronic Warfare would mean something quite different from what it does to-day..

CoIN

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Birthday Wishes

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1159911494>

Message started by ronaldo on Oct 4th, 2006, 7:38am

Title: **Birthday Wishes**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Oct 4th, 2006, 7:38am**

[smiley=birthdays.gif]

Many Happy Returns, Royal Australian Navy, on this day, your 93rd anniversary of foundation and the persons of both sexes who have served with you over those years and who have helped make you the great service which you are today. I know everyone is proud of you in what you have achieved in helping to defend this great nation to which we belong.

[smiley=birthdays.gif]

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE NAVY EXPEDITION'S FIND

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1159922179>

Message started by Bob Witt on Oct 4th, 2006, 10:36am

Title: **ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE NAVY EXPEDITION'S FIND**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Oct 4th, 2006, 10:36am**

"Following an expedition to Christmas Island conducted by a Navy-led team of experts, remains are being unearthed that may be those of a sailor from HMAS Sydney (II) that sank with 645 men aboard on 19 November 1941", said the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Billson. The Navy expedition team composed of a senior Naval officer, an archaeologist, a forensic anthropologist and two forensic odontologists, located the remains very close to the position identified by witnesses to the original burial and also from a photograph taken in 1950 by Mr O'Shannassy. "We are excavating remains in an unmarked grave in the Old European Cemetery that may be those of the unknown sailor from HMAS Sydney II. However, further work will need to be done to establish the characteristics of the skeleton, before we can be fully confident," the team leader, Captain Jim Parsons said.

"The process is long and painstaking, as the complete skeleton has to be exposed and recorded, and all dirt removed before any bones are removed. Even then, each bone must be carefully lifted to avoid breakages," Captain Parsons said. The Royal Australian Navy's cruiser HMAS Sydney was lost, with its crew of 645 men aboard, following an action with the German raider Kormoran.

Early in February 1942 a carley float life-raft containing a body was recovered close inshore at Christmas Island. There were no personal effects or identifying items on the body although the clothing was consistent with that worn by Naval sailors. The body was examined by a medical practitioner and formally buried with military honours, in the old European Cemetery on Christmas Island. "Subsequent skeletal and dental analysis will be undertaken in Sydney to possibly identify the remains," Mr Billson said. Conducted at the Shellshear Museum of Physical Anthropology and Comparative Anatomy at the University of Sydney, a forensic pathologist will assist the team with the identification process. This will involve a physical examination of the remains and comparison with historical records. An attempt will also be made to recover DNA.

"Every effort will be made to positively identify the remains, however we must be mindful that there are many difficulties with this process. Unfortunately, only just over half of the crew's medical and dental records are available and these are from the time of enlistment, prior to the sinking of the vessel. All records current at the time were lost with the ship," Mr Billson said. "With any

subsequent burial location will depend on the level of identification achieved.

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1160298671>

Message started by Ian_McClure on Oct 8th, 2006, 7:11pm

Title: **Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Oct 8th, 2006, 7:11pm**

Click on the link to read. Will be interesting to see what others think of this one.
starvo

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=150671>

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **ColinS** on **Oct 8th, 2006, 7:42pm**

Will all of the crew muster at Naval stores for the issue of.

- (a) Tea towels for the use of head wear, you are all now officely rag heads
 - (b) Rectangle piece of carpet, for kneeling on, so as you can put where the sun doesn't shine from to the West, the rag head end will therefore be blinded by the sun in the morning. I think that it still come up in the East
- ;D ;D ;D :P :P

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Oct 8th, 2006, 8:15pm**

::)

Well mates. I think Dr.Ali has stacked the deck in his own favour with his comments. I suppose I could put the case that Australia was colonised without permission of the original land inhabitants and has since flourished under our mainly christian values. My ancestors (I'm a 5th generation Aussie) have fought for this country in every conflict from the Boer war onwards. Can the aborigines or muslims do that? ..Hardly....a few of our indigenous maybe

So I reckon this land belongs to me, and my fellow Aussies more than anyone else. For the Muslims to claim that Australia is a muslim country is totally absurd. Religions of all denomination have been at each others throats for centuries and while we have fanatics trying to push their own barrow we will always have it. (hence my choice to be a Pantheist) Our Constitution calls for a separation of the Church and the Judiciary from the State, burt nowadays this seems to be ignored. We even have a "christian" backed party in politics. How long will it take for the Muslim community to do the same. >:(

The solution is hard to work out, but for mine getting rid of religion would be a drastic step, but should be considered ;)

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Joe** on **Oct 9th, 2006, 6:07am**

If I read the article right Dr. Ali has made no friends with either the Oz community or the Moslems. Dare I say it but you have to be damn careful when you say or do anything these days ...ask the Pope or those pesky cartoonists!!!! What now a jihad against Dr. Ali?
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Oct 9th, 2006, 1:45pm**

Dr Ali is certainly wrong in his statement, for a start, Australia, is not a society of "Multiculturalism", However we are for sure, wether for better or worse, a MultiRacial society", but then again, only in the Cities. I think his aim is that of a messdeck Stirrer, this individul would be fully aware, that this great country of ours was formed, fought for and defended by patriotic people that loved and cherrished their country, and have always supported christian values"and will do so into the future, unless of course they keep on dividing and conquering an inundating us with more and more of Dr Ali types..
Ernie "D" [smiley=thumbsup.gif] [smiley=thumbsup.gif] [smiley=thumbsup.gif] [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif]

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Oct 10th, 2006, 5:30pm**

Dr Ali is most certainly wrong , but I suppose he can say what he likes , not like us Australians whom have totally lost the freedom of speach .
And again , we have mostly the stinking Catholics in Parliment like Abbott and that other Bastard that killed off the euthanasia bill in the N.T.
All the time we have various forms of religeos freaks running this once Great Country we can be assumed to be anything .
BUT , voters have a very short memory , and do not vote without researching who they vote for.
There endeth the lesson . >:(>:(>:(>:(>:(

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Joe** on **Oct 11th, 2006, 4:16am**

I personally think our political system is run by the religion of the "Holy Dollar". Don't be misled and think that the policy that rules this country is drafted in Canberra - go a bit further off shore!
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **David_A** on **Oct 12th, 2006, 1:26pm**

Never thought I would see the day when this Web Site publishes religous bigotry.
How very sad
David A

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Doug Buchanan R49630** on **Oct 12th, 2006, 4:32pm**

To read that was sickening I thought when you came to a new country you adopted their ways not changed them to your ways and religious beliefs wonder how we would go trying it in there country it was not that many years ago to missionaries in Afghanistan were in trouble for giving out Bibles. My religion is my own and they wont change that

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Joe** on **Oct 13th, 2006, 7:27am**

Maybe someone threw the first stone? Bear in mind Oz has turned the other cheek for a very long time. This really has nothing to do with religion but rather the imposition of a way of life and set of values that I as an Aussie don't particularly like. Should we sit back and say nothing (oh lets not discuss politics or religion - or tea - seem to remember there weren't too many who wouldn't discuss the last one!!). My beloved taught my children and I guess me "If you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything!"

I personally think Ali was saying that the belief system in Australia matches his religion so he calls Australia a Moslem country. Bit like saying a horse has 4 legs so anything with 4 legs is a horse - it's very nice of him to agree we have the same values but why did he bring religion into it?

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **David_A** on **Oct 13th, 2006, 10:29am**

I guess it was the post from Millview that made me so downhearted as I thought all that rubbish ended years ago
David A

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Ray Norton** on **Oct 13th, 2006, 11:29am**

Good one David A Ray

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **phil** on **Oct 14th, 2006, 11:17am**

Joe
very well put
Phil

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Oct 15th, 2006, 4:05pm**

This issue will never go away .
Take a trip down throughout the Worlds History as far back as you can , and you will find it has always been there , always will be and is still going on today . It matters not what religeon you are , you are fully entitled to it , but you DONT have the right to try and force it on others .
When you are Elected to Public Office , you are Elected on your Political beliefs and your religeous beliefs should stay as a personal issue and should not be allowed to dictate ANY decisions made for the supposed good of us Australians or the Country we live in .
It is like freedom of speach that we used to have , but have now lost just in case we may insult

our Australian Values .

If these Politicians wish to bring their religious views into their decision making process , they should say so whilst the Election is in progress and not hide behind it whilst in Office and not having the guts to state that their reason for voting a certain way is due to their religion .

The bottom line is in my opinion (Which I am entitled to) ALL religion is EVIL and is simply used as a crutch by people that cant stand on their own two feet in any decision making process wether Personal or otherwise .

Everyone is entitled to their religion but you do not have the right to enforce it onto others .

Also , if some of these religions are so good , WHY do they need to go door to door to try and sell it to others and stuff up their day by eventually having to plainly tell them to P#ss off ,as they wont accept a polite way of telling them you are not interested .

It is my belief that if someone like me can stir up some pro religious bigotry you have nothing to be proud of , but would accept it as me being allowed to express my opinion ,and for you to defend your rights , and not cry about it , but stand up for yourself . :(:(:(

Title: **Re: Australia is Muslim nation, Ali says**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Oct 16th, 2006, 6:21am**

Well said Millview, could not have said it better myself.
starvo

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Official Funerals and otherwise

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1161171157>

Message started by tromb123 on Oct 18th, 2006, 9:32pm

Title: **Official Funerals and otherwise**
Post by **tromb123** on **Oct 18th, 2006, 9:32pm**

I guess we all have different views about "things" that are handed out to various members of our society. I know that there are many many people who work hard, give everything they have back to their country and who never seek, and never attain the sort of recognition that people in the 'limelight', might. And, of course, as I said, many do not seek or want any recognition.

This was in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' today (p10), and seems to be no more than an honest request that this bloke should've had at least some sort of military ceremony at his funeral. The writer did acknowledge that perhaps the widow hadn't "asked", but makes the point should she have had to ask? As the writer also points out, Ben Chifley said "A grateful government and people will never forget you".

Those deserving gratitude are so often overlooked

"I went to the funeral of an old friend the other day. He was buried in the local cemetery with a loving family and a host of friends present and he was given an RSL and a Masonic farewell. He was a man who had served his country and his community with courage and sincerity - in fact he had done more than that.

He went to war in 1940 and was in the first group of young men to be selected for the Empire Air Training Scheme. Because of his skill and application he was accepted as a pilot with one of England's most famous fighter squadrons, the 43rd Squadron. He fought through the Battle of Britain and became a squadron leader, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and finished his war service as a flight commander of a flight of Hurricanes in Burma.

He continued to serve his country and was appointed a member of the Order of Australia for services to his community. He was one of those people whom I believe Ben Chifley spoke of when

As his coffin was lowered into the ground I looked around to see what a grateful country had done to remember this warrior. There was no honour guard, no catafalque party, no air force bugler to play The Last Post and not even an air force flag to drape over the coffin. I don't know if the widow even requested one but surely she shouldn't need to.

I wonder who will be the next person to be given a state funeral and if they will have done as much for this country as my friend did. Will it be a footballer, an actress or even a radio talkback guru?

I wonder who the government will consider to have been of greater worth to the nation than my friend?

