

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia—Victorian



A note from the Pres.

Welcome to this first edition of **FSB-Vic**. For too long we have gone without a State Newsletter in Victoria. We hope that from this small beginning we can establish a regular and informative newsletter that is available to all our members in a form convenient to them. Speaking of which, if you know of any business, person, RSL Club etc. that would like to advertise with us, please let the editor know.

We would appreciate submissions for the newsletter from any of you budding (or experienced writers out there). We would also like to see Sub-branches advertise their upcoming functions so that the word can be spread and we can get together for fellowship more often.

We are working hard to es-

tablish a good relationship with the State Government. You may have heard that the Government is establishing a Veterans' Council in Victoria to advise on such things as ceremonial occasions, education, memorials and very importantly, the disbursement of funds collected at sporting venues on ANZAC Day. We believe we are in a good position to contribute to veterans affairs in general while at the same time protecting the interests of our own members.

With Vietnam Veterans Day approaching at a rapid rate, the State office is very busy organizing the arrangements for our most important day. If you are able to visit the Shrine of Remembrance on August 18, we would love to see you there. It promises to be a very big day. State Governor – Mr Peter Landy will be in attend-

ance as well as representatives from the State and Federal Governments and Oppositions.

Don't forget about Badge week. Many Sub-branches will be looking for volunteers to sell badges, so if you have an hour or so to spare, please make yourself available. You will be surprised how rewarding this activity can be, both financially and personally. By the way, members of State Parliament will be wearing our badge on the 18th.

Best wishes to all Vets and their families

Dick Culliford

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Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

A word from the Secretary

It has been a very busy year since coming back from a two year absence. I have found that the State body has made large leaps forward, especially in the way it tends to the business raised at Councils by Delegates. A more professional approach, a better team spirit and a willingness to 'hop in and lend a hand'; there have been some negative aspects and I do not intend to dwell on them, but if you can find an organisation without some negativity, I want to know about it.

Communication still seems to be a problem, it would benefit us all if, instead of brooding on issues or putting them off until the next Council, a simple e-mail was sent to me to expedite a solution; *not all problems need to be solved at Council.*

The State Newsletter is a new innovation and one we hope will be accepted by the membership in both hard and electronic formats. There are a number of people who need to be recognised for their work on it, Neville

Bryant – for pushing the issue with such vigour, Fred Greenway and Maurie Benson for their equally vigorous preparation of it. The newsletter, as you may have seen is an item on the State's homepage, if you have not seen it go to <http://www.vvaavic.org.au>

Speaking of the homepage, I would like to hear from anyone who has ideas or constructive criticism for improving the homepage, my head just won't come up with anything else at present, (creators block?). We had an e-mail from Arnold Wheeler at the DVA that the information on our homepage was 'invaluable'.

The membership of the Association is its backbone at all levels, we need members views and to be appraised of their problems to function properly. If you are a member and do not regularly attend your Sub-Branch meeting then *your* view is not being heard. If you are a Vietnam Veteran and not a member and are reading this, your

view is more than silent, please consider joining so *your* issues can be heard.

Vietnam Veterans Day draws nearer and we hope to see a great many veterans and their families attending at the Shrine. I attended my first VV Day at the Shrine last year and was moved by the ceremony and with the respect accorded to veterans by all in attendance. Please make the effort to attend, you will not regret it.

I look forward to seeing all at the August 6th Council meeting at Swan Hill, remember you can attend as an observer if you wish – see you all there – take care.

Len Barlow

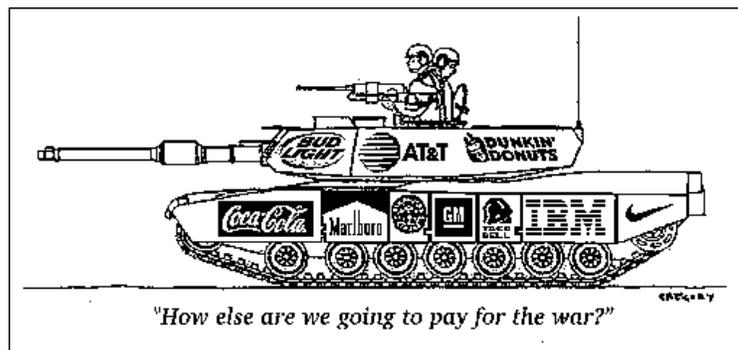
A word from the Treasurer

Greetings to one and all in this our State Branch's 1st Newsletter.

