



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.

AUTUMN 2016 EDITION



Graveside Vigil for the 98



VetRide arrives in Canberra

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ *President's Report.*
- ◆ *Secretary's Report.*
- ◆ *Vale Brig Rolfe AO (Rtd)*
- ◆ *Sub Branch activities.*
- ◆ *Graveside Vigil*
- ◆ *VetRide 2016*
- ◆ *ANZAC Day 2016*
- ◆ *Museum news.*
- ◆ *Medical/Health/Wellbeing issues.*
- ◆ *Veteran comes home.*
- ◆ *2016 Commemorative Events Program.*



Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living

ESB-VIC





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Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living



Welcome to this edition of *FSB Vic*, I trust that you find it interesting. I want to especially extend a warm welcome our new Branch members and our former members who have re-joined us; it's great to have you with us during this significant year for Vietnam veterans. Lindsay and Sue McQueen are to be congratulated for conducting "Operation Reconnect" which has resulted in a significant increase in our membership, but more importantly, making contact again with veterans who have slipped off the radar. I encourage all sub-branches to renew their efforts to attract new members and to re-connect with lost members.

Our commemorative program is off to a great start and information on progress to date can be found in this newsletter. I do want to mention, however, that the commemorative quilt continues to receive rave reviews wherever it is displayed and requests to display it continue to be received. Also, the gravesite commemorations exceeded my most optimistic hopes: it was a magnificent, meaningful and dignified event that drew large numbers and meant so much to many, particularly the next of kin. I am convinced that only Victoria could have successfully done something on this scale and I am deeply indebted to all of the Branch members, RSL Sub Branches and community organisations who wholeheartedly involved themselves in the com-

memorations and honoured our fallen in the manner they deserved. The gravesite commemorations received significant media coverage across the state and the branch has received a large number of congratulatory messages, many from within the ex-service community.

I was very proud to stand on the steps of Old Parliament House in Canberra and witness the finish of the "Service and Sacrifice Tour" Vetrade 2016 commemorative bike ride. How fitting to finish the ride outside the building in which the decisions to commit us to the Vietnam conflict and to introduce conscription were made. All of the organizers, support staff and riders are to be congratulated on taking our commemorations "on the road"; a huge logistic effort, and a fitting tribute not just to Vietnam veterans but to all who have served our nation. Sadly, meaningful acknowledgement and support for the ride from our Federal Government was embarrassingly absent and completely overshadowed by the support from our state government, RSL Victoria sub-branches and other significant sponsorships.

John Methven OAM, our Museum CEO, has also been busy and has already spent the initial sum allocated to the museum from the Victorian Government funding for 2016. John reports that the museum has a new roof, a sealed carpark, new solar power generation and other works are in the pipeline which will be funded in coming months.

Vice President Ken Baker and the Commemorations Committee continue to develop outstanding commemorative activities that I am sure will delight you. He will provide updates as plans are confirmed.

I was delighted that our Annual General Meeting and State Council Meeting were held in Ballarat at the 5/6 RVR barracks. It has been some time since the council visited Ballarat and we were privileged to meet in the army barracks and enjoy the hospitality there. I am also pleased to report that the Ballarat Sub-Branch is

humming along nicely again and that membership is on the increase there. I wrote to the Commanding Officer 5/6 RVR on your behalf to thank him for allowing us access to his barracks.

National Congress in May will again be held in Canberra. A decision has been taken to close the national merchandising activity and dispose of the stock at bargain prices to members. A summary for the activities, along with minutes from the meetings, will be provided to Sub-Branches.

Changes to the delivery of (formerly TIP) training was discussed at length at the first Regional Veterans Center Project meeting for the year and information on the changes has been circulated. Both the RVCP President and Minutes Secretary have stood down from the committee as has our state advocate. The RVCP still has a very important role in continuing to deliver a range of services to our members and the wider veteran community during the period that the new arrangements are bedded down and beyond, adapting as it will to changing circumstances. I have the highest regard for all of the wonderful members who continue to provide first class support to ALL veterans through the RVCP.

I attended the VVCS Victoria Regional Consultative Forum meeting recently and one of the issues was the DVA review of the operation of the VAN and VVCS offices in Wodonga. On the basis of the decisions by DVA to close other VAN offices across the state and move the services into Department of Human Services Offices, I am of the opinion that the Wodonga VAN office faces a similar fate. At the time of writing this report no information regarding the VVCS office has been received. I understand that VVCS office lease matters are involved also.

Members will recall that we were successful in gaining a federal grant to have *Echoes of Conflict* recorded. The musical piece composed by Vietnam veteran Lachlan Wilson is dedicated to Vietnam veterans, and part of the piece was played

at the dedication of the National Vietnam War Memorial in Canberra. *Echoes of Conflict* will be played in full in public for the first time at the Civic Reception in July against a backdrop of scenes, photos and film footage from the Vietnam War era.

On a personal note, I was honoured to be part of the recent Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize tour of Greece with 20 secondary school students. With problems in Belgium, France and Turkey, the tour was changed to Greece, an often forgotten part of Australia's war history in both world wars. Apart from spending time with such great young ambassadors for our country, I also had the opportunity to walk where my father fought in the ill-fated Greek campaign and to visit the Crete cemetery at Suda Bay where so many Australians and New Zealanders are buried. But for my father's luck in boarding the ship *City of London* that took him back to Egypt rather than boarding the *Costa Rica* that was damaged by bombs and went to Crete instead, he may well have ended up in the Suda Bay cemetery or taken as a prisoner of war by the Germans.

The Vietnamese Community in Victoria

lobbied the State Government to make statements in Parliament honouring Vietnam veterans, Vietnamese veterans and the Vietnamese community this year. So on Thursday 14 April, a contingent of VVAA Victorian Branch members and Vietnamese entered both houses of State Parliament and from about 9.30am until just after 10.00am members from both the government and the opposition and minor parties rose one after another to acknowledge and honour the visitors. Light lunch and the obligatory speeches followed at ANZAC House. What a day, what an experience! Thank you to Viv Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia Victorian Branch, and the Vietnamese community for arranging such a special time.

I hope that ANZAC Day in Melbourne, where Vietnam veterans led the march, was a rewarding time for all of you who took part: a long overdue and deserved recognition of your service. I was humbled and delighted to be given the honour of leading the ANZAC Day march, an experience I will long remember. I took great delight in sitting in the VIP tent at the Shrine and applauding ALL the Vi-

etnam veterans as they passed by. I must say, with the greatest of respect to those who continue to carry the banners of long gone WWII units, the march seemed to have renewed vigour and meaning with formed bodies of Vietnam veterans and younger veterans marching, which in turn gave the public a tangible presence to acknowledge. It is my personal opinion that all unit banners for which there are no surviving members should be brigaded the same as the World War Banners are; dependents can follow at the end of the March.

As I move through my tenth year as President, I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible and sharing the experiences of our special year with you.

Bob Elworthy

P.S. I had my first sip of the Commemorative Port recently - lovely! Make sure that you get a bottle or two through your sub-branch as a keepsake or as a great gift for someone special. At a special member's price this is a one-off opportunity not to be missed, stocks are very limited.

N A M E T H A T B O O K

The 2016 Commemorations Sub Committee is to produce a hard cover book which will feature a photographic record of the year's 50th Anniversary commemorative activities.

While we have engaged a photographer to assist at the various activities throughout the year we also encourage our members to assist by sending in any noteworthy images for inclusion

in the book.

For book publication purposes, the images of course will need to be high clarity/high

We are also seeking member's ideas for a title for the book.

resolution.

We are also seeking member's ideas for a title for the book. Suggestions will be consid-

ered by the Sub Committee and the winner will be awarded \$100 plus a copy of the new book.

Please forward your suggestions by no later than 18th August, to

bob.farquhar@southernstars.com.au

or by mail to Bob Farquhar c/ - VVAA Vic State Office.



mitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria and also our charity status to Australian Charity and Not for Profits Commission have been submitted electronically. Our business registration with the Australian Business Register has been reviewed and all is in order. These tasks need to be carried out each year to enable VVAA Victorian Branch to continue its operations as a charitable organisation operating here in Victoria.

