

Spr Jamie Larcombe

The VAC supported the suggestion that the State Government fund a memorial to commemorate the life and service of Sapper Jamie Larcombe at the Parndana Area School on Kangaroo Island. On 19 February, 2011, the former student of the school became the twenty-third Australian soldier to make the ultimate sacrifice as part of Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.

He was a much loved member of the Kangaroo Island community and has left an important legacy of community service to his friends and fellow students at the school.

Families of Recipients of the Victoria Cross

Veterans SA is seeking to contact the relatives of World War I Victoria Cross recipients.

The Victoria Cross is our nation's highest bravery decoration, awarded for most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

Eight South Australians were awarded this decoration in World War I: A.S. Blackburn, P. Davey, R.R. Inwood, J.C. Jensen, J. Leak, A.P. Sullivan, L.C. Weathers and J.P. Woods.

Veterans SA would like to register the details of the descendants of these recipients in preparation for our national commemoration of World War I during 2014–2018, including the centenary of the ANZAC landings in 2015.

If you are or know a descendant, please contact Veterans SA and register your details.

Vale – Captain Roger Cundell OAM MID

Minister Kenyon joins all South Australians in mourning the passing of Captain Roger Cundell OAM MID. Captain Cundell was a "Rat of Tobruk", who served with the 2/10th Battalion. He also served in New Guinea and on Bougainville during World War II.

Captain Cundell was President of the 10th Battalion AIF Association for over 15 years and remained an active member until his passing. Captain Cundell suffered a brain aneurism while representing the 10th Battalion AIF Association at the dedication of a memorial to recognise the service of the members of the 32nd Infantry Battalion

ANZAC Fly Over

On Sunday, 10 April, 2011, the Minister was pleased to attend a gathering of the ANZAC Day Committee and the Military Vehicle Preservation Society. They gathered at the



Australian Imperial Force at the Pathway of Honour on Tuesday, 19 July, 2011.

In 2009, Captain Cundell was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to veterans and their families, and to the community through a range of service, nature conservation, and heritage organisations. Last year, South Australia paid tribute to the service and sacrifice made by Australians at Tobruk by naming the Heaslip Road interchange of the Northern Expressway after the famous siege.

As much as we mourn the loss of such an iconic figure we are comforted that he



Captain Cundell flanked by Minister Kenyon and Premier Rann

Enquiries about Veterans' Voice can be directed to:

Veterans SA
GPO Box 11071
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Phone: (08) 8226 8552
Email: veterans@sa.gov.au

Hindmarsh Island "International" Airfield, the home of Mr Bob Hills, to meet with the Tiger Moth pilots who provided the flyover and the drivers of the historic military vehicles generously provided for the ANZAC Day March 2011.

passed quickly, in the military heartland of our State, with his medals on and serving the ex-service community he was such an important part of.

Calling All Veterans – Will you Support Trojan's Trek?

You can do so by walking, running or rolling around the River Torrens at 1100 hours on Sunday, 30 October, 2011. Families and pets are welcome.

Funds are needed to continue Trojan's Trek, a program to help with the rehabilitation of young veterans returning from combat duties.

Entry \$25 per person includes a T-Shirt & raffle ticket.

Visit www.trojanstrek.com for further details and an application form.

Funding Opportunities

To assist ex-service organisations, Veterans SA has put together a consolidated list of funding opportunities that governments, both State and Commonwealth, are offering to the veterans' community.

Please telephone my office on 8226 8552 should you require any further information about these funding opportunities.

Veterans' Voice



Government
of South Australia
Veterans SA

Spring 2011

A Message from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs



Welcome to this issue of Veterans' Voice – our Veterans SA Newsletter.

I have been the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in South Australia since February and have

already met many of you. I would like to tell you how pleased I am to be your representative in the Parliament of South Australia.

When the Veterans' Affairs portfolio was created, the Premier promised that your views would be heard at the "Cabinet table". I am enjoying meeting the challenges and the responsibilities of this important portfolio.

I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the veterans' community and have had the honour of attending many important events since my appointment. I have great respect for your ethos and am looking forward to continuing to work with your community.

I want to acknowledge the excellent work of the Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC). So ably led by Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, the VAC is a wonderful blend of veterans and other



Minister Kenyon with 2011 VAC Members & Executive Officer, Bill Denny AM

members of the veterans' community, finely balanced by conflict, service, corps, rank and gender. They represent the veterans' community professionally and vigorously. You should be very proud of them and what they have achieved on your behalf.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months. I encourage you to contact Veterans SA on 8226 8552 and speak with Bill, Paul or Simon if I can be of assistance or to let me know about your upcoming commemorative, memorial or other important events.

