



# Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.

AUTUMN 2012 EDITION

## VetRide “Tour of Duty” 2012



*AATV's first contingent disembark at Saigon on 3 August 1962.*

*(AWM P01508.001)*

### *Vietnam Veterans- 50 Years on Still Going Strong*

#### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ VetRide “Tour of Duty” 2012
- ◆ Sub Branch activities
- ◆ Vietnam 50 years
- ◆ ETeam TET Sandown
- ◆ SWAC Results
- ◆ Medical/Health issues

*Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living*

ESB-VIC





## VVAA Victorian State Branch—Executive

ABN:34 750 672 219

---

<b>State President</b>	Robert (Bob) ELWORTHY	9432 7441 Mob: 0402 106 262
<b>State Senior Vice President</b>	James COGHLAN	9743 5756 Mob: 0447 364 702
<b>State Vice President (2)</b>	VACANT	
<b>State Secretary Public Officer</b>	Peter BRIGHT	9747 8125 Mob: 0438 597 932
<b>State Assistant Secretary</b>	Sue ARTHUR	5444 1871 Mob: 0400 821 457
<b>State Treasurer</b>	Martin RUDELBACH	9551 1353 Mob: 0419 906 602
<b>State Assistant Treasurer Membership Officer</b>	David WEEKS	9747 0121 Mob: 0418 339 931
<b>State Branch Welfare Officer</b>	Kevin HUNTER	Mob: 0408 448 280
<b>State Branch Honorary Solicitor</b>	Peter LIEFMAN	5628 5432 Mob: 0418 992 525
<b>State Executive Member State Office Manager Editor <i>FSB-VIC</i></b>	Maurie BENSON	9655 5588 Mob: 0417 588 886

---

## VVAA Victorian Branch—State Office

<b>Address:</b>	VVAA Victorian Branch Anzac House L3/4 Collins St MELBOURNE VIC 3000
<b>Phone:</b>	(03) 9655 5588
<b>Fax:</b>	(03) 9655 5582
<b>Email:</b>	secretary@vvaavic.org.au
<b>Newsletter Email:</b>	editor@vvaavic.org.au
<b>Web Site:</b>	www.vvaavic.org.au
<b>Office Hours:</b>	1000 - 1400 Hrs Monday–Friday

**DISCLAIMER:** The material in 'FSB-VIC' is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter. No person should act on the basis of any matter contained in 'FSB-VIC' without considering and, if necessary, taking appropriate professional advice upon their own particular circumstances. The VVAA, the authors and editors expressly disclaim all and any liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by any such person in reliance, whether whole or partial, upon the whole or part of the contents of 'FSB-VIC'.

***Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living***

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this edition of FSB Vic, I hope you find the contents of interest. I extend a special welcome to any new members who have joined us for the first time, or old members who have come back to the fold; it's great to have you on board.

My report for the first newsletter of the year is always tinged with excitement for what lies ahead and also with sadness when I contemplate those members who have passed on. Sadly, the numbers of Veterans passing away is increasing each year as we age and the ravages of war service take their toll. Despite this, I am delighted with what we continue to achieve as a caring and committed branch.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam. The AATTV association will be conducting special commemorative activities to mark the anniversary, and it is my hope that local members of the "Team" will participate significantly in our commemorations this year as well.

The first of our activities, VetRide, has been completed and was an unqualified success. The ride brought considerable media attention to the sub-branches involved and the ride was well supported by veterans, family and friends, the ADF, DVA and Victorian Veterans Council. Full credit must go to Peter Liefman and his team for organising and completing such a ground breaking event.

The DRAFT Branch closure plan "Under our own Control" continues to develop. There have been some misunderstandings about this document. Let me state categorically that the plan does not suggest that the branch is closing down any time soon, nor does it set any time limits. What it will do is provide a road map for us to refer to when making decisions about our future structure, and provide guidance for the orderly re-organisation of the branch as we inevitably decrease in size and influence. The need for this document is clear to me given my experience with WW II associations that steadfastly refuse to contemplate their own demise, and ultimately fold leaving others to tidy up the remains. We need to control our future, in-

cluding our closure: we need a simple, agreed and understandable plan in order to do so.

Victoria is hosting the National VVAA Congress in Geelong during the period 23-25 May. This will be an opportunity to again showcase our branch for the interstate visitors and to provide the right atmosphere and quality facilities conducive to the conduct of a successful Congress. It is appropriate that the Congress is being held in Geelong, at one of our oldest sub-branches, and planning for the event is well advanced. Members are invited to attend as observers on 24 and 25 May at the Geelong sub-branch rooms at Osbourne House.

The debate about Defence Force retirement pension indexation continues to rage. While the focus is on DFRDB, it is worth remembering that while discriminatory indexation (CPI) has been applied to that pension, the below General Rate of compensation for war caused injury or illness was similarly eroded in value over many years by the imposition of CPI indexation. The current government remains intransigent on the issue while the coalition has promised to change the indexation formula if elected.

We wait with increasing expectation and excitement for the arrival of "Huey" A2-110 at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. The machine has been demilitarized and is awaiting transport from Queensland. The helicopter will fill an important gap in the museum's inventory of Vietnam war era equipment.

The next and future rounds of BEST funding for our veteran centres look to be a disaster in the making: submissions by the joint managers of the Regional Veterans Centre Project have fallen on deaf ears. Despite the RVCP being identified as the role model for the delivery of pension and welfare support, and other states being encouraged to adopt our model, Victoria has suffered some horrendous cuts to the level of funding. Centres will have to close, amalgamations will have to occur, and staff levels will have to reduce. The losers in all of this will of course be the veterans and families who will need to adjust to a reduced level of support. Of course our wonderful staff mem-

## FROM THE PRESIDENT ( cont'd )

bers will persevere, but something will ultimately have to give, for many it will simply just be too hard to continue. I will be part of a team conducting a grass roots review of the RVCP.

At our last state council meeting, we farewelled outgoing Victorian DVA Deputy Commissioner Mike O'Meara. Mike has always been accessible and has been a keen supporter of our activities; recently he assisted VetRide to gain a grant from DVA. At the same meeting, the state council voted to award State Life Membership to Gary Parker, acknowledging his long and faithful work at the museum. I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Gary on the richly deserved award.

Our education team has been very active and an article relating to their presence at this year's TET festival is included in the newsletter. The E Team presented the state with a substantial cheque, representing the donations received by the team from schools. The donation will be placed in our education account and used to assist Vietnam Veteran dependants with tertiary schooling. Well done Phil and the team. On the matter of finance, we were successful in gaining grants from the Victorian

Veterans Council to assist with our welfare activities, education, and the conduct of VV Day 2012.

As you will know, I am big on grass roots welfare, and looking after our mates, and I have been banging on about it since becoming President. During my recent illness, Lyn and I experienced firsthand the power of welfare. We were virtually overwhelmed with messages of goodwill and support, offers of assistance and all manner of things designed to make life easier for us. We are indeed fortunate to belong to such a close-knit and caring group of veterans and friends. Long may it remain so.

I close by thanking all those veterans and partners who contributed to the functioning of the branch during 2011. To those standing down, a hearty well done: too those stepping up, thankyou on behalf of our members and the wider veteran community.

Regards,

Bob Elworthy

## THANKS TO DVA BOSS



Outgoing Deputy Commissioner for DVA Victoria, Mike O'Meara, was farewelled at the VVAA Vic State Council at Phillip Island in March after four and half years in the job.