For all Sub-Branches and particularly the Secretary, I would be pleased to respond to any enquiries from Sub-Branches – just call or e-mail me and I will respond as soon as possible.

A few thanks to put forward and acknowledge the work done:

Len Barlow: for filling in for me on a number of occasions, his sage advice on and also for his work as our webmaster.

Maurie Benson: for working as the State Office Manager, the FSB-VIC Newsletter Editor and being a major player in the organisation of VV Day each year. Job(s) well done and very much appreciated.

Barry Brewer, Murray Lewis, Rob Huggan and John Hexter for working at the State Office at ANZAC House during the week.

Contributions and endeavours very much appreciated.

I look forward to working with members at all levels for the advancement of the veterans cause

Peter Bright
Secretary
VVAA Victorian Branch

.... and a bit more

I hear from time to time, particularly at State Council meetings, of the differing commemorative events involving the public that Sub-Branches hold. One that appears to be foremost is Veteran sponsorship of prizes at local sporting events – as far as getting the Veteran identity out there in the community, it's a no brainer!! Have a talk to Castlemaine, Swan Hill, Outer Eastern and Diamond Valley Sub-Branches for more information.

Sub-Branches need to ensure they have their respective *Under Our Own Control* plans finalised by now – it's extremely important that Sub-Branches have this plan in place as it will save bookoo problems should the Sub-Branch decide to call it a day. Think about your funds, memorabilia and equipment – where will it all go?

Welcome to 2016 – it hardly seems like yesterday that it was New Year's Day and here we are into April already!

The year is shaping up as one that will be remembered for a lifetime with the 2016 Commemoration program now in full swing. It is a year to commemorate our service in Vietnam and remember those who died and have suffered as a result of their service

It's your year so get out there, be part of it and enjoy it.

Back to the humdrum of administration – it can be a tiresome task however there is no choice if we are to fulfil our aims of providing welfare services to Veterans and their families. Working together is the key and remember we are a team.

The annual reports for our Incorporated Association status has been sub-



'A second bottle? I think you've expressed enough solidarity with France this evening'

To all the Grey Nomads heading off to escape the southern winter please occasionally spare a thought to those "holding the fort" until you safely return ... and while you're at it if it all gets too much; stop, sit down and raise a glass to friends.



4 March 2016: Brigadier Bill Rolfe AO (Rtd), Duntroon '68, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (ANZAC Bn) Vietnam 1970/71. Bill, as a Platoon Commander, lost both his legs at the age of 23, as a result of a mine incident in Phouc Tuy province in South Vietnam in August 1970. He was mentioned in dispatches for his service.

After substantial rehabilitation, Bill undertook retraining at the Australian National University and continued his military career in the Australian Army Legal Corps. He subsequently served as Director Army Legal Services and Director General Defence Force Legal Services before retirement in the rank of Brigadier in 1992. In 1993 he joined the Commonwealth Attorney General's Legal Practice and



worked in the then National Security Branch. In 1997 he was appointed to head the Veterans' Review Board, an independent statutory tribunal responsible for review of Repatriation Commission decisions on entitlement to and assessment of disability pensions. He resigned from that position in January 2007 to take up an appointment as a Member of the Repatriation Commission and Member of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, retiring in July 2010. He also served on the Commonwealth Administrative Review Council 2007-2010.

He was appointed as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List in 2008 for service to veterans.

President Bob Elworthy presents the 50th Anniversary Commemorative 2016 Membership Badge to State Life Member Alan Hughes at Ballarat.

Alan was a former State President and President at the Geelong SB.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VetRide SPEECH

Tuesday, 15 March 2016

Speaker Andrews, Kevin, MP

Mr ANDREWS (Menzies) (13:49): I rise today to commend those Vietnam veterans who are participating this week in the VetRide 2016. The Service and Sacrifice Tour over six days commenced yesterday north of Melbourne at Seymour, and travels through Benalla, Albury, Wagga, Cootamundra and Yass, where the Victorian riders will be joined by a group of Vietnam veterans from Queensland for the ride into Canberra. The tour concludes on Sunday with a 17-kilometre ceremonial ride in which they will pass the Australian War Memorial before stopping at the national Vietnam Memorial on Anzac Parade, where a service will be held. Participating in that service is expected to be Major General Jim Molan, retired, and also Dave Sabben, a veteran of the Long Tan battle, which occurred some 50 years ago. 18 August this year is the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan where so many Vietnam veterans were involved. May I congratulate all those who are involved in this initiative, including Paul Beraldo, Ron Hall and Maurice Benson. This is a very worthwhile endeavor. When you see the Vietnam vets out on the road, give them a hoot as they go by. I hope that if the divisions of this chamber allow it I might be able to join them for a few kilometers on the road as well.

Vietnamese and Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Speech – 14 April 2016 - Albert Le



Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Veterans present today and dignitaries alike; today as you all know marks a milestone occasion for the Vietnamese Community as a whole but in particular the Vietnamese Veterans. It is my humble honour to share with you today my perspective as a young Viet-

namese Australian on the recognition of such struggles and contributions of the Vietnamese Veterans who fought side by side many Australians during the Vietnam War.

I used to ask myself the purpose of recognition and acknowledgement. It seemed to me at the time a mundane act that achieved no reason other than to satisfy ego. I could not have been more wrong.

War is never an elegant affair. The brutality and scorn for human life engulfs all that stand in its path; indeed, war puts the human spirit on trial. Many of those standing in this room today have bear witness to the chaos and pain that ensues battle. This pain and sacrifice is something I will most likely never experience in my lifetime but it is something that will haunt them for the rest of theirs.

I have since come to realise that recognition and acknowledgement is an important step for all of us. It isn't just about the acknowledgement that the Vietnamese Veterans and Australian Veterans alike fought in the war; it is a deep heartfelt appreciation that they would suffer and anguish silently as we are spared. It is a deep connection and sense

of pride that I wish to pay my respects and show my gratitude for those that fought relentlessly in the war that would change Vietnam and Australia forever.

What a great day it is today to see all of the Vietnamese Veterans acknowledged in the very institution that embodies freedom and democracy; one that they fought hard to protect some half century ago. Not only is it an emotional journey for many of us, it is a stark reminder that we should never take for granted nor forget the sacrifices of those in the armed forces, many of which paid the ultimate price.

“People sleep easy in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf” (George Orwell). It serves as a touching reminder that those who were thrust into the fire of battle and their loved ones left behind bear the biggest burden on our behalf; and for that we are honoured and forever grateful.

I used to ask myself the purpose of recognition and acknowledgement. It seemed to me at the time a mundane act that achieved no reason other than to satisfy ego. I could not have been more wrong.

Forty-one years on and the Vietnamese Veterans have found a new home here in Australia. Together with the Vietnam veterans, they are still contributing to society and community today as they did almost half a century ago. Even today they are leading by example and embody the values of courage, perseverance and integrity. Rest

assured your spirit and legacy continues to burn bright into the cold night giving us younger generations a mantra of endurance and strength; a reminder that during our darkest hours, those before us have fought through tougher times. Never stop fighting for what you believe in.

We should be proud of all our Veterans and likewise they should hold their heads high. Thank you for you service and the hope you have given to countless people. Lest we forget.

Thank you

By Albert Le

Exercise for Seniors

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them as long as you can, then relax.

Each day you'll find you can hold this position longer. Try to reach a full minute.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags and then 50-lb potato bags. Eventually you will be able to lift 100-lb potato bags and hold your arms straight for a full minute. (I'm at this level now).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

DIAMOND VALLEY



The DViets have continued on very successfully during 2015 with membership actually growing.

June saw our annual Boys Day Out with a journey on VLine to the historic Clarkefield Hotel for a very pleasant day. Whilst the pub is supposed to be haunted, the only ghosts were our ever increasing tales and memories of our exploits in Vietnam.