Ian Brewer Bathurst"

Barry

Title: **Re: Official Funerals and otherwise**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Oct 19th, 2006, 7:44am**

Trombie

It certainly seems to be the thing nowadays. After discharge, the particular service in which you served, The Govt. and unfortunately, some e-servos, do not give a hoot about you or what ever you did for your Country unless, you are high up on the pecking order. Once you cross the bar, the only ones that care are the family and friends. There is far more Political advantage in raising a State flag over an opponents State bridge, after a footy final or some other sporting event rather than remembering some warrior who knew that it was his duty to serve his Country in a time of need rather than skid out from under as some of the big-named as others to have done. Look at the 'Honors & Awards' lists. There are the 'deservers' and 'deservers-nots', always among the lists put forwarded.

Ron

Title: **Re: Official Funerals and otherwise**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Oct 19th, 2006, 1:19pm**

VERY , VERY SAD to see and hear about such a warrior pass over without the respect he very obviously deserved .
The Widow or any of the Family should NOT have to ask and as you are required to notify DVA etc. They should automatically take up the cause and contact the Family and advise them what is available , as should the R & SL. etc.
Makes me feel very sad . :(:(:(:(

Title: **Re: Official Funerals and otherwise**
Post by **David_A** on **Oct 19th, 2006, 1:38pm**

State Funerals are becoming "Two a Penny" these days. If my memory serves me correctly,[in old age that is not a given] the last State Funerals in England were for the Queen Mother and the Princess Diana. The one before that was for Winston Churchill.
On the question of RSL funerals the family Must be asked if they would like one. There are enough people,entitled to the RSL service, who do not want one. It is embarrassing all round if the RSL steps up to carry out the service in these circumstances. The Australian flag is used in these funerals. I assume that the RAAF has similar restrictions on the use of their flag as does the RAN. Personally I am glad to see that these restrictions are occasionally ignored and the White Ensign

As far as know the strict rules on who is entitled to an RSL funeral have eased. I know that in my area any returned or ex service person [note the political correctness] will be given a service if asked by the family. Not the full RSL service which is reserved for members of the league but a fitting recognition of the service given to our country by the deceased.

Buglers may be available in the cities but we make do with a recording. The respect is the same.
David A

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Help Needed

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1161989237>

Message started by ronaldo on Oct 28th, 2006, 8:47am

Title: **Help Needed**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Oct 28th, 2006, 8:47am**

How May I help her? ::)

I received this e-mail from the poor sod yesterday and wish to help her out. I think it was 'stroke' that added to her other problems, that helped make my decision. She certainly knows who to trust! "Trust me, I'm a 'birdie". 8-)

Dear Belove, :-*

I seek your interest to help me achieve a great task despite i am in my sick bed. My Doctor told me that I have limited days to live due to the cancerous problems I am presently suffering from. Though what bothers me most is the stroke that added to it.

My husband(Engineer George Heynric) was into private practice all his life before his death, having great passion for persons with physical disability or financial predicament which i can adduce to the fact that we were having no children from the relationship. My late husband deposited the sum of 20.450.000 (Twenty Million Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Euro which were derived from his vast estates and investment in capital market with his Bank here in Holland and this money is still left in the financial company.

Hence i have decided to donate this fund to you and want you to use this gift which comes from my husbands effort to fund the upkeep of orphans, destitute, the down-trodden, physically challenged children, and persons who prove to be genuinely handicapped financially. ;) ;)

Upon your willingness to achieve this great task, i shall have you as my benefactor so that the fund can immediately be transfered to your account. ;)

I took this decision because I do not have any child that will inherit this money and my husband relatives are bourgeois and I do not want a situation where this money will be used in an ungodly manner. I am not afraid of death hence I know where I am going. I know that I am going to be with the Almighty when I eventually pass on. [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif]

due to my deteriorating health and also because of the presence of my husband's relatives around me. [smiley=evil.gif]

Endeavour to reply me through this email

Poor Bugger, :(:(:(

Ron

Title: **Re: Help Needed**
Post by **Joe** on **Oct 29th, 2006, 6:41am**

Ron

You are a kind soul mate. No doubt she will see you right and I know you will distribute the funds correctly to the needy and down trod. Only two problems mate - firstly she is afraid of the 'bourgeois' and I think you are one of them! secondly you are fealthy rich already! I know give her my bank account details - there aint a cracker in there!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Help Needed**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Oct 29th, 2006, 7:52am**

Joe

Thanks for your compassion mate. It is appreciated. You can leave your wallet & watch with me and I will look after them for you until you get back! I can imagine the poor old dear, sitting up in her wheelchair or hospital bed, with her cancerous body, at the computer or typewriter typing this to me, suffering the after effects from a stroke. It must have taken her ages to compose the letter after hitting the same keys on numerous occasions and correcting the mistakes caused by her physical disabilities. I should give her the bank account details of the NSW Govt. I don't think there is very much left in that account!! ;D

Ron

Title: **Re: Help Needed**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Oct 30th, 2006, 8:31am**

Ron me ol' mate

No need to worry about her anymore

I have just received the following

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Philip Wright the credit manager of SNS Bank in the Netherlands. I have a proposal to discuss about one of your Late family members Fixed Account in my bank, Please contact me through email if you are interested to know.

Regards

Philip Wright,
SNS Bank Netherlands,
United Kingdom Laison Office.

WHOOPIE!!!!!!!!!! [smiley=thumbsup.gif]

[smiley=beer.gif] [smiley=thumbup.gif] ;D ;D

Title: **Re: Help Needed**
Post by **sluggo** on **Oct 30th, 2006, 9:56am**

Ron and Doc I get these scam emails all the time, usually from some african who has hundreds of millions, I just delete them and leave the poor gullible people to take up their proposition and get ripped off,,,,they probably do have millions from ripping off people where the mighty dollar decreases their reason and they get sucked in,,,,regards,,Shep

Title: **Re: Help Needed**
Post by **greygull** on **Oct 30th, 2006, 11:49am**

:-* I can beat that i once got and email that said i had won \$30000000.00 in the Nigerian Statr Lotto only trouble is i lost the ticket do you think i will get my money

Title: **Re: Help Needed**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Oct 30th, 2006, 1:29pm**

Looks as tho there are plenty of 'lucky' people around still. Dunno what happened to the Nigerian crowd. Haven't had any from them for ages. Perhaps all of those so called 'relatives' who had all of this loot and needed help, have all caught some exotic African disease and have crossed the bar. Same goes of Viagra and gaining a few extra inches. They have been a bit quiet as well

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

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General >> Bulletin Board >> Best Xmas in Pussers.

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164628656>

Message started by DeeCee on Nov 27th, 2006, 9:57pm

Title: **Best Xmas in Pussers.**
Post by **DeeCee** on **Nov 27th, 2006, 9:57pm**

::) new topic. Where did you spend the best Xmas in pussers. I think without a doubt that Xmas 1959, tied up in the Basin in Hong Kong was without a doubt the best. Un opened beer issues since leaving Sydney in November plus a slab I knocked off from the Wardroom supply that they were silly enough to leave standing in the Wardroom flat. :-/

Title: **Re: Best Xmas in Pussers.**
Post by **Joe** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 3:45am**

DeeCee

however, is that The Naval Board of Inquiry into the missing slab will reconvene at 0900 tomorrow.....
Chookas
Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Crew sounds alarm over asbestos in navy ship

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164659466>

Message started by lan_McClure on Nov 28th, 2006, 6:31am

Title: **Crew sounds alarm over asbestos in navy ship**
Post by **lan_McClure on Nov 28th, 2006, 6:31am**

Falling dust: crew sounds alarm over asbestos in navy ship
Tom Allard National Security Editor
November 28, 2006

AUSTRALIA'S ageing amphibious transport vessel HMAS Tobruk is riddled with degraded asbestos, prompting fears among the ship's company and their families about their health.

The problems are so acute that the Department of Defence has hired an asbestos specialist to oversee an overhaul of the ship, which includes testing the air quality and gradually removing the asbestos panels.

A Defence Department spokeswoman confirmed that white and brown asbestos had been detected. Brown asbestos, which has longer fibres, is the most toxic form, as it cannot be cleared from lungs as easily.

But operations are continuing during the overhaul, to the concern of some of the 145 crew.

One crew member, who asked not to be identified, said many asbestos sheets were falling apart, and not enough was being done to fix them.

"Dust is leaking out of crevices and holes," the crew member said. "There's red tape everywhere. It's supposed to stop the dust falling but it isn't working."

Old navy ships such as HMAS Tobruk were built with panels that had a high asbestos content for better insulation and fire resistance.

"Many of the panels have already been replaced," the Defence Department spokeswoman said, "and a comprehensive management plan has been implemented to ensure that the remaining panels are sealed and are being replaced as maintenance continues. The crew have been kept informed of any safety implications and understand the management plans that are in place."

Regular air tests ensured the working environment was safe, she said.

One member of the Tobruk's company said the crew was largely in the dark and feared that the ship's high tempo of operations had stopped the problem being fixed for years.

HMAS Tobruk is the country's only true heavy-lift transport ship. It has been deployed to Iraq, East Timor and the Solomon Islands in recent years. It also played a key role in Operation Relex, a campaign in late 2001 to stop asylum seekers reaching Australia.

It is one of the navy's oldest ships, having been commissioned 25 years ago. It is due to be replaced between 2010 and 2012.

Title: **Re: Crew sounds alarm over asbestos in navy ship**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 7:21am**

Ian

I seemed to have heard a similar story to this many years ago re other ships.....We were all expendable but the ships weren't ::)

Ron

Title: **Re: Crew sounds alarm over asbestos in navy ship**
Post by **ian_McClure** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 6:51pm**

Hi Ron, they don't seem to be in any hurry to decommission it either as it is not being replaced for another 6 or 7 years. They don't seem to be too worried about the crew thats breathing in that horrible stuff.

Ian

Title: **Re: Crew sounds alarm over asbestos in navy ship**
Post by **Joe** on **Nov 29th, 2006, 4:18am**

Feel sorry for the crew - at least we suffered from the 'ignorance is bliss' syndrome. There is no justification for this (except of course for the justification of the holy dollar!!!) - it's cheaper to fight compo applications some time in the future than to clear the crap out or ditch the ship. Wonder if anyone has refused a draft because of it?

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> TARGET STORES

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164526366>

Message started by **ian_McClure on **Nov 26th, 2006, 5:32pm****

Title: **TARGET STORES**
Post by **ian_McClure** on **Nov 26th, 2006, 5:32pm**

Hi all, just received this from a mate by email. Thought it would be worth passing on.
starvo

Greetings all,
My 23 year son sent me this, Pass on to your mailing list.
Regards,
Kevin R.

Wasn't it last Christmas that Target refused to let the Salvation Army ring their bells in front of their stores?
thingy Forrey of the Vietnam Veterans Association wrote.
"Recently we asked the local TARGET store to be a proud

spring recognition event.

We received the following reply from the local TARGET management:
" Veterans do not meet our area of giving. We only donate to the arts, social action groups, gay & lesbian causes, and education."

So I'm thinking, if the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and veterans in general, do not meet their donation criteria, then something is really wrong at this TARGET store. We Were not asking for thousands of dollars, not even hundreds, just a small sponsorship for a memorial remembrance. As a follow-up, I E-mailed the TARGET U.S. Corporate Headquarters and their response was the same. That's their national policy.

Then I looked into the company further. They will not allow the Marines to collect for 'Toys for Tots' at any of their stores. And during the recent Iraq deployment, they would not allow families of employees who were called up for active duty to continue their insurance coverage while they were on military service. Then as I dig further, TARGET is a French-owned corporation. Now, I'm thinking again. If TARGET cannot support American Veterans, then why should my family and I support their stores by spending our hard earned American dollars! And, have their profits sent to France.

