



THE VOICE

December 2015 Edition

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Editor's Opening

Welcome to the December issue of *The Voice*. For those of you who read the first paragraph of this section then skip to the really fun stuff (the WWII articles and the jokes), do so...now. (Just don't accuse us of not keeping you informed). OK. For those remaining, although most of the rest typed here falls into the category *Boring, But Important*, it is, well, important. So, hang in there.

The passing of time, or more accurately, the passing of the veterans and increasing disability among those left, has seen the number of members attending the monthly KVAA Inc. Committee/General meeting gradually fall. At the November meeting on the 25th, it was proposed that meetings be made bi-monthly.

Idea 1: Committee Nominations form in December's *Voice* and verbal confirmation at January meeting. AGM in March (plus ANZAC Day details). Therefore meetings: January, March (AGM & BBQ), May, July, Sept, Nov. = 6 meetings.

Idea 2: Committee Nominations form in December's *Voice*. AGM in February. Therefore meetings: February (AGM & BBQ), April, June, August, October = 5 meetings.

The first idea received most favour and was adopted. Hence in 2016, the KVAA Inc. Committee/General Meeting will take place in on last Wednesday of the month in **January, March, May, July, September** and **November**. The time and place remains unchanged: 10.30am at the Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre, 600 Little Collins Street, Melbourne (just opposite Southern Cross station). All welcome. Note: Being independent of the Committee/General meetings, *The Voice's* publication date will remain unaffected.

Because of this new regime, the *Nominations For KVAA Office Bearers* has been brought forward to December. You'll find a Nomination Form on Page 4. Please note: you need **not** be a veteran to nominate. A wife, widow or kin of a someone who served in Korea during either the pre-armistice (war) or post-armistice (peace-keeping) phase is most welcome to nominate for the committee or any other position.

Positions can be split to suit. For example, I'm sure our current Secretary could do with an Assistant Secretary and the duties of this
(continues on Page 8)

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International Federation of Korean War Veterans
Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia
Sister with Korean War Veterans Association Australian Chapter
Twinned with the South London Branch British Korean Veterans Associations
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Affiliated Associations

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Allied Associations

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Editorial Disclaimer

Articles in *The Voice* are printed on the understanding that, unless stated, they are the original works of the contributors or authors. The editor reserves the right to reject, edit, abbreviate, rewrite or re-arrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

Last Post

The bugle call *Last Post* is inextricably part of the end of day traditions which include *Beating the Retreat* and *Tattoo*.

Retreat is the older custom dating back to the 16th century and consisting of prolonged drum beating at sunset to warn the night guard to mount and also to give notice that the gates of the town walls were about to close. This custom was also part of the end of day battle procedure when volleys were fired and a hymn played in honour of those who had fallen during the day. At this time of evening the colour would be trooped. Today this latter activity is replaced by the lowering of the National Flag.

There is some confusion over the 'post' calls. It seems that the 'First Post' and 'Last Post' came into being in the early part of the 19th century. The 'First Post' was sounded as the orderly officer, the orderly sergeant and a drummer (with a bugle) started the Tattoo. They then marched from post to post with the drummer beating his drum. Upon reaching the final post the drummer would sound the Last Post. (This is why drummers carry a bugle.)

The Last Post was really the end of the day (a hard day's fighting and a hard night's drinking).

This bugle call has been passed down through the centuries in many countries of the world as an accompaniment to the impressive rites of a soldier's farewell.

Source: Anzac Day: traditions, facts and folklore www.anzacday.org.au

President's Report

4 September 1952

by Ramon Mason (ex-3RAR & 1RAR)

As the end of 2015 is closing fast, it is with satisfaction that I feel our Association has been well respected throughout the year, mainly because of the many and varied functions and ceremonies we have attended. The last two months have been particularly busy in this regard.

The Consul-General, Mr Jo Hongju, has been very active in his support of Korea War veterans. On the night of November 24th he hosted a Reception at the Australia Club where 11 veterans received the prestigious "Peace Medal." A wonderful night enjoyed by all present. Previous to this, he attended the 19 October MIA Plaque dedication ceremony at the Moreland Council Office in Bell Street, Coburg. The service was conducted in the presence of the sister of Lt. L. B. Ryan (MIA 12 July 1952) and her son. Lieutenant Ryan came from the district.

At the Canberra Reunion in October the Korean Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Kim Bong-Hyun, and his wife, Mrs Kim Jung-Soon, joined us at the Memorial Ceremony and the evening dinner. Also present was the Sydney Consul-General Mr Sungtae Kim. Every Australian present received a beautiful – and age appropriate! – walking stick made in Korea.