As you should by now be aware we are looking at bringing about some changes to the PFC requirements regarding Sub-Branch Reference Audits. In the interest of making life easier for the greater majority of our Sub-Branches the good old **KISS** principle is to be adopted.

The message at this time is "*watch this space*".

Jim Coghlan



Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

Vietnam Vet refused Australian residency.

How ? you may ask.

A Vietnam Vet, a British subject, served 2 tours of SVN with 1RAR and has spent much of his time outside Australia. He is an Australian citizen and wished to spend his latter years with his Australian family. As he has been out of the country for some years his Visa needed renewing. He was not only told “no” by the Immigration Dept but was also told “Vietnam was a long time ago and had no bearing on his Visa application”.

Following an airing on national television it appears the Immigration Dept decided there had been some misun-

derstanding!

Congratulations to all who stood up to right this injustice to a deserving Vet who

proudly represented Australia in South Vietnam.

From the interest this matter has generated both within parliament and from the public we are reassured that, as Vets, we do have a BIG say in what happens to Vets in our country.

Australian Immigration Test

Mujibar was trying to get into Australia legally through Immigration.

The Immigration Officer said, “Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except there is one more test. Unless you pass it you cannot enter Australia.”

Mujibar said, “I am ready”.

The Officer said, “Make a sentence using the words Yellow, Pink and Green.”

Mujibar thought for a few minutes and said, “Mister Officer, I am ready.”

The Officer said, “Go ahead”.

Mujibar said, “The telephone goes Green, Green Green, Green and I Pink it up and say, “Yellow, this is Mujibar”.

Mujibar now lives in a neighbourhood near you, and works at a Telstra Help Desk.

Taxi Card

We have all heard the expert’ who tells us that we can get this or that through the system. One that is frequently mentioned is the availability of the “Taxi Card”.

The story often circulated is that the taxi card is available to veterans on a 100% disability pension. But the following should be noted — the taxi card is issued under the State Government’s Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP) to assist Victorians who are prevented from using public transport because of a severe and permanent disability to access subsidized taxi transport.

In order to qualify for the taxi card, it is necessary for the applicant to have his/her GP certify that the applicant is prevented from using public transport because of a severe and permanent disability, which then has to be described in detail by the doctor. From this it is obvious that just because a person has 100% disability pension, does not mean that they qualify for the taxi card.

From the Editor

With our 1st *FSB-Vic* now produced we hope it becomes a forum for all Vic Sub-Branches and members to contribute material and ideas of interest. The idea is not to upstage other excellent Newsletters but to help spread info throughout Victoria so that all the good work being done locally can be shared more widely across the State. As a quarterly Newsletter the next one will issue by early December. Please forward items for inclusion either by Email to “editor@vvaavic.org.au” or mail direct to State Office. Ideas for improvement are welcome.

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

WAR VETERANS TO GET CAR REGO REFUND

June 28, 2005

Thousands of disabled war veterans will have their car registration fees refunded after the State Government admitted it had wrongly slugged them when it reduced concession benefits for concession card holders last year.

In April last year, the Government announced controversial changes that saw 800,000 concession card holders lose the right to free car registration. Instead the pensioners were required to pay a rate half that of the full cost of registration.

But yesterday the Government admitted that thousands of totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) veterans were wrongly included in the cuts and should have retained their right to free registration. "As a result, VicRoads has been incorrectly charging nearly 3500 TPI veterans," Transport Minister Peter Batchelor said yesterday.