Without the American Vets, where would France be today?

"They, most likely would be speaking German and trading in Deutsch Marks"

Sincerely,
D. Forrey
Veterans Helping Veterans

Please send this on to everyone you know to let Target know we don't need them either!!!

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **David_A** on **Nov 27th, 2006, 12:08pm**

THANK GOD THAT TARGET IN AUSTRALIA IS WHOLLY AUSTRALIAN OWNED AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TARGET YOU WRITE ABOUT.
DAVID A

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **Mick Wheeler** on **Nov 27th, 2006, 1:57pm**

it is a Hoax anyway. it has been circulating for about 5 years now. Obviously someone has it in for Target in the USA. [probably their opposition]

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **Joe** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 3:42am**

Glad to hear it is but a hoax and doesn't refer to Oz. Personally I think Australian businesses and

Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 8:24am**

Joe ::)
After targetting TARGET, who will the targetters target next

I'll say that again..... :-?uh! .. ok , I better not

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 7:41pm**

Doc

I hate myself....you'll make Joe start a quiverin asking him questions like that ;D. You were spot on the bulls eye tho!

Ron

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 8:16pm**

;) Ron

"inner" way, it's an "outer" ::) ::)

Oh Gawd..... get him outer here :-[:-[:-[

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **Joe** on **Nov 29th, 2006, 4:08am**

Ah me Ah my - I'm a shakin' - you blokes certainly worry me with your barbs and arrows - 'circle the wagons lads'.
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: TARGET STORES**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Nov 29th, 2006, 7:23am**

Joe & Doc

I'll bow..oops I mean bow to than'n! ;D

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/vahh2/YaRR.nl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Australian Ensign

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164770677>

Message started by millview on Nov 29th, 2006, 1:24pm

Title: **Australian Ensign**
Post by **millview** on **Nov 29th, 2006, 1:24pm**

During the last couple of reunions and just travelling around , you see on a few Caravans a small version of the Australian Ensign.
Does anyone know where I can get one? I know the Flag makers listed in the yellow Pages , all say that they cant make them with out an order from Navy Office .
If anyone knows where I can get one , please let me know .
Thanks Mates .

Title: **Re: Australian Ensign**
Post by **birdiehandler** on **Nov 29th, 2006, 2:59pm**

Sent you a personal message on the website. :)

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> R.A.N.

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164887984>

Message started by lan_McClure on Nov 30th, 2006, 9:59pm

Title: **R.A.N.**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 9:59pm**

Hi all, check this link out and turn on the sound.
starvo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT913v4QPR4&mode=related&search=>

Title: **Re: R.A.N.**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 10:26pm**

Starvo ;)

Best 6 mins. of viewing you ever want to see
"All hands muster on the Foc'sle deck" ::)

Title: **Re: R.A.N.**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 10:30pm**

Well said Doc, I got the link from the RANCBA site. Have watched it 3 times already.
starvo

Title: **Re: R.A.N.**
Post by **Joe** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 2:38am**

...and they can't get recruits? What is wrong with the Aussie youth of today. Made me think I might pull on the old uniform one more time - big mistake - now I have to wait until daylight to get someone to help me half outta it - only managed to get half into it!!!
Seriously - what a blast - thanks Starvo.
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: R.A.N.**
Post by **Bodgie Sefton** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 9:12am**

That sure got the juices flowing in the old body.
Oh to be 20 again.

Bodgie.

Title: **Re: R.A.N.**
Post by **birdiehandler** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 1:42pm**

Great Stuff. ;)

Title: **Re: R.A.N.**
Post by **tromb123** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 4:22pm**

Thanks, Ian, loved it. Worked better on my set when I copied and pasted the link.

Cheers
Barry

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Blackhawk Mishap

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164928605>

Message started by ronaldo on Dec 1st, 2006, 9:16am

Title: **Blackhawk Mishap**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 9:16am**

Hi All

Just for once, allow me to speak serious at this site.

Looking at newsclips on TV and in news print, I have noticed Blackhawk helicopters operating on our warships on exercises at sea, do not appear to be equipped with 'flotation systems'. I am not in a position to say as to whether the downed a/c aboard HMAS Kanimbla, off Fiji, was so equipped.

worked were equipped with suck devices and when activated, saved lives.

On the Oleos (legs) of the helos. flotation bags were attached to each of the Helo in sealed canisters which were filled with Co2 gas when activated, by a salt water activator. This allowed each bag to inflate and keep the forward part of the aircraft, upright in the water.

In the fuselage of each a/c, a large already inflated flotation bag was stowed to assist in keeping the rear of the aircraft afloat. This did not interfere with any of the helos loading capacity with troops or equipment. Nor did any of the flotation equipment interfere with any carried weapons or navigational systems.

There have been many instances where flotation equipment fitted to sea borne Naval Aircraft, have not only saved lives but have saved the aircraft as well.

On a Vietnam trip aboard Sydney, we took aboard one of 817 Squadrons helos from Melbourne, which had ditched into the South China sea. The aircraft flotation system worked, the crew was rescued, the helo recovered aboard Melbourne and later transferred to our ship. Our crew worked on the A/c to halt any corrosion and later in life the helo was returned back into service. Below is another instance of a mishap. There are many more.

First Flight 15/12/62, Ditched 31/05/87, off Bondi NSW. LCDR(P)K.Alderman RAN LCDR(P)Kinross RAN POA Hartford & LSA Brown .Aircraft was enroute to Rockhampton (Qld) to exercise with USN Battle Group and was to embark on the aircraft carrier USS Midway. Engine failed at 500feet. Crew rescued by LEUT Reyne in Wessex 836. Aircraft floated for about 45 minutes before one of the flotation bags burst and aircraft turned upside down. Towed to Botany Bay recovered, stripped of spares and used as Firefighting Training Aid at NAS Nowra .

I notice flotation equipment is available from manufacturers. Listed below are examples of what is available from two, during a 'Google" search..

In 1991 the inflation equipment activities of Westland Aerospace was amalgamated at FPT. The Company now offers a complete design, development, manufacturing and qualification service for inflatable equipment for all applications. The product range includes advanced and lightweight helicopter equipment, both emergency and fixed, crashworthy seats, lifting bags, buoyancy collars and self-righting bags.

Emergency Flotation Equipment is supplied for the Westland EH101, Sea King, Lynx, Wessex and WASP, Boeing CH46, Bell 212 and derivatives, Sikorsky S92 and also 427, Blackhawk, Kaman Seasprite, Mil Mi-8 and 17, MD 500 and 530F helicopters worldwide

In a life or death situation helicopter flotation systems have to be able to survive in environments beyond the capabilities of the airframe that they are employed on. At FPT we recognise that commercial solutions will not always satisfy these requirements and keep the helicopter afloat long enough to allow the crew to escape safely. Using our design experience and close to 60 years of in house materials technology we deliver the world's finest flotation systems manufactured from advanced Kevlar fibre reinforced polyurethane materials for light weight with high puncture resistance.

At FPT we don't put a price on life.

Emergency Flotation Systems

GKN Aerospace Special Products supplies emergency flotation systems for both civil and military helicopters. A recognised authority on the specification, design, manufacture and qualification of complete emergency flotation equipment, the Company equips a long list of military and civil helicopters. These include the Hindustan ALH, the Sikorsky S-92, the Black Hawk, the AgustaWestland EH101, Westland Sea King and Lynx, the Bell 212, UH-1H and 427 and the Boeing CH-46 'Sea Knight'.

Finally, if our Blackhawk Helos, which at times are required to operate over water, if they are not equipped with a flotation device, why not?

Cheers to all

Ron

Title: **Re: Blackhawk Mishap**
Post by **Joe** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 3:23am**

Ron
Remember the Sydney/Melbourne incident well - was on the Sydney (I think - brain addled nowadaze). Certainly remember seeing the machine in the drink with the bags inflated and then if I remember rightly one bag burst and then a second one and she was held up by the third one. Certainly there was a huge panic to get it onboard, stripped and washed down to salvage what could be salvaged before the ravages of the salt water did their trick. Guess that might be an 'old' idea mate - the fact it saved lives and machines is a mere trifle in these modern days.
Chookas
Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Old Sayings

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164840374>

Message started by ronaldo on Nov 30th, 2006, 8:46am

Title: **Old Sayings**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 8:46am**

There has been a couple of articles mentioned in Newspapers and on radio stations as of late, re the current head of the Defence Forces, commonly referred to by his Sub-ordinates, Politicians & Reporters, as the 'CDF'. Now, in my service days, CDF stood for someone who did not have much 'Common Dog F...'", meaning that they were, shall we dare to say in these days of Political correctness, were of lower IQ than the norm. The question is, does my interpretation still apply in this day & age? Just wondering! ;)

Ron

Title: **Re: Old Sayings**
Post by **ColinS** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 6:37pm**

In my opinion polies, reporters,and defence force brass don't have any CDF ;D ;D ;D

Title: **Re: Old Sayings**
Post by **Joe** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 2:26am**

Ha hahaha hahaha haha! Agree.
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Old Sayings**
Post by **millview** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 12:31pm**

CDF seems to be in very short supply these day's , especially in politicians here in SA :-[:-[:-[:-[

Title: **Re: Old Sayings**
Post by **Ern_Sinfield** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 7:21pm**

I think that it is the same with politicians any where.
Ern

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Ballina All Ships reunion.

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164626882>

Message started by DeeCee on Nov 27th, 2006, 9:28pm

Title: **Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **DeeCee** on **Nov 27th, 2006, 9:28pm**

How many of you guys got to the reunion this year at Ballina . I know a couple who went and it will be interesting to read any dits that evolved from the lost weekend on the beautiful northern N.S.W. coast. :-X

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Nov 28th, 2006, 7:54pm**

Des

I made it down there. Saw quite a few blokes around at the Maritime Museum when I went there Friday Morning for a visit. Also saw a few others at the wharf where HMAS Taracan, on a visit, had tied-up alongside. I did not get to any of the functions as I was busy on other things that kept me travelling between Lismore, Grafton, Evans Head & Byron Bay. There was a full house I believe after talking to a few of the local Naval Association Members at the museum. Friday nights smorgasbord seafood dinner was booked out and had to be limited to 300 people so it would appear that it was a success. Wouldn't get me going to seas in one of those smallies. The Tarakan looked to be the size of a Fraser Island ferry or about the size of the Captains barge on the Sydney or Melbourne.

Ron

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 4:37am**

Have just returned after a week in Ballina the All Ships Reunion this year was the best yet over 390 at the Saturday dinner, had a great time catching up with old mates and making some new ones. Next year will be the 25th anniversary reunion it should be a bottler. *Well done Ballina Sub Section*

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **oldmech** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 8:58pm**

Bob,
Must concur with all of your remarks. Sorry if you think we made a bit of a racket in the caravan park, but I will put the blame on all those dib dabs across the way from us, they were the noisy

All the Best
oldmech

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 7:40am**

Col

We dosed at Lakeside caravan park while in the area. Was not too much shenanigans going on there. Only thing that kept me awake during the night was the wife's snoring! :(

Ron

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **oldmech** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 8:24am**

Ron,
I may have been a little unfair on the dibbies in my last post. In actual fact there is a 10pm curfew on gatherings that could get noisy, and at no time were our neighbours in that category. Everyone at Central Cara Park seemed to enjoy their stay, and I know that the re-booking rate for next year was quite high.
Sorry I did not get round to meeting you in person Ron.
Regards, oldmech

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 1:20pm**

Ahhhh Col, the dibbies are old and ugly enough to take on the chin the odd comment about them. They didn't think about us sleeping in our bunks or hammock when they dropped the picks or were using chipping hammers. Must admit, my Branch did make the odd loud noise or two during the silent hours during flying stations! Got a bit of our own back. Sorry I missed you as well. We made a rush trip down there because of a long time friend from Woombah who is pretty crook and I forgot about the re-union. Did not get to any of the functions but did meet up with quite a few around the ridges. Will be better organised next year.

