

# THE VOICE

February 2010 Edition

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## Farewell to the Noughties

Well, actually, no. Because there was no year 0 between 1 B.C. and 1 A.D. the decade actually ends at midnight on the 31st of December this year. However people like round numbers, so it is goodbye to the 'noughties' and welcome to the, eh, um, the...teenies?

It was a busy decade for the KVAA and the next ten years are going to be equally...uh. Ok, probably not, for obvious reasons. However, 2010 is an important year: the sixth anniversary of the 1950 invasion of South Korea by the North. More on this in future editions.

As the 140 people who attended it can attest, the annual KVAA Christmas luncheon took place at *Batman's on Collins* on Wednesday 2 December. Alan Evered ~~drew the short straw~~ - ahem - volunteered his services as MC and, to everybody's amazement, the sound system (and Alan) worked without a glitch (no feedback, no dropouts).

As usual, our patron was on hand to present the service pins and certificates, the Swing Masters sung and swunged, um, swung, and everyone enjoyed themselves - oh, and this year's 'booby prize' was a 'pooping Santa' (with complimentary roll of toilet paper). Every home should have one.

Santa (the non-pooping variety...mostly) took time off from his busy schedule to put in an appearance, as usual accompanied by the world's tallest hobbit. For those of you who thought that these critters dwelt in holes in the ground in New Zealand, this one spoke with a Canadian accent and disclaimed all knowledge of N.Z. Other details of its life and habits remain sketchy.

More photos of the annual luncheon on page ten.



"Um, excuse me everybody... Will the owner of sleigh, registration number, ELF001, please move it. You are blocking the carpark exit."



"Never mind the quality, feel the width!" Don Scally selling. A very sceptical Gerry Steacy not buying.

### 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.  
Korea Veterans Assoc. Sunshine Coast Inc.  
Korea War Veterans Association of NSW  
Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.

### Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.



# THE VOICE

## Life Members

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Rev. Burne Brooker  
John Brownbill RFD KSJ  
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Bill Campbell†  
Victor Dey OAM  
John Duson  
Athol Egeberg  
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†Deceased

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Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Ivan Ryan, William Youngs

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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 rearrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of the contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.



Vic Dey  
President, KVAA Inc.

## President's Report

Welcome to the new year, a very special one, being the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. The South Korean Minister for Patriots and Veterans Affairs, his Excellency Mr Yang Kim, visited Australia and met with our Minister of Veteran Affairs, the Honourable Alan Griffin. They discussed possible co-operative arrangements for development by our respective countries to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

The Repatriation Commissioner, Brigadier Bill Rolfe, hosted a meeting in Canberra on December 15 2009. Present at that meeting were: Mr Jim Blake (Qld), Bill Collins AO AFC (ACT), Rear Admiral Ian Crawford AO AM (NSW), Mr John Jarrett (SA), Mr Mick Kohlhoff (NSW), Mr Bob Morris (NSW), Mr Tony Oakford (Tas), Mr Harry Spicer OAM (NSW), four Department of Veteran Affairs personnel, plus myself, representing Victoria.

The Commemoration Chairman (Brigadier Bill Rolfe) will liaise direct with Korea. Some of the visits planned are: April 12th to 19th 2010 (possibility of 30 Australians being invited). MPVA cover – 50%, Air Fare, 30% accommodation and transport. June-Sept. Youth Camps for 7 days – 50% Air Fare (Dates to be advised). In September, there could be two minor visits – three Australians for the Inchon landing (probably Navy Veterans) and 3 Australians re the recapture of Seoul (probably RAAF personnel). November has the possibility of 30 Australian Veterans/Wives/Carers going to Korea (yet to be confirmed).

A possible Memorial Ceremony in Canberra on June 25th (this date

*(continues on page 12)*

## Rededication Ceremony

Sunday 13 December 2009 saw the unveiling and rededication of Camperdown Soldiers' Memorial, 80 years after the first ceremony. Why 80 years? As Camperdown RSL president, George Arnott explained in the December 11 edition of *The Camperdown Chronicle*, "We're only got eight or nine returned service men and women left in the district, so if we left the ceremony until its centenary there wouldn't be anyone left. We know at the RSL that we can't go on forever, it's up to the younger people to keep the traditions of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day alive."



Allan Murray and Alan Riches (back), Peter Brooks, Arthur Roach, Norman Thornton and Alan Evered (l-r, front)



## Mslish Club Visitors

Kyunyun (Brian) Hwang is the Chief Consultant and President of Mslish Clubs, a private organisation to promote the English language and to encourage Korean Youth to communicate with countries that have assisted in the formation of the new Korea (since 1950). In this capacity he and another teacher were in Australia in late January leading a party of six young Korean students, Melbourne being the last leg of their Australian tour before flying home.

On Monday 25 January, Alan Evered met them at their hotel and took them on a short tour of the city on the way to the Shrine where a contingent of KVAA veterans awaited them. Vic Dey welcomed them to Melbourne and an exchange of gifts took place before the laying of a Perpetual Wreath at the Shrine Pool of Remembrance. The *Last Post* and *Réveillé* followed.

