



TAN SON NHUT TRIBUNE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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!!!!!!!!!! STOP PRESS !!!!!!!!!!

A Vietnam Veteran, who lectures in the English Language at an exclusive University in South Australia, has appeared before a court and been convicted of stealing full stops from Tolstoy's War and Peace.

The Judge predicts a long sentence!!!!

Now that we have put you in a jovial mood let us welcome you to the fifth year of our sub-branch and another year of our timeless rag.

As you can see from our masthead we have a new president. Congratulations to Ernie. Does that mean that Gwenda will be the First Lady?

Now that Ernie has been inaugurated, he will have to lift his game in relation to the monthly Happy Hours. No more inadvertently turning up at the wrong watering hole and then having to send a search party out to find him. Was he just using it as an excuse to get a couple of quiet ones in before joining the rest of the crew so they wouldn't know how many he had consumed?

You are the leader now Ernie, you must lead the way.

ONWARD AND UPWARD POSSUM.

I often wondered how it all began, and now I know.

A revelation with an Incredibly Big Message (IBM):

Well, you might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the TRUE story ...

In ancient Israel , it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband: "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her - as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said: "How, dear?"

And Dot replied: "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price.

And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP)

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and began to siphon off some of Abraham's business. But he was soon discovered, arrested and prosecuted -for insider trading.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung.

They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land.

And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say: "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel , or eBay as it came to be known. He said: "We need a name that reflects what we are"

And Dot replied: "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE)

And that is how it all began.

For all who may be traveling O/Seas...this will help you.

Advice from Gordon Blake

Chairman

Queensland State Advisory Council

Australian Veterans' & Defence Services Council

Earlier this year after submissions had been made to me at an AVADSC meeting in Brisbane I approached the Deputy Commissioner in the Queensland Consultative Forum regarding Gold Card holders being required to pay for Medical Vaccinations prior to overseas travel, I have now received a positive outcome.

Prior to 1st Aug 2010 DVA has not provided coverage for medical vaccinations for DVA clients travelling overseas, the approach was that these were privately incurred expenses.

DVA has now released a new Business Line where in it now states that as from the 1st Aug 2010 all GOLD CARD holders are eligible for all required vaccinations to be covered under the Gold Card arrangements.

Any Gold Card holders that may have incurred charges from 1st August 2010 are able to seek reimbursement via DVA. I would expect a fact sheet covering this to be issued shortly.

I ask that you make this information widely available to your friends and association membership, I will send you a copy of the DVA Fact Sheet once it becomes available.

If you or anyone else has any questions ask them to contact their nearest DVA VAN office.

A lighter note

Once upon a time, a girl potato and a boy potato had eyes for each other, and finally they got married, and had a 'Sweet potato', which they called 'Yam'. Of course, they wanted the best for Yam.

When it was time, they told her about the facts of life. They warned her about going out and getting 'half baked' so she wouldn't be accidentally 'mashed' and get a bad name for herself like 'hot potato' and end up with a bunch of 'tater tots'. Yam said not to worry; no 'spud' would get her into the sack and make a 'rotten potato' out of her! But on the other hand she wouldn't stay home and become a 'couch potato' either. She would get plenty of exercise so as not to be skinny like her 'shoestring' cousins.

When she went off to Europe, Mr and Mrs Potato told Yam to watch out for 'hard boiled' guys from Ireland and the 'greasy' guys from France called the French fries' and when she went out west to the USA, they told her to watch out for the Indians so she wouldn't get 'scaloped'. Yam said she would stay on the straight and narrow and wouldn't associate with those high class 'yukon golds' or the ones from the other side of the tracks who advertise their trade on all the trucks that say, 'frito lay'.

*Mr and Mrs Potato sent Yam to Idaho P.U. (that's Potato University) so when she graduated she'd really be in the chips. But in spite of all they did for her, one day Yam came home and announced she was going to marry Richie Benaud. **RICHIE BENAUD!!!!** Mr and Mrs Potato were very upset. They told Yam she couldn't possibly marry Richie Benaud because he's just..... well he's just a**COMMONTATER!!!!**.....*

Your health

We spend a lot of time and effort on trying to ensure that the entitlements of members of the Federation are not eroded and they continue to enjoy a standard of living that reflects the Nation's obligations to care for service men and women disabled in their service to the country.

But sometimes we forget that that is only part of the story. We need to remember that it is also very important for each of us to try and maintain the best level of health we can achieve. It is important because it will allow us to live a fuller and more active life with our friends and loved ones – and will cause them less concern and stress by not having to worry about how we are.

Members of the Federation have access to a wide range of treatment programs and some are simply not taking advantage of what's on offer. There are tests which can help in the early detection of conditions and that early detection can significantly improve and indeed can sometimes be vital in producing successful outcomes. It can also significantly lessen the impact on our quality of life.

