



RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA) NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is in PDF format – download FREE reader now-

www.adobe.com/products/reader/

IN THIS ISSUE

Did you know – National Service
Memorial Dedication 7-8 SEP 10

RAASC Vietnam Plaque-Poppy Laying
Ceremony – PM 8 Sep 10 for RAASC
Plaque – cut off 3 Sep 10

ANZAC CENTENARY public
submission cut off 17 Sep 10

Commemorative Walks - Bowral, NSW

Commemorative Walks - Seymour VIC

VSPA membership Renewal due

Are you a DFRDB recipient?

Do you pay your bills on line?

Some RAASC Corps History snippets

Oral History – our RAASC training

Dorrigo Reunion Aug 2011

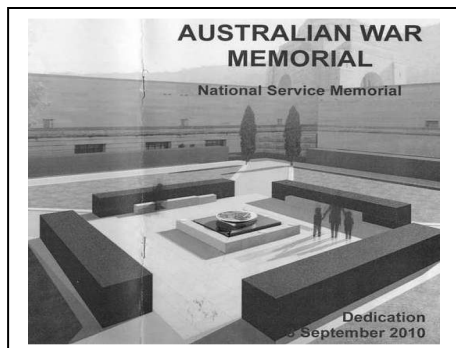
Brass monkey – the origins

Dear RAASC Veteran,

As you know by now the RAASC Vietnam Plaque Dedication has been and gone and we have put together some photos and other memorabilia for those who may like to recall the event.

DID YOU KNOW? - NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL DEDICATION 7-8 SEP 10

Are you a Nasho? We have just dedicated our RAASC Vietnam Plaque, and now the AWM has built a Memorial just for our National Servicemen. Your time has finally come. We have just been told that the Dedication of the National Service Memorial will be held at the AWM in Canberra Tue 7-Wed 8 Sep 2010. See this site for details:



<http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/memorial.htm>

On this site you will find details of the program, and you can download a copy of the form to notify your attendance to the National Service Federation.

No computer? – go to your local internet café, library etc and ask for help to download the information. The program involves:

- a. Tue 7 Sep 10-Reception at Parliament House on the – first 1000 National Servicemen/their relatives will get preference to the reception. Details on the form.
- b. Wed 8 Sep 10 – 0900 form up for parade/dedication ceremony with the Governor General.
- c. Wed 8 Sep 10 – 1230 on - Associations to arrange reunions etc as appropriate.

POPPY LAYING CEREMONY PM 8 SEP 10

The AWM have said to us: "It is a suggestion by the Memorial, that if association members wish too, a small poppy laying ceremony can take place over the plaque once installed. Some associations like to move into the tomb of the unknown soldier after the plaque to facilitate a larger laying of poppy's. A separate ceremony at the Tomb could also be facilitated. You would have to look at the numbers, but both are possible."

We have sought and had agreement from the National Service Federation to conduct a poppy laying service. To minimise costs for members it will be held on the afternoon of the dedication, immediately after the dedication.

Lunch will follow at Olims after the ceremony. There are no specific costs like there were for our plaque dedication. Attending? Please let Christina know before 3 Sep 10 at the latest.

This is a wonderful opportunity to view our RAASC Vietnam plaque. The plaque has been laid on the existing walkway, but to the right of the walkway after leaving the carpark for the AWM grounds.

ANZAC CENTENARY <http://www.anzaccenatary.gov.au/> KEY DATE: 17 SEP 10

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since our involvement in the First World War.

The Anzac Centenary provides us with an opportunity to remember those who have fought and served in all wars, conflicts and peace operations in the past hundred years and especially remember the more than 100,000 who have given their lives in service.

[The National Commission](#) on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary is seeking Australia's ideas and suggestions on how to mark this important chapter in our history.

[Have your say](#) in how the Australian community can be a part of the Anzac Centenary.

Public submissions will be accepted until **17 September 2010**.

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911

Vice President 0421 468 352
Treasurer 0419 011 597

Secretary 0408 947 935
Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

COMMEMORATIVE WALK - Cherry Tree Walk Bowral

<http://www.warmemorialsnsw.asn.au/Details.cfm?MemNo=202>

This walk was installed by the Vietnam Vets of Bowral to commemorate the lives of the 508 fallen of the Vietnam conflict. That same number of cherry trees have been planted, and a number of marble memorial walls showing the names of the fallen are also available for reflection and commemoration. Worth seeing next time you are in Bowral, Settlers Park! Google for more details or go to the Visitors Centre.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE WALK - Seymour

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk is a project to build in Seymour, Victoria, an area of reflection and commemoration for Vietnam Veterans and their families. It will have over 300 metres of walls with the names of all personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975. The stories of Vietnam will be in a replica "Luscombe Bowl" once an entertainment area, now an Interpretive Centre. The Walk will have imitation Rubber Trees and Rice Paddies and military artefacts, we already have a Centurion Tank and are working on obtaining an M113 APC, M2A2 Howitzers, and a "Huey".

We have started on Luscombe Bowl and hope to have it completed by Vietnam Veterans Day 2010. Please visit the website at www.vvaavic.org.au/mitchell.asp and if you can, help by way of donations please do so. The first tranche of paver sponsorships has closed and we have enough for the forecourt of Luscombe Bowl, but the second tranche is available for the East and West sides of the Bowl.

