



# VIETNAM VETERANS PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

MARCH 2015



*There is sadness in the veteran community  
for we have lost a champion*

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Famous painting by Vietnam veteran Ray Beattie, *Image of a Dead Man*



**VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA**

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Incorporating

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers  
Association of Australia (NSW Branch ) Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Queensland Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans & Veterans Federation ACT Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation Victorian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australian Branch Inc.

Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers  
Federation of Australia (WA Branch) Inc.

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Researcher: Graham Walker

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OUR COVER  
The late Tim McCombe OAM  
Photo Acknowledgements

**Photos of Tim's life supplied by the family.**

Most of the funeral photos were taken by  
Khanh Lai, *Hi Tech Computer Repairs*,  
Smithfield NSW 2164, 0405805800.

Other photos provided by Kim Ngoc To and  
Ngoc Anh Phan (Anna).

# Timothy Hocart McCombe OAM

24 May 1945 — 31 January 2015

The funeral was held at  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church,  
Cabramatta, Sydney on 14 February  
2015

The Wake was held at  
Cabra-Vale Diggers Club  
on the same day

# The Welcome to Tim's Funeral

Senator the Honourable Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans Affairs,  
Hon David Feeney, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs,

Hon Alan Griffin, Past Minister for Veterans Affairs,

Senator Jacqui Lambie, former member of the Australian Defence Force,

Major General Mark Kelly AO DSC, Repatriation Commissioner,

Ms Jennifer Collins, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs,

Ms Janet Charmichael, New South Wales Director of the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service,

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN, Chair, Australian War Memorial Council and National President of the Returned and Services League,

National and State leaders of the veteran community,

Representatives of the Vietnamese veteran community,

Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs,

Veteran John Shields, the medic who saved the life of a badly wounded Tim McCombe,

John Schumann, the author of our anthem, 'I Was Only 19' and Redgum original and master guitarist, Hugh McDonald, who have come to celebrate their long friendship with Tim, in song,

Veterans and Friends of Tim McCombe,

On behalf of the McCombe family, Tram, Craig, Stephanie, Mason, Lachlan and Roslyn

## WELCOME





The beautiful Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cabramatta



The generous and eloquent Father Peter Duong who presided over the funeral that provided so magnificent a send-off for Tim. Unfortunately we have no photo of the choir that so enhanced the service

# The Eulogy

Given on behalf of the  
Vietnam Veterans Federation  
by Graham Walker

**"There is sadness in the veteran community  
for we have lost a champion."**

There is sadness in the veteran community for we have lost a champion.



Tim as a young soldier. Note the Bren Gun.

Tim McCombe served in 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Malaya and Borneo during Indonesian Confrontation, then volunteered to transfer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion which was preparing for war service in Vietnam.

In Phuoc Tuy Province Tim stepped on a mine, was blown into the air, landing some metres away. He was seriously wounded. He lost one leg above the knee. The other was saved but needed a brace for support.

Tim spent many months in hospital and a year and a half in rehabilitation.

But as is so often the case, the trauma of the event left psychological scars as well.

The reduced mobility, the pain and the psychological damage later led Tim into some years of depression and despair. He dropped into a black hole, he later related, and wondered whether he would ever emerge.

But emerge he did

In 1981, Tim joined the band of Vietnam veterans led by Phil Thompson, counselling sick and troubled veterans, campaigning for the establishment of counselling centres and seeking recognition of the harmfulness of exposure to Agent Orange.

The headquarters of the Vietnam Veterans Association, as the group was





Nui Dat

called, was a storeroom at the back of an old Granville RSL hall. There, Mick Scrace, Norm Robinson, Terry Loftus, Ross Mangano, Lachlan Irvine and many others were renovating the storeroom into cramped offices with donated partitioning material. They were a resourceful lot, with a cement truck of unknown origin turning up to fill the formwork for a set of back steps and an army truck, perhaps mistaking the Granville headquarters for its official destination, disgorging used furniture.

These cramped offices and those who worked in them became a lifeline for so many troubled Vietnam veterans.

Tim quickly became involved in everything.

He was later to explain that having been through those dark years he became determined to help others suffering war trauma.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service opened its first office in Adelaide. In recognition of the influence this group had in its establishment, Phil Thompson was included in the staff selection panel and gave a speech at the opening.

Tim became a member of the National Advisory Committee overseeing its operations.

In 1983, the Agent Orange Royal Commission was established and Tim spent many hours assisting the lawyers prepare the case at the Association's Royal Commission headquarters in Newtown, Sydney.

After the Royal Commission reported in 1985 it was Tim who discovered that large tracts of the report were copied verbatim from the chemical company's submissions.

More importantly, Tim was unhappy that certain favourable findings of the Royal Commission had not encouraged the acceptance of chemical related compensation claims. So Tim began sponsoring appeals. By the early 90s Tim

had sponsored a score of successful Agent Orange cases at the Veterans Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

This was a remarkable achievement that marked Tim as a major force in the veteran community.

Tim's remarkable success with the Agent Orange cases showed determination and patience as did his campaign to have prostate cancer linked with smoking.

Some fifteen years ago, Tim appealed against a decision not to recognise the link. Dissatisfied with the initial appeal decision, Tim took the matter to two Federal Court hearing and a hearing of the NSW Court of Appeal. It seemed to go on endlessly. Tim finally had success in 2013. However, that success was recently





overturned and Tim was again commissioning evidence to continue the fight.

If Tim believed in the justice of the cause, he would not let go. He was a bulldog.

**And what of Tim's integrity.**

In 2005 Tim was offered the trip of a lifetime. He was invited to join a government sponsored party to the upcoming Anzac Day commemoration at Gallipoli. It was, Tim wrote in reply to the invitation, a trip he would dearly love to make. But this was a time when the Vietnam Veterans Federation was deeply dissatisfied with the government's response to a long list of important veterans' issues.

Tim concluded his reply saying, '...for the President of our Federation to accept personal favours from a government guilty of treating our war veterans... in such ways, would be improper.'

He, along with Blue Ryan, then the National President of the TPI Federation, declined the invitation.

And it was not only such weighty matters that interested Tim. He has assisted thousands of

veterans and Australian Defence Force members to lodge compensation claims and advocated hundreds of their cases before the Veterans Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Helping worthy veterans by winning their cases gave Tim great satisfaction. Indeed, Tim was preparing several Veterans Review Board appeals when he died.

And even while he was preparing these appeals, Tim was suffering continual pain from shrapnel emerging from his leg.

Of course I could go on for some time listing the campaigns Tim fought on behalf of sick and troubled veterans and their families.

But it is, I think, suffice to say that with compassion, dogged determination and integrity, for over thirty years, Tim fought for veterans' interests.

He was New South Wales Branch President and National President of the Vietnam Veterans Federation for twenty years; a measure of the respect in which he was held by the membership.

As the attendance today shows, he was also held in high regard by the wider veteran community.

There is sadness in the veteran community for we have lost a champion. ■







Tim's wife, Tram, and veteran Jim Wrigley



The placing of the red poppies



Wife Tram and son Craig speak about Tim on behalf of the family with veteran John Shields



Family watching the choir perform





VVFA New South Wales President, Frank Cole and wife Susan greet distinguished guests

Front Row :Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Hon Michael Ronaldson; Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN, Chair, Australian War Memorial and National President, Returned and Services League; Ms Janet Charmichael, NSW Director VVCS; Ms Jennifer Collins, Deputy Commissioner DVA

Second Row: Mr Robert Hardie, Ministerial advisor; Major General Mark Kelly AO DSC, Repatriation Commissioner.

