

THE VOICE

December 2013 Edition

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Hurry! Free Money!

1 Ok. Now that I have your attention, I (the editor) actually have something important to say and, no, it has nothing to do with the title of this piece. Sorry.

2 This issue marks the fifth year of my editorship (insert cheers or jeers here, depending on how well you think I've done) and I think it is time for a review of how the KVAA Inc. is travelling and plans for the future – and no, this is not my resignation speech. I plan to hang around for a while yet (insert cheers or jeers here, depending on how well you think I've done).

4 When I took over the editorship, I remarked to Alan Evered something to the effect that given the age of the readership, the job would only grow easier as time marched on. I doubted that in five years we'd be sending out more than 100 *Voices* each mailout.

5 In December 2008 we posted 679 copies. This issue totalled around 664 copies.

7 And guess what? The ratios are about the same: 27 vs 34 Associated Members, 5 vs 12 Special members, 77 vs 82 Widows, 462 vs 418 Members, and so on. Let me put it starkly: in five years, the KVAA Inc. has lost overall only 44 Members (that is, those who served in the armed forces or as a nurse in Korea/Japan).

8 So, well done everyone. The KVAA Inc. is as strong as ever.

9 Uh... Well, the devil, as they say, is in the detail. The above statistics, while accurate, are misleading.

10 About a decade ago we (Australia) lost our last WWI veterans. Now WWII and Korean War veterans are growing thin on the ground and the youngest Vietnam War veteran is pushing 60! All round Australia, RSLs are closing down, and not just in tiny townships either. Veterans' Associations are also winding up or merging, and that is the secret of our strength. For instance, a few years back we gained 75 members from the AKVA (Australia Korea Veterans Association). Members from smaller moribund or defunct organisations have also drifted into our orbit.

14 Another, more telling factor, is making itself felt – time, and all that goes with it. Age and illness is slowing down everyone of a certain age. More and more is being left to the few who are still active. As the old adage goes: the spirit may be willing but the flesh is weak.

14 So, what of the future...

(continues on Page 6)

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.



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Directory

Patron

Major General J C Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM Dip FP

President

Victor Dey OAM
 Phone: 03 946 72750
 Mobile: 040 987 8864
 Email: blueydey@bigpond.net.au

Vice-President

Tom Parkinson 03 9350 6608

Secretary

Alan Evered
 Phone: 03 9874 2219
 Email: evered@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer

Gerry Steacy
 Phone: 03 9741 3356
 Email: steacy32@bigpond.com

Committee

Ron Christie, John Dusan, Keith Langdon,
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Appointments

Chaplain: John Brownbill RFD KSJ 0418 359 085 **General Committee:** Alan McDonald
Pensions: Charlie Slater 9355 7264 & Ian Donald (Welfare Office, Bentleigh RSL) 9557 4547
Veterans' Affairs: Ivan Ryan 03 726 6053
Editor: Geoff Guilfoyle Phone: TBA Email: Geoff_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au

Delegates

ACT: Colin Berryman OAM 02 6258 2463, 040 896 2415, or jacol57@bigpond.net.au
Albury-Wodonga: Paul Shimmen 02 6041 3211 **Geelong:** Arthur Roach 03 5243 6113
New South Wales: Merv Heath 02 4343 1967
Queensland: Harry Pooley 07 3200 0482 and Kelly Frawley (Kilcoy) 07 5497 1790
South Australia: John Bennett 08 8556 7288 **Tasmania:** George Hutchinson 03 6275 0762
Western Australia: John Southorn 08 9531 2008

Correspondence

The Secretary, PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132

Website

TBA

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KVAA Inc. lapel badge	\$10.00	\$	RAN silk print: Ships in Korea	\$15.00	\$
KVAA Inc. windscreen decal	\$ 5.00	\$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00	\$	Woollen scarf	\$35.00	\$

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President's Report

Report on the President

As those of you who attend the monthly General Meeting will already know, KVAA Inc. President, Vic Dey, is recovering in the Brunswick Private Hospital after a hip replacement. [*Editor: what this man won't do to avoid writing the President's Report!*] Thus there is no President's Report this month. Instead, here is something completely different...

The Right Stuff

The commanding officer at the Russian military academy (the equivalent of a 4-star general in the U.S.) gave a lecture on Potential Problems and Military Strategy. At the end of the lecture, he asked if there were any questions.

An officer stood up and asked, "Will there be a third world war? And, if so, will Russia take part in it?"

The general answered both questions in the affirmative.

Another officer asked, "Who will be the enemy?"

The general responded, "All indications point to China."

Everyone in the audience was shocked.

A third officer remarked, "General, we are a nation of only 150 million, compared to the 1.2 billion Chinese. Can we win at all, or even survive?"