Talk to your GP or other treating doctor and discuss which tests you should consider having on a yearly basis. Some of the more common tests are:

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| 1. Liver function | 2. Cholesterol level |
| 3. PSA prostate | 4. Digital rectal examination |

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5. Thyroid | 6. Magnesium |
| 7. Blood pressure | 8. Faecal occult blood test |

I am sure there are many other tests but the key is to discuss it with your GP and find out which are the ones most relevant to you – and then make sure that you have them on a regular basis.

And while you are at it don't forget to encourage your family members to do the same. Encourage your partner and daughters to have their mammograms and pap smears and your sons to have ... whatever sons have.

It is an important issue as many of our members are older than their years due to the impact of their service on their physical and mental condition. Our families bear the brunt of having to live with our diminished capacities and we owe it to them and to ourselves to keep the rusty and creaky old units in the best shape we can.

And then the fight started

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her some place expensive...so, I took her to a petrol station. **And then the fight started.**

My wife and I were watching 'Who wants to be a millionaire' while were in bed. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?" "No," she answered. I then said, "Is that your final answer?"

She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes." So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend." **And then the fight started.**

Notes from The Sate Conference

1. The Queensland motion in regard to Peacekeepers and Peacemakers being able to join the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia as full members was rejected by the delegates and the rejection will be conveyed to the National Conference.

2. The 50th anniversary of Australia sending troops to Vietnam is not that far away and the State Executive are requesting ideas of how to "celebrate" this event. The State President will promote it with the government.

3. There has been a question as to whether or not associate members would be covered by Public Liability Insurance if they were involved in any type of accident when helping with Badge Day and Raffle Ticket Sales. Associate Members may join in selling if we minute all activities and events and include them in coming events notices.
4. There is a possibility that the original Long Tan Cross will be brought back to Australia.
5. Family Health Study research should be finished this year and sent to Government in 2012. More registrations of siblings, children and wives are welcome.
6. Asthma sufferers. There is a machine called a "flutterer" which has produced good results. See your doctor.
7. Tinnitus. There have been good results with Serk (betahistine hydrochloride) See your doctor, it is on the benefits list.

WW II Trivia

1. *The first German Serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American Serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland, 1940); highest ranking American killed was Lieutenant General McNair, killed by the US Army Corps. So much for allies.*
2. *The youngest US Serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a dishonourable discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by an act of congress.*
3. *At the time of Pearl Harbour, the top US Navy Command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'). The shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division was the swastika, and Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika'. All three were soon changed for PR purposes.....Go on!!!!*

The Last Post

For those of us who have been to a military funeral in which The Last post was played, this brings out a new meaning to it. It is something everyone should know. We have all heard the haunting tune, The Last Post. It is the tune that gives us a lump in our throats and can bring tears to our eyes. But do any of us know the story behind The Last Post?

One theory is that it all began in 1862 during the American Civil war when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard he moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded in the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier..... It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.....This wish was granted.

And The Last Post was born.

Remember those lost and harmed while serving their country.

Also remember those who have served and returned and for those presently serving.

They walk among us.....still.

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area so I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up.

She smiled and told me not to worry because she was trained professional and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "Has your plane arrived yet?"

They walk among us.

Wake up time

When the shearing sheds are silent and the stock camps fallen quiet
When the gidgee coals no longer glow across the outback night
And the bush is forced to hang a sign, ' . gone broke and won't be back'
And spirits fear to find a way beyond the beaten track
When harvesters stand derelict upon the wind swept plains
And brave hearts pin their hopes no more on chance of loving rains
When a hundred outback settlements are ghost towns overnight
When we've lost the drive and heart we had to once more see us right
When 'Pioneer' means a stereo and 'Digger' some backhoe
And the 'Outback' is behind the house. there's nowhere else to go
And 'Anzac' is a biscuit brand and probably foreign owned
And education really means brainwashed and neatly cloned
When you have to bake a loaf of bread to make a decent crust
And our heritage once enshrined in gold is crumbling to dust
And old folk pay their camping fees on land for which they fought
And fishing is a great escape; this is until you're caught
When you see our kids with yankee caps and resentment in their eyes
And the soaring crime and hopeless hearts is no longer a surprise

When the name of RM Williams is a yuppie clothing brand
And not a product of our heritage that grew up off the land
When offering a hand makes people think you'll amputate
And two dogs meeting in the street is what you call a 'Mate'
When 'Political Correctness' has replaced all common sense
When you're forced to see it their way, there's no sitting on the fence
Yes one day you might find yourself an outcast in this land
Perhaps your heart will tell you then, ' I should have made a stand'
Just go and ask the farmers that should remove all doubt
Then join the swelling ranks who say, ' don't sell Australia out'

Courtesy of Craig Leggett (Ex SAS & 1 RAR)

Apple does it again

Apple announced today it developed a breast implant that can store and play music.

The iTit will cost from \$700 to \$1000, depending on cup and speaker size.

This is considered a major social breakthrough, because women are always complaining about men staring at their breasts and not listening to them.

Zen

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Don't forget, submissions are welcome.

Till next time. Ed.

HONOUR THE DEAD BUT FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING