

CONTACT !



Memorial Day

*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2018
Issue 2
April, May, June*

BMVAF express their thanks to Senator the Hon Doug Cameron, Senator for NSW, for his support to the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc., particularly by allowing the BMVAF to use his communications entitlement for the production of this newsletter.

CONTACT !

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 incorporating
 RAAF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION and the QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSOCIATION
 ABN 74 645 329 198 CFN 17276
 THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN ALL POST WORLD WAR II CONFLICTS

Your Committee

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Vice President:	<i>Angus McDonald</i>	<i>(02) 4575 1997</i>
Secretary:	<i>Chris McKay</i>	<i>0427 794 914</i>
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CONTACT! Editor:	<i>Wendy Humphrys</i>	<i>(02) 47518 528</i>

2018

Association Meeting Dates

*Meetings commence at 1000hrs in our office
 at the Blue Mountains Theatre &
 Community Hub, Springwood NSW*

Committee Meeting 19 August	Committee Meeting 9 September
Committee Meeting 14 October	Committee Meeting 11 November

Office Manager: Wendy Humphrys **Phone:** (02) 4751 8528

Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au **Web site:** www.bmvets.com.au

Face book: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces

Office Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 and 14:00

Welfare Officers

**Please contact our office on (02) 4751 8528 Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am to 2:00pm or
 Angus McDonald, our Welfare Co-ordinator, on (02) 4575 1997
 for referral to a Welfare Officer**

Angus McDonald (Welfare Co-ordinator)

(02) 4575 1997

Ron Glew (Advocate) - Inner West Sydney

Mob: 0418 261 528

Home: (02) 9818 7280

Email: glewie@bigpond.net.au

Bob Metcalfe (L2) - NSW Mid Nth Coast

Home: 02 6582 6280

Email: BobM2444@iprimus.com.au

Del Heuke (Advocate) - NSW Mid North Coast

Home: (02) 6528 0215

Email: del.heuke@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With Memorial Day (12th August) fast approaching all our Committee Members have been very busy in my absence. Wendy our Office Manager has worked her fingers to the bone.

In this Contact! issue you will see our official invitation to Memorial Day.

We still need lots of volunteers on Memorial Day, starting at 6:00am to set up everything for the day, then after the Service to put away chairs etc. before we all retire to the Royal.

Don't forget to patronise the Beating of the Retreat at 4:00pm on the Forecourt of the Hub.

Be there or be square.

Peter Jones

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well it's that time of Year again Memorial Day is just over 3 weeks away and as usual we are working very hard to ensure that 2018 is a roaring success.

Again we are looking for Volunteers to assist us on Memorial Day Sunday the 12th of August so if you can assist please give us a call in the office.

Make sure you have a look at our updated Website (courtesy of our Wendy) which will soon have some advertising to assist us in reducing costs and also have Minutes of Meetings and Financials of our Association that you can read online. This provides complete transparency of what's happening in the Association and our Financial position.

I look forward to seeing as many as you as possible at Memorial Day.

Stay Safe and enjoy life.

Remember a Politician is someone who will lay down your Life for his Country

Chris McKay

WELFARE NEWS

Angus McDonald has taken over the role of Welfare Co-ordinator from Ray Westwell as Ray is currently on long service leave.

Angus has been visiting many Veterans and widows in their homes, nursing homes and hospitals, to offer them support as well as coordinating welfare enquiries and attending many Services.

Congratulations to our member John King OAM who travelled to Gallipoli on 19 April, to support Veterans at the ANZAC Day Service. Enjoy reading the details of his visit on page 7 & 8.

THANK YOU FOR POPPIES

Dianne Parker sent an email thanking our Association for our donation of poppies, which her brother Ian Honeysett collected from our office.

She sent a photo of the cards that she has made, that she will put on the Australian Memorials that she visits. She will also place one on the Menin Gate Memorial as she is laying a wreath from her families there as part of the Last Post Ceremony.