Mike is retiring after a long and distinguished career in the public service, and we particularly thank him for his service to veterans during his time with DVA.

Mr John Geary, a long time member of DVA Victoria, has been appointed Deputy Commissioner to replace Mike O'Meara.

*(Pic: State President bob Elworthy presents a Branch plaque to Mike O'Meara)*

# AATTV DEPLOYS TO RVN; — and so it all began in 1962.



*AATTV's first contingent disembark at Saigon on 3 August 1962.  
(AWM P01508.001)*



*Colonel F.P. (Ted) Serong, DSO OBE.  
AATTV 1962-1965.  
(AWM P01011.004)*

Colonel Ted Serong arrived in Saigon on 31 July 1962, followed on 3 August by his men, 30 advisors of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). These men were at the vanguard of Australia's decade-long combat involvement in the war and were the first of some one thousand soldiers to serve in the AATTV

The AATTV's numbers grew over the ten years it served in Vietnam, peaking at 224 in 1971, shortly before Australia's withdrawal. Members of the Team often worked alone or in pairs in small advisory teams with Vietnamese units. Some worked with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units, some with indigenous peoples in remote mountainous areas, some with South Vietnam's Civil Guard, some with

ARVN's elite Ranger units and some with the American Combined Studies Division which trained village militias and was also involved in the Phoenix Program that targeted Viet Cong cells and cadres for assassination.

Until 1964, AATTV personnel were forbidden from joining those whom they trained on operations, a policy that was totally unworkable, and after the policy changed, AATTV members often found themselves in combat, accompanying South Vietnamese Units. Designated as trainers they were often the leaders.

As Australia began to withdraw, AATTV's role reverted to what it had been like when they first deployed to Vietnam. Their priority was to train South Vietnamese Units for the time when they would have to fight without the support of allies. On 18 December 1972, the last members of the Team departed South Vietnam. During their decade in Vietnam, the unit became the most highly decorated Australian unit to serve in the war. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to AATTV members, along with numerous other awards and decorations, including those issued by the United States and the Republic of South Vietnam.

# SUB BRANCHES ~ WHAT'S ON

## BALLARAT

Ballarat has started the year off well, President Garry Vapp has named this year the year of FUN.

Garry and eight others set sail to Hawaii on March 6<sup>st</sup> and all have had a good time. And so the Fun began.

Ballarat would like to thank the VetRide Committee for including us in the Inaugural Tour of Duty Vet Ride. We enjoyed our day with the riders and support staff, and a wonderful evening at PAX Hill. Thank you all.

Ballarat Red Shirt Friday Program is growing in support, and sales. We have had a trip to Maryborough, and have a visit to Melton and Geelong planned in April and May. We hope to get up to Patchewollock whose support has been fantastic.

Tyrone's father is currently serving in Afghanistan, and when he saw the picture his response was: - "I am so proud that my son is wearing that shirt and showing he is supporting me. It makes us all feel good that our Troops know we are being supported."



I hope that we will arrange a Friday night at an AFL game so everyone out there that has a Red Shirt will come along and we will get some recognition for our Deployed Troops.

**Two guys are drinking in a bar.....**

**One says, "Did you know that Lions have sex 10 to 15 times a night?"**



**"BUGGER!" says his friend.  
"And I just joined Rotary....."**

So all is good in Ballarat, our Pay Day BBQ's Monthly Dinners and Friday morning tea are all being well supported.

## BOX HILL



*L>R: Brian Tateson, John Haward, Normie Rowe, Ray McCarthy, Rod Burgess.*

Box Hill RSL's Black Tie Dinner. Backdrop is a new display depicting the 50th anniversary of Australia's 1st deployment to Sth Vietnam.

## SWAN HILL

The Swan Hill & District Vietnam Veterans recently helped out with a working bee at the Swan Hill Cemetery Monumental sections recently to fill in graves that had sunken because of the heavy rains during the last 12 months or so.

The group went out armed with shovels, rakes & wheelbarrows. Forming about a third of the whole Working Bee they went from 0900 hrs till 1200 hrs and achieved the target of filling in every sunken grave to make the site safe for anyone who may visit in the near future.



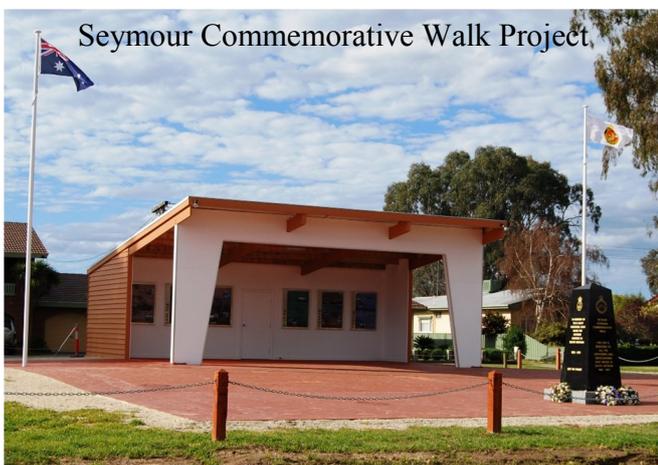
# SUB BRANCHES ~ WHAT'S ON



The RAAFVVA has again had a busy few months. Much happening with preparation for the AGM (held on February the 12<sup>th</sup>). Current committee was returned as no nominations were received. In conjunction with the Air Force Association Board of Management, Bursaries were presented to 3 candidates and an Incentive award was also presented. RAAFVVA members representing No 9 Squadron attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sinking of HMAS Perth during the Battle of Java Sea and Sunda Strait at the Shrine of Remembrance on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Due to inclement weather the service was held in the Shrine Sanctuary which added a sombre note to proceedings.



No 9 Sqn had 6 airmen crewing and maintaining the Walrus aircraft on the Perth. 3 survived the sinking, 1 died in captivity and 2 were repatriated to Australia at the end of hostilities. 2 navy survivors of the sinking laid wreaths.



Seymour Commemorative Walk Project.

## MITCHELL

The Mitchell Sub Branch is still heavily involved in the construction of your **Commemorative Walk**, and with a bit of luck we will have some really good news for you by the next FSB newsletter.

We have engaged a Project Manager to organise the various State bodies acting as speed humps to the completion of the Walk, and by the time you read this the tenders should have been let for the design and construction of the walls and landscaping. If all goes to plan the construction will be completed by December this year.

We are aiming for an early to mid-march 2013 opening of the second stage of the Walk so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for confirmation of this function and keep that time-space open for what should be a big day of Commemoration. There has been a few of the entertainers of that period of our lives contact us and we may be able to put on a concert as part of the day. That will send shivers down your back.

We have had a terrific response from vets wanting their names on the Walls, very heartening. Just remember, **if your name is on the DVA database, your name will be on the Walls.** Some are not on the AWM list or the VVAA Victoria list but are on DVA, I've had to check a few just to make sure. If in doubt check the DVA nominal roll.

The engraved pavers are still open and will remain so for all this year at least. After that and if it is feasible we may be able to still have pavers replace some of the Red Scoria path in places.

## Rubber tree plantation re-creation



## DIAMOND VALLEY ~ DVIETS

The year kicked off with the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb with a new committee being elected. The executive remained with the addition of two new committee members, the AGM was highlighted by the awarding of Life Membership to Mick Pignatelli our Treasurer for his outstanding contributions to the DViets over many years.



Our welfare fund raising through our BBQ's at Buntings is continuing and last year we raised over \$7,000 and this year is already well advanced to overtake that figure.