The general answered, "Just think about this for a moment: In modern warfare, it is not the quantity of soldiers that matters, but the quality of an army's capabilities. For example, in the Middle East we have had a few wars recently where 5 million Jews fought against 150 million Arabs, and Israel was always victorious."

After a small pause yet another officer from the back of the auditorium, asked, "Do we have enough Jews?"

Harry and Col in Korea

by Colin Berryman OAM

Although only a short trip it was indeed a wonderful experience, as usual, where the Republic of Korea Veterans are involved, it was extremely well organised. On this occasion the arrangements were done by the Disabled Veterans section of the Association. There were two of us representing Australia. My dear friend from Queensland, Henry (Harry) Thomas Pooley, and myself, Colin Berryman, from Canberra. There were also representatives from Greece, Turkey, Ethiopia, Colombia, and Thailand. All of us were also accompanied by a carer. In my case, it was my dear wife, Janette.

Harry and I met up in Sydney and flew to Incheon on Monday 7 October. We flew by Asiana Airlines. Flight time was approximately 10 hours. The service, meals and refreshments were excellent. We arrived at Incheon at 2030 hrs., on Monday night and were met and welcomed by a young veteran from the Association (all young men in Korea are veterans, as they all have to serve two years in either of the services, technically still at war with their Northern neighbours) and a very attractive young lady, who became our guide through every activity of the tour. We then travelled to our accommodation, the Marriot Hotel, which is situated in Seoul, a forty-five minute trip from Incheon. The Marriot, by the way is a 5 star hotel.

The next morning, (Tuesday 8 October) after an excellent breakfast, we were assembled at 0930, introduced to each other, and then taken by coach to the Republic of Korea National Cemetery, a most beautiful and impressive National Memorial. Thousands of ROK servicemen are buried there, those killed during the Korean War, and those that have been killed since, in Korea, or Vietnam and Iraq. National Leaders are also buried there, and the names of thousands whose bodies were never recovered after the war, are also recorded.

We took part in a beautiful service at the Memorial portion of the Cemetery, with a large guard of Honour from the three services present, during which wreaths were laid, incense was burned, and after it was finished, were all given the opportunity to sign the Visitors book. After the service we were returned to the hotel for a welcome luncheon which was also attended by a large contingent of Korean Disabled Veterans. Welcoming speeches were made by Association Presidents and high ranking Military Officers.

We were seated with the Greek contingent, our Military Attaché, Captain Brett Dowsing, RAN, and a member of the Greek Embassy. Captain Dowsing was a very charming and friendly person, and made us feel very welcome. We were also entertained by a most beautiful troupe of female Korean folk singers and dancers. After the luncheon I also presented an RSL Plaque and Cuff links to a Korean amputee who was at the table behind us in a wheel chair. After the luncheon, we were then taken on a tour of the National War Memorial and Museum.



Harry Pooley and Colin Berryman at the ROK Navy 2nd Fleet Command Base at Pyeongtaek.

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The names of every UN service person who lost his or

(continues on Page 4)

her life during the Korean War is engraved on the plaques of the Memorial. There are several thousand. Our Australian plaque bears the names of three hundred and thirty-two. There are rows and rows of US names. We spent a very solemn afternoon at the Memorial/Museum.

On Wednesday Morning (9 October), which was a Korean Public Holiday, we visited the Museum of Korean Contemporary History. It was a pleasant trip through the city, past the parks filled with many of the people enjoying holiday activities dressed in their national costumes. We were given an excellent tour through the museum, where we learned a great deal about the history of Korea, its early Kings, the period of its occupation by Japan, post-World War II, the Korean War, its politics after, and the remarkable development since, leading up to its present state of stability and prosperity.

After lunch we then toured the Royal Gyeongbok Palace, which has been rebuilt to its ancient glory since it was let to deteriorate during the Japanese Occupation. It was wonderful, with its moats, ancient fortifications and buildings, and throne room. The tour was made even more enjoyable, by many of the people, enjoying their own visits, dressed in their own national costumes. After the Palace we enjoyed shopping at Itaewon, which is a suburb originally founded by Genghis Kahn, where he apparently stabled and grazed his cavalry horses, and housed their grooms. The young lady guiding us told us that "Itaewon" means, *town of foreigners*.

That evening we enjoyed a traditional Korean Banquet at a very good traditional restaurant. Much of the food I enjoyed. I was also introduced to the popular Korean Cass beer, which I enjoyed very much. Next week I will ask my local Dan Murphy's Liquor store if they can get a case of it for me.

Next morning (Thursday 10 October) we visited the ROK Navy 2nd Fleet Command Base at Pyeongtaek. This was the base of the Corvette that was recently sunk by a North Korean torpedo, with the loss of 47 of its crew. We were given a guided tour of the base, its museum, and we saw the bow and stern sections of the corvette which had been destroyed. It had later been raised from the bottom. You could plainly see from the damage caused when it was torn apart, that it had caused by an external explosion from the torpedo, and not from an internal explosion, claimed to have occurred by the North Koreans. We were also addressed by the Commanding Officer of the base Admiral Chun, Jung-Soo.