November 11th saw us at the Solway Primary School for a Remembrance Day service where we presented them with a Korean War plaque. The students were all very attentive and impressed us with the warmth of their welcome.

Two days later and it was off to the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital for our annual Memorial Ceremony. My thanks to the students from Fountain Gate Secondary College who laid wreaths under the mulberry tree planted by the Korean Little Angels Concert Group a few years ago.

On November 21st the Korean War Conference "A Hot Cold War" was an all day seminar discussing various aspects of the Korean War. The keynote speaker was author and journalist Cameron Forbes, a reunion of sorts for he gave the main speech at the 27th July 2012 Ceasefire Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance.

I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year. Looking forward to a fantastic 2016.

Editor's Intro: This is something of a companion piece to Larry Francisco's 11 September 1952 story in August's Voice in that it covers the destruction of the Centurion tank. Neither account directly contradicts the other – except for the date. Larry Francisco was off by a week. According to the official War Diary it occurred on the 4th.

I returned to Korea on the 30th August after having spent three months in Japan on three weeks leave and most of the rest of the time in hospital. When I went on leave I was in 1 Section, 1 Platoon, 'A' Coy. I'd only been in 'A' Coy a few weeks before I went on leave, having transferred from 'B' Coy. Whilst I was in hospital I'd heard about the fatal patrol 1 Platoon had gone on in July and so many were killed and wounded, including Lt. Laurie "Reckless" Ryan and Vince Cherry. So I was very surprised to be put into 7 Section, 3 Platoon on my return. I only knew five members of it from before.

On the 3rd September, I was told I'd won the jackpot and was to go on an ambush patrol the following night. I was not amused. Not only wasn't I in a fit enough condition but I only (I thought) had five weeks to go before I finished my 12 months. (I was to find out later I had to make up my hospital time). On the 4th we had a rehearsal of the patrol and were dismissed to relax before assembling at 1800 hours for the patrol.

It was a fine clear day, warm in the sun if you were out of the breeze. I was sitting behind my 'huchi' enjoying the warmth and there was a Centurion tank along side of me. They had dug it into the hillside so only the turret was above ground level, then they had built a sand bag wall in front of it with an opening for the gun to traverse and fire through.

A Chinese mortar was randomly dropping bombs on our hill, when this explosion occurred inside the tank (they had got careless and left the hatch open and a mortar bomb glanced off the sand bag wall and skipped into the tank). I jumped up on one side of the tank and another digger jumped on the other and we tried to move the tank commander out and we noticed his left arm was missing. I tried grabbing him by the hair to pull him up but his head was a pulp; there wasn't anything we could do for him or for the rest of the crew.

By this time the ammunition in the tank was exploding and the Chinese mortar, seeing the smoke, started to pour mortars on the site so we jumped down and took cover. The explosions went on inside the tank for quite some time. I understand that the next morning they drove the tank out with no trouble whatsoever.

The tragic thing about it, of course, was that they (the crew) should not have been there. They were supposed to have left the line a few days earlier, as the squadron was to return to England (25th Iniskilling Dragoons), but because of a flare up of hostilities they were kept in the line until things quieted down.

Editor's endpiece: For Ramon Mason the tank incident was a minor part of a much more deadly 24 hours. You'll find that account on page 5.

Donations 2015

To all members of the KVAA Inc. who have so generously donated funds to the Association from across Australia and overseas, a sincere thank you to each and every one of you. It proves the Association's strength is solid, and that comradeship with the ranks remains equal to that forged during the Korean War. May we all grow stronger as the year progresses. (Gerry Steacy, Treasurer, KVAA Inc.)

June Adams	James Cox	Kevin Gray	Maureen Kiker	Robert Palmer	Reuben Standish
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Robert Cochrane	Maurice Gathercole	Jim Johnson	Joseph Nangle	Bernie Shrubsole	Total members who donated = 182
Walter Collins	Brian Gibson	Stuart Johnson	Clarence Oakford	Noel Slaven	Total donations from members = \$4,546
David Connolly	Audrey Goldsmith	Bernard Kaye	Vincent O'Brien	Terence Smart	
Charles Cornell	Albert Gosch	Ronald J. Kennedy	Raymond Oliver	Allan Smith	
Kenneth Costley	Robert Grant	Francis Kenny	John Oram	Desmond Smith	

Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2016-2017

Positions required: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members

Current Office Bearers 2015-2016: President - Vic Dey / Vice President - Tom Parkinson / Secretary - Alan Evered / Treasurer - Gerry Steacy / Committee - Ron Christie, John Duson, Ron J. Kennedy, Allen Riches (minute secretary), Arthur Roach and John Moller.