For the past year the veterans have been paying registration of \$80.20 but should have been receiving it free. Yesterday Mr Batchelor ordered VicRoads to repay the money, in total more than \$300,000, and to ensure that incapacitated veterans were not charged registration in future. Mr Batchelor blamed the mistake on a VicRoads error and said he had been incorrectly informed by the roads bureaucracy that the Government's policy was properly implemented.

"It's disappointing that an administrative error on the part of VicRoads has resulted in this confusion," he said. "The administrative error only affects permanently incapacitated veterans. Other concession card holders will continue to receive the 50 per cent discount on their motor vehicle registration."

Vietnam Veterans Day 2005 Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne

Arrangements are well advanced for what we expect to be yet another magnificent roll up of Vets, family and friends.

Our VV Day March and service this year will be attended by a wide group of dignitaries, the likes of whom we are accustomed to seeing at the Shrine on Anzac Day.

Chief March Marshall will be Reg McMaster, guest speakers Neville Clark MC—Artillery SVN— and Clair Chisholm, a student of Strathcona Girls BGGC. The Australian Army Band—Melbourne headed by Major Gordon Lambie will provide support music for the day.

Corp and Unit Banners are welcome.

Form up 1115Hrs for 1200Hrs march up through Shrine Forecourt. This will be followed by a Service near the Eternal Flame.

We have come a long way from those early days when a small group of Vets gathered to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in SVN.



Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

Library

Well Done Those Men

Barry Heard ,was conscripted in the first national service ballot, and served in Vietnam as an infantry man and radio operator. After completing his national service he returned to Australia, where he found himself unable to settle down. He had 10 different jobs in his first 10 years back, worked as a teacher for a further 10 years ,and then held several mid managerial posts before succumbing to a devastating breakdown due to severe

post traumatic stress disorder .

Since recovering, Barry has decided to concentrate on his writing. His short stories have received several prizes ,including the Sir Edmund Herring Memorial award and the Sir Weary Dunlop prize.

Well Done Those Men is his first book. He lives with his family in rural Victoria.

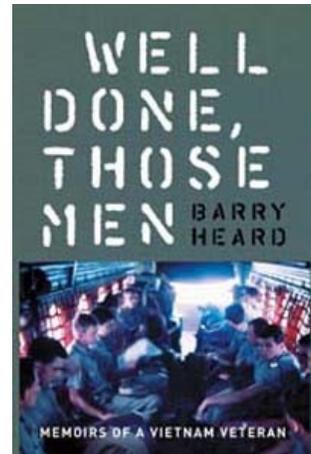
Barry has agreed to be key-

note speaker at the Frankston Sub branch VVAA on 5th September 2005 ,at the Frankston RSL..

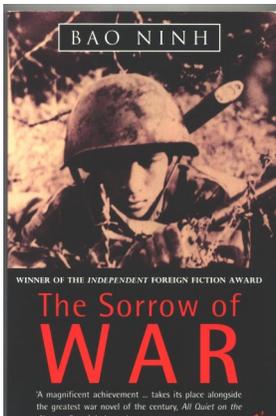
This should be an interesting night well worth attending .

Barry will of course bring some books along ,for sale ,and even sign these .

Your support will be appreciated.



The Sorrow of War



Bao Ninh was born in Hanoi in 1952. During the Vietnam war he served with the Glorious 27th Youth Brigade. Of the five hundred who went to war with the brigade in 1969, he is one of ten who survived. A huge bestseller in Vietnam, *The Sorrow of War* is his first novel.

This is a story well worth reading, especially as Bao Ninh himself was a NVA

conscript whose experiences, fears and confusion can be readily understood by any soldier who finds himself in a war zone.

The *Guardian*:

'There are many Americans who have written along similar lines of memory and recall dreadful war and disappointing peace; but surely none has got so near the truth as Bao Ninh.

Any veteran of any war will

identify with his inner struggle, and any woman who has seen her man go off to the front will be able to suffer with Phuong. This book should be required reading for anyone in American politics or policy making.'

