



# Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.



SUMMER 2016 EDITION



*VV DAY 2016: 521 REASONS TO NEVER FORGET*



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ *President's Report.*
- ◆ *Secretary's Report.*
- ◆ *Ladies luncheon.*
- ◆ *Sub Branch activities.*
- ◆ *Vietnam Veterans Day 2016.*
- ◆ *St Paul's Cathedral Melb.*
- ◆ *Museum Day 2016.*
- ◆ *Family Race Day Seymour.*
- ◆ *Medical/Health/Wellbeing issues.*



*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***



What a ride! Our 2016 commemorations exceeded even the most optimistic of predictions, with every event being an unqualified success. No other state branch could have achieved what we together have achieved; a year of commemorations, remembrance,

thanks and celebration the likes of which Vietnam Veterans nationwide have never seen before. I am indebted to your Commemorations Committee and particularly Chair Ken Baker for their tireless work and infinite patience dealing with me, and to your state executive who lent their support to the commemorative program as well as keeping support to the Branch at its usual high standard. Every activity was delivered on time and on budget-thanks to Bob Glaubitz and individual activity managers. Thank you also to all the others who were press ganged into action and to all the volunteers: without you we could not have achieved what we have done. We can rightly look back on 2016 with great pride and how we did it the Vietnam Veteran way and in partnership with the Victorian State Government. I reckon our mates who are not with us would have been delighted. I hope we honoured them well.

There is one more important activity to be completed post-2016. Your Commemorative Committee has decided to produce a pictorial book of the year which should be available for purchase in late February or Early March 2017. Bob Farquar has the lead and we engaged Susan Gordon - Brown a professional photographer who has attended every activity-apart from the History tour to Vietnam - and she has produced some stunning images. The book will be a lasting reminder of our year and will encapsulate in photos all of the memorable moments; It is sure to be in very high demand and will be offered at a special discount price to 2016 financial members.

I gratefully record here the magnificent support that our 2016 commemorative program has received from the Victorian State Government: nothing has been too much trouble for the Premier, Minister for Veterans and the staff of the Veterans Unit of Department of Premier and Cabinet. How fortunate we have been to not only have all of our commemorative program fully funded, including a large grant to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, but also to have the Government throw the full resources of the Veterans Unit behind our program. An example of this support that should be readily identifiable to attendees on Vietnam Veterans Day was the large (over 2300) number of school stu-

dents who attended. The Veterans Unit promoted the day through schools, and on social media and the Government provided transport subsidies to encourage schools to attend. Marching through an honour guard of hundreds of school children will remain long in the memory. Support for other state branches pales by comparison, and my views on the lack of support and interest from the Federal Government for anything other than Canberra centric commemorations and things 6RAR have been made known to the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs.

By any measure, VV Day 2016 was an outstanding success: congratulations Maurie Benson and the Commemorations Committee. A great gunfire breakfast, feeding the hordes of school children after the service at the Shrine, the largest contingent of Vietnam Veterans to march, thousands of spectators, pipes and drums from the Rats of Tobruk and Haileybury College, the Navy Melbourne Band, artillery salutes, fly over, inspiring speeches by the Governor and Premier, a haunting re-enactment of the placing of the Long Tan Cross, volleys from a firing party, pipers playing the lament and massed pipers playing "Amazing Grace", 521 crosses across the lawn, a drum band, school children bearing 98 national flags and Choir Victoria finishing the commemorations with "I am Australian", all combined to make it a memorable day for all who attended. A special mention to Russell Topp and the Greensborough Men's shed who constructed the replica Long Tan Cross and 521 crosses, each bearing the name of a Vietnam Veteran who died during the Vietnam War. Each flag was adorned with a national flag and a hand-made poppy-what a sight they made on the Shrine lawns-thanks to Alma and Gary Elliott and ladies. The ADF lent support with volunteers for crowd control and marshalling, artillery pieces to signal the start of the commemorations, the Navy Band and a firing party from the Defence Force School of Signals.

The replica Long Tan Cross and the 18 flags bearing the names of the fallen at Long Tan have been retained and will be placed at the museum. Of particular interest was the suspension of state parliament for the duration of the VV Day commemorations which saw a very large number of MPs from both houses attend, what a tribute.

Taking VV Day outside of the Shrine precinct brought with it a plethora of regulatory requirements needing careful planning and liaison to develop plans to cover road closures, noise abatement, food handling, waste disposal, public notices, site plans and site rectification, hydration, medical, security, evacuation and a detailed emergency management plan. This was a straight up learning curve for us and

we would not have met all of the external requirements without the tireless work of Maurie Benson, support from DPC, the Shrine and RSL Victoria. My special thanks to the Shrine Trustees for allowing all floral tributes to be placed at the replica Long Tan Cross and allowing us to place the crosses in the lawns.

I followed our Vietnam History tour on Facebook and was at the airport to welcome the tour party home. What a great group of fine young Australians we chose to send on the tour; they did us, themselves and Victoria proud. I must say, like many others, I issued a big sigh of relief when they all returned safe and sound. The tour had no problem accessing Long Tan as all of the necessary permits had been obtained well in advance, and the tour group size was easily accommodated: a salutary lesson for others perhaps? A magnificent photo of the tour group at the Long Tan Cross will no doubt be prominent in the pictorial book. It is interesting to note that we were approached to be a sponsor of the concert at Vung Tau during the Long Tan activities- fortunately we declined.

I am sure you will all join with me to thank Aff Binnoore for his continued work with the Story Writing and Arts Competition (SWAC) as our representative. Aff is a tireless worker on our behalf for this very worthy cause, and we are pleased to donate significant sponsorship and prizes.

I congratulate Ed Jones who was the recipient of the Leslie Farren Memorial Award at the Repatriation Hospital Vietnam Veterans Service in August. Ed is a very worthy winner of the award- Les Farren was the first Victorian National Serviceman KIA- which acknowledges excellence in voluntary support of Vietnam veterans. The initial subterfuge to get Ed to attend the Repat. Service failed so I had to fess up about the award in order to get him there. A Well-deserved award for years of dedication and hard work for veterans Ed. We continue to be pleased to sponsor the award which features a very handsome trophy and a small monetary reward.

Sticking with the congrats, Gary Treeve has just been presented with an award from DVA marking 15 years of service as the Victorian coordinator of the Mens' Health Peer Education program. Great going Gary and thanks for your great contribution to veteran health in Victoria.

I attended National Council in Adelaide 26-28 October, and prior to the meeting I provided a copy of our closure plan "Under our own control" to the national secretary at the request from some other states. It is fair to say that some other states are under pressure as their membership num-

bers decrease significantly: we have already seen the demise of the NT and ACT branches this year, and I expect this trend to gain pace. It is interesting to note that your state secretary has received the first request from an interstate member to join our branch, and I anticipate that we will see more. We will initially place these members into our headquarters sub-branch. I am proud that we addressed the issue of closure some time ago and made some hard but sensible decisions regarding how we would manage the process, and thus have prepared well for the inevitable.

On the matter of closure, I attended a special meeting of the Castlemaine Sub-Branch in September where the membership made the courageous decision to close at the end of the year. This closure is a portent of what is to come, with the Murray Border Sub-Branch to also close at the end of the year. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Castlemaine and Murray Border Sub-Branches for being a part of our wider "family" and contributing to the welfare of Vietnam veterans in their area and the wider veteran community. It was worthy of note that both Sub-Branches had worked through the state closure plan and their own closure plans to ensure that all relevant requirements had been considered. To all the other Sub-Branches, may I ask have you got your closure plans in order? I am particularly keen to encourage each Sub-Branch to write its history. This might not seem important now, but in the future, your histories will help to inform future generations about us, our members and what we stood for, much like the Commemorative Quilt will when it is viewed at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. Also, thinking about closures I came to the conclusion that when the time comes to "close the doors" at Sub-Branches, the final act should be a get-together of some sort during which we celebrate the life and times of the Sub-Branch rather than mourn it's passing.

The closures of these Sub-Branches and others to come, makes the Commemorative Quilt that we all combined to produce even more important as it shows what the Branch looked like at the start of the 2016 commemorative year; already it is an historical piece.

We have seen the demise of the 20 year old TIP as we know it, replaced by the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) which focuses on a more contemporary approach to training and introduces a nationally accredited training program. I attend the Regional Veterans Centre Project (RVCP) meetings as the VVAA representative and I wish to express my admiration of the veterans and support staff who keep the veteran centres functioning and providing the best advocacy, pensions and welfare support in the

land. Victoria has a proud reputation of timely and accurate handling of pension claims and welfare work and there are many veterans and families who are indebted to the work of RVCP members and the other veterans who work out of RSL's and Sub-Branch pensions and welfare centres.

Great things are happening at the museum and the significant upgrades to facilities, new boy's toys and plans for the future were there for all to see who attended the open day. I must take the opportunity to thank and congratulate John and Krishna Methven and the team at the museum for the incredible gift that they have given us. There are many of us who take the museum for granted, there were doomsayers, and some of us have been less than supportive; but it seems that none of us miss the opportunity to tell others about how good the museum is and to share in its success. Again, no other state could have achieved this. No other person than John Methven could have driven this with his unique mixture of in your face determination and boundless enthusiasm. From a humble trailer John and Krish and others have built something unique, the US has nothing to match it. The National War Memorial will tell the history of Vietnam, but the National Vietnam Veterans Museum will tell the story of the sailors, soldiers and airmen digger's story without spin, fear or favour.

John is stepping back from the day to day running of the museum now that a new General Manager has been appointed, so it is an appropriate time for us all to recognize just what he has achieved through sheer determination, courage and endurance. Such a feat-a labour of love-has taken its toll and it's time for some protracted R&R.

DVA has confirmed that a standalone SRCA is being created in order to separate ADF and former ADF member claimants from commonwealth (civilian) employees. The Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment (Defence Force) Bill 2016 has been tabled in Parliament as a replacement for the older military section of SRCA.