KVAA Constitution - Rule 14: Election of Officers & Ordinary Committee Members

1. Any financial member of the Association may submit his/her nomination for a position as an ordinary member of the Committee but must comply as follows: The nomination form must be signed by two (2) financial members of the Association and be accompanied by the written consent of the Candidate.
2. Nominations must be returned to: The Secretary, KVAA Inc., PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132.

Please cut here -----

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE 2016-2017

We the undersigned, being financial members of the KVAA Inc, do hereby nominate:

Name:	For the position of:
Proposer:	Signature:
Seconder:	Signature:
I,	
Do hereby and hereon accept nomination for the position of:	
Signature:	Date:

My Last Patrol

by Ramon Mason (ex-3RAR & 1RAR)

On the night of 3 September, 1952, I was told we were going on an ambush patrol the next night. It appeared that a Chinese mortar crew were coming out at night near 'B' Coy and lobbing a few bombs on that Coy, then bugging out, so we were to go out and dissuade them. We had a couple of hours rehearsal the next morning and then were dismissed to rest until we were to leave.

We had a few misgivings as it was to be a full moon that night and the Chinese loved to attack on a full moon. Our password was 'Going Home' and the radio call sign was 'Lasseter's Last Fling.'

About 18.30 [1½ hours after the Centurion was hit – see Page 3] we formed up and moved over to 'B' Coy, our jumping off site. We set out at about 2000 hours and proceeded down a long re-entrant to the valley floor. We went through the mine fields into the open valley and moved to our ambush position, which was on the side of a paddy bank.

I don't know how long we waited but eventually I heard a couple of pheasants squawk and then fly away, which alerted us that someone was coming, and come they did. Suddenly silhouetted against the full moon on the parallel paddy bank, were about thirty or forty Chinese bunched up in an area of about thirty feet, moving from left to right (north to south), in front of us. As we had two Bren guns and 14 Owen guns, when the leading soldier was opposite, our right-hand Bren Gunner (who I think was Jackie Morris) opened up and we all gave them a magazine each and threw one grenade each into them.

Two green flares went up on our right front, and it seemed like the whole population of China was out there. Bugles and whistles shrieked and they started pitching grenades and firing Burp Guns.

I was lying third from the right with Corporal Thompson on my left when there was a loud explosion and he screamed that his foot was gone – and it was. The other corporal, Corporal Thomas, put a field dressing on it, then told Harry Thorn, Jock Scully, Tony Wilson, Billy Williams, Jack Morris and myself to give covering fire whilst he took the wounded straight up the hill behind us to a standing patrol of ours occupying it.

When I went on the patrol I had ten full magazines taped in pairs (300 rounds) an additional 300 loose rounds in my basic pouches, plus five grenades (3 HE and 2 phosphorous) and when the six of us decided to retreat I was down to 30 rounds.

I must mention that when the unwounded Thomas left with the wounded, that Harry Thorn, Billy Williams and Tony Wilson were all wounded. I decided we would return to 'B' Coy the way we had come out so as to draw the Chinese after us, instead of putting our wounded in danger. On the way to the minefield we met Corporal Parnel and two privates from 'B' Coy who were on a rece patrol so we got some ammunition from them.

Parnel assumed command and said we would withdraw through the minefield and then set up an ambush. We concurred. Whilst we were waiting for the Chinese to arrive they dropped an artillery barrage onto us. I wanted to head through the barrage for 'B' Coy but Parnel insisted on us staying. I did as I was told, but not silently, as I called him all the idiots in the world for staying there.

While we were huddled in against the edge of the hill, a shell landed at my feet and I felt a thump on my thigh. Jock Scully called out that he was hit, a piece of shrapnel went under the skin of his temple, circled around under the skin and lodged at the back of his head. He was a very lucky man and so was I.

I felt my thigh, searching for a hole in my trouser leg but couldn't find one and I didn't seem to be bleeding, so I assumed a stone must have hit me and corked my thigh. I looked at my feet and they were six inches away from a 3 foot shell crater.

I then went off at Parnel and asked him was he satisfied that he'd nearly got me killed and Jock was hurt as well, and I said "That's it, we go" - and go we did. It was probably half a mile up to that re-entrant to 'B' Coy lines and it was a very heavy barrage we had to go through, but we came through unscathed.