Third Row: Hon Alan Griffin, Past Minister for Veterans Affairs, Hon David Feeney, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs.



Bill Roberts OAM, National Secretary VVFA and Senior Vice President of the NSW Branch with Committee members

## Address by Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson Minister for Veterans Affairs

### “Tim McCombe was a fighter...”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tim McCombe was a fighter and rightly described by some as a force of nature.

He was an advocate and a champion for his fellow Vietnam Veterans. He fought for his country and on his return, fought for his mates - the mates he knew and, just as importantly, the mates he didn't know.

He, above all, honoured the precious bonds that only those who fought beside each other can share and understand.

As one who has not served, I can only observe this from a distance and admire it. I first met Tim more than four years ago when I had the great honour to be given the Veteran's Affairs portfolio in opposition.

Over those three years I met with Tim on a regular basis. He would discuss with me issues of concern to him personally and also those comrades for whom he cared so much about.

He argued strongly for increased BEST funding, because he saw advocacy, welfare and pension work undertaken by the Federation and undertaken by others around Australia as absolutely pivotal to the cause of Vietnam Veterans and other veterans.

As you know, he strongly articulated the case against co-location of DVA and VVCS offices.

Since the election, and with the great honour to be appointed as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, I continued my contact



Tim in the Granville office



with Tim.

Indeed I saw him just before Christmas and I asked to meet with he and Ken Foster in relation to Terendak. As always, both were willing to meet with me, at short notice, and as always I was grateful for their sage advice.

As Alan Griffin would know, Tim was willing to, occasionally, praise Government. He was equally forthright putting Government on notice for doing what he believed was the wrong thing. In some respects those notes and memos that Tim has given me, which I still have, will now take on a new significance.

I was telling someone the other day that there are four people I am seriously scared of in the world: my mother, my wife and my two daughters. The other two people I'm sort of scared of, though not as much as I first was after I first met them a couple of times, were Tim and Blue Ryan. If Tim or Blue gave you a lesson in life, it was a lesson that you did not ever forget.

Tim was an active participant at the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table. It was set up by Alan Griffin in 2009, the current Government has of course kept it as the peak ex-service organisation group and Tim's role in that was absolutely pivotal.

He was very serious about his role on the National Advisory Council, a matter about which he was passionate. His contribution to that is a legacy that will continue. It is a very proud legacy.

He was, if you like, a quintessential advocate, a quintessential fighter. It didn't matter who you were, where you were from, what you believed in; Tim was there to help you.

As we know he was awarded an OAM in 2001 and received his Centenary Medal as well that year.

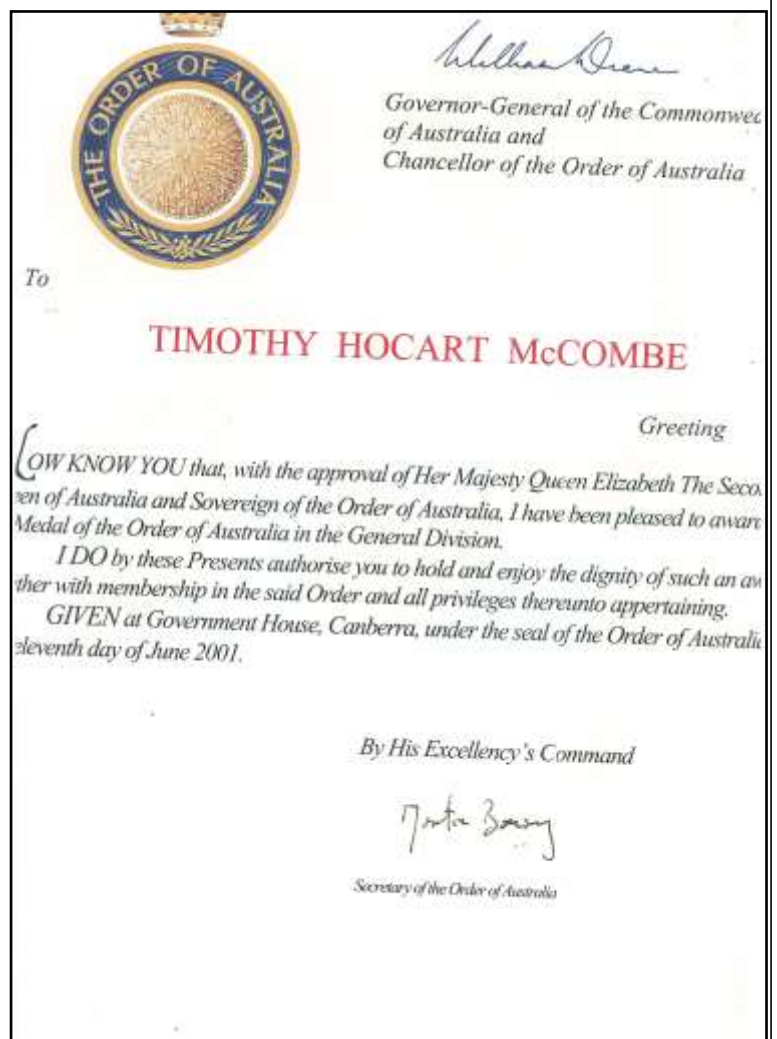
I know the Federation will desperately miss Tim, but I know equally, that his legacy and activism will be

continued.

We are indeed better people for knowing Tim McCombe and our community, and particularly the veteran community, is the poorer for his passing.

Tram, can I say to you, and to Craig and Stephanie, I extend the condolences from myself, the Australian Government, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and my Parliamentary colleagues.

I say to all three of you: be proud of your husband and father. He was a good man who well and truly fought the good fight. ■





Address by the Minister for  
Veterans Affairs, Senator the  
Hon Michael Ronaldson

Address by Ms Jennifer Collins,  
Deputy Commissioner DVA



The Reading by Frank Cole,  
President NSW Branch



The Eulogy delivered on behalf of the  
VVFA by National Research Officer,  
Graham Walker

Tom Jenkins conducts the 'Veterans'  
Funeral' which includes the laying of  
poppies