In July we had our Annual Dinner Dance and this year saw a change of venue to the Watsonia RSL - an excellent venue for such an event. Our band was a 60's Rock Band, Johnny Stingray and the Wanderers and they must have seen the movie "Good Morning Vietnam" as they really knew how to Play It Loud. The RAAF Sub Branch graced us with a table and had a great time and took home many prizes from the raffle.

August as usual was hectic for us with a very successful Badge Week appeal which helps promote our identity in the Diamond Valley and shows the level of public support that we receive. A Saturday morning ser-

vice at Greensborough War Memorial Park on the 15th was attended by app. 350 people, 11 schools incl. the Viewbank College Concert Band, and the E Team - its presentation was very well received by all the locals. The involvement of the 39th Cadets and the 402 Sqn Airforce Cadets out of Simpson Barracks who made up the Catafalque party also gave the day a very authentic feel. We enjoyed the attendance of Federal and State Politicians and the local Mayors and dignitaries who have all promised more support for next year, so we look forward to it being big.

VV Day at the Shrine was surprising as it gave us half



decent weather, plus plenty of bacon and egg rolls. The week ended with our annual Chapel Service at Simpson Barracks, led by our Padre and then onto the Sgts Mess for a meal and drinks.

October saw 42 of us head off in a Bus for three days away, to Albury and Yarrowonga. A visit to the Seymour Walk which is even more impressive now that the Huey and a real gun are on display; the Mitchell crew do a great job and should be heartily congratulated.

The final day saw us head home via Beechworth where we enjoyed a tour of the old gaol, very interesting, some of our members may have connections there but wouldn't own up. Lunch at the famous Beechworth Bakery and then sweets from the sweet shop before heading back home to Greensborough.



RAAF

Graveside Vigils were conducted simultaneously on Sunday the 21st of February under the auspices of the Victorian Branch of the VVAA at 1200 hours throughout Victoria. Fallen Vietnam veteran members of Victoria were remembered in a simple ceremony. RAAF members of the Vietnam War were remembered at Fawkner, Springvale, Brighton and Altona. Altona: AC Trevor Petith 2 Sqn, Brighton: LAC Peter Knight 1 OSU, Fawkner: Cpl David Dubber 9 Sqn and Cpl Bryan Fitzpatrick 2 Sqn, Springvale: LAC Duncan McNair 9 Sqn. A most moving ceremony coordinated by the Victorian Branch of the VVAA. All sites were well attended by RAAFVVA members along with family and friends of our fallen veterans. Buglers from all over Victoria attended, mainly from school bands; from all reports perfect.

ANZAC Day 2016 was a little different as we formed up in Swanston

Street for an early start approx 0920 hours.

Great to see our Banner towards the front of the march; a major year for Vietnam Veterans.



Refurbishment discussions for the return of A2-110 to RAAF colours as it was in Vietnam is progressing slowly but steadily; this pic taken on its arrival at NVVM some years ago.

Rick Holmes
Secretary



RAAFVVA/AFA Vietnam Branch



MELBOURNE WEST

4 Melbourne West Members (L-R) Glen Smith, Ray Matthew, Vic Pilch and Bruce Hicks assisted the Darwin Defenders 1942/45 Association at the Shrine on 19th



Feb to mark the 74th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin.

15 year old bugler Harrison Merrifield with VVAA Melbourne West President Charlie Peterson.



A teenager brought home her new boyfriend to meet her parents, and they were appalled by his appearance: leather jacket, motorcycle boots, tatoos and a pierced nose. Later, the parents pulled their daughter aside and said "He doesn't seem very nice."

"Mum," replied the daughter, "if he wasn't so nice, why would he be doing 5000 hours of community service?"

FRANKSTON

Frankston sub branch finished off 2015 with an enjoyable Christmas dinner at the RSL attended by quite a few of our members.

Also in December 2015, Frankston sub branch had the honour of presenting the inaugural "Caring Cobber" award to Zane Mackintosh a 5th grade student from Pearcedale primary school. This award is not based on academic achievement but on the student's continued endeavour, linked with mateship and overall self-improvement.

As we know 2016 is the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Long Tan and many activities are planned throughout the year to commemorate this significant year.

The first event was the graveside vigil on the 21st Feb. where members of Frankston Sub-Branch joined with other VVAA Vic members as part of

this state-wide simultaneous gravesite commemorative service.

As 2016 is a significant year for all of our members we are taking this opportunity to invite former members to join as a financial member once again and stand with us to commemorate the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam Veterans and their families. Some of the other planned activities for Frankston sub branch include:

- ◆ Members day at the Cranbourne Harness Races
- ◆ Dinner Dance at Frankston RSL



In February a group of us went on the Melbourne Wheel followed by lunch in Harbour Town. We also went to the "Running Rabbit" museum in Upwey which is a very interesting place.

In April we went to the "Trots" in Cranbourne for a great day out and found one of our members had a knack of picking the winning horse. We were also able to name a few of the races on the day; "Long Tan Cup" with trophy and "Frankston District Vietnam Veterans Pace". Ray was asked to presented the "Long Tan" cup to the winner of the 5th race.



CASTLEMAINE

At the Castlemaine AGM in January we had Maree Edwards the MLA for Bendigo West along as our Returning Officer for the day. She has been a great supporter of our sub-branch since the first VetRide and as a result

of her support we asked her to be our sub-branch patron. So as well as being our Returning Officer we presented her with a *Certificate of Appreciation* on the day. Maree had also been

invited to open our state council in Castlemaine and was involved in unveiling the commemorative quilt. As a result of modelling (by Maurie Benson) the VetRide jersey at Castlemaine, Maree was so impressed she asked if she would be able to have one of her own and was presented with one at our AGM. It all made for a really good day. She was involved with our graveside vigil at Harcourt for David Milford.



WEST GIPPSLAND

West Gippsland Sub Branch seem to be one that never lets the grass grow under its feet and we have been busy with many projects, mainly the restoration of the VVAA Museums International MK5 which seems to be a never ending project. On the positive side it is a great opportunity for a bit of social interaction over a well-cooked BBQ snag for lunch. The major things have been lovingly restored and now it's down to the nitty gritty stuff like spaghetti wiring looms where, in their infinite wisdom, the designers used yellow for all the wires.

The social aspect of our group has been the means of holding the group together, with monthly dinners and lunches always a good bonding agent. Sausage sizzles at Bunnings are a good social event as well as a Welfare fund raiser. A major event towards the end of last year was/is the Family Fun Weekend at Glen Cromie CVP in Drouin West; it is a combined Sub Branch event that this year will have

its 20th Birthday. The competition is always fierce among the group with undisclosed cheating a frequent occurrence. West Gippsland managed "fairly" to take out both trophies for 2015 and will host the birthday happening this year which will be November 10th through to the 13th.

March this year saw the annual exodus to Mallacoota on the east coast for the annual 2 weeks of fishing, golf, bike riding, canoeing, bare foot bowls and the daily visit to the bak-

ery. The theme for the fancy dress was "tight and bright" and what happens in Mallacoota stays in Mallacoota. Happy hour saw an ever enlarging circle of up to 60 happy souls.

While at the same time there were a crew of West Gippsland's avid pedal pushers heading from Seymour to Canberra on the Vet Ride sweat wheels journey, which was achieved without incident or accident; a big well done those riders.



MARYBOROUGH

The last few months have been very quiet here in Maryborough, other than a Sub-Branch dinner in January and the Graveside Vigil in February.

The Dinner attracted a great number of our members and their families and provided everyone a great opportunity to catch up in the New-Year.

The Graveside Vigil was well attended and great feedback was received on the day and the next.

Fifty four people gathered to pay their respects, of which 8 were family members with our Bugler being a sec-

ond cousin.

Future activities include the Sub-Branch Annual Golf day in May, with ongoing discussions regarding other 2016 Commemorative activities still taking place. These activities include a local Seniors Football game and a Seniors Netball game to be held on the 20th of August, 2016.



BOX HILL

“Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub Branch Night of Nights”

On Saturday the 12th March, the Vietnam Veterans held their annual “Black Tie Dinner” and I can tell you it was the best Dinner that they have held over the past 11 years with the speaker being Dr Brendan Nelson BMBS FRACP(Hon) SAMA the current Director of the Australian War Memorial.