From her email
“Thank you so much for the poppies – I am taking a little bit of Australia to those who made the ultimate sacrifice – Lest We Forget.”

Dianne Parker (Mrs) M.A.
Group Executive Officer
Aviation Infrastructure and Personnel
Member of the Association of Administrative Professionals New Zealand (AAPNZ)

Winner of the 2016 AAPNZ Administrative Professional Award

Members of the Veteran, Ex-service and Defence communities

The Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study wants to hear from: people who've looked for help with accessing entitlements and services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, veterans' advocates and pension and welfare officers with ex-service organisations, lawyers and health or other professionals who work with veterans, and anyone with an interest in veterans' issues.

Share your experiences and your ideas for improving services for veterans and their families and be a part of shaping the future of veterans' advocacy.

Make a submission

Submissions are being accepted until 31 July 2018

There is a discussion paper and questionnaires to assist you in preparing a submission.

To make a submission see: www.dva.gov.au/advocacystudy

The Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study is an independent study investigating how veterans and their families are assisted to access entitlements and services.

Article about "Cockatoo Rise Retreat"

heraldsun.com.au NEWS

Veteran Tony Gill is one of many upset that Cockatoo Rise could close. Picture: ROB LEESON

A haven in retreat

Sanctuary for Diggers can't get help from RSL

A SANCTUARY for returned Diggers is at risk of closure, after the RSL rejected requests for cash to stay afloat.

More than 300 former service personnel have stayed at the Cockatoo Rise retreat, near Bairnsdale in Gippsland, since it opened in 2006.

Vietnam veteran Greg Carter, 69, and his wife Anne, 66, work tirelessly to keep the 21ha property's museum, veggie garden, golf course and grounds in shape for visitors.

Returned veterans can stay and use the facilities for as long as they need without charge, finding solace in sharing their stories with others who served, while sitting by the open fire.

The retreat runs on miscellaneous donations totalling up to \$5000 each

TAMSIN ROSE

year. But as more Diggers find out about the property, that shoestring budget is being overwhelmed.

Despite applying for funding multiple times, the retreat has been deemed ineligible for assistance by RSL Victoria chiefs.

Mr Carter said Diggers from different wars have come and bonded over mutual experiences in a way they could not do anywhere else.

"Sitting around a campfire, you'd be surprised what kind of information comes out, knowing the people they are talking to have gone through something similar," he said.

"Sometimes they have what they

call a 'black dog day' and they head out the back and lie under the stars."

The RSL has told the Carters that to secure funding they would have to provide a detailed summary for each individual visitor, which Mr Carter says would be impractical and in some cases impossible. Some ex-Diggers wished to remain anonymous.

Vietnam veteran and post-traumatic stress disorder sufferer Tony Gill, 71, has been visiting the retreat for five years.

"Veterans become isolated and anti-social and they don't discuss things but when they get somewhere like Cockatoo Rise, the boys will talk about their experiences and we know what we've been through," he said.

"What Greg has got set up then is a fantastic place to go with a mates and to sit down and reflect old times, particularly in Vietnam."

The Wallan man said it was uniquely peaceful and restorative space, and needed to be saved to continue to serve young veterans.

"We can provide mentoring to younger veterans who are confused and lost with what is going on," said. "If he was to close down there would be yet another option taken away from veterans — it would be great loss."

The RSL did not respond to requests for comment.

tamsin.rose@news.com.au
@tamsinrose

PADRE'S CORNER
July 2018
God is OUR Strength and Refuge

Hello Everyone,

As I write this article I am reminded of our need to feel there is someone who cares for us; someone to provide strength to us not only in times of need but throughout our lives. Some years ago, I wrote a Padre's Corner article based on the 23rd Psalm or as it is sometimes called the Shepherd's Psalm. In this issue I want to write about another psalm, Psalm 46. You will find this psalm in the Old Testament section of the Bible. This psalm was written by the psalmist about three thousand years ago. Regardless of the fact that it was written so long ago I believe it is still very important and relevant to us today. This psalm when sung is sometimes sung to the Dambusters March tune, and is frequently referred to as the Air Force Hymn.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
 Though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
 he burns the shields with fire.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,
 I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD Almighty is with us.

