



# VAMPIRE

Official Newsletter of  
**2 Field Ambulance**  
**Past Members Association**  
(Formed 1986)

DECEMBER 2010

**PATRON:** Dr Ted Heffernan MB, BS, FRCS, FRACS, FACS



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**Field Ambulance**  
is proud to have served our nation in  
World War 1, World War 2, Vietnam, and UN Peacekeeping  
*"Saluting Their Service"*

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**Disclaimer**

The **VAMPIRE NEWSLETTER** is published for the membership of the 2 Field Ambulance Past Members Association, with copies also sent to kindred organisations and ADF personnel. It is compiled with care, and in good faith, and from sources believed to be accurate at the time of writing. The views and opinions expressed by members may not necessarily reflect those of the association. Readers should not act, nor refrain from acting solely on the basis of information contained in the newsletter. The Association accepts no responsibility for actions taken by readers.





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Three vets died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. "In honour of this holy season" Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven."

The first vet fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle", he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates" Saint Peter said

The second vet reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said "You may pass through the pearly gates".

The third vet (obviously a medic) started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties. Saint Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?" The man replied, "These are Carols."  
*And So The Christmas Season Begins.*

*Merry Christmas and  
a happy and prosperous New Year.*

*Take care of yourself and your loved ones  
and have an enjoyable and safe  
festive season.*



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*President Joe and Your Committee*



# President's Message



Hi everyone.

Here we are with another year coming to an end, and we are a year older.

Personally, I have decided to stop having birthdays, but as usual, someone in my family reminds me how old I really am – but I do have a few years left before I get the OBE (over bloody eighty).

I want to thank you all for re-electing me as your President for a further term until the next reunion which is to be held in about July or August 2012 in Townsville North Queensland.

I want to thank Mal Cheyne who willingly accepted the position of North Queensland representative, and also agreed to organise the reunion.

I have attended all of our reunions except for one held in Adelaide some years ago when I was out of the country attending a funeral in Malta.

All of our reunions have been well organised and excellent events, but of course some have been more memorable than others for me.

Some reunions have had that special something, and our Coffs Harbour reunion this year was one of those occasions. I know it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Rodger Eyles, ably assisted by his lovely wife Betty and Dave Salter, really did put on an excellent reunion for us all to remember. On behalf of all of us, I thank Rodger, Betty and Dave.

I guess it is very much in our thoughts that all this time has elapsed since we were all serving in South Vietnam in 1966/67. I am sure you all agree that we are still united

and the reunions have been so very much the reason for this.

I am also happy to hear that all who attended the reunion have now safely returned home.

A new Committee was voted in at the reunion, and comprises the same people who have been on the Committee since the previous reunion in Adelaide.

All state representatives remain the same, apart from SA/NT. After many good years as the SA/NT representative, Rod Guerin has opted to relinquish the position and now George Marsden has received that baton. Congratulations to George who I am sure will continue with the good work previously done by Rod.

To Rod and his lovely wife Bridget, on behalf of us all, I wish them well and express our gratitude for their efforts and a job well done over many years.

In closing, on behalf of the executive and state representatives, we wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, and may 2011 be a very good year for all of us.

On behalf of my wife Daphne, who always supports and helps me, I thank everyone once again for giving me the honour of being your President for another term.

I will do my utmost to ensure that our Association remains in the good position it now enjoys.

**John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera JP  
President**



# Secretary's Sitrep

## **2010 Reunion Grant**

We had a very successful reunion in Coffs Harbour, and have recently received notice that the Federal Government will make a monetary contribution to reunion costs. Many thanks to the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

## **Patron's Honour**

Unfortunately, Patron Ted was prevented from attending our 2010 reunion having had operations to both knees and needing to recover.

However, in appreciation of his contribution to the Association and on his retirement from the permanent work force, we have presented Ted (in absentia) with a framed painting by a Vietnamese artist of women in their Ao Dais. We also presented a Vietnamese Cook Book to Joy.

Both were delivered by Norm Guest (many thanks) and Ted has written back to the Association expressing his appreciation.

## **Association General Meeting**

After the previous reunion in Adelaide, I posted out Minutes of our General Meeting held with that reunion. However, no one turned up at the General Meeting in Coffs Harbour with their copy of the Adelaide Minutes.

I guess I was extremely optimistic to expect that someone other than me would do so. Hence, the Minutes of our General Meeting held in Coffs Harbour will not be posted and will be provided for members at our next General Meeting.

What I have done, however, is include a copy of the Treasurer's Report including an Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation in this newsletter for your information.