Pension asset test changes will be implemented on 1 January 2017, and more on this can be found in the newsletter. I recommend that everyone checks the new asset values on the DVA website.

The 2017 AGM is fast upon us, and some of your very hard working state executive committee members will be taking a well-earned rest after many years of great service to the branch; the state secretary will inform you. We need some new hands on the wheel to help guide us through what are likely to be interesting times as the branch undergoes sig-

nificant change and adapts its operations to meet new challenges and changed priorities. I am pleased to offer my services again as State President in 2017, and if elected I look forward to welcoming new members of the state executive, please give serious thought to joining me.

In closing, thank you all for your support, I count myself to be very privileged to be a member of such a unique, inclusive and caring organization. I was delighted to be invited to deliver the Ode at the Remembrance Day service at the Melbourne Shrine; another acknowledgement of Vietnam veterans in 2016. Lyn and I wish you all a very safe and Holy Christmas time and a safe and enjoyable New Year. Don't forget to hug the kids.

Regards,

Bob Elworthy

**OUR MEMBERSHIP .....YOUR PARTICIPATION**

Are you an active member, the kind that might be missed?	or	are you just content that your name is on the list.
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?	or	do you stay away and then criticise and knock.
Do you take an active part and help the show along?	or	are you just satisfied to be the kind and belong.
Do you ever go visit or ring a member who is sick?	or	do you leave the work to just a few, and then call them a "clique".
Think it over members, you know right from wrong	or	be an active member and don't just belong



## FROM THE SECRETARY



Here we are again at the end of the year which seems to have gone so fast but we must remember not to let the time go by without doing something important – like looking after yourself and your family, and also your mates where you can.

2016 (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Battle of Log Tan) Commemorations) has been a momentous year which will have been valued and treasured by all those who participated. Many thanks to the 2016 Committee headed by Vice President Ken Baker for such a significant and memorable year.

There has been a steady flow of correspondence throughout the year that has been dealt with in accordance with the relevant priority. Where applicable, this correspondence has been on-forwarded to Sub-Branches for

action and distribution to members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members - the work they have done has assisted me very much as the State Secretary:

- Sue McQueen (Assistant Secretary) - no need to worry with Sue as a back-up. Sue keeps me on my toes and is a constant source of knowledgeable advice – greatly valued support. Sue and Lindsay (McQueen) are also the State Membership Managers – a sometimes difficult job that is done extremely well.
- Len Barlow: for his learned advice and also for his work as our webmaster. Involvement and efforts very much appreciated.
- Maurie Benson: for working as the State Office Manager – job well done and very much appreciated. Maurie is also the FSB-VIC Newsletter Editor and a major player in the organisation of VV Day each year.
- *Barry Brewer, Murray Lewis, Rob Hugga and John Hexter* : for working at the State Office at

ANZAC House during the week. Contributions and endeavours very much appreciated.

If you happen to change your address, please let your Sub-Branch know so we can keep in contact with you – very important.

As we age, we need to ensure that we have our personal affairs in order, it would certainly make a very traumatic time less stressful for those who are trying to cope with their grief. An information kit “Planning Ahead – A Guide to putting your Affairs in Order” can be obtained from your nearest DVA Office (133 254 and Regional callers 1800 555 254).

From a personal perspective, I will not be standing as the State Secretary, or any other State Executive position, for the 2017 year – someone will need to put their hand up to do the job. I would be happy to provide any assistance to the incoming Secretary as they start to take on the job.

Finally, best wishes for the coming festive season and if you are travelling, please drive carefully and aim to arrive at your destination, and ultimately at home, safely.

## ELECTRONIC DEBRIEF

VVAA members can obtain copies of Debrief as follows:

- ◆ Debrief is available on the National website - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>
- ◆ Debrief also can be sent by National DIRECT to the email address of VVAA members. Any member who does not receive a copy of Debrief direct from National to their email address should send an email DIRECT to the National Secretary at [secretary@vvaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@vvaa.org.au) advising they wish to receive Debrief electronically, and make sure you include your email address in the email text.
- ◆ Members who may still wish to get a paper (hard) copy of Debrief can still do so – each Sub Branch

Sub-Branch is to provide a paper copy if required.

- ◆ The requirement for either State Branch or Sub-Branch to provide a paper copy of Debrief to a member who has requested the said paper copy was discussed at the Victorian Branch Executive meeting held on 28 September 2016. It was resolved at that meeting by the Executive that the responsibility to provide paper copies of Debrief to members who have requested it lies with the Sub-Branch. In this electronic age where computers/printers are present in most homes it is not expected that Sub Branches would be overburdened with this task.

It should be noted that Debrief will now be electronically distributed by VVAA National on a monthly basis.

7 August 2016

**The Hon. Dan Tehan MP**  
**Minister for Veterans' Affairs**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC**  
**Minister for Defence Materiel**  
**PO Box 6022**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600**

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Victorian President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia to request that you consider providing a grant to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM), Phillip Island as a meaningful way of commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Long Tan and of acknowledging the efforts of Vietnam veterans in raising the museum.

The NVVM has expanded from very humble beginnings to now be regarded by many Vietnam veterans as their spiritual home, and the repository of many items of personal and national significance. The museum has won many awards for excellence.

As you will be aware, the NVVM has been built largely by a team of willing Victorian Vietnam veterans who have also raised and donated significant sums of money for the development and upkeep of the museum. The museum is unique; built by veterans for veterans, manned by volunteers and now a significant part of the Phillip Island tourist industry. It is interesting to note that there is nothing to match the NVVM in the United States, this alone makes the museum unique.

We have been fortunate to have had significant support from Victorian State Labor Governments, including generous financial grants to assist with establishing the museum. By contrast, Federal Government support for the museum has been sadly lacking, with the Howard Government providing the equivalent of 50 cents for each Australian who served in Vietnam.

Victorian Vietnam veterans put a comprehensive, inclusive and imaginative 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Long Tan program of state wide commemorative events to former Minister Ronaldson and despite his enthusiasm no federal support was forthcoming. Happily, and I believe to the embarrassment of the Federal Government, the Victorian State Labor Government provided \$1M to support the program.

Victorian Vietnam veterans are very disappointed with the Federal government response to our program and the overall lack of support for anything other than Canberra centric 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan commemorations, and those directly involving 6RAR. Of particular note was the disappointment at the total lack of federal government support or interest in the 2016 Vetride; a commemorative ride by Victorian Vietnam veterans from Melbourne to Canberra, to acknowledge the service of Australians in all conflicts.

In my opinion, the federal grants program which was introduced earlier in the year to provide funding for Long Tan commemorative community events, contained so many expenditure restrictions on the use of transport and other provisions to basically render it useless for anything other than small local events.

In this significant year for Vietnam veterans I believe that a grant from the Federal Government would validate the work of so many to create the NVVM, and show that the federal government acknowledges the unique nature of the museum and its status. There is a view among Vietnam veterans here that given the significant sums of money being spent on the Centenary of ANZAC and the Washington Vietnam Veterans Information Centre, that the NVVM is also worthy of financial support from the Federal government.

I am sure that the Board of Directors of the NVVM would welcome the opportunity to discuss how a federal government grant would benefit the museum.

Yours sincerely,

*R W Elworthy*  
R W (Bob) Elworthy AM  
President VVAA Victorian Branch

## Victorian Branch Vietnam History Tour Competition

*This report has been compiled using individual reports submitted by all the students. The students' own comments have been extensively quoted.*

After an extensive judging and selection process, ten worthy winners from every corner of Victoria were selected to participate in a nine day study tour of Vietnam in the September school holidays under the tutelage of decorated veteran, Gary McKay MC. Some of the students selected had already been on the Spirit of Anzac tour sponsored by the state government, others had never flown in a plane. For most, it was their first experience of a third world Asian country. For all of them, it was the first time they had thought seriously about the Vietnam War.

The touring party comprised:

Kiarah Birthisal – Red Cliffs Secondary College; Katelyn Charry – Assumption College Kilmore; Angelina Clancy – Nagel College Bairnsdale; Annabelle Davey – Kew High School; Alexander Ivanov – Oberon High School; Lauren McIlveen – Camperdown College; Canis Nugroho – Gleneagles Secondary College, Endeavour Hills; Georgia Perris – Horsham College; Chelsea Petterson – Yarram Secondary College; Harry Scott – Saint Mary McKillop College, Swan Hill;

*Tour Leader:* John Frawley

*Tour Guide:* Gary McKay MC

*VVAA Guest:* Alma Elliott

*Teacher Chaperones:*

Laura Robertson - Trafalgar High School

De Rosewarne - Swan Hill College

Jason Kurfurst - Heatherwood School

### ***First impressions***

On Wednesday, 21st Sept, they flew: "stepping off the plane...oh my!!! Like nothing I have experienced before - just a tad bit of climate change - and here's some heat!" ..."Every facet is foreign and exotic. The roads are congested with thousands of motor cycles and cyclos." And "Our sticky sneakers touched the ground of Vietnam just like the many boots of soldiers."

The highlight of the tour for many of the students was the visit to the Phuoc Tuy Province, in particular, to Nui Dat, Long Tan and Nui Le. As one student put it, "Hearing Gary speak with such knowledge about the war, hearing his per-

sonal experiences and actually being on the spot where horrific battles took place, was an extraordinary experience that you can't explain to family and friends."

And at Long Tan. "I stood at the Battle of Long Tan site in shivers." "Long Tan battle site - a memorial service. A most memorable moment. Each of us taking a role in the service was humbling." and "The tour provided me with the chance to pay my respects to the fallen service men ..... After reading so much about this bloody battle, it was a very sombre experience to stand where so many young Australians lost their lives."

At Nui Le, where Gary won the MC and was so severely wounded: "The highlight of my tour was listening to Gary's stories. My favourite was his personal story about the day he got shot and the impact the war has had on him to this day. Gary has been back to Vietnam many times since then....I really respect him for that."

