



# Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.

SUMMER EDITION

2012

## VV DAY MELBOURNE 2012



*The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Ted Baillieu, Premier of Victoria and State President Bob Elworthy prepare to place floral tributes to the fallen.*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Long Tan Cross to AWM
- Sub Branch activities
- DVA News
- Museum Day
- DVA On-Line
- Veteran Activities
- Book Reviews
- VV Day Melbourne
- Sub Branch Contacts
- Cpl Daniel Keighran VC
- VV Day 2012 Images



*The production of this newsletter is made possible through the support of the Victorian Veterans Council*

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

FSB-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	03 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	Mob: 0419 347 194
<b>State Branch Welfare Officer</b>	Kevin HUNTER	Mob: 0402 106 262
<b>State Branch Honorary Solicitor</b>	Peter LEIFMAN	03 5628 5432 Mob: 0418 992 525
<b>State Executive Member State Office Manager</b>	VACANT	
<b>Editor <i>FSB-Vic</i></b>	David WEEKS	Mob: 0419 347 194

*Note: The above positions are only confirmed until the VVAA Vic Branch AGM, February 2013.*

## VVAA Victoria Branch Inc. - State Office

**Address:** VVAA Victorian Branch  
ANZAC House  
L3 / 4 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

**Phone:** (03) 9655 5588

**Fax:** (03) 9655 5582

**Email:** [secretary@vvaavic.org.au](mailto:secretary@vvaavic.org.au)

**Newsletter Email:** [editor@vvaavic.org.au](mailto:editor@vvaavic.org.au)

**Web Site:** [www.vvaavic.org.au](http://www.vvaavic.org.au)

**Office Hours:** 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 part of the contents of 'FSB-VIC'.*

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



Welcome to this edition of FSB Vic. I hope you find it informative and entertaining. I wish to make special mention of the excellent work David Weeks has done as editor on short notice in keeping up the

excellent standard of the newsletter set by Maurie Benson.

What is it about the 18th of August and the weather in Melbourne? Again we had filthy weather for Vietnam Veterans Day, but despite that we had a very good roll up of veterans—a special thank you to the country sub-branches who made the effort to attend. We were honoured to have the Governor of Victoria, State Premier, and other state and federal politicians attend, along with a large number of other VIP's and family members. Despite the ceremony being shortened because of the weather, the solemnity and importance of the day was not compromised. The Governor was genuinely interested in our activities and impressed by the size of the turnout. The Premier spoke very well and complimented the branch on its continued work for veterans, and even telephoned me on the following evening to express his thanks for being invited to attend.

## ‘VVDAY focus on AATTV deployment’

VV Day 2012 was particularly meaningful for the Victorian based members of the AATTVA, and were pleased to give focus on the day to the 50th anniversary of the first AATTV deployment to Vietnam. The Vietnamese community have been very busy and we conducted a number of events to mark the 50th anniversary. Significantly, the Vietnamese raised significant donations which have been passed to the museum and the Seymour walk project. I attended the opening of their exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall, which was excellently supported by the E Team, and their commemorative service at the Shrine, at which I accepted a plaque on behalf of the Branch.

In September, I attended a veterans' community consultative meeting held by Senator Ronaldson and the Federal member for Kooyong. The Senator spoke again of the coalition commitment to fair indexation; he highlighted BEST funding reductions and touched on a range of other veteran related matters. I had the opportunity to speak on the impact of BEST cuts in Victoria, the adversarial nature of VRB's and AAT

meetings, and I was pleased to speak in support of discussion concerning acknowledgement of SEATO nurses. I followed the meeting with a letter to the Senator to provide further information in relation to the flawed methodology of BEST funding and the lack of compensatory funding for centres that do significant work for veterans from across state borders. I also suggested that the coalition look at an act of grace payment for SEATO nurses.

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) is in the middle of issuing model

## ‘changes to Incorporated Associations Act’

rules for incorporated bodies, VVAA Vic. included. Your executive will look at our constitution to ensure that it meets CAV requirements and contains the key information required under the CAV model rules, and then advise sub-branches of the outcome and the way ahead. CAV are also changing their format and timings for audit reporting, and again sub-branches will be briefed on the changes in due course. The changes that have been flagged by CAV do not look onerous, and I am confident that we will make the necessary changes without difficulty.

We were fortunate to obtain grants from the Victorian Veterans Council to assist with the cost of staging VV Day and to meet some of the costs of our education program. Both grants have been acquitted and our bid for funding for 2013 under the ANZAC Day Proceeds Funds has been submitted. I continue to be a member of the VVC and a member of the VVC Funding Sub-committee. I spoke at a state council meeting on the need to be prepared to vigorously canvas all sides of politics in the run up to the next federal election. I firmly believe that we need to be acutely aware of the past performances of all major parties in relation to veterans' affairs, lobby hard and be prepared to challenge them to lift their game. We need clear policies well before the elections so that we can make considered decisions. The national body also needs to actively engage political parties either as part of the ex service collective to which VVAA is a signatory, or as a stand-alone ESO. Either way, that does not preclude us from taking our own actions within Victoria as we have done in the past.

There has been a lot happening at the Veterans' Walk project in Seymour, and a big event is planned for March next year so keep watch for more information and make an effort to attend. I am advised that the

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

progress will be something quite special.

I have been attending APPVA national quarterly meetings, and I regard this as an important involvement, as it gives us a unique insight into the workings and direction of APPVA, and an opportunity to provide useful support and input. I was privileged to speak at their national AGM.

The Museum Day on 18 November was a huge success with large numbers of veterans and guests in attendance. The highlights of the day were the VetRide donation cheque for over \$31,000 and a pledge of a donation of \$25,000 from the Victorian Branch of the RSL. These donations mean that the Museum is now debt free and cash flow positive - what an achievement!

I am delighted that VP Jim Coghlan is well and truly on the mend, and I trust that Peter Bright makes a good recovery from back surgery. Throw in my hole in the head and Sue's chemo, and what a bunch of crocks you elected early this year! Seriously though, our collective health needs careful monitoring, so keep an eye on all your mates.

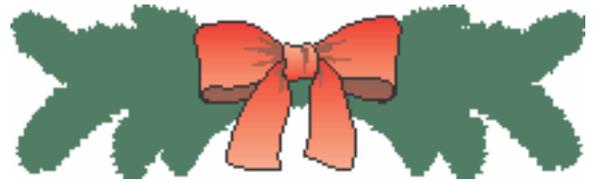
On a related matter, I delivered a eulogy in October for a Vietnam Veteran, who had completed nearly thirty years of service through compulsory national service in the 50's, CMF service and 26 years as a regular soldier. Sadly, he had not recorded any of his military service, or spoken in any detail to his family; they were so keen to hear of his service during the funeral and at the wake. I encourage you all to take the time to record your history, particularly your time in Vietnam, and to speak to your family about it-your life experience as a soldier is so important to them.

Thank you for your support during the year.

Stay safe over the holidays

**Bob Elworthy**

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE



*THE VVAA VICTORIAN BRANCH*

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

*TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO*

*WISH THE SUB BRANCH*

*COMMITTEES, THE MEMBERS*

*AND THEIR FAMILIES A MERRY*

*CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY AND*

*PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR*

*PLEASE DRIVE  
SAFELY IN 2013*

## Long Tan Cross is in Australia for the first time

Published AWM: Thu 26 Jul 2012

Today the Australian War Memorial announced that for the first time in Australia the original Long Tan cross will be on display from 17 August 2012.

The battle of Long Tan has come to symbolise our nation's ten-year long involvement in the Vietnam War. The Long Tan cross is a memorial to the soldiers who fought and died at the battle of Long Tan," said Ms Nola Anderson, Acting Director, Australian War Memorial. "The cross also acts as a reminder of the sacrifice of all those Australians who served in the Vietnam War".

"The Australian War Memorial is proud to be able to display this important symbol from Australia's history."

On 18 August 1969, soldiers of 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC) placed the cross in the Long Tan rubber plantation in Phuoc Tuy province (now Ba Ria-Vung Tau province), South Vietnam. The cross marked the site where three years earlier, on 18 August 1966, 108 soldiers of D Company, 6RAR, had fought a fierce battle against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces.

