

Association Day 9 August. You can still fill in the form – go to www.rtfv-35sqn.org, click on 'stories', scroll down to Association Day, fill out form and send to me.

I have had a few people ask if there are any other plans in conjunction with the Association Day. It is a good idea. Next year we will ramp it up to a bigger event. It is too late to change the event for this year. The Association Day will be a regular event. It will be held in August every year to mark the month the Caribou went to Vietnam. Maybe we could include 38 Squadron as well.

Andrea and I went to Perth to see Queensland get flogged in the second State of Origin game. We met up with a top Rad Tech who makes a pretty good tour guide. He picked us up at the Pan Pacific Hotel. We visited the War Memorial and Kings Park. Being a Rad Tech and a Chick Magnet one of the first ports of call was the nudie beach at Fremantle. Then seafood lunch on the waterfront in Fremantle and a visit to the convict jail. We then visited Ted's penthouse and he had quiet a few penthouse pets waving and smiling. He is available if any one is visiting Perth. He should have his new Rav 4 soon. Thanks Ted.

Thai Dang is not travelling very well at the moment.

I bought a brand-new Kia Rio in May so I can tow my golf buggy to and from golf. I had a lot of problems with Metro Kia. I told them I was a T.P.I. and did not pay GST. At the time I still had a car registered in my name which has nothing to do with GST. They told me the Dept. of Transport refunds the GST and I am not eligible to receive the GST refund. GST has nothing to do with Q'ld Transport. It is ATO who send the GST refund. I was then advised that Vets Affairs would give me the GST refund. After three attempts to get my GST refund I rang the sales manager of Metro Kia. I took all the relevant paperwork to him and he said that he would look into it and would ring me on the Monday. I waited until 3 p.m., no phone call, so I rang the principal dealer. He also said that he would look into it and would phone me back. This did not happen. I then rang Kia Australia and they told me that they have nothing to do with GST or anything because it is entirely up to the dealers. Kia wiped their hands on this matter. I also sent Metro Kia a letter supplied by one of our members outlining that it is illegal not to refund GST. Whether you buy a car through Metro Kia or any dealer, make sure they know about the GST refund. I am not disappointed that I bought a Kia with seven years warranty, seven years road service. No matter where you are when it breaks down it is towed to the nearest Kia dealer.

Caloundra Aviation Museum

Mal Sayers, Rad Tech Extraordinaire, is responsible for having enough people to man the Caribou on "open cockpit" day every year in July. This year we had a few showers but the number of visitors on the Saturday was very good.

The Wallaby Lunches are held on the second Thursday every month at the Jade Buddha. Starts at 11:30 a.m./noon, leave when you like.

Latest on Thai Dang

Those who attended Vietnam Veterans' Day last year were humbled by the support for Vietnam veterans demonstrated by a contingent of Vietnamese Australians comprising veterans, former boat people and their descendants. These are a people who fought beside us, lost so much, but have given so much.



The presence of the Vietnamese Aussies was one of the day's highlights at both the ceremony and the luncheon.

The force behind the group is Association member, Thai Dang and his wife Diamond. The story of Thai's courage in overcoming adversity and his respect for Australian veterans, appeared in a previous edition of Ricochet. As most members are aware, Thai has not been travelling too well and is currently battling leukaemia.

Thai remains positive and is due to have a bone marrow transplant on 14 July. Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend Vietnam Veterans' Day this year, but has promised a big turnout in 2020. Thai also wished to pass on his praise for the marvellous medical treatment he is receiving at Brisbane's P A Hospital.

Messages of support from those members who enquired about Thai's health have been passed on to him.

Thanks John. (and Kev)Update Wally Jones

To update you, Dad celebrated his 90th on Monday, and his health is improving now he is in care. He now resides at the Calvary Retirement Home in Cessnock NSW, and is in a wing called "Mulbring". His dementia is affecting recent memory quite badly (doesn't know what happened a few hours ago) but his long term memory is still very good. I will keep you informed of his welfare.

Cheers Baden Jones