I sat down with Jack Morris whilst the others were taken to the R.A.P. Sergeant Major Win Quay came up and talked with us for a while, I was feeling low, dispirited, and had a parched throat. Sergeant Major Win Quay had a water bottle and I asked him for a drink, which he gave me. It was full of O.P. Rum, which made my spirits brighter, but didn't do my throat any good. While we were talking, the wounded from our patrol came in and were taken off to the R.A.P. (I could never work out what took them so long to get to 'B' Coy). We were told Keith Gardner had been shot by a 'B' Coy piquet on the way in, shot and killed.

My throat was killing me so I decided to get a drink of water. There was a 44 gallon drum about thirty feet from where I was sitting. When I got up my left leg buckled under me and I nearly fell over. I straightened up and limped over to get a drink. My leg hurt like hell.

A medical orderly asked me if I was wounded and I said I didn't know, so he rolled up my pants and there was a nice crescent looking hole in my left thigh. Funny, I had been feeling so low because everyone was wounded and I wasn't, and when I saw that I was wounded, I felt better. Strange.

(continues on Page 6)

4 September 1952 (continued from Page 5)

They put me in a jeep and sent me off to the R.A.P and on the way we passed Battalion Head Quarters (BHQ) and the second-in-charge called out and asked if I was a member of the 'A' Coy patrol. I said I was and he asked if I was too badly wounded to talk to them. I said no and limped into BHQ.

By this time I was cold, wet and shaking with emotion, so the Colonel said to give me a drink. I was asked whether I wanted a whiskey or beer, so I said both and got them. They then debriefed me and I was in there for about thirty or forty minutes.

I went to the R.A.P and the first thing I saw was Lt Patrick. He was breathing (whistling) through a wound in his throat and looked a bloody mess. I found out later he'd been hit by a burst of Burp gun bullets mainly in the chest and throat. The doctor and staff were flat out, besides the wounded from the patrol there were casualties from the heavy shelling.

They put me in an ambulance with Harry Thorn, Jock Scully, Tony Wilson, Billy Williams and a young Korean kitchen boy who had been hit by a shell and was all busted up. We drove down the road to an American MASH. (None of us had had any medical attention). The yanks refused to admit us, saying they might get casualties themselves, I was pretty worried about the Korean boy because every time he coughed, he sprayed blood everywhere, so I asked them to take him.

They demurred so Harry Thorn slipped his Owen off his shoulder, cocked it and then very pleasantly suggested they admit him. Following his example I did the same and not very pleasantly added my own request. They took him and we continued down the road about another ten miles to the Norwegian MASH where we were immediately looked after.

I was last to be attended to. It was about 0600 hours when they put me on the table. I awoke in an ambulance, was warm and dry and comfortable, I looked around and saw my mates sleeping and promptly went back to sleep.

I woke up the next morning in a 16 man tent ward in an Advanced Canadian Field dressing station. Surprisingly, I only had a dry dressing on my wound and it was not stitched. On Monday the 8th, the major (surgeon) came and looked at me and said he would stitch it up that afternoon. I said it is nearly healed and not to bother, and also asked why he hadn't stitched it in the first place.

His answer was 'gangrene.' They always left shrapnel wounds a couple of days to see if it would turn gangrenous. He gave me a local and stitched me up, So where I had been pretty mobile before, I now had a little difficulty moving around.

The following Tuesday (the 16th) the doctor removed my stitches and I was on my way back to the battalion. I commented to a Sgt. Major there that I'd probably be sent home as this was my second wound. He laughed at this and asked whether I'd been evacuated to Japan with my wounds. When I said no, he informed me that this was the only way anyone got sent home. If you weren't evacuated to Nippon then you could have any number of wounds and remain where you were, so I went back to the line even though I could hardly walk.

I stayed in the line until midnight on Saturday 4th October 1952, so I spent my 21st birthday in the line. (I'd spent my 20th in Hiro). About a week after I returned to the line, the Intelligence Officer (I.O.) debriefed what remained of the patrol and he informed us we had ambushed 2 Coy of Chinese (400 men) and had killed an estimated 30 and wounded 90. Our losses – 2 killed and 8 wounded.

A strange sequel. When I was at Marrickville after leaving Korea I was waiting to go on leave and I met Keith Gardner's father. He had come down for some news of his son and though I didn't really know his son, I was the only one there from 'A' Coy and also from the patrol. I lied like a veteran and led him to believe his son was killed by the Chinese and died a hero.

Exercise for People Over 50

- Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.
- With a 10 kg potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.
- Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 20 kg potato bags.
- Then try 50 kg potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100 kg potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)
- After you feel confident at that level...put a potato in each bag.