"During Australia's ten-year-long involvement in the Vietnam War, few battles were as intense or dramatic as Long Tan," said Dr Peter Pedersen, Acting Assistant Director National Collection, Australian War Memorial. "The bravery, tenacity and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand soldiers at Long Tan have become legendary." Following the communist victory in 1975 and the reunification of Vietnam, the Dong Nai Museum in Bien Hoa City acquired the Long Tan cross. In 1989 the Long Dat District People's Committee erected a replica cross on the original site.

**The original cross, on loan from the Dong Nai Museum and the Ministry of Culture, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, will be on display at the Australian War Memorial from 17 August 2012 until April 2013.**

The public was invited to come to the Memorial and be part of a special closing ceremony at 4.45pm on Friday 17 August to commemorate the men who fought in the battle of Long Tan and to remember those who died. All Australians who served during the Vietnam War were to be recognised at a commemorative closing ceremony on Saturday 18 August.

### AWM CONTACT DETAILS:

Tom Vasey (02) 6243 4575 0409 600 038  
media@awm.gov.au



*Ms Quentin Bryce the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith SG (Ret'd) in front of Long Tan cross on display at Australian War Memorial.*



*Mr Neil Rankin  
6RAR*



*John Schumann  
"Vietnam War - I was only 19"*

**Photographer Kerry Alchin  
Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial.**

Further information about the Battle at Long Tan or the Cross can be found through various links including the VVAA Victorian Branch website, [www.vvaavic.org.au](http://www.vvaavic.org.au)

## SUB BRANCHES ~ ACTIVITIES

**BALLARAT** We have been keeping busy in Ballarat despite the cold winter. Our VVD was held on 12 August and Guest Speaker was Orthopaedic Surgeon Shaun English. Shaun started his career as an Army Apprentice and had an interesting speech; he spoke about his time in the Army and the effect of serving on those that have served in conflict.



We had a good turn up for the Melbourne Service even though it was wet the bus trip home was a lot of fun with some raffles and plenty of laughs.

Our Red Shirt programme is still going strong and we are in contact with the Local 8 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion regarding the best way of helping out our Serving Members. As our Troops, our winding down in the Middle East and Care Packages are plentiful, we are looking at helping the Wounded Warrior Program. We are aiming at giving a donation before Christmas. We plan to continue to sell Red Shirts in Support of our Troops and money raised will be distributed to this program.

Veterans Health Week we had a Spit Roast Luncheon with 50 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was former Western Bulldogs Great Doug Hawkins. We had many



laughs, and he spoke about being involved in activities, and the importance of Socialising. He gave us an autographed Team of The Century Jumper to Raffle, which was won by Wayne Hoffman.

On Behalf of the Committee and Members of Ballarat we would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS** The Central Highlands Sub Branch of the VVAA is one of the smaller Sub Branches, as a result it seemed that almost everybody had to be involved in some way in the activities over the period of 12th to 18th August. The activities started on Sunday 12th August with memorial services first at Woodend and later at Kyneton. The need for local services is recognized as being one way to “show the flag” within the local community.



*Cenotaph Kyneton*



*Cenotaph Woodend*



*Bugler Ms Jenny Batchelor*

The format of the two memorial services were the same with a bugler playing a “Long G” the lowering of our National Flag to half mast followed by an address by The Central Highlands Sub-Branch President, Mr. Tony Benham. “While we honour our dead we strive to care for out living, many of whom still suffer today, as do their partners, sons and daughters.” The Rev Phil Lyles gave the Vietnam Veterans Prayer at the Kyneton Service.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of VVAA members, the National Servicemen’s Association and the Macedon Ranges Council. Following the service ample refreshments were kindly provided by the Kyneton RSL.

For Vietnam Veterans Day itself, a bus was hired to transport members to the Commemorative service in Melbourne. Those attending were pleased with the way the service was managed and enjoyed renewing old acquaintances. Following the Melbourne service the bus transported members to the Memorial Reserve at the entrance to the Memorial Cross at the top of Mount Macedon. Here a private service by VVAA Members was conducted. The Memorial was built with funds raised by the Kyneton RSL ( a grant was received from the DVA); based on a design made by Mrs Pam Magrath a VVAA Central Highlands member. To wrap the VVAA Day up members went on to attend a dinner dance kindly put on by the Woodend RSL in the evening.



## SUB BRANCHES ~ ACTIVITIES

**FRANKSTON** As we look back over the past twelve months the Frankston District Sub Branch of the VVAA has had a significant increase in membership, we believe that this is due not only to our active social activities but to our partners being full members of our group. Our programmed social gatherings are varied and some Sub Branch members have just come back from a day at the Watch House & the Old Melbourne Jail, other activities include a day at the Treatment farm in Carrum and a trip to the Wonthaggi Coal Mine, of course these trips are all followed by a lunch at a nearby restaurant. Our social outings have been a great success which can be seen increase of numbers attending these activities. As mentioned our social gatherings have been varied, and over the last few months we have also been celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam Conflict.

Our Service on Vietnam Veterans Day was well attended and our guest speaker Mr. Khiet Nguyen the RSL President Republic of Vietnam Sub branch was warmly welcomed by our members. Over the past few months we have been active within our community looking after the welfare of Veterans including several who have moved into RSL Park. Earlier in the year some of our members did a "Cooking for two" course in which the participants learnt the basic skills of cooking a simple but healthy meal. Due to its success we hope to be able to run the course again in the near future.



*"Cooking for Two" Course Participants*

The Frankston Sub-Branch meets on the First Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Frankston RSL in the Simpson Room 2. Any Veteran or partner who is in the area on the day is more than welcome to come along to a meeting.

As this will be the last edition of FSB before Christmas, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.

**GEELONG** Geelong sub branch hosted the 2012 National Council meeting in May. The event was successful due to the volunteers from the sub branch and the generosity of the Greater City of Geelong Council and Mayor Cr John Mitchell. The Council hosted the "Meet & Greet" for participants and invitees. Images of the events are available from the sub branch. The event was catered by Peter Sullivan who was ably supported in the kitchen by Maureen and sub branch volunteers.



### **PEACE MEMORIAL**

Several years ago BAM STONE of Port Fairy donated a piece of bluestone for etching by A1 Plaques Australia Pty Ltd. The scene is of Australian troops from 7RAR being collected by American helicopters after a search mission in August 1967.

In what Geelong & District Sub Branch perceived as a simple process to place the tablet in the Peace Memorial, turned into a decade of frustration in getting all the parties to reach agreement. The sub branch developed a close relationship with the City of Greater Geelong Council, in particular the Mayor, Cr John Mitchell. Through the goodwill of the Mayor, the sub branch was able to arrange for the ceremony to proceed on the 3rd August 2012, the 50th Anniversary of deployment of Australian forces in Vietnam.

Geelong & District Sub Branch Patron, Mr Ted Hefernan and A.A.T.T.V. Association Secretary spoke at the service which was attended by approximately eighty people. The Mayor, Cr John Mitchell, unveiled the tablet.



**Geelong & District Sub Branch Patron Mr Ted Heffernan**  
*Courtesy of Geelong Advertiser - Photo: Mike Douglas*

**PLAQUE DEDICATION** On Wednesday 10 October at 3.00pm around 25 Vietnam Veterans, partners and supporters gathered in the vicinity of the Vietnam plaque in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. The gathering was to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the dedication of the plaque, along with the 50th anniversary of the deployment of Australian service personnel to Vietnam and the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the National Vietnam Memorial in Canberra. The service also gave us the opportunity for our own personal reflection on the time that we spent as a part of the Australian Vietnam Forces. The service was conducted by the Acting Precentor of the Cathedral, the Rev'd Ruth Redpath and the address was given by Army Chaplain the Rev'd Glenn Buijs, who spoke passionately about the difficulties in obtaining due recognition for the many problems encountered by those returning from active service.

*Unfortunately, this year we were unable to arrange for Her Majesty, the Queen to visit Federation Square, to coincide with our visit to St Paul's, as was the case in 2011.*

The Geelong and District members have long had the desire that this service continues as an annual event, coinciding with the anniversary of the plaque's dedication and sincerely thank those who attended this year.