And a final word on Gary: "Gary's accounts of his experiences and detailed lectures on the battles were so fascinating and it was hard to grip that they had actually happened in the places where we were listening to him. What Gary's experiences did bring to me was an emotional undercurrent to my previous knowledge. Having someone who first hand lived through this turbulent era allowed me to connect emotionally to the events of the Vietnam War."

Alma Elliott, wife of Vietnam veteran Gary, toured with the team as a guest of the VVAA. On the final evening, she recounted to the students her very difficult experiences at home as the fiancé of Gary whilst he was on his tour of duty. One student wrote, "I personally felt really touched by Alma's experience as you could see that it has been such a hard part of her life that affects her even today."

Insights into the country and people – The cultural experience

The students spent time in Ho Chi Minh City, Hoi An and Hanoi. They observed and met the local people, haggled in the markets, were amazed by the beautiful temples and made interesting comparisons with their own lifestyles back home in Australia. "Every day – enjoying the foods of Vietnam, the crazy traffic, the mess that is the power cables, the cyclo ride, the scenery..." And the people, "The way they work every day in the hustle and bustle of the markets but still have such beautiful smiles and such a warm and friendly nature is quite inspiring." "This trip of a lifetime to Vietnam has been truly life changing and has changed my perspective on many things that I take for granted in Australia."

# STUDENTS DO US PROUD ( cont'd )

And some final observations from some very grateful students:

“It can be so easy to distance yourself from the effects war has on people, especially when you are thousands of kilometres away, reading out of a history book. This trip has highlighted in detail, the disastrous, far reaching effects the war had on men and women on both sides of the conflict. This impacted on me on a level that is simply not possible in the confines of a classroom. A truly humbling experience.” And, “The enemies were people too. They were

fighting for what they thought was right.” “My experience widened my knowledge of the war from a speck in the universe to an entire universe.” From another, “Most importantly, I learnt to cherish every day that I have. To remember that when I wake up in the morning, I am probably going to return to my bed at night, healthy and alive. In the Vietnam War, any day might be the last for any soldier. Every day counts and is a special gift.”

And the very last thing: “A special thankyou to VVAA for allowing ten eager students to go on the trip of a lifetime. It has truly been life changing.”



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

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT AT LAST.

### Presentation:

#### Lorraine Boyd (Widow of Lindsay Brown)

The Victorian State Branch Vietnam Veterans have, in this year 2016, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “The Battle of Long Tan”, been to the forefront in having “Victoria Remembers – Vietnam”.

In February we commenced the commemorations by remembering our Fallen, especially those laid to rest in 35 cemeteries around Victoria. Some 98 Veterans were recognised by the Branch, Families, Veterans and others from the Community. It was a very special commemoration and one that provided many thankful comments that we still remember those with whom we served and those that were loved.

In Benalla the service was for Pte Lindsay Brown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Australian Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice for his country at Fire Support Base Balmoral on 26 May 1968.

As a very young bride “Lorraine” was treated shamefully following this

event. Most of us here today know what it is to have a loved one or comrade taken from our presence. Lorraine had a particularly difficult time as Lindsay's family took centre stage and even claimed the Australian Flag from his funeral. Lorraine was never even advised how Lindsay died or any of the circumstances surrounding his death. The

Family have also claimed his service medals.

Today, I would ask Lorraine to accept with our deepest respect this Australian Flag, one of the 98 proudly paraded at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on 18 August this year by Secondary School Children at the head of the march of the Vietnam Veterans. Also the cross that was placed in the grounds of the shrine; one of the 521 remembering those that fell in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans will never forget their comrades that we served alongside during that time in Australia's history.

Ken Baker

Vice President VVAA Vic



## C P L F R A N C I S S M I T H F I N A L L Y H O M E .



37003 1RAR - Temp Corporal. Francis John Smith 25 Ouyen VIC was killed by an enemy sniper on 21st September 1965 at Ben Cat, Bien Hoa. He was buried at Terendak Military Cemetery Malaysia.

On the 9th June 2106 he was reinterred at his home town of Ouyen at a ceremony attended

by family, friends and military personnel.

“Operation Bring Them Home” was an initiative of the Northern Territory Branch of the VVAA and involved 25 soldiers of the Vietnam War buried in Malaysia and Singapore.

State President and Swan Hill reps attended. VVAA Vic presented the family with replica medals.



VICTORIAN BRANCH VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
PARTNERS AND CARERS LUNCHEON

Speech by Catherine Andrews

Thank you, Alma.

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present. The oldest continuous culture known to us deserves this respect.

And can I of course acknowledge Lyn Elworthy, Alma Elliott, Heather Evans, Margaret Miles and all of you here today. I understand that some of you have travelled great distances to be here today.

I want to begin with a story that will be familiar to all of you. Emily, wife of a Vietnam veteran, wrote this letter to the *Adelaide Advertiser* in 1997, but it was neither published nor acknowledged by the newspaper.

This is Emily's story:

I met John long before he went to war as a conscript in 1967 ... he was a caring, proud and independent young man full of dreams for the future ... He had just finished a carpentry apprenticeship ... He left Australian shores with an optimism that I could not share ... [A]fter spending twelve months in the jungles of Vietnam[, he] came back an empty and hollow eyed person who has been trying to find himself ever since. When he tried to get work after returning from Vietnam, the general attitude of prospective employers changed when he explained where he had been for the two previous years ...

His family all found him strange, moody and argumentative ... and to this day some of his family are still uncomfortable in his company ... He suffered ill health constantly, and I sadly remember the years he travelled from doctor to doctor to find out what was wrong with him

...

Finally, one doctor believed in him ... His diagnosis ... was a pituitary adenoma that he had been suffering with for many undiagnosed years. This brought another onslaught of anger and bitterness at a system that had failed him miserably, had ruined him physically and financially ...

During all these years, he had a family that never asked for all the stresses and tension that shrouded it. We had to survive ... his outbursts ... We tended to either mix with other veterans, as they were the only ones who accepted us ... Our two children became very introverted ... I have a lot of anger which, undeservedly, is directed at my husband but which should be directed at a system that has failed a generation of families.

The wives and children of Vietnam veterans are the silent, concrete shadows behind these bureaucratic victims. We have heard them crying out in the middle of the night, we have paced the floor with them and we have shared their heartbreaks and pain ... We have stopped them from ... carrying out revenge on the system they blame. We have loved them when they were unlovable, hugged them in their panic ... We have put on a painted smile and pretended to the rest of the world that our home is like any other ...

... I often wonder if the general community realises that had it not been for the wives and children supporting their veterans, what would the Vietnam veteran have done and where

VICTORIAN BRANCH VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
PARTNERS AND CARERS LUNCHEON

Speech by Catherine Andrews

Wednesday 15 June 2016

would he have gone ...

... We, the family, exist – and need to have some acknowledgement for the lives that we, too, have lead. We feel we have been punished too for the “crime” of loving the brave men this country rejected.

Yours faithfully,

Emily.

For all these heartbreaking stories of PTSD, depression, isolation and rage – your stories are also ones of survival. Many of you used different strategies to cope, and to change your situations. I know you have drawn strength and support from outside your homes through friendships, community organisations, counselling and religion, and that many of you have chosen to continue to support your husbands emotionally and practically.

I am a trained historian and over the years I have researched many people and places, but I can never speak on behalf of the individuals I have researched. This is especially the case with everyone here today. I can only hope to understand all you have endured and all you carry.

Yours are stories of survival and defiance, love and respect. We must hear these stories and we must pay our respects to you all.

My husband’s electorate of Mulgrave in Melbourne’s south east is home to the Noble Park RSL. When he first went to meet the veterans 15 years ago, I’m sure many were a bit suspicious of my husband – he was very young.

But from these early days, a deep affection between the vets and Daniel has grown. He speaks of your

men and your families so often.

Knowing what he knows now, he would never have let the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan go unmarked.

Today is not a commemoration of any one battle. There were so many.

Daniel has often told me stories that you have told him. When I was preparing for this speech, he said that he had met the wife of a Vietnam vet last year, who had said quietly to him: ‘My husband went on two tours to Vietnam, and so did I’.

When preparing this speech, I found 20 interviews with women just like you. These wives of Australian veterans born in the late 1940s and early 1950s were mostly married at a young age, have remained married to the same husband for forty years or more, and are parents and grandparents.

One woman I read about, Paula, wrote about these women: ‘They were great, they were there for their man and their kids. There was no pretentiousness, competitiveness ... and our children were safe’.

I know that many of you have created your own identities and spaces separate from your veteran husbands. Barbara spoke a universal truth when she said: ‘I can’t affect change in another person ... the only way that I could ... change is to change ... myself and that’s when I started getting the strength and that’s when I started realising what a fruitless venture it was going to be to continue trying to change my husband and expecting a different result’.

I was particularly moved by Rhonda expressing her love for her returned husband. She said: ‘I try to imagine that I am holding him in a safe space; that I was

VICTORIAN BRANCH VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
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there for him and certainly not judging him in any way'.

It would be wrong for me not to acknowledge that many men never returned from the jungles of Vietnam. It is inconceivable that some women who had lost someone received less empathy or sympathy than those whose men had died in other wars.

I can't begin to understand the experiences of the almost 60,000 Australian families affected by this War. Sometimes the wives of Vietnam veterans have been defined as victims, but there were many who took control of the adverse circumstances they found themselves in. Some of your children have grown into adults who attribute their insights into life and their empathy for others to their experiences of growing up in a household with a Vietnam veteran.

This is not the only good to come out of this terrible adversity. We have learned to do better.

What singles out the Vietnam veteran community is its care, support and love of Australian veterans returning from contemporary conflicts. You have helped them with their TPI applications, and worked tirelessly in their best interests.

And what singles you out is your resilience, courage, love and loyalty over such a long period of time. In the words of the Victorian State Branch President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, your own Bob Elworthy: you 'are the glue that holds it all together'.