After his welcome, I presented the Admiral with an RSL Plaque, and a plaque of the Royal Australian Regiment. He was very appreciative and told me they would be hung in the wardroom. I also gave some of his Officers and Sailors some RSL and RAR cuff links. That afternoon we visited the Korean Folk village, which was also enjoyable, and in the evening we had a party at a Karaoke Parlour, which was hilarious. An old Greek veteran and myself did a version of Fernando, and Harry and I also did My Way, with much applause. Lots of Cass and Budweiser was also consumed. That evening I also presented the President of the Korean Disabled Association with a Royal Australian Infantry Plaque, and some of the young veterans who had guided us through the revisit, RAI Corps cuff links.

The next day we packed up and travelled home with many regrets and heavy heads, but also had time for a little more shopping.

I can't really find words to describe the most generous, kindly and friendly treatment we received from the Korean Veterans themselves, the guides, and the staff from Blue Bear Tours, and also from the wonderful Korean people we came in contact with. May God bless them all.

Armour vs. Flying Suit

A modern fighter pilot wears more layers of clothing than a medieval knight. A knight, whose suit of armour weighed about 27kg (60 lb), usually wore two layers of clothing underneath it: a shirt and leggings, and a padded doublet. But a fighter pilot may wear as many as five layers: a heavy-duty cotton or nylon onepiece flying suit, on top of an inflatable rubber C-suit, on top of a fleece-lined jump suit, on top of cotton combination underwear. Over all that may come a rubber total immersion suit with watertight seals at neck, wrists and ankles. Despite the extra layers, the pilot's clothing is less than half the weight of the medieval knight's. Its total weight, including flying helmet and boots, is only about 12kg (26 lb).

Source: *Book of Facts*, Reader's Digest (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., 1994

Bushfire War

In September 1942 a Japanese plane flew over Oregon (in the Western U.S.A.) on two occasions and dropped incendiary bombs in an attempt to set the forests afire. The plane was float-equipped and has been carried across the Pacific by the submarine I-25. At the time, U.S. authorities assumed that the forest fires had been started by Japanese bombs carried in balloons. It was not until years after the war that it was revealed that the American mainland had been bombed from the air for the first time.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 85

The RAN Between the Wars

After the First World War, a world-wide naval retrenchment under the terms of the Washington Treaty (1922), which limited the size and number of capital ships and aircraft carriers of the signatories' navies, came into effect. The main effect was to preserve the relative sizes of the navies of Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France and Italy as they existed in 1920.

For Australia, it meant destroying her battle cruiser and on 12 April 1924, *HMAS Australia* was towed to sea and scuttled off Sydney. By 1923, the personnel strength of the RAN had fallen to 3500 and ships in commission from 23 to 13.

Work on a light cruiser laid down at Cockatoo Dockyard during the war had continued and she was commissioned as *HMAS Adelaide* in 1922. Six destroyers (*Anzac*, *Swordsman*, *Success*, *Stalwart*, *Tasmania* and *Tattoo*), six submarines and three sloops (*Geranium*, *Mallow* and *Marguerite*) had also been acquired from the Royal Navy.

Thus in the early post-war years, in spite of the loss of Australia, the RAN appeared as a naval force of reasonable potential. Navy activity was, however, at a low ebb but one important step was taken during this period. This was the establishment of an RAN Survey Service and, in 1921, the commissioning of *HMAS Geranium* as the RAN's first Survey Vessel.

In 1921 the Government decided to modernise the Australian Navy and scrapped the cruisers *Melbourne* and *Sydney* and replaced them with two 10,000 ton County Class cruisers armed with 8-inch guns. It was also decided to acquire two modern submarines to replace the six obsolete boats taken over from the Royal Navy at the end of the war and to order the building of a seaplane carrier in Australia. The cruisers, *Australia* and *Canberra* were commissioned in 1928 along with the seaplane carrier, *HMAS Albatross*, and the following year the submarines, *Oxley* and *Otway* reached Australia.

Then came the world-wide depression. In Australia it brought naval activity almost to a standstill.

In 1930, for reasons of economy, the Naval College was moved from Jervis Bay to Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria. Recruiting ceased, and in 1931, no Cadets were enrolled at the College. Strength of the Permanent Forces fell to some 3000 and the Reserves to less than 6000 (all ranks). Only the cruisers *Australia* and *Canberra*, the carrier *Albatross* and one destroyer were kept in commission. Other ships were placed in reserve or in the hands of the shipbreakers, as was the fate of the RAN's original destroyer flotilla. Throughout the 1930s, replacement ships came slowly as this complement was, in turned, thinned due to obsolescence or expense.