A guide from the Shrine then took our party on a conducted tour.



Top of Shrine with Melb. CBD in background. Standing (l-r) Lee Dong Hwan, Hwang Ko Tae Won, Kim Hyo Skin, Jae Hyuk-Lee, Seong Min Je, Park Joon-Young, Jake and Mia (Ivan Ryan's grandchildren); kneeling (l-r) Luke Evered, Kim Sun Yob and Kyunyun Hwang.

One detail in particular fascinated the visitors: the spot when each year on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the sun, for a moment, shines on the Tablet.

Lunch followed at the old observatory in the botanical gardens. The day concluded with the boys' first tram ride, a mode of transport they found inexplicable: "It just sticks to rails...and that's it?" and "There are not many cities that use this strange means of transport."

# Aussie Vet Reflects On Experiences in Korea

by Vic Dey

*Originally published on Korea.net, a site managed by the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOIS).*

From a personal point of view my service in Korea began in June 1952 and finished in June 1953. Basically this was because an Australian soldier signed on for a one-year tour of duty in Korea at the time. Most Australian soldiers trained in Japan until required for service in Korea, for example when another soldier's time was up, or there were casualties, or a soldier was on leave (rest and recreation, or R&R). This way there were always back-up personnel.

Having just turned 22 on arriving in Korea, my mind was quite unprepared for the destruction and devastation which I was to witness. As a teenager growing up in Australia, one could go to a theatre and watch movies, some of which were of World War One or World War Two. But even watching such movies I was quite unprepared to actually witness the destruction and devastation first hand.

Landing in Busan and boarding a very old train to Seoul, a journey which took ten hours, was an experience I will never ever forget. The sight of the civilian population living in "cardboard houses" is etched in my memory forever. The resilience of the Korean people was truly amazing; to make those homes out of discarded American C-ration boxes was really incredible. Travelling out of Busan these "homes" could be seen as far as the eye could see. This tragic sight went on for miles.

Seoul was in ruins, from memory the biggest building was the railway station. I believe Uijeongbu was in worse condition than Seoul; the mud streets and buildings without roofs were a terrible sight.

My first trip back to Korea was in 1976. Seoul was still in the rebuilding stage but the transformation from what I remembered to what lay before me was incredible. In 1976 there was a curfew in place: between midnight and 6 a.m. every person had to be off the streets, An armed sandbag circle check point was at every intersection. The people disappeared off the streets at midnight and reappeared at 6 a.m. Amazing.

My next visit was in 2003. A further transformation and growth had taken place. I really believe that you had to witness the devastation to appreciate the fantastic changes that had taken place.

The city had become huge, lively and quite a beautiful place to visit. Although it appears crowded, the people are extremely friendly, courteous and helpful. The tour up to and including the DMZ bought gasps of amazement from the old veterans.

During the Korean War, vegetation was non-existent. Now the countryside and mountains are covered with trees and the cities all have beautiful shrubs and flowers. The old thatched roofs seemed to have disappeared and tiled roofs have replaced them. What a transformation!

The resilience of the Korean people, the generosity freely given to all UN veterans during tours, the growth of the Republic of Korea from the ruins we knew in those days to the beautiful country that it is today is proof that our comrades who lie in the UN Cemetery in Busan did not make the supreme sacrifice in vain.

They, like me and all UN Veterans, are very proud of the progress achieved to date. Our one remaining prayer is unification in the not too distant future. My best wishes to the people of the Republic of Korea. I thank you for your friendship and the chance to visit your beautiful country.

## Death of Wayne Riches

Wayne Riches, who died of lung cancer on Christmas eve, was not a Korea War veteran; however, he has left an enduring legacy for Korea War vets everywhere.

Riches was a former Regimental Warrant Officer in the Royal New South Wales Regiment whose love of military history saw him, on leaving the army, become curator at the Singleton Military Museum (in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales) where he helped build the collection there to a standard recognised as the best outside the Australian War Memorial.

Korea War Veterans would be aware that Wayne Riches accepted the Korean War Honour Roll Quilt into the Singleton Museum and developed the display. Previously rejected as a permanent exhibit by the Australian War Memorial, the Singleton Museum has become the quilt's home base when not on tour.

The quilt, conceived by Olywn Green (widow of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Green) and designed by textile artist, Meredith Rowe, was hand sewn by 22 members and friends of the 'Sit and Sew' group from Coleraine in South Western Victoria.

It took two years to complete and is made from traditional Korean monk's linen (*ramie*) and is hand-dyed to the colour of ash to signify mourning. The quilt consists of three sections: a topographical map of the landscape around Kapyong in South Korea, the refrain in musical notation of the *Last Post*, and an honour roll listing all 340 servicemen killed in action in Korea.

It was made to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

## Out & About



Saturday 24th October 2009. Memorial Service, Korean War Memorial, Canberra.



Christmas luncheon at the Geelong RSL, 10 Dec. 2009.