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24 June 2016

**Mrs Catherine Andrews**  
**1 Treasury Place**  
**Melbourne VIC. 3000**

Dear Mrs Andrews (Catherine)

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Victorian Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, and in particular our wives, partners and carers, to express our thanks to you for hosting the ladies luncheon on Wednesday 15 June.

The response from the ladies to the luncheon has been overwhelmingly positive and they were delighted that you were able to attend. They really appreciated your warmth and personal interest and the opportunity to chat with you before and after the luncheon. The ladies were very moved by your address and I have had several requests for a copy.

Our ladies are a very special group, and I am pleased that we were able to acknowledge them in a small way with the luncheon. Your presence ensured that they would have a much deserved and special day.

Yours sincerely,

*R W Elworthy*

R W (Bob) Elworthy AM  
VVAA Victorian State Branch President

DVIETS

What a memorable year for Vietnam Veterans and especially the DViets. This year commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan making August a very busy month for us all.

In addition to the busy month of August other notable events included the City of Banyule civic reception at Ivanhoe Town Centre where approx. local 75 Vietnam Veterans and partners enjoyed the hospitality and acknowledgement of their service from the local council; another major event was our Gala Dinner Dance held at Watsonia RSL where a capacity crowd of around 120 members and partners enjoyed a wonderfully social night.



Our Annual Bowls Day in March drew around 50 players in the Regs vs Nashos challenge...won by the Regs this year amongst some scoring controversy.

We had the E Team from VVAA Vic on display at the Ivanhoe Town Centre from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August to kick the month off and we also displayed the Quilt in the Council Offices for the public.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August began with good weather and the Memorial Service in the Greensborough War Memorial Park went off without a hitch; the Viewbank College Orchestra was up to its usual high standard and our

singer and bugler were exceptional. The 39<sup>th</sup> Cadet Unit and 402 AFC Sqn provided the Catafalque party and our new Chaplain performed admirably. Of note was the keynote speaker - a Year 9 Parade College student who captured all our attention. The attendance of schools from the local area and all the politicians reinforce this day as being the most notable event for DViets.

The afternoon at the Long Tan Cup a NFL game between Lower Plenty and



Greensborough also went off very well and the hospitality provided by the clubs to Vietnam Veterans was fantastic. I must record a thanks to the Presidents of both clubs for their grabbing of and running this event which was the brainchild of Neil Hammett and David Mathews (non DViets) who wanted to support us at this time.

We moved on to the Repat Service on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and once again there was a terrific turn up by DViets.

The 18<sup>th</sup> at the Shrine was probably the best event to mark Long Tan Day (VV Day) and the support from the Schools, Public, Veterans and even State Parliament being suspended to attend was a highlight. I can say without fear that we blew all the other States away in our commemoration service and once again thank all members for attending. A great turn up back at the RSL finished the day off on a high note.

19<sup>th</sup> saw a small gathering of DViet

stalwarts attend the Whittlesea march in very wet weather and it was very much appreciated by the organisers.

Still with some legs left in us we managed to get another 70 DViets with partner's at our annual church service at the chapel in Simpson Barracks under good skies and then to festivities in the Sergeants Mess for lunch, as usual a great day.

Staggering forward we managed a good crowd at the rededication of Remembrance Park in Heidelberg on the 24<sup>th</sup> where new panels commemorating the Battle of Long Tan were in place and a time capsule of Vietnam artifacts were placed to be opened in 24 years, I am unsure whether I will be at that event.

All in all, what a great month and one I doubt we will ever see the like of again.

Now take a deep breath and prepare for our final events in October and November at the Museum, and the Seymour Races Family Day.

I would like to express our thanks from the DViets to the E Team as they attended many of our functions and did a splendid job.

P Blackman  
President



OUTER EASTERN MELBOURNE

Well what a last 6 months it has been. Our usual busy Sub-branch activities have been overlaid with a number of activities organised for the 2016 Long Tan Commemorative Year.

OEM has had significant involvement in supporting the Commemorative program with our members attending in large numbers to all of the functions. We have “bussed” our members to Commemorative activities which included the Ladies Luncheon, Vietnam Veterans Day at the Shrine, Back to the Museum Day and Family Day at the Seymour Races.



*Penguin Parade at the Civic Reception*

In addition many of our members also made their own way to the Civic Reception and the Church Service



*OEM ladies looked stunning at the Civic Reception*

It has been a fantastic year for VVAA (Vic) and we applaud all those who worked so hard to make it such a success.

We have also maintained our busy schedule at outer Eastern. Our Gypsy Caravaners/campers have, over the last 6 months, completed very successful trips to Bright, Moama and Glen Cromie. This is a very popular activity and numbers participating continue to increase.

We again had good numbers coming along for our “old fashioned” casserole lunch with much fun and merriment and many signing up for the darts competition during the afternoon.

During July a number of members made their way to the Rolling Thunder Concert in St Kilda and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A number also attended the play “Foxholes of the Mind” during a one night performance at Knox. It was agreed that it was an excellent play, even though slightly confronting at times.

Badge Week was also very successful this year even though numbers participating were slightly down. A thoughtful re-planning of sites and times by organisers Bill Cane and Tony Zammit resulted in a very healthy return for our Welfare Fund



*Fantastic support for the Vietnam Veterans Day march at the Knox Arboretum.*

The Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans Day March was this year conducted at the cenotaph at the Tim Neville Arboretum at Knox. A huge turnout of 450 Vietnam Veteran marchers and guests were joined by the AIR Cadets, the Ringwood Highland Pipe Band, the Knox School band and choir, a number of dignitaries and many others, for the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Year.

The keynote speaker was Tony Smith MP. It was also great to see our youth playing such an active part with both the lady bugler, and 2<sup>nd</sup> keynote speaker, from the Knox School. We thank them, and the whole Knox School, for a fabulous job.



NOBLE PARK

On 12th August 2016 we conducted our Badge-week collection at the City Loop stations and the Southern Cross Station where we had over 50 members assist with the collecting, a good result was achieved for the Welfare of the Veteran Community.

On 14th August at the celebration of our 20th year as a Sub-Branch we were honoured to have the Premier of Victoria the Honourable Daniel Andrews as our guest. The function was well attended with in excess of 120 people who all had a good time. During lunch we had a PowerPoint presentation acknowledging members of our Sub-branch who have since passed on. A series of photos taken over the years depicting events that took place over the

20 years was also displayed. With formalities over we were entertained by the Three Amigos playing old hits from yesteryears.

18th August saw our members attend the Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary at the Melbourne Shrine, this was very well attended and very well organised by the State Executive, thank you very much for providing such a wonderful day for us all. After the March we travelled to the St Kilda RSL where the catering provided to us was outstanding, this really topped the day off for Our Sub-Branch.

Our Pension Office is continuing along steadily and we are now seeing a lot of younger veterans looking for assistance.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for Vietnamese students funded by Noble Park Sub Branch

A 'grass roots' program ....

Since 2001 the Noble Park Sub Branch has supported a program to provide scholarships to underprivileged students in Vietnam. Over these years grants totaling \$26,500 have benefited well over 200 struggling families .



The Noble Park funds are channeled through Nga [pic above] and she allocates the scholarships. Nga lives in a very poor community amongst the struggling families whom she knows most need assistance. **Every cent** of grants goes to those families. (*Southern Cross Care* bears all administrative costs.)

Nga is a double amputee having lost her legs to a mine explosion in a rice field when she was 19 years old. Her husband was also a double amputee who had been a close friend of Noble Park Sub Branch member, John Bowles, since 1970. John has known Nga since his first return trip to Vietnam in 1991. Sadly, her husband died in 1999.

Guidelines provided to Nga –

To assist Nga in making the awards, we ask her to select students -

- > who have shown positive character traits,
- > who have demonstrated the will and capacity for further academic attainment & whose families are in financial cir-

cumstances which would otherwise inhibit continuation of education.

In assessing students in relation to these criteria, there should be no discrimination between boys and girls.

Grants are made for each particular year. However, if Nga considers it warranted, there is no objection to her giving assistance to any student who has been assisted in any previous year/s.

We ask Nga to a keep a simple record of the scholarships - names, dates and amounts is sufficient. (The easiest way for Nga to do this might be to just obtain a receipt which includes those details from each family.)

Students receiving larger scholarships are asked to write a letter to the *Noble Park vets* to acknowledge, and include a recent photo.



RAAF

What an incredible 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016! We had been promised something special and it was certainly delivered! From the gunfire breakfast to the last notes faded away at the Shrine, it was a most memorable event. And all those school children! Everyone involved in the organisation, and especially Maurie Benson, should take a bow.

The RAAF numbers were a bit down on what was expected, but those that did attend were thrilled with the day and the opportunity to catch up with old mates. The march of our contingent was led on the day by Carl Schiller, the President of Air Force Association (Vic), and also a Vietnam Veteran.

After the ceremony at the Shrine our group, as usual, went over St Kilda Rd to the Seasons Hotel/Restaurant where we enjoyed an excellent buffet meal in a private room and a few drinks. We get marvellous service at this establishment and have done for a number of years on ANZAC Day and VV Day. It is, however, getting more difficult to get the minimum numbers for the private room, and if any other group would like to do similar, we would welcome the opportunity to combine our efforts. You will not find any other venue more convenient to the Shrine as it is straight across St Kilda Rd.

We were shocked recently to find out that Rick Holmes, our Secretary of

nearly 12 years, had a serious illness and had resigned. Although this left a significant hole in the administrative function of the sub-branch we were buoyed by the fact that he is definitely on the mend and is just about back to 'normal'. At the last AGM Gill Coughlan offered to assist the Secretary and probably did not realise how soon that offer would be accepted, and we are all very grateful of her offer. Rick, as we would expect, is assisting Gill along the way.

Gareth Davis  
President



MELBOURNE WEST

Melbourne West SB took a group of Year 11 Australian History Students (24 x students) and three teachers from Wyndham Central College to the NVVM on 8/9/2016. They were also accompanied by four Vets from our SB (Glen Smith, Brendan Lynch, Vic Pilch and myself). Many of the students come from a disadvantaged and culturally diverse background.

