

# BULLETIN



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The State Get-together was held in Hervey Bay recently. It was a successful and enjoyable time, although the benefit is more for our regional clubs rather than Brisbane Legacy. I think the regional clubs enjoy the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere.

The State Get-together is always a prelude to the National Conference. Unfortunately this Conference, like the last will be dominated by debate on motions which in reality are of no great consequence. Groups have had the opportunity to comment on the motions and I thank you for your feedback. One motion which does stand apart from most is the so called Wollongong motion proposing the extension of Legacy benefits to all ADF personnel who die in service. This is an important step forward for Legacy. I know from my discussions with senior ADF officers that they see this as a significant step and one which will see both organisations working more closely in the future.

You are probably aware by now that we have not been able to arrange a suitable date for a visit this year to one of our Care Groups by our Patron. I know that many of our widows were looking forward to the chance to meet with Her Excellency but her schedule is very tight with little free time.

The next big event on the calendar is Legacy Week. Planning is well underway, although by the time you read this, it will just about be all over. While we raise funds regularly throughout the year through a variety of fundraising activities, Legacy Week remains our most high profile event. The funds we raise during Legacy Week are vital to our ongoing duty of care. It also brings us into direct contact with the public who provide so much of the funds we need. Please remember to thank them.

Following on directly from Legacy Week is the Australian Defence Charity Ball and *The Sunday Mail* Suncorp Bridge to Brisbane fun run.

Lastly I need to remind legatees that our permanent staff is employed to do a particular job. They do that to the best of their ability and often go out of their way to accommodate the needs of Groups and individual legatees. As is normal, staff work to their respective manager who in turn is accountable to the CEO. It is not the place of a legatee to berate a staff member as was the case recently. This was unnecessary, upsetting and the wrong approach. We have a chain of command and I urge you all to use it.

On a positive note, please enjoy Badge Week. I know it is a busy and trying time – for legatees, staff and our volunteers. It is worth all the hard work. The reward can be seen in the faces of our widows.

Thank you.

*Tony Ralph*

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LEGACY 



BUY A BADGE DURING

**LEGACY  
WEEK**

SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF  
OUR DECEASED VETERANS

## FROM THE CEO

I will start with the very sad news that Mr Anatoli (Tol) Bogatko, husband of our receptionist, Sue, passed away on Sunday, 28 August. To make things worse, Sue and Tol were in Sydney for the funeral of Tol's mother when Tol suffered a stroke. Many of you will know Sue or will have spoken to her at some time when phoning into Legacy House. I have conveyed to Sue, and to her daughters Christina and Gabriel, our deepest condolences on this double tragedy for them.

I would also like to offer our sincere condolences to the partner and families Private Matthew Lambert who died in Afghanistan on 22 August while was serving with Mentoring Task Force - Three (MTF-3). Private Lambert was seriously wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated. Despite receiving immediate first aid and further medical treatment at a medical facility in Tarin Kot, Private Lambert died from his wounds

This week, most of you will be involved in badge sales at more than 120 locations across Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast. As I mentioned in a communiqué to the Group Chairmen last week, Legacy Week is our highest profile event of the year. It is an opportunity to come face to face with the public to explain the work that we do and to garner support (both financial and moral). From the community It is a busy week for all, with some individuals committing many, many hours on behalf of Legacy. You should know that your efforts are greatly appreciated by me and the staff at Legacy House. More importantly, it is greatly appreciated by those that Legacy has helped over the years or those that Legacy stands ready to assist as is demonstrated by just a couple of the many letters that we received this week.