As usual, the evening was booked completely out many months in advance and some of the distinguished guests were Anna Burke MP, Robert Doyle MP, the State President of the Vietnam Veterans Victorian State Branch Bob Elworthy and Keith Payne VC, a member of the Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub-Branch.

The dinner commenced with all the official guests being “Piped” to their table where John Haward receipted the “Ode” and welcomed all guests. After the main meal the formalities commenced where Bob Elworthy was asked to speak on the 50th Anniversary this year of the “Battle of Long Tan”. After his speech, and for those of our members who travelled to Canberra last year, I presented



a short film called “Stand-To” which is conducted every day at the AWM in honour of a past Veteran. Terry Nolan then spoke about the Guest Speaker Brendan Nelson and introduced him to all the guests.

Originally in the running sheet for the night the Guest Speaker was allowed (30) minutes to speak, but his speech not once referring to a note of any

description went for just on 1 hour. You could actually hear a pin drop in the room when he spoke on the anniversaries of WW1, Gallipoli and the 50th anniversary of “Long Tan”, where he commented that all Vietnam Vets belonged to a “Special” club for what they had achieved in the War in Vietnam. He also spoke of our RSL

Club, and the 98 past Veterans that were named on our Cenotaph, and those 27 who had given the ultimate supreme sacrifice at Gallipoli.

Brendan was presented with a special gift at the end of his talk along with Anna Burke MP who has supported this dinner since day one for the Vietnam Veterans and Box Hill RSL, and is leaving her position as our federal Member this year.

The amount of emails and messages received congratulating the Vietnam Vets on this special night was incredible. But also congratulations can also be given to our staff Nicole Bryant-Smith who organised the front of house people and Kevin Weightman and his staff for a most outstanding meal.

And so the Vietnam Vets move onto next year’s dinner, and as many people who attended have commented you have to be pretty good to beat this one. As normal I start work on the dinner 12 months in advance, and we will just have to wait and see who our next special guest speaker is????

Brian Tateson.

BUDGET 2016 - 17

Full details are available on the DVA Website.

Overview:

DVA Budget \$11.7B down from \$12.1B due to decreasing client base. Focus on mental health, improving DVA IT and compensation pathways, children and suicide prevention. The decision to remove backdating of veterans disability compensation claims has been reversed, \$1M put into continuation of Operation Life suicide prevention training, \$39.9M to extend non-liability health care to all current and former permanent members of the defence force, \$23.9M

over two years to enable DVA maintain and improve critical compensation processing systems, \$24.8M for a business case to transform DVA from claims processing to veteran centric paradigm, \$2.7M for rollout of VRB alternative dispute resolution model, \$7.5M to fix war graves in PNG, upgrade Hellfire Pass in Thailand, study for upgrade of AWM in London.

Issues around the levels of compensation and inadequacy of superannuation indexation were not addressed.

GEELONG

TOMMY SIMPSON

Tommy joined the Army in 1957 after completing his education at St. Mary's Technical school; Peter Sullivan was one of his contemporaries. Gunner Tommy was posted to 105 Field Battery at Bien Hoa, Vietnam before he contracted cerebral malaria.

Tommy was struck down from fighting fit within three days by a vicious strain of malaria and died in a US evacuation hospital on December 9, 1965. He had been in country for only 3 months. He is buried at Terandak Cemetery, Malaysia and, in terms of his families' wishes, will remain there.

From year to year, but not every year, the Geelong & District SB present the *Tommy Simpson Award*. This year the Geelong & District Vietnam Vets presented the Tommy Simpson Award to **Ken Baker** for his outstanding, dedicated and generous contribution to the members and their families, in a variety of roles over a number of years.



Ken Baker is presented with the Tommy Simpson Award by Geelong President Rieny at the 2016 AGM in this 50th Anniversary year.

CITATION

The G & DVVAA would like to express its appreciation for your outstanding efforts in serving the members of the Geelong & Districts Sub Branch over a number of years. This service has included your time as President, Vice President, part of the Executive and Committee member of the Association. Your role as Chairman of the Committee for the Restoration of the Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honour has been especially demanding with many written applications to various Government and associated departments, meetings and consultation with representatives from the City of Greater Geelong. You have carried out these tasks with distinction, persistence and a high level of competence and attention to detail. Your advice and mentorship has been greatly appreciated. Your support and the representation of the Association at a variety of memorial events, functions and fund raising activities has been generous. We thank you for your dedicated and sustained contribution to the welfare of Vietnam Veterans, their families and the promotion of the good name of the Association.

ANZAC DAY - GEELONG

Anzac Day 2016 in Geelong saw Vietnam veterans lead the march for the first time this year in a salute to the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Geelong sub-branch president Rieny Nieuwenhof said the significance of the gesture could not be underestimated.

“To lead the march with this our 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan is a great recognition for all of those 521 who sacrificed their lives and the 60,000 who served in Vietnam over that 10-year period of the Vietnam War.”

“It’s a commemoration of that service for all Vietnam veterans and it’s a public recognition similar to the Welcome Home parade that was held in 1987. It’s that significant for Vietnam veterans.”

COUNCIL PROTECTS MEMORIAL

City of Greater Geelong Councillors acknowledged local Vietnam Veterans by introducing a heritage overlay at the Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honour site located in North Geelong.

Councillors also decided to remove the community billboard displayed in the Avenue of Honour to a more appropriate site.

City of Greater Geelong Councillor Rod Macdonald, portfolio holder for Veterans Affairs, said these small actions carried out by Council show a mark of respect towards our Vietnam Veterans.

“The Avenue of Honour is one of only three Avenues of Honour in Victoria attributed to the Vietnam War and Geelong is very proud to be home to this.”

GEELONG (cont'd)

As part of the 50th Anniversary commemorations this year the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans marched under an historic banner. This banner was created by the Ladies auxiliary and was first used in 1975, when the Vietnam Veterans Association was founded in Geelong. The first President of the Association was Neil Smith who was invited to lead the G & DVVAA group this year in recognition of his foresight in establishing the Association so long ago.

Some 300 Vietnam Veterans marched and were given loud applause and cheers as they marched to Johnstone Park where the Memorial Service was held.



NOBLE PARK



Private meeting with the Premier Daniel Andrews, at Noble Park to discuss Veterans Welfare at sub-branch grassroots level.



Invited to speak at the Sherrin football factory in Scoresby on what ANZAC Day means to returned servicemen and women.

We were presented with the proceeds from their ANZAC raffle and some centenary footballs. We would like to thank Rod Lawson and all involved for a very warm welcome and a great morning.



Noble Park Vietnam Veterans were invited to the Noble Park Football Club. Blue and Gold luncheon for their annual ANZAC game against Norwood Football club.

VVAA Noble Park Pres Ray McCarthy was guest speaker at the luncheon and presented with a signed ANZAC jumper after the game.



**B u s t e r t h e C o m p a n -
i o n D o g G r a d u a t e s**

The companion dog co-sponsored by the VVAA Vic Branch and the Partners of Veterans Association Victoria has graduated from training and has now been partnered with a young veteran. It is hoped that Buster and his handler will attend a PVA meeting in the near future when we will be able to get a pic of Buster in his doggie coat which bears our logo along with the PVA logo.



**Post Vigil Report – Ken Baker
Chair 2016 Commemorations
Committee**

Victorian Branch commenced the preparations for commemorating the 50th Anniversary year of “Long Tan” two years ago. In line with our motto that says in part “*Honour the Dead*”, we started this year with commemorations on Sunday 21 February, when our members, together with Family and descendants, gathered at 35 cemeteries across Victoria at the grave sites or memorials of the 98 Vietnam veterans who died on active service and are interred in

Victoria. At noon at each site simultaneous services of remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of our fallen brother or sister were conducted.

In excess of 3 thousand attended on the day comprising Veterans, Family local RSL Sub-Branched and the community representatives. The overwhelming comments especially from the descendants were positive and heartfelt thanks in knowing that their loved one’s are not forgotten and will be forever remembered.