Recommended reading

We look forward to submissions to this area.

Don't leave it up to the editor to decide what we might find interesting to read.

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

Secure your wallet

A corporate attorney sent this out to the employees in his company.

1. The next time you order your cheques have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your chequebook, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.

2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED'.

3. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number. and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it.

4. Put your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. Never have your Centrelink Number printed on your cheques. You can add it if it is necessary. but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

5. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do Both sides of each licence, credit card: etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep a photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when travelling either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number. credit cards.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have first-hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly mobile phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Dell computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information on-line, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know.

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc, were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there is to be one).

But here's what is perhaps most important of all:

Call three national credit reporting organizations im-

mediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by the bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means that any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There were records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves purchases, none of which I knew about before the alert. Since then no additional damage has been done. and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone handed it in. It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact when your wallet etc. has been stolen

1. Visa card Australia 1800 621 199

2. Visa Card International 1800 450 346

3. Lost Travellers Cheques 1800 127 477

4. MasterCard Australia (02) 9466 3700

5. MasterCard international 1800 120 113

ANZ FREECALL 180 033 844

BankWest 131 718

Citibank 132 484

Tamworth Coles/Myer Source 2340 1300 306 397

Commonwealth Bank 132 221

CUSCAL-MyCard 1300 135 538

GE Capital 1300 135 904

Members Equity 1300 654 998

National Bank 132 265

St George Bank 1800 028 208

Sydney Virgin 2000 1800 080 000

Westpac 1800 230 144

Woolworths Easy Bank 137 288

6. Bankcard Aust (02) 9281 6633

7. Medicare 132 011

8. Centrelink Fraud 137 230

9 Seniors Card 1300 364 758

10. Passport 131 232

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

VVAA ~ History

WAA (Vic Branch) Inc was formed in the late 1970's as a result of the realisation that many Vietnam veterans and their families were experiencing health and emotional problems which could be related to war service. At the time, veterans seeking assistance reported a lack of understanding of their problems and some indifference demonstrated by government authorities. The veterans often considered they had been discharged from the services into a hostile society which they believed had little interest in their welfare.

The WAA is a non-political organisation concerned first and foremost with matters relating to the health, welfare and well-being of veterans and their families. Additionally, the Association provides an important point of social contact for veterans and families, particularly those who feel isolated and alone within the civilian community.

Aims and Objectives

As an organisation, the WAA adopted aims and objectives to redress the problems experienced by Vietnam veterans by-

- Providing pension assistance and advice and welfare support to veterans and their families.
- Monitoring the health problems of veterans and their families so that relevant authorities can be made aware of adverse trends and difficulties being experienced.
- Ensuring that individual veterans are not disadvantaged when dealing with government departments.
- Providing on-going evaluation of the exposure to pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals.

The WAA provides direct welfare support to the veteran community and is involved in a number of veteran welfare and pension projects. The State Branch is represented on numerous sub-committees including The Department of Veterans' Affairs, The Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service and the Returned & Services League.

History Welfare Activities

The VVAA has no paid employees and exists on the goodwill of the veteran and wider communities and the efforts

of its volunteer workers. Welfare activities provided by the WAA or other Vietnam veterans' organisations include-

- Pension advice and assistance
- Welfare support or assistance
- Vietnam Veterans' Crisis Unit
- Emergency accommodation
- Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service
- Australian War Veterans' Trust
- Lifestyle management courses
- Stress management courses
- Advocacy services (for appearance during pension or other compensation appeal processes).
- Welfare and Pension Officer training

Educational Activities

The WAA is involved in educational activities at both Federal and State levels, including support for the National Museum (Coves, Phillip Island), an Education Team responsible for presentations to school and other organisations and bursaries made from time to selected recipients.

Fund Raising

The WAA conducts its major fund raising activity known as Badge Week on and around Vietnam Veterans' Day each year (18 August).

Funds are used to provide welfare, organisational and support services required by the veteran community.