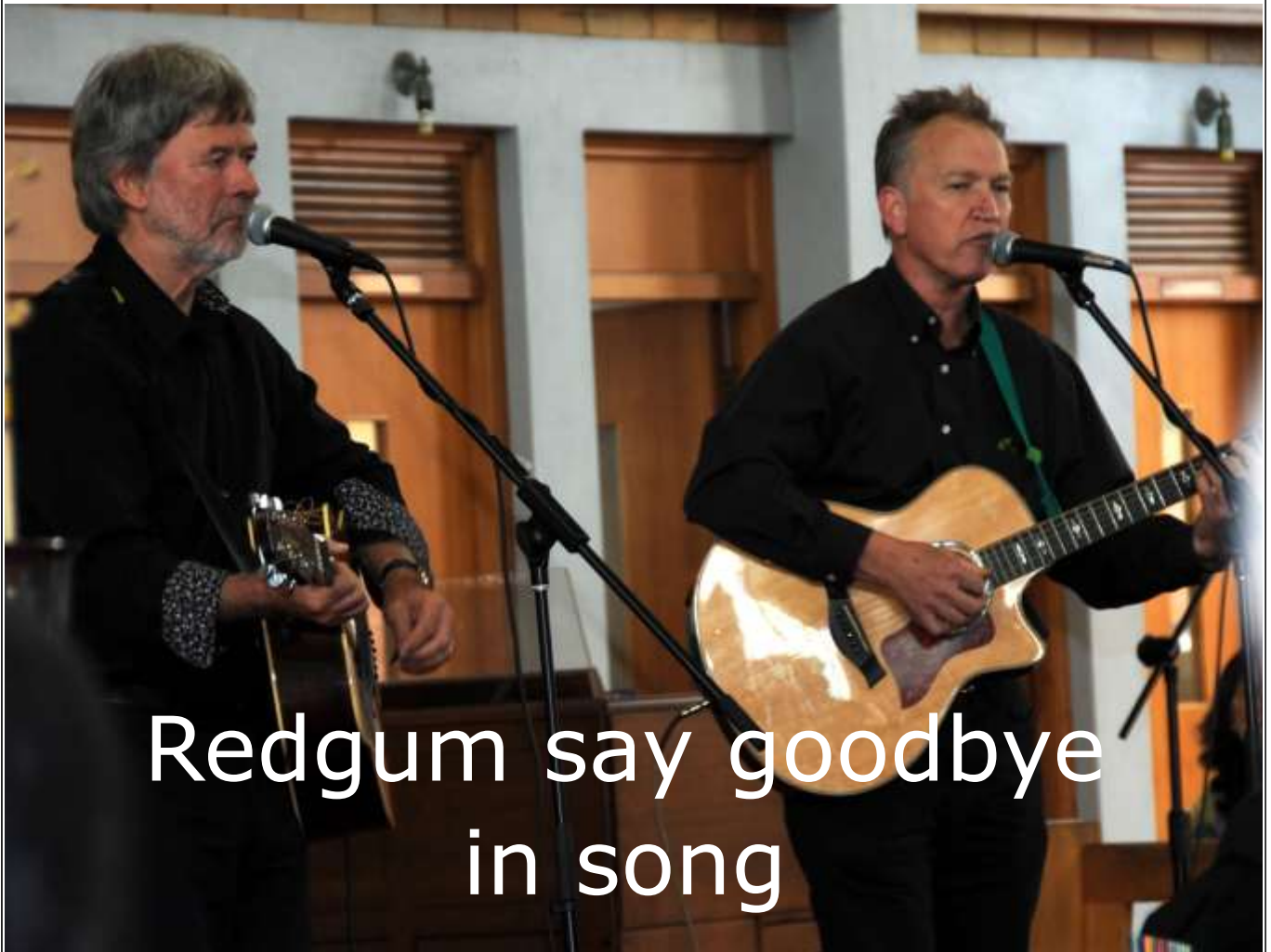


Address in Federal Parliament  
on 4 March 2015  
Hon Alan Griffin MP  
former Minister for Veterans Affairs

Address in Federal Parliament  
on 5 March 2015  
Senator Jacqui Lambie  
former member of the ADF







## Redgum say goodbye in song

*'They thought of the far-away grave on the plain,  
They thought of the comrade who came not again,  
They lifted their glasses, and sadly they said:  
'We drink to the name of the mate who is dead.'  
And the sunlight streamed in, and a light like a star  
Seemed to glow in the depth of the glass on the bar.'*

They are some words from one of the songs John Schumann (author of our anthem, *I Was Only 19*) and Hugh McDonald (an original of *Redgum*) sang at Tim's funeral.

The words are from a Henry Lawson poem, *The Glass on the Bar*, about some Australian bushmen losing a mate, but they perfectly capture the feeling of the Vietnam veteran community at the loss of Tim.

There's a famous Cold Chisel song about the Vietnam war, *Khe Sanh*. John and Hugh

performed it with a changed first line.

*I owe my life to the choppers at Long Tan  
And my soul was sold with my cigarettes to the  
blackmarket man  
I've had the Vietnam cold turkey  
From the ocean to the Silver City  
And it's only other vets could understand."*

It's a song about the lasting traumatic effects of fighting a war; effects that devastated Tim's life for a good number of years. It was a devastation that Tim eventually rose above to devoted his life to helping others rise above their war caused problems.

John Schumann first met Tim in February 1983 when Tim, accompanied by Phil Thompson and Terry Loftus, appeared at John's hotel room



John Schumann OAM, author of *I Was Only 19*,  
and master guitarist and Redgum original, Hugh McDonald,  
say goodbye in song to their long time mate

in Coogee Bay. As John put it, 'The three of them were there to interrogate this left-wing singer-songwriter from Adelaide who had written a song about Vietnam veterans. I was seriously intimidated by all three. In time, these three blokes and I became mates.'

*I Was Only 19* is the story of a mine explosion, very like the one that took one of Tim's legs and crippled the other.

When John and Hugh sang it, readers will not be surprised that there was hardly a dry eye in the Church. There rarely is whenever they perform *I Was Only 19*.

And Tim loved the song.

As Tim's coffin left the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, John and Hugh performed their version of *Waltzing Matilda*. No song could have better reflected Tim's spirit. ■

Shooney's version of *The Glass on the Bar* can be seen on youtube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGNJYDgJHKY>

There are many versions of *I Was Only 19* on youtube.

Try an early version:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJMgPOY-M44>

Or a later version with John and Hugh:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEKiqculAc>

Or even later:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIVoIVZa5VQ>

There are many versions of John's *Waltzing Matilda*.

Try:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNPYDOMKOU0>









Farewell Tim

# Memories



Tim with wife Tram



Tim with daughter Stephanie, son Craig and Her Excellency Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir AD, CVO on the occasion of him receiving the Order of Australia.





Tim receiving support from Vietnamese veterans





In 2007, a band called The Herd, recorded a Hip-Hop version of our anthem *I Was Only 19*.

It became very popular with young listeners.

Brendan Doyle and Navid Bahadori, starting-out film makers under the brand of *Broken Yellow*, contacted our New South Wales branch office at Granville, asking for help in making a music video for the song.

Brendan and Navid told Tim that they wanted to 'get it right'. Interviews were arranged and the VVFA Research Officer tasked to give continuing help.

The result was a music video that raced to number one on ABC TV's *Rage* and other TV music video programs.

Just as important, because of its appeal to the young, it was used by the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne to introduce talks to thousands of school children.

The music video, which included veterans from Granville, told the Vietnam story to a whole new generation.

In the photo, Navid Bahadori and Brendan Doyle present Tim with a mark of their appreciation for the help Granville gave them.

The music video can be seen on youtube at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns82tHhJOr0>





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## PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR VETERANS AND ADF MEMBERS

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**



At the wake we watched to slide show of Tim's life.  
Many remembered Tim at the work he loved, centred on the Granville office



Tim at the Granville office



## Billy Roberts is the National Secretary VVFA and the Senior Vice President of the NSW Branch. He worked every day with Tim at the Granville office

**"What I admired most about Tim was his determination to help veterans and others in the services communities..."**

**Memories of Tim by Bill Roberts OAM..**

Tim and I served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australia Regiment in Malaysia and Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation between 1965 and 1967. I didn't see him again until 1993 when I visited the Vietnam Veterans Office at the back of the Granville RSL Hall, for assistance with a disability pension claim. Tim was the President at the time.