A widow expressed that she was unable to grieve previously as her

husband’s family had shunned her following his death; she was only 18 when they married just prior to his departure to Vietnam. She had never been told how he died, and to talk to veterans from his service was extremely beneficial to her.

The simple nature of the commemorative service ensured that all commemorations would be conducted efficiently and respectfully. Veterans were genuinely moved by the commemorations. All who met after the commemorations were elated at the success and also humbled and saddened by the meaning behind the day.

LEST WE FORGET

Buglers from the Springvale Botanical Cemetery gravesite commemorations joined the Minister for Veterans the Hon. John Eren MP for a photograph during afternoon tea.



Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TOUR 2016



VetRide 2016 headed to Canberra in March to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in addition to paying tribute to the 521 Australians who gave their lives in Vietnam. A larger group of 85 out of Victoria (approx. 700 kms) and a smaller Qld group of 10 riding some 1,200 Kms from Towoomba Qld – not bad for 70 year olds in lycra!!

Financial support was provided to the Victorian group by the Victorian Government and a number of generous donors/sponsors, including RSL Vic Sub Branches. Without this most generous support the Ride would not have been possible.



The *Service and Sacrifice Tour 2016* was launched at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance by the Minister for Veterans The Hon John Eren MP.

Further publicity was provided through a gathering and media event on the steps of Victorian State Parliament. The



Victorian Group then assembled at the Seymour Walk on Sunday 13th March for a Ride start the following morning. The Minister for Veterans the Hon John Eren MP again

joined us and rode the 1st leg to Euroa where a commemorative service was conducted at the statues of the 3 local VCs.



Riding into Wagga Wagga for the 4th night the Ride paused at the gates of Kapooka (Blamey Barracks) to pay our respects.



At Wagga Wagga on the night of the 3rd day we visited the 1/19 RNSWR Depot for our evening meal where one of our riders, Dave Sabben, created a great deal of interest by endorsing an AWM painting of the Long Tan Battle scene. Indeed the 1/19 were delighted to have that honour.

On the final day the group of some 100 riders formed up for the concluding commemorative ride to Old Parliament House.

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TOUR 2016

On the way the group paused at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial where a short service was conducted. For that service we – Vietnam Veterans – took a back stage position by having a group of 8, comprising sons and daughters and current ADF members who rode with us, lay a poppy/flag the same type as used for the Graveside Vigil beside each letter of the word VIETNAM at the Memorial.



The Ride group then moved on to Old Parliament House for a Ride End Ceremony and lunch in the Members Dining Room – we had achieved our objective.



Approach to Old Parliament House, Canberra.



We made it.



Outer Eastern Group - Gerry and the Pacemakers
- a little deflated after such an epic ride.



Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TOUR 2016



Part of the Ride Group approaching Old Parliament House Canberra.



Steps of Old Parliament House - "Now listen up you lot".



Appropriately 6 RAR were well represented on the Ride this year. Above VVAA Vic President Bob Elworthy proudly stands with (L>R) Paul Beraldo (2nd Tour), Dave Sabben (1st Tour) and Con Sprogis (2nd Tour)



Cameraderie across the generations.

Harry Liefman, 14 y/o son of VetRide Chair Peter Liefman, here with (MAJGEN) Ted Chitham who rode from Towoomba Qld. Both proud to have completed the Ride.



While the Ride this year was accompanied by much grunting and hard work there must be an offset somewhere and that came in the shape of VetRide's magnificent trailer which just happened to be equipped with an excellent coffee machine - Beraldo coffee of course - that handed out over 1,000 cups of coffee along the way.

Well done to Bob Prentice and Ian Jensen who manned the trailer as our baristers, to Beraldo coffee for their tow vehicle and Gary Elliott who produced a spectacular trailer.



Guess the picture says it all relief , we made it.

(L.R) Peter Liefman, Maurie Benson, Gary Elliott.

ANZAC DAY MELBOURNE



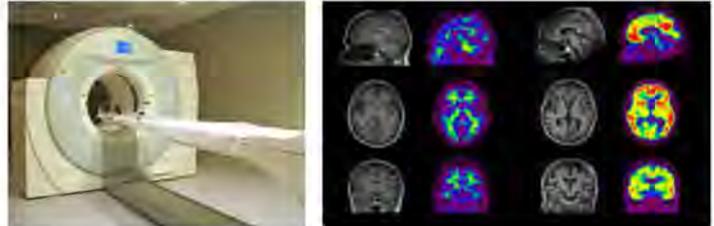
Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living



Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on Alzheimer's disease in Australian war veterans: *Volunteers required!*

What is the purpose of the study?

To find out if traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/ or post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has long term impacts on memory and the risk of Alzheimer's disease.



Who can take part?

We are recruiting 150 veterans aged between 60–85 years. The study has attracted nearly 100 volunteers, but 50 are still required. The team call for 30 volunteers who have suffered a head injury whilst serving within the military. This can be mild, moderate or severe in nature, and can be combat, sports, vehicle, or fall related. In addition, they require 20 healthy volunteers, with no history of head injury, and no history of PTSD.

What does participation involve?

There are 6 main appointments involved in this project:

1. Screening interview
2. Memory assessment
3. 3 PET brain scans
4. MRI scan

If you would like to take part in this research, or if you would like to find out more, please contact Ms. Tia Cummins: tia.cummins@floreys.edu.au 03 9496 5748. Alternatively, please log on to www.brainpet.org

O P E R A T I O N B R I N G T H E M H O M E

As part of *Operation Bring Them Home*



37003 Cpl F.J. SMITH returns to Australia on the 2nd June 2016 from Terandak War Cemetery for reburial on the 9th June at Ouyen, Victoria.

Frank served with 3 Pl A Coy 1 RAR Vietnam and was KIA 21st September 1965. 1965/66 RAR members will be attending the ramp service at RAAF Base Richmond on

his return in a fitting acknowledgment of Frank's service and sacrifice.

On return to Australia Frank will be re-buried on the 9th June 2016 at Ouyen Victoria. VVAA Victorian State Branch is to provide duplicate medals, including the Republic of South Vietnam Military Merit Medal (MMM) for gallantry and service – the MMM was the highest award in the South Vietnam military awards system

The MMM was originally pinned on the Australian flag by a South Vietnam General at the ramp service in Vietnam before Frank's body was flown to Terandak for burial .

36205 Gunner Thomas SIMPSON

36205 105 Field battery - Gunner. Thomas Simpson 27 Geelong VIC. Popular with his unit, he arrived in Vietnam in 1965 and died of cerebral malaria in 93rd Evacuation Hospital Bien Hoa on 9th December 1965, three days after taking ill. Buried Terandak Malaysia.



At the express wishes of Thomas's family, Tommy, as he was known to his mates, will remain interred at Terandak.

Also returning to Victoria

3410295 LCPL Arthur RUDUSS



310089 WO2 John GARRIGAN



Media Release

The Hon John Eren MP

Minister for Veterans

Thursday, 14 April, 2016

VICTORIA AND VIETNAM COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL BOND

Vietnam War veterans who served our country will join their Vietnamese counterparts who now call Australia home in leading the 2016 Melbourne ANZAC Day March for the first time.

Minister for Veterans John Eren and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Robin Scott today joined veterans from both countries at Victoria's Parliament to celebrate the close bond Australia and Vietnam share.

Today is the final Parliamentary sitting day before ANZAC Day, and more than 100 veterans attended the House as Parliamentarians paid tribute to their sacrifice.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, where 108 Australian troops defeated a Viet Cong force of more than 1500 soldiers. It has since become one of the most defining chapters of Australia's military history.

The Vietnam War was Australia's longest military conflict of the 20th century. Nearly 60,000 Australians served in the war, and 521 were killed.

The war was held against a backdrop of controversy back



home, marked by anti-war protest and fierce opposition to conscription. Many soldiers were unfairly maligned upon their return to Australia.