Time To Stop

Q. In 1918 was French time one hour ahead of British time as it is today? If so was the ceasefire for the end of the First World War at 11 o'clock British time or French time?

A. No war ended so precisely as the Great War: following agreements signed in Marshal Foch's railway train at Compiègne earlier that day, the four-year-long holocaust was scheduled to end at 11am on 11 November 1918. Had the present differentiation between British and French time applied, this would have meant the ceasefire in France taking place one hour ahead of the expected celebrations in Britain, while boats criss-crossing the Channel would have found themselves traversing a freak kind of international date-line between peace and war. Happily this was not the case. British and French time was synchronised. So when, at 11 o'clock, Big Ben proclaimed the end of hostilities over London the same message boomed from the steeples of France and Belgium. For Germany it was different. The Armistice did not take effect until 12 noon. But in the case of the western Allies who had fought together, they were able to lay down their arms simultaneously.

Source: *BBC History* magazine, Vol.9 No.2 February 2008

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Renewal Time 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016

Members – \$25 Associate Members – \$15

Your subscriptions are the hub of the Association.

Please be **prompt** in your payment and submit your renewal direct to:

Gerry Steacy, KVAA Inc., 1 Kent Court, Werribee, 3030, Victoria.

Note: Please keep us informed of any address, email or telephone number changes. This is essential for any communication and to ensure that you receive your six issues of *The Voice*. The Association would like to emphasise the following policy: No KVAA Inc. members are dropped from the Association because of financial difficulties or sickness. Any member who experiences these difficulties please notify the Secretary or Treasurer in order that your membership remains within the Association. Information received concerning these matters will remain **confidential**.

Renewal Details (Please Print)

Name:	Address:
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Merchandise Available

KVAA Inc. pocket badge	\$10.00	\$
KVAA Inc. lapel badge (undated)	\$10.00	\$
KVAA Inc. lapel badge (1950-57)	\$ 5.00	\$
KVAA Inc. windscreen decal	\$ 5.00	\$
KVAA beer (stubby) holders	\$ 5.00	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50	\$
Kapypong battle print	\$ 6.00	\$
The Hook 1953 battle print	\$ 6.00	\$
RAN silk print: Ships in Korea	\$ 5.00	\$
Tie (with KVAA inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$
Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00	\$
	+ P&P	\$ 2.00
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The Biker At The Zoo

A biker is visiting a zoo in Brisbane when he sees a little girl leaning into the bars of the lion's cage.

Suddenly, the lion grabs her by the cuff of her jacket and tries to pull her inside to slaughter her, under the eyes of her screaming parents.

The biker without hesitation runs to the cage and hits the lion square on the nose with a powerful punch. Whimpering from the pain the lion jumps back letting go of the girl, and the biker brings her to her terrified parents, who thank him endlessly.

A *Courier Mail* reporter has watched the whole event.

The reporter addressing the biker says, "Sir, this was the most gallant and brave thing I've seen a man do in my whole life."

The biker replies, "Why, it was nothing, really, the lion was behind bars I just saw this little kid in danger and acted as I felt right."

The reporter says, "Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist, you know, and tomorrow's paper will have this story on the front page... So, what do you do for a living and what political affiliation do you have?"

The biker replies, "I'm a soldier in the Australian Army and a Liberal voter."
The journalist leaves.

The following morning the biker buys the paper to see if it indeed brings news of his actions, and reads, on the front page: *Australian Soldier Assaults African Immigrant – And Steals His Lunch*.

Adolf Hitler Was Jewish... (not really)

The National Archives in Kew, England, holds a passport for Adolf Hitler in which he's identified as Jewish. The passport, which was created in 1941, is a fake that was put together by people employed by the Special Operations Executive, the group responsible during the Second World War for organising resistance in countries taken over by the Germans. The passport was intended as a demonstration of their skills as forgers. Under *occupation* it says *painter*; under *other distinguishing marks* the only distinction listed is *small moustache*. The passport is also marked by a red J, the sign on German passports at the time for 'Jew.'

Source: *BBC History* magazine, October 2010

Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)

Assistant can be worked out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The Association will and can only continue if there are enough people will and able to fill the various functions required by our Constitution. So, don't be shy.

On to other matters...

Back in 2002, an article by John E. Lewis entitled *Memories of an Assault Pioneer* appeared over three editions of *The Voice*. The editor has the April and August editions and is after the missing June 2002 one. If you have this issue and are willing to surrender it either permanently or temporarily, or if you have a copy of the full article from some other publication or format, give the editor a call on (03) 59976240.