## **Australia Zoo - Free Entry**

Australia Zoo has generously offered free entry for all war veterans and their spouses, so if anyone is travelling to South East Queensland, don't forget to think about this generous offer which was confirmed by Rodger Eyles who recently visited the zoo.

## **Check Your Membership Status**

Please check your membership date as we will now start dropping un-financial members from our mailing list.

## **Contributions to Vampire**

Once again, thanks to everyone who have made various contributions to our Vampire, your efforts are very much appreciated. Please keep it up.

In this issue we have two interesting stories. One from Brian Marley who was one of the first members to march in when the unit was re-raised in 1957 (bet you can't guess which corps he was). And also a story from Kim Cook who was appointed RSM when the unit was again re-raised in 1988. (I doubt if the unit will again be raised in concept as a Field Ambulance Ed.)

Best regards and take care.

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# Treasurer's Report

## 2 FIELD AMBULANCE PAST MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2008-2010

<u>INCOME:</u>	2010	2008
Reunion	11,289.00	8,177.00
Membership	1,830.00	3,280.00
Merchandise	1,731.00	629.00
Port Sales		475.00
Raffle 2008	439.00	
Donations	495.00	406.00
Sundries	309.21	6,336.00 (Grant)
Bank Interest	131.98	16.17
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>18,225.19</u>	<u>19,319.17</u>

### EXPENDITURE:

Reunion	8,291.20	2,015.00
Printing & Stationery	534.76	5.00
Postage	1,231.50	600.00
Merchandise	3,433.20	1,564.65
Bank Fees	75.00	
Sundries	1,555.11	1,294.00
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>15,120.77</u>	<u>5,548.65</u>
Income over Expenditure	3,104.42	13,770.52
Plus Opening Balance	15,719.48	1,948.96
<u>Funds Available</u>	<u>18,823.90</u>	<u>15,719.48</u>

I certify that the figures expressed in this statement are true and correct.

  
Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

# Treasurer's Report Cont'd

## 2 FIELD AMBULANCE PAST MEMBERS ASSOCIATION BANK RECONCILLIATION TO 30 SEPTEMBER,2010

### Cash Books

Balance as at 30/9/2008	15,719.48
Plus Income	18,225.19
Less Expenditure	<u>15,120.77</u>
Balance	<u>18,823.90</u>

### Bank Statements

Balance 30/9/2010	19,013.90
Less O/S Cheque	<u>190.00</u>
Balance	<u>18,823.90</u>

### Treasurer's Statement

The accounts as presented appear extremely healthy but as always one needs to take into account the outstanding expenses associated with the last reunion in Adelaide which, as is usually the case with reunions, did not present for payment until after the reunion had concluded.

In this current reunion there have been accounts totalling \$12,397.61 and there will, no doubt, be a few more unforeseen costs. As a consequence we currently have a balance of available funds of around \$6,426.00.

The reunion in Coffs Harbour cost us about an extra \$2K in round figures. I could have charged the members more for their registration fees to cover the extra costs but the Executive, in their wisdom, decided we would subsidize the functions. I had originally covered all the catering costs except the bar accounts which are an unknown. Over the three nights you managed to consume over \$2,000 worth of drinks, so I hope you are happy with the outcome. Some of this extra cost will be covered by the DVA grant (\$1,060) and this makes the Treasurer very happy.

**Rodger Eyles**  
**Treasurer**

### **NOTICE TO MEMBERS**

*When making payments to the Association Bank Account would you please also mail some form of paperwork listing the details of the payment. It is much more convenient to pay by cheque or postal order. But if you have to do a bank transfer your cooperation would be appreciated. Betty (Treasurer's Assistant).*





# Coffs Harbour Reunion

## Busy weekend for Viet Vets

IT WAS 44 years ago when members of 2 Field Ambulance went to Vietnam to establish the first medical facilities in that campaign.

Two decades after their return, some of the veterans decided it was time for a reunion and since then members have met every two years mostly in capital cities.

This weekend they're converging on Coffs Harbour at C.ex Coffs.

"I'm very pleased with the numbers attending this time and numerous activities have been planned over the weekend," said Rodger Eyles, the organiser and treasurer of the 2 Field Ambulance Past Members' Association.

"They include a meet-and-greet this Friday and a coach tour to the Bellingen markets on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon there will be a memorial service at the (Coffs) Cenotaph followed by the unit dinner.