Our social side is going well and we have lots going on, the annual Regs versus Nashos Bowls Day at Diamond Creek on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March was attended by over 70 members and was a great day, with the Regs reclaiming the title this year in a very close contest. The Nashos are claiming they let the Regs win because they didn't want a repeat of the "sooking" that went on by the Regs when they were beaten the previous year



We had a film night at Greensborough RSL for the documentary "Long Tan to Afghanistan" the story of 6RAR preparing to go on first tour of Afghanistan. Also an outing to the "Running Rabbits Museum" at the Upwey RSL.

This year being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War we are planning for a big day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August in Greensborough, commencing with a BBQ breakfast, a march through the main street of Greensborough, a service at the Memorial in Soldiers Park Greensborough, then return to the RSL for refreshments. The following Day Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August will involve a church service in the chapel at Simpson Barracks and lunch at the Sergeants Mess.

The DViets were big supporters of "VetRide" and entered a team, "Team DViets" consisting of 11 fit and healthy souls that went the distance. The team



was sponsored jointly by The DViets and the Greensborough RSL, substantial backing from the Sub Branch members and sponsor's, including Beraldo Coffee and Spatial Info. We have raised in excess of \$11,000 in sponsorship.

## ECHUCA

Echuca District Sub-Branch has been active over the last three months with the Annual Dunny Run, the AGM and most recently, hosting the launch and start of the 2012 VetRide.

For those with a curious nose, the Annual Dunny Run involves assisting the YMCA in their annual Murray River Canoe Marathon by moving portable toilets from the start at Yarrawonga to Torrumbarry just east of Echuca. This is the biggest fundraising event for the Sub-Branch each year and involves a number of members and their wives.

This year Echuca was invited to also do the last leg to Swan Hill but for the benefit of all concerned this was handed over to the Swan Hill Sub-Branch, which, judging by their enthusiastic participation proved to be a great success.

The AGM of the Sub-Branch resulted in Ken (Casey) Jones being re-elected President and Bob Johnson Secretary/Treasurer.

The Echuca Sub-Branch was pleased to host the launch and start of VetRide 2012 with some 50 odd riders and approximately 20 support crew. The team camped on the Saturday night in the Fonterra Stadium at Echuca and were treated to one of the best spit roast meals in the state. After breakfast riders and support personnel headed for morning tea at Lockington before departing for lunch at Kamarooka provided by the Bendigo Sub-Branch members.

# SUB BRANCHES ~ WHAT'S ON

## FRANKSTON

During the 2011 year, the Frankston District Sub Branch had a significant increase in membership, we believe that this is due not only to our active social activities but to our partners becoming full members of our group. We also became affiliated with the Naval Association in Langwarrin which has given us additional camaraderie as well as a joint social venue. Our patron the Honourable Bruce Billson MP issued Certificates of Service to members. These were not only for service in South Viet Nam but also for service in Malaya and in other theatres of conflict. This was a culminating point of a long road to acceptance



for some of the veterans and it showed in their emotions.

The Sub Branch was also delighted to host our State President Mr Robert Elworthy who spoke on the controversial matter of a Reconciliation march with our former foe. This matter has now been fully resolved.

On ANZAC Day, the sub branch was proud to acknowledge the members of 3RAR tracker platoon who gathered locally to mutually support a fellow platoon member who was not doing too well. This is the spirit of why we have Associations such as ours to care for each other and the veteran community at large.

Veterans Day in August; was well attended where we had senior students from the local Secondary school as our speakers. This was very enlightening as it gave the assembly an insight as to how we; as veterans are viewed by the younger local community.

We benefitted from an initial First Aid Course with more to follow in 2012, and some members are now leading a healthier and more active lifestyle due to our one on one physio sessions and group sessions supplied by PACE physio exercise classes.

Our welfare group have discovered a member within our ranks who has MS which is not an accepted disability under the VEA. The Sub Branch has now acquired and serviced a mobile scooter and has donated this to a grateful member.



We encourage all sub branches to be aware of the special needs of some our membership who may be travelling under the radar.

Early this year FDVVAA will be commencing "Cooking for one or two" classes aimed primarily at single members living alone or members of a dependant partner relationship who wish to learn simple cooking skills

## NOBLE PARK

Congratulations to new R&SLVic State Branch Life Members Ray McCarthy and Peter Diprose who were presented their certificates at the Noble Park volunteers appreciation night last December by State Vice President Dr Robert Webster.



### WHEN VAN MEANS VAN

DVA has changed the name of the Veteran's Affairs Network and the Veteran's Service Centre, which will now be known collectively as the **Veteran's Access Network** or **VAN**. The name change is as a result of the national expansion of the DVA general telephone enquiry service, known as the Veteran's Service Centre (VSC) by bringing Queensland and NSW phone traffic into the VSC, and also bringing metropolitan and regional VAN offices into the national network.

So, the VSC and Veteran's Affairs Network will therefore have the new title of **Veteran's Access Network (VAN)**. The acronym VAN has been retained because it is well known throughout the veteran community, and the introduction of the word "Access" is a reminder that **VAN** is the portal through which clients gain access to the Department.

As with phone handling arrangements that have been in place since 2007, incoming calls may be answered by staff anywhere in Australia, however this should be invisible to the caller. Counter services for personal visits by clients will be maintained at all sites, and outreach and forum presentations will continue to be conducted in metropolitan and regional areas.

### Choice and Maintainability in Veteran's Services (CMVS) - My Account

The CVMS program will be conducted over the next four years, and will introduce a range of online services for DVA clients and service providers. These arrangements will be in addition to existing face to face and telephone services.

The new system will provide veterans with a "**MyAccount**" facility, initially offering instant access to basic account details and services for eligible clients including:

- \*viewing basic personal information;
- \*claiming travelling expenses online;
- \*viewing payments;
- \*taxi bookings;
- \*viewing card details;
- \*requesting a replacement card;
- \*viewing and requesting forms, publications and factsheets.

A pilot of the CVMS **MyAccount** has been conducted in the Hume Veteran's Centre and Heidelberg Repatriation Veteran's Centre. The staged national roll-out of **MyAccount** is scheduled for April 2012, with ongoing enhancements throughout 2012 and 2013, aimed at providing clients with increasing access to information and services.

**MyAccount** aims to ensure that DVA changes in line with client needs and will join many other Government Departments in successfully engaging clients online.

### Vaccinations for Overseas Travel

Prior to August 2010, DVA did not provide coverage for vaccinations for overseas travel. It now appears that DVA has changed its stance, and from 1 August 2010, vaccinations required for overseas travel are now covered for Gold Card holders. Gold Card holders who have incurred inoculation expenses from 1 August 2010 may be entitled to reimbursement through DVA.

At the time of publication of the newsletter, a DVA fact sheet relating to overseas travel vaccinations has yet to be published. Contact your nearest DVA VAN office or the DVA Victorian office for further information.

### Changes to Family Tax Benefit Arrangements

Changes to FBT made in January 2012, may affect families who receive an education allowance from DVA. The DVA education allowance is a fortnightly allowance paid by DVA under the Veteran's Children Education Scheme (VCES) to the eligible children of veterans; VCES education allowances are not means tested, however rates vary according to individual circumstances such as age, level of education, and living at or away from home.

Students and families can check their FTB eligibility by visiting the Centrelink website,

[www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).

They can also use the online Family Assistance Estimator to see what family assistance they may be entitled to.