Thus when WWII broke out in September 1939. the RAN possessed two heavy cruisers (*Australia*, *Canberra*), four light cruisers (*Sydney*, *Hobart*, *Perth*, *Adelaide*), five destroyers and three sloops.

Source: *Navy News* 19 October 1973

The Cavalry to the Rescue

In 1915 Lt. Cdr. Martin Dunbar Nasmith was not the first British submarine skipper to take a boat up the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmara in support of the Allied landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Nor was his E-11 lucky enough to bag a battleship. But his first cruise in those waters certainly won the E-11 a unique place in the history of submarining.

That May 1915 cruise could only be classed as a total success until, while on patrol near the port of Rodosto, E-11 chanced upon an old paddle-wheel steamer laded with barbed wire and a few horses. The steamer tried gamely to ram the British intruder and, when that failed, fled towards shore as fast as her antique engines could carry her. E-11 gave pursuit.

Considering the target unworthy of an expensive torpedo, Nasmith decided to engage the target with rifle fire, E-11 not having a deck gun at the time. As she approached the panting Turkish ship, which was by then close inshore, E-11's crew opened up. It looked like curtains for the little steamer. But at that moment the proverbial cavalry arrived, literally.

A troop of Turkish cavalry appeared on the cliffs. Spotting the little engagement, they put spur to horse, and came charging down along the shore taking E-11 under heavy rifle fire. Outgunned, Nasmith realized that discretion was the better part of valour, and perhaps fearful for his boat's fragile hull, broke off the action and retired out of gunshot range.

A torpedo was risked at long range, but missed, and the little steamer went on about its lawful occasions, her crew perhaps never realizing how important a role they had played in an event of enormous historical interest. For after all, E-11 was the first, and so far the only, submarine ever to be defeated by cavalry. As for her skipper, the unfortunate – and unique – experience didn't harm his career a bit, for he retired many years later as an admiral with full honours.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 108

The original name bestowed by the Royal Navy on aircraft capable of taking off and landing on water was the hydro-aeroplane, an annoying mouthful. Winston Churchill in 1912 coined the name *seaplane* instead. Unsurprisingly, the name stuck and seaplanes have been so called ever since.

Two Poems

via John Monro

The following two poems, written in Korea around 1953, were given to me along with *The Korean Blues*, (see *The Voice* February 2011) by KVAA Inc. member, John Monro, back in 2010. Being the well organised editor I am, I promptly misplaced them. Until now. Guess what I found amongst a box of old war documentary videos when unpacking after moving house? So, here are the two long overdue poems.

Kiwi Song

When I was in New Zealand
Having loads of fun
A war broke out in Korea
They handed me a gun
Just to fight for that fellow, Syngman Rhee

We landed in Pusan
It wasn't very nice
We didn't come to Korea
To eat your bloody rice
But to fight for that fellow, Syngman Rhee

Oh my feet are weary
From travelling dusty roads
Oh my back is aching
From carrying heavy loads
'Cause I'm fighting for that fellow, Syngman Rhee

Burp Gun Boogie

Note: Sung to the tune of *Shotgun Boogie*

Climbed out of my hoochie,
Looked over the trench,
Seen a little Chinaman a cutting a fence.
I said "Charlie, what have you done?"
And he answered me with his old 'burp' gun,
Screaming "Burp gun boogie."

Raced up the trench to the old C.P.
I said, "Why skipper, there's a chow after me."
He said, "Now son, the fun has just begun.
Look out when he nails you with that old burp gun."
Burp gun boogie, how the bullets flew.
Look out little digger when he gets a bead on you.

A reo said, "What's that light,
Shinning in the middle of the night?"
And I said, "That's down at old Panmunjon,
Where the U.N. delegates are troggin' on."
Singing burp gun boogie.
Look out little digger if he gets a bead on you.

You call on artillery for last resort.
The Kiwis are known for their old drop short.
When you hear the sound of an approaching shell,
You grease up your anchors and you go like hell,
Screaming burp gun boogie.
Look out little digger if he gets a bead on you.

Hurry! Free Money! (continued from Page 1)

It is time to think of our legacy, that is, what comes after the KVAA Inc. One way, currently being undertaken, is to forge enduring links with organisations that will carry the KVAA Inc. banner (both literally and figuratively). In this case, the 1st Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka, NSW. They will eventually inherit the flags, banner and memorabilia. In a small way, we will continue to exist through them.

The future of *The Voice*... It will continue, presumably with me as editor (insert cheers or jeers here, depending on how well you think I've done), at least for the foreseeable future, and it will probably survive me. A decade from now there will still be a few veterans around, not active, naturally, but still wanting to receive the newsletter. More numerous, though still very small, will be the family or relatives of still living or deceased veterans, or those with an interest in the War and those who fought in it.

It is this last demographic where the ultimate legacy of the KVAA Inc. should rest – online. Our old moribund, dated and unloved website has been taken down. What takes its place won't be shiny and new with all the bells and whistles; it will be basic and to-the-point. But it will, hopefully, endure.

