



TAN SON NHUT TRIBUNE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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What !!! happened to Summer?

What!!! happened to Autumn?

We are only in the first two weeks of June and it feels like Winter has been with us for months already.

'Global Warming'

Come on !!!!!

VVAA Victoria President Bob Elworthy comments on the Budget

Well the Federal Budget has been handed down. Apart from POW's, who are to be further recognized, and not before time either: there is nothing in the Veterans' Affairs budget for us at all. In fact, we have been duded again with the Temporary Incapacity Allowance scrapped, reduced BEST funding (but keep up the good work ladies and gentlemen, including finding your own funding to do our work!) and the Community Grants Program has been reduced.

Yes, there is provision for reimbursement of “out of pocket” pharmaceutical costs, but not before you rack up a truckload of cost paying your co-contribution for pharmaceuticals until you hit the “safety net”. And what odds the co-contribution will continue to increase.

It gets worse! Elsewhere in the budget is a little number in relation to reducing Carer’s Payments. So it looks like your carer who busts her/his backside looking after you for a pittance, and in doing so, keeping you out of hospital (saving the Government millions!) will get less each fortnight. Nice!

Fair indexation of DFRDB

It gets worse!. The long awaited committee review report on the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010 is out, and guess what, the committee has recommended that the Bill not be passed by the Senate. The committee voted on party lines, 3 ALP, 1 Greens and 2 LP, yes it seems that the Greens abandoned their pre-election undertaking to support fairer indexation, and the ALP members were dead against it from the start. The 2 LP members entered a dissenting report in support of the Bill.

Part of the stink of it all is that of the 17 submissions to the committee, only 2 were against the bill; the submissions from the Department of Finance and Deregulation and the Department of Defence. Both these submissions were submitted after the deadline for submissions to the review! It gets worse! The two non-supportive submissions could not even agree on information provided by Government agencies cited in their submissions. And it should come as no surprise that both submissions drew heavily on the Mathews Review that supported retention of CPI indexation, and neglected to use any information from a plethora of other reviews that concluded that CPI was not an appropriate indexation tool.

But all is not completely lost. The Senate decision could hinge on Senator Nick Xenophon’s vote, so you are encouraged to contact his office and seek his support. And while you are at it, why not contact the Greens senators and remind them of their party’s pre election stance on fair indexation. But be quick about it!

Best selling books

The Big Wave by Sue Nami

Just Say No by Will Power

Leo Tolstoy by Warren Peace

Rusty Bedsprings by I.P.Nightly

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME WE WILL SEE AND LIVE THIS EVENT

Calendar for July 2011

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

This year, July has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This happens once every 823 years. This is called money bags. So, forward this to your friends and money will arrive within 4 days. Based on Chinese Feng Shui. The one who does not forward.....will be without money.

More WW11 Trivia

- 1. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, your chance of being killed was 71%.*
 - 2. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.*
 - 3. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.*
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The Salute by Veterans at the Cenotaph, Wreath Laying Ceremony

and at the conclusion of the Ode

Did you know that by placing our right hand over our hearts at funerals and remembrance services and the like we are not actually placing our hand over our heart but over our medals?

It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph, Veterans will place their right hand over their 'Left side', many believing that they are placing their 'Hand over their heart' in 'Respect or Remembrance of their fallen comrades'. This is not so apparently.

In London on Armistice Day 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall, a funeral procession accompanying the remains of The Unknown Soldier, which had arrived from France the previous day, was to halt at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for interment. The official party included the Empire's senior soldiers, sailors and politicians and as many Victoria Cross winners as could be assembled.

The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including the Victoria Cross Winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that: "*No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are as nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice*".

Copper Wire

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, British scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Brit's, in the weeks that followed, an American archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and shortly after, a story published in the New York Times read, "American archaeologists, finding traces of 250 year old

copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the British”.

One week later, the state’s Department of Minerals and Energy in Western Australia reported the following: “ After digging as deep as 30 feet in Western Australia’s Pilbara Region, Jack Lucknow, a self-taught archaeologist reported that he found absolutely nothing at all. Jack therefore concluded that 250 years ago, Australia had already gone wireless”.

Just makes you proud to be Australian!!!!

Target Stores – what a surprise!!

Wasn't it last Christmas that Target refused to let the Salvation Army ring their bells in front of their stores?

Dick Forrey of the Vietnam Veterans Association wrote:

‘Recently we asked the local Target Store to be a proud sponsor of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall during our spring recognition event. We received the following reply from the local Target management’. “Veterans do not meet our area of giving. We only donate to the arts, social action groups, gay and lesbian causes and education”.

So I’m thinking, if the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and veterans in general, do not meet their donation criteria, then something is really wrong at this Target store. We were not asking for thousands of dollars, not even hundreds, just a small sponsorship for a national remembrance.

As a follow up, I emailed the Target U.S. Corporate Headquarters and their response was the same. That’s their national policy. I then looked into the company further.

They will not allow the Marines to collect for ‘Toys for Tots’ at any of their stores and during the Iraq deployment they would not allow families of employees who were called up for active duty to continue their insurance coverage while they were on military service. Then as I dig further, Target is a French owned corporation.