Further queries should be directed to DVA on **13 32 54**, or Centrelink on **13 61 50** if there are further queries about FTB

## ETeam at TET Sandown 2012



“Dear Friend  
Thank you for all effort you have done to the Vietnamese Tet. I believe that ,all the showgoers are very impress for for the informations which you have display . Thank You All your team .All the best New year.  
Best regard Minh Le”

*Editor comment: The sentiments say it all.*

This year the Education Team were asked to set up the main display for the two-day festival, as the Vietnamese Community In Australia (Vic Chapter) wanted to focus on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Australia’s involvement in Vietnam.

They wanted the display to be in chronological order; we had only three weeks notice to format and implement the task.

We started with the AATTV and finished with to opening of our memorial in Canberra in 1992.

Team members also brought along their personal artefacts to add to the display.

This was by far the largest display we have ever attempted, with 47 display boards, 27 trestle tables and 8 large display cabinets, and for the first time we used our flag stand which displays the flags of the main countries involved in the conflict. This proved to be very popular, especially for photos.

This was a team effort, with 11 of our 15 members undertaking the setting up, manning for the 24hours over two days and dismantling the display. Thanks goes to this enthusiastic group of Vets for making the weekend such a huge success.

During the weekend we had approximately 3,000 come through the display on the Saturday and approximately 2,000 on the Sunday.

The Vietnamese community have a permanent shrine in their temple at Sunshine and also have a portable shrine that was used at Sandown, our replica Long Tan Cross was placed next to the shrine honouring the Australian’s that died in Vietnam. There was a pool located in front of the cross and people were able to buy a tea-candle to light and float to honour our veterans.

This raised \$500:00 that was donated to veterans legacy.

The Vietnamese Community have asked for a replica cross, to be placed in their Sunshine Temple.

The 3/10 Army Cadet Unit supplied the honour guard over the weekend, and really became involved in the display. This indeed added to the occasion.

The E-Team were proud to be involved in different ceremonies like the flag raising and the official cutting of the ribbon to open the display.

The Vietnamese community hold the Australian servicemen and women in very high esteem and cannot thank us, and all Vietnam Veterans, enough for being involved in Vietnam.

Phil White

Research & Development Officer

## VetRide 'TOUR OF DUTY' 2012

VVAA Victoria decided to make VetRide one of the selected events, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australia's deployment of troops to Vietnam, after the idea was floated by the West Gippsland Sub-Branch.

The ride attracted a variety of participants, including a number of Vietnam veterans and their supporters, Peter Liefman's 12 year old son Tom and some younger current serving veterans from the Australian Defence Cycling Club.

The planning required to support such a project presented challenges: the choice of a route, the selection of suitable roads, the movement of 75 people (50 riders and 25 support staff), 60 bicycles, over 400 kilometres, safety in the midst of all sorts of moving vehicles, approvals from councils, and police, VIP invitations, PR, to mention just a few.

The riders were well looked after by the various dedicated crews and the enthusiastic and welcoming members of each of the VVAA sub-branches. The menu included a spit roast, cooked breakfasts and lots of fresh fruit and drinks, often served in remote locations by many cheerful sub-branch volunteers. This was an outstanding aspect of the ride and a major contributor to the enjoyment of the event overall.

We were blessed with perfect cycling weather over all of the four days. The riders were able to experience a variety of roads, differing landscapes, scenery, terrains and some more challenging hills. A great camaraderie developed within the peloton, which culminated in a last night of fun and frivolity held at a Scout camp near Ballarat.

Formalities during the ride were kept to the necessary minimum and well controlled, through the contribution of a professional MC, who also similarly managed all of the media aspects of the ride.

If the genesis for the ride was the intended mix of the enjoyment of cycling and veterans, the aims developed for the event were a focus upon veteran's health and fitness, both directly for the riders and indirectly by the example set and the presentation of veterans in

the setting of the wider community. Those riding were also given an identifiable reason to ride, with the National Vietnam Veterans Museum made the beneficiary of the fundraising being undertaken by each rider.

Excellent support was provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, their VAN personnel and by the Victorian Veterans Council. From all accounts, VetRide has been both a ground breaking and worthwhile venture for the VVAA and many requests have been made for inclusion, if we ride again .....

*Ooooh, Pancho! Ooooh, Cisco! Let's ride!*



Peter Liefman, VetRide Chair, with Riders Roger King (centre) and John Heizer (right) from Bendigo VAN Office enjoy a brief stop at Castlemaine.

### DVA BENDIGO VAN OFFICE

VetRide was delighted to receive a call from the DVA Bendigo VAN Office with an offer to sponsor one of the volunteers at their centre; Roger King who is a keen mountain bike rider and a Vietnam veteran. The VAN sponsorship was in recognition of both Roger's work as a volunteer and in support of the VetRide in general. Another rider from Van Bendigo, John Heizer, joined Roger in the Ride. Given that VetRide is firmly focussed on veteran health and wellbeing the participation of DVA/VAM members is much appreciated and relevant to what the Ride is all about.

## HUEY A2-110 ON ITS WAY TO THE MUSEUM



A Bell Iroquois UH-1H (“Huey”) helicopter, designation A2-110, will be transported to the museum from Queensland by Army transport.

The Vietnam War has often been referred to as a helicopter war, and one of the most easily recognisable battle field sounds was that of the Iroquois “Huey” helicopter. The Iroquois helicopter, flown by pilots of the RAAF 9 Squadron, was the battle field workhorse; in its various forms, the helicopter was used to transport troops and supplies, provide battlefield gunship support and “Dust Off” battlefield medical emergency evacuation.

The helicopter being delivered to the museum saw operational service in Vietnam from 1969 on-



wards as a “Bushranger” gunship, and was severely damaged when it crash landed.

At one point, the helicopter was grounded for a period of time while ground crew dismantled part of the fuselage in the hunt for a snake that had taken up residence in the aircraft. A number of Victorian based RAAF Vietnam Veterans worked on the aircraft, including David Streatfeild (9 SQN RAAF 69-70, 71), a member of the DViets, who works in the Defence Department. David was appointed as our representative to undertake negotiations with Defence to obtain a “Huey”, and he has been instrumental in acquiring A2-110 for the museum, negotiating a no-charge demilitarization of the helicopter and arranging transport.



### The Best Vietnam War Search List Ever Compiled?

Have you ever spent hours surfing the Net for Vietnam related info?

Check out this site, it’s amazing in terms of the enormous amount of information that has been amassed.

Data, music, whatever you are looking for is likely to be found here.

A great resource for all things Vietnam War, passed on by Ray Payne.

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

## PENSIONS

### COALITION COMMITTED TO MILITARY SUPERANNUATION REFORM

The Coalition has recommitted itself to the fair indexation of Defence Force Retirement Benefit (DFRB) and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit (DFRDB) military superannuation pensions.

We will keep faith with those who have served and protected Australia.

The Coalition's signed pledge will keep faith with the 57,000 recipients of military superannuation pensions by providing fair indexation.

Under a Coalition government, DFRB and DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over will have their superannuation pensions indexed in the same way as aged and service pensions.

This will ensure that 57,000 superannuants, and their families, will have access to fair, just and equitable indexation of their superannuation entitlements.

Our plan is fully costed and fully funded.

Prior to the 2007 election, Labour led people to believe that they would provide a fairer deal for ex-servicemen and women. Unfortunately, the Rudd-Gillard Government never delivered.

After the 2010 election, the Coalition introduced legislation into the parliament to deliver fair indexation to ex-servicemen and women and their families. Labour and the Greens used their combined numbers in the Senate to defeat the Coalition's legislation.