I was so impressed with the sincere welcome extended to me and the professional help that I had received from the volunteer pension officers that I too decided to offer my services as a volunteer at Granville, and in 1994 I became a pension officer and later an Advocate and continue to provide these services to this day.

At that time we worked in a confined area and had to compete with the loud music from the "Old time" dancing classes immediately alongside our office several times a month and we persevered with this until we moved to our new

premises at 8 Mary Street, Granville where we remain to this day.

It was obvious to me in 1994 that Tim had established and presided over a well "oiled" and efficient team of volunteer Advocates and Pension and Welfare officers, who were not only assisting Vietnam Veterans but veterans of all wars or conflicts and later those who served in Peacekeeping/Peacemaking deployments and also serving members of the Defence Force, with these services.

I was also aware at that time of Tim's, Phil Thompson and Graham Walker's involvement with the Agent Orange issue and the quest for the establishment of the

Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, both of which, many of those here today, would know, were successful.

It was also evident to me that Tim had not only established an efficient and professional group of volunteers but had instilled in them a

**"I was so impressed with the sincere welcome extended to me and the professional help that I had received from the volunteer pension officers that I too decided to offer my services as a volunteer at Granville..."**



# The Wake

desire to help their fellow veterans and those in the Services Communities, and also a sense of pride in what they were doing. A desire that has flowed through my veins since.

As the Senior Vice President of the Association and the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans Federation for the past ten years I worked closely with Tim and came to know more about him during that time.

What I admired most about Tim was his determination to help veterans and others in the services communities, his strong and unswerving commitment to the issues affecting the entitlements and wellbeing of these communities, and the firm and forthright manner in which he represented these issues to the Government and other Authorities and “forums” and to see them through, on behalf of the Federation members and veterans generally.

The fact that he did all of this in spite of his severe mobility problems and other medical issues, is an indication of the calibre of the man. **The Federation was his ‘life’, what more can I say.**

These are the characteristics of a strong leader and Tim was definitely this. His leadership has seen the Federation grow from strength to strength over the years to the point that we are now respected and recognised as one of the leading Ex-Service Organisation in assisting the veterans and services communities with pension and advocacy matters, as reflected in a Review of the Organisation undertaken by Professor Stan Glaser in 2012.

This is all I and the Federation could have asked of Tim, as our leader, and he did not fail us.

On a personal note I will miss Tim’s frequent and sudden “high decibel” laugh on the telephone, which often caught me off guard, sending me to the ceiling. I will also miss him referring to me as ‘the animal’ and asking me who I was abusing whenever I was typing letter on the computer, to which I would usually reply ‘someone on your behalf, Tim’, and also ‘stop nagging me Roberts’.

I will dearly miss all of this and his leadership, guidance, caring nature for the health and wellbeing of veterans and services communities, and his staff, and also his sense of humour. These are the memories that I will have of Tim and hopefully they will remain with me for as long as I live.

I have no doubts that many of you present today would have the same feelings.

The attendance of all those here today, not only of the Federation members, but from other Ex-Service Organisations and outside of that environment, is a true reflection of the esteem and high regard that was held for Tim as a person and for what he had achieved.

It will be impossible to fill his shoes, but go on we must, to continue his legacy.

Rest in Peace Soldier, Husband, Father, Uncle, Leader, Veterans’ Champion, until we meet again in that great ‘Parade Ground’ in heaven and yes I will have a cup of coffee and “bikky” ready for you. ■



# In Parliament House Canberra

**Hon Alan Griffin MP attended the funeral.**

**When he was the Minister for Veterans Affairs (2007-2010)  
he worked closely with Tim**

**On Wednesday 4 March 2015, he spoke at length of Tim in a speech to  
Parliament**

**He concluded his speech saying:**

I offer my condolences to his family, Tram, Craig and Stephanie. In my time as Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Tim fought hard for veterans—as hard as anyone did. But he was also always a straight shooter who had integrity—more integrity, I have to say, than many others I have dealt with over the years. May he rest in peace. A Veteran has died. A great Australian has died. ■

**Senator Jacqui Lambie, former member of the ADF,  
attended the funeral.**

**On 5 March 2015 she addressed the Senate.**

I rise to regretfully inform Australia's Senate that one of our great warriors and family man and veterans advocate, Tim McCombe OAM, died of a heart attack on 31 January 2015. He died at 1 am on Saturday morning at Bowral and District Hospital, New South Wales. Tim had worked tirelessly for veterans welfare since 1981. He was closely involved in the Agent Orange Royal Commission and every veterans issues since.

His funeral, which I attended, was held on 14 February 2015 and following is the eulogy, written by Graham Walker, on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia:

(Senator Lambie then read the Eulogy delivered by Graham Walker at the funeral)

Tim McCombe is survived by his wife, Tram, his daughter, Stephanie, and son, Craig. On behalf of all Tasmanians I pass on my deepest condolences to them. The McCombes' have lost a loving husband and father, the veterans community has lost a bloody champion and Australia has lost a loving son.

**Lest we forget . ■**

# "Tim was relentless and unyielding in this fight."

At the Wake, Frank Benfield OAM,  
himself an icon of the veteran community,  
remembers Tim

Dear Tim McCombe's Family, friends of Tim, veterans and official guests.

It is impossible to summarise briefly Tim's life's work advocating for veterans, for Tim McCombe was a giant in the community of veterans and particularly so among Vietnam veterans.

Severely WIA at just 22 years of age, on return to Australia Tim struggled for years through a long period of hospitalisation and rehabilitation and the difficult personal experiences attendant to such wounds. A fight many here have experienced personally. Despite his war-caused disabilities, with courage, determination and commitment Tim persisted and with his Granville mates, notably Phil Thompson and Terry Loftus, plus Graham Walker who is with us today, took the fight up to a heartless, ungrateful government. It was a tough fight, a lonely fight not least because one the peak ex-service organisation, the RSL, refused to join.

For the rest of his life Tim fought on behalf of all current and former serving members of the ADF and their dependents, beginning with the fight against chemical companies and government over the health effects of Agent Orange on veterans and their dependents. Tim

was relentless and unyielding in this fight.

Although irascible, Tim was always well-informed, to such an extent that he inevitably took the bureaucrats, politicians and governments by surprise, for they continuously underestimated

Tim's sometimes impertinent but always committed, rugged when necessary, forceful, but always relentless advocacy for veterans and their dependents.

He devoured AND understood the complex legal nuances of relevant AAT and Federal Court decisions and was equally comfortable within equally complex medical and scientific journal articles.

Whether representing individuals concerning primary claims to DVA, or at hearings of the VRB or AAT; or arguing the case in a Ministerial office; or in the DVA Secretary's office, Tim always gave as good as he got from an informed basis.

From both sides of the determining table, I witnessed and admired his tenacity and envied his skillset. I had the great good fortune to count Tim as a friend, despite his support for the Parramatta Eels as opposed to my support for the Eastern Suburbs' Roosters.

Whether before the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council, the Review of Military

"From both sides of the determining table, I witnessed and admired his tenacity and envied his skillset."

Compensation Arrangements or at the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table, Tim's advocacy was always first-rate, the best that could be. Tim was that rarity among Men, he was peerless.

Tim had a wicked sense of humour which endeared him to many, he loved a laugh and didn't mind if the joke was on him. He was just an all-round, bloody good bloke and will be profoundly missed by us all, even though he considered us all "ugly".

For his protracted, high-quality service to the veteran's community, Tim was granted the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) and the Centenary Medal.