Functional Control of the State Branch

A quarterly state conference is conducted at different locations throughout Victoria. This conference is attended by the State Executive and delegates from each of the sub-branches. All policy proposals must be approved by the majority of delegates at a state conference prior to implementation by the State Executive.

How to tell the sex of a fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies" he responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" she asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females" he replied.

Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone".

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

Notice Board

The *Notice Board* is intended to be similar to those you see in other Veteran publications and can include personal notices such as *Wanted to find, Reunions, get togethers, hobby related matters etc.*

The VVAA Victoria Branch President retains the right to refuse acceptance of any notice that does not accord with the aims and objectives of the VVAA.

Please forward your notices to the State Office or Email to 'Editor VVAVIC@vvaavic.org.au'.

PANDANUS 18TH AUGUST 2005

The pilgrimage has started towards Kalpowar Station .From all over Australia, veterans and their partners are traveling to FNQ to celebrate VVDay on 18th Aug 2005. Apart from this they will be looking forward to some “ healing time” and “therapy”. Father John Newman will conduct the service and play his bugle!!

Entertainment for the afternoon will be provided by

“OLD FRED “ Army, from the State office and his Navy mate Pop. Travelling in a “retired ambulance” (RAMBO) they are leaving Melbourne on 28th Jul and returning 29th Aug.

.Along the way they will stay at Cockscomb Veterans Retreat in Rockhampton for a couple of nights, then move on to Cardwell RSL, who currently are the caretakers of Pandanus. They will also spend some 2 days at The Lions Den Hotel ,an icon of FNQ ,and catch some fish at the back of the hotel. After that, Cairns, then Mt Carbine Hotel to be updated on road conditions before proceeding to Kalpowar Crossing..They intend staying at Pandanus for about 8 days before returning to Melbourne. The trip has been in the planning mode since 2003 when they last visited.

They hope to bring back some photos of VV-Day Pandanus and hopefully a couple of barramundi.

From all of us at the State Office we wish the boys a safe trip and look forward to reporting further on our Web site on their return.

WANTED

Life stories from womenfolk of
Australia's Vietnam Veterans

(wives, ex-wives, partners, mothers, sisters, daughters .)

These are for 'Journeys' a book I am writing, and I need your help!

'Journeys' will also include my own story.

Please look at my website for full details:

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/wmoline/web/index.html>

or contact me via email Wendy Moline at:

wendymoline@bigpond.com

or phone or text me on 0439 493 582

Wendy will also be heading north to Pandanus Veterans' Retreat (near Laura, Cape York) for three weeks in August 2005.

Aids Warning!



WARNING! THIS JUST IN!

SENIOR CITIZENS ARE THE NATION'S LEADING CARRIERS OF AIDS!

HEARING AIDS
BAND AIDS

ROL AIDS

WALKING AIDS

MEDICAL AIDS

GOVERNMENT AIDS

MOST OF ALL, MONETARY AID TO THEIR KIDS!

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

VVCS

Group Programmes

What's on Between July 2005 and December 2005



Most group programmes are now offered in two formats. You can access one-day introductory workshops on topics such as retirement and managing anger and aggression or enrol in an in-depth weekly programmes that will enable you to develop and practice new skills over a longer period of time.

Residential Lifestyle

This programme is a 6-day residential and will cover strategies to improve your lifestyle and to assist you cope better with stress. It will include relaxation and stress management; practical advice on health and diet; strategies to identify and manage anger; problem-solving and communication skills.

Launching Place July 31-Aug. 5, 2005

Launching Place Nov 27- Dec. 2, 2005

Early Retirement

This programme is available for veterans who have retired or are facing early retirement. It explores attitudes to work and retirement, the feelings of stress and loss often associated with retiring and teaches skills to help you cope with the transition from the routine and structure of work to retirement. The programme is conducted weekly, and extends over ten (10) two-hourly sessions.