## MELTON

### Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service

The Melton Sub Branch - Vietnam Veterans Association held a service at the Melton & District Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Sunday 19th August to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and the 46th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. This was well attended by Veterans, school children and the general public. Unlike the service in the city the rain held off.



Various organisations, school children, local MP Don Nardella and Melton Shire councillors laid wreaths. This was followed by breakfast and refreshments at the Welfare Centre (The House).

### Long Tan Dinner Dance

Friday 17th August the Vietnam Veterans held their annual dinner dance at the Melton Country Club with 121 guests attending. The entertainment was Ray "Screamy" Eames who also entertained the troops during the Vietnam War as part of the Blue Echoes.



The night was very well received and everyone enjoyed catching up with friends.

## MITCHELL

### Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk Seymour

At last we have some movement on site at the Commemorative Walk in High Street. The pavers bought in the last 12 months will be down by the opening on Saturday 9th March 2013.

The wall design has been finalised using DigiGlass. It is two layers of armour glass with a print medium in between. The committee has decided on one continuous wall to tell the story of Vietnam in photos behind the names. We have decided on the story line from the first deployment in 1962 to the last troops out in 1973 and that should be visible from a



## SUB BRANCHES ~ ACTIVITIES

distance and just be background when up close reading your name. Many thanks to all the vets who donated their photos of the period; you will be recognised on the wall. The response was fantastic.

The DVA has given us permission to use their database and the names that are on that list as of 31 July 2012 will be on the wall. We had to give them an undertaking that we would add names as they became available in the future. The opening ceremony for stage 2 is now being finalised. Seymour has a Military Heritage Weekend every year and 2013's theme is "Vietnam Revisited". The opening on 9th March is the centrepiece of the whole weekend. The program includes a military parade, opening & closing ceremonies, wall inspection, a concert and fireworks display.

*Breaking news, Minister for Defence Material Jason Clare announced today, 2 October 2012, that the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk is to receive an Iroquois helicopter to have for static display. It will be mounted on a stand on the western end of the existing Luscombe Bowl as an iconic drawcard for the Walk.*



The Centurion Tank, donated by Mr Bruno Grollo, will be placed in the area of a "Rice Paddy" on the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

### MURRAY BORDER



*SS&A Albury's Waterfall Wall*

The service has been held at the waterfall wall since the Memorial plaque was moved from QEII Square in 2006.  
Photograph courtesy of *The Border Times*

### OUTER EASTERN MELBOURNE

#### **Knox Council Civic Reception – 50th Anniversary of Deployment**

Over 240 Vietnam Veterans and guests attended an excellent function hosted by the City of Knox to acknowledge and honour the 50th Anniversary of the first deployment of Australian troops in South Vietnam. Short speeches were made by the Mayor Adam Gill, Senator David Feeney (Labor Parliamentary Secretary for Defence) and Gerry Turner (President OEMVVAA). Apart from inviting all veterans residing in Knox, the Council very generously extended invitations to all OEM Sub-branch veterans regardless of



whether or not they were residents of Knox. Our OEM Sub-branch is highly appreciative of Knox Council for hosting us at a Civic Reception and they are to be commended and congratulated for their initiative in being the only Council in Australia to host such a function for their veteran community. The feedback from attendees was excellent and everybody appeared to enjoy the evening.

#### **New Members Breakfasts**

Outer Eastern Melbourne Sub-branch has experienced a significant increase in new members over the past four years (51 in 2009, 38 in 2010, 51 in 2011 and 46 in 2012) across all categories of membership. As a means of welcoming new members to the Sub-branch, two Sunday morning breakfasts are held each year at the Upwey-Belgrave RSL to formally welcome the new members to the Sub-branch and VVAA. The breakfasts have proved to be very popular and numbers have to be limited due to venue capacity.

The first of two Breakfast functions was held at Upwey / Belgrave RSL on Sunday 6th May where 20 new members were welcomed into the Sub-branch. A total of 69 members attended the function which was a bit above the capacity of the venue making things a bit 'tight and squeezey'.



## SUB BRANCHES ~ ACTIVITIES

The second New Members Breakfast was held on the 24th June 2012 again at the Upwey/Belgrave RSL. Bob Elworthy (State President) and Jim Bourke AM MG (OEM Patron) attended as our Special Guests. A total of 64 people attended the breakfast with 13 new members formally welcomed into the Sub-branch.



### Fund raising Sausage Sizzles - Bunnings Bayswater & Vermont South

OEM recently held the fourth of five planned Friday sausage sizzles on 21st September at Bunnings Vermont South. Whilst this was the quietest of the four fund raisers, none-the-less a profit of \$435 was raised for the Sub-branch. This brought the total to just over \$3000 over the four days held so far this year. Doing an “apprenticeship” on the relatively quiet Friday shifts has paid dividends in that we have already been allocated a Saturday shift in April 2013 at Bunnings Bayswater. Hopefully a similar outcome will also be achieved at Bunnings Vermont South. OEM also plans to continue with the Friday shifts in 2013, similar to this year, as it has become apparent that it is an excellent forum for new members, and the not so well known members, to connect into the Sub-branch and with fellow veterans. The feedback from volunteers has been very positive and it is obvious that they enjoy the camaraderie with fellow veterans. As such the sausage sizzles are as much about proactive welfare and social interaction as they are about fund raising,



### Vietnam Veteran Day Services in the Yarra Valley

A very successful service and March was held this year at Yarra Glen on Sunday 19th October with approximately 250 people in attendance. The service is jointly organised by 6 local RSL's in the Yarra Valley and is strongly supported by our OEM Sub-branch.



The event has been progressively building in prominence over recent years and this year the service was very well attended including a strong turn-out of Vietnam Veterans. The guest speaker was Brigadier Michael Phelps. Local Federal & State politicians, the local Mayor and other dignitaries attended the service. The event is rotated annually between the RSL's and next year Healesville will be the host.

Further up the Yarra Valley another service was held at Mansfield attended by some 60 people. The service and address was given by OEM member Tony Dennis and culminated in starting off the Mansfield v Benalla football match with Barry Purcell (brother of Tony Purcell KIA in 1966) tossing the coin.



OEM member Henry Andrews from Yarck (also the President of Alexandra RSL) conducted services at both Yarck and Alexandra.

## RAAF VVA

ANZAC Day was once again terrible weather which contributed to low numbers but those who did brave the elements were rewarded with a great lunch at CITRO.

After the march a short ceremony was held at the RAAF VVA Plaque adjacent to the Shrine of Remembrance to remember fallen comrades.



VV Day the same atrocious weather but the few that turned up were rewarded by the new manager of Orient East (formerly CITRO) with a magnificent lunch. Committee Member Bob Brackin laid the wreath on behalf of Committee and members of the RAAF VVA.



The Vietnamese Community 50th Anniversary of Australia's military commitment to Vietnam Remembrance ceremony held on the 8th of September was conducted in much better weather. Wreaths laid on behalf of all RAAF units who served.

Ron McMullen Vice President, No 9 Squadron Victoria along with John (Snow) Coughlan CGM laid their wreath.



Geoff Rose laid a wreath in honour of the RAAF Transport Squadrons, No's 36 and 37 who provided CASEVAC and other support throughout the conflict and



finally participated in significant rescue missions in 1975. Other wreaths were laid by members of 2 and 35 Sqns and the RAAF VVA.

The Vietnamese Veteran Community awarded many Commemorative Plaques to Australian Units who served with distinction in Vietnam. A most humbling day for all who attended. RAAF VVA officially thanks Khiet Nguyen who coordinated the days proceedings.