Unlike Labour, we will honour our word.

Our veterans and their families deserve fair indexation. A Coalition government will deliver it.

5 March 2012

*Remember: You don't stop laughing  
because you grow old,*

*You grow old because you stop  
laughing.*

## ONLINE MEDICAL MONITORING FROM HOME

**RACGP (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners) welcomes trial to monitor veterans' chronic conditions online**

**29 November 2011**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has welcomed an [announcement](#) made by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, and Minister for Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, supporting the use of in-home telemonitoring technology, combined with high-speed broadband to support veterans who are chronically ill.

Pending the development of a comprehensive care plan by a GP, nurse coordinator and veteran participating in the trial, the nurse coordinator will monitor vital signs including blood pressure, pulse and blood glucose levels, liaising with the GP where vital signs are outside the normal range and intervention is necessary.

"This trial has the potential to bring new resources and tools to general practice to help keep our veterans out of hospital and to improve their quality of life," .

"The RACGP welcomes the early consultation and collaboration in relation to this trial and supports the central role of general practice in the Department of Veterans' Affairs – Coordinated Veterans' Care Program."

The RACGP acknowledged the overseas experience showing the significant health benefits telemonitoring can have for people with chronic illness and supports the testing of this experience in an Australian context through this trial.

"The increasing uptake of video consultations – in circumstances where the GP deems patient safety is uncompromised – is a step towards enhancing primary care as we know it today.

"Patients living in rural and remote communities, elderly citizens and other members of the community who find it difficult to regularly visit their GP face-to-face, are increasingly finding it possible to receive high-quality healthcare from the comfort of their own home – thanks to initiatives such as the one announced today," Professor Jackson concluded.

The RACGP will continue to advocate for further implementation of telehealth supporting high quality primary healthcare delivery.

# Long Tan Trek Tour October 2012



**National Network Travel & Cruise**  
 45 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 3000. Ph: (03) 9654 4000 Fax: (03) 9654 7333  
 ABN 76 004 937 099 Licence 30280 Web: [www.nntravel.com.au](http://www.nntravel.com.au) Email: [judi@nntravel.com.au](mailto:judi@nntravel.com.au)

The Battlefield - 1966



## announces the **DECISIVE BATTLEFIELDS 2012 FUNDRAISING\* LONG TAN TREK TOUR**

Hosted and guided by  
**Dave Sabben MG**

Part of the 2011 Trek Tour



Walk the Long Tan battlefield, which still looks much the same as it did in 1966, with the former 12 Platoon commander at the Battle of Long Tan.

**Wed. 10 October 2012 - 7 days / 6 nights**

Saigon, Balmoral, Coral, Dong Nai, Vung Tau, 1ALSG area, Nui Dat, Horseshoe, minefield, Frankie's mine incident, the Long Hai's, and featuring a 4-hour guided walk across the Long Tan battlefield where Dave will describe "in real time" all the significant events of the battle, on the locations where they actually happened. End with a visit to Cu Chi.

**\$ 2995**

per person, twin share. See the web-site below for details. \*\* Includes international air travel ex Mel, Syd or Bris (fares from other cities on application).

**This tour ends on Tuesday 16 October at Saigon airport...**

...where a second 12 day / 11 night Tour starts:

## **THE DECISIVE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE VIET NAM WARS**

**\$ 2429**

per person, twin share. Need to add international air travel if not following on from the Long Tan Trek Tour. \*\*

**Dave Sabben will host a further tour of NINE more of the decisive battlefields of the three Indo-China Wars.**

Between Saigon and Hanoi, we'll see **Hoi An, Da Nang** (Op Starlight, 1965), Marble Mt (VC hospital), China Beach (R&R Centre), **Red Beach II** (1965 landings), Hai Van Pass, **Hue** (Tet '68) - see where the heaviest fighting took place both south & north of the Perfume River. Then to **Quang Tri** (Easter Offensive '72), **Dong Ha** (Tet '72), the **DMZ** ('66-'72), **Khe Sanh** ('68), several camps & FSBs, the **Vinh Moc** tunnels, **Hamburger Hill** ('69), the **A Shau Valley** ('69) and other sites. Then to **Hanoi** to visit sites of military significance including the **Army Museum** which has the tank that broke down the Palace gates in **Saigon** in 1975, the "**Hanoi Hilton**" prison, and other sites. We'll spend a full day at the **Dien Bien Phu** battlefield. Plus, we'll discuss **TWO** other battlefields: **Lam Son** (in Laos, '72) and **Dich Van**. The Decisive Battlefields Tour will end with a 2-night R&R at **Ha Long Bay**. Departs Hanoi 27 Oct - arrives back in Australia on **Sunday 28 October 2012**.

Numbers for both tours are limited. \*\* Single supplements upon application. Conditions apply.

(A preview of these Tours may be seen by viewing [www.longtantrek.com](http://www.longtantrek.com) and selecting "the 2011 Long Tan Trek Tour Report" or by downloading the full 2012 itinerary from "the 2012 Long Tan Trek Tour Details")

VISIT THE NATIONAL NETWORK TRAVEL WEBSITE

[www.nntravel.com.au](http://www.nntravel.com.au) OR PHONE

JUDI ON (03) 9654 4000 FOR DETAILS AND BOOKINGS



AUSTRALIA VIETNAM  
 VOLUNTEERS  
 RESOURCE GROUP

This Tour makes a donation to the AVVRG - an Australian non-government organisation (NGO), which is a community of volunteers seeking to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged citizens of Vietnam. The AVVRG is registered and licensed to operate and provide humanitarian aid in Vietnam, and is the official custodian of the Long Tan Cross.

# No Diamond Jubilee Medal for Australia



In a letter from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Assistant Secretary Rush advised that:

*"The Prime Minister has not recommended to the Queen the establishment of a Diamond Jubilee medal in the Australian honours system.....no Australian medal celebrating The Queen's anniversaries has been issued since the establishment of the Australian honours system in 1975."*

Footnote:

Canada has minted 60,000 Jubilee Medals to be presented to selected citizens and permanent residents

Britain has struck a Jubilee medal that will be awarded to members of the Defence Force who have completed 5 years service and still serving as at February 2012, and to veteran recipients of the Victoria Cross (imagine the carry on by those who miss out!).

*The only way to pull off a Sunday afternoon 'quickie' with their 8-year old son in the apartment was to send him out on the balcony with a Mars Bar and tell him to report on all the street activities.*

*He began his commentary as his parents put their plan into operation:*

*'There's a car being towed from the car park,' he shouted.*

*'An ambulance just drove by!'*

*'Looks like the Andersons have company,' he called out.*

*'Matt's riding a new bike!'*

*'Looks as if the Sanders are moving!'*

*'Jason is on his skate board!'*

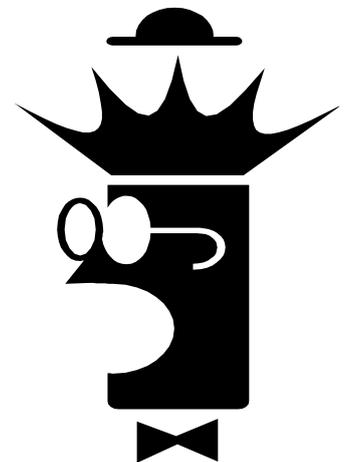
*After a few moments he announced, 'The Coopers are having sex!!'*

*Startled, his mum and dad shot up in bed!*

*Dad cautiously called out,*

*'How do you know they're having sex?'*

*'Jimmy Cooper is standing on his balcony with a Mars Bar'.*



***Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living***

### The VIP ELITE Package



### When was the last time you got a free upgrade?

**Most DVA card holders will be aware that as part of the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program, you are eligible to receive entry-level hearing aids at no cost<sup>1</sup>.**

We decided entry level isn't good enough for our Veterans. National Hearing Care has put together a comprehensive package that now includes a free-top up or upgrade to more advanced digital devices. Previously these devices would have required you to pay an upgrade fee.