"Sunday morning the group will have breakfast and a show at the Pet

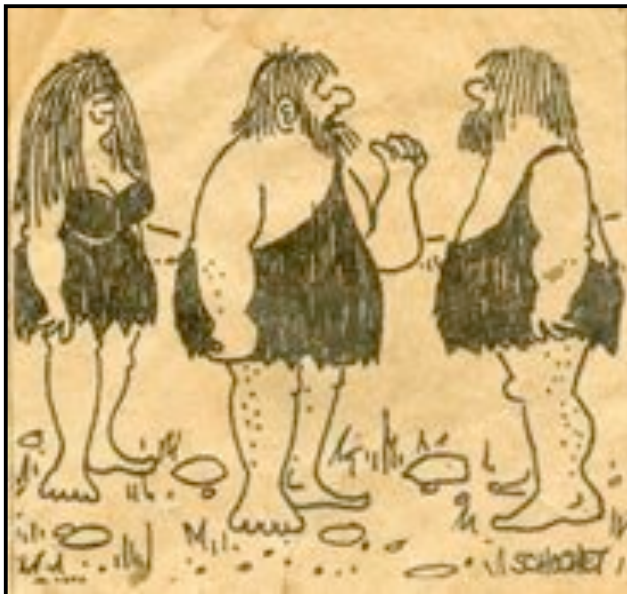
Porpoise Pool. The bi-annual meeting on Sunday afternoon will be followed by a farewell barbecue."

The unit had 128 members in Vietnam and to date 37 of them have since passed on.

The men will remember every one of them when they lay a poppy for each at the memorial service.

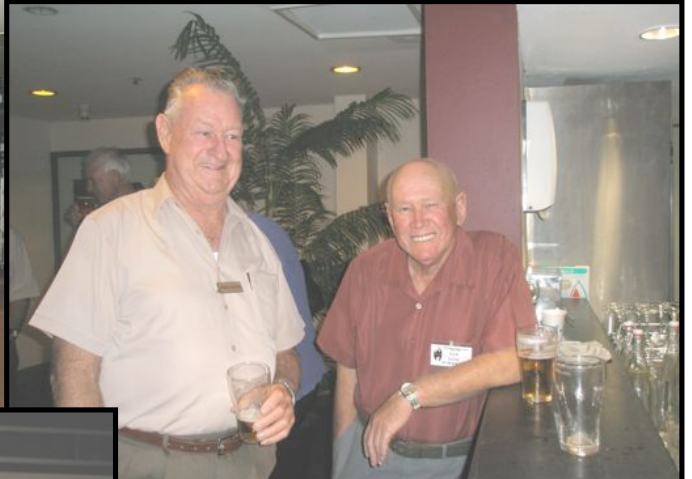
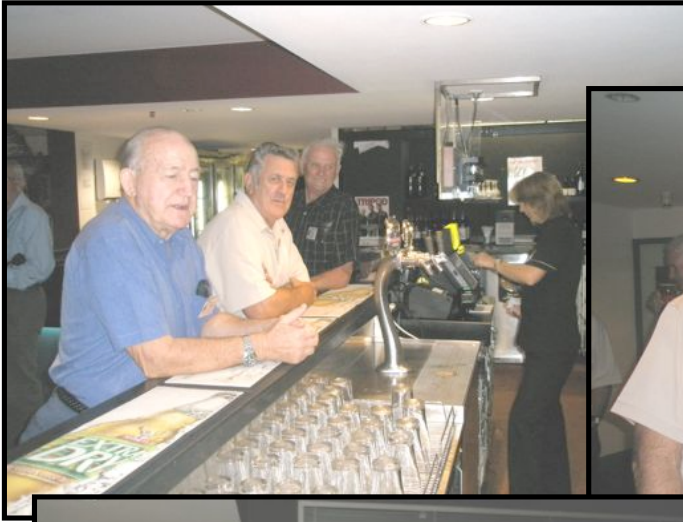
"A lot has been written about the Vietnam War and those who fought in it and you can rest assured that every man in this unit would not have changed a thing and were happy to serve their country including about 20 national servicemen," Mr Eyles said.

"Although they are all in their twilight years now the members travel by plane, train, car and caravans from all over the country to be with each other and share the memories of the time they had together in an Asian conflict so many years ago. The meeting will decide where the next re-union is to be held in two years' time. It is to be proposed it be held in Townsville."