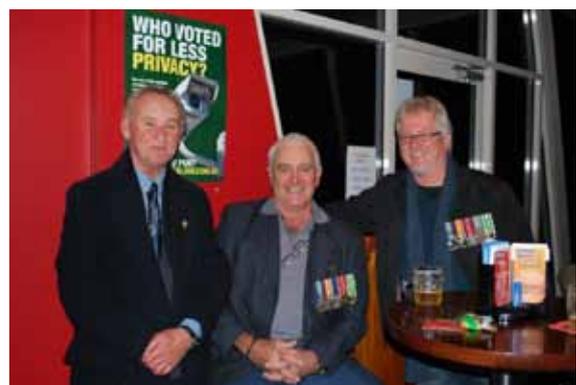
## WARRNAMBOOL

**VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY.** As usual the weather on the day was typical South West Victoria, cold and windy. However we didn't get the mandatory shower of rain during the service. This year the theme was on The Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). The first major unit to be deployed., it's record and how it was the only unit to serve as a unit from the beginning to the end of the conflict in Vietnam and the most highly decorated. The Warrnambool and Port Fairy area has links with the AATTV. "Bushy" Coutts when he retired from the as a WO/RSM army settled in with his family and was active in the Port Fairy RSL and served on the Executive for many years up until he passed away.

"Ted." Serong the OIC of the AATTV family moved to the Port Fairy and Warrnambool area a number of generations ago and one of the girls married into the Roberts family. "Ted." Serong would have been a cousin/2nd cousin of my father.

Considering on which day VV Day fell, Saturday the turn out was very good. Local service organisations laid wreaths. The Warrnambool RAAF Cadet Squadron which was formed earlier on in the year attended and it was in fact their first public appearance as they had only been issued with their uniforms a week or so prior.

David Carroll laid a wreath in memory of his father "Billy" Carroll 1 RAR and members of the Warburton family for their brother Graham. After the service Veterans, families and friends adjourned to the Warrnambool RSL where refreshments were taken.



Dave Shangie, Jeff Maddocks and Peter Bird (Aka Larry, Curly and Mo) enjoying a drink and swapping yarns in the Warrnambool RSL.

Vietnam Veteran's Day Services were also held at Portland in the evening and at Hamilton at 11:00.

## SUB BRANCHES ~ ACTIVITIES

### WARRNAMBOOL

Warrnambool Vietnam Veteran's memorial on completion of Vietnam Veteran's Day service.



*Photo Don. Roberts*

### MUSEUM

#### Iroquois Helicopter

*On the tank trailer, next stop NVVM*



*Arrival at NVVM  
David Streatfield  
and Gary Parker*

### MUSEUM

#### Open Day - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) celebrated another anniversary in November.

The highlights of this staged event included:

**VetRide** - the arrival of a contingent of VetRide participants after a quick cycle around Philip Island, the presentation to NVVM of money raised from the VetRide activities \$31,500, accepted by John Methvan

**Handover of Museum Land Title** - VVAA State President, Bob Elworthy handed over to John Methvan, Chairman NVVM Trustees, a legal document which is or represents the ownership of the land on which the NVVM is constructed. This brings to an end the uncertainty of title and the severance of the NVVM from VVAA Victorian Branch Inc.

**Opening of the New Zealand Display** - The New Zealand Consulate General in Melbourne, Mr Daniel Taylor led a delegation that included Ms Claire Hall, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, to open a new exhibition featuring New Zealand's in Vietnam.

**RSL Victorian Donation** - Victorian RSL State Vice President, Mr George Logan, announced that the Victorian RSL Branch will provide a donation of \$25,000 to the museum.

The United States of America Consulate General in Melbourne, Mrs Mary Warlick presided over a dignified ceremony in which the history of the helicopter and the close ties between the US and Australia were recognised.

The first priority is to change the name from ARMY to RAAF and then obtain various other attachments to return the machine to something like it's Vietnam appearance.



*The "helicopter" shown located at the rear of the first hanger.*

**Acknowledgement of Vietnamese Community Support** - Gary Parker acknowledged the financial support from the Vietnamese community, particularly from their special fund raising activities.

Certificates of appreciation were handed to supporters of the NVVM.

## VETERAN ACTIVITIES

### Bush Walking: Donovan & Mutton

Two former sub-branch presidents – Mick Mutton, Geelong and Frank Donovan, Central Highlands – teamed up to challenge our fit younger generation relatives to a pre-ANZAC Day bush walk for 8 days on Tasmania’s Overland Track. As the pictures prove, the vets were out there and up there ahead of the pack, who could neither keep pace on the ground nor climb the mountain with us!



*Mick Mutton & Frank Donovan*

Though slower than us vets, the young ones all did finish the trek within the 8 days. Now Mick and I are thinking of signing them all up as social members and creating a new ‘linked’ unit: ‘Geelong-Central Highlands - Bush Walkers’ sub-branch. AKA **GCHBW** (Go Country Hikers – Bloody Wankers)!



*Family members with Frank Donovan and Mick Mutton.*

Mick – a highly experienced and accomplished bush walker (in spite of his unlikely Airforce background) is offering to lead bush walks for other vets in Victoria. They won’t be as arduous or demanding as ‘The Overland’ but they will help to keep vets healthy and living longer.

VVAA members who want a walk can contact Mick Mutton through Geelong Sub-branch.

## VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

### Vietnamese Community and Vietnamese Veterans pay Tribute

The Vietnamese Community in Victoria and the Victorian Vietnamese Veterans have marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment of AATTV members to Vietnam by conducting a black tie dinner attended by the Governor-at which donations were collected for VVAA Victoria, a three day exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall in August, a strong representation at Vietnam Veterans Day, and a ceremony at the Melbourne shrine of Remembrance in September.

State President Bob Elworthy attended the Shrine service and placed a wreath, on behalf of the branch, with Hoang Chinh Dan, President of Vietnamese Veterans Association of Victorian Branch.



All events were very well patronized. The exhibition was supported by the E Team, AATTVA Victoria, Boat People Association, Box Hill RSL and the wider Vietnamese community. At the service at the Shrine, plaques of appreciation were presented to a large number of ESO’s and Navy, Army and RAAF Associations. Funds donated have been distributed to The Seymour Veterans Walk and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

The VVAA Vic State President presented a signed copy of Bruce Davies’ new book “Vietnam” to the Vietnamese Community in appreciation.

# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY MELBOURNE 2012



What is it about the 18<sup>th</sup> of August and the weather in Melbourne? Under leaden skies, in freezing conditions and at times torrential rain, a large contingent of veterans and family members from across the state gathered at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, acknowledge the deployment of the first AATTV members to Vietnam 50 years ago, remember fallen comrades and to rekindle old friendships.

The “gunfire” breakfast was a welcome distraction from the weather and helped to fortify veterans against the elements. Happily, the weather steadily improved from foul to tolerable by the time the commemorations commenced, and despite an abbreviated program, a concession to the weather and frozen bodies, the service was conducted with due respect and solemnity befitting the occasion.

We were honoured to have the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, and the Victorian Premier, the Honourable Ted Baillieu attend the commemorations and place the first floral tributes. The Governor was very interested in the activities of the Victorian Branch, particularly our welfare work, and expressed his delight at being able to attend. The Premier took the time to telephone the State President the following evening to thank the Branch for his invitation to attend, and how pleased he was to join us on the day.

A special thanks to all the Vietnam veteran family who braved the elements to make Vietnam Veterans Day 2012 a memorable one.

*Veterans move forward in the rain to the eternal flame.  
Awaiting the arrival of Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Alex  
Chernov, AC QC and Premier, Mr Baillieu*



# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY MELBOURNE 2012



State, sub branch and association banners



Guest Speaker: LTCOL T.C. Bannister, OAM (Retd)



VV Day Images supplied by Lindsay McQueen - Additional image contributions from Cindy Stott

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

# CPL DANIEL KEIGHRAN VC

## HAIL OUR LATEST VC HERO

### MY SAY BY BOB ELWORTHY

I am sure that we all would wish to personally congratulate **Cpl Daniel Keighran, VC**. The citation accompanying the award of the VC shows him to be an exceptionally brave and selfless soldier, who has upheld the finest traditions of the Australian military.

There was considerable commentary around the award of the latest VC, most notably from Jeff Kennett, former Victorian Premier on radio 3AW in the days immediately following the announcement. Jeff drew attention to the number of VC's awarded in the great wars, Vietnam and Afghanistan. In that context, he wondered out loud whether there may be a lowering of the standard for the award of the VC, given four were awarded during the Vietnam War and we now have three for Afghanistan-he hoped that wasn't the case. One caller to the talk back program even had the temerity to suggest the latest VC was some form of conspiracy by the Labor Government to retain power!