The message this psalm has for us today and every day is that no matter who we are, where we are, what we have done or not done in our life God walks with us and will provide for us, for he is indeed our strength and refuge not only in times of trouble but all throughout our lives. This is a message of hope, comfort and encouragement for us now and for the future.

Some of you may remember the musical Godspell which played in Sydney in the early 70s and more recently in 2016. In Godspell this prayer which was based on a prayer that Richard of Chichester, a thirteenth-century bishop prayed, was used as a song in the closing refrain.

Again its message is relevant today as it was when St Richard of Chichester prayed it.

Day by day, dear Lord, Of you three things I pray:

To see you more clearly,

Love you more dearly,

Follow you more nearly, day by day

This is my prayer for all of us today and always, I pray that you will take comfort and encouragement from both the psalm and the prayer.

Best wishes to you all,

Colin Aiken

(0417 203 722)

Vales



John Byrne

27/04/1946 - 28/03/2018

Royal Australian Navy

05/05/1963 to 01/10/1967

R62094 - Cook

Theatres of Operation - Vietnam

HMAS Sydney

14/09/1965 - 14/06/1967



Jill Field

DOD - 29/04/2018

Associate Member

Wife of deceased member
Colin Field



Allan Hill

10/02/1936 - 2018

Royal Australian Airforce

15/01/1958 to 16/01/1978

A312392 - Sergeant

Theatres of Operation - Vietnam

Base Support Flight

12/06/1966 - 10/10/1967

Lest We Forget



Gallipoli A Journey Of A Life Time ***By John King OAM***

The NSW Rural Fire Service offered to assist the Department Veteran Affairs and the NZ government in holding the ANZAC services at Gallipoli in April 2018.

RFS members around the state were asked to put in an Expression of interest, and out of 300 application received, I was selected to be part of the 28 to go.

The 28 members selected were from all over the State and we had a meet and greet the day before we set off.

On 19th April my journey to Gallipoli began flying from Mascot to Istanbul via Singapore. After landing we had a 6 hour drive to Canakkale to our hotel, where we stayed for 8 days. Canakkale is a city of 189,000 people.

Saturday: Our first day was spent sightseeing around the Gallipoli Peninsula.

We caught a ferry across the Dardanelles (30 minutes) to Eceabat on the Gallipoli Peninsula where we travelled to the ANZAC battle sites.

First we stopped at "Shrapnel Gully" cemetery, and then on to "Beach" cemetery, where John Kirkpatrick Simpson is buried. Both sites were very moving.

From there we moved on to "ANZAC Cove", then to North beach where the Dawn Service Ceremony was to be held. From here you could look to see the Sphinx where most of campaign area has been overgrow with shrubs and it is now a park. The Sphinx is how I have always imagined as the landing site with sparse vegetation.

We then travelled to "Lone Pine" Memorial, battle site and cemetery.

It's sad to think that with this cemetery, of the 1167 men buried here, 504 are still unidentified.

Moving on we stopped at Turkish 27th Regt Memorial, like all memorials they are very well looked after.

It was then a short walk to the "Nek" battle site and cemetery, 326 lost their life with only 10 known graves.

Looking from the high point of the Nek you could look down on North Beach and Suvla bay.

From there we walked a small way to look down on the Sphinx and North Beach where the Dawn service is held.

After leaving the Nek we travelled past Quinn's post cemetery up to Chunuk Bair with both New Zealand and Turkish memorials. This is the highest part of the Peninsula with stunning views across the

Dardanelles.

Later in the afternoon we drove to the Cape Helles area where the British and French landed on the 25 April. Both countries have very moving memorials. It is very unfortunate that their people do not visit these sites.