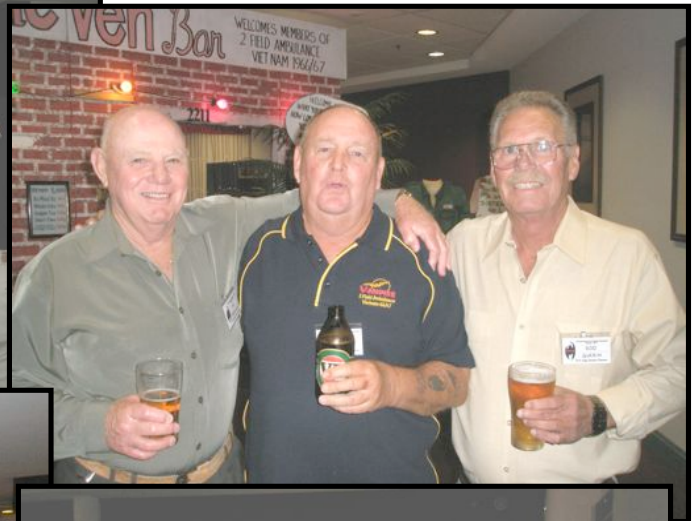


I've decided to teach  
her to talk.....  
What harm can it do?













# Our Cannon Has Had Its Moments



I saw your recent newsletter and the article about the cannon and just had to share some fond memories.

I was the appointed RSM on re-raising of 2nd Field Ambulance in Nov 1988. There are a few interesting stories about the cannon during that time. (Kim Cook)

## Retrieval from Portsea

A bleak weekend in Portsea saw the cannon being placed in a large crate by members of 2 Fd Amb. It was then escorted to RAAF base Melbourne for loading into a C130 and flown with escort to Sydney for an overnight stop.

In Sydney, I convinced the RAAF that the box contained a new experimental piece of ordnance and it needed to be placed in the secure storage area that was under constant surveillance. My escort team would be back in the morning to personally escort the item onto the plane.

Next day the item was escorted to the plane - first item on - we were then made to proceed back to the terminal to await passenger loading. The flight to Townsville was uneventful. On arrival the cannon was missing! It was not on the plane. (career killer).

I reported to the CO (LTCOL George Clegg) who ordered "Find It!!" (ass covering). It turns out the RAAF had unloaded it at Sydney as it weighed too much-It arrived a week later by truck (career saved).

## Stolen

The cannon was stolen by 3/4 Cav Regt in Townsville when the CO had foolishly left it in the Officers Mess overnight. He had taken it to the shared officers mess (2 Fd Sup Bn (3/4 Cav Regt, 2 Fd Amb and 3 Fd Sup Coy) for a happy hour where he scared the crap out of the assembled officers and staff when Capt. John Smith applied a lit match to the touch hole that had been filled with match heads.



The assembly thought it was going to fire. This thought was instigated by the CO who had climbed onto the bar and gave a long speech about the history of the cannon - it had accompanied 2 Fd Amb to the Boer war, WW1, WW2, Korea and Vietnam as a means of protection for the unit etc etc. He would now demonstrate (with the help of his drunken officers) how effective the cannon could be. Capt. Smith then lit the touch hole.

The CO was banned from the mess for a week for that stunt (he was banned for other stunts as well).

### Firing

Thankfully, the cannon was retrieved the day before a parade that MAJ GEN Rogers was attending (CO's career saved).



At the parade the cannon was fired. The Ammo Techs had placed a small charge down the barrel and electrically detonated the charge at the end of the Advance in Review Order - kind of stunned everyone when it went off and probably the only time it was fired during its long life with 2 Fd Amb.

## **Birthdays** **(Be careful what you wish for)**

Bought my son an **iPhone** for his birthday and bought my daughter an **iPod** for hers.

I was excited when the family got together and bought me an **iPad** for my birthday.

Bought my wife an **iRon** for her birthday. It was around then my nose was broken.





# The Danger Of Travelling With Others

The danger of travelling with others is that they may dob you in. Here is a little story by Tankie from *European Vacation* (Ed).

On a recent visit to the post card picturesque island of Santorini, a place requiring the tourist bus to zigzag up the mountain from the whale so we could wander around admiring the scenery. It was necessary to exit the mountain top by one of 3 means:

- a. Cable car,
- b. Donkey ride down a track, or
- c. By foot on the donkey trail.

I managed to make the cable car prior to the crowds and witnessed a spectacular ride down the mountain in style. Some less fortunate people decided to do some shopping in the town and by the time they got to the cable car it was extremely over crowded and thus took it upon themselves to exit via foot on the donkey trail avoiding the great quantities of poo.

AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM but when one donkey bumps into another and at the same time a certain friend (Clive) takes the brunt of that bump an ensuing fall happens. The outcome of this 3 way collision ends up with the said person suffering a painful @\$#! knee. A visit is required on board the ship to see the RMO and some treatment for said injury.



PS. Harry (grandson) "Did the donkey hurt you pop? Are you using a walking frame or a wheel chair?"