I have no doubt that Cpl Keighran and the others awarded VC's for bravery in Afghanistan were fully deserving of their medals and are fully deserving of the admiration and thanks of a grateful nation. However, the radio discussions got me thinking about the matter of bravery awards from the Vietnam War. For me, the award of the third VC for Afghanistan cast a spotlight on the bravery awards (or more specifically the lack of bravery awards) from the Vietnam War. It is clear to me that there will be many Australian servicemen who performed acts of extreme heroism in Vietnam, who have been "duded" by an awards approval system that oversaw the downgrading of recommendations for bravery, while at the same time ensuring that the old boys club got their DSO's and the like.

Being cheeky, I might even suggest that if you didn't serve in HQ AFV in Saigon (second only in decorations to AATTV?) or you were particularly brave in the second half of the year- with the obvious exception of "Dasher" Wheatley VC who was KIA in

November 1965, and a smattering of MC's, then there's little chance of a real gong for you mate. And don't get me started on the ridiculous notion of quotas for bravery awards! The whole bravery awards debacle for Vietnam is a disgrace, and in my opinion one that needs to be righted, and if you think for a moment it will be easy to right, then just reflect on the long drawn out fight for Long Tan awards, when an out-going PM had to be dragged literally kicking and screaming to finally agree to a review. But right it we must, there will be our own Vietnam War heroes from Long Tan, Coral-Balmoral, Binh Ba, Nui Le and many other actions deserving of recognition for their bravery.

**Enough of that, back to my original theme, well done Cpl Daniel Keighran VC, I salute you.**

## THE OLDEST VIETNAM VETERAN IN AUSTRALIA?

Whilst checking renewal forms for the Murray Border Vietnam Veterans I came across the Regimental Number 4119. I looked up the Vietnam Veterans Honour Roll and the number was correct. It belonged to a **Thomas John Thompson** a long standing member of the VVAA who resides in Yarrowonga who was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1920. I thought "*The combination of his age, a long military background and with his Regimental Number suggests this bloke is possibly the oldest Vietnam Veteran in Australia.*"

Brian Cossar another Murray Border member and a resident of Yarrowonga said "Tomo", as he is affectionately known, is a well-known local identity in the Yarrowonga/Mulwala area. Brian suggested he could arrange a luncheon where I could meet Tomo and get his story first hand.



Thomas John Thompson & Brian Cossar

## THE OLDEST VIETNAM VETERAN IN AUSTRALIA?

I met Tomo, who was tall, upright, lean and sprightly and using a walking stick. He was quick to explain was only necessary because of a recent knee operation. I was soon to discover this old soldier attends a Pilates session twice a week which he maintains has greatly improved his mobility. It did not surprise me to learn that he still holds a driving licence and drives around the town.

Tomo was born in Parkside a suburb of Adelaide in South Australia in 1920. It became clear that it was going to be very difficult for Tomo to nail down dates of his military engagements given that we were talking about postings between 50 – 70 years ago. His military career commenced in the Cadets in 1937. At that time there were two categories of Cadets, School Cadets as we know them today and then there were Senior Cadets who were aged between 16 – 18 years of age. Senior cadets were attached to Militia Units (now known as Army Reserve Units). He was attached to a Engineer Unit. In 1939 he joined the Permanent Military Forces and was allocated to 10<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery Royal Australian Artillery which was located at Fort Largs in South Australia where he quickly rose through the ranks and as a young SGT and attached to the AIF Training Depot at Wayville Show Grounds.

He was posted to the Small Arms School at Bonegilla under the command of Colonel Latchford before returning to Adelaide and re-joined the Engineers. In 1941 Tomo, now a CSM of the Engineers unit, saw active service in New Guinea, Morati and Borneo. After WW2, Tomo returned to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in Adelaide then to Puckapunyal for 3 years as an instructor. He returned to Adelaide this time to 3/9 Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles) based in Unley. Tomo was the Training Warrant Officer for a CMF unit they used “Staghound” armoured vehicles. During an incident where a vehicle burst into flames, Tomo rushed to the burning vehicle to rescue the missing crew member. Although unsuccessful, Tomo was awarded the Member of the British Empire (MBE) for Gallantry or in today’s speak, Bravery.

Postings followed to 8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles firstly based in Melbourne and then to Wangaratta. In the early 1960’s Tomo was commissioned as a Lieutenant and posted back to Puckapunyal to the Armoured Regiment as the A/QM. He then spent a lot of time up in Tin Can Bay where for up to 5 years before being deployed to Vietnam the tanks trained for their future role in this conflict.

In 1968 aged 48 Tomo deployed to South Vietnam as the Captain QM of the Detachment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Forward Delivery Troop. Highlights of his tour of duty in Vietnam were his arrival and his run in with MAJGEN A L McDonald. The

day of Tomo’s arrival was in the middle of the Tet Offensive. He along with the other re-enforcements were billeted at the camp next to the airport. They had two difficulties, the VC were using the golf course next to these billets and the airport as a main route for the city of Siagon, and they were not re- issued their weapons after they arrived in country. They had to hope that the Yanks and the ARVN could keep the VC out of the camp. They survived the night and were very pleased to get to Nui Dat the next morning. As the Commander Gen McDonald visited his unit, being a good QM he had plenty of stores all on his shelves. The General told Tomo to return the stores, he chose to ignore the direction working on the assumption he would not follow it up. Guess what, he did!!! McDonald was a small man but Tomo can still remember the pain from that kick in the butt.

On RTA from Vietnam Tomo was posted to Puckapunyal. Luck was on his side though because at a Mess function his wife spoke to someone with rank from Canberra and “Hey presto” they were off on his next posting, Singapore. From Singapore to Puckapunyal, these black hats did not want to get out of their comfort zone.

By this time Tomo had been promoted to Major, it was the mid 1970’s and he had reached retirement age. After the experience of caravanning had worn off, Tomo and his wife made a permanent home in the NE border district, finally settling on Yarrowonga.

In his military life Tomo was an achiever and this also proved to be the case in civilian life too. He spent many years on the committees of the Mulwala & District Services Club as a Director, Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL Sub-Branch as a long term Secretary and a Legatee with Cobram/Yarrowonga Legacy Group. He is a Life Member of Mulwala & District Services Club and Yarrowonga-Mulwala RSL Sub-Branch.

If Tomo is not the oldest Vietnam Veteran he has to be the fittest for his age. It was a pleasure and an experience to meet and talk with such a fine old soldier. My thanks to Brian Cossar for organising the meeting.

Well done Major Thomas John Thompson, MBE, Rtd

*John Walpole OAM*

*VVAA Murray Border Sub Branch*

## FUNERAL INSURANCE - WHO REALLY BENEFITS?

Daytime TV is flooded with ads promoting funeral insurance, offering an amount of money to cover funeral costs in return for regular premiums, starting for as little as a cup of coffee. It all sounds perfectly sensible and a way to protect family from having to find money for a funeral, however the devil is in the detail.

Funeral Insurance, like most insurance policies, has a premium (a regular payment) and a benefit. The problem is that most funeral insurance premiums rise over time, increasing each year as the risk of death increases-called stepped premiums. The alternative, or level premiums don't rise annually but start at a higher rate.

In an article in the *Herald Sun*, on 4 August 2012, Scott Francis a contributor to the *Eureka Report* cites one insurance provider advertising cover starting at just \$3.41 per week for \$6000 cover, for people aged 17-44. However by age 65 the premium has risen to \$9.48 a week, and by age 82 to \$29.70, equal to \$1540 per year. The same provider offers level premiums of \$8.37 per week for the same cover if taken out at age 60.

Be aware that because you are buying an insurance policy, if you stop paying you are left with nothing. Scott Francis suggests it is far better to build a cash reserve to pay for the funeral rather than take out insurance (or buy a pre-paid funeral if you can afford the lump sum).

Here is his example: \$6000 funeral benefit, female client with a life expectancy of 26 years. Her premiums over that time would total \$25000, and when a 5 per cent interest rate is factored in, she will have foregone \$44100 in savings, for a \$6000 benefit. With inflation at say 3 per cent for the period the funeral benefit would have increased to \$12950 in 26 years time.

For those of us with even modest assets, a quick chat with the bank manager about how cash can be accessed at such a time should be all that is needed to put your mind at ease.