\*\*\*\*\*

Frank Benfield also brought a message from Gail McDonnell who was unable to attend.

Gail, the wife of a Vietnam veteran, and founding member of the Partners of Veterans Association is completing her PhD on the effects of veterans' war trauma on their families. Because there is inadequate research on this vital issue, Gail founded the Australian Families of the Military Research and Support Foundation (AFOM).

Here is Gail's message.

AFOM is a Foundation established by current and former serving ADF members and their families, which aims to raise funds for objective research unburdened by bureaucratic and/or political imperatives.

Tim McCombe was an Ambassador for AFOM and always supported AFOM's goals. It is my fervent wish that everyone present understands the profound appreciation we at AFOM had for Tim's involvement with and commitment to AFOM.

On the national forums we served on together, Tim (with Blue Ryan and Graham Walker) helped me so much to get to know how things worked and how to get things done in the murky political/bureaucrat environment. But for Tim (Blue and Graham), I would have run away ages

ago, but they compelled me to persist, and I am so pleased I did.

Tim's war & life experiences left scars both physical and psychological, but scars never prevented Tim from lending a hand to veterans & current soldiers.

My main wish is that you understand how much AFOM and I will miss Tim.

\*\*\*\*\*

Frank concludes:

With all present today and those unable to be with us, I hope Tim is now at peace, satisfied to finally 'stand-down', a job well done and then some.

RIP Timothy Hocart McCombe  
Lest We Forget for men of his quality are few and far between.



Frank Benfield OAM, and Clare Benfield.

Pic. Courtesy AFOM (Website)

# A small selection from the flood of condolence e-mails

From Graham Edwards, Vietnam veteran, past State and Federal parliamentarian, President WA Branch RSL

"I was devastated to learn this morning of the passing of the National President of the Vietnam Veterans Federation Tim McCombe.

"Tim was a champion of Vietnam Veterans and fought the issues without fear or favour and pursued successive governments on many fronts. None less than over the issue of Agent Orange.

"He stands tall in the veteran community and his passing will have a profound effect on generations of veterans whose lives are improved because of his work, commitment and enduring pursuit of justice and fairness on behalf of those who served and their families."

From Kel Ryan, Vietnam veteran, long time veteran activist

"Tim would have described himself as an ordinary soldier but others identify him as an exceptional advocate for the veterans of Australia's wars. After service in Vietnam, where he was seriously wounded in a mine explosion, and after experiencing the lows that come with the physical and psychological injuries of war, Tim devoted his life to helping fellow veterans. As President of the VVFA Tim is synonymous with the major gains

that the veteran community has achieved over the years.

"At a time when the Vietnam War and the veterans of that war were ignored and shunned, Tim and his various committees fought both the governments of the day and the RSL for the recognition of the debilitating effects that Agent Orange and other chemicals had and are still having on the soldiers who fought there. Tim would readily agree that such confrontations with authority and the successes were not his alone but he was able to galvanise and focus the Vietnam

veteran community when doubt and despondency could have taken over.

"Such was his influence that the War Memorial Council has acknowledged that the official history of the war-time exposure to the various chemical used must be rewritten. At the time of his death he and the VVFA were mounting a campaign against the Governments attack on military pensions – for him the war on behalf of veterans never ceased.

"Vale, Tim McCombe a good soldier, a good man and a good friend to the nation's veterans."

From Leslie Minner, Partners of Veterans Association

"This is the most disastrous news. Tim was a special friend to many and a tenacious fighter for

"As President of the VVFA Tim is synonymous with the major gains that the veteran community has achieved over the years"





the rights of veterans and their families.

"I along with many others will miss his humour and knowledge of all things to do with veterans.

"A very special man.

"Rest in peace Tim."

From Dr Rod Bain MBBS FRCA FANZCA MRACGP RAN (Rtd), Vietnam veteran, RSL State Councillor (NSW), Medical Adviser to the RSL National Board

"We've all lost a stalwart veteran and great man of our Defence Community.

"We're all somewhat diminished by his passing."

From Michael von Berg, Vietnam veteran, National President, RAR Association

"What a dreadful loss of such a good man. I will miss him at the ESORT meetings. Will raise a glass to him this evening and will write to his widow."

From Ken Foster OAM JP, National President, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

"It is a sad occasion when anyone passes away. It is sad for the family and friends.

"But on the occasion of the passing of Tim McCombe the entire ex-service community will grieve.

"On behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia may I recognise the service of Tim McCombe and express our condolences to his family, friends and comrades at his passing."

From Rick Ryan AATTW WA

"So sad to hear of the passing of Tim. We Vietnam veterans will be a lot poorer now. He was a great bloke that had the right approach in bringing our veteran issues to the fore.

"Please pass on our deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to Tram, Stephanie and Craig and friends.

"May Tim now Rest In Peace." ■



VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS &  
PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
(NSW BRANCH) INC.

## 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.; will be held at  
**Merrylands RSL Club**  
10.30am Saturday, 23 May 2015.

### AGENDA

- Opening of Meeting by the Chairman
- Apologies
- Confirm the Minutes of the AGM 2014
- Business Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2014
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Membership Report
- Election Results
  - President
  - Senior Vice-President
  - Vice Presidents (2)
  - Hon. Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Committee Members (10)
- Appointment of Association Auditors
- Appointment of Association Legal Representatives
- Life Membership proposals
- Other Business by leave of the Chairman
- Close of Meeting

Any items for General Business must be in the hands of the Secretary by close of business on Monday 4 May 2015.

Next AGM to be held on a date to be confirmed during May 2016.

**Ron O'Connor**  
Secretary  
NSW Branch

Email or write:  
secretary@vvhagranville.org  
PO Box 170 Granville NSW 2142

## WE APOLOGISE

We offer our sincerest apologies to the family and friends of the following veterans, who were erroneously reported as deaths in the December 2014 issue of this Journal.

Notification of a veterans passing are reported to us from a variety of sources. They come from family, relatives and friends, as well as, from our State Branches and Sub-Branches and RSL Sub-Branches and 'Reveille'. DVA also issue a list several times a year sourced from their own records.

Whilst we make every endeavour to ensure the accuracy of all names published within our "Last Post" article, we apologise unreservedly whenever an error occurs.

Unfortunately, in our December 2014 issue our last Post article included two (2) errors, for which we are deeply regretful, and the persons affected have received our apologies.

We sincerely apologise to the families, relatives and friends of the following veterans:

2787449 PTE RF Lambert 85TP RAASC

219154 SIG CN Sinclair 104 Sig Sqn

Important information: Whilst we clearly undertake to ensure the information listed in the Last Post is accurate on some occasions incorrect information has filtered through.

In a further attempt at elimination of errors we strongly request that when reporting an individuals passing you utilise the Veteran Mortality Report which appears in this Journal and provide all relevant information including the Service Number and copy of any Funeral Notice if possible. Any future reports of death will only be printed once all details have been confirmed.

### DENTAL SURGEON

DR PAUL A MATUSKO

B.D.S. (HONS) UNIV SYD

NO CHARGE FOR ANY WORK FOR  
GOLD CARD HOLDERS

All areas of General Dentistry and  
Denture work performed.

Health Fund Rebates accepted for most  
procedures

For an appointment phone

02 9790 3458

*Dr P A Matusko*

*435B Hume Highway*

*Yagoona NSW 2199*

*(Opposite railway station)*

### Dr NADIA VARDE

*B ChiroSc. M Chiro*

### CHIROPRACTOR

PH: 9823 5555

Greenfield Park Medical Practise

Shop 7 Greenfield Park Shopping Village  
5 Greenfield Rd Greenfield Park NSW 2176

NO CHARGE FOR ANY WORK FOR  
GOLD CARD HOLDERS

Ph: (02) 9823 5555

Fax: (02) 9823 5566

## NSW Branch Info

President	F Cole
Snr Vice President	W Roberts OAM
Vice Presidents	S Maher OAM, J Rogers
Secretary	<b>R O'Connor</b>
Treasurer	R Freshfield
Researcher	G Walker
<b>Membership (Interim)</b>	<b>R O'Connor</b>
Funds Manager	B Bannerman
Journal Ops.	J Wrigley, I Morrison, T Corcoran
Advocates	H Graham, M Lloyd-Riley T Bai, W Grant
Pensions	S Emerson, D Hanmer OAM D Maher OAM, K Miller, P Miller, W Roberts OAM, J Rogers, K Watson, I Wilson
Welfare	T Jenkins, R Gagan
Editor/Webdesign	R Freshfield
Committee	B Bannerman, A Bishop, F Cole, T Corcoran, S Emerson, R Gagan, D Hanmer OAM, T Jenkins, <b>I Morrison, R O'Connor,</b> K Thistlethwaite, J Wrigley.

ALL LETTERS, EMAILS ETC., MUST  
CONTAIN THE SENDERS NAME AND  
CONTACT DETAILS, AND FORWARDED  
TO:

The Secretary  
VVPAA (NSW Branch)  
PO Box 170  
(8 Mary St.,)  
Granville NSW 2142

Email: [secretary@vfvagranville.org](mailto:secretary@vfvagranville.org)

## NSW MEMBERSHIP

NSW Memberships fall due on 1st January each year.. We hope you have renewed your membership for 2015, as you may miss out on receiving any Journals after June 2015.

NSW Branch current members would have received their subscription renewal forms in the mail from the Granville office about November 2014. Members of our various State Branches and Sub-Branches may receive membership renewal notices from their respective organisations. In the event you do not receive a form in the mail please use the Membership Renewal form included in this Journal at page 43.

Please check the Membership Application form to ensure your details are correct prior to mailing to us, so we can update our records accordingly.

Your financial support in the past has been most appreciated and we hope you will continue to support our work.

Even if you have won the battle with Veterans Affairs, there are other veterans, including those from recent wars, to support. And there is always the risk, as is the case right now, of changes in Government policy which may erode benefits/pensions or change eligibility entitlements.

It is through our membership subscriptions, fund raising activities and many kind donations from our members that we are able to continue supporting our fellow Veterans and Service members in need, meet our increasing welfare/pension workload and campaign against government and Departmental injustices.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## HELPING CHILDREN TO A BETTER FUTURE



The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a not-for-profit organisation. AVCAT administers scholarships to help children, and in some cases grandchildren, of the Australian ex-service community with the costs of full-time education. The most deserving candidates are provided with financial assistance to facilitate their tertiary studies.

"It means the world to me that someone I don't know cares about my education and believes I have potential."

2014 Recipient

AVCAT relies on the generosity of the ex-service and business community as well as private donors. If you would like to find out more about supporting AVCAT or applying for a scholarship, please contact us:

**T: 02 9213 7999    E: [avcat@dva.gov.au](mailto:avcat@dva.gov.au)    W: [www.avcat.org.au](http://www.avcat.org.au)**

## APPLICATIONS OPEN 18 AUGUST



## THANKS FOR DONATING

### A MESSAGE FROM THE NSW BRANCH

Once again we say THANK YOU to our many members who have made a financial donation to their State Branch. Without these donations we would find it much more difficult to cater to the needs of our war veterans, service and ex-service persons generally. Periodically, we will publish a list of individual NSW Branch donors of amounts of \$200 or more. Whilst ALL donations are gratefully received, and combined are of enormous assistance to us, they are too numerous to list. Donors to the NSW Branch of \$200 or more since the last Journal were:

\$5000	'Liney' Lineham
\$2000	ARVN Veterans Assoc. (Australia)
\$1000	Warren Axford, Michael Butler, Kevin Faust, Grant Pitman, Name withheld on request Cabra-Vale Diggers
\$652.50	Kenneth Hull
\$500	John McNeil, Gary Hackett, Geoffrey Jones, Name withheld on request
\$470	Eric Tickner
\$425	Michael Walker
\$300	Sam Cropper, Peter Unwin, William and Judith Smith, Henry Walker, Name withheld on request
\$250	John Shields
\$220	Ted Tokarczyk
\$200	Rodney Bryer, Warren Coupland, Michael Eckman, Stephen Ellis, Dennis Nolan, Geoffrey Peattie, Bruce Reilly, Peter Clisddell, Name withheld on request

Whilst the above refers to, mostly, individual donations we are also indebted to the many RSL sub-branches and other licensed clubs and Associations, who generously contribute toward our cause.

We have received very generous donations in memory of the passing of Tim McCombe OAM and we thank all who have contributed, including the AWM, Central Coast Sub-Branch, Bankstown RSL Sub-Branch, (\$1000 each), and ARVN (\$750). These donations will greatly assist us to continue Tim's valuable work in assisting veterans.

Lastly, and belatedly with apologies, we wish to acknowledge a generous donation of \$600 from our comrades in the USA. To (the) Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 7 Wisconsin, and Craig Castona, we sincerely thank you for your support..

(as at 2 March 2015).

## LUCKY WINNERS

### NSW 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### GIFT VOUCHER DRAW

Congratulations to the following members whose names were randomly selected from all who had renewed their 2015 NSW Branch Memberships by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Each winner has now received a \$100.00 Bunnings Gift Voucher.

1. William Evan Hayden Member No. 774
2. Ngoc Dieu Nguyen Member No. 2416
3. John Henry Gibbins Member No. 1683

If you have not paid your 2015 membership, or if you desire to become a new member, then please use the Membership Form included at page 43





## BRANCH LISTINGS NSW SUB-BRANCHES

## BRANCH LISTINGS OTHER STATES

## REUNIONS, COMMEMORATIONS, NOTICES



## REUNIONS, COMMEMORATIONS, NOTICES

## DON'T THROW THIS JOURNAL IN THE BIN!!!!

When you have finished with this Journal, or, in some cases, when two are received in the one household, **don't recycle through the rubbish** collection. One option is to pass it on to a mate or leave it in a place **such as your local doctor's surgery** or some other public area. This will allow greater circulation of the Journal and inform others of our long-standing existence and of assistance which continues to be required to cater for the needs of current and former ADF members and their families.

## LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

*Every Veteran deserves a lifestyle and better treatment than is currently available. Every Veteran should be able to successfully attain their rights to pensions.*

*Yet we still receive veterans unaware of their rights, what they may be entitled to, and where and how to apply or enter a claim.*

*Through your Will, you have the power to help us achieve our goals. Help surviving veterans, and those that follow them, to receive their true entitlements.*

*Through your Will you have the power to make a difference. Any gift you bequest to our Association, no matter how large or small, will assist a fellow veteran.*



## VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

### A service founded by Vietnam veterans

The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service provides counselling and group programs to Australian veterans, peacekeepers and their families. It is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service.