*Dear Sir*

*In 1971 my husband passed away. I had four young children under 14 years. Legacy stepped in and supported us. Thank heavens for Legacy. Legacy was and is so good to us. Thank you.*

*Dear friends of Legacy*

*I'm so saddened by the loss of yet another heroic young man. The anguish of his family, friends and colleagues will be deep.*

*Having a brother who spent his while life in SAS and Intel, not knowing if we would see him home from his many postings is hard. When (and if) our loved ones return, the scars of experience, trauma, loss etc. always affects them. I don't think there could be a more binding love and commitment of the men, and women, one to another.*

*Earlier this year you sent with your letter a photograph of Jodie Buswell and her sons, along with a copy of her letter. This I have framed and placed alongside that of my brother and his sons (also in the forces).*

*God bless Legacy and the quiet fortitude of 'her' workers. Love, prayers and admiration.*

During Legacy Week keep a look out for our Legacy Embassy in Reddacliff Place (the area between the Queen Street Mall and Victoria Bridge). The Embassy will operate during business hours, Monday to Friday, and will be manned by NAB staff volunteers. Drop in to say hello, and thank them for their support.

And if you haven't notice, *Bulletin* has a cleaner, fresher look this month. I would certainly appreciate your feedback on the new format, and your articles.

While *Bulletin* remains the mainstay of Brisbane Legacy's communication with members, it is only one of the means by which your Club communicates with you. Along with *eNews* and the Internet ([www.legacy.com.au/brisbane](http://www.legacy.com.au/brisbane)), *Bulletin* helps to disseminate information of interest to members. The cost of printing and posting *Bulletin* eleven times a year is, however, considerable. For this reason, and also in an attempt to become more environmentally responsible, *Bulletin* will now only be posted out to those members who do not have an email account and to those who specifically request a printed copy.

*Steven Blinkhorn*



## Wanted: Members to serve on the Finance Committee

There are currently vacancies on the Finance Committee (meets 2nd Tuesday of each month - February to November - commencing at 12.30pm). If you are financially literate and would like to serve your Club in this way, please contact the CEO or Honorary Treasurer.

### Legacy House Call Centre

The Legacy House Call Centre will operate again from 24 - 26 October. The purpose of the Call Centre is to contact those widows that the database indicates have not been contacted for more than five years. Help is needed from legatees to staff the centre. Details are:

- 6 legatees required on 24, 25 and 26 October (3 per shift).
- 2 shifts per day - 9.00-12.00 and 1.00-4.00.
- If all shifts are filled we should be able to make contact with approximately 160 ladies per day.
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

To register your interest, please contact Christina Davidson on 3846 4299 or [cdavidson@legacybrisbane.org.au](mailto:cdavidson@legacybrisbane.org.au)

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## MONTHLY FEATURE ARTICLE

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On August 7, Ms Nancy Wake AC GM passed away in London. Ms Wake was a prominent figure in the French Resistance during WWII and Australia's most highly decorated servicewoman. Nancy's story, and that of the Battle of Long Tan – the day we remember the contribution and sacrifice of those who served in South Vietnam – are this month's feature articles.

### Nancy Grace Augusta Wake AC GM (30 August 1912 - 7 August 2011)

Nancy Wake, a prominent figure in the French Resistance during the Second World War, was born in Wellington, New Zealand, on 13 August 1912. Her family moved to Sydney, when Nancy was just 20 months old. She ran away from home at the age of 16 and found work as a nurse, but a windfall enabled her to leave Australia for Europe in 1932. Wake settled in Paris, working for the Hearst group of newspapers as a journalist.

As the 1930s progressed, the rise of German Fascism formed the basis of many of Wake's stories. In 1935 she visited Vienna and Berlin where the overt and violent anti-Semitism formed in her a desire to oppose Nazism. In November 1939 she married Henri Fiocca, a wealthy industrialist, in Marseilles. Six months later Germany invaded France. Wake and Fiocca joined the fledgling Resistance after France's surrender in 1940.

Her growing involvement in the Resistance saw Wake and her husband assisting in the escape of Allied servicemen and Jewish refugees from France into neutral Spain. By 1943, she was the Gestapo's most-wanted person, with a 5 million-franc price on her head. When the network was betrayed that same year, she fled Marseilles and, after several thwarted attempts and a brief period in prison, Wake escaped across the Pyrenees to Spain. Her husband, Henri Fiocca, stayed behind and was later captured, tortured and executed by the Gestapo.