Now I’m thinking again, if Target Cannot support American (or Aussie) Veterans, then why should my family and I support their stores by spending our hard earned American (or Aussie dollars in

their stores, AND, have their profits sent to France. Without the American (and Aussie) Vets, where would France be today? 'They most likely would be speaking German and trading in Deutsch Marks'.

*Sincerely
Dick Forrey
Veterans Helping Veterans*

An Irishman goes to the doctor with bottom problems

"Doctor, it's me backside, I'd like ya ta teyhk a look, if ya woot". So the doctor gets him to drop his pants and takes a look. *"Incredible",* he says, *"there is a \$20 dollar note lodged up here".*

Tentatively he eases the twenty out of the man's bottom and then a \$10 note appears. *"This is amazing!"* exclaims the doctor. *"What do you want me to do?"* *"Well fur gadness sake teyhk it out man!"* shrieks the patient. The doctor pulls out the tenner and another twenty appears, and another and another. Finally, the last bill comes out and no more appear.

"Ah doctor, tank ya koindly, dat's moch batter. Just out of interest, how moch was in dare den?"

The doctor counts the pile of cash and says, "\$1,990 exactly".

"Ah, dat'd be roit", says the Irishman, *"I knew I wasn't feeling two grand".*

Police warning when driving

A woman driving on a rural road one morning saw an infant car seat on the side off the road with a blanket draped over it. For whatever reason, she did not stop, even though she had all kinds of thoughts running through her head. But when she arrived at her destination, she called the police and they said they would check it out, but before they did they advised the following.

'There are several things to be aware of. Gangs and thieves are now plotting different ways to get a person (mostly women) to stop their vehicle and get out of the car. There is a gang initiation reported by the local police where gangs are placing a car seat by the road with a fake baby in it, waiting for a woman to stop and check on the abandoned baby. Note that the location of this car seat is

This is not a joke. If you were able to pass these 3 tests, you can cancel your annual visit to your neurologist. Your brain is great and you're far from having a close relationship with Alzheimer.....Congratulations!

To my 'selected' strange-minded friends: If you can read the following paragraph, show it to your friends but remember, only great minds can read this. It is weird, but interesting.

If you can read this, you have a strange mind too. Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can.

I don't believe that I could accurately understand what I was reading. The phonemic power of the human mind according to research at Cambridge University doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.
Azanzim huh?

Yeah and I always thought spelling was important!!! If you can read this forward it.

URGENT! BREAKING NEWS FROM LIBYA

رون ناد یمن رگد هیاس شقن ام مریخ مشچ و راوید شقن تسین ادیپ هیاس تفر رگا رون
یمن رگد هیاس شقن ام مریخ مشچ و راوید شقن تسین ادیپ هیاس تفر ر . هیاس تفر رگا
ام مریخ مشچ و راوید شقن تسین ادیپ هیاس تفر رگا رون ناد

رون ناد یمن رگد هیاس شقن ام مریخ مشچ و راوید شقن تسین ادیپ هیاس تفر رگا رون
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ام مریخ مشچ و راوید شقن تسین ادیپ هیاس تفر

I'll let you know if I hear anything else.

Notes from the State Conference

1. It has been decided that the VVAA will not be using Facebook or Twitter.
2. West Gippsland Sub-branch are going to conduct a long distance cycling event. Further information can be obtained from West Gippsland.
3. The reconciliation march is not on as far as VVAA Victoria is concerned.
4. Opening date for William Hacking Bursary is 10 December 2011.
5. Opening date for Long Tan Bursary is 18 August 2011.
6. The Huey chopper is due for delivery to VVAA Museum in December.
7. The Wessex chopper is ready to be picked up from Nowra.
8. Mitchell Shire is selling bricks for the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk.

Where white man went wrong.

Indian Chief Two Eagles was asked by a white US Government Official, "You have observed White Man for 90 years. You have seen his wars and his technological advances. You've seen his progress and the damage he has done." The Chief nodded in agreement.

The official continued, "Considering all these events, in your opinion, where did White Man go wrong?"

The Chief stared at the government official, then replied, "When White Man find land, Indians running it, no taxes, no debt, plenty buffalo, plenty beaver, clean water. Women did all the work, Medicine Man free. Indian Man spend all day hunting and fishing; all night having sex".

Then the Chief leaned back and smiled, "Only White Man dumb enough to think he could improve a system like that".

A BEAUTIFUL MESSAGE ABOUT GROWING OLDER

Shit...

I forgot the words....

How's your day going?

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my mug of beer and gulps it down in one swig.

"Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd CRY. I can't stand to see a grown man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. Then I left my wallet in the cab I took home. When I walked through the door I found my wife with another man and then my dog bit me."

"So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a beer and drop a cyanide capsule into it and sit here watching the poison dissolve. Then you show up and drink the whole darn thing!"

"But enough about me big fella, how's your day going?"

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals, dying of nothing.

Till next time. Ed.

HONOUR THE DEAD BUT FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING

