

THE VOICE

February 2009 Edition

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Who is this man and why is he dressed like an oriental *Mad Hatter*. See Page 5 for details.

Christmas Luncheon Report

The 2008 Christmas luncheon was this year held at Batman's Hill on Collins, a hotel conveniently placed just across from Spencer Street Station. Unlike the 2007 event in Waverley, this meant that no one was forced to arrive by car. This may have been a factor in the number of bookings received. It was a 'full house' long before the RSVP date expired and it seems that on the day everyone showed up, including a few interstaters such as Ronald Thiele from Balranald and John Munro from Moama, both towns in country N.S.W.

Now that's enthusiasm!

KVAA Vice-President, Tom Parkinson, took on MC role this year, [*Drew the short straw, did he? - editor*] and quickly discovered that no matter what the venue, the microphone never quite works properly. The only thing it amplified well this event was feedback from the sound system. That chortling at the back was probably from Allan Murray and Murray Inwood, MCs from previous years. But

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Tom and Gerry work the crowd (Parkinson and Steacy, that is.)



The Swing Masters in action



Associate Member

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
Twinned with the Korea Veterans Association of Canada

Affiliated Associations

Association of Queensland Korea Veterans Inc
Australia & Korea Veterans Assoc. Sunshine Coast Inc
Korea War Veterans Association of NSW



THE VOICE

Life Members

Jim Boxhall
Rev. Burne Brooker
John Brownbill RFD
John Burke†
Bill Campbell†
Victor Dey OAM
John Duson
Athol Egeberg
Mick Everett†
Jim Farmer JP
J F Frawley OAM BEM†
Stan Gallop
Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)
Des Guilfoyle†
John Holford
Neville Holl†
Murray Inwood
David Irving
Ron Kennedy
George Lang OAM
Dennis Lehman
Kenneth Mankelow
Bruce Maxwell
Alan McDonald
Ian McDonald
Ray McKenzie†
Don McLeod
George Mitchell
Bill Murphy
Ormond Petherick
Jack Philpot
Arthur Roach
John Shields†
Gerry Steacy
Doug Wilkie JP

† Deceased

Directory

Patron

Major General J C Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM Dip FP

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Secretary

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Committee

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Appointments

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Pensions: Hugh Lewis 03 9496 2345 or 03 9496 2356
Doug Wilkie JP 03 9496 597 817
Bruce Maxwell 0400 597 817

Delegates

General Committee: Alan McDonald
Veterans' Affairs: Ivan Ryan 03 726 6053
South Australia: C L (Skip) Constable 08 8263 5828
Western Australia: John Southhorn 08 9581 2008
Northern Territory: Bruce Maxwell 0400 597 817
New South Wales: Merv Heath 02 4343 1967
Queensland: Harry Pooley 07 32000482
Tasmania: George Hutchinson 03 6024 7241
Geelong: Arthur Roach 03 5243 6113
Albury-Wodonga: Rocky Camps 02 6204 7241

Correspondence

The Secretary, PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132

Website

www.austkoreavets.asn.au



Vic Dey
President, KVAA Inc.

President's Report

Our Christmas Luncheon at the Batman Hill Hotel was a fantastic event. The venue was central for all members, and with an attendance of 164, it appears to be a real winner. Congratulations to the members who received their 10, 15 & 20 year pins and certificates. This annual luncheon is getting bigger each year. A truly great day.

I am sure that you will join with me in congratulating our Chaplain, John Brownbill, who has been invited by the Hon. John Brumby, MP, Premier of Victoria, to accompany him on the Spirit of Anzac Prize Study Tour to Korea and Turkey. The study tour will comprise of ten students and two teacher chaperones. Have a safe trip John. Good luck and God bless.

Many years ago a young man, Ian Saunders, began searching for information about his father, John Phillip Saunders, 3/400868, who was posted Missing in Action on January 25th 1953. He is one of 22 Australian Army MIA. (There are 19 RAAF Veterans still posted MIA). Ian's tenacity and an everlasting desire for knowledge about his father and, indeed, all MIAs, saw him over the years contacting government departments, both
(continues on page 8)

Christmas Luncheon Report (from page 1)

Tom never remained anything less than stoic and ploughed on regardless.