In June 1943 she reached England where she began working in the French Section of the Special Operations Executive (SOE). Vera Atkins, who also worked in the SOE, recalls her as "a real Australian bombshell. Tremendous vitality, flashing eyes. Everything she did, she did well".

After a period of training, Wake returned to France in April 1944 to help organise the Resistance before D-Day. Working in the Auvergne region, Wake was engaged in organising parachute drops of arms and equipment, and after D-Day, was involved in combat with bodies of German troops sent to destroy the Maquis.

Upon liberation, Wake learned that her husband, Henri, had been killed by the Gestapo in August 1943. In September 1944 she left the Resistance and went to SOE Headquarters in Paris, and then to London in mid-October. After the war she was decorated by Britain, France and the United States but, being unable to adapt to life in post-war Europe, she returned to Australia in January 1949 aged 37.

Wake stood as a Liberal candidate in the 1949 Australian federal election for the Sydney seat of Barton, running against Dr. Herbert Evatt, then Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs in the Ben Chifley Labor government. While Chifley lost government to Robert Menzies, Wake recorded a 13 percent swing against Evatt, with Evatt retaining the seat with 53.2 per cent of the vote on a two-party preferred basis. Wake ran against Evatt again at the 1951 federal election. The result was extremely close, however Evatt retained the seat with a margin of fewer than 250 votes.

Wake left Australia after the 1951 election and moved back to England. She worked as an intelligence officer in the department of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff at the Air Ministry in Whitehall. She resigned in 1957 after marrying an RAF officer, John Forward, in December of that year. They returned to Australia in the early 1960s.

Maintaining her interest in politics, Wake was endorsed as a Liberal candidate at the 1966 federal election for the Sydney seat of Kingsford Smith. Despite recording a swing of 6.9 per cent against the sitting Labor member Daniel Curtin, Wake was again unsuccessful. Around 1985, Wake and John Forward left Sydney to retire to Port Macquarie.

In 1985, Wake published her autobiography, entitled *The White Mouse*. The book became a best seller.

After spending 40 years together her husband, John Forward, died at Port Macquarie on 19 August 1997; the couple had no children.

Wake left Australia in 2001 and emigrated to London. She became a resident at the Stafford Hotel in St James's Place, near Piccadilly, formerly a British and American forces club during the war. She had been introduced to her first "bloody good drink" there by the general manager at the time, Louis Burdet. He had also worked for the Resistance in Marseilles. In the mornings she would usually be found in the hotel bar, sipping her first gin and tonic of the day. She was welcomed at the hotel, celebrating her 90th birthday there, where the hotel owners absorbed most of the costs of her stay. In 2003 Nancy Wake chose to move to the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Service Men and Women in Richmond, London, where she remained until her death.



Wake died on Sunday evening 7 August 2011 at Kingston Hospital after being admitted to hospital with a chest infection. She had requested that her ashes be scattered at Montluçon in central France.

She received the George Medal, 1939–45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defense Medal, British War Medal 1939–45, French Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, French Croix de Guerre with Star and two Palms, US Medal for Freedom with Palm and French Médaille de la Résistance for her courageous endeavours. Wakes' medals are on display in the Second World War gallery at the Australian War Memorial.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy\\_Wake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Wake) & <http://www.awm.gov.au/people/332.asp>

Australia's support for the Vietnam War in the early 1960s was in keeping with the policies of other nations, particularly the USA, to stop the spread of communism in Europe and Asia. Upon request from Ngo Dinh Diem, leader of the government in South Vietnam, a team of 30 Australian military advisers arrived during July and August 1962 and in August 1964, the Royal Australian Air Force sent a flight of Caribou aircraft.

By early 1965, the USA requested Australia to commit further support. Australia sent the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) in June 1965.

As hostilities escalated, the Australian government increased Australia's involvement by calling up conscripts under the National Service Scheme, as well as all nine RAR battalions over the period of the War. Commencing in 1968, public opinion in both Australia and the United States began to turn against the War.