The three Guides provided by the NVVM (Stephen, Peter and David) were excellent and gave an excellent insight to the students on the various items on display. The NVVM just gets better and better and is a great legacy from us to future generations.



LES FARREN AWARD

Ed Jones, VVAA Gippsland Sub Branch, is the 2016 recipient of the annual Les Farren Award.

VVAA Vic bestows this award to the person who has demonstrated outstanding interest, endeavour and perseverance in improving the welfare of Vietnam Veterans and their families.



GOULBURN VALLEY

**Presentation of  
Parliamentary Flag**

Our patron Dr Sharman Stone MP, and Liberal Candidate for Murray Mr. Duncan McGauchie attended the June meeting of the Goulburn Valley Sub-Branch and joined us for dinner at the Shepparton RSL Bistro prior to the meeting.

Sharman gave a short non-political address to the members present and introduced Duncan. Sharman talked of her father's service with Bomber Command in WW11 and her son's current service in the Army, pointing

out the pride and connection she has with those who serve or have served in our military forces.

After the address, Sharman presented the GVVVA with the Australian National Flag that was flown in the



House of Representatives Chamber in Parliament House on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 along with a Certificate of Authentication. Sharman also said she would be proud to remain as our Patron after her retirement. The Flag was gratefully received by Sub-Branch Vice President Trevor Begley.

It was pleasing to welcome Sharman and Duncan to dinner and the meeting, and their willingness to engage with us and give their time during a very busy federal election campaign was noted and much appreciated.

**There was never a more exciting time to have toured the Goulburn Valley!!**

In May this year members and their partners gathered for the State Council Meeting of the Victorian Branch of the VVAA, hosted by Goulburn Valley sub-branch at Shepparton's RSL. Those not attending the meeting were invited to take a bus trip to Dookie and through the surrounding area.

Retail therapy, hot drinks and good food were enjoyed over friendly chatter at the Dookie Café before some of the group had a look around the adjoining Emporium which overflows with militaria, old books, vintage clothing and accessories, china, furniture, glassware, odds and ends. Some of the ladies had a chat with owner, Sol Sutherland, who hosts a Military Vehicle Rally in Dookie each October; it was then on to Tallis Wines.

We headed downhill for a drive through Dookie Agricultural College which has had notable students over the years including Olympic runner John Landy (who was also Victoria's State Governor) as well as artist and potter, Merric Boyd.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Eastbank Café, adjoining Shepparton Art Muse-

um. Over lunch everyone expressed their appreciation to Kevin for driving the bus. Kevin told us that a man at Tallis Wine had remarked to him that he "must be the bus driver" as he "looked worried". It is hard to see what Kevin had to worry about with fourteen ladies ready to give help and advice, isn't it?

After lunch we could have looked through the Art Gallery or gone shopping at the SPC Ardmona discount warehouse, but everyone elected to

stay on, relaxing and chatting at the Café until we headed back to the RSL after the State Council Meeting finished.

During our day outing there were no divisions and no debates, no tantrums, no crossing of the floor and the only sharp knives were those we plunged into our food. We could propose a motion acknowledging everyone on the trip helped the day go well. All in favour? The ayes' have it. And it's unanimous.



*Fourteen ladies were driven by volunteer bus driver Kevin Heenan (of GV sub-branch) for the trip through orchards and grazing country, past a camel farm and large grain silos to Dookie for morning tea.*

MARYBOROUGH

The second half of this commemorative year has proven to be busy with the Sub-Branch conducting and attending many Commemorations and Services.

These included our own Commemorative Service held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at the Maryborough Vietnam War Memorial, a Dawn Service, a commemorative Service at the Shrine of Remembrance and a Commemorative service held on Barkers oval Maryborough where the Maryborough Football Netball Club proudly dedicated Round 17 against Gisborne to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. After the game the Sub-Branch presented trophies to the Magpies

“Best on Field” in both the Senior Football and A Grade Net Ball Games. We also attended their end of year “Best and Fairest” vote count Dinner where we presented the Vietnam Veterans Trophy to the “Most Determined Player”.

The Sub-Branch was very fortunate to again receive an invitation from the Nichols family to visit their property in Buninyong to view their most recent additions to their extensive private collection of restored Military Vehicles and other Military Memorabilia.

At the invitation of the Victorian Blue Ribbon Foundation we attended the dedication of a Police Memorial in memory of Senior

Constable Maurice Moore who was fatally shot on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1986 while performing his duties at Maryborough.

The Sub-Branch will once again take our Local Student Leaders to the Seymour Commemorative walk, a visit we have been conducting on an annual basis. This visit has created much interest among the students of both our local Colleges.

We are currently preparing for our end of year Christmas dinner for our members and their families, and is to be held at “Trax Restaurant” at our local Railway Station, which has a very friendly atmosphere and serves great meals.



Maryborough VVAA members attending local service at Maryborough Vietnam Veterans War Memorial on VV DAY.



Members of the Nichols family with one of their recent additions to an already extensive collection. Of military vehicles.

WEST GIPPSLAND

Our sub branch has been in operation for 21 years as more of a social group. We have always struggled to get members to attend meetings but a Dinner or Lunch is a great attraction.

While we have had a busy year with State organised functions as well as our own activities our future at this stage is more directed to continuation of Social activities.

Our Annual participation in the Eastern VVAA sub branches Family Fun Weekend 20th Anniversary, was again filled with fun, laughter, music and a general good time. Special guests Denise Drysdale and Marcie Jones added more fun and memories to the event as did their singing. Our Social activities are almost done for the year and we are looking to a busy

next year of dinners and outings.

A Happy and Safe Christmas to all.



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2016



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2016



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

## A note of thanks from RSL Victorian State President MAJGEN David McLachlan AO (Rtd)

Dear Maurie,

Just a short note to congratulate you and the State Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association on the Commemoration Service to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan this morning at the Shrine of Remembrance.

I congratulate you personally on all the organisation you put into the Service prior today.

You should be very pleased with not only the turn-out, but also the prevailing atmosphere. It was a very memorable occasion for so many of us.

Maurie, thank you most sincerely.

With kind regards,



DAVID McLACHLAN AO  
Major General (Retd)



Peter Meehan and Dave Sabben at work putting together the “voice over” for Vietnam Veterans Day at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance 2016.



David McLachlan explains to students the significance of the crosses laid out at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Vietnam Veterans Day 2016.

# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2016

Chelsea Petterson from Yarram Secondary College attended Vietnam Veterans Day 2016 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance along with 2,300 other students; she was also one of 10 students selected to take part in a VVAA Vic sponsored tour of Vietnam.



At the Melbourne Shrine Chelsea received a white cross, one of 521 laid out in memory of Australian lives lost in Vietnam. Her reaction was "I am going to research this".

This is Chelsea's story about her research.

*On the 18th of August students from far and wide flocked to the War Memorial in Melbourne, myself being one of them. As, I was representing the tour group, I was asked to take one of the 521 crosses that dressed the lawn. This is the story of the cross that I collected.*

*Date of Birth: May 25th, 1927, Cardiff, Wales*

*Date of Death: 20th of March 1966, age 38. South Vietnam, died of wounds.*

*Final Rank: Acting Warrant Officer 2nd Class*

*Final Unit: Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV)*

*Warrant Officer Phillips enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in June 1959 after previously serving 7 years in the British Army. On enlistment Phillips served with the 1st Armoured Regiment at Pucka-*

*punyal until being posted to the Australian Army Training team in October 1965, and assigned as an advisor to the Regional Force unit in the central Vietnamese Province of Quảng Ngãi*

*Whilst Warrant Officer Phillips was providing covering fire and successfully impeding the enemy's' approach, Phillips was seriously wounded by a burst of automatic fire. He was seen to stumble but nevertheless recovered and continued to give fire support until he could no longer stand.*

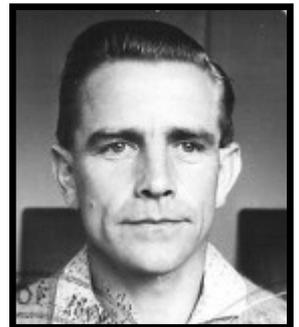
*By his courageous action, both before and after being wounded, Warrant Officer Phillips made it possible for his comrades to reorganise and arrange evacuation. Warrant Officer Phillips sacrificed his life in this endeavour and later died from his wounds in hospital. His conduct was in the highest Australian tradition of courage, mateship, endurance and dedication.*

*In 2016, 33 Australian soldiers were repatriated and brought home. Thomas, being one of those thirty-three, was reinterred in Woden Cemetery in Canberra bringing closure to his family and country.*

*Lest We Forget*

*"Never Again Will the Warriors Be Confused with the War"*

*-Daniel Andrews*



## SUPER BANNERS & GUNS



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

FRANKSTON

Like many other Sub branches, Frankston has been busy with activities for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Long Tan.

In August we held our service at the new Cenotaph in Frankston with a very large crowd in attendance and later in August we held an Anniversary dinner at the RSL, when 120 people enjoyed a lovely meal and great entertainment with “Marcia Jones & the Cookies”, the “Elderly Brothers & little Sisters” performing on the night.

In October, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the Frankston District Sub Branch was honoured to be able to display “The Quilt” before it heads to the museum. Also in October our members had their first camping/caravanning trip away from home as a group: 24 of our members went to Marysville for 3 days of fun, sun & relaxation ... well it rained for 3 days solid, so 2 out of 3 isn't bad!

While they were away I think a highlight for a majority of the members was going to Steavenson Falls at night, what with the mist of the water and the large spotlights on the fast running water the sight was very impressive. Our thanks go to Sandra Johns who organised the trip and now, due to heavy demand, she has

the fun of planning it all again next year.

As mentioned in previous copies of F/B, we hold a coffee morning every Tuesday for veterans at a local cafe, which has now grown into a very social gathering with about 15 -18 going every week; they are also having the odd bus trip as well.