This year saw the induction of two new Life Members and the usual awarding of service pins and certificates. Our patron, Major General Hughes, and KVAA President, Vic Dey, did the presenting. A few other things that didn't change from the previous luncheon: the alcohol flowed, the chatter waxed and waned depending on who was eating and who was talking, friendships were made or renewed, the Swing Masters played, the raffle was chaotic, and our new editor, in a zealous burst of enthusiasm, went around annoying everyone with his camera.

Oh, yes, Santa made a surprise appearance, accompanied by his Christmas elf, er, gnome?...um, fairy? (Has anyone else noticed that when this funny fellow shows up, Gerry Steacy is no where to be seen. You don't think...? Nah. Next you'll be telling me that Santa was just Leo Gleeson in a fat suit! Gerry was probably just out the back having a cigarette).



"Oooh, look everyone. Santa's here."



"Yes, Santa, I've been a good boy."



"Excuse me, ladies..." warns Jack Philpot (left) "Weren't you told never to accept candy from strangers?"

Santa and his odd companion danced gaily about the room handing out lollies and good cheer to all the good boys and girls. *[Probably explains why I didn't get any - editor]*. They then departed as mysteriously as they appeared.

After this, there was a general mingling as most swapped tables or gathered in groups down back. The last of the guests trickled out way past the scheduled finished of 3pm.

About the only complaint of the afternoon heard was that there wasn't enough brandy in the brandy custard on the plum pudding. Don't worry, the Christmas 2009 luncheon will roll around all too quickly.

KVAA Inc. Donations From Members in 2008

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.)

Ronald Adams	Kenneth Darkin	Lawrence Hubbard	Ralph Mayer	Ronald Scott
Allan Allen	Lawrence Date	John Hutchinson	John Miller	George Sewell
Allan Anderson	Kenneth Dickson	Ian James	David Mitchell	Ray Shelton
Merv Andre	Bernard Dowling	Maurice Jennings	Mark Mitchell	Gerry Shepherd
Rhella Annear	Donald Duncan	Stuart Johnston	Theo Nowak	Rex Smith
Bruce Askew	John Duson	William Jubb	John Oram	Albert Steines
John Baker	Valda Dyke	Bernard Kaye	Edward Payne	John Taylor
Ivan Beckett	Keith Faulks	Raymond Kelsey	Les Peate	John Thompson
Patricia Beswick	Vince Fazio	Pat Knowles	Dawn Pennington	Norman Thorton
Mathew Blaney	Gerard Fenning	Brian Krimmins	Kenneth Pitchford	Jeff Towart
John Brennan	Robert Fisher	Keith Langdon	Harry Pooley	Joyce Vance
Thomas Bryant	Clarence Flentjar	Dennis Lehmann	William Prentice	Brian Wallace
Brian Buckley	Ian Gilmore	Hugh Lewis	Gladys Pretty	Richard Welsby
Maurice Butterworth	Albert Goech	Michael Littleton	Ron Privilege	Richard Webb
Keith Cameron	Hedlel Green	William Longmuir	Lindsay Rainbow	Terry Wickens
B. G. 'Rocky' Camps	John Guttrey	Lindsay McBean	Kenneth Ray	Robert Winter
Peter Cerda-Pavia	Kevin Hatfield	Pat Malone	Harry Raymond	Ralph Wollmer
Pat Chandler	Jim Henderson	Bartley Marley	Donald Robertson	Thomas Young
Joseph Charlton	Brian Heweston	Gwen Martin	Michael Robson	William Youngs
Clem Conlan	Robert Hipworth	Lewis Martin	Michael Rodan	
Skip Constable	Arthur Holland	John Mathews	Noel Rooney	
Charles Cornell	Barbara Hortle	Alan McGowan	Bernard Schultz	
Eddison Cripps	Graham Howard	Frank Matthews	Edward Schunemann	

KVAA Inc. Events 2009

January 28	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Little Collins St. Melbourne.
January 31	Korean picnic: time & venue to be advised.
February 25	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre followed by BBQ.
March 25	Annual General Meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre
March 29	St Paul's Cathedral: Memorial service 1400 hours followed by refreshments at Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
April 22	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
April 25	ANZAC Day parade: Gather at 1030 hours at the Melbourne Town Hall. (Melways 1B 7N). March starts at 1100 hours followed by reunion at Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. Bus service provided from the Shrine to Stella Maris.
May 27	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
June ??	Korean Church service: Details to be announced in <i>The Voice</i>
June 24	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre
July 26	Cease fire parade: Gather 1230 hours at the Shrine of Remembrance. Service: 1330 hours followed by refreshments at Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
July 29	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
August 26	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
Sept. 30	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre followed by a BBQ.
October 28	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
Nov. 25	General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre.
December 2	Christmas luncheon and long service awards. Details to be announced in <i>The Voice</i> . No general meeting in December.
Note:	Committee meetings: start 1000 hours at Stella Maris. General meetings: start 1100 hours. Dates are subject to change; however, members will be duly notified.

Turn Toward Busan

by Gerry Steacy

(Member of the Busan Honour Guard, 8th to 13th November 2008)

The 'Turn Toward Busan' ceremony was created by Vince Courteney who formally served in Korea with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). Vince is the editor of the *Korea Vet News* email which publishes on the Net articles regarding Korean ceremonies, Canadian ventures in Korea, and on Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

The ceremony 'Turn Toward Busan' commemorates those service personnel who served and died in the Korean War or after the ceasefire. It is held on 11 November each year with the idea that at 11 a.m. on that day all Korean War veterans and other veterans honouring Armistice Day will turn towards Busan in memory of those service personnel who gave their lives in the defence of the Republic of Korea. It is not meant to detract from other Armistice Day ceremonies but to honour those who are buried in the UN cemetery in Busan, Korea.

This year [2008], Vince Courteney, in conjunction with the Korean Ministry of Patriots Veteran Affairs, arranged to have a number of bereaved families from Australia, Canada, N.Z. and the United Kingdom attend the service in Busan on 11 November. Also included to honour the bereaved families was an Honour Guard of Korea veterans; two each from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. As it was difficult for Vince to locate veterans in Australia and New Zealand, he asked me to assist him. A successful search of the two countries saw Tom Parkinson and Brian Price agreeing to represent Australia. In appreciation, I was included in the Honour Guard as the Liaison Officer for *Down Under*.

Korean hospitality was second to none throughout our nine day visit. On a free afternoon a good friend of the KVAA, Colonel Hyunchul Kim, the former Military Attaché to Australia, took the three of us on a personal sightseeing tour of Seoul. Many thanks to Colonel Kim for the experience.

Our excellent tour guide, Julie Lee, who was well versed in Korean culture and historical facts, guided the Honour Guard through the many beautiful palaces, on a Han River cruise, and helped us in navigating the intricacies of the menus in the many restaurants at which we dined. We also visited a typical Korean home where we tried paper printing and tried on traditional Korean clothes which brought about much laughter and good-natured ribbing.

At the Korean National War Cemetery, a Korean Honour guard comprising sharp, young service men met us. Brian Price, for Australia, honoured their deceased service personnel by placing three hands full of incense in the incense burner. A trip to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) where the cease fire was signed in Panmunjom was a sober reminder of how serious the situation is between North and

South. Security is very tight, requiring us to register before going into the DMZ and we had to show our passports three times at very points just to gain entrance. At all times, soldiers accompanied us and, being a restricted area, no photography is allowed.

After the Bullet Train (305 kph) trip from Seoul to Busan, our guides assisted us in settling into the hotel and were very gracious and helpful throughout the 11 November service.

The ceremony at the UN cemetery

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Bird's-eye view of the UN memorial Cemetery

THE VOICE

More Christmas Luncheon Photos



Turn Toward Busan (from page 5)

was attended by over 400 veterans and dignitaries, a number of military bands, a firing party, school children and, of course, the bereaved families. The Honour Guard formed two files, and the bereaved families passed between us on entering the cemetery. We then re-formed for the start of the service. During the ceremony, Tom Parkinson was privileged to lay flowers for the deceased Australian soldiers. It was touching to see so many of the bereaved families beside the graves of their loved ones, especially as for most it was their first visit to the cemetery. Tom and Brian paid respects to many of their fallen mates and I had the privilege of attending the graves of the three lads from my battalion, the 2nd battalion of the Black Watch of Canada.



Honour Guard, main gate, UN Memorial Cemetery. Gerry Steacy, Peter Remdenok, Vince Courtenay, Brian Price and Tom Parkinson

The occasion was a moving experience, and full credit to the Korean Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs for supporting the program. The Korean Government takes excellent care of the UN Cemetery in appreciation of those who gave their lives for Korea. A special thank you to Vince Courtenay, Yongjin Jeon of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, our guides, Julie Lee and Sunny Kim, for sharing their knowledge, friendship, and appreciation for what was done for them many years ago. It was an unforgettable trip.

Given that the country was laid waste in the conflict, the growth of Korea since that time is nothing less than astonishing. It made us feel both humble and proud to have been involved, to have given 12 months of our lives that, in some small way, helped the Republic of Korea to become the nation it is today.



Pipe major, John Coglean (Canada); Frank Tyson, (USA); Bill Hurst (UK); Walter McCoachie (NZ); John Camplin (NZ); Peter Remdenok(Canada); Brian Price (Aus.); Gerry Steacy (Aus.); Frank Fellows (UK); Tom Parkinson (Aus.)

President's Report (continued from page 3)

State and Federal, ex-service organizations, in fact, anybody he thought who could be of assistance.

This search has brought him to the PJAC Command Central Identification Lab in Hawaii. It is stated that since 1990 this organization has tested 4000 remains of Korean War MIA. According to reports they have identified all but approximately 400. Apparently the best method of testing is by mitochondrial (MT DNA) rather than nuclear DNA. This means that all testing is through maternal lines such as the MIA's sister. Ian is to be commended for his endeavors. Let's hope that he may be able to bring some closure to families who have waited over fifty years for news about their loved ones.

KVAA Office Bearer Nominations Results

Nominations for the election of officers and ordinary committee members are now closed. The nominations received for the various offices are as follows:

President:	Vic Dey
Vice President:	Tom Parkinson
Treasurer:	Gerry Steacy
Secretary:	Alan Evered
Committee:	Peter Brooks
	Keith Langdon
	Allan Murray
	Allen Riches
	Arthur Roach
	Ivan Ryan
	Bernie Schultz
	William Young

Returned From Active Service Badge

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced on Friday, 21 November 2008 the eligibility criteria for the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) to be issued to recognise service in post-armistice South Korea

“The RASB will be issued to those former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days in South Korea during the post-Armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956 and would be linked to the criteria for the proposed Australian General Service Medal for Korea (AGSM), that I also announced on 29 October 2008”, Dr Kelly said.

“The 30-day eligibility criterion for the AGSM is consistent with the recommendations of the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review Report, which was released in December 2005. The linking of the RASB to the AGSM is also consistent with the linking of eligibility for the badge to specific service medals for other operational service during that era”.

“Although the AGSM needs yet to be formally established, a process which could take at least 12 months, the RASB is ready now for issue to these former Defence Force personnel. I am also pleased to say that once eligibility for the RASB has been established for each applicant, the AGSM will be issued automatically after it has been formally introduced, so they will not need to re-apply for the medal”.

Applications are now being accepted from former Defence Force personnel who served in South Korea during the above mentioned period. Applications should be made to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards
T-1-49, Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

If an applicant for the RASB changes their address before they receive the AGSM, they should advise the Directorate of Honours and Awards of their new address as soon as possible to ensure they receive it. Media contacts:

Mark Sjolander (Dr Mike Kelly): 02 6277 4840 or 0407 102 220
Defence Media Liaison: 02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664

KDVO Diary

by Vic Dey

[Editor's Note: This article was originally slated for the last issue of The Voice. However, due to space considerations it was held over to this edition.]

From September 28th to October 3rd 2008, Vic Dey and fellow KVA member, Ray Kelsey, flew to Korea to attend the second annual meeting for disabled veterans of the Korean War, hosted by the Korean Disabled Veterans Organisation, with 32 representatives from veterans' organisations from 16 countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxemburg, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Here is his day by day description of his time in Korea.

Sunday 28th September: On arrival at the Incheon International Airport, and after clearing customs, a group of young Koreans who are part of the KDVO staff (interpreters, guides and photographers) greet us. After being presented with a very big garland of flowers we are interviewed, photographed then transported to the Lotte World Hotel which is to be our home for our stay in Korea. The Lotte World Hotel is part of a Disneyland complex and the view from the lifts, our room and the convention centre is quite unbelievable. First class. Nothing is left to chance regarding our comfort.

Monday 29th September: A smorgasbord breakfast then a coach to the Itaewon shopping centre. We are allowed to roam free for 2 ½ hours. Most of us use this time to shop for loved ones at home. Lunch is at the Australian Outback Restaurant where there is a great display of Australian Photos, carvings and general Aussie artefacts. Our International Comrades are asking us about the display; it is here that Ray stands out as a mine of information on all subjects. After lunch we are taken to Gyeongbok-gung Palace where we have our own tour guide. This lovely young lady explains in great depth the history of the Palace. Extremely interesting, and she has us all intrigued with facts and figures dating back hundreds of years.

