

Indigenous service honoured

The service of Indigenous veterans was honoured around Australia as part of Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week activities.

DVA assisted ex-service organisations and the Indigenous community to organise many of the ceremonies, which this year included smaller regional communities.

A march and commemorative ceremony was held at Grafton in northern New South Wales, recognising the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to the defence of Australia.

About 70 people, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous veterans, serving and ex-service personnel, children, local school cadets and the Grafton Scottish pipe band marched through



The Grafton NAIDOC Week march honoured Indigenous service

Grafton to the Cenotaph on the banks of the Clarence River.

More than 100 people attended the Cenotaph ceremony, which included special guest

speaker David Williams, NSW President of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Services Association of Australia (ATSIVSAA).

REUNIONS

Ex WAAAF and RAAF, Evans Head: 3–6 October, Evans Head. Contact Jean Houston James on (07) 3371 5351 or Joy Silvertson (07) 5524 9635.

RAAF—ADF Air Show: 4–5 October, RAAF Base Amberley, www.airforce.gov.au/airshow or phone (07) 5461 1835 for recorded updates.

Ordnance Field Park Vietnam: 14 October, dedication of a unit plaque at the Australian War Memorial for units that served with 1 Australian Task Force, Nui Dat, Vietnam, 1966–1972. Email Bob Nash ofpvietnam@hotmail.com

105 Bty RAA Assoc: 17–19 October, Adelaide. Contact Greg West (07) 3300 5303.

9th Australian Div Assoc Qld: 23 October, Geebung Zillmere RSL. \$25 pp. Contact Cora Box (07) 5497 6174, noelandcora@westnet.com.au, write to: The Secretary, 9th Australian Division Assoc, 1 Avalon St, Sandstone Point Qld 4511.

Korea War veterans' reunion: 24–26 October 2008, Canberra. Contact Heather Wilson (02) 4297 0921.

RAN Band ex-members: 24–26 October 2008, Adelaide. Contact Ralph Daines (02) 4389 2576, xranband@bigpond.net.au

Back to the Bush Veterans' Reunion: 28 October–2 November, Bruce Rock, WA. Contact Chris Pickering (08) 9061 1604 or Colin Turner (08) 9061 1773.

RAN Radio Mechanics Assoc: 28 October–2 November, Canberra. Contact John Laughton, 36 Tamarisk Rd, Narre Warren Vic 3805, (03) 9704 7799, 0417 336 423, johnfl@aapt.net.au or jlaughton@swiftdsl.com.au.

8th Australian Division Assoc: Tour of WW2 battlefields

and PoW camps in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Burma, 30 October–12 November. Contact Chris Yeoman (03) 9791 3966, Dr David Richards (02) 9412 2307, David Ross (02) 9405 6886 or Iain Huntley (02) 9680 3200.

HMAS Swan PO's Mess 1981–85: Seeking expressions of interest in reunion, Cairns October or November 2008. Contact Ric Broniman (POETW), malabar2@virginbroadband.com.au, 0407 387 373 or Pete Lyngcoln (POMTP), Plyngcoln@bigpond.net.au.

13th Nasho intake Puckapunyal July 1968: 40th anniversary reunion October 2008, RAAFFA Club Bull Creek. \$35, inc \$5 deposit. Numbers and deposit required ASAP. Contact Kevin Freeman (08) 9754 4881 or Neville Gallop (08) 9459 3020. Deposits to Tony Green, 17 Clarke St, Burekup WA 6227, (08) 9726 3157 or 0418 933 871.

RASIGS: 60th anniversary, 7–10 November, Adelaide. Contact Bruce Long 0417 227 533, bruce@adelaide5star.com.au.

Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force Vietnam Assoc: 8–11 November, Yarrowonga Vic. All who served 1966–72. Contact Tony Mitchell (02) 4869 3639, hqlatfassoc@yahoo.com.au, HQ 1 ATF Assoc, PO Box 1041, Moss Vale NSW 2577.

HMAS Colac Assoc: 11 November 2008, Colac, Victoria. Contact Carl Cederblad (08) 8370 4035.

HMAS Sydney: memorial ceremony 19 November, Martin Place Cenotaph, Sydney for ex-sailors and descendants. Brian Yeo (02) 9261 1674, Bob Auston (020) 9836 4337. Ceremonies planned for other capitals.

RAR Assoc (WA): wreath laying, commemorative service

and reunion, 22 November 2008, East Victoria Park and Bulls Creek. Contact Ken Barrington (08) 9446 4227.

Tarakan Island personnel and support, 1945: reunion, 9.30am, 28 November, Geebung/Zillmere RSL Club, cnr Collings St and Newham Rd, Geebung. Contact Speed Maher (07) 5524 1515.

Signals5thDiv,AIF: November 2008. Contact Peter Wood, 22 Verdello St, Eight Mile Plains Qld 4113, Peterwood1952@yahoo.com.au

WALLER Division recruit intake 15 Jan 1966: 17 January 2009, NAA Hall, Footscray Vic. \$40 excl drinks. Bookings essential, names and full payment by 12 December 2008. Contact Ian Arnold, ian.arnold@defence.gov.au (03) 5950 7668; Robin (Bomber) Brown, dbrown2905@yahoo.com.au; or John Francis, jngfrancis@optusnet.com.au.

8th Aust Div Assoc: 11am 15 February 2009, Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony, Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney. Contact Ron Ferguson, 19 Woomera Rd, Little Bay NSW 2036, (02) 9661 5526, dawnandron1@bigpond.com

Bravo Coy 6RAR 1966–67, 1st Tour: Anniversary of Battle of "Op Bribie", 11am 17 February 2009, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Gardens, adjacent to RSL Bribie Island, Qld. Contact Spike Jones (07) 4129 0540.

4RAR Assoc SA: unveiling of Pathway of Honour, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, February 2009. Contact Mick Fincham (08) 8264 6576, Mickf38@optusnet.com.au

RAN, 1964 HMAS Cerberus JRs: 3–5 April 2009, Perth WA. Contact: Denis (Butch) O'Brien, (08) 9310 1110, 0422 026 614, dnmobrien@westnet.com.au.

Which Minister?

Responsibility for Australian Government veterans' affairs and defence matters are divided among several government ministers. The following is a guide to each minister's areas of responsibility.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Alan Griffin MP

As Minister, Mr Griffin oversees income support, compensation, care and commemoration programs for more than 400,000 veterans and their widows, widowers and dependants. The Veterans' Affairs portfolio includes:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Repatriation Commission
- Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission
- Office of Australian War Graves
- Australian War Memorial
- Veterans' Review Board
- Repatriation Medical Authority
- Specialist Medical Review Council.

Minister for Defence

Joel Fitzgibbon MP

As the senior Minister, Mr Fitzgibbon has overall responsibility for all matters covered by the Defence portfolio including:

- Cabinet matters
- military operations
- capital procurement
- intelligence

Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Warren Snowdon MP

Specific responsibilities allocated to Mr Snowdon are:

- Defence Science and Technology Organisation
- personnel policy, including:
 - recruitment and retention
 - defence families
 - superannuation
 - workplace equity
 - occupational health and safety

Medals Lost

WW2 medals of **George Atkinson** 427532, Royal Navy, including 1939–45 Star, the War Medal and the Burma Star. Also WW1 medals of **Thomas William Atkinson**, including the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Contact George Atkinson, PO Box 3036, Mt Druitt Village, Mt Druitt NSW 2770, (02) 9832 0375.

Medals of **LAC Reginal Henry Corbett** 35617. Contact Geoffrey Corbett, 2/12 Plover Pl, Tweed Heads West NSW 2485, (07) 5536 5465, sarge51@optusnet.com.au.

Seeking WW1 medals, including Gallipoli medal, of **Steven Thomas Pashby**, 4th Div Transport 18/1/1915–1/6/1919. Contact Dianne (08) 9364 9984.

Medals Found

1914–15 medal of **PTE S Crichton**, 5Bn, AIF. Contact Barbara Wilson, PO Box 311, Lilydale Vic 3140.

WW1 British War Medal of **LCPL R P Spour**. Contact James Bedford, 22 Jennings St, Matraville NSW 2036, (02) 9311 2451.

WWI medal of 5120 **PTE H R Sanders** AIF. Contact Rosemarie Tait, 121/16 Holzheimer Rd, Bethania Qld 4205.

WW2 medal of **W J Wilson** NX124303. Contact Geoff Rich (02) 4963 1190.

Anniversary of National Services 1951–1972 medal of 5714500 **B J Guzder** found at the Grato Club, Campbell Barracks, WA on Anzac Day 2008. Contact Kevan Logan (08) 9451 8557, kevan1@iinet.net.au.

- Personnel support, including:
 - Defence Housing Australia and housing support services all aspects of defence people management including health services and compensation
 - Defence Community Organisation and Defence Families Australia
 - Justice and fairness in defence, including the Military Justice System
 - defence legal matters
 - defence involvement in indigenous affairs.

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence

Dr Mike Kelly AM MP

Specific responsibilities allocated to Dr Kelly are assisting the Minister for Defence on:

- garrison services, the estate, facilities and infrastructure reserves policy
- in respect of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Civil Military Cooperation, defence aspects of civil-military cooperation, particularly involvement in whole-of-government initiatives
- cadets
- honours and awards (including medals)
- defence education and training
- ADF Parliamentary Exchange Program.

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement

Greg Combet AM MP

- Specific responsibilities include:
- The Defence Materiel Organisation
 - Defence industry policy and maximising Australian industry involvement
 - Defence exports
 - The Skilling Australia Defence Industry Program