This is where YOU – yes, YOU – come into the picture. The main and most important section is devoted to the stories by and about those who served in Korea. We currently have 23. My ambition is to double this number.

"But I can't write!" is the usual cry I hear.

Get someone to help you if you think it necessary (a university educated grandchild might do) and, don't worry, whatever I receive I'll bang into some manner shape provided it isn't too incoherent. It doesn't need be an exciting battle story. Personal anecdotes are fine. Trying to stay warm (or dry) in a foxhole, for instance. The human touch.

This is your chance to have your story – part of you – immortalised in both *The Voice* and cyberspace, there for anyone and everyone to read both now and long after you are gone.

It doesn't need be long: 500 to 2000 words is fine. It can even be a snippet of a longer piece or something you wrote many years ago for another publication. An accompanying photo taken in Korea/Japan at the time (which will be scanned then returned) and author biography would be nice as well.

So what are you waiting for?

In November 1960 a rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, went off course and crashed in Cuba, killing a cow. The Cuban government gave the cow an official funeral as the victim of 'imperialist aggression'.

Park Sung-choon Address

The Shrine of Remembrance held its annual dinner at the Melbourne Town Hall on 13 November. Among the many dignitaries attending was the Honourable Park Sung-choon, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Korea. The following is the (very slightly edited) speech he gave for the occasion.

...Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, first and foremost, my special thanks go to the Shrine of Remembrance for hosting today's event to honour the sacrifices and dedication of the Australian Korean War Veterans. I am very pleased to be here with you to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement.

It is all the more meaningful that today's commemorative event is taking place in Melbourne Australia, one of our strongest allies. This great nation deployed a significant number of combat troops who played a critical role in defending freedom and bringing peace to the Korean peninsula.

63 years ago, on July 7th 1950, the United Nations Command was established to repel the North Korean armed attack, which threatened international peace. 63 UN member states provided military, medical, material, and financial assistance to Korea when the fate of our nation was at stake. They answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.

At that time, 8,400 Australian servicemen came to Korea. You brave volunteers fought in critical battles such as the battles of Sariwon, Youngyuri, Kapyong, and Maryang San. The noble service of you brave Australians stopped the Chinese advance on Seoul and contributed greatly in the successful defence of the Republic of Korea.

Unfortunately 339 young Australian men were killed and 1,200 were wounded during the fierce battles. On behalf of the government and the people of Korea, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the Veterans who sacrificed their young days and the Australian Government for its dedication and support to defend freedom and peace on the Korean peninsula.

Australia has indeed been a friend in need for Korea. The valour, devotion, and particularly the heroic sacrifices of more than 1,500 Australian servicemen during the Korean War helped us eventually sign the Armistice Agreement and lay the foundation for the freedom and peace Korea enjoys today. Your valour and friendship sowed seeds of hope in a war-torn land and now Korea has become a proud aid donor that provides help to other countries in need.

Distinguished guests, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. On July 27th, the Korean Government held a national ceremony and invited government delegates of 27 UN allies. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea designated July 27th as UN Forces Participation Day to thank not only the governments of our UN allies that participated in the War, but also individual Veterans.

From now on, the government of Korea will hold a national ceremony in commemoration of the UN Forces Participation Day on July 27th every year to thank the governments and veterans of our UN allies for their sacrifices and dedication. I promise you that the Republic of Korea will always remember your noble service and make utmost efforts to uphold world peace with our allies. Once again, I'd like to pay tribute to the sacrifices and devotion of brave Australian Korean War Veterans. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the Government of Victoria for your interest and support in remembering the meaning of the 60th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement and the lessons of the Korean War.

I would like to once again thank the Shrine of Remembrance for organizing this meaningful dinner. I sincerely hope that my delegation's visit will lead to further strengthening the Korea-Victoria relationship.

I wish you all here good health and happiness. Thank you.

Looking the Other Way.

Q. Why did Britain and France not declare war on the Soviet Union when the Red Army invaded Poland in September 1939?

A. Unknown to the general public there was a 'secret protocol' to the 1939 Anglo-Polish treaty that specifically limited the British obligation to protect Poland to 'aggression' from Germany. When people questioned why Britain did nothing when the Red Army invaded Poland, the British government considered revealing the existence of the secret part of the agreement. However, they decided not to, Sir Alexander Cadogan of the Foreign Office explaining privately that to do so would only provoke curiosity about the existence of similar secret protocols attached to other treaties. An answer given in the House of Commons in October 1939 revealed only that the Poles had "understood" that "the agreement should only cover the case of aggression by Germany."

Source: *BBC History* magazine August 2013

Paraprosdokians

‘Paraprosdokians’ are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and frequently humorous.