Guard of Honour, South Korea National Cemetery, Oct. 2009. Beth Thomson from Corio, Victoria (right); Stephen Seaton (son of KIA, J. L. Seaton), Richard Girard (Canadian Korean War veteran) and Ian Bool (left, in order)

Kim Yang, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs with Ian Bool and Ian Saunders (respectively, grandson and son of MIA John Saunders) at the Memorial Wall.



Ted Payne and Allan Murray, Remembrance Day 2009, Healesville, Victoria.

# KVAA Inc. Donations From Members in 2009

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.)

Allan Allen	Clem Conlan	Maureen Guilfoyle	Alan McGowan
Allan Anderson	Graham Connor	Kevin Hatfield	John Miller
Gordon Andrews	Skip Constable	Peter Hay	David Mitchell
Keith Arkinstall	Charles Cornell	Kenneth Hayes	Muriel Mitchell
Bruce Askew	Eddison Cripps	John Hazelton	John Moller
Ronald Attril	Lawrence Date	Brian Hewston	Kenneth Moore
William Baldwin	Alex Donald	Lawrence Hogan	Joseph Nangle
Brian Bartlett	John Duffy	Arthur Holland	Theo Nowak
Leslie Baxter	Donald Duncan	Barbara Hortle	Thomas O'Dea
Ivan Beckett	Valda Dyke	Lawrence Hubbard	John Oram
William Bemrose	Melva Earle	Jim Hughes	Tom Parkinson
John Bennet	Jack Edlington	Alan Hunter	Arthur Parsons
Ronald Benton	Malcolm Elliot	Ian James	Edward Payne
Gordon Bidgood	Allen Evans	Stanley Johns	Dawn Pennington
Geoff Binder	Alan Evered	Ronald Joyce	Arnold Pepper
Jim Boxshall	Keith Faulks	William Jubb	Galdys Petty
Evan Boyd	Gerrard Fenning	Bernard Kaye	John Poole
John Brennan	William Fortune	Francis Kenny	David Powell
Peter Brooks	Douglas Franklin	Dong Up Kim	Laurie Price
Colin Burgess	Thelma Gale	Keith Langdon	Lindsey Rainbow
Maurice Butterworth	Rosemarie Garnon	William Longmuir	Kenneth Ray
Keith Cameron	Maurice Gathercole	Cecil Malone	Alan Reekie
Mervyn Campbell	Leo Gleeson	Rodger Marshall	Edward Riches
Rocky Camps	John Glover	Gwen Martin	Noel Riley
Pat Chandler	Stanley Goldsmith	Alfred Mathews	Ian Robertson
Joseph Charlton	Albert Gosch	Ralph Mayer	Michael Rodan
Brian Cimmins	Hedlel Green	John McCaig	Bernard Schultz
			Peter Schultz
			Edward Schunemann
			George Sewell
			Ray Shelton
			Bernard Shrubsole
			Noel Slaven
			Arthur Slee
			Rex Smith
			Desmond Smith
			Maurice Smith
			Harold Smith
			Graeme Stewart
			George Sykes
			John Taylor
			Norman Thornton
			John Trembath
			Diane Wadsworth
			Brian Wallace
			Laurence Walsh
			William Ward
			Harry Watson
			Peter Webb
			Richard Welsby
			John Winter
			Richard Woodhams
			Thomas Young

*You can't take you money with you, but that's not the worst. The frustrating thing is that it mostly goes first.*

## Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2010-2011

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

**Current Nominees for 2010-2011:** President - Vic Dey / Vice President - Tom Parkinson / Secretary - Alan Evered / Treasurer - Gerry Steacy / Committee - John Duson, Ron Christie, Keith Langdon, Allan Murray, Allen Riches (minute secretary), Arthur Roach and Ivan Ryan.

### 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 2009-2010

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:

## The Kalinin K-7

*Editor's note: We live in an age where any still or moving image can be retouched or reworked or even created from scratch by almost anyone with a modicum of editing skill and imagination, and the Internet can disseminate the result world-wide in a matter of hours. Details of the experimental Russian bomber, the K-7, long relegated to the shadow world of the Soviet archives, are now emerging – and various versions of it are filing into e-mail in-boxes world-wide. The following short (and edited) description is from Wikipedia along with a picture of what some modern fantasists think it **should** have looked like.*

The Kalinin K-7 was a heavy experimental aircraft designed and tested in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s. K-7 was of unusual configuration with twin booms and large underwing pods housing fixed landing gear and machine gun turrets. In the passenger version, seats were arranged inside the 2.3 meter (7 ft 7 in) thick wings. The K-7 first flew on 11 August 1933. Then on 21 November 1933 the aircraft crashed due to structural failure of one of the tail booms, killing 14 people aboard and one on the ground. Although two more prototypes were ordered in 1933, the project was cancelled in 1935 before they could be completed.