Ron

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **Ern_Sinfield** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 7:19pm**

I also attended the Ballin All Ships gathering and not only caught up with some old shipmates (inc Old Mech) but thoroughly enjoyed the scan...can't remember when I last ate so many prawns and oysters. Ballina always seems to put on a great show, so a big thanks to all concerned.
Ern ;):)

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 3rd, 2006, 12:10pm**

never been to one, should make the effort, was born and raised in Casino only about 40 miles away, and have never been to a reunion,,,,am going over next year but about april and will miss

mate Loosie Leis from Casino was pissed and kicking up his heels and also Margaret,,,,,regards,,,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 3rd, 2006, 1:40pm**

Bloody hell Shep, you should be abale to fly back & forth first class several times a year if you were like some of the firies I know. On their RDO's they make a good quid as sub contract brickies doing odd jobs around the neighbourhood, thank you very much. Another started up his own security Co. and is doing OK from that, as well as the brick laying. Has three blokes working for him doing night shifts at a large timber mill. :)

Ron

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **irish50561** on **Dec 4th, 2006, 10:16pm**

Ripper weekend, well, a ripper week really, wife Carol and I booked into the Centerpoint Motel early in the week and didn't leave for Queensland until the following Tuesday. The NSW/ACT Division of the FESR and Central Coast NAA members had a great time as usual thanks to Merve Stevens and his merry crew at Ballina RSL, great to meet up with old mates from near and far. Our FESR quarterly meeting on Saturday morning was well attended with more than a few members from north of the border in attendance with our popular \$100 raffle won by one of their members, congratulations.. Fabulous tucker, great music and bonzer beer, the barbie after the march and memorial service on Sunday morning was also greatly appreciated by all hands including the crew of HMAS Tarakan, great stuff as usual. Looking forward to next year when Ballina RSL once again present their ALL Ships reunion, this time it will be their 25th year, see you there gang. Regards. Irish.

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **DeeCee** on **Dec 5th, 2006, 9:32am**

Will have to go next year. GymShoe is calling in shortly so will hear all about it fom him for sure. did anyone come across Harry Siegrist there. ::)

Title: **Re: Ballina All Ships reunion.**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 5th, 2006, 9:42am**

Ron was a brickie before I joined the fire brigade,,last job was paid \$38 thousand,,was a housing shortage and about 3000 brickies left the state to work over east,,,blokes who worked for some building mobs for years were ripped off, told work for our prices or dont work,,,when the industry picked up the brickies told the companies pay our prices or we wont lay any bricks and the price had gone right up, but I had joined the fired brigade because I was sick of laying bricks,,,wish I was fit to do it now as they are paying a \$1 a brick,,,you could go to work for a couple of hours and make a couple of hundred if you were happy with that,,,when I was in the brigade,,,did reticulation, drove a truck for the markets, did security work, then didnt do any extra work as I was retired in 93 from the fire brigade at the age of 53, didnt put in for my pension and TPI until about 2001 now happily retired and cant work anyway,,,will get to the Ballina all ships reunion one of these years,,will have to do it soon as all my mates are dropping off the perch,,,,,regards,,,,,Shep
ps will be at the Ballina RSL in about april next year

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Vale Ronald Vincent Slattery

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1165251937>

Message started by Garry Slattery on Dec 5th, 2006, 3:05am

Title: **Vale Ronald Vincent Slattery**

Post by **Garry Slattery** on Dec 5th, 2006, 3:05am

I attended Rons Funeral yesterday in Coffs Harbour, He passed away after battling Cancer for quite a while He faced his lot with Dignity and Courage, those of us who knew Ron have lost a Good Mate

Title: **Re: Vale Ronald Vincent Slattery**

Post by **irish50561** on Dec 6th, 2006, 2:46pm

Garry, sad news indeed, I last saw Ron in Canberra at the Ainslie Football Club some time ago after we attended the service for our two former FESR shipmates at the War Memorial. Ron told me then that he was moving to Coffs and later sent me details of his changed address. Coincidentally my wife Carol and I were in Coff's Harbour RSL yesterday on our way down from Queensland after attending the ALL SHIPS function at Ballina RSL. It's a shame, being so close that we didn't know of his funeral then as we would have liked to have had the opportunity to pay our respects to an old FESR hand, sadly not to be. Our thoughts are with his partner Jenny at this time. Regards. Irish.

VALE:

Ronald Vincent Slattery

Born 16.09.1935

Joined RAN as a Communicator 25.11.1957, paid off 24.11.1963.

Served onboard HMAS Melbourne, Voyager, Anzac, Tobruk & Kimbla.

Earned the AASM, ASM & NGSM and was a member of the FESR[NSW/ACT], NAA[ACT], RANCBAA and Coff's Harbour RSL.

Perhaps you can hear the thrall of the Bo'sun's call
as a shipmate crossed the bar
or even the distant knell of his last ship's bell
as you 'Stand Fast' for an old 'Jack tar'.

Lest We Forget.

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Forum Malfunction

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164344355>

Message started by DofExB on Nov 24th, 2006, 2:59pm

Title: **Forum Malfunction**

Post by **DofExB** on Nov 24th, 2006, 2:59pm

Sorry folks, the board crashed and it has taken me all day to get it up and running again.

I have managed to salvage as many of the messages and members that I can.

If you are logged out try recovering your password using the 'forgot password' option. If this doesn't work then please email for further instructions.

If your message has disappeared please re-post.

Title: **Re: Forum Malfunction**
Post by **Joe_Linaker** on **Nov 24th, 2006, 4:54pm**

Saved by the bell again- thanks to our Queen bee of the website Erica Witt. An example of her wonderful contribution to all things FESR- Bravo Zulu Girl,your bloods worth bottling JL

Title: **Re: Forum Malfunction**
Post by **ColinS** on **Nov 24th, 2006, 6:44pm**

Thank goodness it is fix, I though that I had a second EX in my life the first was an ex mrs and believe me this malfunction was worst, then losing her. :) ;)

Title: **Re: Forum Malfunction**
Post by **evilCA** on **Nov 24th, 2006, 10:47pm**

Thank you Erica , we really appreciate your efforts. :-*

Regards...CA

Title: **Re: Forum Malfunction**
Post by **Joe** on **Nov 25th, 2006, 4:03am**

I got the heebie jeebies - thought I was the only member and everyone else had departed because of some of my strange comments! Talk about a guilt complex!!

Once again on bended knee to say thanks for restoring the board and my sanity Erica - 'champion' that's what you are!!

Chookas

joe

Title: **Re: Forum Malfunction- webmaster role**
Post by **Webmaster** on **Nov 26th, 2006, 10:40pm**

Hi All - again Erica despite her illness has 'bailed us out' - I have really just 'warmed the seat' these past months and not had time to learn the workings of the system to take the load of Erica. I am still working 9 and 10 hour days with 33 Hospitals small and large to look after. I turned 68 last week and may retire soon but this doesn't help where we are at - Isn't there anyone out there that could be a webmaster to help take some of the load of Erica please..Thanks Ross J

Title: **Re: Forum Malfunction**
Post by **Webmaster** on **Dec 6th, 2006, 6:39pm**

Hi All especially Doc Rice and Ian McClure who offered to help while admitting they knew even less than me - that's shipmates - I have made a decision to stay on for a while and try not to have to ask Erica to bail me out all the time - let's see how we go - regards to All and have a great day Ross

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Westralia deaths haunt ex-sailorNorrie Ross

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1165438381>

Message started by Ian_McClure on Dec 7th, 2006, 6:53am

Title: **Westralia deaths haunt ex-sailorNorrie Ross**
Post by **Ian_McClure** on **Dec 7th, 2006, 6:53am**

Westralia deaths haunt ex-sailorNorrie Ross

December 07, 2006 12:00am
Article from: Herald Sun

A VICTIM of the disaster on HMAS Westralia said a substantial compensation payment would never erase her memories of the fatal explosion.

Melissa Munday still needs intensive psychological help eight years after a fireball ripped through the ship's engine room.

Ms Munday was part of a fire crew that went into the engine room after the accident, caused when a burst fuel hose sprayed diesel on the ship's engine.

She had to stand guard with a torch over the body of a friend who had been caught in the fireball to prevent firefighters trampling him.

"His body was melted to the deck plates. I can never forget that," Ms Munday said.

"The outline of the body remained on the ship for 18 months and I had to see it every day. The whole ship smelled of death. There's not a day goes by when I don't think about it."

This week the Government agreed to pay a total of \$3.1 million to five sailors, including Ms Munday, who were injured in the 1998 HMAS Westralia disaster off the West Australian coast.

Four sailors were killed and two others who were injured still have to reach a compensation agreement.

Ms Munday is bitter the navy tried to cover up what happened and silence sailors who helped save the ship. "The navy don't look after their people at all," she said.

"There was a lot of cover-ups and secrecy.

"It made the whole experience much worse."

After years of blaming contractors the Government admitted the errors that led to the fire.

Ms Munday left the navy and now lives with her husband and three small children in northeast Tasmania.

"We can start to get on with our lives now. The money doesn't make any difference," she said.

"I still get nightmares and it's been hard for my family."

Slater and Gordon lawyer Max Jeganathan said he hoped the Government would settle all outstanding claims.

"No amount of money can rebuild these broken lives but compensation will allow them to plan a reasonable future," he said.

Title: **Re: Westralia deaths haunt ex-sailorNorrie Ross**

Post by **tromb123** on **Dec 7th, 2006, 7:28am**

Unfortunately, these 'things' that happened are going to haunt and, at times, quite possibly affect their abilities to get on with life.

Out of \$3.1 m, any centre link benefits will have to be repaid, solicitors fees, consulting doctors and et al. \$3.1m between this number of people is, in today's terms, paltry, I'm afraid to say. The amount left over would be barely enough to buy a house.

Title: **Re: Westralia deaths haunt ex-sailorNorrie Ross**

Post by **Mick Wheeler** on **Dec 7th, 2006, 4:18pm**

I am shocked that Melissa and all others had to put up with " The outline of the body remained on the ship for 18 months " , why didn't the powers that be replace those deck plates.

If the outline was visible the deck plates should have been replaced ASAP.

What a terrible thing to have to see for 18 months...

Title: **Re: Westralia deaths haunt ex-sailorNorrie Ross**

Post by **Joe** on **Dec 8th, 2006, 5:53pm**

absolutely - how bloody horrible is that! Imagine having something like that on the deck in Parliament - reckon it wouldn't last 18 minutes. Bad form Navy, worse form Government.

Chookas

Joe

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Smart Cards & I/D Fraud

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1165523633>

Message started by ronaldo on Dec 8th, 2006, 6:33am

Title: **Smart Cards & I/D Fraud**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 8th, 2006, 6:33am**

How smart is this new Technology re I/D cards etc.