**Making preparations for funeral expenses is a thoughtful and sensible thing to do, and perhaps funeral insurance is right for you. With every significant purchase, including funeral insurance, remember "caveat emptor" let the buyer beware. Before committing to any product, do your sums, and make sure that you clearly understand the financial implications of the product.**

## VVCS VICTORIAN REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

At the June VVCS Regional Consultative Forum, the State President took part in a cake cutting ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of the VVCS.

In 1982, the first centre opened in Adelaide, and there are now 15 centres Australia wide. The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service provides counselling and group programs to Australian veterans, peace-keepers and their families. It is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service.



*Bob Elworthy and Noel Coult*

**Newsflash:** Calls to VVCS 1800 011 046 from Telstra mobiles are now free thanks to Telstra National Crisis Line initiative. Calls from landline remain free, calls from other mobiles and public telephones may incur a charge.

## William Hacking Bursary

**WILLIAM HACKING BURSARY** recipient, **Ms Sophie Meehan**, was presented with her certificate at the State Council Meeting, Healesville, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012, by the Senior Vice President Mr James Coughlan.

Sophie enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood / Primary) course with the Victoria University and achieved High Distinctions in the three years of the bursary.

Well done Sophie.

William Hacking Bursaries are provided for those students not eligible for the Long Tan Bursary or VCES funding. Conditions apply.

**Applications should be directed to the VVAA Vic State Secretary.**





✔ To use MyAccount, you must first register.

1. Call the DVA Veterans' Access Network (VAN) on **1800 173 858** and request a MyAccount registration number.

**Write this number down.**

2. Go to <https://myaccount.dva.gov.au>  
The DVA Online Services screen displays.



3. Click **Register now**  
The Acknowledgement screen displays.

4. Click **Yes, I wish to proceed**  
The Identity questions screen displays.

5. Enter your **Date of birth**.
6. Enter your **MyAccount registration number**.

7. Click **Submit**  
The confirmation screen displays.

8. Click **Continue**  
The australia.gov.au screen displays.

If you do not have an account with australia.gov.au, continue with step 9 below.

If you already have an account with australia.gov.au, enter your existing login details and click Continue. The DVA MyAccount Terms and Conditions display. If you accept these, registration is complete and the MyAccount Home screen displays.

To access MyAccount in future, click **Login** on the DVA Online Services screen.

9. Click **Register Now!**  
The Terms and Conditions screen displays.
10. Read the terms and conditions and scroll to the bottom of the page.
11. If you agree, select the **Yes** radio button.
12. Click **Continue**.

The Choose a Password screen displays.

13. Enter your new password.
14. Enter your new password again.
15. Click **Continue**.

The Secret Questions and Answers screen displays.

16. Type 5 secret questions and provide answers.
17. Click **Continue**  
The Finish screen displays.



18. Record your User ID.  
If you lose this User ID, you will need to recommence the registration process.

19. Select the method you used to record your User ID.
20. Click **Continue**  
The DVA Terms and conditions screen displays.

21. Read the terms and conditions and scroll to the bottom of the page.
22. If you agree, select the **Yes** radio button.

23. Click **Continue**  
The MyAccount Home screen displays.



You have successfully registered for and accessed MyAccount.

To access MyAccount in future, click **Login** on the DVA Online Services screen.

For assistance, call the **Veterans' Access Network (VAN)** on 1800 173 858.

## EDUCATION TAX REFUND (ETR) PAYMENT FOR SCHOOLKIDS BONUS

The Australian Government announced a Budget measure called *School Kids Bonus* to assist with education costs for all primary and secondary students who receive an education payment under Veterans' Children Education Scheme or Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme. The new *School Kids Bonus* will replace the ETR claimable through the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

The one-off payment amount will depend on the number of children in each family who were enrolled in primary or secondary school on 8 May 2012. The scheme will commence on 1 Jan 2013.

For more information use the following web link:

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

## CLAIM FOR TRAVELLING EXPENSES D800 FORM

Use **this form** for travel to Treatment, a Disability Claim or an Income Support Claim under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, or treatment under the *Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006*. This form is available electronically or may be obtained from any DVA State office or Veterans' Affairs Network (VAN). There have been significant changes to this form and Health Providers are only required to complete this form if travel is over 100km return.

**Do not use this form** for travel relating to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Veterans' Review Board or the Specialist Medical Review Council. Use the D803 form for these purposes.

For information, please read DVA fact sheets, HSV02, available from your State Office or VAN, or visit DVA website: [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au).

## GRANT LIGHTS UP VETERANS' WALK Media Release from The Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Seymour's Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk will soon be lit at night after the Gillard Government has provided a grant of \$150,000.

Federal Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell, joined with committee members, volunteers and Mitchell Shire to announce funding through the *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations Program.

Mr Mitchell said "This is the next step in the development of a memorial acknowledging the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans." "I know the hard work the local committee have been doing and I congratulate them for their commitment to making this project a reality. It is heartening to see a community partnership culminate in such a wonderful tribute to our veterans."

"The Commemorative Walk will serve as a lasting reminder to the community and visitors alike of Seymour's rich military history and the important role it has played in ensuring Australian troops are well prepared for active service."

*“ a lasting reminder to the  
community ”*

Mr Snowdon said "The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk recognises the region's rich service history and the significance of Seymour as a military training base, where many Vietnam Veterans first began their journey to serve their country."

Veterans' Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon said \$150,000 would help Mitchell Shire Council to complete the final stage of the Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Walk. "The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk recognises the region's rich service history and the significance of Seymour as a military training base, where many Vietnam Veterans first began their journey to serve their country," Mr Snowdon said.

"I encourage all Australians to visit the Walk and take time to reflect on the efforts of the brave men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War."

"As one of Australia's longest military commitments, we should not only remember those lost but the many more who have continued to live with the physical and emotional scars of their service."

## MENTAL HEALTH - PRIVATE HOSPITALS

The Department has entered into Deeds of Agreements with a majority of organisations to provide mental health services in a private hospital setting to eligible members of the veteran community throughout Australia. The Repatriation Private Patient Principles provides the legislative framework for the provision of these services. Generally, for Gold Card holders, admissions to these contracted hospitals do not require prior financial authorisation, however there are some exceptions which include respite, convalescent services and non approved programs. Admissions for white card holders need to be related to their accepted war caused disabilities.

The following list of hospitals fit within the majority of the VVAA Victorian Branch membership.

<b>VIC</b>	Beleura Private Hospital	St John of God Hospital Pinelodge Clinic
	Delmont Private Hospital	St John of God Hospital Warrnambool
	Essendon Private Hospital	The Albert Road Clinic
	Malvern Private Hospital	The Geelong Clinic
	Mitcham Private Hospital	The Melbourne Clinic
	Northpark Private Hospital	The Victoria Clinic
<b>NSW</b>	Albury Wodonga Private Hospital	

A full list of mental hospitals can be seen at the DVA web site:

[http://www.dva.gov.au/service\\_providers/hospitals/veteran\\_partnering/Pages/mentalhealth.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/service_providers/hospitals/veteran_partnering/Pages/mentalhealth.aspx)

## DVA TELEPHONE NUMBERS: - GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Service name	Number
General enquiries – from anywhere in Australia	<b>133 254</b>
General enquiries – from country areas only (Freecall)	<b>1800 555 254</b>

### Direct to business area

Service Name	Number
Defence Service Homes Insurance	<b>1300 552 662</b>
Defence Service Homes Loans	<b>1800 722 000</b>
Health, medical and hospital providers	<b>1300 550 457</b>
Local Veterans' Home Care (VHC) assessor	<b>1300 550 450</b>
VAPAC	<b>1800 552 580</b>
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)	<b>1800 011 046</b>
Veterans' Home Maintenance Line	<b>1800 80 1945</b>
Veterans' HomeFront	<b>1800 80 1945</b>
Veterans' Review Board	<b>1300 550 460</b> <b>1800 550 460</b> (regional callers)
Overseas Treatment Office (if dialling from outside Australia)	<b>+61 3 6221 6752</b>
Pension Enquiries (if dialling from outside Australia)	<b>+61 3 6221 6782</b>

Go to: [http://www.dva.gov.au/contact\\_us/Pages/DVAphonenumbers.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/contact_us/Pages/DVAphonenumbers.aspx)

## VIETNAM VETERANS' FAMILY STUDY HIT BY DVA BUDGET CUT

The **Vietnam Veterans' Family Study** final report was expected to go to Government in the second half of 2012 with an anticipated release date of sometime in the first half of 2013. The Repatriation Commissioner, MAJGEN Mark Kelly, has advised in a letter that resources for the Family Study Program have been scaled back as a result of a DVA operating budget cut of \$12 million during the next financial year, and the report is now scheduled to be published during the 2013-14 financial year with a release date likely in the first half of 2014.