**Only at National Hearing Care do you get a FREE upgrade. Talk to us today about your eligibility.**

### Package Summary:

- FREE TOP UP or upgrade of hearing devices<sup>1</sup>
- FREE ongoing hearing services<sup>1</sup>
- FREE batteries<sup>1</sup>
- FREE hearing device maintenance<sup>1</sup>
- VIP ELITE Telephone Line

<sup>1</sup> Conditions apply to clients under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Voucher System. This offer is only available to holders of Gold Repatriation Health Cards and White Repatriation Health Cards (for conditions that include hearing loss). This offer includes specific top up devices. These will be discussed with you during your appointment.

**FREECALL 1800 456 120**

*national*  *hearingcare*

# JET FUEL EXPOSURE SYNDROME

## WHAT IS THE JET FUEL EXPOSURE SYNDROME (JFES) STUDY?

In 2004, the Chief of Air Force commissioned Professor Frank Bowling to study the possible effects on the mitochondria (energy producing or “powerhouse” parts of cells) in personnel who were exposed to the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Programs. These early exploratory studies on the mitochondria of several case studies have described evidence of mitochondrial damage that may be related to jet fuel and solvent exposure.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade recently undertook an Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal/Reseal workers and their families in 2009. The Inquiry made 18 recommendations, including one which stated that Defence should fund further research into the mitochondrial changes identified in Professor Bowling’s previous research.

Launched by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel on 16 December 2010, Defence is funding the Jet Fuel Exposure Syndrome Study (JFES Study) which will be undertaken by Professor Frank Bowling and colleagues at the Mater Medical Research Institute.

The data gained from this study may help to identify genetic markers for susceptibility to adverse effects from fuels/solvents. It may also help to define common cellular injuries in fuel/solvent workers and potentially provide guidance on what causes these injuries. This will contribute to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of our aircraft workers into the future by preventing injury and illness and ensuring that we do not place already susceptible personnel at higher risk.

## WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

The researchers are currently looking for volunteers from the following groups:

- Personnel (military and civilian) who participat-

ed in one of the four formal F-111 Deseal/Reseal Programs;

- Current or previous members of the RAAF who were NOT involved in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal projects and have NOT had direct exposure to jet fuel; and
- First degree relatives (parent, sibling, child) of someone who participated in one of the F-111 Deseal/Reseal programs.

## WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Due to the need to avoid bias in the results, not everyone who volunteers will be able to take part in the Study. Participants will be randomly selected (probably computer generated) for the relevant group.

If selected, participants will be required to attend a local pathology clinic to provide a 30ml blood sample. Defence will reimburse travel costs to and from this appointment. (You will be provided with the appropriate referral form and Study paperwork before this appointment).

If you participated in the Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP) we will ask you for permission to access the information and data currently stored in the Database so that we can establish exposure indices and health history.

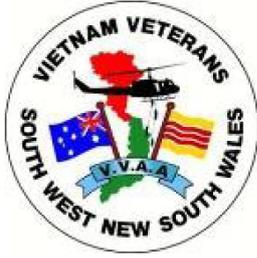
With your consent, we may also need to access your ADF medical, psychological and fitness testing results and ADF Service Records in order to establish a comprehensive medical and service history.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you fit into one of the proposed study groups and you want to register as a volunteer contact 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) and provide details of your exposure and how we can contact you.

# Murraguldrrie Veterans Retreat

## Vietnam Veterans' South West NSW and Wagga Inc



### Murraguldrrie Veterans Retreat

Email: [vvswsouthwestnsw@gmail.com](mailto:vvswsouthwestnsw@gmail.com)

Contacts Les White - Retreat Manager

02 69 226097 or 0428226097

Gordon Irvin - Visitor Coordinator

0269712488 or 0428381292

Bob May – Visitor contact

0269312634 or 0417490127



The retreat is located in the Murraguldrrie State Forest area. The entry is sign posted and is 7 km east of the Hume Highway on the Wagga – Tumberumba Road and is only 100meters off the main road.

There is a tree grove adjacent to the shelter shed which provides shade for campers as well as groups of scattered pine where caravans can park around. We have also just cleared and levelled a large area that would suite the larger rigs.

The shelter shed contains a kitchen area with tables, chairs and a bench and sink area.

The shelter shed and the toilet block both have lights; but to operate these you will need to plug a generator into the power socket which is located on the west side of the storage container (1KVA generator for lights).

The toilets and showers have a hot water 'Donkey' system operating on twigs and small pieces of wood which is readily available on site as it only takes about 15 minutes with a small fire to heat it up enough for showers.

Our water supply is from rain water tank so please use it sparingly.

We have provided Fire rings for cooking and a wood heater in the shelter shed for the cooler months; some wood is available again please consider the vets that have to cut and transport the wood.

The retreat is available to veterans and their families and offers good bush camping with basic facilities for both caravans and tents. You can get TV reception and mobile service in most of the area.

We operate on "bring it in – take it out" policy so please clean up the kitchen area and take any rubbish with you as we do not have any garbage facilities.

We also ask for a donation; all of which goes to help to run this retreat; there is a donation box and envelopes on site for you convenience.

**Please enjoy the peace and tranquillity offered by our retreat and only leave you foot prints behind.**



**2011 Christmas Lunch at the Murraguldrrie Veterans' Retreat**

# SWAC - Story Writing & Arts Competition

## The Veteran Community



Patron:

Maj Gen David J McLachlan AO  
( 1300 132 515 )

The 2011 completion entries have been judged and again have given the Judges something to think about with interest and standards high; a credit to all who participated.

Winners for 2011 were:

**Photography War/Armed Services Award sponsored by VVAA (Vic)**

***“Downtown Saigon” by Mr Roger King.***

**“The Life of a Nasho” sponsored by the National Servicemens Assoc. of Victoria**

***“TET- Another 24 Hours” by Mr Robert Batten.***

**SWAC Special Award sponsored by VVAA (Vic)**

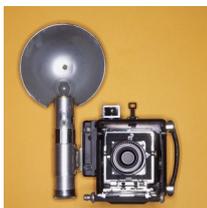
***“The Two Seeds” by Mr Rex Radcliffe of Northcote. Comments by one of the Judges was “It is a story of personal triumph, against a backdrop of a difficult family life, and of a positive National Service Experience”.***

All Winners were presented with their Awards at a Presentation function at the RGH Heidelberg on 25th November 2011.

Again many thanks to all who participated and well done for your efforts. We look forward to continuing in 2012.

Amat (Aff) Binnoore

SWAC Steering Committee



## YOU LAUGH IN VIETNAM?

The Story Writing A Arts Competition (SWAC) is one of the most popular events for the Victorian Ex Service Community and attracts hundreds of entries from all over the State. This year it celebrates its 50th year of its inception and it also happens to be the 50th Anniversary of the deployment of the first Australian Troops to South Vietnam.