A six year old goes to the hospital with her grandmother to visit her Grandpa.

When they get to the hospital, she runs ahead of her Grandma and bursts into her Grandpa's room. "Grandpa, Grandpa," she says excitedly, "As soon as Grandma comes into the room, make a noise like a frog!". "What?" says Grandpa.

"Make a noise like a frog - because Grandma said that as soon as you croak, we're all going to Disney Land".



# A Woman Will Understand

## Mammograms

*Many men just don't get it, so here is a work out in empathy. Have your vet to try these exercises:*

1: Open the refrigerator door and insert one breast in door. Shut the door as hard as possible and lean on the door for good measure.

2: Go to the garage at 3am when the temperature of the cement floor is just perfect. Take off all your clothes and lie comfortably on the floor with one breast wedged under the rear tire of the car.

Then have someone slowly back the car up until your breast is sufficiently flattened and chilled. Turn over and repeat with the other breast.

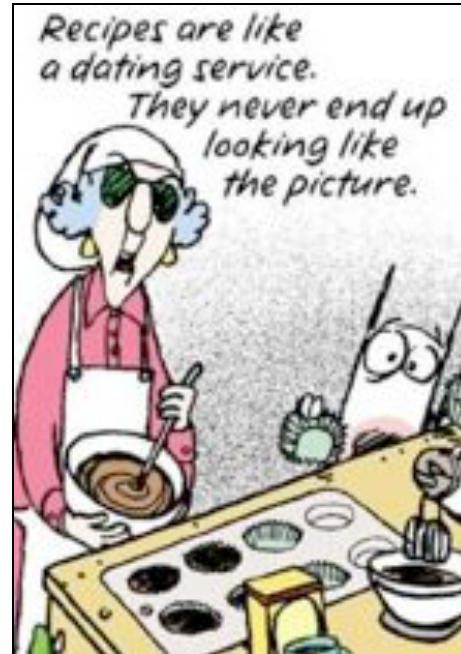
3: Freeze two metal bookends, strip to the waist. Invite a stranger in. Press the bookends against one of your breasts then smash the bookends together as hard as you can. Set up an appointment with the stranger to meet next year to do it again.

### Your vet doesn't know everything...

Tommy was 9 years old and staying with his grandparents. He'd been playing with other kids when he came into the house and asked: "Granddad, what's that thing called when two people sleep in the same room and one is on top of the other?"

A little taken back, Granddad decided to tell Tom the truth. "Tommy, it's called sexual intercourse"

Little Tommy went back outside to play with the other kids again. A few minutes later he came back in and said angrily, "Granddad, it's not sexual intercourse, it's called bunk beds, and Jimmy's mom wants to talk to you."



A sweet old lady phoned the Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The lady in her weak tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302." The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the doctor for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her doctor just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood test just came back normal and the doctor has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The lady said, "Thanks. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?" The lady said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me anything".



# Queensland Report



Hi everyone. I sincerely hope that this report finds you all in good health, and for those who are not we hope that you are on your way to complete recovery.

It's not that long ago that we returned from Coffs Harbour. The reunion was a complete success, and I have heard that everyone enjoyed themselves. Our thanks and gratitude go to Rodger and Betty Eyles and to Dave Salter.

I am sure that I speak for everyone in saying that we now look forward to our next reunion which is only twenty or so months away. It is to be held in the North Queensland city of Townsville, and will be organised by our North Queensland Representative Mal Cheyne. I can assure Mal that all the assistance required will be available to him.

In the past twelve months I have not organised as many get togethers as I would have wished, but due to sickness and other happenings I was unable to do so. And, I guess it is only fair to tell you all that sooner or later I will have to hand over to someone else to be the Queensland representative.

I aim to do some travelling and cruising in the near future so if there is someone out there who would like to take over in 2012, please put your hand up now. I can then show you all that I know, and can also assure you that I will always be there to help as long as my health holds up.

In reference to my other position of National President, I am available for that as long as Members wish me to be, as I will be attending all reunions for as long as I can. 2 Field Ambulance has been very much a large part of my life and I am forever grateful that I have been able to

help in anyway I can, and hopefully can continue to do so. As I said in my Reunion Welcome: "We were together then and we are together now, and will be together until the end"

I now would like to say a few words about the upcoming Christmas lunch to be held in the Redcliffe RSL Kokoda Room on Saturday 4 December 2010 commencing at 1115 hrs with drinks and finger food, and sitting down for lunch at approximately 1230.

I am not sure if this report will reach you before the Christmas lunch but I must tell you that as of today I have 87 who have indicated that they will attend of which there are five children under ten and two over ten. Of the 87, 63 have already paid and I am sure that the rest will do so soon.