In the decades since, Victoria's Vietnamese community has grown to become Australia's second-largest Vietnamese population. In 1976, one year after the war ended, only 382 Vietnamese people called Australia home. That number grew to more than 12,000 by 1981, and stands at more than 68,000 today.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Veterans John Eren

"Victoria's friendship with Vietnam was forged on the battlefield, and it grew as so many Vietnamese made their home in our state. They have made a wonderful contribution to our society."

"As we pause to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, it's fitting that Victoria's Australian and Vietnamese veterans will lead the Melbourne ANZAC Day March for the first time."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Robin Scott

"For more than 40 years, Vietnamese Victorians have contributed so much to our state and nation. We acknowledge the post-war experiences of the Vietnamese families who migrated here – and the challenges they faced."

"Our Vietnamese community is renowned for its hard work and devotion to family and community, as well as its spirit and willingness to share their cultures and traditions with others."

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MELBOURNE

Exhibition Board and Vietnam Commemorative Plaque in St Paul's Cathedral

In 2015, discussions were initiated with the Cathedral to install an acceptable means of displaying the Dedication of the Vietnam Commemorative plaque, along with highlighting that 2016 was the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. Ultimately it was agreed that an Exhibition Board with details would be placed beside the Plaque.

At Evensong on Wednesday 20 April, during which Ken Baker (State VP) and Bob Glaubitz (State Treasurer) very ably read the lessons, the completed Exhibition Board was blessed by the Dean of Melbourne and is now proudly in place for "all" to see at our Commemorative Church Service on Wednesday 5th October 2016.



(L>R) Rev Canon Heather Patacca, Precentor St Pauls Cathedral
Nigel Wilson, VVAA Vic VP, Bob Glaubitz VVAA Vic Treasurer
The Very Rev Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean St Paul's Cathedral
Ken Baker, VVAA Vic VP

Media Release



The Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Creative Industries

Minister for Equality

Thursday, 14 April, 2016

MORE SUPPORT FOR VICTORIAN SENIORS

The Andrews Labor Government today announced new initiatives to address loneliness and social isolation experienced by Victorian seniors and create more age-friendly communities.

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley today launched the *Ageing is Everyone's Business* Report and signed the Age-Friendly Declaration with the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Ageing is Everyone's Business – by Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians – reveals isolation and loneliness is a significant issue for Victoria's ageing population.

In response, the Labor Government will set up the Age-Friendly Victoria Initiative. Age-friendly communities encourage active ageing and boost good health, security and community participation for Victorian seniors.

The initiative aims to promote the inclusion of older people and support services, businesses and community leaders to better plan for the needs of seniors and enhance quality of life for people as they age.

As a key part of the initiative, the Age-Friendly Declaration means the Government and the Municipal Association of

Victoria will plan for and establish age-friendly communities.

Mr Foley also celebrated a milestone for the Victorian Seniors Card Program which has this month reached one million active card holders.

Tony Michael, 72, was today presented with his Seniors Card and Seniors Myki and a range of gifts from the Government and Telstra.

The milestone comes as the program, for the first time, is offering a special Seniors Card Starters Bundle with Telstra to help seniors get connected online at home, by providing a cheaper rate.

Seniors Card holders who are not connected to the internet are encouraged to visit their local Telstra retail store or call 1800 859 533 to find out more.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley

"Our Age-Friendly initiatives will make it easier for seniors to get out and engage with their communities, while also supporting seniors to bridge the digital divide and connect with loved ones online."

"We know Victoria is growing and ageing. Seniors are also working full time for longer – and that is why we all have a part to play in providing support."

Quotes attributable to Commissioner for Senior Victorians, Gerard Mansour

"Loneliness can affect anybody at any time. My research indicates that 10 per cent of over 60's in Victoria experience chronic loneliness at any one time."

"Seniors were clear in their messages to me that having a value and purpose in life is of vital importance to them – as volunteers, participants of clubs and organisations and as valued members of their local communities."



David Hirsh Medal Mounting

(Enquiries to David or Ben)

Specialising in Court-Style
and Swing Mounting

of large and miniature medals.

Ribbon bars made up.

Most large medals

and miniatures supplied.

Prompt service. Reasonable prices.

12 Hawson Avenue, Glen Huntly 3163

SWAC 2016

Story Writing & Art Competition



2016 - The 54th YEAR OF S.W.A.C.

The Victorian current and ex-serving communities have the opportunity to show off their creative talents in this annual Victorian Veterans

STORY WRITING and ARTS COMPETITION

The Competition is open to all current Ex-Serviceman and women, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers, their spouses, widows, eligible children and grandchildren over the age of 18 who reside in Victoria.

STORYWRITING ART CRAFT PHOTOGRAPHY

Categories for the competition include Story Writing, Poetry, Art/Painting, Craftwork (including woodwork), Photography; the Competition has entries for all levels regardless of skills.

The 2016 Special Writing Category is Titled "We Will Meet Again"

All entries will be displayed to the Public at the RGH Hospital at the October launch of the Competition; a prize winning ceremony will take place in late November 2016

WHEN DOES THE COMPETITION OPEN?

Entries for all categories open on the 1st April 2016 and close on the 31st July 2016.

Entry Forms are available by calling Siobhan Hodgins on 03 9496 2290 or Email swac@austin.org.au

or VVAA (Vic) Rep, Amat (Aff) Binnoore at binnoore@bigpond.net.au

Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living



Museum Highlights

'Our Museum Talks To You'- audio/visual hand held device.
 Fascinating holographic 'Light & Sound Show'.
 Over 20,000 exhibits including 4 helicopters. 1 tank and 2 planes
 (1 undergoing major restoration).
 Experience the era through the eyes of Veterans & read their stories.

Good news story for our National Museum which continues to kick goals.

The Cruise ship Golden Princess will visit Phillip Island in February and November this year. The cruise tour operator has included the NVVM on the shore tour program and has offered the cruise ship 4 tours of up to maximum 45 passengers for both months. This is a significant break-through for the museum in terms of attracting tourism. Positive ratings of the museum visit by the passengers will go a long way to ensuring future visits are included in the future.

open day at the Museum

Sunday 29 May **FREE** entry

... our way of thanking you all for your support

Childrens activities

WOODEN MODEL Making with Wonthaggi Woodcrafters.
 FACE PAINTING & MINI GOLF
 Become a NVVM Investigator and follow the clues to find the secrets of the museum (suitable for children 7 yrs and older). Successful Investigators will be issued with a Certificate.

Special Tour

Guided tour of the Museum's Restoration Workshop. This area is usually restricted, however our Restoration Manager, Colin Grey and some of his team will be conducting tours and answering questions about this massive project.

The Nui Dat Cafe will be open for scrumptious snacks and great tea/coffee.



Doors open 10am till 4pm
 25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven (behind helipad)
 Ph 5956 6400

www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org



Pssst ... Guess what I've got.

Yes, after a long long battle and persistence the NVVM has finally taken delivery of it's M113.

Well done to John and his Team for this iconic addition to the NVVM.



ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

ADSO UPDATE – 22 April 2016 IT'S GAME ON

The Election count down is on. In preparation for it on Saturday 2nd July, we have moved into campaign mode with the release of our *Policy Objectives* and the resurrection of our *Action Teams* in all the marginal seats (less than 5%) and others where there is a sizeable defence community of current and past servicemen and women and their families.

On Anzac Day as a nation we paused to commemorate those who gave their today for our tomorrow. In doing so we acknowledge the motto of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia – "*Honour the Dead but Fight like Hell for the Living*" and specifically the plight of our disabled veterans in our current awareness promotional activities.

ADSO's representative voice to Government has increased in numbers and influence with the welcome addition of the War Widows Guild and other Associations that now total 15.

About Us – A Reminder

The Alliance exists as an active representative voice for the Australian defence community to protect their service entitlements and foster their wellbeing to the Australian Parliament and the Australian people. We are a non-partisan Alliance. We support politicians who support our policies and encourage the ones that don't to review their priorities.

Disabled Veterans' Awareness Promotion

Since 2009 ADSO has expressed a deep concern that successive governments, including the current Turnbull one, have continued to ignore irrefutable evidence that the nation's 130,000 disabled veterans are suffering because of

the ongoing erosion of the value of their compensation payments. Those most severely disabled, the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-service Men and Women (TPI/Special Rate), who are unable to work are particularly affected: their living standards and that of their families are falling.