Then on to the Turkish memorial, a magnificent structure, which is possible to be seen from our hotel 20 kilometres away.

Sunday: We visited the Ancient city of Troy, a civilisation that is supposed to be around 5000 yrs old. Interesting to see the different periods of its existence, makes our 200 years seem insignificant. Later we visited the former Ottoman Empire village of Association, high on a hill with cobble stone roads, very steep. A lot of the buildings are in good condition with a reasonable population.



Monday: We travelled back to Gallipoli to meet up with DVA and NZ Government representatives, to inform us where we would be working and what we will be doing at ANZAC cove in readiness for the Dawn Service. They also provided us all with a coat, shirt and hat; you couldn't miss us, bright red.

Tuesday: ANZAC eve, we had the day off until 5 pm then hopped on the ferry to Cross the Dardanelles again, to go to our work points. My job was to hand out a welcome pack, "Program, beanie, poncho, rubbish bag and a bottle of water", for everyone who attended the service. We were in a large marquee with bag scanners and body search for everyone entering the site. The Turkish Jandama were all fully armed and soldiers were in the bush surrounding all sites. Security was very high. The first bus load arrived at 9pm and then it was a steady procession until approximately 4am when we moved down to the site of the service, had a meal, and waited for dawn for the service . Something I never thought I would see at Gallipoli. Once the service was completed I assisted with getting people with mobility needs onto a bus and travelled up to the Lone Pine site for the Lone Pine Service. Later that day we headed back to our Hotel in Canakkale.

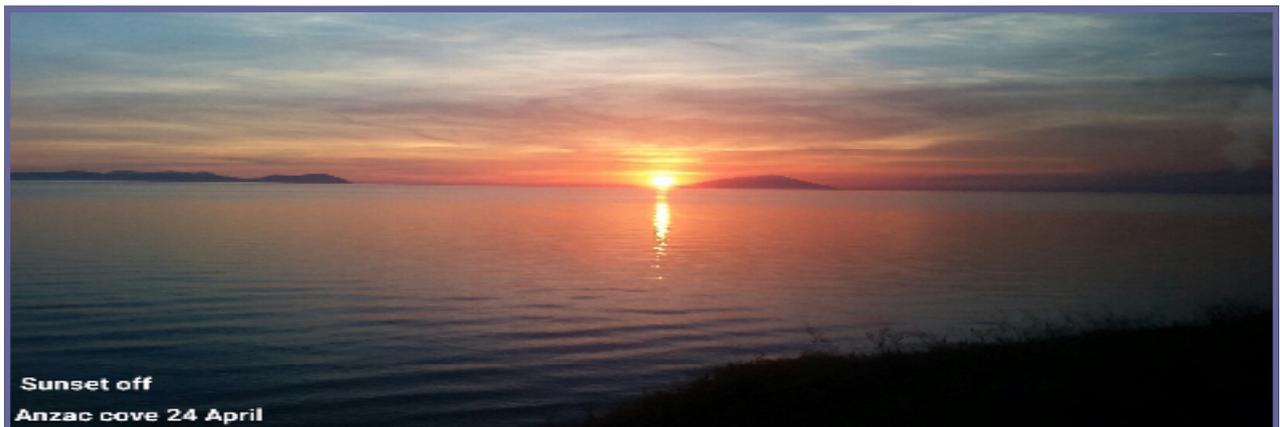
Thursday: Was a free day for us, which was spent exploring Canakkale and environs. We checked out the markets and bazaar which were all full of colour ,clothing and souvenirs. Being involved in firefighting a trip to the fire station was on the agenda. Three of us took a 4 kilometre walk up the street (Metinoktay CD.) trying to find the Fire Station. There was a big language barrier but we managed to be understood and had a good look at all their vehicles and equipment. I was fortunate to have a ride on an aerial ladder, up approx. 20 metres in the air.