This annual function has become a regular event and I am told that it is very much welcomed by all. Therefore, I have already booked the next Christmas lunch for the same venue to be held on 3 December 2011. Daphne and I do look forward to seeing you all there. Incidentally, the dress at the function is smart casual.

I must say a few words of thanks to Brian Connelly, Fred Gross, Phil and Diane Hay, and my dear wife Daphne who helped in selling poppies and badges which raised \$3,213 for our state account.

Also, I must give special thanks to my dear wife Daphne who has always supported me in every way she can.

I have included an up-to-date financial report of the Queensland Branch account.

**John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera JP**  
**Queensland Representative**



**Financial Report**  
**2 Field Ambulance Past Members Association**  
**Queensland Branch**

**14 April 2010 to 4 November 2010**

Previous Balance (12/4/2010)		10,652.16
Receipts		
Poppy and Badge Selling	5,948.95	
Bank Interest	109.39	
Christmas Lunch	1,130.55	7,188.89
		<u>17,841.05</u>
Expenditure		
Purchase Poppies and Badges	3,480.14	
Administration	324.80	3,804.94
		<u>14,036.11</u>
Balance of Bank Statement (4/11/2010)		14,036.11
Value of Badges and Poppies on hand		<u>2,841.00</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>16,877.11</u></u>

Cost of the Christmas function will be about \$4,000 which will still leave a cash balance of approximately \$10,000.

The bank statement and account book have been audited are available for inspection at any time - just give me a call and arrange to come around to my place to look at them.

**(Signed)**  
**John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera**  
**Queensland Representative**





## DUSTOFF



The following is an extract from an article by David T Zabecki published in an American Journal called *Valor* (American spelling for the Journal title Ed).

Although Korean War pilots experimented with aero-medical battlefield evacuation, it remained a nascent concept in Vietnam with no established operating doctrine.

Thanks to *Dustoff*, (the common term used for aero-medical evacuation) American and Allied seriously wounded during the Vietnam war had had the highest survival rates among wounded soldiers from any conflict in history to that time. If you weren't killed outright, *Dustoff* almost always got you to an aid station in time.

The term *Dust Off* (two words) originated as a call sign of 57th Medical Detachment Helicopter Ambulance, and eventually all aero-medical evacuation units in Vietnam adopted the term.

Major Charles L Kelly, (third commander of the 57th) is universally acknowledged as the father of *Dustoff* and aero-medical evacuation. During his six month command he trained his pilots and instilled in them his personal philosophy; no compromise, no rationalization, no hesitation, fly the mission. The patient came first.

The VC weren't the only problem these pilots faced. Kelly fought a running battle with bureaucrats to prove the efficacy of *Dustoff*. He had to haggle constantly with staff officers in the Surgeon-General's Branch who did not understand the rigors of flying medivac in combat.

Kelly also had to fight a running battle with the Commander of the US Army Support Group who wanted to use the helicopters for general-purpose missions when not used for medevac. He won the latter battle, but didn't live to see vindication in the first.

Born in Georgia (US) in 1925, Kelly lied about his age and joined the Army at 15. Vietnam was his third war. By 1964 he was generally regarded as the only American soldier authorised to wear both Combat Infantry Badge and the Combat Medical Badge, as well as Army Aviator and Parachute wings. Along the way he earned a Silver Star.

Near Vinh Long on July 1 1964, Kelly came to retrieve ARVN wounded. When American advisors radioed him to get out, his calm and now iconic reply was "When I have your wounded".

He maintained a low hover as bullets struck his *huey* (UH-1 chopper) from all sides. One round pierced his heart and he died at the controls. The chopper crashed and his crew survived. The US posthumously awarded Kelly the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Republic of Vietnam awarded him the Cross of Gallantry and the National Order of Vietnam.

When the Commander of the 23rd Aviation Battalion confronted Kelly's protégé Captain Patrick H Brady and asked if he would start using more conservative tactics, Brady replied "that he would continue as Kelly had "without hesitation, anytime, anywhere". Brady meant what he said, and during a second tour in Vietnam as a *Dustoff* pilot, he was awarded the Medal of Honour.

Note: The author David T. Zabecki retired from the Army of the United States in 2007 as a Major General. He served in Vietnam, the Balkans, and the Middle East, and also had extensive experience in NATO during the Cold War. (Ed)





# Western Australia Report



Members of the Western Australian contingent who attended the Coffs Harbour Reunion brought back glowing reports and again congratulate the NSW Team for the organisation and the presentation.