- \* Crew: minimum 11
- \* Capacity: 120 passengers in civilian configuration
- \* Length: 28 m (91 ft 10 in)
- \* Wingspan: 53 m (173 ft 11 in)
- \* Empty weight: 24,400 kg (53,793 lb)
- \* Loaded weight: 38,000 kg (83,776 lb)
- \* Powerplant: 7× Mikulin AM-34F V-12 piston engines, 560 kW (750 hp) each
- \* Maximum speed: 225 km/h (121 knots, 140 mph)
- \* Service ceiling: 4,000 m (13,123 ft)
- \* Wing loading: 84 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (17 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>)
- \* Power/mass: 103 W/kg (0.06 hp/lb)

Above photo: the genuine plane (we hope).

Below photo: a Photoshopped 'flying pillbox' version from the Internet. Note the artillery!



## 1940 Tour de France



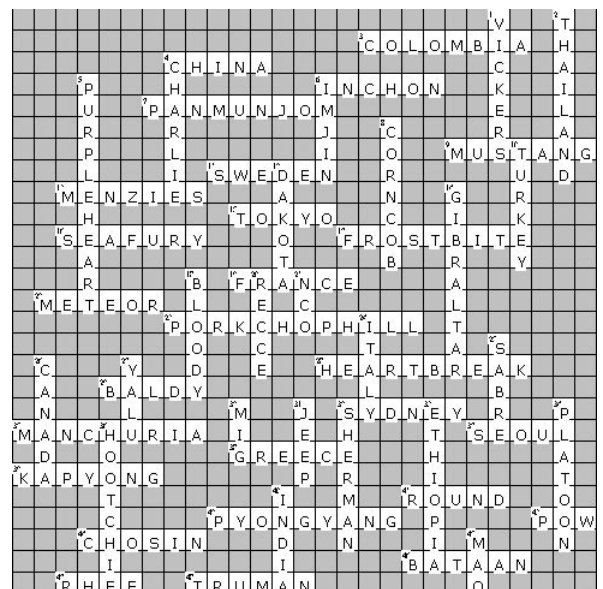
This rare picture shows the winner of the 1940 Tour de France in the final straight to the finishing line. German riders filled the first thirty places. The race was disputed as unfair by the English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Ireland and Belgium competitors who, due to incompetent team management, confused orders and training, and generally muddled instructions, took the wrong turn and ended en mass at the seaside port of Dunkirk.

The controversy didn't finish there.

The event was staged before the South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians could arrive and, despite showing up well after the start of the event, the Italians were still allowed to put riders into the field, taking places 31 to 35. As for the French...to the surprise of many, they buckled under the pressure and they gave up after the first leg.

The Americans, although asked to attend, dismissed the event as of little importance. A stern rebuke from the Japanese in December 1941, made them reconsider and they arrived in France in time for the 1944 Tour which they won, after a dour struggle, for the first time since 1918.

## Crossword Solution



# Nostalgic Recollections of a Dinosaur

by John Brownbill RFD KSJ

I well remember those happy days when chivalry was the 'norm.' The days before Germaine Greer and her cohorts confused everyone by introducing what I like to call the 'CH' factor, that is, the confusing overlap between *chivalry* and *chauvinism*. To open a door and stand back to allow a woman through was once considered to be 'gentlemanly.' Now, as often as not, such a gesture constitutes a 'put down.'

And simple were the times when an order from a superior was something to be unquestionably obeyed. Today, an order frequently seems to be an open invitation to a general discussion – if anyone cares to join in.

How idyllic were the days when one could reasonably expect to alight from a tram or train without being trampled underfoot by unruly boarders – but those were the days before manners became an optional extra. And wasn't it pleasant to walk through a supermarket without having shopping trolleys used as weapons against you.

When children got a smack on the tail for screaming in public and people were prepared to accept responsibility for their actions and were willing to be considered accountable. Criminals and politicians were capable of 'copping it sweet' when found to have committed a wrongdoing. Those halcyon days when morals and ethics were part of the human endeavour. How much more liveable were the times when the business world was based on loyalty and money was not always the 'bottom line' – when staff could expect management to be loyal to them and staff were loyal in return.

How about the education system? There was a time when certain words were not necessarily mandatory requirements in every conversation. I refer, of course, to, hey bro! like, you know, cool, IMHO, like, totally sick, absolutely! LOL, he goes...and I go...and, like, dude, yada yada. Whatever.

Grass was something you walked on and to be gay was to be happy, and many people expected that their marriage would last and not end unhappily in divorce. Fidelity was generally acceptable and the generation gap was about 20 years instead of two years.

And, on the lighter side, yet no less worthy were the Sunday midday dinners – the discussions around the table and the relaxed, close bonding of families. No TV to distract – books to read and – oh yes! – conversation.

The beauty of the first formal invitation to a ball. The first kiss and the gentle naive innocence of teenagers. The days before the 'f' word featured on T-shirts and when young people respected authority and their elders. When thongs were worn on the feet and to be 'knocked-up' meant that one was tired.

But times, attitudes and people do tend to change. They must. As one great social engineer and philosopher once observed: "You don't have to change – survival is not compulsory."

But enough already!

What upsets us is not what is said or done to us, but rather our attitude to what is said or done to us. We cannot, nor should we, change the other person, but we can change our attitude. Most of us have sufficient trouble controlling and regulating our own lives without trying to alter the whole world to suit us, and it is amazing that when we adopt this attitude, how the rest of the world tends to 'fall into line.'

With every blessing, John Brownbill.

## Midnight at the Oasis

Much of the North African campaign of WWII was fought in almost uninhabited desert, but these lands were not completely without population. Several million people lived in Libya, some tens of millions more in Egypt. Although the bulk of them dwelt in cities or along the fertile Nile a considerable proportion lived in or around the path of the armies. Wherever they lived, city or oasis, the position of these people was anomalous, as only that of civilians caught in the midst of a war can be. For the Egyptians, the position was especially peculiar in that Egypt was officially neutral during the conflict, this despite the fact that huge armies manoeuvred and fought in her deserts and that her cities and ports were regularly subject to attack!

In Libya, the Arabs, and particularly the Berbers, were decidedly anti-Axis, due largely to the pre-war Italian custom of shoving local leaders out of airplanes at 1,000 meters without a parachute at the first sign of trouble. Axis forces operated in a generally hostile atmosphere in Libya, marked by occasional outbreaks of low intensity insurgency.

In Egypt, the occupying power – Britain – faced similar hostility. The more educated Egyptians, including such army officers as Gamel Abdel Nasser and Anwar Sadat, were very much anti-British. Eventually the situation became so serious that, in the face of a possible Egyptian military coup in their rear, most of the Egyptian regular army was transferred to Iraq, the Sudan, and other areas where it could be trusted to carry out occupation duties and not pick up any useful military skill.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine, No.87



# Punnies

Warning: this section contains some groan-inducing puns. Readers with a sophisticated sense of humour are advised to avoid it.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked in to a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said. "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says "Dam!"

It was a sad day for the rattlesnake family, the time had come for the children to strike out on their own.

My desire to be a dermatologist was only skin deep. I knew I was destined for osteology. I could feel it in my bones.

Yesterday I accidentally swallowed some food colouring. The doctor says I'm OK, but I feel like I've dyed a little inside.

A thousand dogs were stolen from a pet shop on Saturday. Police say they have no leads.

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail, and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him...a super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says "I've lost my electron." The other says "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

A thousand dogs were stolen from a pet shop on Saturday. Police say they have no leads.

My pet is very agreeable. He's a seeing-eye-to-eye dog.

I was against the construction of tennis courts in the park as I thought they would cause too much racket.

It is tough to do inventories in Afghanistan because of the tally ban.

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.

A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."

I had a mate who was suicidal. He was really depressed, so I pushed him in front of a steam train. He was chuffed to bits.

As the shoe said to the hat, 'You go on ahead, and I'll follow on foot'.

The lumber company downsized. They got rid of the deadwood.

Her company distributes gift boxed cashews and she has a delivery guy that drives her nuts.

The little old woman who lived in a shoe wasn't the sole owner - there were strings attached.

The violinist spent the night in a vile inn.

When a snail loses its shell it looks sluggish.

When the King asked the fool for a joke the fool just shrugged. He was the court gesture.

Rabbits like their beer brewed with a lot of hops.

A friend told me he dug a hole in my backyard and filled it with water. I thought he meant well.

A man stole a case of soap from the corner store. The police said he made a clean getaway.

## The Family Tree of Vincent Van Gogh

His dizzy aunt . . . . .	Verti Gogh
The brother who ate too many prunes	Gotta Gogh
The brother who worked at a convenience store . . . .	Stop N Gogh
His magician uncle	Where-diddy Gogh
His Mexican cousin . . . . .	A Mee Gogh
The Mexican cousin's American half-brother	Gring Gogh
The nephew who drove a stage coach . . . . .	Wells-far Gogh
The constipated uncle	Can't Gogh
The ballroom dancing aunt . . . . .	Tang Gogh
The bird lover uncle	Flamin Gogh
The fruit-loving cousin . . . . .	Man Gogh
An aunt who taught positive thinking	Way-to-Gogh
The little bouncy nephew . . . . .	Poe Gogh
A sister who loved disco	Go Gogh
And his niece who travels the country in a RV . . . . .	Winnie Bay Gogh

# More KVAA Christmas Luncheon Photos



# Retreads: The U.S. Army in Korea 1950

by David J Richie

The U.S. Army at the start of the Korean War consisted of just 10 divisions: the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 24th, and 25th Infantry Divisions; 1st Cavalry Division; 2nd Armored Division, 11th and 82nd Airborne Divisions. Of these five (1st Cavalry Division and 2nd, 7th, 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions) were stationed in Japan as part of Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker's 8th Army. The rest were stationed in Europe or the USA.

In addition to its standing units, the Army could call upon the National Guard for additional divisions, and four of these eventually served in Korea. Two independent regimental combat teams (the 5th and 29th RCT's), were also available in the Far East. Finally, the Marine Corps maintained two divisions, whose constituent regiments were scattered around the globe. Each U.S. Army division was supposed to have three infantry regiments (each having three rifle battalions and a tank company with 22 M4 Sherman tanks), a battalion of combat engineers and an artillery regiment with one three battery battalions of 105mm guns plus recon and service troops.