With best wishes

Hon Tom Kenyon MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Invitations can be directed to:

The Hon Tom Kenyon MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 11071
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Phone: (08) 8226 8552
Email: veterans@sa.gov.au

Veterans' Community Meeting

In 2008 the South Australian Government created a Veterans' Affairs Portfolio and appointed a Veterans' Advisory Council. This reflected the State Government's commitment to listening to and understanding the special needs of our veterans' community.

If you are a veteran or a member of the veterans' community, please come to a community meeting and share your views on this structure, what it has achieved, and what you see as the important issues currently facing the veterans' community.

The meeting will be held by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon Tom Kenyon MP:

Date: Thursday 3 November, 2011

Time: 10.00am – 11.45am

Place: Drill Hall, Torrens Training Depot, Victoria Drive, Adelaide (free parking on site – light refreshments will be served)

RSVP: Veterans SA
before 26 October, 2011

Contact Veterans SA

By email: veterans@sa.gov.au
In writing: GPO Box 11071,
ADELAIDE SA 5001
By phone: (08) 8226 8552

Remembrance Day

Veterans SA encourages you to make a special effort to observe Remembrance Day on 11 November. The Minister has written to his colleagues, senior members of the public service and to business leaders to encourage them to understand this special day and to commemorate it appropriately with a minute's silence in the workplace.

Tea Tree Gully RSL

Vietnam Veterans' Day/Battle of Long Tan Commemoration Services

Minister Kenyon was pleased to attend the Vietnam Veterans' Day Memorial Service organised by the Tea Tree Gully RSL Sub-Branch at the Tea Tree Gully Memorial Gardens on Thursday, 18 August. The memorial service was well attended by local veterans and their families.



From the left: Dave Bryant, Secretary, Tea Tree Gully RSL Sub-Branch – the Minister – Michael Sherlock BM, Past President, Tea Tree Gully RSL Sub-Branch.

Minister Kenyon would like to thank Mr Keith Horne, the President of the Tea Tree Gully Sub-Branch and Mr Matthew Sheldrick, from the local Vietnam Veterans' Day Organising Committee for organising this service.

Minister Kenyon also attended the Vietnam Veterans' Day Service at the Torrens Parade Ground on Sunday, 21 August. The service was conducted alongside the Vietnam War Memorial that was unveiled in 2006.

Veterans Radio Updates

Weekly Updates are featured on the following radio shows from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Tom Kenyon MP

Show	Time	Station
VVF	Tuesday 6pm - 8pm	88.7 FM (CoastFM)
VVA	Thursday 7pm - 8pm	1197 AM (5RPH)
RSL	Thursday 6pm - 6.15pm	1197 AM (5RPH)
Vietnam Veterans	Monday 6pm - 8pm	105.1 FM (TraxFM) Mid North of SA



Photo of Minister with Members in front of the Leopard Tank.

Leopard Tank Dedication – Echunga RSL

A dedication ceremony and memorial for the Leopard Tank installed at the Echunga Gardens of Remembrance was held on Sunday, 28 August, 2011.

From the time of their purchase in 1977, the Leopard Tank served as the mainstay of Australia's armoured corps for over 3 decades.

This annual event is organised by the Vietnam Veterans' Day Council comprising the Vietnam Veterans' Association, the Vietnam Veterans' Federation, the RSL, the TPI Association and the RAAF Association.

The Vietnam Veterans' Day march, service and concert were very well attended by Vietnam Veterans and their families who travelled from near and far for the occasion, and to catch up with old mates. It was also good to see so many South Vietnamese veterans at the event.

The memorial is dedicated in recognition of all Australian Defence Force personnel, who like the Leopard Tank, never fired a shot in anger, but were trained and prepared to do so if the need arose.

Minister Kenyon congratulated Steve Hoare, the President of the Echunga RSL Sub-Branch and their members for all their hard work to receive the Leopard Tank and for organising the dedication ceremony and the afternoon tea held afterwards.

Jack Holder - A life of service

19 February, 2012, will mark the 70th anniversary of the bombings on Darwin. In 1942, just hours after the first bombings, Private John 'Jack' Holder, aged 17, began drilling holes in the Kidman Bridge that spans the River Torrens at Lockleys. Other soldiers across Australia were engaged in the same task in readiness for gelignite charges that would be utilised to destroy critical infrastructure should the Japanese invasion prove successful.