Half-day introductory workshop- North Eastern Suburbs Sept. 6, 2005

10 week Programme- Melbourne Metro Oct 13- Dec. 15, 2005

Half-day introductory workshop- Ballarat Nov. 2005

Doing it Differently

This programme is designed for veterans who experience their anger and/or violent behaviour as a problem. Topics will include triggers to anger and/or violent behaviour and strategies to prevent this behaviour and its consequences. The programme is conducted weekly over ten (10) two-hourly sessions and fortnightly over five (5) fortnightly two hourly sessions.

10 week programme- Frankston July 18- Dec. 19, 2005 (with break over school holidays)

Half- day introductory workshop-Western Suburbs September 15, 2005

10 week programme- Western Suburbs Nov. 2, 2005- Jan 25, 2006 (with break over Christmas)

Half- day introductory workshop- Wodonga Oct. 5, 2005

Heart Health

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

This 12-month education and exercise Programme for Vietnam Veterans aims to promote health and well-being as well as social interaction. Information Session will be offered in the following locations:

Shepparton July 2005

Dandenong & Werribee August 2005

Cheltenham & Morwell/Traralgon September 2005

Cheltenham & Morwell/Traralgon October 2005

Mornington November 2005

Controlled Drinking

This programme is designed for veterans who are experiencing problems with alcohol and want to cut down their drinking to improve their health and quality of life. You will learn the principles of controlled drinking and how to reduce levels of alcohol consumption. The programme is conducted weekly over ten (10) two-hourly sessions.

Half- day introductory workshop-Geelong July 27, 2005

Half- day introductory workshop- Hawthorn August 2005

10 week programme- Metro Oct. 2005

Partners' Self-Care Programme

This programme is offered to partners of veterans of all conflicts and peacekeeping missions. It encourages sharing of experiences and mutual support, and teaches partners ways to take care of their own psychological and physical health. The programme is conducted weekly and extends over ten (10) two hourly sessions.

10 week Programme- Sale July 13 - Sept. 21, 2005

Half-day workshop series- Frankston July 15, 22 & 29, 2005

Half-day workshop series- Bendigo September 13, 20 and 27, 2005

Half-day workshop series-North Eastern Suburbs September 2005

Sons & Daughters Lifeskills

these three-hour information and discussion forums are offered throughout the state and cover topics such as:

- Understanding your family context
- Stress Management
- Assertiveness
- Skills for managing life more positively

Sons and daughters will be surveyed before finalising topics for a particular region.

Eastern Metro- see Sons & Daughters section of Newsletter

West Gippsland Sept 2005

Sons & Daughters Anger Management

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

This programme is designed for sons and daughters of veterans who experience their anger and/or aggressive behaviour as a problem. The programme is offered as a one-day workshop and an in depth 8-week programme.

One day workshop- Eastern Suburbs Aug. 13, 2005

8 week programme- Eastern suburbs Aug. 31- Nov. 2, 2005 (with a break over school holidays)

ASIST

This two-day workshop is designed for veterans, their partner and children to help them identify and deal with people who are at risk of suicide. It presents information on how to talk to someone who is thinking of suicide, how to access help for them and how to look after yourself while providing them with support.

Melbourne Metro- July 21-22 2005

Register for community sessions throughout Victoria by calling the VVCS group coordinator

The groups listed above do not cover all the regions in Victoria. If you or your family identify a particular programme needed in your region, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our utmost to provide additional groups. Please note that groups require minimum numbers for them to be effective. If numbers are too low, the programme may be postponed or not offered.

Register your interest by calling VVCS on 9221 0515 or 1800 011 046 or by filling in the group registration form below and returning it to:

Group Programme administrative officer, VVCS, 290 Burwood Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122

Registration of interest for groups July 05 - December 05.

Programme Name:.....

Area:.....

Starting on:.....

Name:

Date of Birth:.....

Address:

.....

Post Code:.....

Phone

If Veteran - please provide Service Number:.....

For Partner / children please provide Veteran's name:.....

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

FROM JUST COPING TO BETTER LIVING

Who should attend? - Vietnam Veterans and their partners - those who are still working or those who are having difficulty adjusting to early retirement. Single veterans are also welcome.