By 1969 anti-war protests were gathering momentum in Australia. Opposition to conscription mounted, as more people came to believe the war could not be won. A 'Don't register' campaign to dissuade young men from registering for conscription gained increasing support and some of the protests grew violent.

In April 1970, the decision to order troops to cross the border into Cambodia, a formally neutral sovereign state inflamed the protests. While large quantities of North Vietnamese arms were captured; the action ultimately proved disastrous. In the well-known Moratoriums of 1970, more than 200,000 people gathered to protest against the War, in cities and towns throughout Australia.

The combination of the 1968 'Tet' Offensive, the 1970 decision to go into Cambodia, the unpopularity of conscription, rising casualty rates, public concern about the effects of chemical warfare, (especially 'Agent Orange'), and public opposition forced the allied political leaderships to announce the gradual withdrawal of allied forces from 1971. The Australian commitment ended in June 1973.

Source: <http://www.6rarassociation.com/battlelongtan.htm>  
&  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Long\\_Tan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Long_Tan)

## The Battle of Long Tan

One of the most well-known Australian and heaviest engagements of the Vietnam War was the Battle of Long Tan, (18 August 1966). While 18 August is remembered for the Battle of Long Tan, it is also the day chosen to remember those Australians who served and died during the Vietnam War i.e. Vietnam Veteran's Day.

On the early morning of 17 August 1966 the Australian operations base at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province came under mortar and recoilless rifle attack. Compass bearings were taken by various units as to the direction from which the mortars had been fired, and soon the Artillery at the base camp returned counter bombardment fire. The following morning B Coy, 6RAR was sent from the base to find the firing location of the enemy mortars, and harass the VC responsible. The following morning, D Coy, 6 RAR were ordered to relieve B Coy and follow up tracks leading from the baseplate position used for the earlier attack.

At 1540 hrs, B Coy was engaged in its first contact before becoming under increasing heavy fire as they followed up the Viet Cong—estimated to be at a strength of at least 1500 and possibly 2500. B Coy had a strength of 105 Australians and a three man New Zealand artillery team.

After almost three hours of intense fighting by D Coy, reinforcements from A Coy arrived in APCs, ammunition was distributed and the wounded were tended. Early in the evening, B Coy also arrived and engaged the Viet Cong. Soon after that, seven APCs arrived. The extra fire-power finally stopped the Viet Cong, and all firing ceased.

There were 18 Australians killed - 17 from D Coy and one from 3 Tp, 1 APC Sqn - and 21 wounded. The Viet Cong losses were 245 KIA and dead and three POW.

*Note: During Operation MARS DEN in late 1969, Australian forces captured a Viet Cong dispensary that had a list of dead and wounded attributed to Long Tan. Those figures were 878 KIA/Missing/Died of wounds and approximately 1500 WIA. In later years, it was found out that D Company had run into a reinforced regimental force waiting to attack Nui Dat.*



*Photo: Lance Corporal Georgie Richardson, (left), D Company medic, and Sergeant Bob Buick, Platoon Sergeant, 11 Pl, D Coy, apply first aid to Private Jim Richmond, 11 Pl, one of two Australian wounded found by Delta Coy, 6 RAR on its return, twelve hours after the Long Tan battle. He was shot twice through the chest and lay all night, face down, at his section post. Dated 19th August, 1966*



*Photo: A commemorative cross is put in position in the area where 11 Pl soldiers were trapped in the battle at Long Tan. The ceremony took place on 18/8/69*

Following the Battle of Long Tan, D Coy was awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation for "Extraordinary Heroism in Military Operations Against an Armed Enemy".



**JOHN HOLLAND  
DEFENCE CHARITY BALL**

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Saturday, 10 September 2011

For more information visit [www.defencecharityball.com.au](http://www.defencecharityball.com.au)

John Holland



Sunday Mail SUNCORP  
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For more information visit [www.bridgetobrisbane.com.au](http://www.bridgetobrisbane.com.au)

## CLUB NOTICES

### South West Contact Group Chairman

At its meeting on 11 August, the South West Contact Group elected L/Peter Goldman as Group Chairman. Peter replaces L/John Drennan. John served as Group Secretary from 2000-01 and as Group Chairman for the last 10 years.