ECHUCA

**CENTURIAN TANK RESTORATION AT MOAMA RSL CLUB**

Earlier this year the Echuca District Sub-Branch was asked by the Moama RSL Club to assist them by refurbishing a Centurian Tank they had on display. While the work was being undertaken substantial research was conducted on the history of the tank.

It was revealed that this particular tank, number 169044, detonated an offset mine in Vietnam whilst cautiously emerging from a creek crossing. There were no casualties within the crew and the tank limped back to Nui Dat. It was later returned to Australia.

On Tuesday 4 October, the original crew, who were in the tank at the time but had lost contact with each other, were reunited for the first time for more than 50 years at the Moama RSL Club during an official ceremony to commemorate the tank's service in Vietnam, along with an unveiling of its restoration and a blessing by Father John Tinkler, MBE CSC.

The Executive of the Moama RSL Club expressed their delight in having had the tank restored by the VVAA sub-branch and to have been able to get the original crew together for the unveiling.



*Leigh Bennett (L) and Geoff Dixon (R)*

*2 of the restoration group.*

GEELONG

In May 2016 Minister for Veterans, John Eren officially unveiled the new and upgraded Geelong Vietnam Walkway and Commemorative Panel - new signage, new trees, a paved walkway for greater accessibility, a panel that honours the 521 Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam, and depicting the story of Australia's involvement in Vietnam.

VVAA Geelong Patron Dr Ted Heffernan unveiled the Honor Board and spoke of his experiences and reflections on the waste of war. Father Kevin Dillon, on hand to offer a blessing, also focusing on the 521 lives lost. Richard Marles MP, Member for Corio and Sarah Henderson MP, Member for Corangamite also delivered addresses.



The upgrade not only provides for appropriate improvements to the surrounds, it reflects the significance of the site as one of the key memorials to the Vietnam War in Victoria, and provides visitors with space to reflect, and commemorate Vietnam veterans. The Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honor is the only Avenue specifically commemorating the Vietnam War in Victoria.

Funding for the project was provided by the Andrews Labor Government under the *Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honor* grant program.

Leading up to Vietnam Veterans Day 2016 the City of Greater Geelong installed 50 special commemorative banners around the Geelong area (see above picture).



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MELBOURNE

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 a service was held at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The service was conducted by the Dean of Melbourne, The Very Reverend Dr Andreas Loewe, and an inspiring address was delivered by Chaplain (Group Captain) Andrew Knight.

Those attending included Senior Officers of all Armed Services, along with Federal and State Politicians, Government Department heads, Ex Service Organisation representatives, Vietnam Veterans and their families.

The Vietnam Commemorative Plaque presented to the Cathedral on 2 October 2010 now also indicates that 2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.



# VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING (VCAL)



*Nicole Scott (Teacher), Brendan Kincaid (ETeam) and Leanne Venables (Teacher).*



*Steve Lowe (ETeam), Leanne Venables (Teacher) and Brendan Kincaid (ETeam).*

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a senior secondary certificate based on applied learning. The VCAL has been designed to meet the needs of students in Years 11 and 12 who require a senior secondary qualification based on practical experience.

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a senior qualification designed to provide additional path-

ways for Years 11 and 12 students interested in vocationally orientated career options or moving straight into employment.

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a one or two year Certificate. The VCAL runs parallel to the VCE and provides students with a wider range of educational and training pathways.

## AUSTIN REPAT VV DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016





Having held positions in the Private Sector following a 10 year career in the Army, Glen Ferrarotto's continued commitment to service personnel has seen the development and expansion of ***Ironsides Recruitment*** – Australia and New Zealand's most trusted employment agency for service men and women.

***Ironsides Recruitment*** identifies career opportunities and job placements on behalf of defence force people and on behalf of its clients & employers. With valued partnerships across Industry, Defence and RSL, Ironsides are looking after ex service personnel with varied skill sets and experience levels.

Founder and Executive Director of ***Ironsides Recruitment***, Glen Ferrarotto explains how the idea for this service was born of his own personal experience.

“When I left the Army in 2008, I went through a recruitment agency for my first few jobs. Even at that point, I thought it would be great to have an agency that I could talk to from a soldier's perspective - to not have to try to be a civilian person, which at that point I wasn't” says Glen.

“Down the track after a few years in Industry I realised the importance of employers truly understanding the unique experience and skills that veterans have and how this relates to the civilian workplace”. This desire to bridge the skills gap and ease the transition into new careers led to the creation of ***Ironsides Recruitment*** in 2012.

Whether recently transitioned or long retired from the forces, ***Ironsides Recruitment*** will guide candidates through the civilian job search process.

CV development and creating pathways to long term, meaningful employment is not simply a one size fits all approach, it's a very personnel and individual process. Glen



says “That's how we differ from other recruitment agencies; we listen, are compassionate and view our business as an end to end service not a transaction”.

***Ironsides Recruitments*** values include; trust, integrity, respect and compassion with compassion meaning a clear and deliberate understanding of the individuals and families experience of transition from Service within the ADF to a civilian life.

For further information on ***Ironsides Recruitment*** please contact us;

P: +61 3 9982 4642

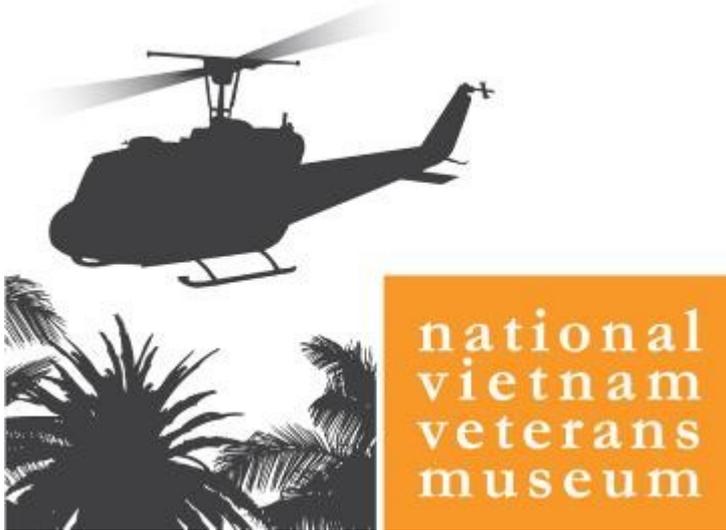
E: [admin@ironsidegroup.com.au](mailto:admin@ironsidegroup.com.au)

W: [www.ironsiderecruitment.com](http://www.ironsiderecruitment.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Ironsides.Recruitment>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ironside-recruitment>

All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish, and insensitive to the real values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are today. Pope Paul VI

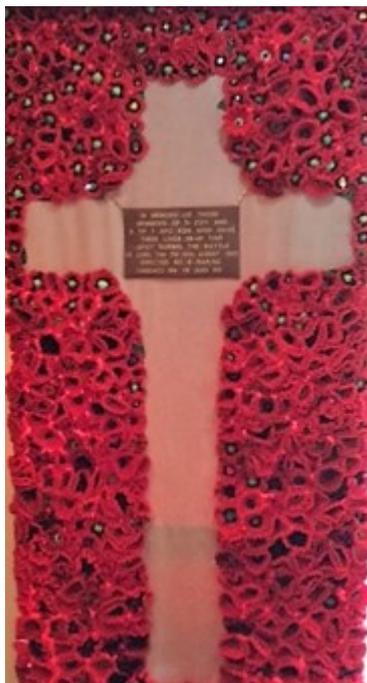


When Alma Elliott and her Poppy Team went to work last year the response was magnificent. In Feb 2016 those same poppies were used for the Graveside Vigil of the 98 Victorians who are buried in Victoria .

A quilt of poppies then went on display at the National Art Centre, Melbourne during the Civic Reception for Vietnam Veterans and their families. Following that some of the poppies made their way to the Chelsea Flower Show in the UK .

On Vietnam Veterans Day 2016 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance the poppies were again used on the crosses of the 521 who died as a result of their service in Vietnam .

Now Alma has created an image of the Long Tan Cross that will be permanently housed at the NVVM.



## Come and See the Real Thing, Come and See the Real Thing, Come and See.....

Pinching a line from the Russell Morris classic “The Real Thing” is so appropriate to describe the experience had by visitors to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Open Day on Saturday 5 November. Despite inclement weather a great crowd turned up to a day of commemoration, acknowledgement, comradeship and good old rock n’ roll.

Harriet Shing MLC, representing the Premier of Victoria, got the day off to a great start by delivering a highly appropriate and passionate speech before unveiling a plaque and presenting a brilliant photographic montage of VV Day 2016 on behalf of the State Government. With the atmosphere already buzzing, keynote speaker Mr. Graham Edwards AM delivered a highly charged, emotional and thought provoking address that was met with a lengthy standing ovation-kleenex dispensed in quantity. After the State President unveiled a plaque on behalf of the branch and Chairman of the Museum Board of Trustees Mr. Kingsley Munday unveiled a plaque acknowledging the support to the museum by the State Government, the fun began.

With plenty of hot food courtesy of local Lions Club members toiling away in a force 5 gale, liberal refreshments, new and improved exhibits to take in and the entertainment hotting up, a great afternoon was assured. Plenty of hot coffee disappeared in the Nui Dat café where sippers were entertained to music by Cora Elise.

Band Deep Blue kicked things off with some head banging rock n roll followed by Wendy Stapleton who ripped up the Vung Tau Room and posed for many photos afterwards, what a charmer! Mae Parker joined Wendy for some duets before Mae and the Killer Bees kept the afternoon rocking along. Hot off the plane from a gig in Queensland, Russell Morris brought the curtain down on a magnificent day with a great set including his signature songs “The Real Thing” and “Rachel” with prolonged applause rippling through the museum well after 6.30 p.m. During the afternoon the dance floor filled up with old groovers and there were plenty of toes a-tapping in the front stalls. There was a magic atmosphere in the room; veterans and partners having a great time, performers giving their all, volunteers working their collective butts off, all within OUR museum!