For information contact;
PO Box 764, Seymour, Victoria. 3661
Ross Gregson
e. vvaamitchell@westnet.com.au
Ph 03 5792 3227

Air Dispatch Association of Australia
9 Deputor St, Rochedale South QLD 4123
Secretary: Barry Gannon
secretary@adaa.net.au
Ph: 07 3341 1796

Membership Renewal or New Members – NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW

If you received a letter from our Membership Manager, we either would like you to consider JOINING, or for all others – we ask you to REJOIN. ALL WELCOME. Contact Christina (Membership/Welfare) details below. If you have feedback on where we should be heading as an association etc, please let us know. New Association Badges available.

ARE YOU A RECIPIENT OF A DFRDB PENSION – then read on...

“DFWA has received formal advice from the Coalition that their recent announcement regarding improved indexation arrangements for DFRDB superannuants over the age of 55 includes DFRB recipients over 55 as well.

DFWA welcomes this clarification and continues to lobby on behalf of MSBS members and the “under 55s”.

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911

Vice President 0421 468 352
Treasurer 0419 011 597

Secretary 0408 947 935
Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

This further step forward is a result of DFWA's continuing discussions with the Coalition. It is all the more pleasing as there are only approximately 4,000 mainly elderly and widowed DFRB superannuants compared with some 64,000 DFRDB military superannuation pensioners.

DFWA continues to seek discussions with the responsible Government ministers on the issue of military superannuation but the latest is that an announcement will be forthcoming before the coming election.

As of late June it was advised that from the Government's perspective "it was very unlikely that we would get a positive result on the indexation issue" and that they did "not want to raise any false hopes." The Government's announcement will be its response to the Podger Report which as you are aware it has been withholding for quite some time.

The politics of this is interesting! We wait to see what the Government's response will be and what, if any, further movement DFWA are able to coax from the Opposition".

DO YOU PAY YOUR BILLS WITH A CREDIT CARD ON THE WEB – then read on:

If you visit a website or web page, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with one of the following: **http://** or **https**

You may not think it is important but the one **without** the S is insecure. You should never enter your credit card number on a site that begins with **http://**

HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transport Protocol

The S (big surprise) stands for "Secure" and means that the website is talking to your browser using a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

On the other hand, a site which begins with **http://** means the website is talking in the regular 'unsecured' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website.

If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

In Summary, If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with **https://**.

If it doesn't have an "S", DO NOT PROCEED FURTHER. Pay the account another way.

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911

Vice President 0421 468 352
Treasurer 0419 011 597

Secretary 0408 947 935
Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

SOME RAASC CORPS HISTORY SNIPPETS

For those with email, you would have already read this. So for those that are not into the 21st century yet, or for those whose interest is piqued, read on:

EQUAL TO THE TASK - Author Neville Lindsay

Our Corps Historian produced this book about the Corps some time ago and it is now on the web for all to see. It is still work in progress, and is accessible without password. Its address is: http://books.historia.com.au/equal-to-the-task_v1-raasc/e1-fore

It also offers the opportunity for short biographies of Corps members to be submitted by them, their families or other interested persons. (Check out some that are already there).

It works ok. A great on-line archival resource. If you go to the link you will find out more about these important images of our service.

THE CORPS FLAG

There are two corps flags on record. The basic design was taken from the RASC flag, being of standard dimensions 5ft by 3ft.



They comprised equal vertical panels in the Corps colours of blue, white and gold with in a centre panel superimposed the Corps officer pattern (that is, multicolour) badge.

That flag was modified in 1960 by superimposition of the RAASC Corps motto Par Oneri, a move by Director V.E. Dowdy to rectify in some degree the reprehensible earlier removal of the Corps motto from the badge itself.

The RAASC BADGE

We were a Corps and its derivative is the Latin corpus = a body (here, of men)

The derivation of the flag is given in the book – see http://books.historia.com.au/equal-to-the-task_v1-raasc/e1-p4_infra/e1-c20_esprit.html - go to Colours and Flags.

The result is that the officer pattern badge was picked because it is prettier, and matches the colours in the flag itself.

Corps Associations

Some extracts from the book about why we have Corps Associations:

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911

Vice President 0421 468 352
Treasurer 0419 011 597

Secretary 0408 947 935
Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

the means for developing their wartime friendships

similar associations were formed in the other capitals, and as time moved on their activities encompassed social and charitable activities as well as the quasi-military ones.

a briefing of the veterans on the activities, techniques and equipment of the current army. Some associations became inactive, reactivated and inactive again.

Annual dinners filled the needs of the majority, whilst the old soldiers continued to retain their fraternal gatherings at Army depots and elsewhere as it suited them.

ORAL HISTORY – RAASC MEMBERS

The material that goes onto the site has to come from somewhere – YOU! We all deployed, and have memories and photos worth including. Not much on Corps training and Battle Efficiency photos received to date so have a dig around and let us copy them please.

REUNION 2011 DORRIGO NSW

Bob and his team are working on the details for the Reunion next August. Further details in the Christmas edition of Paludrine Parade. In the meantime, you can read up on the many attractions there at the following site: <http://www.dorrigo.com/>

CANNON BALLS!!! DID YOU KNOW THIS?

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass - hence, Brass Monkeys. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, folks thought that was just a vulgar expression?

Until next time – keep talking, & enjoy your newsletter!

Your RAASC VSPA Executive.

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911

Vice President 0421 468 352

Secretary 0408 947 935

Treasurer 0419 011 597

Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195