State President Bob Elworthy said "Whilst this timetable is still significantly ahead of the original time planned for completion of the study, this delay is very disappointing, particularly when viewed in the light of the department secretary assuring us that there would be no loss of client services. It took years of hard graft by dedicated veterans and their partners to convince the government of the day that such a study was needed, and many thousands of veterans, partners, children and others have invested their time, and energy to provide the necessary information to enable the study to proceed. For many, it has been a painfully emotional experience."

The Family Study is regarded by many as their most important unresolved issue. To have this vitally important study delayed because of budget constraints when the end is in sight is to be deplored."

---

## MILITARY SUPER INDEXATION RIP-OFF

Want to find out how much your DFRDB super payment has slipped behind because of the unfair use of CPI indexation?

Go to: <http://scoatas.info/indexation.php>

Ignore the "Public Sector Pension" title, and assume it is DFRDB because the same CPI indexation applies to both schemes.

Simply enter your date of discharge (month and year) and your current fortnightly gross DFRDB payment, and a clever piece of programming will 'reverse engineer' the total indexation by both CPI and Age Pension rates to present your comparison graph. You will then see how far behind you have fallen.

## HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

The Household Assistance Package, part of the Government's Plan for a Clean Energy future, provides financial assistance to help meet the cost of living impact of the carbon price which commenced on 1 July 2012.

The package includes:

\*\* A Clean Energy Advance (CEA) first paid on 14 June 2012;

\*\* A Clean Energy Supplement (CES) to commence from 20 March 2013; and

\*\* An Essential Medical Equipment Payment (EMEP) commenced on July 2012.

**DVA fact sheets CEP02 and CEP03** contain detail about the CEA and EMEP. A fact sheet for the CES will be released shortly before the supplement commences. Regular supplement payments, which are tax-exempt will commence for most recipients in March 2013.

---

## CARERS VICTORIA

**Carers Victoria** has been undertaking the role of National Carer Support Services on behalf of DVA since September 2009. From July this year the focus of the work done by Carers Victoria has changed to ensure that Carers Victoria delivers services that are truly national and benefit carers Australia wide. Carers Victoria has changed their main services from direct support to carers. To support to community care service providers that deliver services to members of the veteran community, including respite carers.

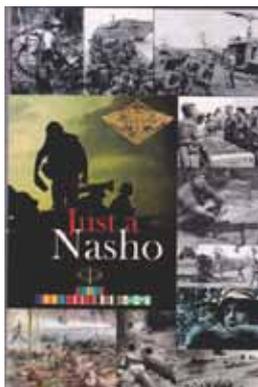
Although the familiar activities of delivering carer workshops will no longer be the focus, DVA is working with Carers Victoria to find ways to allow the information that was provided in these workshops to continue to be accessible to members of the veteran community on request.

The DVD *Men Care Too* produced by Carers Victoria will continue to be available.

## BOOK REVIEWS



Just a Nasho  
(Revised Edition)  
by - Bill Parry (Ex RAR)

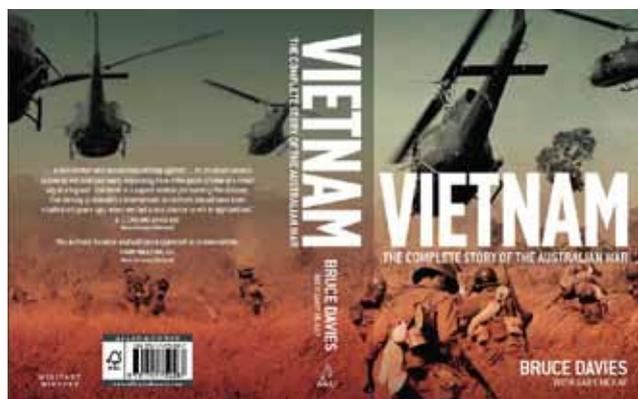


**New Release - Author - Bill Parry Ex RAR**

This book is a tribute mainly to our era of THE NASHOS who we trained and took to Sth Vietnam. This book contains a general rundown of the first National service scheme 1951 - 1959 and the second National service scheme 1965 - 1972 followed by personal stories. After this there is a story which fiction based on fact of nine members of an infantry rifle section in Vietnam. This book was previously published in 2003.

The book is fast moving action story and the scenario and situations will make you shed a tear. Go back down the broken road of memories and recall your life when you were 10 feet tall and bulletproof.

**\$25.00 (PP) or \$20.00 if picked up**  
**winston.parry@y7mail.com - 07 32040950**  
**Mr WO Parry 36 Ruby St Mango Hill QLD 4509 Australia**



**New Release**

For Australians, Vietnam remains one of the most difficult - and controversial - wars we have fought. *Vietnam* takes the reader to the front line, describing the experiences of soldier, politician, villager, enemy; and into the war room

to unpick the military and political strategies. We see the challenges the Australians faced against not only a dogged enemy, but also those by the allies in their quest to defeat a powerful counterinsurgency.

This volume about Vietnam provides important insights and adds to the considerable analysis of Australia's involvement in the 1960's war. Although some critics may observe with hindsight that alternate paths were obvious at the time, this work clearly articulates the reasons why many strategic decisions were made. Vietnam is supported by extensive research that makes the work a valuable resource for readers ranging from the casual observer of the Vietnam War to the academic who wishes to follow the footnote trail.

The authors' balance and unbiased approach is commendable. The chronological development interspersed with general lessons and vignettes drawn from primary sources, reports and published works from both sides, maintain the reader's attention while the history unfolds in a logical and understandable manner. The book moves between the strategic, the operational and tactical levels of war with ease with the political and social pressures and realities of the time providing an important backdrop.

Meticulously researched and marked with acute critical analysis and a deep understanding of the place and the war, Vietnam shows the experience of Australian soldiers as never before.

**Author - Bruce Davies** saw operational service in South Vietnam in part of every year between 1965 and 1970. He served with 1RAR, an Australian Infantry Battalion, and then twice with AATTV as an advisor with ARVN infantry in 1Corps and the Mike Force in Pleiku. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1970 and received a Commendation for Distinguished Service in Vietnam in the End of War List.

**Gary McKay** was a national servicemen who served in South Vietnam as a rifle platoon commander with 4RAR in 1971. He was seriously wounded in the last major engagement by Australians in the war, where he was also awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

Hard Copy: 690 pages

Price: \$55.00

Available from: **NVVM** and good book stores

## NOTICE BOARD

### 1Field SQUADRON WORKSHOP

**2013 Re-Union:**

**From 21<sup>st</sup> -26th April, 2013**

Box Hill, Victoria.

Invitation to Veterans and their Wives/Partners. Incorporating Dawn Service at The Shrine in Melbourne, traditional March down St. Kilda Road followed by get together and luncheon.

Contact Dennis Clarke on [03] 9848 6757 or eastern.auto@optusnet.com.au

### 1 A.L.S.G 2014 Re-Union

**From 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Mildura, Victoria

Invitations to Veterans (and their Wives/Partners) who served in Head quarter company , 1st Australian Logistic Support Group, Vung Tau, Vietnam .

This reunion is planned for the Anzac weekend in 2014 starting with a meet and greet at the Mildura RSL on Thursday the 24th April 2014

Contact Tony Brown on [03] 50212066, mobile 0428852736 or email tonyraye11@bigpond.com

### For the Golfers:

A Golfer accidentally overturned his golf cart. Elizabeth, a very attractive single women who lived in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise and yelled over to him "Hey, are you OK, what's your name?"