Monday evening, 29th September: Attending a dinner hosted by KDVO President, Kang Dal Shin. Warm greetings are exchanged between visiting veterans and our hosts. Some veteran representatives present a gift to the KDVO President. Our (Australian) gift is a medallion on which was etched the Australian Korean War Memorial. Suitably inscribed and encased in a fibre glass stand for full viewing.

Tuesday 30th September: Mid-morning we are taken to a boardroom which has a beautiful view of the theme park exhibits, water slide, etc., before being escorted to the function room. Before entering we pass through a guard of honor formed by our hosts. Five hundred people are attending the Solace Banquet for the disabled United Nations veterans.

What follows is a magnificent display of entertainment: a concert with a full choir, solo singers, both male and female, and a young lady who very nearly makes her violin talk. A martial arts display, drums, and a magician follow.

Speeches are made by government officials, other Korean ex-service organisations, and then the President of the KDVO gives a speech of formal welcome to his international visitors. I have the privilege of responding on behalf of the United Nations guests. I feel awed at having to speak in such exclusive company, but also some satisfaction at having the opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to our hosts. Words alone do not do justice for this very special occasion. It really is a magical three hours.

Wednesday 1st October: A morning tour of the War Museum where there is a fantastic display of memorabilia from the Korean War. Ray and I lay a wreath at the Australian Plaque on which the names of our KIAs are inscribed. From 1pm to 5pm we are guests at the Jamsil Olympic Stadium where the 60th anniversary of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces day is being celebrated. During

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Relatives of MIAs Sought

If you are related to, or know of anyone who is related to, the servicemen below, could you contact Vic Dey. These men, all commemorated on the United Nations Memorial Wall at Pusan, were listed as missing in action (the date in the right hand column).

Name	Number	Rank	Service	Date
ARMIT, Ernest Donald.	O2221	Pilot Officer	RAAF	1.12.51
BOURKE, Edmund George	2/401173	Private	2 BTN RAR	7.6.53
BRADY, Francis	4/400156	Private	3 BTN RAR	25.1.53
BROWNE-GAYLORD, Mark Astil Baren Aytack	O23655	Flight Lieutenant	RAAF	27.1.52
CHALMERS, Peter Botley.	O35079	Pilot Officer	RAAF	26.3.53
CHRISTIE, John King.	2/401322	Private	3 BTN RAR	15.4.53
COLEBROOK, Maxwell Edwin, DFM	O5895	Pilot Officer	RAAF	13.4.52
COWPER, Lionel Henry Cadogan	O33831	Pilot Officer	RAAF	30.3.52
ELLIS, Donald Campbell	O21261	Pilot Officer	RAAF	22.12.50
FOOT, T.R.	2/401322	Private	3 BTN RAR	14.5.53
GILLAN, Bruce Thompson	O33625	Pilot Officer	RAAF	27.1.52
GRIFFITHS, Leslie John	3/10647	Private	1 BTN RAR	11.12.52
HALL, John Rogers	5/400213	Private	Reinf.Hld.Unit	3.10.52
HALLEY, John Beverley	O5309	Pilot Officer	RAAF	11.2.53
HILLIER, Donald	O4425	Squadron Leader	RAAF	8.3.1953
HODGKISSON, Joseph William	5/400181	Private	3 BTN RAR	25.1.53
KUNKEL, William Rudolph	1/1641	Private	1 BTN RAR	16.11.52
LAWRENSON, Frederick James	O22005	Squadron Leader	RAAF	24.12.52
LORD, William Thomas Henry	2/400437	Private	3 BTN RAR	13.7.52
McKANDRY, John Lawrence	2/400919	Private	3 BTN RAR	14.5.53
MURPHY, William Kevin	3/400143	Corporal	3 BTN RAR	24.4.51
NICHOLSON, John William	2/400798	Private	3 BTN RAR	14.5.53
PURSSEY, Ian Goodwin Swan	O11561	Flight Lieutenant	RAAF	22.4.52
ROBERTSON, Douglas Merson	O5672	Pilot Officer	RAAF	11.11.51
ROBERTSON, Donald Neil	O32536	Pilot Officer	RAAF	15.5.52
ROOTES, Reginald Donald	2/5124	Private	1 BTN RAR	11.12.52
SHENNON, Ronald William	1/400304	Private	3 BTN RAR	14.1.53
SMITH, Kenneth Dudley.	O33843	Pilot Officer	RAAF	8.7.52
STEPHENS, Geoffrey Ingram	O647	Pilot Officer	RAAF	6.1.51
STRANGE, Harold Thomas	A2997	Sergeant	RAAF	19.3.51
SURMAN, John Leonard	O32537	Pilot Officer	RAAF	9.6.52
WHITE, Peter	3/400608	Private	3 BTN RAR	14.1.53
WHITEHOUSE, Dennis Edward	3/10796	Private	3 BTN RAR	14.8.52