We thank John for his long and effective service as Chairman and welcome Peter to the position.



### AVCAT Scholarships

Each year the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) offers a range of scholarships for the children or grandchildren of persons who have had operational service with the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, or if not has three or more year's continuous full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.

Members are urged to strongly encourage those who might be eligible to apply when applications open for 2012 scholarships on 18 August 2011. Applications close on 31 October 2011.



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## IN MEMORIAM

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Brisbane Legacy gratefully acknowledges the thoughtful generosity of those who choose to make an 'In Memoriam' donation, rather than sending flowers on the death of a loved one or friend; and those who make regular 'Memorial Gift' donations close to the anniversary of the death of a loved one, as a caring way to remember. We extend our sincere thanks for the following gifts



<b>For Her Brother</b> Mrs Iris Withers	<b>Gertrude C Sparling</b> Mr Clive Craig	<b>Mrs Dorothy Conway</b> Mrs M Kidd
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## MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENTS

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<b>Cairns Legacy Club</b> PO Box 296 Earlville Qld 4870 Email: admin@legacycairns.com.au	<b>Moorooka Care Group</b> Contacts: Mavis Dangerfield Tel: 3254 4887 Allan Swainson Tel: 3217 4044	<b>Wollongong Legacy</b> Email: ad- min@legacywollongong.com.au
<b>South West Contact Group</b> Chairman: Peter Goldman Tel: H 3378 0375 Tel: B 3831 5454 Tel: M 0400 780 877 Email: peterjgoldman@gmail.com	<b>South West Contact Group</b> Murray Blake Tel: M 0402 438 615	<b>Redcliffe Contact Group</b> Graham Woodward Tel: M 0400 793 472
<b>Wynnum Contact Group</b> Hugh Meiklejohn Tel: M 0418 752 474		

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## DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP—OUT OF SESSION

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Mrs Kathleen Ann Burgess <b>Logan Contact Group</b> 138 Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road CORNUBIA QLD 4130 Tel: H 07 3287 6629 Tel: M 0438 769 324
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## DECEASED COMRADES

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Mr Terence L Summers <b>North West Contact Group</b> 21 Lappilli Street KEPERRA QLD 4054
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## MEETING SCHEDULE

**Board of Directors:** 12:30pm Monday, 19 September 2011

### Brisbane Committee Meetings

<b>Finance Committee</b> 12:30pm Thu, 13 Sep	<b>Membership Committee</b> 11:30am Mon, 19 Sep	<b>Welfare Committee</b> 10:00am Wed, 21 Sep
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### Contact Group Meetings

<b>Granite Belt</b> 7:30pm 2nd Thu of month Stanthorpe RSL	<b>Gympie</b> 11:00am 3rd Thu of month Gympie RSL	<b>Logan City</b> 9:00am 2nd Wed of month Veterans' Resource Centre	<b>North East</b> 4:00pm 3rd Wed of month Geebung RSL
<b>North West</b> 5:30pm Last Thu of month Gaythorne RSL	<b>Redcliffe &amp; Caboolture</b> 9:30am 4th Thu of month Redcliffe RSL	<b>Redlands</b> 4.30pm 4th Tues of month Cleveland RSL	<b>South East</b> 10:00am 2nd Mon of month Legacy House
<b>South West</b> 12:30pm 2nd Thu of mth Legacy House	<b>Sunshine Coast</b> 12:00 noon 1st Thu of mth Nambour RSL	<b>Warwick District</b> 9:30am 1st Wed of mth Warwick RSL	<b>Wynnum</b> 9:00am 2nd Sat of month Wynnum RSL

### Contact Details

#### BRISBANE LEGACY

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Email: [admin@legacybrisbane.org.au](mailto:admin@legacybrisbane.org.au)

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#### SUNSHINE COAST LEGACY

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Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm Mon—Fri