Time for a *mea culpa* (it's Latin for *my mistake*, or in English, *oops I goofed*). In the last issue of *The Voice* I listed a certain Eric (Charles) Donnelly, 1400205, as having passed away. Wrong Donnelly. The one listed exited the scene many years ago.

In my defence, it was an easy mistake to make as this Donnelly was the only one listed in the Korean War Nominal Roll that approximated the name Charles E. P. Donnelly – with good reason, as our Donnelly was not actually a Korea War veteran. He was a Malayan Emergency veteran and a member of KSEAFV going way, way back. This is before the formation of the KVAA in 1984. One of the conditions of the formation of the KVAA was that former KSEAFV members could join as members even if they hadn't actually served in Korea. We, apparently, picked up three members this way, all Malaya Emergency guys. (The Vietnam War veterans formed their own association).

So apologies to all concerned, especially to Nancy Donnelly, for the mix-up. As punishment, I gave myself a thorough dressing down then sent myself to bed without supper.

Those of you who each issue thoroughly examine Page 2 (and who doesn't?) will notice the absence of John Bennett as our South Australian delegate. Due to persistent ill health, John has reluctantly decided to stand down after five years dedicated service. Although he'll be hard to replace, we are working on it. So, stay tuned.

While I'm in a 'thanking' mood, a special thanks needs to go to Secondary College student and trumpeter Sheldon McCunnie who played *The Last Post* and *Rouse* at the Ambassador For Peace Medal ceremony on 24 November and also at the MIA plaque unveiling on 19 October.

The BIGGEST thank you of all goes to those who not only notice the Renewal form on page 7 but who also act on it. Well done! It costs the Association more than you might think in phone calls and reminder letters to the tardy, money we don't have in abundance.

Finally, a word about Page 10, and that word is *sorry*. Yes, the return of the *Punny* page. More sophisticated humour will be back in the next edition of *The Voice*.

Water Tower Blues

by Chaz Cornell (verse) and Bev Cornell (sketches)

Editor's introduction: In 1988 as part of the Bicentennial celebrations, the young and foolish (in their early 50s) Chaz and Bev Cornell took part in a gruelling 3,297 kilometre camel race from Ayre's Rock to the Gold Coast (did I mention young and foolish?). The race started on the 23rd April and end on the 16th July. Somewhere between a rest stop at Tambo (pop: 345) and the road to Augathella (pop: 395) the calendar reached 13th June, prompting the Water Tower Blues.



Bev sits by the fire, sketching,
In the early dawning light,
Something's caught her fancy,
Some little magic sight.

* * *

A Tall Tower Story

Q: Is it true that there was one man who survived both the sinkings of the Titanic and the Lusitania?

A: The story of Frank Tower, a stoker who supposedly survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 and was also rescued from the waters after a U-boat sank the Lusitania, has long been in circulation. The idea that there was a man lucky enough to survive both disasters is an appealing one but, Sadly, there is little evidence that it is true. Certainly nobody of that name appears on the crew list (or passenger list) of either ship. The tale probably began life as a sailors yarn (I once knew a man who...) and was repeated enough to become an urban legend.

Source: *BBC History* magazine, October 2008

Water Tower Blues

Thirty six years ago today,
Landed as a digger, in Korea,
Never thought then, that so far on,
I'd be waxing poetic, out here.

It started, up round Longreach,
Saw soldiers, playing games,
Leaping off, tall water towers,
Held only, by ropes and frames.

Their antics pricked my interest,
They seemed to enjoy themselves,
Walking down the water tower,
Like spiders, after elves

The Army sure had changed, it seemed,
I hadn't been there, nor done that,
But still, I hastened slowly,
If the rope broke, what a splat.

So I made discreet inquiries,
Not making my wishes clear,
I observed things, from a distance,
Till curiosity, drew me near.

I wished to try the experience,
Just to add it, to my score,
Approached the Army instructor,
Only too willing, to tell me more.

Plucked up all my courage,
I was sure mad keen to go,
Learned braking skills and harness,
Volunteered for the Milton show.

Fronted up, to the water tower,
Strode boldly, into it's bowels,
Started climbing steadily,
Up the steps, inside the tower.

Climbed up inside this monster,
One hundred feet, or more'
Claustrophobia, grabbed me by the throat,
Couldn't reach, that open door.

Pride and fear then battled,
As I broke out, in a sweat,
Visualised reaching the outside door,
Looking down, knew my match, I'd met.

In silent terror, I descended,
Knuckles white, on the steel handrail,
Seems heights, don't agree with Charlie,
Like a dog, I hid my tail.