VVCS staff are qualified psychologists or social workers with experience in working with veterans, peacekeepers and their families. They can provide a wide range of treatments and programs for war and service-related mental health conditions including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and counselling.  
Phone 1800 011 046.\*

\* Free local call. Calls from mobile or pay phones may incur charges.



**Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers**  
**Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc.**  
 Affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia



## Membership Application / Renewal Form

1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY to 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

SURNAME		FIRST NAME		SECOND NAME	
STREET ADDRESS					
SUBURB				STATE	POST CODE
HOME PHONE		MOBILE PHONE		WORK PHONE	
SERVICE NUMBER		SERVICE UNIT		OVERSEAS AREA OF OPERATION SERVICE	
NEXT OF KIN		RELATIONSHIP		NEXT OF KIN CONTACT PHONE	
<b>ITEM</b>		<b>NUMBER of YEARS</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION			@ \$30.00 PA	\$	
DONATION		ONE OFF	NOMINATE AMOUNT	\$	
RAFFLE TICKET(S)			@ \$2.00 PER TICKET	\$	
MERCHANDISE ITEM NUMBER		QUANTITY	ITEM PRICE *		
				\$	
				\$	
				\$	
				\$	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>			*Item price available overleaf, on-line or in Journal.	\$	

<p align="center"><b>PAYMENT OPTION</b></p> <p>Payment may be made by Credit Card, (phone or post),          Cheque,          Money Order, or by cash if paying in person. Make all          Cheques &amp;          Money Orders payable to:  <b>VPPAA (NSW BRANCH) Inc.</b>          Post to:  <b>PO BOX 170</b>  <b>GRANVILLE 2142</b></p> <p>Remember to endorse the reverse of Money Orders before          posting to this office. It protects you if separated from Form.          Please note that more items of memorabilia may be available          at a Branch or Sub-Branch office near you.          Contact the Granville Office on 02 9682 1788 for advice.          Email: secretary@vfpagranville.org</p>	<p><b>PAYMENT METHOD</b> (CIRCLE ONE ONLY)          CASH CHEQUE MONEY ORDER MASTERCARD VISA</p> <p><b>CARDHOLDER NAME (PRINT)</b></p> <p><b>CREDIT CARD NUMBER</b></p> <p><b>EXPIRY DATE</b> <b>TRANSACTION AMOUNT</b></p> <p><b>SIGNATURE</b></p>
--	--

OFFICE USE ONLY	
RECEIPT DATE:	MEMBERSHIP CARD No.:
RECEIPT No. MEMBERSHIP:	RECEIPT No. DONATION:





**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

To help us maintain our records please complete this form if your address is different to that on the mailing list or if you are about to move.

Please print clearly

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Given Names \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

New details:

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

New Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**VETERANS MORTALITY REPORT**

As you are aware, Vietnam Veterans are dying at a rate higher than while on Active Service. This situation is perhaps a natural phenomenon compared to non-serving members of the public, who might die of an illness which is equally distributed through the population of the same age group.

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Inc has for many years maintained records of the deaths of Vietnam Veterans and the cause of death if known. This has proved invaluable regarding the health standards of Vietnam Veterans when compared to the general public.

We seek your assistance in reporting the death of Vietnam Veterans, past or recent, to allow the Federation to expand and preserve it's record base.

Kindly circulate a copy of this page through your RSL Club, Unit or Corps reunions and meetings and raise it as an issue. The information gained from these reports will greatly assist all Vietnam Veterans and their families regarding future claims for benefits.

Please print clearly

Veterans' Name \_\_\_\_\_ Service number \_\_\_\_\_

SVN Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Tour date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of death (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

( **SR** Service Related      **UK** Unknown      **S** Suicide      **O** Other )

Date of death (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Location at time of death (State & Town) \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return To

**The Welfare Officer,  
PO Box 170,  
Granville, NSW 2142**

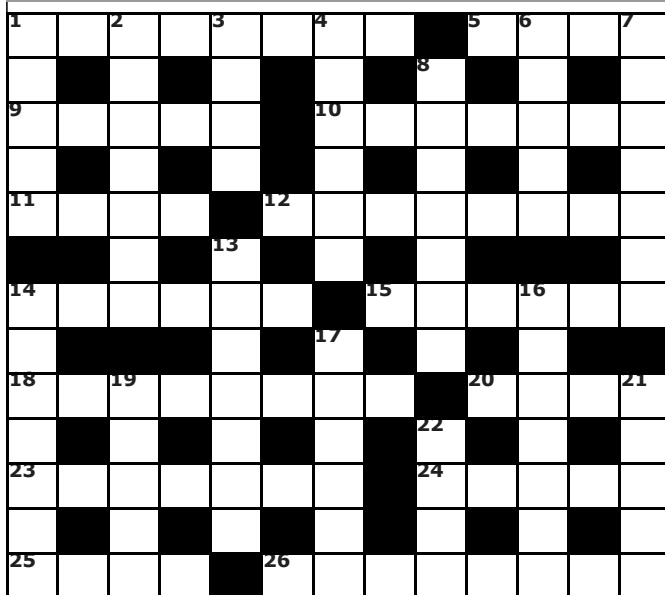
Ph **(02) 9682 1788** Fax **(02) 9682 6134**  
E-mail to **secretary@vfvfagranville.org**

# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following businesses are offering discounts to members of The Vietnam Veterans Federation.

AUTO SERVICES	SMASH REPAIRS	BATTERIES	FLOOR COVERINGS
<p>CARNEEDS Pty Ltd 152 Parramatta Rd STANMORE Prptr: Robert Stenta Ph: 02 9519 1441 10% discount On mechanical repairs &amp; competitive prices on tyres and batteries. To all Vietnam Veterans Federation Members.</p>	 <p>Wreck- A- Mended Smash Repairs Unit 1, 20 Bosci Rd Ingleburn NSW 02 9605 9008 Ask for Alan Tell them you are a member and they will</p>	 <p>POWER PRODUCTS For all your power needs BATTERIES SOLAR POWER INVERTERS GENERATORS <i>Motor Cycle battery specialists</i> Russell is offering 15% discount to VVF Members on Batteries . 5% on Solar products, Inverters &amp; Chargers 10% 3/3 Sovereign Pl Sth Windsor Ph: (02) 4577 7761 Fax: (02) 4577 7768</p>	 <p>Waratah Floor Coverings 473 Burwood Rd BELMORE Ph: (02) 9759 6511 Ask for Special Rate</p>
<p>MALCOLM MOTORS Automotive Service Specialist All mechanical repairs &amp; servicing.</p> <p>15% Discount for members on services and repairs.</p> <p>JOE CARE 02 9569 5035</p> <p>603-605 Parramatta Rd Leichhardt NSW</p> <p>MTA Lic. # 42198</p>	<p>AIRCONDITION</p>  <p>•Sales •Service •Repairs •Maintenance 10% Discount for Veterans <b>Phone: 0408 630 939</b> Email: Mchica@bigpond.com Licence No: 222367c   AU33875   ABN: 65516168626</p>	<p>MOTOR CYCLE ACCESSORIES</p> <p>Motor Cycle Accessories Supermarket Head Office. 321 Parramatta Rd Auburn NSW (02) 9648 1400 www.mcas.com.au CITY: 9261 5182. LIVERPOOL: 9601 8276. CARINGBAH 9574 5100 PENRITH 4737 6100 10% Discount except</p>	<p>MOTELS</p>  <p>Golden Chain Motor Inn Ltd Ph: 1800 023 966 Must have Golden Chain Card Its Free When You Call The Number Above And Ask Present your Federation membership card and ask for a "Golden Link" card to be issued. There is a 10% discount on room rates Australia wide</p>
<p>TRAILERS TOWBARS BULLBARS</p>  <p>Fastfit Bullbars &amp; Towbars Trailer sales and spares-side steps Bike beacons-Custom work</p> <p>65 St Hilliers Road AUBURN Ph: 02 9749 1209</p> <p>10% Discount on products</p>	<p>EXHAUST SYSTEMS</p>  <p>send us a donation.</p> <p>Menai Mufflers Unit 4 788 Old Illawarra Rd MENAI Ph: (02) 9541 4720 20% Discount</p> <p>Balmain Radiator Centre Mark Borghonzian 22d Crystal St</p>	<p>TYRES</p>  <p>helmets and tyres BRIDGESTONE Tyres &amp; Complete Auto Servicing. 10% discount to members (not current specials) 223 Woodville Rd Merrylands NSW 02 9897 1002 <b>Mon-Fri 8-5</b></p>	<p>BATTERIES</p> <p>Ashfield Battery Centre 110 FREDERICK STREET ASHFIELD, NSW, 2131 02 9798-6166 GEORGE KAWAUCHI (owner) We sell: CAR, TRUCK, MARINE, DEEP CYCLE, GOLF CART, MOBILITY, MOTOR CYCLE BATTERIES. CHARGERS, SOLAR PANELS, BOOSTER CABLES, FUSES, GLOBES, INVERTERS, TERMINALS, BATTERY BOXES. OPEN FROM: 9am - 5- 30pm Mon-Fri OPEN SAT FROM: 9.30am- 3.30pm Closed Sundays and public holidays. 10% Discount to veterans</p>