These 6 day residential courses will cover

Lifestyle strategies and coping mechanisms - Relaxation and Stress Management
Practical Advice on Health and Diet - Managing Dependency and Anger
Discussions with Qualified Counsellors - Problem Solving and Communication Skills

All accommodation, meals and course materials are provided at no cost to participants.

Travel to and from the venue is arranged by participants.

COURSES FILL QUICKLY AND NUMBERS ARE LIMITED

Lifestyle Course History

Course Date	Closing Date	Venue
Nov 27 - December 2, 2005	Sept 27, 2005	Jumbunna Lodge, Launching Place

MCC WAR VETERANS GROUP

Are you a Financial Member of the Melbourne Cricket Club? Also eligible for membership of an Ex-Service Organisation? Then you are eligible to become a member of the MCC War Veterans Group

Ex-Servicemen and women from WWTT, Korea, Vietnam, plus National Servicemen and our Peacekeepers with the above criteria will be welcome with open arms as we would like to see more of the "Younger Brigade" join with the senior group of veterans.

Membership of the MCC War Veterans Group cost \$5.00 per annum with NO JOINING FEE. Three lunches are organised each year in February, June and October with the Annual General meeting preceding the October luncheon.

Very interesting guest speakers are engaged for the luncheons and you can be assured of a pleasant lunchtime in a congenial atmosphere in one of the superb dining rooms at the MCG.

Interested persons are invited to contact:

Clive De Jussing
Asst Secretary
ANZAC House
Phone: 9655 5521

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

VIETNAM VETERANS EDUCATION TEAM (Presentations)

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Victorian Branch) has been giving presentations in schools for the past 16 years, the last few with the guidance and support of VVAA Victoria State. 2004, for example, we gave school presentations to 130 schools, with exposure to some 6,800 students & teachers.

What we offer is a unique introduction to nearly all aspects of the Vietnam Conflict. We go into the schools with verified information and statistics, visual material and plenty of stories to keep the interest up. Our presentations are modified to suit the subject being studied. Our aim is to keep the presentation informal and relaxed.

Many of the personal mementos, memorabilia, and equipment, we take in to schools, are provided by members of the team. A recent exhibition involved over 250 items of memorabilia on display, 700 students viewed the display.

The Education Team consists of predominantly Vietnam Veterans who volunteer their time to bring the human face and experience to the studies of today's students. Most say it is both a challenging and therapeutic experience. We all have the same common commitment to talk to students about the futility of war, we do not advocate violence, we have first hand knowledge of what can happen during and after war.

The Team members are fully trained and accredited by the committee, the training consists of a workshop and involvement in a classroom environment until the required standard is reached. All accredited members carry a police clearance number plus an I.D. photo and wear our uniform consisting of trousers and black polo shirt with VVAA logo and Education Team on the pocket. Our professional approach does not go un-noticed by those we present to.

We operate under our own set of administration and guidelines that have been developed in conjunction with state executive.

The VVAA Education Team has a strict no weapons policy, therefore no weapons are included in our presentations.

Depending on the class size, the team can consist of one, or up to five members taking part, but normally there will be two attending. We endeavour not to lecture, but to interact with the audience and each other, we may have a bit of a dig at each other, some friendly rivalry, especially if there is a regular army and a "Nasho" involved, or a cook and a grunt for example.

We talk to audiences ranging from five to one hundred and fifty, although the larger groups do not get to interact as much, 25-30 is ideal.

The main theme is "Vietnam General" , which covers:

North Vietnam South Vietnam Australian Involvement Conscription Peace Protests

University Involvement Homecoming Agent Orange Politics PTSD Health Issues Static Displays

We are delighted to say that other states in Australia have shown great interest in adopting this program. A lot of work and dedication has gone into the VVAA Victoria Education Team (Presentations), it is a product we are proud to offer schools, we firmly believe that educating the youth is of paramount importance.

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Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

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