Absailing ain't for Charlie,
Been half way there, but aint done that,
Though I'm six feet off the ground,
Live in terror of that tong drop, splat.

My apologies to Mat, the instructor,
He'd love to have seen me sway,
But Mat, old soldiers never die,
They only fade away.

Punnies

Warning: not suitable for people with a sophisticated sense of humour.

Bunny Punnies

- Q. What do you call rabbits marching backwards?
A. A receding hareline.
- Q. How do you catch a unique bunny?
A. Unique up on it.
- Q. How do you catch a tame bunny?
A. The tame way, unique up on it.
- Q. What did the rabbit say to the carrot?
A. It's been nice gnawing you.
- Q. How do bunnies stay in shape?
A. Hareobics.
- Q. Why did the magician have a cancel his show?
A. He'd just washed his hare and couldn't do a thing with it.
- Q. What do you call rabbits that marched in a long sweltering Easter parade.
A. Hot-Cross bunnies.
- Q. How can you tell which bunnies are the oldest in a group?
A. Look for grey hares.
- Q. How are rabbits like calculators?
A. They can multiply real fast.
- Q. Why did the bunny eat the wedding ring?
A. Because he heard it was 18 carrots!
- Q. What did the rabbits do after their wedding?
A. They went on their bunnymoon!
- Q. What do rabbits put in their computers?
A. Hoppy disks!
- Q. What do you get when you cross a rabbit with a leaf blower?
A. A hare dryer!
- Q. What do you get when you cross an insect and a rabbit?
A. Bugs Bunny!
- Q. What is a rabbit's favourite dance style?
A. Hip-Hop!
- Q. What's a rabbit's favourite game?
A. Hopscotch!
- Q. Why don't rabbits get hot in the summerime?
A. They have hare conditioning!
- Q. How did the close race between the rabbit and the tortoise end?
A. It was won by a hare!
- Q. What kind of books do rabbits read?
A. Ones with Hoppy Endings.

Xmas Puns

- Q. What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
A. The Christmas alphabet has NOEL!
- Q. Why did the elf go to school?
A. To learn his ELFabet.
- Q. Why did Jimmy's grades drop after the holidays?
A. Because everything was marked down!
- Q. Why are Christmas trees such bad knitters?
A. They are always dropping their needles.
- Q. Which elf was the best singer?
A. ELFis Presley.
- Q. What do they sing under the ocean during the winter?
A. Christmas Corals!
- Q. What kind of bug hates Christmas?
A. A humbug.
- Q. Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?
A. Rude-olph!
- Q. How do you scare a snowman?
A. You get a hairdryer'
- Q. What did the monkey sing on Christmas day?
A. Jungle bells, Jungle bells...
- Q. Who gives presents to baby sharks?
A. Santa Jaws.
- Q. What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?
A. Silent Night.
- Q. What do you get if you cross Santa and a dog?
A. Santa Paws!
- Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.
- I'd tell you a chemistry joke but I know I wouldn't get a reaction.
- I used to be a banker but I lost interest
- I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.
- Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.
- A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but I soon realized that toucan play at that game.
- If you can't choose between an angry psychic and a sad psychic, you'll have to find a happy medium.
- I wondered why the cricket ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- Have you ever tried to eat a clock? It's very time consuming.
- I couldn't quite remember how to throw a boomerang, but eventually it came back to me.

MIA Plaque Unveiling

On 19 October the Moreland Council unveiled a plaque commemorating the Korean War, and remembering the fallen soldiers, and in particular local man, Lt. Laurie Ryan, 3RAR, MIA July 1952.



* * * * *

Ten 'Keiths' For \$7

I was down at my local sub-newsagent a few weeks ago in search of postage stamps. I bought a book of ten then on examining it realised I was holding multiple images of Keith Payne VC OAM, Korea and Vietnam War veteran and KVAA Inc. member. Fortunately the stamp is the 'peel and stick' type rather than the traditional 'lick and stick', thus sparing me having to lick the back of Keith's head. The stamp is part of the 2015 *Australian Legends* issue that honours recipients of the Victoria Cross. It was released on 22 January 2015 and will be withdrawn on 31 December, so get a booklet of 'Keiths' while you can. (I was going to suggest you get a booklet of 'Payne' but changed my mind for obvious reasons.)



Ambassador For Peace Medal

Award Ceremony, The Australian Club, Melbourne, 24 November 2015



The following is a major excerpt from the speech given by his excellency, Jo Hongju, Consul-General of the ROK, on the night...