As we know the invasion did not eventuate, but to this day you can still see evidence of the patched holes in the concrete below the Lockleys Bridge.

Jack went on to serve in Darwin, New Guinea and was in Wewak when the Japanese surrendered in 1945.

After discharge from the Army Jack married Pauline Marjorie Poole, passed exams to become a master plumber and had four children, eight grand children, and three great grand children.

Jack has continued to serve others in civilian life. His service has included (to name a few):

- Awarded life membership of the TPI Association
- Life Member, State and Federal President of the Master Plumber's Association
- President of the Institute of Plumbing Australia
- Chair of the National Building Standards Committee
- Councillor on the Noarlunga Council – The 'Jack Holder Reserve' at Seaford on the Esplanade was named in recognition of his service
- Assisting "Frank Quigley Homes" and "Disability Housing" to build homes for people with acquired brain injuries and the disabled

In 2005 Jack published an autobiography titled "I Nearly Missed You" about his life's adventures, with a strong emphasis on the love of his life, Pauline. Jack and Pauline now live quietly in Seaford caring for their quadriplegic son Garry. Jack has had an amazing life and "I Nearly Missed You" is well worth a read.

Aboriginal Commemorative Service

Aboriginal veterans were honoured at the fifth annual Aboriginal Veterans' Commemorative Service on Friday, 29 May, 2011, at the South Australian National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide. It was pleasing to see more than 300 people attend the service.

This event originated in 2007 as part of Reconciliation Week to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the granting of full rights of citizenship to our Aboriginal peoples.

The broad acceptance given to the event has ensured it has become a permanent fixture on South Australia's Ex-Service Commemorative Calendar.

It was particularly pleasing to see Aboriginal veterans from five of our most recent conflicts - World War II, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and Afghanistan, attend the service.

Following the service, the 'For Love of Country' DVD was launched at the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute.

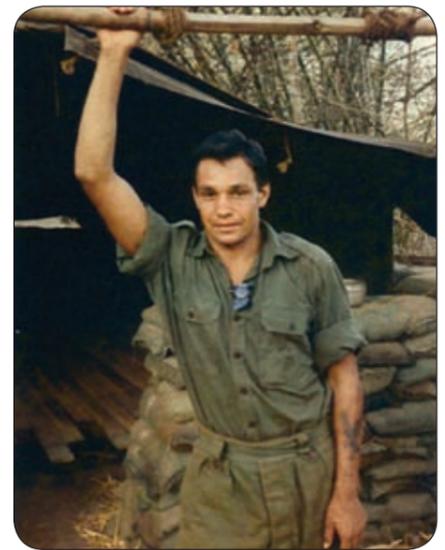
The DVD chronicles the contribution of Aboriginal men and women in the defence

Register of Aboriginal Veterans of South Australia The RAVSA Project

Veterans SA is establishing a register of South Australian Aboriginal men and women who have served in the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force in peace and war.

Aboriginal Australians have volunteered to serve in every conflict in which Australia has been involved, from the Boer War to Afghanistan. Much of this service was rendered despite bans on enlistment and many had to disguise their Aboriginality in order to join up. As a result, our national record of Aboriginal servicemen and servicewomen is woefully inadequate and many have been inadvertently excluded from our greatest story—the ANZAC story—and all that it stands for.

A team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal veterans, supported by the Council of Aboriginal Elders of South Australia, the Returned & Services League of South Australia, Reconciliation SA and Veterans SA, is creating a Register that will, for the first time, acknowledge the significant contribution of Aboriginal South Australians in the defence of Australia. The project will



Frank Clarke 6 RAR Long Tan 19 August, 1968

form part of our national commemoration of World War I during 2014–2018, including the centenary of the ANZAC landings in 2015.

If you or someone you know, is aware of any Aboriginal person who has seen service in peace or war, please contact Veterans SA. Any information, no matter how seemingly insignificant, will be of value.



Aboriginal veterans from 5 conflicts and other guests

of Australia. It features interviews with Aboriginal veterans who explain why they fought so hard to serve our nation when they had not been afforded full rights of citizenship and were not legally allowed to enlist.

This DVD will be made available to all schools in South Australia and will further the cause of Reconciliation in our State.

Veterans SA is proud to have sponsored this excellent project in partnership with Reconciliation SA, the RSL and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial is currently being planned and will be constructed adjacent to the Torrens Parade Ground. It will commemorate the service and sacrifice of all Aboriginal veterans.