- Behind every successful man is a woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
- Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- In filling out an application, where it says, ‘In case of emergency, notify:’ I put DOCTOR.
- I’m supposed to respect my elders, but its getting harder and harder for me to find one now.
- There’s a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can’t get away.
- They begin the evening news with ‘Good Evening,’ then proceed to tell you why it isn’t.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a workstation.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- Money can’t buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
- I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paycheques.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it’s still on my list.
- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
- A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not so sure.
- You’re never too old to learn something stupid.
- If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.
- Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.
- Nostalgia isn’t what it used to be.

Three Shots Over the Grave

The common Western custom of firing three shots over a soldier’s grave at burial is, these days, considered a gesture of appreciation and respect. In the Dark Ages, however, it was believed that loud noises frightened away evil spirits that could attach themselves to the souls of the recently deceased. The tolling of church bells was originally considered one way to scare the demons away, but guns became a substitute for the bells when the deceased was a soldier on foreign soil. As time passed, the original reason for firing weapons over a grave evolved into a more inspirational rationale for military personnel. Soldiers regarded death in battle as a glorious end. So when a soldier was buried, the sounds of war were re-created over the grave to make his spirit comfortable on its journey to a new home. The shots were also seen as a way to inform those in the afterlife that the spirit on its way was that of one who had died doing his duty. The number of shots fired is attributed to the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity – the military equivalent of a blessing in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Source: *Military History* magazine, April 2003.

Redneck Luv Poem

Susie Lee done fell in love.
She planned to marry Joe.
She was so happy ‘bout it all,
And told her Pappy so.

Pappy told her, “Susie, gal,
You’ll have to find another.
I’d just as soon yo’ ma don’t know,
But Joe is yo’ half brother.”

So Susie put aside her Joe,
And planned to marry Will,
But after telling Pappy this,
He said, “There’s trouble still.”

“You can’t marry Will, my gal,
And please don’t tell yo’ mother.
But Will and Joe, and several more,
I know is yo’ half brother.”

But Mama knew, and said, “My child,
Just do what makes yo’ happy.
Marry Will or marry Joe;
You ain’t no kin to Pappy.”

Question: What links *The Sound of Music’s* Von Trapp family with German mountain troops of WWII

Answer: The edelweiss. The Von Trapps sung about it; the troops wore it as a badge.

Editor's Extra

Melbourne turned on a "winter-revisited" day in Melbourne on 2 October: cold, wet, hail and very windy. A small but determined party toured the RAAF Point Cook museum despite the conditions. When it came time for the service in the chapel, the organiser, WO Howard, couldn't be tracked down. Apparently a falling branch had hit him on the head and he'd gone home. The chapel was locked and no one could be found to open it, so the party retired to the Werribee RSL where they, apparently, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Peter Schultz, on the other hand, had a less stressful time on his Korea revisit. He also scored an article and photo in the Colac Herald (18 Sept. 2013) and, more impressively, the Korea Joongang Daily (29 July 2013). He presented an account of his trip to the Colac Otway Probus Club, a copy of which fell into my hands. Given that it is 6 pages long, it is WAY TOO wordy for inclusion here.

From around 1999 until it became prohibitively expensive to do so and ended in December 2006, *The Voice* came in the form of a glossy A4 20 page magazine complete with advertisements, high-res photos and top-notch production values. The editor has some of these issues (about a dozen) and is looking for more. I'm hoping that more than a few of you have some of these tucked away somewhere and are either willing to part with them, or willing to loan them to me for photocopying and return. If you can help, send them to P.O. Box 2123, Rangeview 3132, Victoria and indicate whether you require them back or not.

FYI the current contributors to the new website are:

Alex Bates (*How the Aussie Diggers Improvised*) / John Bates (*Murchison Made Her Mark*) / Eric Bauld (*Ice Capades*) / Alan Beck (*We Were Not Ready*) / Eric Donnelly (*I Was a Prisoner in North Korea*) / Jim Frawley (*No.30 Communication Unit*) / Cliff Gale (*Prisoner Capture at a High Cost*) / Richard Gillham (*The Allies Obtain a MiG*) / Des Guilfoyle (*The End*) / Geoff Guilfoyle (*The Colombian Contribution*) / Geoff Guilfoyle (*The Christmas Tree Banner*) / Ernie Holden (*Guard of Honour*) / Ernie Holden (*Sight Seeing*) / Jim Hughes (*Maryang San*) / Brian McMaugh (*The Korean Blues*) / Michael Muschamp (*A Korean Four Leaf Clover*) / Ted Parkinson (*Korea Then and Now*) / Babs Probyn-Smith (*Working in 3rd World Conditions*) / William O. Roberts (*Gun Battle on the Han*) / Don Scally (*Hill 217*) / Joe Shields (*Prelude to Kapyong*) / Jeff Towart (*Kapyong: My Experience*) / Jeff Towart (*Snapshot*)

Editor's Extra Extra:

The KVAA Inc. Christmas Luncheon has come and gone. A good time for the participants, quite stressful for the organisers. In the chaos, the usual end-of-event acknowledgements went, well, unacknowledged. Someone, of course, is to blame for this oversight. Since he didn't attend the event and is in no position to defend himself (see Page 3) I nominate our President, Vic Dey, as the one to wear the blame. Shame on you, Vic. Don't let it happen again. So to rectify Vic's mistake, here are the end-of-event acknowledgements...

Thanks to our special guests: Colonel Hwang Sandeoh (Defence Attache ROK) and his wife, to Michael Quinn (President APPVA) and his wife, Fiona, and to MP, Christine Campbell, a name familiar to many at the event.

Thanks also to the following members and associate members for their help:

- Alan and Nicole Evered (the table place mats).
- Elaine Steacy (putting together the gift baskets and wrapping all the raffle prizes)
- George Coleman as Santa Clause and Gerry Steacy the elf. [*What! That wasn't the real Santa?*]
- Don Scally and Nicole Evered (roving raffle ticket sellers). [*Boo to Don for not selling me a winning ticket*]
- Murray and Sandra Inwood (entrance ticket sellers)
- Gerry Steacy (lunch co-ordinator)
- Alan Evered (Master of Ceremonies)

Also, could I give a shout out to Kim Danks (Hotel Co-ordinator) and her staff for setting up the luncheon and providing hotel gifts for the raffle. Speaking of which...

Special thanks for those who donated gifts for the raffle (apologies for any names missed): Elaine & Keith Langdon, Val & Ron Christie, Elaine and Gerry Steacy, Peter Webb, Ken Hayes, George Coleman, Dawn and Jim Johnson, John Boyer, Jinhee and Dong Kim.

Selected photos of the event will appear in the February edition of *The Voice* along with, maybe, a short account of the event.

Notices

Scam Alert!

Consumer Affairs Victoria has recently received a complaint about a scam that targeted an elderly war veteran. The scammer, posing as an officer from the Department of Fair Trading, called the veteran and told him that he was eligible to receive payment for his military service.

After agreeing to this, the veteran was visited by the scammer who asked him to fill in forms to ensure the payment could be made. The scammer then convinced the man that he would need to make a payment via Western Union to release the funds. However, the veteran's family became aware and intervened before any money changed hands.

Consumer Affairs Victoria urges veterans and their families to be on the look out for this type of scam. If you think you've been scammed, report it to your local police station or Consumer Affairs Victoria on 1300 55 81 81.

Gallipoli 2015 Ballot Now Open

Australians planning to attend Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli in 2015 can apply for the ballot now. But there's no need to rush – the ballot is open until midnight on 31 Jan. 2014. The Anzac Commemorative Site at Gallipoli can safely, securely and comfortably accommodate 10,500 people. In 2015, this will comprise places for 8,000 Australians, 2,000 New Zealanders and up to 500 official representatives of the countries that served in the Gallipoli campaign.

For information on ballot eligibility or to apply, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs Gallipoli 2015 website www.gallipoli2015.dva.gov.au. A paper application form can be requested from Ticketek on 1300 364 002.

Consulate Party

Year-end Party for Korean War Veterans & Korean Seniors

When: Wednesday 18 December 2013, 10am-2pm

Where: Oakleigh Hall, 142 Drummond Street, Oakleigh

Event includes lunch, jazz band, photo with Santa, Korean entertainers AND medallion presentation. For those veterans who have not yet received a 60th Anniversary of the Ceasefire Medallion, this is your last chance to be presented with one, of which numbers are limited. Sorry for the very late notice, but The Voice comes out only four days before this event.

URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED

If you can attend, call Alan Evered on **0412 521 488**

Centenary of Submarines

To commemorate the Centenary of Submarines in Australia in 2014 the Queensland Branch of Submarines Association Australia is planning to deliver informative presentations in Queensland between the NSW border and the Tropic of Capricorn from February to November 2014.

Very few Australians are aware of our submarine history or the role that submarines and submariners have played in the defence of our nation.

From 1914, when our first two submarines arrived in Australia, through war and peace until today, Australia's submarines have been protecting our nation, generally far from home in dangerous enemy waters, and it will be our honour to share the story of those 100 years with your members.

The presentation can be varied to suit your requirements, however we suggest a 20-30 minute presentation plus time for questions, perhaps as an after dinner speaker or as a keynote address at one of your meetings. Should you wish to make it longer, we can talk for hours and hours about our exploits, most of which are completely unknown to the public.

We believe that this part of Australia's history will be of interest to your members and we look forward to hearing from you shortly so that we can include you in our schedule.

For more information or to book a presentation, contact:

Dr. Graeme Caesar

President

Queensland Branch

Submarines Association Australia

Phone: 0418 449 528

Email: Graeme.Caesar@me.com

Mail: PO Box 4082, Elanora QLD 4221

Seeking...