I would like to begin by extending to you all the warmest welcome to our Ambassador for Peace Medal Award Ceremony. Thank you for your time here with us this evening. My special thanks go to the 11 medal recipients and their families here today. I would also like to acknowledge the veterans who could not join us due to their health reasons...

The Government and the people of Korea have a deep gratitude to Australia and our other UN allies, including the USA, UK and Turkey, for their invaluable help and contribution. To express our deepest appreciation for Korean War veterans of our UN allies, the Korean Government issued the Ambassador for Peace Medals in 2014, which had previously been issued by the Korean Veterans Association since 1975. It is my absolute pleasure to hold this meaningful ceremony again this year for those who were unable to receive the medal last year.

In the 1950s, the GDP of South Korea was similar to that of Tanzania in Africa. Today, Korea has become the world's 13th largest economy and has transformed itself from a development aid recipient country to a donor country that provides help to countries in need. In 2013, Korea's net Official Development Aid was 1.7 billion US dollars, 16th largest among the 28 OECD..

Development Assistance Committee members. All these achievements would not have been possible without the devotion and sacrifice of the Australians who fought for South Korea.

Based on the strong ties formed during the Korean War, today Australia and Korea cooperate closely as members of the G20 and many other international organisations to address key global issues. Korea is Australia's 4th largest trading partner, whilst Australia is Korea's 6th largest trading partner. The Korea-Australia FTA has been expanding our strong economic ties even further since it was effectuated in December last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about one of our plans. That is a project to build an official Korean War Memorial in Melbourne. The Korean community in Melbourne will start fund raising next year. Mr CHOI Jong-gon, President of the National Unification Advisory Council Melbourne, will lead the fund raising. Could we please give him a round of applause. Thank you. A major project such as this requires concerted efforts, so I hope, and I am confident that all of you could provide strong support and cooperation for realising this project before it is too late.

Crumping* (Peacefully) in Korea

Only one Australian Korea War veteran attended the 23-28 July 2015 revisit, namely William Crump (hence the title of this section. Cute, eh) accompanied by his wife, Valma. Twenty three others came from various countries with the rest of the 140 attendees, not unexpectedly, calling the USA home.



With High School students at the Staff Conference Buildings at the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) site on the DMZ.



Wreath Laying and Incense Offering Ceremony on the morning of the 25th.



Wreath Laying and Memorial Tour on the 25th. Bill Crump is 4th from the left.



(L-R) Captain Vaughn Rixon (Aust. Naval Defence Attaché), Felicity Rixon, Ravi Kewalram (Deputy Head of Aust. Embassy), Valma Crump and William Crump.



Exchanging cards and lapel badges with Sohn Jungdal (Director, The Korean War Veterans Association in Korea). Korean War Armistice Commemoration Banquet on the evening of the 27th July.



At the 62nd Korean War Armistice Commemoration Ceremony on the 27th.

*crump (noun): the thudding sound of an exploding bomb or shell. Very familiar to those in Korea in 1950-1953.

Out & About

Remembrance Day

Solway Primary School, 11 Nov. 2015



(l-r) Alan Evered, Vic Dey, Sophia Sipos and Lucas Meyer (Captains), Ron Christie and Gerry Steacy

Austin Health Remembrance Day Service

Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, 13 November



Vic Dey with students from the Fountain Gate Secondary College.



(l-r) Sophia Sipos and Lucas Meyer (School Captains), and Principal, Julie Wilkinson with plaque.



(l-r) Ron Christie, Ivan Ryan, Gerry Steacy, Vic Dey, Tom Parkinson and Alan Evered.

Korea War Conference

21 Nov. 2015, Camberwell RSL



A Hot Cold War: Korea 1951-1953 was opened by Major General J.C. Hughes. The keynote speaker was Cameron Forbes, author of *The Korean War: Australia in the Playground of Giants*.



Farewells

Lance W. Abbott, 1400532, 3RAR on 16 November 2015

Alexander Bates, 4400103, 3RAR on 26 November 2015

Donald Duncan, 1400118, 3RAR on 14 May 2015

Charles W. Hughes, Royal Artillery in early October 2015

Stephen G. Joyce, 38705, *HMAS Murchison* on 28 Nov. 2015

William B. James MC, 335036, 1RAR on 16 October 2015

Victor Thomas Marsh, 37400, *HMAS Tobruk* and *HMAS Arunta* on 14 November 2015

Jack Josiah Wilson, 4161, 3RAR & 2RAR on 2 July 2015

Joseph Wilson, 45043, *HMAS Culgoa* in late Oct. 2015

The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning

We will remember them.

LEST WE FORGET