In reality, on the U.S. 1st Infantry Division in Germany was at full strength. The other U.S. Army divisions were 30% below establishment. Except for the Marines and a few elite Army formations, most of the U.S. troops sent to Korea in the early days of the war were badly trained and poorly motivated. Many had been dumped in the middle of a shooting war direct from a soft billet in Japan. Out of shape, unacclimated to Korea's intense summer heat and ignorant of what the war was all about, the young Americans exhibited all of the classic signs of low morale. In the actions that followed, their combat efficiency was accordingly low.

Nor were equipment shortfalls and troop quality the only problems faced by the U.S. Army in 1950. Much of its equipment, including some important weapons, was simply obsolete. For example, the standard infantry antitank weapon, the 2.36" bazooka, had proved ineffective against German armor when it was first used in World War II. The bazooka was incapable of destroying the North Koreans' T-34/85 tanks. To even damage it, the two-man bazooka team had to score a successful tread shot from the side at 50 meters or less.

As a means of temporarily increasing U.S. divisional combat strength, the Army adopted a program called "Korean Augmentation to the US Army" (katusa). Under this program, South Korean nationals (many of them press-ganged off the streets of Pusan by ROK security forces and inducted into the ROK Army with no training) were added to U.S. Divisions.

In general, a U.S. company had 100 Katusas, integrated into it under a "buddy system" where by one U.S. soldier was responsible for one Korean soldier. Most divisions were supposed to have 2,000 Katusas total. Barriers of language and culture combined with self-defeating ROK recruitment methods made the katusa program a disaster. Except for intelligence gathering and interpretive skills, the Katusas provided little return for the U.S. investment of material (they were equipped on the same scale as U.S. troops). In combat, the Katusas all too often managed to "wander off," leaving the Americans holding the line unaided. The katusa program was finally phased out when U.S. replacement drafts began to arrive in the fall of 1950 (though some Katusas remained with U.S. units throughout the mobile phase).

The men who replaced the Katusas and brought the U.S. divisions in Korea up to strength in the fall of 1950 were reservists called up at the start of the war. Most had not been in uniform since 1945, and, after five years of civilian life, their combat skills were more than a bit rusty. Now approaching the end of their period of combat eligibility and with wives and kids at home their reaction to being thrown into a new war was nearly universally negative.

With some bitterness, they called themselves "retreads" (a reference to the practice of slapping a new layer of rubber on an old worn-out tire in order to get a few more years of service out of it). But, much as they might rail against the unfairness of the whole thing, the retreads answered the call admirably. They were older than most of the men already in Korea, and they tended to be cautious. But the tough veterans gave the U.S. divisions a professionalism and a steadiness that was an important ingredient in American performance against the Chinese during the winter of 1950-51.

From Strategy & Tactics magazine Issue No.111.

## Subscription Reminder!

For those who haven't yet filled out and/or returned the renewal form from last issue of *The Voice* (and there are about 200 of you – no names, you know who you are) could you do so ASAP. Your subscriptions are what keep us going, financially speaking. Don't forget, if you renew before the end of the February 24th general meeting, you'll go into the draw to win \$50.

# Treasurer's Annual Report

for the year Ending 31 December 2009

The year 2009 was productive in the handling of the normal KVAA Inc. accounts, with the KVAA sponsoring refreshments on ANZAC Day, after the St. Paul's Cathedral Memorial, the 27 July Ceasefire Remembrance Parade, three BBQs after general meetings, entertained the President of IFKWVA, Col. George Gadd, with a special dinner, and donated four trophies to the RSL Golf Tournament. Ninety members attended the Korean Church Service; six went to the Korean picnic, and 26 attended the wreath laying ceremony at Point Cook RAAF Base (including lunch at the Sergeants Mess).

The year end Christmas and Awards Luncheon was successful with 140 in attendance. Service Awards in 2009 were issued to 23 members for 10 years, 52 for 15 years, 3 for 20 years, and 2 for 25 years service. A Life Membership Certificate was presented to Ivan Ryan.

The Committee and members have approved an increase of \$5 per year for membership subscriptions to \$25.00 for the year 2011.

The year's accounts show a net profit of \$1,832. The current assets, non current assets and Equity resulting in the total members fund is \$30,274. Cash flow from operating activities stands at \$23,428. Reconciliation of cash assets is \$8826; Wellington Premium Fund is \$13,997.

Because of the world financial situation, the KVAA Inc. term deposit with the Wellington Premium Income Fund remains frozen. Wellington will re-invest it when the market improves. At this time, no quarter year payments are being paid, but will resume when the situation improves. The fund remains at 13,997 units (dollars)

A special thank you goes to all those members who have assisted the Association in its endeavours during the year, and especially those who made a financial donation, contributing towards the 2009 total of \$2,776.

In conclusion, and for your approval, on behalf of the KVAA Inc. Committee and Executive, I submit the financial report of the Korea Veterans Association of Australia Inc. for the financial year ending 31 December 2009.

Gerald Steacy (Treasurer KVAA Inc.)

## President's Report (from page 3)

was selected by the Koreans) is proposed for those wishing to attend the National Korean War Memorial. It was decided that each State could host a Memorial Ceremony and Reception, if possible, on June 25th. It is hoped that this program will be copied by all countries involved in the Korean War. At the time of printing all the above information is yet to be confirmed (hopefully in the not too distant future).

Other activities include the producing of documentaries, television programs, and films, major history books on the Korean War, and illustrated works on the Memorials in each country, plus the establishment of a database of United Nations Korean War Veteran records.

On a different matter entirely, receiving an invitation through RSL HQ, my wife and I attended a reception for Prince William which was held at Government House and hosted by the Governor and Mrs Jan de Kretser. Prince William captivated all present, young and old, with his presence and charm. It really was a most enjoyable evening.

Take care and keep tuned for the events that could take place this year.

# KVAA Inc. 2009 Accounts

Korean Veterans Association of Australia  
Income and Expenditure Statement  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2009

	2008	2009
<b>Income</b>	\$	\$
Interest received	1,340	24
DVA grants	3,327	3,680
Subscriptions	8,975	9,688
Merchandise	2,886	2,332
Raffle ANZAC Day	1,253	
Entrance fee ANZAC Day	780	3,112
Miscellaneous	4,126	4,476
<b>Total Income:</b>	<u>22,688</u>	<u>23,312</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Auditor's remuneration	770	770
Bank fees and charges	85	45
Depreciation - other	607	387
Donations	400	326
Functions and outings	8,928	9,062
General expenses	1,261	2,004
Insurance	1,010	1,010
KVAA jackets & polo shirts	1,323	2,429
Postage	3,423	2,857
Printing & stationery	2,525	1,425
Subscriptions	576	
Telephone	1,597	832
Travel and accommodation	3,715	333
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<u>26,220</u>	<u>21,480</u>
<b>Profit from ordinary activities before income tax:</b>	(3,533)	1,832
<b>Net profit attributable to the association:</b>	(3,533)	1,832
<b>Total changes in equity of the association:</b>	(3,533)	1,832

Wyndham Accounting Services prepared this financial report in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, examining on a test basis of evidence supporting the amount and other disclosures in the financial report. The policies do not require the application of all the Australian Accounting Standards.

# Notices

## Did You know Victor Ellis?

Trudy Jane (nee Ellis) is looking for any KVAA member who served with, or can provide any information about, her uncle, Victor Ellis (4/702 3RAR) who was KIA on 7 March 1951.

*...I am trying to find out which unit he served with and hopefully trace any servicemen he served with during this time. Jack Gallaway's The Last Call of the Bugle, Appendix A , Hill 410, 7 March 1951, lists Uncle Vic's death under "Not identified by sub unit". In other texts he is listed as "Seconded to D company." I have obtained a copy of Uncle Vic's Service records through the Australian War Memorial, National Archives. There is reference to Uncle Vic being TOS 2RAR & Special Forces and his final placement with 3RAR.*

*Private Victor William Ellis 4/702 embarked on the Aiken Victory 27/9/1950 from Japan, disembarking in Pusan Korea 28/9/1950. I have also found the Korean War Unit Diaries and I have a picture of his headstone at the United Nations Cemetery Korea. Eight months ago I was able to locate a photo of Uncle Vic which I have attached. Private Ellis appears center with a (x) blue cross above his head, in full uniform. The inscription on the reverse read simply "At camp." Your members may also recognise some of the soldiers in the photo or where it was taken...*

*I have in my safe keeping what I've been told was his hat badge and it bears the insignia of the Medical corps. There was a family rumour that he was a stretcher bearer but there was no indication of this in his service record. I would like to confirm this.*

*I had the pleasure of speaking with the amazing Len Opie on a visit to Keswick prior to his death and have written to Dr Donald Beard who seemed to remember my Uncle. He has referred his details to the Military Medical History section at Keswick SA to seek further information.*

*Victor Ellis's father was a WW1 veteran, serving in Gallipoli and Belgium. On his return from service William John Ellis 183 24th AIF was constantly ill and finally diagnosed with tuberculosis. He died in 1937 but not before infecting 4 other family members including his wife. In 1937 the youngest 4 children Verna, Doris, Victor and Thelma were placed in*



*orphanages. War has left a deep and enduring scar on our family and the service of our Grandfather and Uncle has come at a great price.*

*I have undertaken this research in order to heal the wounds and create a legacy for our family rooted in the sacrifice of our Grandfather William John Ellis and the ultimate sacrifice of our Uncle Private Victor William Ellis...*

If you can help Trudy, or think you know someone who can, you can contact her directly via e-mail at [trudycjane@internode.on.net](mailto:trudycjane@internode.on.net) or give Allan Murray or the Editor a call and we'll pass on the information.