Not MIA, Just Lost Contact.

Norman Glenn and William Glen Denham (aka Bill or Bluey) both served with 3 RAR at Hiro, Japan, before being shipped on the USNS *Aiken Victory* to Pusan, arriving on 28 Sept. 1950. Assigned to *Support Company*, Bill was in *Anti-Tank Platoon*, and Norman, *Assault Pioneer Platoon*. Returning to Australia in October 1951, and after a short stint at Puckapunyal, both served with the newly formed *Airborne Platoon* at RAAF Williamston, NSW. until 1954. Norman, after spending time in 2 RAR was discharged in October 1955, followed by William some time later. Norman Glenn is trying to make contact with his old comrade in arms. If you have any information that might help, contact Vic Dey and he'll pass it on.

the four hours of festivities were are entertained, in order, by a Rock Band (very loud), flag dancers with drum support, a taekwondo demonstration, and a helicopter performance. This latter will take a little explaining: 25-30 helicopters fly towards the stadium and two 30 foot ropes are lowered from each chopper. As the machines cross the stadium, a soldier appears and slides down the ropes, one in each hand. As the helicopters are disappearing from view, he is busy making his way back into the chopper. Incredible.

A march past by members of the armed services follows: navy, army, air force and marines in full uniform, then air force fighters do a spectacular fly-by. This is, of course, all amazing to watch.

To top all this we are taken to join a motorcade which travels about 5 kph through the city. Four veterans to a jeep (2 standing and 2 sitting) with a six motorcycle police escort. Amazingly, there is a crowd so big that they fill the space between the barricades to the shop fronts along the entire route and on both sides of the road. We UN veterans agree that is an unforgettable experience.

Wednesday evening, 1st October: Our last dinner together. A young Turkish boy who has both hands missing (and whose late grandfather was a Korean War veteran) is amazed as the KDVO fits him with two prosthetic hands. A truly moving moment for both him and all present.



KVAA President, Vic Dey, holding the Tablet of Appreciation presented to him by Kang Dal Shin.

Thursday 2nd October: The winding down is underway. Over breakfast, international veterans wish each other bon voyage and comment on all that has transpired during our time in Korea. When it comes time for us to depart, the original KDVO staff who met us at the airport accompanies us back there, wait with us for over two hours until we go through customs. It is a sad goodbye to those young people with whom we have shared so much in such a short time. Their work ethic and friendship will always be deeply appreciated.

The KDVO is an organisation with ninety thousand members. Their generosity and the sincerity of their welcome will, I'm sure, never be forgotten by the 32 international veterans who attended the 60th Anniversary of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day as their guests.

Chaplain's Corner

At the excellent Christmas luncheon, when called upon to say *Grace*, and in the spirit of the occasion, I substituted a comic version which went down well. So well, in fact, that I received numerous requests for a copy. Here it is for all to enjoy.

With every blessing – John Brownbill



John Brownbill RFD

O' Jesus Christ,
O' Lord Divine,
who once turned water
into wine.
Forgive, we pray,
those foolish men,
who seek to turn
it back again.
Bless us, this food,
and all who serve us,
and from indigestion,
Lord, preserve us.
Amen.

Notices



RAN BATTLE CLASS SOCIAL CLUB
ANNUAL NATIONAL REUNION
'COOLANGATTA 2009'

Open Invitation to all ex-naval personnel & families.

WHEN: September 10-13, 2009
WHERE: Coolangatta, Queensland
VENUE: Greenmount Resort, Eden Avenue, Coolangatta
COST: \$115.00 per double including full buffet breakfast for two
\$50.00 per head for Registration & Saturday Dinner Dance

PROGRAM

Additional costs for events other than Saturday night dinner.