Listening to AM this morning, an article described how the New Australian passport, state of the art technology, which has been issued during the last 12 months with a computer chip embedded into the passport with the holder's info and to stop and detect passport thefts, was cracked by a British Computer Scientist, in 8 seconds flat. :-[:-[He placed the OZ passport into the reader of a British passport machine and was able to read the full details of the Australian. >:(

It was also learnt that discarded airline boarding passes, also coded with the issued holder's details, were also able to be read as were computer airline bookings. :o

There is concern over this technology as your I/D could be stolen & misused without your knowledge. At least with the old systems, your passport-credit cards-licences etc. had to be actually physically stolen before forgeries could be made but with these new smart cards, because of the digital imprints, your photo, fingerprints-eye iris patterns etc, are able to be duplicated. :(

Ahhh well, looks like it's back to the drawing boards! ::)

Ron

Title: **Re: Smaart Cards & I/D Fraud**

Post by **Joe** on **Dec 8th, 2006, 5:56pm**

But will it be back to the drawing board Ron? I think not - too much cash already invested mate. No votes in it either unless someone important gets ripped off! Should have scanned the PM's passport - that would have set the cat loose in the pigeon coop!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Smaart Cards & I/D Fraud**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 9th, 2006, 7:26am**

Joe

If it's not the cat it will be Rudd! ;D

Ron

Title: **Re: Smaart Cards & I/D Fraud**

Post by **Joe** on **Dec 11th, 2006, 3:43am**

Yes Ron Yes, I understand that there is a fork in the road so be careful - don't want a flat tyre. Beazley said that the only thing worse than a fork in the road is a knife in the back. Maybe it will end up a fork in the Rudd, not a fork in the road. Bugga could only use fork in the road 4 (no 5) times - he used it 7 - watch out!

Chookas

Joe

Title: **Re: Smaart Cards & I/D Fraud**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 11th, 2006, 7:45am**

Rudd's backers certainly told & showed Kimbo how to go & get 'forked'! ::)

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Dad's Navy

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1165614406>

Message started by ronaldo on Dec 9th, 2006, 7:46am

Title: **Dad's Navy**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 9th, 2006, 7:46am**

Hi All

This one will take some beating!

Went to Lodge last night & met one of my old mates from the Electrical Branch whom I have'nt seen around the ridges for a couple of years. As normal, re talking and ramblings, we ended up discussing Service times. After he completed 9 years service, back in the 60-70's, upon DEE he joined the Naval Reserves here in Brisbane and spent a few years with them until he became too busy with his business. He is now 62 years of age and is about to pull the pin. A couple of weeks ago, he received in the mail a letter from the RANR, stating that Reservists can now stay in Reserve until 65 years of age. The next para in the letter, offered to him their invitation for him to re-enlist :o

It seems obvious that the Chelsea pensioners will be required to fill shore billets in lieu of young sailors who are required for sea duties due to insufficient recruiting. :(

See you all soon back at Cerberus [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif] [smiley=2vrolijk_08.gif]

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 9th, 2006, 10:56am**

Ron, damn, still too old to join the RANER....regards...Shep

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **tromb123** on **Dec 9th, 2006, 3:58pm**

Trevor, an old bandie (about 60) has just gone back as a Divisional Officer at Albatross..they are a bit short of personnel...

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 9th, 2006, 8:44pm**

Trombie

He is only a youngster by the sound of it. Pusser's probably regard him not as a Reservist but a JR Reservist! ;D

Ron

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Dec 9th, 2006, 10:04pm**

;)

Crikey :o

I'd better get on a disability pension before the blighters nab me :o

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 10th, 2006, 9:23am**

Shep

It'll happen mate, just hang in there. In due course whatever is introduced into the Services, as weapons, electronics or whatever, the technology after having been thoroughly tested, always ends up being applied in some form, in Civilian Street use. The same will happen to the Furies. You will probably end up with another clasp to your WA Fire Medal when recalled. ;)

Ron

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 10th, 2006, 10:38am**

if I could still do the furies job now, I would be over in Vic helping Joffa on the ASAC thread to save his house in the hills or wherever it is,,,can still hold onto a hose or at least help with the planning of fighting the fire, but thats about all,,,,regards,,,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **ColinS** on **Dec 10th, 2006, 5:28pm**

ronaldo wrote:

Hi All

This one will take some beating!

Went to Lodge last night & met one of my old mates from the Electrical Branch whom I have'nt seen around the ridges for a couple of years. As normal, re talking and ramblings, we ended up discussing Service times. After he completed 9 years service, back in the 60-70's, upon DEE he joined the Naval Reserves here in Brisbane and spent a few years with them until he became too busy with his business. He is now 62 years of age and is about to pull the pin. A couple of weeks ago, he received in the mail a letter from the RANR, stating that Reservists can now stay in Reserve until 65 years of age. The next para in the letter, offered to him their invitation for him to re-enlist :o

It seems obvious that the Chelsea pensioners will be required to fill shore billets in lieu of young sailors who are required for sea duties due to insufficient recruiting. :(

See you all soon back at Cerberus [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif] [smiley=2vrolijk_08.gif]

If this picture come though i would now be to old for Dad'd navy

Title: **Re: Dad's Navy**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 11th, 2006, 7:48am**

Col

No-one could be that old mate! ;D

Ron

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> slops,rabbits

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164431114>

Message started by standeasy on Nov 25th, 2006, 3:05pm

Title: **slops,rabbits**

Post by **standeasy** on **Nov 25th, 2006, 3:05pm**

;D 8-) Shipmates,some time back it was stated that ALL slops would devolve back to State level and we should make our purchases there. OK, can someone assist me in discovering where a list of our fine merchandise is displayed so I [and probably many others] can be induced into parting with large lumps of our pensions just so we can wear a bit of tiddly gear . Wearing your medals on your pj's every night gets boring ! The denim type caps were great but mine has been dhobied so much it's ready for the scran bag. I've got a white ensign but the missus cracks a sad when I wear it in public !

Surely there is a SA[R] {rabbits } that has his /her finger on the pulse of stores info ? HELP !!!

Terry

Title: **Re: slops,rabbits**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Nov 26th, 2006, 7:40am**

Stan old son

The only place that I know where you can buy tiddly gear now is at Glendinnings & Staceys. Google should be able to tell where their nearest store is. I had trouble a couple of years back and had to get a mate in the Reserves to get me an item from the stores at Cerberus. I do not know how or where the current serving members get their slops. I guess with all that pussers' pension money that you are getting, if you spend a dollar instead of being a tight ars.d Bast..d, you could hop on a 747 to London and visit Burberry's in Oxford Street, London. Reckon you'd get a good overcoat there to keep you warm ;D ;D Don't know what happened to the "Red Anchor". Seems to have disappeared. I'm sure that on this site, someone will come back to you with the info you require. Anyhow, welcome aboard to this site. I Haven't seen you about before unless yo have changed your user name. :question

Ron

Title: **Re: slops,rabbits**

Post by **k markey** on **Nov 27th, 2006, 2:20pm**

The info I have on Glendinnings, (Incorporating Red Anchor Tailoring) :-
Glendinnings Menswear Pty Ltd.
7-41 Cowper Wharf Road,
Woolloomooloo 2011.
WWW.glendinnings.com.au
(02) 9358 4097

They will send you a catologue if you ask !
They also have branches in Rockingham WA. HMAS Cerberus, & Cairns Qld.
But the original question here, on this subject, was, I am sure,
Where can "I get FESR peculiar slops", There is not a lot around,
but get in touch with your state division (Sec ?) see what they have on hand.
KJM

Title: **Re: slops,rabbits**

Post by **millview** on **Nov 27th, 2006, 7:49pm**

Great subject , and while we are on it , I have been looking for an Australian Ensign now for a long time , and have seen them on Caravans ,BUT , where can I get one that measures about 2ft by 18" All the flag makers I have contacted wont make one without RAN approval . Can anyone please help??

Title: Re: slops,rabbits
Post by **standeasy** on **Dec 8th, 2006, 7:34pm**

G'day Admiral Ron, I've been around for awhile but never have much to say. FESR had their own slops for awhile , caps, badges etc and thats what I was after. Glendinnings is just 2 doors from the Rockers and also has a shop at " Cerberus ' and poor old Red Anchor was absorbed by them. Re purchase of a White Ensign, there is a mob in WA that makes one the size of a boats ensign and I fly one on my van when we travel around. The address escapes me at the moment but I'll start a search and post the address on this site. Hope that clears up a few queries ? And I thought I had a question !!!

Terry ;D

Title: Re: white ensign
Post by **Sailorsam** on **Dec 8th, 2006, 7:56pm**

hey millview,

you can purchase a 1ft x 2ft australian white ensign from foxflags brisbane at cost of \$33 with proof of RAN service, their phone no is (07)327418231.

cheers
sailorsam ;)

Title: Re: slops,rabbits
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Dec 10th, 2006, 8:55pm**

Terry,
In the beginning the National Body had control of Slops when we went autonym's control went to State Divisions, Queensland had their own Slops shirt and badges done as did SA & Vic for their reunions, WA will put out a shirt for 2007. Unfortunately due to the cost factor and the lack of interest from members it is near impossible for States to keep stock on hand. That is not to say that if enough members lobbied their respected State Exec some thing could be worked out. Unfortunately as had happened in the past States have been left with stock on hand and had to clear stuff below cost. I hope this hasn't put a damper on you wanting Slops but it may help to clear up the reasons for the lack of.

Title: Re: slops,rabbits
Post by **standeasy** on **Dec 12th, 2006, 4:45pm**

Thanks Bob, not what I wanted to hear but what can you do ? Those little denim style caps were good gear. I'll have to go back to a tricorn hat and a parrot !!!!!!!!

Cheers
Terry :(:-/

Title: **Re: slops,rabbits**
Post by **Joe** on **Dec 13th, 2006, 4:33am**

Wot ...no hook Standeasy (ABFC)?
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: slops,rabbits**
Post by **standeasy** on **Dec 13th, 2006, 2:26pm**

G'day Joe, if you mean pirates hook then yes I had one but when I had itchy piles the hook had to go !
If you mean a kellick -- no , I lost the incentive. On one ship, no names , I ended up instructing several mickey mouse kellicks on basic seamanship -- heaving lines etc . One packet of cornflakes - -- one hook. They lost me then but that's the breaks. It's all long gone now.

Terry ;D

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Happy Chappy

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1158286230>

Message started by Tom29216 on Sep 15th, 2006, 12:10pm

Title: **Happy Chappy**
Post by **Tom29216** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 12:10pm**

I have just been told the best news that a man could receive. ;D ;D

One hour ago I picked up Margaret from the Doctors where she was being treated and was told that after two Polyps had been removed she was as clear as a bell. :) ;D :D

I felt I just had to tell someone and knew that this site and the other Naval Sites is where my mates are. 8-)

Short break her for Toms tears. :(:(:(

Thank you for being her when I needed you. 8-) ::)

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **evilCA** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 2:52pm**

Tom I said it on the other site and I say it again , Great news and I can understand how relieved you and Margaret are.

Regards...CA

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **phil** on **Sep 15th, 2006, 4:20pm**

Tom
thats realy good news ;D ;D ;D
PHIL

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **Joe** on **Sep 16th, 2006, 4:53am**

Tom
One for the white hats - hooray and congratulations....now for the lottery!
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **Bob Witt** on **Sep 16th, 2006, 7:23am**

Glad to hear Margaret is in the clear and you are you old self
Bob ;) :D ;D

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Sep 16th, 2006, 11:09am**

Tom 29216
Great news mate, time for celebration...Regards....Ernie "D" ;D [smiley=thumbsup.gif]
[smiley=2vrolijk_08.gif]

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **sluggo** on **Sep 16th, 2006, 1:32pm**

Tom29216 great news mate,,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **irish50561** on **Sep 16th, 2006, 10:27pm**

Splice the Mainbrace, all hands to dance and frolic. Great news indeed old son, for both of you.
Regards. Irish.

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **millview R58328** on **Sep 19th, 2006, 6:38pm**

GREAT NEWS THE BEST NEWS A PERSON COULD GET . [smiley=2vrolijk_08.gif]
[smiley=2vrolijk_08.gif] [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif] [smiley=vrolijk_26.gif] [smiley=tekst-toppie.gif]
[smiley=tekst-toppie.gif]

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Nov 24th, 2006, 4:53pm**

I sure am a Happy Chappy ;D
Thought I had pressed the wrong buttons, but it wasn't my fault after all ::)
Thanks mate for getting our forum back on air :)

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Dec 14th, 2006, 6:27pm**

My Daughter and 2 grandkids arrived back from their holidays in Fiji at midday today
So I'm a glad Dad, as well as a Happy Chappy ;D ;D ;D

Title: **Re: Happy Chappy**
Post by **Webmaster** on **Dec 14th, 2006, 7:55pm**

Dear Tom - as is shown above we all are very happy and relieved at your news - a great Christmas has to follow - this is what the website is about - sharing and caring - Regards Ross

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Veteran ready to deliver

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1166131970>

Message started by lan_McClure on Dec 15th, 2006, 7:32am

Title: **Veteran ready to deliver**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Dec 15th, 2006, 7:32am**

Hi all, well worth reading this one. Have had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman as he led our Azac Day march here in Greta a few years back.
starvo

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,20929709-662,00.html#>

Title: **Re: Veteran ready to deliver**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 15th, 2006, 7:42am**

Ian

Merry Christmas & the best for 2007.

He certainly knows what's it all about having been there and done that. More of his like should not only be on DVA Board, but many others as well.

Ron

Title: **Re: Veteran ready to deliver**
Post by **lan_McClure** on **Dec 15th, 2006, 3:02pm**

Merry Christmas Ron from our house to yours.
Hope the new year brings all that you want and good health.
Regards Ian

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> BALLISTICS ANALYSIS RELATING TO UNKNOWN SAILOR

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1166384618>

Message started by Bob Witt on Dec 18th, 2006, 5:43am

Title: **BALLISTICS ANALYSIS RELATING TO UNKNOWN SAILOR**

Post by **Bob Witt** on **Dec 18th, 2006, 5:43am**

Ballistic analysis of a small piece of metal discovered in the skull of remains recovered from Christmas Island has revealed that the fragment is consistent with a piece of shrapnel, not a bullet as earlier thought. The remains were recovered from Christmas Island in October and are believed to be those of a sailor from the ill-fated HMAS SYDNEY II, which sank with all hands on 19 November 1941. Earlier advice, based on visual and x-ray inspections by a forensic expert, while the object was still embedded in the skull, suggested the size and shape of the piece of metal, resembled that of a small calibre round, which had been disfigured by impact, however, this has now been ruled out by forensic, ballistic analysis.

"The official findings of the analysis, conducted by a forensics ballistics analyst and recently received by the Royal Australian Navy, indicate that the object is a ferrous based fragment consistent with a shell fragment from a larger shell or projectile," Mr Billson said. "According to the forensic ballistics analyst, the object is not the type of metal used in small calibre rounds, nor does it carry any of the other traits or markings of a fired bullet or small arms ammunition." The fragment, which has been removed from the skull, is being subjected to further analysis by the Australian War Memorial and a comparison is being conducted against shrapnel fragments previously recovered from an HMAS SYDNEY carley float which is on display at the AWM.

A report on the outcomes of this analysis is expected shortly. Other forensic testing of the Christmas Island remains and objects found with them are continuing. This includes dental, pathological and anthropological analyses and the further ballistics work, with the full findings not expected until mid February, 2007.

Images are available at the following link:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/media/download/2006/dec/20061217/object.jpg>

Media Information:

Cameron Hill (Mr Billson) 03 9781 2333 0408 239 521

Defence Media Liaison (Defence) 02 6265 3343 0408 498 664

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> More on Slops (rabbits!)

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1166581286>

Message started by k markey on Dec 20th, 2006, 12:21pm

Title: **More on Slops (rabbits!)**

Post by **k markey** on **Dec 20th, 2006, 12:21pm**

Hi, all,
Victoria Div. have revealed they have "some slops", in particular Caps (Navy Veteran)
and some stubbie holders (50th anniversary). If interested contact John Best.
the Vic Sec. - Or wait for the W.A. Reunion in April, they will have shirts & caps!!
regards
kjm

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> bad news for TPI's

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1164845117>

Message started by sluggo on Nov 30th, 2006, 10:05am

Title: **bad news for TPI's**
Post by **sluggo** on **Nov 30th, 2006, 10:05am**

QUESTIONS IN WRITING

Veterans: Entitlements
(Question No. 3805 and 3806)
Question

Mr Windsor (New England) asked the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, in writing, on 8 August 2006:

Is he aware of concerns within the veteran community that the indexation system used to determine the rate of the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) pension has resulted in a reduction of \$80 per fortnight for TPI pension recipients over the past six years; if so, what is the Government doing to address this apparent inequity for Australia's TPI veterans.

Answer

Mr Billson (Dunkley—Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence)—The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

I am aware that there have been concerns about the indexation of the T&PI pension, particularly that from March 1998 it should have been indexed with reference to Male Total average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

Over recent years the Government has carefully considered both the adequacy of the T&PI pension and its means of indexation to ensure that it is fulfilling its intended purpose and supports those veterans most in need.

While the Australian Government's support available to T&PI veterans and their partners has more or less maintained relativity with average wages for the past 20 years, in response to the Clarke Report the Government changed its means of indexation.

The T&PI pension is indexed twice yearly and is made up of two components – the General Rate and the Above General Rate disability pension. Since 20 March 2004, the Above General Rate component has been indexed with reference to both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and (MTAWE), in the same way as the maximum basic rate of service pension. This ensures that the Above General Rate component, which is only received by our most severely impaired veterans, is aligned with both CPI and MTAWE.

The General Rate component of the T&PI pension, paid as compensation for pain and suffering, continues to be indexed in line with increases in the CPI to ensure that its value is not eroded by inflation. This indexation method is consistent with the indexation arrangements for most workers compensation payments.

Another measure introduced as part of the Government's response to the Clarke Report is the

introduced in September 2004, effectively exempts my Department's disability pension from the income test at Centrelink.

Following the introduction of DFISA, all T&PI veterans and their partners are now treated equitably, regardless of whether they receive their income support payments from my Department or Centrelink. This means that veterans and their partners in similar circumstances receive the same amount of Government assistance irrespective of whether they receive their income support under social security law or Veterans' Affairs legislation.

The Government continues to monitor the situation and examine views raised by the ex-service community to ensure that the current level of T&PI pension and its indexation arrangements are satisfactory.

looks as tho the government will never pay the correct pay rises for TPI's, that speech certainly gives us a shove up the old rear, b ut the the government is good at that regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: bad news for TPI's**
Post by **4.5inch** on **Dec 1st, 2006, 8:08pm**

:(Seems that this topic is not too interesting, who cares about TPI's anyway? (sarcasm) 8-)

Title: **Re: bad news for TPI's**
Post by **Joe** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 3:06am**

It's not that - it's just that there is no surprise at all in it. The aim of the Government is to bring ALL "welfare" payments (yep they see the T&PI as a welfare payment) into line. Won't matter if you are an old age pensioner, a supporting mother or a T&PI - all will get the same. Now where is the PM so we can drape the flag around his shoulders and get a good shot of him welcoming the troops home from battle!!!
(4.5 inch - Happy?)
Chookas
Joe

Title: **Re: bad news for TPI's**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 2nd, 2006, 12:57pm**

4.5" think most TPI's have lost interest, just to keep in line with the government, they have lost interest in anyone injured or wounded,,,no wonder they are having trouble getting people to join up, anyway mate if I was you I would change my name from 4.5" to heavy cruiser (8 inches) size does count you know. Your right in what you say Joe, they definately are trying to bring it into line with the disability pension etc, they wont get anyone to sign on then,,,they dont call it wounded in action anymore, just injured the same as a labourer who stubs his toe, or killed at work instead of KIA,,,makes you want to puke regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: bad news for TPI's**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 11:43am**

But

I can wear being called "Injured" instead of "wounded" (not really). This government is having its cake and eating it too. In civvie's, if your on compo, medication is free, or cost redeemable. Why are we having to pay for our medication when its all supposed to be "Compensation"????

Regardless wether 10%, 50%, 100%, Spec Rates, EDA, TP&I its all supposed to be "Compensation" Whats our ESO's doing?

and why are we paying for perscriptions for our accepted disabilities received whilst serving?
Ernie "D"

Title: **Re: bad news for TPI's**

Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 22nd, 2006, 10:37am**

Ernie D you are right-on there buddy, we shouldnt be paying anything for our medication, cancel the \$5-80 p/f and make the pbs free, but it will never happen,,,,they are expanding the amount of prescriptions that you need to have got prior to it becoming free,it will soon be 60 scripts because the cost to everyone was getting to the stage where people (veterans) would kick back,,,,its about time that the RSL got on our side and fight for it to become free,,,,regards,,,Shep

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Type12 Ships national Association

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1166511498>

Message started by jeffh65 on Dec 19th, 2006, 4:58pm

Title: **Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **jeffh65** on **Dec 19th, 2006, 4:58pm**

The Association was given approval on Dec.8th.and is now up and running. A lot of work and effort has gone into the setup and we now have a website,

type12ships.asn.au

Please feel free to visit,We have included all Type 12's plus the River Class (Swan & Torrens).

Regards

Jeff Hinson

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **Webmaster** on **Dec 19th, 2006, 7:19pm**

Hi Jeff - curiosity question - is there a River class type of type 12 or am not reading right ? Will go to your website - congratulations and hope all goes well ..Ross J

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 20th, 2006, 12:01pm**

what about the old Diamantina she was a river class frigate
regards,,,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **jeffh65** on **Dec 20th, 2006, 3:09pm**

G'day Sluggo & Ross, we add Swan & Torrens to allow their blokes to join if they so desired, can't help you with the Diamond D Sluggo ,damn fine question though.

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**
Post by **douglapham** on **Dec 20th, 2006, 11:37pm**

jeffh65 wrote:

The Association was given approval on Dec.8th.and is now up and running. A lot of work and effort has gone into the setup and we now have a website,

type12ships.asn.au

Please feel free to visit, We have included all Type 12's plus the River Class (Swan & Torrens).

Regards

Jeff Hinson

;D

Congratulations to all those who made this association an entity. its great to see a Type 12 organization Will be joining in the New Year.

Doug LAPHAM ex PO STOKER R59137 Yarra 63,64,65

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**
Post by **jeffh65** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 8:26am**

Thanks Doug ,Look forward to greeting you.

Regards

Jeff Hinson

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 1:50pm**

gees bad luck for me Jeff, was looking for an excuse for going on the piss ex Diamantin 64/65
Shep

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 1:57pm**

Youse blokes well may ask, "What does a 'birdie' know about warships? ::)

Just to answer a couple of unanswered questions for you.