We need the government to stop this erosion and treat those who have been disabled through their military service to Australia fairly and equitably.

Prepare for Action – Here's How You can Help

Share our activities with your family and friends on facebook, twitter or other social media that will help us build momentum.

Join Us if you have not yet joined us.

Volunteer to join your local electorate Action Team or become an Advisor. As an Advisor you can help assist us with your experience and expertise in a particular Campaign policy objective, such as marketing/public relations, media, investigative journalism, superannuation, legal, health, information services and technology, accounting, financial planning, sales, etc

Donate to fund the Campaign.

For further information go to the ADSO website <http://adso.org.au/>

C O M M E M O R A T I V E A C T I V I T I E S

The VVAA Vic Branch 2016 Program of Commemorative Events is progressing extremely well :

- Commemorative Quilt "doing the rounds".
- History Competition in progress.
- Vietnamese TET Festival attended.
- Graveside Vigils conducted - February 2016.
- VetRide Canberra 2016 - 2,000 kms completed.
- ANZAC Day 2016 - Vietnam Vets lead march.
- Ladies Luncheon - Wednesday 15th June 2016.

- Civic Reception - Wednesday 6th July 2016.
- Vietnam Veterans Day Melbourne - Thursday 18th August 2016.
- AFL Themed Match - August 2016.
- Thanksgiving Service, St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne - 5th October 2016.
- National Vietnam Veterans Museum Day - Saturday 5th November 2016.
- Family Race Day, Seymour - Saturday 19th November 2016.

EDUCATION TEAM (E TEAM)



The **E Team** received funds from the Victorian State Government as part of its commitment to the branch commemorative activities during 2016.

The team purchased a Mercedes Benz Sprinter which is being progressively fitted out, to meet the increased travel demands of their 2016 education program.

The vehicle pictured is already in heavy use and recently accompanied the VetRide 2016 tour. The vehicle makes a statement wherever it travels.

MILITARY & GENERAL ANTIQUES FAIR



**SUNDAY
JUNE 12TH
10⁰⁰ TIL 4³⁰**

Specialists onsite to provide estimates, advice and information on your military and general antiques, including medals, coins, books, photos, artwork, ephemera, jewellery. Some stalls for you to peruse. Watch the famous holographic Sound and Light Show and have a browse through the Museum.

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Phillip Island
(behind the helipad) Ph: 03 5956 6400
Email: sales@vietnamvetsmuseum.org
Standard admission fees. No need to book. Nui Dat Café open for refreshments.

Y A N U M B E R S U P

On the 24th Nov 1964 the *National Service Act 1964* was enacted by the Menzies government in Australia requiring all 20 y/o males to register for National Service. During 1965/72 800,000 men registered, 63,000 were called up, 19,000 served in Vietnam and 200 would die as a result of their Vietnam service.

Today at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island you can see the very barrel that was part of so much controversy in Australia. See the marbles that determined the fate and future of so many.



South Vietnamese Soldiers

Memories of the Vietnam War and After

Nguyen, Nathalie Huynh Chau

Santa Barbara, Calif.: Praeger, March 2016. xviii + 289pp.

ISBN Print: 978-1-4408-3241-3 eBook: 978-1-4408-3242-0
Military History

South Vietnam lost more than a quarter of a million soldiers in the Vietnam War, yet the histories of these men—and women—are largely absent from the vast historiography of the conflict. By focusing on oral histories related by 40 veterans from the former Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, this book breaks new ground, shedding light on an essentially unexplored aspect of the war and giving voice to those who have been voiceless.

The experiences of these former soldiers are examined through detailed firsthand accounts that feature two generations and all branches of the service including the Women's Armed Forces Corps. Readers will gain insights into the soldiers' early lives, their military service, combat experiences, and friendships forged in wartime. They will also see how life became worse for most in the aftermath of the war as they experienced internment in communist prison camps, discrimination against their families on political grounds, and the dangers inherent in escaping Vietnam, whether by

air or land. Finally, readers will learn how veterans who saw no choice but to leave their homeland succeeded in rebuilding their lives in new countries and cultures.

Features

- Relates the stories of South Vietnamese soldiers through a compelling narrative driven by oral histories
- Brings the experiences of these soldiers to life for the reader by sharing their compelling firsthand accounts
- Draws on a key oral history collection newly established at the National Library of Australia in 2013–2014
- Provides fascinating insights into the soldiers' early years, their military service and experiences, and their post-war lives

- Conveys the strength of will and resilience that enabled these men and women to endure the hardships of war, the defeat of their armed forces, the loss of their country, and the challenges of becoming refugees and resettling in new land.

“Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen has made a major contribution not only to the history of the Vietnam War but also to the history of wars and their aftermath. *South Vietnamese Soldiers* is both a scholarly and an emotive account of those who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam. Based on extensive interviews with former service personnel, the book recovers an important dimension of the war, too often distorted or completely overlooked in the extensive literature on the war.”

– Peter Edwards, Official Historian of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975

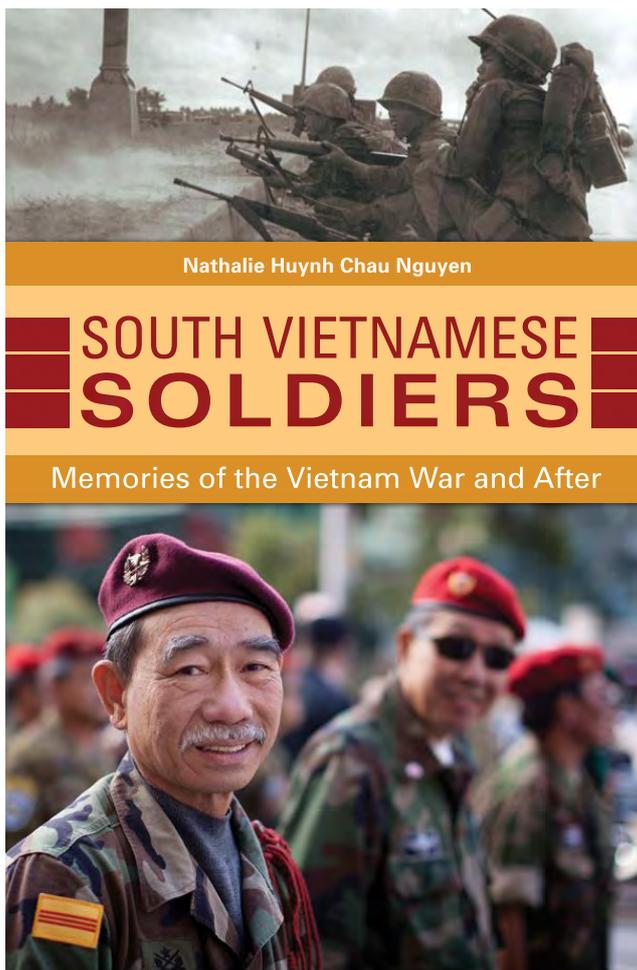
“In a powerful and eloquent book, Nguyen rewrites the South Vietnamese back into their own history and gives them back their voices. This is an important and overdue treatment of the missing dimension of the Vietnam War. Drawing on extensive research and interviews with surviving veterans of the Republic of Vietnam's military, Nguyen restores a critical perspective to the study of the war and offers additional dimensions to our understanding. This often deeply moving study should be read by everyone with an interest in the subject.”