## Did You know Robert Leslie Saunders?

Born in 1948, Faye Stone (Saunders) never knew her father and would like to learn more about him. In her e-mail to Alan Evered she explains why:

*My father served with the 3RAR in the 1950s. His name was Robert Leslie Sanders. His service number was 2/3233. He enlisted, for a 2nd time, on the 22/3/1949 in New South Wales. I was born in 1948 and my father was accidentally killed in Japan on 5/11/1951. I was adopted at birth so I have never been able to meet my father or know what he was like. I do know he married Dawn Moree Smith on the 1st September 1951 in Sydney. I have visited his memorial at Enoggera Army base and someone kindly took photos of his grave in Japan. I would love to know what sort of man he was.*

If you served with Robert Saunders or knew someone who did, and can help with a photo or anecdote, then contact Alan Evered and he'll pass on the info to Faye.

## Seeking James McGivern

KVAA Inc. member, Colin Berryman, would like to make contact with James Thomas McGivern, born 5th March 1924 at Liverpool, Lancashire, England. McGivern was a stretcher bearer in both 3RAR and 1RAR. He served in Korea from September 1950 to June 1951 with B Coy 3RAR (veteran of Kapyong) and also April 1952 - March 1953 with 1RAR. Service number: 2/1026 Rank: corporal. If you can help, email Colin at [jacol57@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jacol57@bigpond.net.au) or contact Vic Dey and he'll pass on the info.

## Correction

In the *Last Post Register* section of last edition's *Voice*, the PO Box was listed as **2133**. It should have read **2123**. The mistake was made by the editor (who was punished with a severe smacking and sent to bed without his supper).

# Little Ships

[Author & Date unknown but likely WWII vintage]

We pray our prayers for our fighting men, ashore, aloft, at sea.  
 "Out there" we each have someone, fighting for you and me.

Men in navy or airforce blue, and soldiers with stern set lips,  
 But the men on whom our fate depends, are the men in the Little Ships.

We cheer our men as they march away, embarking to meet the foe,  
 And hearts are aching with pain and pride, as we watch our loved ones go  
 In crowded transports, through perilous seas where the lurking U-boat slips,  
 They are taken safe to their distant goal, by the men in the Little Ships.

The ships that carry a nation's food go ever upon their way,  
 Through ocean lanes where, but hours before, the murderous minefield lay.  
 Those globes, that wait with their loads of death, where the reeling forefoot rips,  
 Are all discounted, and brought to naught, swept up by the Little Ships.

The men who handle the Little Ships have got no band to play,  
 And spend their lives in an endless watch, ceaselessly night and day  
 The little craft turn somersaults, where the liner only dips,  
 And crashing seas make music for the men in the Little Ships.

Now, some will ask, the Little Ships, what can these vessels be?  
 Destroyers, sweepers, sloops, corvettes, the wartime family.  
 And we'll win this war, not in the fight when Leviathans come to grips,  
 But by dogged grit, and the endless toil of the men in the Little Ships.

And so today, as the nation fights to right a ghastly wrong,  
 From every heart the cry goes out, "How long, Oh Lord, how long?"  
 So let us live with the well-known hymn for ever upon our lips,  
 From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect our Little Ships.

# Useless Facts

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

More than half of the coastline of the entire U.S.A. is in Alaska.

Chances that a road is unpaved in the USA: 1%, in Canada: 75%

Charles I was the shortest British monarch at 145 cm tall.

The full name of Los Angeles is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula. It can be abbreviated to 3.6% of its size: L.A.

The driest place on Earth is in the valleys of the Antarctic near Ross Island. There has been no rainfall there for 2 million years.

# Farewells

Vic Carr (1/1233 3 Btn)  
 in early January 2010

Ken Colburg (51371 3RAR)  
 in early January 2010

Laurence Reeman (32548 3RAR)  
 on 29 January 2010

Lindsay Williamson (245291 3RAR)  
 on 4 January 2010

Kenneth 'Ted' Mankelow  
 on 21 January 2010  
 1st Btn. Middlesex Regiment.  
 KVAA Inc. Life Member.  
 President, Norlane RSL.  
 Founding member of the  
 Barwon Health Board.

# 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

## Merchandise Available

KVAA Inc. pocket badge	\$10.00 .....	\$
KVAA Inc. lapel badge	\$10.00 .....	\$
KVAA Inc. windscreen decal	\$ 5.00 .....	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50 .....	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00 .....	\$
Kapypong battle print	\$ 5.00 .....	\$
RAN print: Ships in Korea	\$ 5.00 .....	\$
Tie (with KVAA inc. logo)	\$20.00 .....	\$
Korea Veteran caps	\$10.00 .....	\$
Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00 .....	\$
	<b>TOTAL . . .</b>	<b>\$</b>

*Please put a check beside each article requested and insert the dollar total.*

(Please Print)

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

Address: .....

State: ..... Post Code: .....

Cheques or monery orders should be made out to:  
 The Treasurer, KVAA Inc.  
 1 Kent Court  
 Werribee 3030