The Type 12 frigates of the Whitby class were a six-ship class of anti-submarine warfare (A/S) frigates of the Royal Navy that entered service late in the 1950s. They were designed as first rate ocean-going convoy escorts in light of experience gained during World War II. At this time the Royal Navy were designing single-role escorts, and the Whitbys were designed as fast convoy escorts capable of tackling high-speed submarines. However, this made the Whitbys more expensive and sophisticated to produce in large numbers in the event of a major war, and so the Type 14 "Utility" or "2nd rate" A/S frigate was developed to complement the Type 12. Although themselves rapidly outdated, the Type 12 proved to be an excellent basis for a series of British and Commonwealth frigate designs that led the world in A/S vessels for the next 20 years.

Critical to the design of the Type 12 was the requirement to be able to steam for long periods of time in heavy seas, economically and at high speed. For this reason a novel hull form was devised. The hull showed the fine lines more typical of a destroyer, but had a raised forecastle with considerable flare. This meant that the hull cut through the water, but that spray was thrown upwards and outwards, away from the bridge and gun turret. This was especially important in high latitudes where war experience had shown that spray could cause rapid and undesirable ice build-up on the forecastle. The deck edges and hull also met at a curve rather than an angle, the anchors were recessed, and protrusions were kept to a minimum to limit the potential sources of ice build-up and spray generation. The excellent hull form, coupled with a twin-shaft double-reduction geared steam turbine plant (the Y-100) that operated at high temperature and pressure (for efficiency) and low revolutions (for efficiency and quietness) lent themselves to the perfect hull for a high speed, all weather A/S vessel.

Experience with the Type 15 frigate program, rebuilding wartime destroyers into fast A/S frigates had led to the adoption of a bridge design characteristic of Royal Navy escorts up to the Leander class of 1969. The covered bridge, where the ship was coned, was located above the operations room where the ship was fought, and there was a small pilot's position located to the front of the bridge, giving the indicative "T" shape when viewed from above. Whitby was unique in that her bridge face was vertical, her sisters having the windows mounted at an angle to the face, to cut down on internal reflections inside the bridge in low-light. There was also an open bridge located above and behind the enclosed one.

The original funnel was a straight stumpy affair, but was prone to down-draughting and did not clear the hot exhaust gasses particularly well. It was replaced by a heightened, raked, streamlined affair with a characteristic domed top. This was incorporated in later build vessels, and in all of the subsequent Rothesay class.

The "River" class was the name given to a class of six related Type 12 and Leander class frigates of the Royal Australian Navy. The ships were initially ordered as ASW frigates, with the first four commissioned as such. However, they were reclassified as "**destroyer escorts**" during the 1960s, with the **last two** serving only under that designation. The "River" class also served as the first missile armed ships in the RAN, when they were fitted with the Seacat system in the early 1960s—again, the first four units had Seacat fitted after they entered service, while the final two had it installed during construction.

	Type 12	Leander
Displacement	2,560 tons	2,700 tons
Dimensions	113m (length), 12.49m (beam), 5.18m (draught)	107m (length), 12.49m (beam), 4.57m (draught)
Armament	2 x 4.5in Mk6 gun; 2 x Limbo Mk10 AS mortar	1 x 4.5in Mk6 gun; 1 x quad Seacat SAM launcher; 1 x Limbo Mk10 AS mortar; 1 x Ikara ASW system
Propulsion	2 x English Electric steam turbines; 2 shaft; 30,000 shp	2 x English Electric steam turbines; 2 shaft; 30,000 shp
Speed	31.9 knots	30 knots

Note 1: : All four of the Type 12 units were refitted with both the Seacat and Ikara missile systems, replacing 40mm AA guns and Limbo mortars, and later Mark 32 torpedo tubes were added.

Name	Pennant	Builder	Launched	Commissioned	Home port	Status
HMAS Parramatta	DE 46	Cockatoo Island Shipyard, Sydney	January 31, 1959	July 4, 1961	Sydney	Broken Up
HMAS Yarra	DE 45	Williamstown Navy Yard, Melbourne	September 30, 1958	July 27, 1961	Sydney	Broken Up
HMAS Stuart	DE 48	Cockatoo Island	April 8, 1961	June 28, 1963	Sydney	Broken Up
HMAS Derwent	DE 49	Williamstown Navy Yard	April 17, 1961	April 30, 1964	Sydney	Sunk as dive wreck
HMAS Swan	DE 50	Williamstown Navy Yard	December 16, 1967	January 20, 1970	Sydney	Sunk as dive wreck
HMAS Torrens	DE 53	Cockatoo Island	September 28, 1968	January 19, 1971	Sydney	Sunk as target

Now something to get Shep a little more excited..... :o :P :o :P

RIVER CLASS FRIGATESBarcoo17/1/44Paid off 19/12/63Survey ship after WWIIBurdekin27/6/44

Sold Sep 1961. **Diamantina**27/4/45**Paid off 9/8/46**
Paid off 1981. Museum ship in BrisbaneTo reserve 9/8/46
Oceanographic ship from 1959.Gascoyne18/11/43**Paid off 2/2/66**
Sold Sep 1971To reserve Apr 1946.
Oceanographic ship from 1959Hawkesbury5/7/44**Paid off 14/2/55.**
Sold 15/2/72To reserve late 1945.
Recom May 1952.Lachlan14/2/45**Paid off 1948.**
Transferred to RNZN May 1949.
Sold to RNZN 1962 MacquarieDec 1945Broken up 1962 Barwon10/12/45Broken up 1962
MODIFIED RIVER CLASS FRIGATESCondamine 1945Broken up 1962 Culgoa 1945Broken up
1972 Murchison 1945Broken up 1962 Shoalhaven1945Broken up 1962

DATA:

Type: Oceanographic Research Ship (ex-Frigate).
Displacement: 1,420 tons (standard).
Length: 283 feet (between perpendiculars); 301 feet 4 inches (overall).
Beam: 36 feet 9 inches.
Builder: Walkers Ltd., Maryborough, Queensland.
Laid Down: 12th April 1943.
Launched: 6th April 1944 (Mrs. W.J.F. Riordan, wife of the then Chairman of Committees, House of Representatives and later Minister for the Navy).
Armament: 2 x 40 mm Bofors AA.
Commissioned: 27th April 1945.

Diamantina is one of twelve frigates built under the Commonwealth Government wartime shipbuilding programme. She was the sixth ship of her class to be completed. Sister ships were Barcoo, Barwon, Burdekin, Gascoyne, Lachlan, Hawkesbury, Macquarie, Condamine, Culgoa, Murchison and Shoalhaven. The last four named ships, while similar in design, were rated 1,544 tons (standard displacement) and were more heavily armed (4 x 4-inch guns; 3 x 40 mm AA; 4 x 20 mm AA as against Diamantina's 2 x 4-inch guns and 2 x 40 mm Bofors AA). All were named after Australian rivers.

Diamantina takes her name from the river which rises in the region of the Kerby and McKinlay Ranges some 300 miles south of the Gulf of Carpentaria and flows in a southwesterly direction through Central Queensland. It is a seasonal river, dry for most of the year and only rarely flowing over the full length of its bed to the point of final dissipation in the region of Lake Eyre.

The Diamantina was discovered by John McKinlay, who was born at Sandbank, Scotland, in 1819, came to New South Wales in 1836 and later settled at Ki on the River Murray in South Australia. In 1861, at the request of the South Australian Government, he organised a party to search for the explorers Burke and Wills. Leaving Adelaide on 16th August 1861, McKinlay made his way to the Barcoo River (Coopers Creek) in the region of Lake Hope. He found no trace of Burke or Wills, but found the body of Gray, another member of the ill-fated Burke party. Returning south he halted at Lake Buchanan where he learnt of the finding of the bodies of Burke and Wills, but being well provisioned McKinlay decided to explore northwards.

He set out on 17th December 1861, but was forced to stop by lack of water at Lake Apanburra, west of Innamincka. On 10th February 1862 he set out again, and in March discovered the Diamantina, which he named Mueller River in honour of Dr. Ferdinand Von Mueller, the Victorian Government Botanist. On 6th May he reached the Leichhardt River and a fortnight later the Gulf of Carpentaria. Thence, after an unsuccessful attempt to reach the mouth of the Albert River (on the Gulf), he proceeded to the south-east through previously explored country to reach the settled areas of Queensland.

When McKinlay discovered the Diamantina, the State of Queensland had been in existence less than three years. It was formed on 6th June 1859 and its first Governor was Sir George Ferguson Bowen, who arrived in Brisbane to take up his appointment on 10th December 1859. Governor Bowen was born in Ireland on 2nd November 1821 and was trained for the law profession, but in 1847, at the age of twenty-six, he was made president of the University of Corfu, the northernmost island of the Greek Ionian Islands. In 1854 he was appointed Secretary of the Ionian Islands which were then (1815-64) a British Protectorate. During his sojourn in the Greek Islands, he met and married Diamantina, Countess Roma, daughter of the President of the Ionian Senate at Corfu (whose population was mainly Italian). In 1859 Bulwer Lytton (Colonial Secretary) appointed him first Governor of Queensland, and for the next twenty years he was entirely concerned with Australian and New Zealand affairs. In 1867, after eight years in Queensland, he succeeded Sir George Grey as Governor of New Zealand, and in 1872 became Governor of Victoria, retaining the post until 1879 when he was transferred to Mauritius.

Diamantina, Countess Roma, his wife, who died in 1893 (at Malta) accompanied Bowen to Australia

honour her that the name of Mueller River bestowed by McKinlay was rejected in favour of Diamantina. She is also commemorated in the name of the south-east Queensland town of Roma. It is the arms and motto of the Riccardi-Canadian family that have been adopted as the ship's badge and motto of HMAS Diamantina. The motto Hic Regit Ille Tuetor has been translated as 'Whoever Rules Protects'. 8-)

Diamantina commissioned under the command of Lieutenant-Commander M.G. Rose, RANVR, on 27th April 1945 at Hervey Bay, Queensland, proceeding on the same day for Sydney where she remained until 24th May. In June, she completed her trials before proceeding to New Guinea, arriving Madang from Cairns on 23rd June and thence to Torokina (Solomons) to await the arrival of the Governor-General, HRH Duke of Gloucester, to provide transport to Saposia Island. This assignment was subsequently cancelled, but on 5th July Diamantina proceeded to Saposia with Lieutenant-Generals Sturdee and Savige and several of their staff officers embarked.
etc.etc..... :-X

In finality, one would now expect some of you general service bods to fill me in a bit more about the Fleet Air Arm ;) ! ;D

Have a good Christmas to you all

Ron

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **jeffh65** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 3:46pm**

Bloody Hell Ron, you must have sore fingers after that lot. Very informative.

Regards

Jeff Hinson

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **Cyril Doc Rice** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 4:22pm**

:PRon

Re your quote

"n finality, one would now expect some of you general service bods to fill me in a bit more about the Fleet Air"

He He HE!!! To get your equipment to fly, first face the wind, make sure you have a clear runway and you grab the string and run like hell letting out more string as you go.....There ! You got it now ;D ;D

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **millview** on **Dec 21st, 2006, 4:45pm**

As an ex Stoker PO , I joined SWAN before she was completed and did all of her Sea trials and was part of her Commissioning ship's Co. , does that qualify me?
I steamed her into Sydney harbour on her first trip and then paid off.

