

D.V.A. CORNER.

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SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

Can I claim again on the same refused condition, or get an increase on an accepted condition? The answer to both is YES, but there are rules and conditions, and common sense should prevail. Advocates give of their time freely, but remember that they also have problems of their own.

A claim for an increase can be made at any time after 3 months after the last decision.

Hearing and Tinnitus are 2 conditions that do get worse. Once you reach a certain age, points are deducted due to the normal aging process, so it is possible that your pension will not increase even with a worsening of your condition.

If your claim is refused, you can try again after 12 months. (SOP's do change.)

Xmas break. Greg and myself wish all our members a great Xmas filled with joy and happiness.

I will be travelling with my new caravan next year, so I will be taking a back seat.

Greg will be available to assist my existing clients, and to help with any new claims.

To contact Greg – Phone 9305 7142 or Mob 0418 924 559.

Regards,

Paddy & Greg.

THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

Surprisingly it was not until 1953 that our flag was officially proclaimed the Australian National Flag.

With Federation and the joining of all Australians under the Commonwealth of Australia, there came a real need for a flag to unite the peoples of the six colonies.

In 1901, a world wide competition was held to find two new flags: one suitable for official and naval purposes, and another suitable for the Merchant Navy Service. The Commonwealth, "The Review of Reviews", (a newspaper of the day), and the Havelock Tobacco Company forwarded prize money totaling 200. The response to the competition was excellent.

Over 30,000 flag designs were presented for display in the Exhibition Building in Melbourne in September, 1901. From the 30,000 entries the choice was narrowed to five. It was decided

that the five would share the prize money. The winners were Mrs. A. Dorrington of Perth, Mr. I. Evans of Melbourne, Mr. L. Hawkins of Sydney, Mr. E. J. Nuttall of Melbourne and Mr. W. Stevens of Auckland.

A flag embodying the five winning designs was proudly flown in the Exhibition Building in Melbourne on the day that the Prime Minister, Mr. E. Barton, announced the winners. The flag was very like the flag that became the Australian National Flag 52 years later.

In the upper hoist was the Union Jack, made up of the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick. Beneath the Union Jack was a large six pointed star representing the six states and in the fly of the flag, five stars symbolizing the Southern Cross.

The Union Jack reflected our heritage, the large six pointed star indicated the unity of the six States within the Commonwealth of Australia and the Southern

Cross reflected Australia's place in the universe. A flag showing our history, our unity and our independent position.

In 1903, King Edward approved designs for the flag of Australia and the flag of the Merchant Navy. They became known as the Commonwealth Blue Ensign and the Commonwealth Red Ensign.

In 1908 the six pointed star became a seven pointed star, the seventh point added to represent current and future Territories of the Commonwealth. The new seven pointed star conformed with the star in the Crest of the Coat of Arms.

In the early years of the Commonwealth, the flying of the ensigns was not encouraged, but a new body of thought developed through Prime Minister Menzies in 1941 and was supported by Prime Minister Chifley in 1947. The flying of the Commonwealth Blue Ensign was encouraged on shore provided

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To all Vietnam Logistic and Support Veterans:

The Vietnam Logistic Veterans' Association QLD Inc, of which I am President, is the sponsor association for a national reunion of Vietnam logistic and support veterans to be held in Brisbane over the last weekend in May 2004. This will be the first time that civilians, who served in many capacities during the Vietnam conflict, will participate equally in a national reunion with ex-Service personnel.

The end of May date for the reunion was chosen to coincide with the departure of HMAS SYDNEY from Sydney, with 1RAR embarked, on 27 May 1965 and the departure from RAAF Richmond of the first of over 200 QANTAS trooping flights to Vietnam on 01 June 1965, again with 1RAR embarked.

The reunion has been scheduled for the weekend 28-31 May 2004, with all official functions to take place in the Brisbane city area. Planning for functions and venue bookings has already commenced and the forecast programme

includes the following activities:

Friday 28 May 2004

- 1700 – 1900 Welcome Function and Registration – venue to be arranged (City Hall?)

Saturday 29 May 2004

- 1030 City March and Commemoration – Adelaide Street and Anzac Square (RAN Band)

- 1230 – 1430 River Cruise with Lunch – River Queen Paddle Wheelers (RAN Band)

- 1900 – 2330 Gala Dinner and Dance – Brisbane Exhibition and Conference Centre

Sunday 30 May 2004

- 1000 – 1300 Advocacy/information session on benefits, pensions, allowances and medals

- 1200 – 1730 Vietnam Style 60's Concert/Lunch – Riverside Ballroom (Radio Saigon band)

- 1730 – 1800 Ceremonial Sunset/Beat Retreat – Grounds of Riverside Ballroom (RAN Band)

Monday 31 May 2004

- 1100 – 1230 Plaque in the park unveiling with lunch – Newstead Park (Army Band)

- 1230 – Reunion ends

I would appreciate it if you would give serious consideration

to attending this reunion, as it will more than likely be the last national reunion for many of the smaller units who have members scattered across the country. Some veterans are making up groups of ten to have their own unit reunion within this national reunion. Such unit groups will be seated together and will also qualify for a group discount.