## CROSSWORD CORNER



## ACROSS

1. Anguish
5. Sea creature
9. Bind (3,2)
10. Revenged (3,4)
11. Porridge ingredient
12. Non-musical (4,4)
14. Strategy
15. Dinner setting (3,3)
18. Exchange of words
20. Gravel pieces
23. Keep under
24. Merger
25. Eternally
26. Towns

## DOWN

1. As before, same
2. Non-believer
3. Ready
4. Join up (4,2)
6. Show
7. Profit
8. Said aloud
13. Fail order
14. Frog embryo
16. Attending
17. Breakfast food
19. Fruit
21. Melodies
22. Male animal

*[Solution Next Issue]*

D S	S	I	S	T	E	R		S	C	A	R	E	D
E O	A		A		N	A	V	A	L		O		A
C L	U	N	W	R	A	P		D	I	A	D	E	M
E U	N				B		H		N				P
M T	A	I	L		L	Y	I	N	G		F	E	E
B I	S		I	D	E	A		I	S	L	E		N
E O		E	M	U		R	Y	E		A	T	E	
R N	S		B	E	A	D		C	O	P	E		D
	T	W	O		U	S	H	E	R		D	O	E
	A				B		E		A				M
	B	E	D	A	U	B		E	C	Z	E	M	A
	L		O		R	E	B	E	L		A		N
	E	X	T	E	N	T		R	E	A	R	E	D

## THE UNKNOWN COMIC

An ode to Tim.....

A champion of veterans died  
just the other day when god  
looked around in heaven and  
found an empty place,  
He then looked down upon the  
earth and saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.

God's heaven must be beautiful  
for he always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering  
He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
get well here on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting  
rough and the stairs were hard to  
climb  
So he closed your weary eyes  
And whispered, 'Peace by thine'.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.



## OUTREACH PROGRAM—PENSION TOURS 2012

Our Outreach Program continues to be extremely successful in reaching out to Veterans, service and ex-service community living in regional and/or remote areas.

Any Veteran, widow of a Veteran, and/or relative of a Veteran in rural NSW, seeking assistance of the Outreach Team in matters of Service Pensions, Disability Pension Claims, War Widow Pensions, and/or MCRS Claims, etc., should contact the *OUTREACH COORDINATOR* (below) , who will organise assistance.

In the event that members have friends who need assistance they are urged to contact Dennis Hanmer who will coordinate the visit program. Of course, the more people wishing assistance in any one town or rural area, the more fulfilling the trip will be for the team.

*Remember, we assist all Veterans, and service and ex-service personnel, in any matter relating to your service that may require the lodgement of a claim or application with the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

The team will provide assistance and advice to ALL Veterans of ALL conflicts, including Peacekeeping and Peacemaking deployments. ALL personnel who served in the Armed Forces between 1973 and 1993 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REPATRIATION BENEFITS. OUR SERVICES ARE FREE.

Contact: Dennis Hanmer (JP) Mob: 0428 388 221 Ph: 02 9682 1788 Fx: 02 9682 6134

Email: [secretary@vvfagranville.org](mailto:secretary@vvfagranville.org) Mail: VVPPAA (NSW Branch) Inc., PO Box 170, Granville. 2142



1300 924 522

Wesley Hospital Ashfield and Wesley Hospital Kogarah provide compassionate care for those in need of psychiatric help. The goal of the hospitals is to provide positive outcomes, not only for our patients with a mental illness but also for their family and carers. As centres of excellence within Wesley Mission our Wesley Hospitals have been providing professional and compassionate care for over 60 years.

Wesley Hospital Ashfield and Wesley Hospital Kogarah are private psychiatric hospitals which offer both in-patient and day patient services. Our treatment programs combine medication, therapy and include life skills and support networks to ensure recovery is effective, ongoing and enriching.

### Our programs

Alcohol    Drugs    Eating disorders  
Anxiety    Depression    Bipolar disorder  
Borderline personality disorder  
Schizophrenia and psychosis  
Veterans services

91 Milton Street,  
Ashfield NSW 2131

&

7 Blake Street,  
Kogarah NSW 2217



## Last Post





# Last Post



215799	PTE	TH	McCOMBE OAM	2 RAR	31/01/15	24/05/45
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## Last Post







# Last Post



*But each one, man by man, has won imperishable praise!*

Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined. Remembrance that will live on the lips, that will blossom in the deeds of their countrymen the world over. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven, not on stone or brass, but on the living heart of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that *freedom* is the sure possession of those alone who have courage to defend it. Pericles

*We make every endeavour to ensure the accuracy of all names published in "The Last Post". If any omission or error has been made we apologise unservedly...please contact the editor if you feel an error has been made.*

## OPERATION Life



### REGISTER NOW!!

Phone Veterans and Veterans Counselling Service  
on 1800 011 046 or 9761 5000

Operation Life workshops' emphasis is on suicide prevention - they aim to help members of the veteran community to recognise someone who might be having thoughts of suicide and to link them in with appropriate help. There are three types of workshops:

- Suicide alertness for everyone: (Safetalk) - half day presentation.
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training: (ASIST) - Two-day skills training
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Tune-up: (ASIST Tune Up) - half day refresher workshop

Workshops are open to people who are concerned about veterans, their family, friends or mates in the veteran community. Welfare, pension officers and other helpers from ex-service organisations and the veteran community are encouraged to attend



**Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service**  
A service founded by Vietnam Veterans

*In loving memory of*



*Timothy Hocart McCombe OAM.*



*24th May 1945 – 31st January 2015*

*Aged 69 years*

*Lest we forget*