What a day, what a great contribution to our 2016 commemorative program. A huge thank you to John Methven and the wonderful band of volunteers at the museum.

# MUSEUM DAY 2016



Cora Alise welcoming all to the Museum with some delightful numbers to set the scene and get all in the mood.



Key note speaker Graham Edwards AM with Bob Elworthy AM, Harriet Shing and Angelina Clancy. Angelina spoke on the Vietnam History Tour on behalf of the other students.



... and the band played on.



While the weather prevented the VetRide boys riding into the Museum it was still an opportunity to show the colours.



As the band played and rocked the Museum it was certainly an opportunity for some to display their dancing skills - even if they might not have kept to the beat!



Now that the Quilt has been on display around Victoria it has now finally reached it's home in the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island.

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

Welcome to the first issue of *DVA Advocacy News*. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date with what’s happening in the transition from TIP (Training and Information Program) to ATDP – the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP).

### Training update

The ATDP is in the process of seeking accreditation of its training program from the Australian Skills Quality Authority. This means accredited ATDP Advocates will meet national quality assurance requirements so veterans and their families can be sure of receiving a high standard of advocacy services – irrespective of where they live, when they served or the complexity of their needs.

In ATDP, the advocate’s on-the-job training and mentoring will take place in the offices of their ex-service organisation (ESO) or a Veterans Centre. The ATDP organisation (a partnership between the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, ESOs and the Department of Defence) manages the formal coursework, the accreditation process, and the training of ATDP Mentors, Assessors and Trainers.

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process will assess a TIP advocate’s experience and knowledge so they can be accredited as an ATDP Advocate. This process is being piloted to make sure it is as effective and simple as possible. Advocates will be able to apply for RPL early next year, once the Australian Skills Quality Authority has approved the ATDP courses. Workshops for ATDP mentors, trainers and assessors are also being piloted and tested. ESOs will be invited to nominate experienced advocates to participate when the workshops and processes are finalised.

### Courses & workshops

During the transition to ATDP, a small number of TIP courses will continue to be offered to meet ongoing training needs in the ESO community while ATDP courses are being developed and tested. There are some Level 2, 3 and 4 TIP courses available, as well as a limited number of Level 1 refresher courses.

Currently ATDP Level 1 and Level 2 training is available. To start your training, an ESO needs to nominate you. There are also some prerequisites such as computer and communication skills. See *Selection of Advocacy Trainees* on the ATDP website for more information: [www.atdp.org.au](http://www.atdp.org.au)

### How to nominate for training:

	<b>ATDP</b> <a href="http://www.atdp.org.au">www.atdp.org.au</a>	<b>TIP</b> <a href="http://www.tip.org.au">www.tip.org.au</a>
<b>Level 1</b>	The ESO completes the ATDP nomination form by choosing the link for <i>Compensation Advocate Level 1</i> or <i>Welfare Advocate Level 1</i> on the <a href="#">ATDP website</a> . The candidate and mentor will then receive further instructions.	To apply for TIP Level 1 refresher courses see the options for your state on the <a href="#">TIP website</a> .
<b>Level 2</b>	If you have completed ATDP Level 1 training you can progress to ATDP Level 2. The nomination process is the same as for ATDP Level 1 courses – see the <a href="#">ATDP website</a> .	If you have completed a TIP Level 1 training course you can progress to TIP Level 2. TIP courses are listed on the <a href="#">TIP website</a> . (After completing TIP Level 2 you can gain accreditation as an ATDP Advocate through the Recognition of Prior Learning process.)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Who decides if I can do ATDP training?

Your ESO nominates you for training and ensures that you meet the prerequisites. See *Selection of Advocacy Trainees* on the [ATDP website](#). The ATDP Regional Management Group for your area will ensure there are sufficient face-to-face courses to meet demand. There is more information about Regional Management Groups and their contact details on the DVA website: [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

#### What if the course I want to do is not listed on the website?

If the course you want to do is not listed on [TIP website](#), please contact your ATDP Interim Regional Manager to let them know about the training you are seeking. Contact details are on the [DVA website](#).

#### Who pays for my training?

DVA covers the costs of courses and accreditation. ESOs pay for any travel expenses involved in advocates attending courses.

*When can I have my TIP training recognised for ATDP accreditation?*

TIP advocates need to go through a Recognition of Prior Learning process to become an accredited ATDP Advocate. This process is currently being piloted. Once feedback has been consolidated and procedures finalised, ESOs will be asked to nominate advocates to undertake the process.

*I'd like to be an ATDP Mentor – what's involved?*

ESOs are encouraged to identify experienced members for this role so there will be sufficient advocates to meet the needs of all veterans who can benefit from their advice. Mentors do not require accreditation, but ATDP will offer training to support them in their role. The mentoring course is currently being piloted. When it is ready, ESOs will be asked to nominate advocates for the training.

*I've heard the ATDP courses have already started – have I missed out?*

No! The courses you may have heard about are small pilot programs to test the training and identify gaps. Once the courses are finalised they will be rolled out nationally, and you will be notified through your ESO and this newsletter.

If you have any more questions, comments or suggestions about ATDP, please send me an email at [ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au)

Please share this newsletter with anyone you know who may be interested, and let me know if you would like to be added or removed from this email list by contacting me at [ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au)

**Caroline Quinn**

**Communications Manager**

**Advocacy Training and Development Program**

Department of Veterans' Affairs

*U n i v e r s i t y   o f  
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*V e t e r a n s   a t   R i s k*

V360 Australia Ltd. are proud to announce the first **NATIONAL FREE CALL** number for veterans, their families and friends to contact our Outreach Team and seek information or assistance for any **ex-service personnel who are vulnerable, at risk or experiencing homelessness**.

1800 838 360 will be manned 24/7 by our experienced operators and link callers directly with Outreach staff.

For further information on V360 Australia Ltd go to website <http://v360.org.au/>.

Explore the combat actions of 1ATF in Vietnam!

Nearly 20 years of research brings unprecedented access to nearly all 1ATF actions through the interactive UNSW Battle Map. Using this unique facility you can explore, analyse and share battle experiences.

Go to <https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au>



**Media Release The Hon Philip Dalidakis MLC****5 October 2016****NEW MATERIAL FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS  
STUDYING THE VIETNAM WAR**

The Andrews Labor Government is providing schools with new curriculum material to help teachers educate students about Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority has put together a comprehensive history unit that explores the controversial and complicated period in Australia's history. It's our way of ensuring the legacy of our brave servicemen and women is never forgotten.

This year marks the 50 year anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, and it will be remembered forever as one of the most decisive moments in our nation's military history.

The material is available for students in Year 9 and 10. It's a unique look at Australia's longest military engagement of the 20th century, and includes:

- ◆ The logistics and tactical operations of the Battle of Long Tan
- ◆ The ideologies and beliefs that led to Australia's involvement in the war
- ◆ A fierce public debate that divided a nation back home.

Some 60,000 Australians fought in the Vietnam War, and 521 never made it home.

Schools can download the materials at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Veterans Philip Dalidakis

*"Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. They deserve every opportunity to learn about Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War."*

*"The War was a complex and emotional time for many Australians. This history unit will explore the extraordinary chapter in our nation's history."*

Quotes attributable to Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victoria Branch President Bob Elworthy

*"It's so important that the history of Australian service and the experiences of the men and women who served in Vietnam are passed on to young Australians."*

*"It's great to see Victorian teachers being supported to educate students about the history of the Vietnam War and our proud service there."*



The Department of Veterans' Affairs publishes a document titled *Factsheet CON02 – Concessions in Victoria Purpose* which is about concessions available to DVA clients in Victoria.

While the *Factsheet* is too large for reproduction here it can be viewed at:

<http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/documents/CON02%20Concessions%20in%20VIC.pdf>

**Related Factsheets**

- DP79 Supply of Cars and Car Parts GST Free
- HSV02 Entitlements under the Repatriation Transport Scheme
- IS125 Pensioner Concession Card
- IS160 Overview of Cards Available to Veterans and Their Dependents

Last updated: 11 February 2016

**More Information****DVA General Enquiries**

Metro Phone: 133 254 \*

Regional Phone: 1800 555 254 \*

Email: [GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au)

DVA Website: [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

Factsheet Website: [factsheets.dva.gov.au](http://factsheets.dva.gov.au)

\* Calls from mobile phones and pay phones may incur additional charges.

**Victorian Minister for Veterans suffers Heart Attack**

The Victorian Minister for Veterans the Hon. John Eren suffered a heart attack in September and has been off work since. In good news, the Minister made his first official appearance at the Remembrance Day Service at the Shrine on 11 November since falling ill. The Minister reports that he is feeling well and while taking it easy, keen to get back to work. Interestingly, the minister noted that he struggled on the Vetrade leg that he rode from Seymour to Euroa and that was likely the first sign of a problem. I am sure all members are united in wishing the Minister good health in the future; he has been an outstanding supporter of veterans issues in Victoria, and in particular our 2016 activities.



## New Assets Tests To Apply From 2017

Changes to asset test limits for pensions will commence on 1 January 2017. The assets test affects service pension and income support supplement as well as those paid under social security law such as age pension. Compensation payments such as disability pension and war widow(er) pensions are not affected.

Higher asset test values will apply, however the taper rate—the rate at which your pension decreases for every dollar you exceed the asset limit—will double meaning that if you hold assets in excess of the limit your pension will reduce at a higher rate.

Veterans or war widows currently holding a Veterans' Gold Card will not lose their gold card if their service pension or income support supplement ceases following the asset test changes.

Further info: [www.dva.gov.au/rebalanced-assets-test-apply-2017](http://www.dva.gov.au/rebalanced-assets-test-apply-2017).

## New Stand Alone SRCA Act

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) compensation coverage for ADF members with service prior to 1 July 2004 are to be separated from other Commonwealth (civilian) employees. Effectively, this will involve replacing the SRCA as a standalone Act, modified to apply only to ADF members. Note that a standalone SRCA remains subject to the passage of legislation.