To mark this double Anniversary, VVAA (Vic) with the support of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Vietnam Veterans National Museum have introduced a "one off" Special Photographic Award called **“Pictorial Memories of the Lighter Side of Your Service in Vietnam”**

The VVAA Victorian State Branch will be the main Sponsor of the Special Award.

Nearly every Vietnam Veteran who served in South Vietnam has some "Humorous Photos" of situations that they encountered. We would like you to enter them into this Special Award. The photos are to be no larger than A4 size and should be accompanied by a short description of the photo, being no more than 100 words.

Winners and selected entries may be used as part of a special Anniversary Display at the Vietnam Veterans National Museum at Phillip Island ).

Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runners up in this Special 'one off' Award. Entries close on the 31th July 2012.

Winners of most entries will be on Public Display at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital during the first week of October. The winner and runner-up will receive their prizes in November at the SWAC Award Ceremony.

For Entry Forms call the SWAC Coordinator on 9496 2290, Country Applicants 1800 134 864.

### **CONTACT:**

Amat (Aff) Binnoore

SWAC Coordinator

VVAA (Vic) Rep SWAC

P. O. Box 5444

Heidelberg West, Vic, 3081

Mob: 0409 365 210

Email: [swac@austin.ora.au](mailto:swac@austin.ora.au)

Email: [Binnoore@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Binnoore@bigpond.net.au)

## RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (ROTA) DATABASE

The Rats of Tobruk are firmly placed in Australia's military history and their history is preserved in many ways, in particular a detailed Membership Database and Web Site which has been established over the past 2 years by ROTA member Owen Carlton.

The project can be viewed at:

<http://ratsoftobrukvictoria.org.au>

<http://facebook.com/Nasho23>

The Site contains the Basic Records of all Victorian ROTA Service Members, **Army, Navy & Air Force**, who served our Nation during the **Siege of Tobruk**, in 1941.

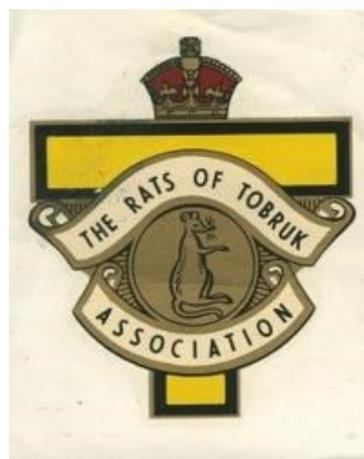
As Vietnam Veterans there will no doubt be those who have links to the Tobruk Campaign and may have an interest in the Rats and who may like to view the Basic Records of these Famous Men. It is also an opportunity to provide updates for the Database Records.

There were many **UK, Indian, Polish** and **Czech**

**Units** who served alongside our **Aussie Rats of Tobruk** during the **Siege of Tobruk**, some of whom are also listed in the Rats of Tobruk Membership Database for Victoria and whose Records appear on this Web Site.

There are only about 30 who are still alive in Victoria out of approx 4,400 listed on the Database.

This Site may be of assistance for Family History Research.



CENTRE  
STATE  
PRINTING

52 Loch Street, Maryborough Victoria 3465

Phone: 03 5460 4222 Fax: 03 5461 1424

*Specialising in Full Colour Commercial Printing*

# VVCS GROUP PROGRAMS

## Anger Management

The aim of this program is to improve the quality of life of participants by assisting them to take control of their anger and to learn positive stress management and coping strategies. Topics covered in the program include:

- ★ understanding anger and aggression
  - ★ understanding, monitoring and learning strategies to reduce physiological arousal
  - ★ identifying triggers and learning when to use appropriate strategies
- the impact of aggressive behaviours on quality of life, including relationships#

## Relationships

Loving relationships can at times be taken for granted leaving a feeling of something missing. This program is designed for emotionally committed couples who want that something back. The program aims to improve the quality of relationships through development of skills to strengthen emotional ties; develop greater mutual ap-

## Outreach Heart Health

Veterans and peacekeepers living in rural, remote and outer metropolitan areas can access the Heart health Program via a correspondence version. It has similar support to the group program. Participants re supported by their general practitioner and a coach who guide participants

## Lifestyle Management

This residential course is designed for veterans and their partners. The program covers strategies to improve your lifestyle and to assist you to manage stress. It may include relaxation and stress management, practical advice on health, strategies to identify and manage anger, program solving and communication skills. Take time out and spend some quality time together. A great opportunity to expand support and friendship networks.

Recommended for: Veterans, peacekeepers, eligible current serving ADF members and their partners

## Depression and Anxiety

**DEPRESSION:** This program is available for veterans and their partners who have been diagnosed with depression and experience some anxiety symptoms. Topics include managing negative thinking, developing self-awareness, lowering physiological arousal and stress and maintaining motivation.

**ANXIETY:** Stress is a normal part of life but some people experience excessive worry, irritability, apprehension, restlessness, feel on edge or find that it impacts on their ability to get to sleep. This program will explore various relaxation methods and helps to develop more effective coping strategies.

NOTE: These programs may be combined into one at some locations.

## Changing the Mix

The *Changing the Mix - Alcohol Correspondence Program* is a self paced program that will give you the skills to change your drinking patterns from the comfort and privacy of your own home, anywhere in Australia.

The program is delivered via correspondence with the modules sent to participants. Participants complete the modules, monitor their drinking and assess their progress with the support of the CTM team.

To find out more information or to register for this health program call the CIM team on 1800 1808 68.

*Recommended For: All Australian veterans, peacekeepers, their part-*

## Programs for Partners and Sons & Daughters

WCS offers programs designed specifically for veterans' partners and sons and daughters.

Partners' programs include:

- ★ Partners' Self-Care Workshops including sessions on understanding PTSD, anger management, self care strategies, self esteem
- ★ Caring for the carer

Partners of veterans residential program (only at selected centres) #Sons & daughters of Vietnam veterans programs include:

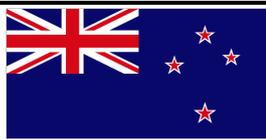
- ★ Workshops on topics including stress and anger management, self esteem, communication & conflict resolution

- ★ Other Programmes include: #HEART HEALTH  
Increase your physical health & wellbeing
- ★ SLEEP & RELAXATION  
Tips on how to better your sleep patterns & improve relaxation  
*STEPPING OUT*  
Two day programme to help improve your transition from ADF to civilian life.#

# 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.



*“Together Then  
.....  
Together Again”*



**The 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalions Vietnam**  
**Deployments 1967-68 and 1970-71**  
**Reunion Townsville 25-29 July 2012**

<b>Wednesday 25 July</b>	<b>Sub-Unit Reunions:</b>
<b>Thursday 26 July</b>	<b>Welcome and Meet and Greet Function:</b>
<b>Friday 27 July</b>	<b>2 RAR Lavarack Barracks:</b>
<b>Saturday 28 July</b>	<b>Reunion Dinner/Dance:</b>
<b>Sunday 29 July</b>	<b>Townsville City March and Commemorative Service (morning) on The Strand and ANZAC Memorial Park</b>

## Contact and Registration Details

2 RAR website:

<http://www.2rar-association.com.au/index.html>

Secretary 2 RAR Association: Rick Hollingdrak

H: 07 3285 4197 Mob: 0435 127 875

Em: [2rarsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:2rarsecretary@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE 9<sup>th</sup> BATTALION 2012 REUNION

9<sup>th</sup> Nov-12th Nov

**Active service Republic of South Vietnam  
Nov 1968 to Dec 1969:**

**45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of raising of the battalion.**

Meet & Greet Darling Harbour.