One of our Geelong members, Laurie Price, is seeking information on a WWII English pen-friend of his named Alan F. Rowland. Laurie finally met him when evacuated from Korea to the British Commonwealth General Hospital in Kure, Japan, where Alan (22485717 RAMC) was serving as the medical clerk admitting the wounded and sick. He was at Kure from April 1952 to March 1953. Alan and his family had just moved to 33 Brownlow Street, Weymouth, Dorset in 1950. If you have any information on Alan Rowland then contact Laurie directly on 03 5277 0835.

Why do people order double whoppers, large fries, and a *diet* coke?

Out & About

Point Cook Museum Tour & Lunch 2 October 2013



(l-r) Tour guide, Bene Cochran, John Brownbill, Alan Evered, Keith Langdon and Arthur Roach. See brief report on Page 13.



Cease-Fire Anniversary Service Noble Park RSL, 3 November 2013



John Laughton [3rd from right] with Angela Long, Mayor, City of Greater Dandenong [3rd from Left] and other dignitaries with crew from *HMAS Cerberus*.

Austin Health Remembrance Day Service Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, 6 October 2013



(l-r) Gerry Steacy, Tom Parkinson, John Brownbill, Ivan Ryan, Vic Dey, Alan Evered, Arthur Slee, Murray Inwood and Ron Christie.

Traralgon Cenotaph Korean Plaque Dedication, 11 November 2013



(l-r) John Hickman (3RAR), Duane Houge (U.S.N.), James Craven (3RAR) and William Baldwin (3RAR).



More than 120 members of the public were present to witness the occasion. James Craven read the Requiem. Alan Evered, Secretary, KVAA Inc. laid the Dedication Wreath. The Plaque was made possible by Veterans Affairs.

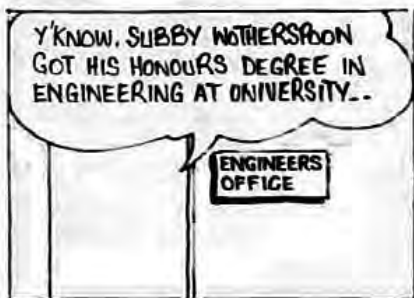


Students from Fountaingate Secondary College.

HMAS Wort

by Ian Hughes

A series of cartoons which appeared in *Navy News* in the 1980s-2000s (now in public domain).



The Aussie Version of Creation

In the beginning God created day and night. He created day for footy matches, going to the beach, and BBQ's. He created night for sleeping, and BBQ's, and God saw that it was good.

On the Second Day, God created water for surfing, swimming, and BBQ's on the beach, and God saw that it was good.

On the Third Day God created the Earth to bring forth plants to provide malt and yeast for beer and wood for BBQs, and God saw that it was good.

On the Fourth Day God created animals, chops, sausages, steak and prawns for BBQ's, and God saw that it was good.

On the Fifth day God created a Bloke to go to the footy, enjoy the beach, drink the beer and go to BBQ's, and God saw that it was good.

On the Sixth Day God saw that the Bloke was lonely and needed someone to go to the footy, surf, drink beer, eat and stand around the barbie with.

So God created Mates, and God made sure they were good Blokes, and God saw that it was good.

On the Seventh Day God looked around at the twinkling BBQ fires, heard the hiss of opening beer cans and the raucous laughter of all the Blokes. He smelled the aroma of grilled chops and sizzling prawns and God saw that it was good...

Well, almost good...

He saw that the Blokes were too tired to clean up and needed a rest. So God created Sheilas to clean the house, to bear children, to wash, to cook and to clean the BBQ, and then God saw that it was not just good...

It was better than that, it was Bloody Awesome!

IT WAS AUSTRALIA.

Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2014-2015

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

Current Office Bearers 2012-2013: President - Vic Dey / Vice President - Tom Parkinson / Secretary - Alan Evered / Treasurer - Gerry Steacy / Committee - Ron Christie, John Duson, Keith Langdon, 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 2013-2014

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:

Shrine Service and Dinner

Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne Town Hall, 13 November 2013



(l-r) Ivan Ryan (with luminescent cane), Ron Christie, Jung Sung-sub, Korean Consul General, George Coleman, Allen Riches, Arthur Slee, Arthur Roach and the Honourable, Park Sung-choon.

Max "Sparra" Folan (left) holding his Shrine of Remembrance Medal for 2013, the Honourable, Park Sung-choon, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Korea, (centre) with runner-up, Chaplain, John Brownbill on the right.



Tom Parkinson with Jim and Dawn Johnson.

Farewells

Clarence J Walker, 035119, No.30 Transport Unit & No.36 Transport Squadron on 13 August 2013

Dear God, my prayer for 2014 is for a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix these up like you did last year. Amen.

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

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