

Vet contributes to tales of courage

HELEN GOLTZ

VIETNAM veteran and Primbee resident Ian Cavanough has contributed to a new book called *Aussie Soldier Up Close and Personal*.

Mr Cavanough's contribution came about as a result of a blog he had written after attending the funeral of a fellow Vietnam vet.

"A couple of years ago, several of us vets went to the funeral of a fellow vet and Aboriginal, Harry, who lived up near Maitland," Mr Cavanough said.

"We all had nicknames then, and Harry's was Harry the black. We were treated like kings at his funeral by his kids and extended family.

"But I found out that they knew nothing about what he did in Vietnam, so I wrote a story about what a typical rifleman soldier would do."

Mr Cavanough said the book's author, Denny Neave, was focusing on the qualities of the Australian soldier like courage.

"Denny read my blog and used some of my quotes.

"I didn't submit anything because I felt that becomes a bit artificial when you have to think about it, so it was taken from what I had already written."

Mr Cavanough served in Vietnam after volunteering for national service.

He initially went to Townsville to learn to be an infantry soldier.

"You learn that everyone has a job to do and a place and purpose," he said.

"After training, I spent 12 months serving in Vietnam."

Mr Cavanough wrote in *Aussie Soldier Up Close and Personal*, "you gaze at the enemy soldier. His life is spent. It is then you realise that he was just like you. He was doing his job for his country. But it cost him his life".

Author Denny Neave's book features Mr Cavanough and other personal anecdotes and experiences of Aussie soldiers from World War One to current conflicts.

With the assistance of over 200

Australian soldiers both young and old, *Aussie Soldier* provides up close and personal perspectives on what being a soldier means to them.

"I wanted to create a book that personalised the Australian soldier and showcased the core values that make them do the things they do," Mr Neave said.

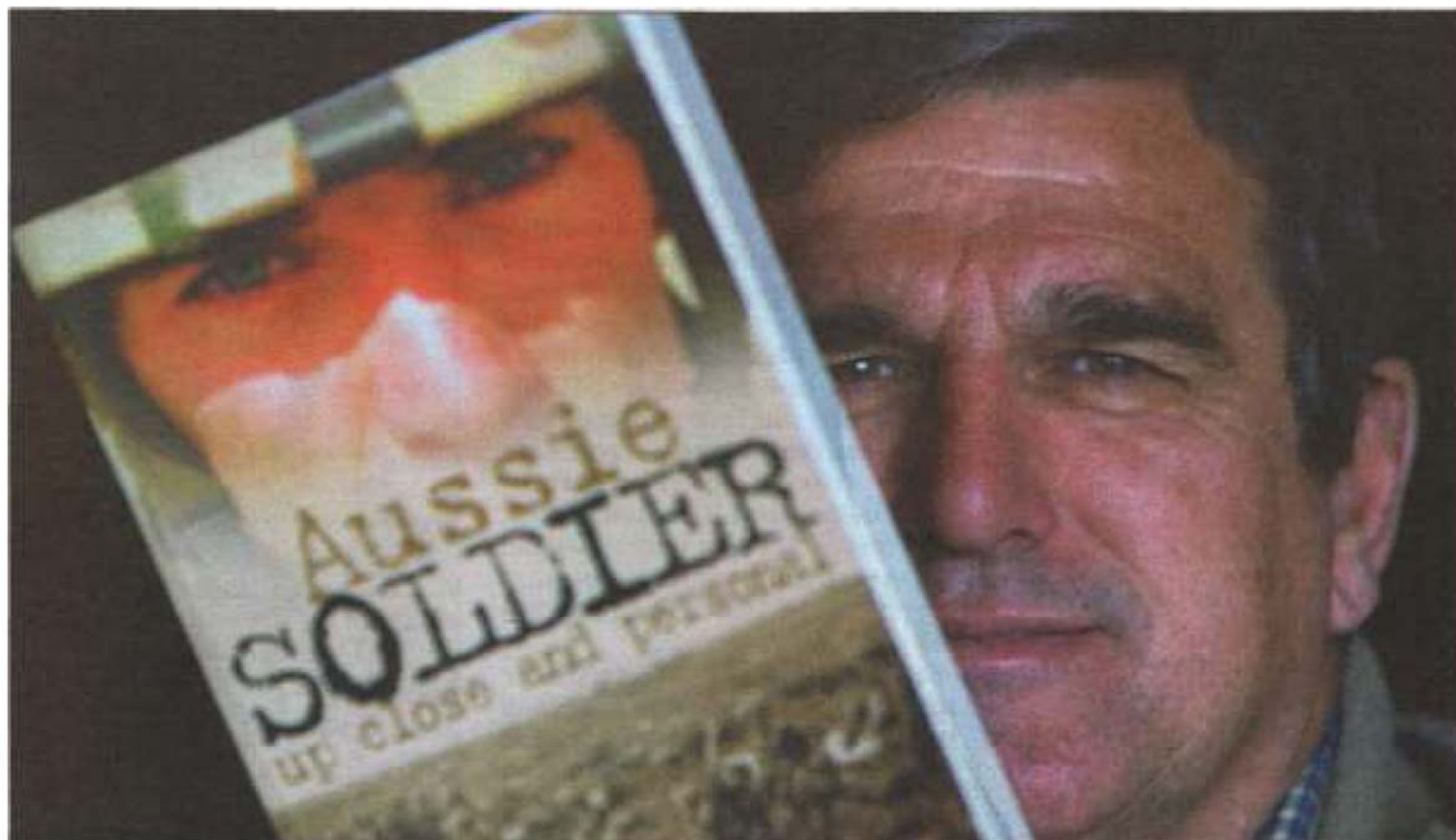
"*Aussie Soldier* isn't about the glorification of war or detailing military history, it's about

recognising individuals and what goes through their mind and heart when placed in unimaginable situations," he said.

"From the mundane to the heroic, it's the soldiers who are the main players in these events."

The book retails for \$34.95 and is available nationally from book stores or online at www.aussiesoldier.com.au

A percentage of *Aussie Soldier* book sales will be donated to Legacy.



Ian Cavanough shares some of his Vietnam military experiences in *Aussie Soldier*. Picture: Elenor Tedenborg.