Thursday 10th September: Meet and Greet with buffet meal at night
Friday 11th September: Day Bus Trip
Saturday 12th September: Free day - Dinner Dance at night
Sunday 13th September: Lunch Cruise
Farewell Drinks and finger food at night

For Further Information on Membership or Reunion:

Geoff (Wiggy) Bennett

7 Viola Crescent, Highett, Victoria, 3190

Tel: (03) 9532 3672 Fax: (03) 9532 3672

Email: benhun@bigpond.net.au

Sponsored by RAN Battle Class Social Club

Proposed Korea Re-visit

Korea veterans who served from 1950-1956, and who have not returned to the country since as part of an official group, are invited to an April 2009 re-visit. For further details contact:

The Secretary
PO Box 2123
Rangeview
Victoria 3132

The Voice Expands

Keen-eyed readers with a degree in higher mathematics will have noticed that this issue of *The Voice* has arrived in an envelope, and that it is slightly thicker than usual. The extra page comes compliments of KVAA Secretary, Alan Evered, whose negotiations with our mailing house has led to more *Voice* for less money. Well done, Alan.

KVAA Inc. Finances

Due to a computer crash and loss of data, the yearly *Statement of Financial Performance* will now appear next issue.

Korean Picnic Day (A short report)

by Geoff Guilfoyle

KVAA President, Vic Dey, and I attended the annual Korean picnic held at the H.A. Smith reserve in Kooyong on Saturday 31st January. After four days of over 40° heat (41, 43, 44.5 & 45) it wasn't surprising that the crowd was down on previous years, this despite the forecast being for a relatively 'balmy' 37°. I initially assumed that the picnic marked some important national day in the Korean calendar. Ostensibly, it is to celebrate the Lunar New Year, but it is more like a large 'family day and get together' complete with games and activities for Melbourne's small Korean community. Sort of an Aussie BBQ minus the BBQ and the beer (and the backyard cricket).

It came as something of a culture shock to me; all signs and announcements, and most of the talk,



being in Korean, leaving me unsure just what the food on offer consisted of and just what was going on. It made me think of an earlier time, when the South Koreans found themselves host to soldiers from many nations, some with their own unique language and culture (Sweden and Turkey, for instance). It must have seemed a veritable *Tower of Babel* to all participants.

For most of those those on Saturday, this proved no problem. In the end, I pointed to a particular dish on offer and hoped for the best. It proved delicious, though I still have no idea what it was.

Humour

Alternative Careers for Retired Veterans...

KVAA Vice-President, Tom Parkinson, [pictured left with satisfied student] has renounced all worldly pleasures and is now a Buddhist shaman extolling the virtues of meditation, kharmic wisdom, and an alcohol-free life style. His book, the *Beer Drinker's Way to Enlightenment*, isn't available at any good book shops anywhere.



And The Same To You...

A general and a captain walking down the street passed a number of soldiers, and each time one of them saluted the officers, the captain saluted back and said, "The same to you."

"Why do you always say that?" the general asked the captain.

"I used to be a private, too." said the captain," and I know just what they are thinking.

A Memorable Memorial

While most members of the KVAA are soldiers, we do have a number of naval and airforce personnel in our ranks. Michael Littleton is ex-navy, and was on his way to Kure, Japan, aboard HMAS Bataan for occupation duty when the war broke out. Within a week the ship arrived off Korea and was very much in the thick of it with Able Seaman Littleton sitting behind a 40mm Bofor gun.

As most of us know only too well, the Korean War hardly registered in public consciousness then, and has almost faded from knowledge 50 years on. Memorials outside South Korea are either small or obscure, where they exist at all, and are mostly limited to plaques.

In September 2008, while in Boston, Massachusetts, with relatives, the Littletons (Michael and wife, Colleen) came across the exception: the Korean War Memorial at Defence Park. This octagonal brick and polished marble structure, the only memorial in the park (which in itself is a first), contains a list of all the battles and engagements and the branch of the U.S. military involved. There is also a seat where you can sit and, while looking over the monument, the sound of gunfire plays about you. Very impressive.



Michael Littleton at the Memorial in Boston, Massachusetts, September 2008

THE VOICE

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I served in:		From:	To:
I am entitled to the following campaign awards:			
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Last Post

**They shall not grow 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**