Friday: Was a day spent on the island of Bozcaada. We caught an inter-island ferry for a 40 minute trip to the island. Once a Greek Island it now belongs to Turkey and has a lot of Greek culture and architecture, beginning with large fortifications overlooking the town. This remains mostly intact and for a small fee is open to the public.

Saturday: We began our trip home and had to be ready to leave by 4 am for a six and a half drive to Istanbul for our flight home. We arrived back in back in Sydney Sunday afternoon.

All the books and stories I have read and heard about Gallipoli and the ANZAC landings were put in perspective, and seeing all the cemeteries and memorials it was sad to realise the horrific loss of life for what turned out for nothing. It brings a tear to your eyes as you visit these sites .

The trip was an opportunity of a life time for all 28 of us that went, and many long time friendships have been made .



**Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
& Associated Forces Inc.**

cordially invites you to attend our

*Annual Parade &
Memorial Service*

Sunday 12th August, 2018

The Parade will be assembling at 11:00am,
at Macquarie Rd, Springwood.
The Service, at Springwood War Memorial
will be followed by a social function at the
Royal Hotel, Springwood
to which members are invited.
Guest of Honour David Savage AM

*Please advise our
Association of your
intention to attend by
2 August & whether
you intend to lay a
floral tribute or book
to be presented to a
local school.
If no RSVP received
we will assume non
attendance.*



Peter Jones - President
Phone: 02 47518528
Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au
PO Box 55, Springwood NSW 2777

David Savage AM Memorial Day Guest of Honour

David Savage AM, served as an AusAID Stabilisation Advisor with the Coalition's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan from 2011-12. He became Australia's first civilian casualty in Afghanistan when his patrol was attacked by a child suicide bomber.

David was previously with the Australian Federal Police for 20 years where he served on several overseas UN Peacekeeping Operations including Mozambique and East Timor, before joining the United Nations as a Human Rights and War Crimes investigator.

He has also worked for the International Crisis Group, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and other organisations throughout South, and South East Asia, and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at The Australian National University.

David was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2014 for his work in International Relations, Peacekeeping and Human Rights Investigations and was an ACT finalist in the 2015 Australian of the Year awards.

**Approval from Transport NSW for free travel on Memorial Day
details listed below:**

I am pleased to advise that free travel has been approved for Members and Ex-Members of the Australian Defence Force and the carers, spouses, children and grandchildren of living and deceased service personnel.

Free travel will be available on Sydney Trains, NSW TrainLink intercity services, Sydney Ferries, Sydney Light Rail and bus services in the Sydney metropolitan and outer-metropolitan areas.

To access services, participants will be required to:

- wear an Australian Defence uniform; or
- display service medals; or
- carry a War Widow's gold card; or
- carry an official letter of accreditation from a branch of the Returned and Services League or other recognised ex-services organisation.



*Opal Endeavour Residential Aged Care Facility
ANZAC Service*

Thursday 19th April 2018

*conducted by our Association with the assistance of Blue Mountains NASHOS &
Springwood RSL Sub-branch*

Thank you to all involved.

Reducing Costs

Postage Costs

To help your Association keep costs down we are asking for your assistance. Please provide the office with your current email address. This will enable us to email the CONTACT! newsletter to you, twice a year at non raffle ticket time. This would greatly assist us in reducing the cost of postage.

Another way we will be reducing costs is to send any correspondence to our members when CONTACT! is being posted, unless we are posting memorabilia etc car stickers, caps etc.

Important Membership News

Membership Status

Members could you please check your membership status, as in the future we will no longer be posting the newsletter to unfinancial members.

You are now able to check your current year of membership, as it is printed on the front of the newsletter envelope. Membership is current until the end of the year listed on the envelope.

Contact! is posted to all members twice a year at raffle time, even to members who have requested it via email, as raffle tickets are posted with it.

Membership renewal is due on 1st January each year, unless your membership is in advance. It is still only \$10:00 per year and we do not require payment of outstanding years of membership.

If your membership is due for renewal please fill in the Membership Renewal Application on page 14 & send it with your payment.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Website

Our website has been updated, please have a look and let us know what you think. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

*Thank you for your support of your Association.
from the Committee*



Darrell's Gopher Page



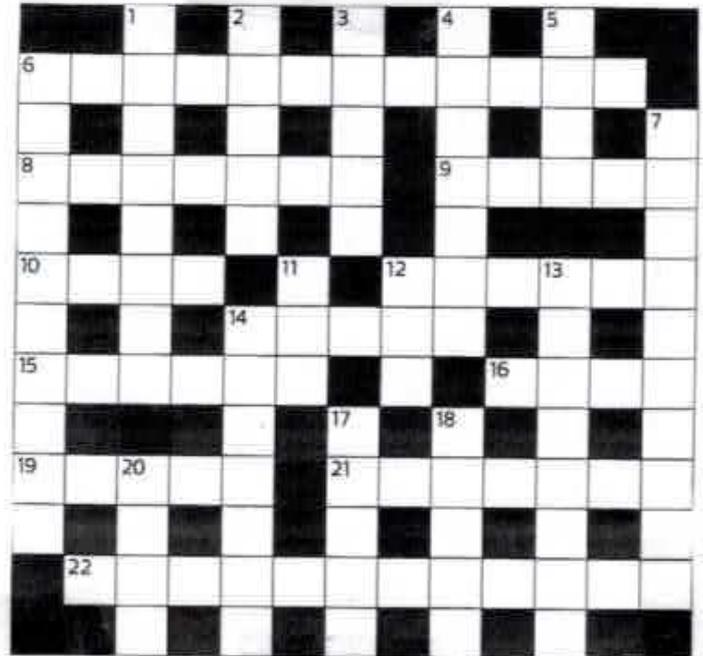
CROSSWORD # 6

ACROSS

- 6. Spectacular display (12)
- 8. Crop (7)
- 9. Dodge (5)
- 10. Lost blood (4)
- 12. Refreshment bar (6)
- 14. Judge's hammer (5)
- 15. Sunburnt (6)
- 16. Throw (4)
- 19. Orange-yellow (5)
- 21. Implement (7)
- 22. Expectation (12)

DOWN

- 1. Toe-rungs [anag] (8)
- 2. Actor, ___ Bolam (5)
- 3. Nora ____, *Last of the Summer Wine* character (5)
- 4. Detestable (7)
- 5. Old Testament book (4)
- 6. Trade fair (10)
- 7. Athletics contest (10)
- 11. Craze (3)
- 12. Implore (3)
- 13. Squadron commander's vessel (8)
- 14. Hit group of the early 90's (7)
- 17. God of love (5)
- 18. Robert Urich TV series (5)
- 20. Lynch (4)



Someone who thinks Women wouldn't make good frontline troops

Someone who thinks they would

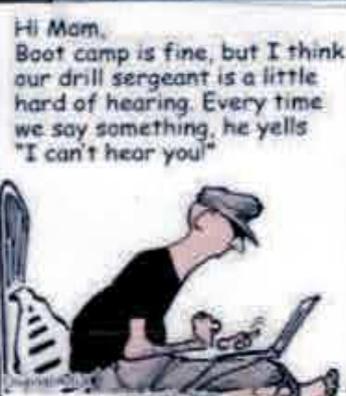
Two crows were flying along slowly minding their own business enjoying the scenery, when all of a sudden out of the blue an F/A-18E/F Super Hornet goes screaming past, barely missing the now somersaulting, and wildly flapping crows:

"Oh my God!" exclaims one crow in surprise. "He was sure moving!"

The other crow replies: "I reckon you would be too if you had two-backsides and both of them were alright!"



CASUAL FRIDAY



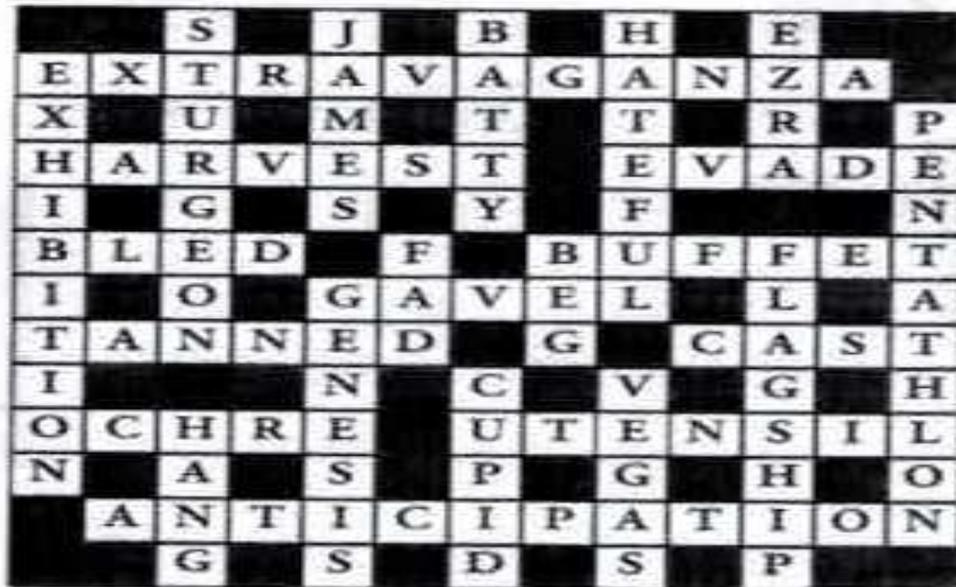
Hi Mam, Boot camp is fine, but I think our drill sergeant is a little hard of hearing. Every time we say something, he yells "I can't hear you!"



"The drone strikes aren't working, sir. Have you tried divorce?"

Darrell's Gopher Page cont.
Solutions

CROSSWORD # 6



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Contact! is written with care, in good faith and from sources believed to be accurate at the time of writing. Readers should not, however, act nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in this newsletter about financial, taxation or any other matter. Readers, having regard to their own particular circumstances, should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc., nor the management committee or Editor, accept any responsibility for actions taken by readers.

REPORTS / PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Issue 3, 2018 - 1 September 2018
Issue 4, 2018 - 1 December 2018
Issue 1, 2019 - 1 March 2019
Issue 2, 2019 - 1 June 2019

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MEMBERSHIP/ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Please renew my membership/associate membership of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc for.....year/s

Surname:.....

Given names:.....

Address:.....

Town:..... State:..... Postcode:.....

Home phone number..... Mobile:.....

Email:.....

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY NOTES THROUGH THE POST

Annual Membership Fee: (BMVV&AF Inc.) \$ 10.00 x.....year/s	\$
Donation	\$
Car Sticker with Association Logo \$2:00 each	\$
Car Sticker with Vietnam Campaign Ribbons \$5:00 each	\$
Caps (with Logo) \$20:00 each (plus \$10:00 postage if applicable) Total \$30:00	\$
Polo Shirts (with Logo) - (Please ring the office for sizes and prices)	\$
Pens \$5:00 each	\$
I enclose a cheque/money order for TOTAL	\$

Payment Details

Cheque or Money Order – please make the cheque payable to **Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.** and forward to the above address OR

Direct Credit - BSB: 032-837 (Westpac Bank Springwood NSW) Account Number: 138817

Account Name: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. Reference: *“your name”*

Please Note: Please don’t forget to include ‘your name’ as the reference.

I agree to be bound by the rules of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.

SIGNATURE:.....DATE:.....

Office Use Only

Direct Debit/Receipt number:.....Date:..... Membership details updated:.....
 Remarks:.....Membership card:.....