– Jeffrey Grey, Professor of History, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy

About the Author

Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen is an Associate Professor and the Deputy Director of the National

Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. A former ARC Future Fellow, her published works include *Memory is Another Country: Women of the Vietnamese Diaspora*, 2010 Choice Outstanding Academic Title; *Voyage of Hope: Vietnamese Australian Women's Narratives*, shortlisted for the 2007 NSW Premier's Literary Awards; and *Vietnamese Voices: Gender and Cultural Identity in the Vietnamese Francophone Novel*. She is editor of *New Perceptions of the Vietnam War: Essays on the War, the South Vietnamese Experience, the Diaspora and the Continuing Impact*. Nguyen holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford. Her other fellowships include an ARC Australian Research Fellowship at the University of Melbourne, a Harold White Fellowship at the National Library of Australia,



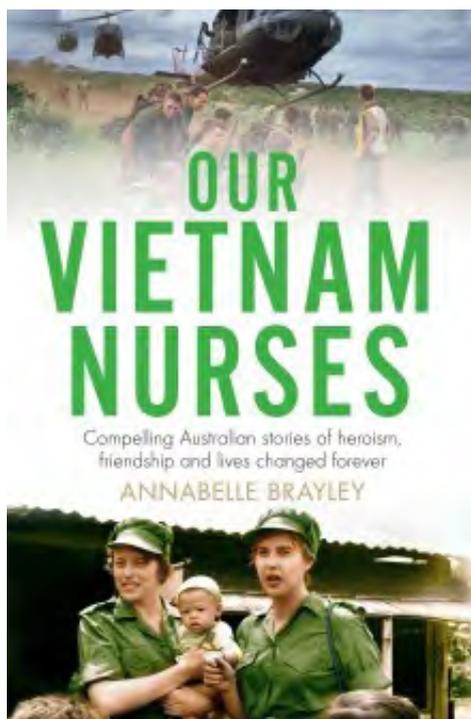
Our Vietnam Nurses

Author:

Annabelle Brayley

From the bestselling author of *Bush Nurses* and *Nurses of the Outback* comes this collection of compelling and moving stories of our heroic nurses in the Vietnam War

Being a nurse always requires a cool head, a steady hand and an open heart. But if you're working in a war zone, the challenges are much harder. When Australia joined the Vietnam War, civilian and military nurses were there to save lives and comfort the wounded. With



spirit and good humour, they worked hard and held strong, even though most of them were completely unprepared for the war before they landed in the middle of it.

Working incredibly long hours and surrounded by chaos and turmoil, these brave nurses and medics were integral to our war effort. These fifteen stories show a side to the Vietnam War that has received little recognition but played an important part in shaping Australia's presence in the war. From flying with critically wounded Australian soldiers out of turbulent war zones, to being held at gunpoint, the compassion, courage and grace under fire in *Our Vietnam Nurses* will inspire and astound.

Penguin Random House Australia

707 Collins Street
Docklands, VIC 3008, Australia
PO Box 23360, Melbourne, VIC 8012

Phone: +61 3 8537 4599

Photographs and Interviews by Susan Gordon-Brown

Behind the Wire is an exhibition about Vietnam veterans, their jobs and their experiences, in their words.

For three years I photographed and interviewed Vietnam vets from all over Australia. I asked them about their training prior to Vietnam, daily tasks on tour and life since their return to Australia. I spoke with national servicemen and regulars, soldiers of all ranks and with a variety of jobs such as: cooks, dental assistants, truck drivers, tank drivers, forward scouts, riflemen, training team members, civilian nurses and more. Much has been written about the politics and military battles and strategy but I was interested in finding out about day-to-day life, how our guys coped with the situations they were put in and how they settled into



BEHIND the WIRE

Images and Stories of Vietnam Veterans

life on their return to Australia.

The exhibition will next be displayed at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne from 13th August 2016 to 23rd October 2016.

Support from the Sky is a companion exhibition to *Behind the Wire* and both are in the book that is now for sale via the website www.behindthewire.com.au and at

the Shrine bookshop.

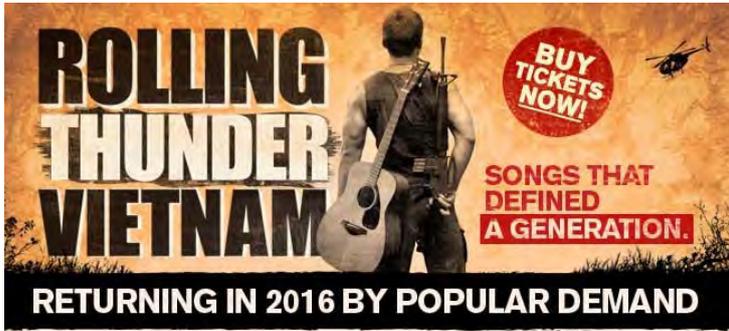
Behind the Wire

AU\$38.50

The *Behind the Wire* book is full colour, paperback, 210mm x 210mm, 124 pages, with the complete stories as they appear in the exhibitions, along with a map and glossary.

There are also two introductory essays. One by Alan Attwood, journalist and editor of the Big Issue and another by Bruce Davies, author and Vietnam veteran.

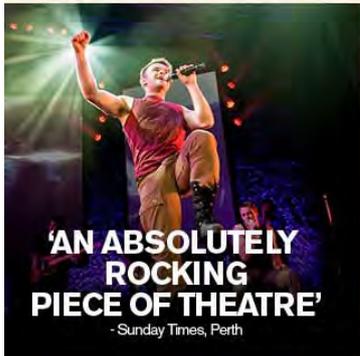




The sensational concert drama returns by popular demand in July-August 2016. The dynamic and uplifting show combines personal stories of the Vietnam War, stunning projected visuals on four screens and the monster hits of the Sixties and Seventies, including The Letter, Fortunate Son, What's Going On, Magic Carpet Ride, People Get Ready, Killing Me Softly With His Song, We've Gotta Get Out of This Place and Bridge Over Troubled Water.

Groups of 10+ save \$20 per ticket
BOOK NOW!

- **MELBOURNE** Palais Theatre •
Sat 23rd July 2.00pm & 7.30pm
- **GOLD COAST** Jupiters Theatre, •
Jupiters Hotel & Casino Gold Coast
Fri 5th Aug 7.30pm
Sat 6th Aug 2.00pm & 7.30pm
- **SYDNEY** State Theatre •
Thur 28th & Fri 29th July 7.30pm
Sat 30th July 2.00pm & 7.30pm
- **CANBERRA** Canberra Theatre •
Wed 10th Aug 2.00pm & 7.30pm
- **WOLLONGONG** •
WIN Entertainment Centre
Tue 2nd Aug 7.30pm
- **NEWCASTLE** Civic Theatre •
Sat 13th Aug 2.00pm & 7.30pm
- **PERTH** Crown Theatre Perth •
Wed 17th, Thur 18th & Fri 19th Aug 7.30pm
Sat 20th Aug 2.00pm & 7.30pm



Proudly supported by VVAA Victoria, and T&PI Association Victoria

Lavrikin, etc. presents
Australian drama at its best: Producer/Director Wolf Heidecker

FOXHOLES OF THE MIND

A gripping stage play by **BERNARD CLANCY**

FRANK is a war veteran. He's an angry, disturbed man dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. His long suffering wife Trish has had a gutful. It's crunch time. Get help or get out! It's a tough subject, yet full of wry, black Aussie humour that makes you both laugh and cry.

Principal sponsors:

"They [politicians] must understand that to commit a young Australian to war may well be a sentence to a lifetime of pain, stress and anguish. They must be able to say that they would do the same to their child as anyone else's." - Bernard Clancy

<http://www.facebook.com/foxholesofthemind>

FOXHOLES OF THE MIND by Bernard Clancy

Bernard Clancy's riveting stage play about PTSD, *Foxholes of the Mind*, is all set to go on tour in August this year.

Here are the venues and dates:

- August 8, 9,10: Drysdale, the Potato Shed.
- August 11: Bayswater, Knox Performing Arts Centre.
- August 12, 13,14: Drysdale, the Potato Shed.
- August 15: Geelong, St Joseph's College.
- August 19: Sale, Wellington Entertainment Centre.
- August 25: Frankston, Frankston Performing Arts Centre.

"We have been extremely fortunate in retaining almost all of the original cast who drew standing ovations at La Mama. Peter Finlay will again play the central character Frank, while Joanne Davis repeats her role as Frank's wife Trish. Maureen Hartley and Adrian Mulraney are also on board again. David Lih is joining the cast portraying the newly introduced character 'Nigel'."

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)
A service founded by Vietnam Veterans
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