Company Reunions Friday night

Saturday Morning Factory outlet Bus trip for the missus to get the bargains.

Saturday Night Battalion Dinner Darling Harbour.

Sunday Commemorative service Sydney War Memorial and “Pool of Reflection” Hyde Park then free buses to Victoria Barracks and lunch, drinks and tours of the barracks & museum.

Monday Harbour Cruise with Luncheon especially for all the interstaters.

Look at 9 RAR website for details or contact National Reunion Coordinator Trevor Murdoch

PO BOX 253 Narrabeen NSW 2101

Email [tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au](mailto:tmurdoch@customequitygroup.com.au)

**BALLARAT**

President Bill Dobell  
 Secretary Yvonne Thomas  
 PO Box 180 SEBASTOPOL VIC 3356  
 secretary@ballarat.vvaavic.org.au

5336 1538 0417 616 759  
 5335 8360

**MELTON & DISTRICT**

President Gary Paterson  
 Secretary Jim Fitzgerald  
 PO Box 981 MELTON 3337  
 secretary@melton.vvaavic.org.au

9747 6496 0438 313 344  
 0415 679 677

**BENDIGO**

President Neil Arnott  
 Secretary Maurie Betts  
 PO Box 89 BENDIGO 3552  
 secretary@bendigo.vvaavic.org.au

5442 4485 0417 534 386  
 5448 4470 0400 979 042

**MITCHELL**

President Ross Stewart  
 Secretary Ross Gregson  
 PO Box 812 SEYMOUR 3660  
 secretary@mitchell.vvaavic.org.au

5792 2666 0407 646 988  
 5792 3227 0417 973 573

**BOX HILL**

President John Haward  
 Secretary Rod Burgess  
 PO Box 280 DINGLEY VILLAGE VIC 3172  
 secretary@boxhill.vvaavic.org.au

9803 3301 0439 378 989

**MORNINGTON PENINSULA**

President Kevin Mawdsley  
 Secretary Bob Francis  
 PO Box 4012 ROSEBUD  
 secretary@morningtonpeninsula.vvaavic.org.au

5982 0817 0429 633 081  
 5981 1285 0408 808 041

**CASTLEMAINE**

President Ernie Plumridge  
 Secretary Alan Lane  
 11A Ray Street CASTLEMAINE 3450  
 secretary@castlemaine.vvaavic.org.au

5472 4651  
 5472 3115

**MURRAY BORDER**

President Gary Treeve  
 Secretary Refer President  
 PO Box 8084 WONDOGA 3690  
 secretary@murrayborder.vvaavic.org.au

(02) 6059 2765 0407 480 201

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS**

President Tony Benham  
 Secretary Trish Power  
 secretary@centralhighlands.vvaavic.org.au

5427 4954 0410 084 066  
 5428 3243 0409 333 235

**MUSEUM**

President Gary Parker  
 Secretary Ian Diss  
 PO Box 318 SAN REMO 3925  
 secretary@museum.vvaavic.org.au

5956 6400 0429 105 330  
 5956 6400 Fax 5956 6406

**DIAMOND VALLEY**

President Peter Blackman  
 Secretary Martin Craze  
 PO Box 542 GREENSBOROUGH 3088  
 secretary@diamondvalleyanddistrict.vvaavic.org.au

9459 5117 0400 363 143  
 9459 3235 0488 024 280

**NOBLE PARK**

President Ray McCarthy  
 Secretary John Pilkington  
 PO Box 295 NOBLE PARK 3174  
 secretary@noblepark.vvaavic.org.au

9798 5379 0418 552 804  
 9737 9393 0413 163 749

**ECHUCA**

President Ken Jones  
 Secretary Bob Johnson  
 PO Box 743 MOAMA NSW 2731  
 secretary@echuca.vvaavic.org.au

5480 0139 0408 384 670  
 5483 7411 0409 971 726

**NORTH-WEST**

President Tom Clayton  
 Secretary Basil Tiligadis  
 PO Box 211 GLENROY 3046  
 secretary@northwest.vvaavic.org.au

9306 7474 0438 306 709  
 9354 5299 0419 890 340

**FRANKSTON**

President Ray Weston  
 Secretary Cheryl Myers  
 PO Box 1429 FRANKSTON 3199  
 secretary@frankston.vvaavic.org.au

9772 5351  
 9776 6600

**OUTER EASTERN**

President Gerry Turner  
 Secretary Judy McQuillan  
 PO Box 763 BORONIA 3155  
 secretary@outereasternmelbourne.vvaavic.org.au

9800 1118 0425 862 858  
 9799 7739 0400 822 644

**GEELONG & DISTRICTS**

President Ken Baker  
 Secretary Bruce Ellis  
 PO Box 484 GEELONG 3220  
 secretary@geelong.vvaavic.org.au

5241 1813 0409 586 669  
 5267 3180 0414 683 190

**RAAF**

President Lee Scully  
 Secretary Rick Holmes  
 PO Box 462 ASCOT VALE 3032  
 secretary@raaf.vvaavic.org.au

9827 8313 0419 687 438  
 9317 7304

**GIPPSLAND**

President Lindsay Morton  
 Secretary Mick Hawryluk  
 PO Box 902 SALE 3850  
 secretary@gippsland.vvaavic.org.au

5144 6526  
 5144 3542

**SWAN HILL**

President Harold Heslop JP  
 Secretary Ron Martin  
 PO Box 1650, SWAN HILL 3585  
 secretary@swanhill.vvaavic.org.au

5033 1896 0448 778 010  
 5033 1909 5033 1117

**GOULBURN VALLEY**

President Bill Lee  
 Secretary Jeff Stanyer  
 139 Fuzzards Road, NUMURKAH VIC 3636  
 secretary@goulburnvalley.vvaavic.org.au

5873 5391 0419 135 909  
 5862 3829

**WARRNAMBOOL**

President Don Roberts  
 Secretary Refer President  
 C/- 9 James St PORT FAIRY 3284  
 secretary@warrnambool.vvaavic.org.au

5568 1837 0467 556 818

**MARYBOROUGH**

President Lee Turton  
 Secretary Bn Holscher  
 PO Box 274 MARYBOROUGH 3465  
 secretary@maryborough.vvaavic.org.au

5461 1962 0422 825 381  
 5460 5033 0410 627 965

**WEST GIPPSLAND**

President Gary Elliott  
 Secretary Mike Latimer  
 PO Box 556 DROUIN 3818  
 secretary@westgippsland.vvaavic.org.au

5940 2216 0409 594 114  
 5628 7692 0418 386 871

**MELBOURNE WEST**

President Vic Pilch  
 Secretary Ray Matthew  
 PO Box 1430  
 WERRIBEE PLAZA VIC 3030  
 secretary@melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au

9749 5281 0410 350 889  
 9749 2835 0400 107 130

**WIMMERA**

President Rex Dumesny  
 Secretary Tony Welbourn  
 PO Box 345, HORSHAM VIC 3400  
 secretary@wimmera.vvaavic.org.au

5384 2230 0428 324 953  
 5381 2438 0418 378 098

**INTERNATIONAL/ HEADQUARTERS**

Administrator: State Secretary  
 Direct all enquiries through State Secretary  
 Refer contact details inside front cover.

State Directory current as at 20 Feb 2012

*Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living*



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia  
(Victorian Branch)

### VetRide 'TOUR OF DUTY' 2012



Rest stop along the way.



ADF Riders



Team Outer Eastern Sub Branch