Unfortunately members including Phil Voss and myself who did not attend did so with regret and anticipate the attendance for the reunion in Townsville in 2012.

The DVD was a great initiative and certainly provided a chronicle time warp for

the 2 Field Association members as we moved through the various reunions and special events.

I thank members for the support of being renominated as Vice-President and State Representative for WA and hope I can continue to contribute to the ongoing future and camaraderie that emanates from our past deeds and association.

All the best to everyone,

**Peter Bowring**  
**Vice President & WA Representative**

# New South Wales Report



It hardly seems two years ago the members voted to have our 2010 reunion at Coffs Harbour.

At first it seemed like I had plenty of time to make all the arrangements but all of a sudden it was upon us and now it's all over.

It was a great deal of fun for me to present what I did for your enjoyment and I hope you did enjoy yourselves in my beautiful part of Australia.

Of course it took more than my efforts to put it together. Dave & Robyn Salter had a fair input and my wife Betty was a major contributor. Always reminding me what I had to do again, and again, and again!

It goes without saying how important it is for me to attend all our reunions. We may have only spent a few months together out of our 60 plus years of existence but you are all a very important part of my life.

All but a couple of you are bloody awful photographers. I had the film from the

disposable cameras developed at great expense only to find most hadn't used the flash or were too far away from the subject.

And let me say to JB ..... you have the worst looking bum I have ever seen on a human body. What makes it worse is that Betty recognized the identity of the subject which is a bit of a worry.

It's over now to Mal Cheyne and the Queenslanders for our next get together in Townsville. I am sure Mal will receive all the assistance he needs to make it a success. Any advice I can offer is readily available and advance funds will be made available for any early costs that might be needed.

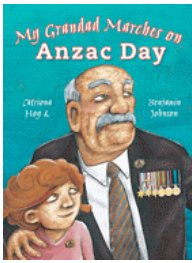
Oh, and rest assured you will not hear me sing ever again. It was definitely a one off performance.

I look forward to the next time we meet ..... keep safe.

**Rodger Eyles**  
**NSW Representative**



# MY GRANDDAD MARCHES ON ANZAC DAY



*Author:*  
*Catriona Hoy*

*Illustrator:*  
*Benjamin Johnson*

She shares her observations of the day very realistically - from how cold it is at dawn, to the way Grandad smiles at her as he proudly marches past. She explains why her grandad marches - and what Anzac Day means - in very simple terms.

Few people would refute the importance of the day, but it is not always an easy concept to share with young children.

This is an outstanding introduction for kids and will be invaluable as a resource.

## NOTE:

Catriona Hoy, makes the story of Anzac Day accessible to children through a telling of one Anzac Day through the eyes of a granddaughter who goes to the Anzac Day parade to watch her grandfather march.

[www.anzacday.org.au/education/children](http://www.anzacday.org.au/education/children)  
This website has information about the ANZAC tradition and history of other conflicts in which Australian forces have served. (Ed)

A young pretty speech therapist was getting nowhere with her Stammer Action Group. She had tried every technique in the book without the slightest success.

Finally, thoroughly exasperated she said "If anyone can tell me the name of the town where you were born, without stuttering, I will have hot passionate sex with you until your muscles ache and your eyes water. So who wants to go first?"

The Englishman piped up "B-b-b-b-b-b-b-irmingham". "That's no use Trevor. Who's Next?" The Scotsman raised his hand and blurted "P-p-p-p-p-p-aisley". "That's no better. There'll be no sex for you Hamish. How about you Paddy?"

The Irishman took a deep breath and blurted out "London". "Brilliant Paddy!" And living up to her promise they had exceptionally steamy sex. Eventually, when they paused for breath Paddy said "d-d-d-d-d-d-d-d-erry"



## The 1957 Rebirth Of 2 Field Ambulance

I am one of the original "starters" of the third coming of 2 Field Ambulance. Re-formed in 1957 at Puckapunyal's 3 Camp Hospital. I have penned a narrative of those times which you may find interesting in respect to the "First five members of 2 Field Ambulance". **Regards, Brian Marley (Melbourne, June 2010)**

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The Unit was initially formed during the First World War, "the war to end all wars", and, based on that premise, after 1918 the unit was disbanded.

Twenty-one years later, the same enemy but with a change of "players on the bench". The Turks went off and the Japanese came on. 2 Field Ambulance formed up once again although with a slight change of designation, it became 2/2 Field Ambulance.

In the late 1940s the unit was again disbanded, and in 1950 it was the turn of Korea to invite some countries to engage in the sounds of war. The USA, decided to be both umpire and player, and called on some allies whom they had recently met to join the Police Action. However, 2 Field Ambulance had been disbanded. But MASH 4077 was there, so we were not needed.