I hope this letter has aroused your interest in this reunion and to have your name on the mailing list for reunion updates, please download the expressions of interest form and return it as soon as possible to one of the addresses on the bottom of the form or by e-mail to the VLSVA, as some of the proposed function venues will have attendance limitations.

Also, please pass this reunion information onto any other Vietnam veterans' organisations or individual veterans with whom you are in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney T. Nott

Continued From Page 1 it was flown in a manner befitting the national emblem of our country.

In 1951, the Australian Government recommended that King George VI approve the Commonwealth Blue Ensign as the National Flag. At this stage there was still no official recognition for the ensign as our National Flag.

King George gave his approval and in 1953 the Flags Act proclaimed the Australian Blue Ensign as our national flag and the Australian Red Ensign as the correct colours for Australian registered merchant ships.

We properly call these flags the Australian National Flag and the Australian Red Ensign.

The Royal Australian Navy has as its official ensign the Australian White Ensign, and the Royal

Australian Air Force has as its official ensign the Ensign of the Royal Australian Air Force. The official flag of the Australian Army is the Australian National Flag.



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HMAS Diamantina

The Last of the RAN River Class Frigates

DATA:

Type: Oceanographic Research Ship (ex-Frigate).

Displacement: 1,420 tons (standard).

Length: 283 feet (between perpendiculars); 301 feet 4 inches (overall).

Beam: 36 feet 9 inches.

Builder: Walkers Ltd., Maryborough, Queensland.

Laid Down: 12th April 1943.

Launched: 6th April 1944 (Mrs. W.J.F. Riordan, wife of the then Chairman of Committees, House of Representatives and later Minister for the Navy).

Armament: 2 x 40 mm Bofors AA.

Commissioned: 27th April 1945.

Diamantina was one of twelve frigates built under the Commonwealth Governments wartime shipbuilding programme. She was the sixth ship of her class to be completed.

Sister ships were Barcoo, Barwon, Burdekin, Gascoyne, Lachlan, Hawkesbury, Macquarie, Condamine, Culgoa, Murchison and Shoalhaven.

The last four named ships, while similar in design, were rated 1,544 tons (standard displacement) and were more heavily armed (4 x 4-inch guns; 3 x 40 mm AA; 4 x 20 mm AA as against Diamantina's 2 x 4-inch guns and 2 x 40 mm Bofors AA). All were named after Australian rivers.

Diamantina takes her name from

the river which rises in the region of the Kerby and McKinlay Ranges some 300 miles south of the Gulf of Carpentaria and flows in a southwesterly direction through Central Queensland. It is a seasonal river, dry for most of the year and only rarely flowing over the full length of its bed to the point of final dissipation in the region of Lake Eyre.

The Diamantina was discovered by John McKinlay, who was born at Sandbank, Scotland, in 1819, came to New South Wales in 1836 and later settled at Ki on the River Murray in South Australia. In 1861, at the request of the South Australian Government, he organised a party to search for the explorers Burke and Wills. Leaving Adelaide on 16th August 1861, McKinlay made his way to the Barcoo River (Coopers Creek) in the region of Lake Hope. He found no trace of Burke or Wills, but found the body of Gray, another member of the ill-fated Burke party. Returning south he halted at Lake Buchanan where he learnt of the finding of the bodies of Burke and Wills, but being well provisioned McKinlay decided to explore northwards.

He set out on 17th December 1861, but was forced to stop by lack of water at Lake Apanburra, west of Innamincka. On 10th February 1862 he set out again, and in March discovered the Diamantina, which he named Mueller River in honour of Dr. Ferdinand Von Mueller, the Victorian Government Botanist. On 6th May he reached the Leichhardt River and a fortnight later the Gulf of Carpentaria. Thence, after an unsuccessful attempt to reach the mouth of the Albert River (on the Gulf),

he proceeded to the south-east through previously explored country to reach the settled areas of Queensland.

When McKinlay discovered the Diamantina, the State of Queensland had been in existence less than three years. It was formed on 6th June 1859 and its first Governor was Sir George Ferguson Bowen, who arrived in Brisbane to take up his appointment on 10th December 1859.

Governor Bowen was born in Ireland on 2nd November 1821 and was trained for the law profession, but in 1847, at the age of twenty-six, he was made president of the University of Corfu, the northernmost island of the Greek Ionian Islands. In 1854 he was appointed Secretary of the Ionian Islands which were then (1815-64) a British Protectorate. During his sojourn in the Greek Islands, he met and married Diamantina, Countess Roma, daughter of the President of the Ionian Senate at Corfu (whose population was mainly Italian). In 1859 Bulwer Lytton (Colonial Secretary) appointed him first Governor of Queensland, and for the next twenty years he was entirely concerned with Australian and New Zealand affairs. In 1867, after eight years in Queensland, he succeeded Sir George Grey as Governor of New Zealand, and in 1872 became Governor of Victoria, retaining the post until 1879 when he was transferred to Mauritius.

Diamantina, Countess Roma, his wife, who died in 1893 (at Malta) accompanied Bowen to Australia in 1859. She was a member of the Riccardi branch

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