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 22nd, 2006, 7:36am**

Jeff65

Jeffrey old mate, I did get a sore finger doing that. The old index r hit 'copy & paste', three times, from the old Google site ;)

It is interesting especially the wartime history of "Diamantina", which I did not go into as it was a bit long. To read it, go to Google and type in 'HMAS Diamantina 'and before hitting enter, select 'Australia' as where to search, instead of 'world wide'.

Thanks for that advice Doc. Appreciated as always. Did try that once on the flight deck but as I began my run up to get my kite flying, I kept on tripping ars.e-over-head from those large wire hawsers that some Dibby had left laying across the deck at the blunt end. Stopped me dead in my tracks I can tell you. Have a good-un.

Ron

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by 4.5inch on Dec 23rd, 2006, 9:21pm

Hi Jeff

I sorta lost contact for a while as I have just finished building a new house.

Great to see that you finally got it up and running, consider me a starter as soon as Christmas is over.

Regards

Macca, Kadina SA
QMG, HMAS Stuart F21

EDIT: I see that Jock Bowman is a member, sent him an email, but no answer!

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by jeffh65 on Dec 24th, 2006, 12:50pm

Peter, It certainly does ,hope you decide to join,looking forward to seeing you.

Regards
Jeff Hinson

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by millview on Dec 24th, 2006, 2:33pm

Thanks Jeff , but where do I find the Information about the association??
Peter

Title: **Re: Type12 Ships national Association**

Post by jeffh65 on Dec 25th, 2006, 9:01am

Peter,Go to www.type12ships.asn.au

Merry Xmas

Jeffh

The FESR Visitors Log

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl>

General >> Bulletin Board >> Regarding Disability Pension

<http://fesrassociation.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1166605875>

Message started by Bronco on Dec 20th, 2006, 7:11pm

Title: **Regarding Disability Pension**

Post by **Bronco** on **Dec 20th, 2006, 7:11pm**

Hi Fellows

I would like to point out just because someone has been granted a disability pension a lot of people dont think that they have to keep getting treatment for this condition. We have had a few cases over the last couple of months where a veteran has come in to put in for an increase and when asked what doctor he sees and what medication he is on they have replied that they have not seen a doctor for years and have stopped taking their medication as they have felt alright. Well the system does not work that way and unless they can prove where they have been getting treated and what medication they are on they have not got a chance in hell of the claim getting up. I have had cases where DVA has reduced Disability pensions as there is no evidence of any treatment for the accepted disability. One case a Veteran on a TPI went around Aust for 2 years and never went near a doctor or a chemist even though he had PDST accepted. When DVA got him for a review he was knocked back to 100%. Another case a Veteran had Ischaemic heart disease accepted and when he had a review by another Specialist it was found that he only had Angina they knocked him back from 80% to 50%. So it pays to keep up your visits to your local LMO and keep up your Medication as DVA has easy access to everyones files to check up on all these things.

All the Best for Christmas And the New Year

Regards Bronco Advocate Pension Officer :(:(:(

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**

Post by **tromb123** on **Dec 22nd, 2006, 8:15am**

First and foremost, I should say I'm not a TPI or any sort of expert on medical matters, but the following thoughts have occurred to me...

There is a simple blood test being used that detects PTSD, ie there is a definite chemical change that takes place, ie it's NOT something "All in the mind". If you had had, say, a leg amputated, then you would've had an operation, post operative care, rehabilitation and a prosthetic leg fitted. At some point in time, more likely than not, you would be able to hop in a car and drive around Australia. Does this mean that that veteran should have his pension reduced because he hasn't been near a doctor?

My understanding is that currently there is no cure for PTSD (but one is being worked on, now that the physiological pathways are understood) and that the person with PTSD would've undergone similar levels of treatment, and believe it or not, in the context of PTSD, just as much pain as the fellow who lost a leg.

There is a principle involved here, and if Governments are now spending money to reduce the stigma of mental disorders, then "other" authorities shouldn't be behaving in a contextual manner suggestive of blatant discrimination. And neither should anyone be accepting this without a fight. That's my thoughts, anyway.

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**

Post by **Bronco** on **Dec 22nd, 2006, 2:13pm**

Hi Trombone

I understand your point. Ptsd is diagnosed by a Shrink and the usual thing is that a person has a

matter is that they should at least try and get some help for the condition. You will find that there will be a hell of lot more affected for the simple reason that they just take it for granted once a condition is accepted that it is there for life and they dont need to get any treatment for the condition.
Regards Bronco Advocate Pension Officer

Title: Re: Regarding Disability Pension
Post by **Ernie D** on **Dec 23rd, 2006, 3:28pm**

Bronco

For instance, could say a EDA that does not apply for any increase in pension as that is`as far as he can go in war service compensation, likely to lose his status, or be reassessed down, to say 100%, because he doesn't keep up his appointments for treatment of his accepted war caused injuries/diseases???? Would this situation be possible?

Regards Ernie "D"

Title: Re: Regarding Disability Pension
Post by **Bronco** on **Dec 23rd, 2006, 5:41pm**

Hi Ernie

If you are on an EDA Pension that is as far as you can go as you have to over the age of 65 to get an EDA. As far as getting treatment goes that is different to what I was saying because someone can get a TPI at any age up till he is 60 if he has to give up work because of his accepted war caused disabilities. In your case EDA is Extreme Disability Allowance.and you have to be pretty crook to be granted an EDA. What I was trying to point out is that a lot of people do not bother to get any treatment when they are granted a disability pension for a certain condition. As I pointed out the chap I referred to was diaganised with Ischaemic heart disease and when he was reveiwed he had angina which is an all together different kettle of fish which means his lifestyle rating would have been different from that of Ischaemic Heart Disease which automately changes his points assessment thus varies his % of pension It does not happen in all cases only those that they think there is something fishie going on. I attended a lecture given by a delegate from DVA who told us about the chap who put in for an increase and got knocked back. He took it to the reveiw board and had a letter from his doctor to say that he could not do any type of work because of his accepted dicabilities, he also had a list of medication that he was on and varios other proof. The reveiw board set aside the decision and reccomended he be back paid for 23 months. A few days latter the delegate was walking up the street to catch his train home and low and behold here is this chap that had just gone before the board to say that he could not work helping to unload a truck. He went back to the office and got a camere went back and took photos of the chap lifting large boxes and other articles he also took photos of the truck with the firms name. They checked up on the firm and found out the chap had been working there for the last five years as a general labourer under another name. They called him in and he denied everything until they showed him the photos he then said that he needed the money. His pension was cut back to 40%. He also got into trouble from the Tax man so what hope has he of ever getting an increase. I will say this that 99% of people that put in claims are fair dickim.

Dont worry about your EDA Ernie and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.
regards Bronco Advocate

Title: Re: Regarding Disability Pension
Post by **Ernie D** on **Dec 25th, 2006, 4:01pm**

Thanks Bronco

I am now enlightened. Best wishes for you and yours over the festive season and best wishes to all and sundry..Regards...Ernie "D"

Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 26th, 2006, 7:59pm**

Bronco, I am a TPI and I have PTSD but I take my tablets for it, do you say that I should go and talk to a shrink every 3 months I cant see how that will help,,,,the only help I have got is the tablets that they give me,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **millview** on **Dec 29th, 2006, 3:56pm**

Sorry for butting in on this conversation , but as far as I have been told , YES you do have to see a shrink at least every 3 months.

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **sluggo** on **Dec 30th, 2006, 10:17am**

Millview I havent been to see a shrink for about 5 years, am keeping it in order to the best of my ability and with the help of tablets and Bronco I thought you could get the TPI up to the age of 65 after that it is too late
regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **ceeveedee** on **Dec 30th, 2006, 11:37am**

Shep,

Right again. 65 **IS** the cut off for TPI"s. Unless you have turned 65 while your case is being processed.

Also, I have not heard of the ruling that your must see a Psych every three months. I have assisted many PTSD sufferers receive pensions and not once have I seen written that they must attend ongoing psych appointments. I am sure that some sufferers would benefit from follow ups, but for many, there is nothing else that can be done for them except medications, etc.

There also was a rumour going around a few years ago that if you did not see a psych within a five years period, your pension would automatically be cancelled. Another furphy!!!! Where do these rumours come from?????

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **ceeveedee** on **Dec 30th, 2006, 11:47am**

Bronco,

Quote:

Another case a Veteran had Ischeamic heart disease accepted and when he had a reveiw by another Specialist it was found that he only had Angina they knocked him back from 80% to 50%.

I hope this chap did the paperwork himself. Otherwise the Pension Officer that assisted him needs to be hauled over the coals. The first thing you need to put in a claim/increase is to get a diagnosis. If the dianosis is not going to be beneficial to the claimant why the hell would anyone put one in knowing that the pension would be reduced!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Any Pension officer worth his/her salt should have known that was going to happen. :o :o

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **Bronco** on **Dec 30th, 2006, 1:57pm**

As far as that chap whose pension was decreased his LMO was treating him for Ischaemic heart disease it was only when he was sent to a specialist by DVA that the problem was picked up. As far as the Pension Officer who was involved it was me and the paper work was filled in spot on Why should the Pension Officer be hauled over the coals talk sense how the bloody hell does anyone know what is going to happen when a claim goes before DVA. The Veteran was getting treated for the condition when he put in for an increase as his LMO was treating him and supplying him with medication.

And another thing regarding the medication for someone with PTSD usually the only person that changes this is the Shrink. Most LMO should only treat minor cases as they are not qualified for major cases.

If a person can go for five years without his medication changed they should be reviewed because these days there is always new drugs coming on the market which could be more beneficial to the Veteran and it for his own wellbeing that his keeps getting the right treatment and the right medication.

Anyway I am not here to argue as I know that these things are facts and if you know anyone in DVA you can ring and ask if these things happen.

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope that more things are discussed in the New Year
Regards Bronco Advocate Pension Officer.

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **ronaldo** on **Dec 30th, 2006, 2:12pm**

Hi All

Let us be a bit honest with ourselves here. If for instance Vet Affairs has assessed you as being Totally & Permanently Incapacitated, you would have to be pretty darn good to pull the wool over their eyes, not matter what condition you fronted up for. They and their Specialists do the assessing as to whether you are incapacitated or not before granting the pension not you Doctor although they of course take his recommendations into consideration. Imagine sometime further down the track if for some reason they decided to rescind their original decision, it would make the original assessors look like being drongos and there are not too many professionals out there in the big wide world who would want that thought of them. If that did happen and it is a big 'IF', I can well imagine the judiciary system upholding their decision if one was to appeal. I can see DVA taken action against a person who has claimed a back disability for example and then later on they find that it was a bit of a sham and the person has been caught in the act of lifting heavy objects at his work or home but that person would not have been assessed as TPI. I will take a lot of convincing for someone to prove to me that, a soldier/sailor/airmen, who may have lost an arm or a leg during war or peacetime duties, has been made better by some form of medication or artificial device that has been fitted in lieu. If you had been honest with your claim in the first instance, no matter at what level of compo, then why should you worry? Leave that for those who try & gyp the system. It's all common CDF

Thus endeth the lesson. Have a great New Year everyone and hope we can enjoy a few more comments, bunfights and laughter together once again.

Ron

Title: **Re: Regarding Disability Pension**
Post by **millview** on **Dec 31st, 2006, 4:11pm**

Once you are 65 then that is right, but if not yet, then you are to see a shrink just to see how you are getting on that is all.