In 1957 it was decided that because there were still stroppy countries willing to fight with others, Australia needed a force that would be battle ready to "sort the buggers out". Hence the formation of - ***The Field Force***.

From memory (in the mists of time, so this may be refuted) the very first "march ins" were one sergeant, one corporal & two or three privates. We were housed at 3 Camp Hospital for about 3 months until a site that held 14 National Service Battalion was made ready to accept 2 Field Ambulance (national service having been repealed).

The four or five original members of the revamped 2 Field Ambulance were not wearing the maroon shoulder flash of RAAMC. They wore a grey & yellow flash & a cap badge showing steam rising from a cooking pot. Yes, the AACC cadre opened the innings for the RAAMC. Next came engineers, ordnance, service corps, and of course medical corps.

So 2 Field Ambulance was reformed or was that resurrected? And where else, but Puckapunyal Victoria of course!

Our first medical corps person to arrive was the RSM, WO1, Stan Rofe, a total gentleman. From then, the unit gained strength as more and more people began joining the unit.

Next came unit transport, Jeeps (later we had Austin Champs). The trucks were left-hand-drive GMCs (Jimmys). One truck had a huge mounted water tank. But why? was the obvious question, which remained unanswered until the following year, 1958.

Then the pride of the fleet arrived, two Ford Blitz Buggies. Both were emblazoned with huge red crosses; back, front, both sides and on the roof. These were our ambulances, ready to transport the sick & injured of the Field Force. The equation was about right, just under almost a brigade of troops serviced by two "Blood Boxes". It was asked, if were we to load as the Indians did in Calcutta - anywhere they would fit? But I digress.

2 Field Ambulance hung around Puckapunyal for quite a while, then the whole box and dice went off for a long drive to South Australia. We were housed at Woodside, about 25 Miles (50 kms) from Adelaide.

To be quite honest and again from my dim memory, very little was achieved army wise with regard to full-on training.

Of course we cooks continued to present "gourmet" meals three times a day. You may remember: steamed Golden Pudding, bread & butter custard, mash potatoes, and beef stew. All steamed & boiled to be almost edible. And, not forgetting the "soldiers own" mulligatawny soup

The idyllic life could not continue of course. Head Office in Melbourne (or were they in Canberra?) decided that, because hostilities had abated, we needed a "combat ready force" to be on stand by - not that there were too many waiting to charge up the beaches.

Anyway, an exercise was conceived to be fought against the "dastardly foe" in North Queensland. We spent a month to six weeks around the Sarina & Mackay area and never saw a single "enemy".



Back to Woodside earlier in our tale, our Adjutant, a Capt Randall, was charged with the task of moving 2 Field Ambulance, complete with Blitz Buggies etc. We were plotting the route through the hinterland, on roads that no man has gone before, (in an Austin Champ jeep). Persons of the younger genre may never have heard of the "Wilys" cooker. This was a four wheeled trailer that had a steam generator fired by wood. A field kitchen, where steam cooks everything.

We, meaning me, had one problem. How do I make a fried egg out of this powdery stuff in the box labelled "powdered egg". As I scooped it out, I thought, that's the yellow yolk, where's the bloody white stuff that goes around it? Now that I think back, I feel that I should apologise for the not so great meals we slapped on your plates. Then again, its been 53 years and surely you would have forgiven or forgotten? NO?

We fed our very own "4077 MASH" all the way from Woodside to Sarina, around 4,000kms (my guess on distance, could be wrong). Anyway, the Queensland war ended and we drove ourselves in our trucks, jeeps, cookers and blood boxes back to South Australia. Never ever found out who won, them or us? Must have been us, because we didn't become POW's.

From Woodside, the Army foolishly thought that I would prefer the godforsaken climes of Puckapunyal again. Basically, I was given a choice of either Pucka' or put against a wall and shot! I requested time to decide. And so leaving 2 Field Ambulance with my box of powdered egg I joined 1 Armoured Regiment at Pucka'.

In the remaining years of my army career, I was surprised that no one ever asked for an omelette off the menu; disappointed because by then I had learned the art of the use of powdered eggs.

Through reading our own newsletter "Vampire" I notice that 2 Field Ambulance have remained an integral part of this Australian Army for almost 100 years.

*I congratulate those who WERE and those who ARE*

*2 Field Ambulance.*





## Who Is That?



It is only fair that I provide a clue for the one on the left.

This old sage was at the Coffs Harbour reunion and was re-elected as a State Rep (Ed).



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