"Jimmy," he replied

"Jimmy, forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest up and we'll worry about your cart later."

"That's mighty nice of you," said Jimmy "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh come on," Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty and persuasive and finally Jimmy agreed.

"But my wife won't like it," he said.

After a drink or two and some good chat about golf, Jimmy thanked his host.

"I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to really upset."

"Don't be silly," said Elizabeth.

"Nothing happened. Why would she possibly get upset?"

"Because she's still under the cart," said Jimmy.



**CENTRE  
STATE  
PRINTING**

**52 Loch Street, Maryborough Victoria 3465**

**Phone: 03 5460 4222 Fax: 03 5461 1424**

*Specialising in Full Colour Commercial Printing*

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

# VVCS GROUP PROGRAMS

## Anger Management

The aim of this program is to involve the quality of life 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 appreciation; communicate more effectively and share goals for the future.

## 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 are supported by their general practitioner and a coach who guide participants through the program. The support team conduct fortnightly sessions via the phone with you and will tailor a program specifically for you.

## 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, problem 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 partners, adult sons & daughters of Vietnam veterans, eligible members of the AIF and DVA gold card holders**

## 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 veteran programs include:

Other Programmes include:

- \* **HEART HEALTH**  
Increase health & well being
- \* **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

**BALLARAT**

President Bill Dobell 5336 1538 0417 516 759  
 Secretary Yvonne Thomas 5335 8369  
 PO Box 180 SEBASTOPOL VIC 3356  
 secretary@ballarat.vvaavic.org.au

**BENDIGO**

President Neil Arnott 5442 4485 0417 534 386  
 Secretary Maurie Betts 5448 4470 0400 979 042  
 PO Box 89 BENDIGO VIC 3552  
 secretary@bendigo.vvaavic.org.au

**BOX HILL**

President John Haward 9803 3301  
 Secretary Rod Burgess 0439 378 989  
 PO Box 280 DINGLEY VILLAGE VIC 3172  
 secretary@boxhill.vvaavic.org.au

**CASTLEMAINE**

President Ernie Plumridge 5472 4651  
 Secretary Alan Lane 5472 3115  
 11A Ray Street CASTLEMAINE VIC 3450  
 secretary@castlemaine.vvaavic.org.au

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS**

President Tony Benham 5472 4954 0410 084 066  
 Secretary Trish Power 5428 3243 0409 333 235  
 53 High View Crescent, GISBORNE VIC 3437  
 secretary@centralhighlands.vvaavic.org.au

**DIAMOND VALLEY**

President Peter Blackman 9459 5117 0400 363 143  
 Secretary Martin Craze 9459 3235 0488 024 280  
 PO Box 542 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088  
 secretary@diamondvalleyanddistrict.vvaavic.org.au

**EC HUCA**

President Ken Jones 5480 0139 0408 384 670  
 Secretary Bob Johnson 5483 7411 0409 971 726  
 PO Box 743 MOAMA NSW 2731  
 secretary@echuca.vvaavic.org.au

**FRANKSTON**

President Ray Weston 9772 5351  
 Secretary Cheryl Myers 9776 6600  
 PO Box 1429 FRANKSTON VIC 3199  
 secretary@frankston.vvaavic.org.au

**GEELONG & DISTRICTS**

President Ken Baker 5241 1813 0409 586 669  
 Secretary Bruce Ellis 5267 3180 0414 683 190  
 PO Box 484 GEELONG VIC 3220  
 secretary@geelong.vvaavic.org.au

**GIPPSLAND**

President Lindsay Morton 5144 6526  
 Secretary Mick Hawryluk 5144 3542  
 PO Box 902 SALE VIC 3850  
 secretary@gippsland.vvaavic.org.au

**GOULBURN VALLEY**

President Kevin Heenan 5829 2258 0418 507 396  
 Secretary Jeff Stanyer 5862 3829 0149 135 909  
 139 Fuzzards Road NUMURKA VIC 3636  
 secretary@goulburnvalley.vvaavic.org.au

**MARYBOROUGH**

President Lee Turton 5241 1813 0409 586 669  
 Secretary Ben Holscher 5267 3180 0414 683 190  
 PO Box 274 MARYBOROUGH VIC 3465  
 secretary@maryborough.vvaavic.org.au

**MELBOURNE WEST**

President Vic Pilch 9749 5281 0410 350 889  
 Secretary Ray Matthew 9749 2835 0400 107 130  
 PO Box 1430 WERRIBEE PLAZA VIC 3030  
 secretary@melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au

**MELTON & DISTRICT**

President Gary Paterson 9747 6496 0438 313 344  
 Secretary Jim Fitzgerald 0415 679 677  
 PO Box 981 MELTON VIC 3337  
 secretary@melton.vvaavic.org.au

**MITCHELL**

President Ross Stewart 5792 2666 0407 646 988  
 Secretary Ross Gregson 5792 1285 0417 973 573  
 PO Box 812 SEYMOUR VIC 3660  
 secretary@mitchell.vvaavic.org.au

**MORNINGTON PENINSULA**

President Kevin Mawdsley 5982 0817 0429 633 081  
 Secretary Bob Francis 5981 1285 0408 808 041  
 PO Box 4012 ROSEBUD VIC 3939  
 secretary@morningtonpeninsula.vvaavic.org.au

**MURRAY BORDER ASSOCIATION**

President Gary Treeve (02) 6059 2765 0407 408 201  
 Secretary Refer President  
 PO Box 8084 WODONGA VIC 3690  
 secretary@murrayborder.vvaavic.org.au

**MUSEUM**

President Gary Parker 5956 6400 0429 105 330  
 Secretary Ian Diss 5956 6400 Fax 5956 6406  
 PO Box 318 SAN REMO VIC 3925  
 secretary@mitchell.vvaavic.org.au

**NOBLE PARK**

President Ray McCarthy 9798 5379 0418 552 804  
 Secretary John Pilkington 9737 9393 0413 163 749  
 PO Box 295 NOBLE PARK VIC 3174  
 secretary@noblepark.vvaavic.org.au

**NORTH-WEST**

President Tom Clayton 9306 7474 0438 306 709  
 Secretary Basil Tiligadis 9799 7739 0419 890 340  
 PO Box 211 GLENROY VIC 3046  
 secretary@northwest.vvaavic.org.au

**OUTER EASTERN**

President Gerry Turner 9800 1118 0425 862 858  
 Secretary Judy McQuillan 9799 7739 0400 822 644  
 PO Box 763 BORONIA VIC 3155  
 secretary@outereasternmelbourne.vvaavic.org.au

**RAAF**

President Lee Scully 9798 5379 0418 552 804  
 Secretary Riek Holmes 9737 9393 0413 163 749  
 PO Box 462 ASCOT VALE VIC 3032  
 secretary@raaf.vvaavic.org.au

**SWAN HILL & DISTRICTS**

President Harold Heslop 5033 1896 0448 778 010  
 Secretary Ron Martin 5033 1909 5033 1117  
 PO Box 1650 SWAN HILL VIC 3585  
 secretary@swanhill.vvaavic.org.au

**WARRNAMBOOL**

President Don Roberts 5568 1837 0467 556 818  
 Secretary Refer President  
 C/- 9 James Street PORT FAIRY VIC 3284  
 secretary@warrnambool.vvaavic.org.au

**WEST GIPPSLAND**

President Frank Grant 5625 4457 0430 123 527  
 Secretary Mike Latimer 5628 7692 0418 386 871  
 PO Box 556 DROUIN VIC 3818  
 secretary@westgippsland.vvaavic.org.au

**WIMMERA**

President Rex Dumesny 5384 2230  
 Secretary Tony Welbourn 5381 2438 0418 378 098  
 PO Box 345 HORSHAM VIC 3400  
 secretary@wimmera.vvaavic.org.au

**HEADQUARTERS / INTERNATIONAL**

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

State Directory current as at 18 November 2012

Note: The above committee positions are only confirmed until the Sub Branch AGM. Positions may be confirmed by email to the appropriate sub branch Secretary - secretary@[sub branch].org.au

# VVDAY MELBOURNE 2012 - IMAGES



*VV Day Images supplied by Lindsay McQueen -  
Additional image contributions from Cindy Stott*