The commencement of the standalone Act will not impact on any claims under the Veterans Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) which remains in place.

If the Standalone Act is legislated, this will mean that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs will be responsible for all compensation Acts for ADF members. Currently, the Minister for Employment has responsibility for SRCA.

## New pension rates

These rates are updated on 20 March and 20 September each year and include the Clean Energy Supplement.

	<b>Old rate</b> (fortnightly - effective 20 March 2016)	<b>New rate</b> (fortnightly - effective 20 September 2016)	<b>Increase</b> (fortnightly)
<b>Service pension</b>			
Single person	\$873.90	\$877.10	\$3.20
Couples (each)	\$658.70	\$661.20	\$2.50
Single person - transitional	\$737.20	\$738.60	\$1.40
Couples (each) - transitional	\$594.60	\$595.80	\$1.20
<b>War widows</b>			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$887.90	\$891.30	\$3.40
Income support supplement	\$262.00	\$263.10	\$1.10
<b>Disability pension</b>			
TPI (Special Rate)	\$1341.50	\$1346.90	\$5.40
Intermediate rate	\$910.70	\$914.40	\$3.70
EDA	\$741.00	\$744.00	\$3.00
100 per cent	\$476.90	\$478.80	\$1.90
10 per cent	\$54.62	\$54.81	\$0.19
<b>MRCA</b>			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$887.90	\$891.30	\$3.40
Special rate disability pension (SRDP)	\$1341.50	\$1346.90	\$5.40

## Cockatoo Rise Retreat

VOLUNTEER AND NOT FOR PROFIT war veterans retreat at Bairnsdale ( Gippsland Lakes Victoria ) has just established a caravan at their retreat, to house a homeless war veteran in need of immediate accommodation or one that needs respite or just time away from their normal living circumstances . The facility is provided free of charge to any veteran in need.

The Retreat, run by Annie & Greg Carter, is situated 5.75 klms from Bairnsdale in the Gippsland Lakes area, Victoria.

With great views, a relaxed atmosphere, a 9 hole golf course, close proximity to snow fields, beaches, great fishing and wonderful touring, Cockatoo Rise is a great place to spend some time.

For bookings (essential) and further information go to <http://cockatooriseretreat.com.au/> .

## Canberra taking shape

For all those out there interested in those wonderful flying machines and follow the magnificent work done by the NVVM volunteers you will be pleased to see the progress in bringing the Canberra Bomber back to life.

For a better view, call in at the NVVM Phillip Island and see for yourself.



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## 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.

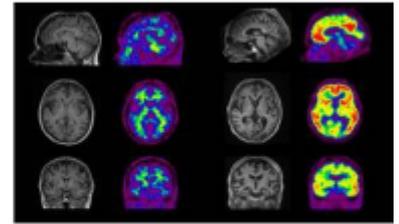
### Who can take part?

We are recruiting 150 veterans aged between 60-85 years. The study has attracted over 100 volunteers, but more are still required. The team require **20 ex-service personnel who have suffered a head injury** during their early-to-mid adulthood (18-40years). This can be mild, moderate or severe in nature, and can be combat, sports, vehicle, or fall related. In addition, we require **20 ex-service personnel**, with no history of head injury, or 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@florey.edu.au](mailto:tia.cummins@florey.edu.au) 03 9496 5748. Alternatively, please log on to [www.brainpet.org](http://www.brainpet.org)

# Veterans Wellness Programs

## DVA Pays for the clinically necessary treatment

Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

**Gold Card Holders** are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA's health care arrangements for all health conditions.

**White Card Holders** are entitled to clinically necessary treatment for an accepted disability ie: an injury or disease accepted by DVA as caused by war.

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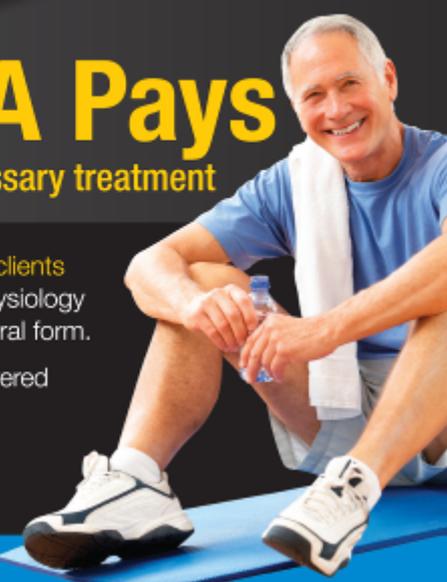


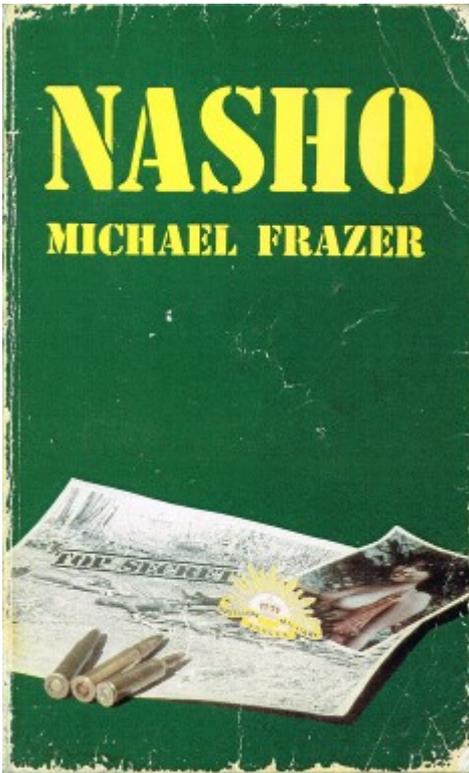
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I am a Vietnam Veteran and I wrote and published NASHO in 1984. After many years of people asking me for a copy of the book (or how to find a copy) I have decided to publish it for a second time. It was about something Australia had never previously experienced ... and probably never will again ... conscription for overseas service. It puts National Service training, Government paranoia, and the Vietnam War in its context - controversy all round. It contained some controversial photographs taken during the war, but I need some new ones for the next NASHO. So this is a bid to hunt out those photos - ones which might shock and surprise. If you have some, please send them via e-mail to [michaelfrazer@bigpond.com](mailto:michaelfrazer@bigpond.com) or to me at PO Box 377, Brighton, Victoria 3186 with some brief details. Unused photos will be returned, or donated to the Australian War Memorial.

### Trinh Thi Ngo “Hanoi Hannah” dead.

Trinh Thi Ngo, a radio propagandist better known as “Hanoi Hannah” has died at 87 years of age. Ngo, the most famous North Vietnamese propagandist, perfected her English during her youth in Hanoi and loved American films. Because of her fluency in English, Ngo became a marquee personality on Voice of Vietnam radio as it evolved into an instrument of propaganda wielded against US forces and POW’s.

Initially broadcasting for five minutes her programs soon extended to 30 minutes where she played American music interlaced with scripts designed to make GI’s homesick as well as describing US battle defeats including reading casualty lists gleaned from US newspapers and describing anti-war activity and social upheaval back in the US.

She aired statements from anti war activist Jane Fonda and commented

on the sons of elite American families who had avoided wartime service. She said , “the message I wanted to send every American soldier is that you are fighting in an unjust war and will die in vain”.

John McCain, Navy Officer, spent

5 1/2 years as a POW and said, “I heard her every day”, McCain said in 2000, recalling the loud speaker dangling from his prison cell.

After the war Ngo moved to the South where she became a television broadcaster in Ho Chi Minh City.



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<b>DIAMOND VALLEY</b> President: Peter Blackman Secretary: Alan Comben PO Box 542 GREENSBOROUGH 3088 secretary.diamondvalleyanddistrict@vvaavic.org.au	9459 5117 9435 9213	0400 363 143 0432 631 413	<b>MUSEUM</b> President: John Methven OAM Secretary: Bill Noble PO Box 318 SAN REMO VIC 3925 secretary.museum@vvaavic.org.au	5678 5728 5678 5215	0417 347 551 0414 385 750
<b>ECHUCA</b> President: Ken Jones Secretary: Bob Johnson PO Box 743 MOAMA NSW 2731 secretary.echuca@vvaavic.org.au	5480 0139 5483 7411	0408 384 670 0409 971 726	<b>NOBLE PARK</b> President: Ray McCarthy Secretary: John Pilkington PO Box 295 NOBLE PARK VIC 3174 secretary.noblepark@vvaavic.org.au	9798 5379 9749 2672	0418 552 804 0413 163 749
<b>FRANKSTON</b> President: Ray Weston Secretary: Cheryl Myers PO Box 1429 FRANKSTON VIC 3199 secretary.frankston@vvaavic.org.au	9772 5351 9776 6600		<b>NORTH-WEST</b> President: Tom Clayton Secretary: Basil Tiligadis PO Box 211 GLENROY VIC 3046 secretary.northwest@vvaavic.org.au	9306 7474 9337 7226	0438 306 709 0419 890 340
<b>GEELONG &amp; DISTRICTS</b> President: Rieny (Reny) Nieuwenhof Secretary: David Weeks PO Box 484 GEELONG VIC 3220 secretary.geelong@vvaavic.org.au	9747 0121	0407 378 808 0419 347 194	<b>OUTER EASTERN</b> President: Amat (Aff) Binnoore Secretary: Maree Ferguson PO Box 763 BORONIA VIC 3155 secretary.outereasternmelbourne@vvaavic.org.au	9801 5537 9722 9787	0409 365 210 0414 369 213
<b>GIPPSLAND</b> President: Geoffrey Hopkins Secretary: Mick Hawryluk PO Box 902 SALE VIC 3850 secretary.gippsland@vvaavic.org.au	5144 3542	0409 961 253	<b>RAAF</b> President: Gareth Davis Secretary: Rick Holmes PO Box 462 ASCOT VALE VIC 3032 secretary.raaf@vvaavic.org.au	9878 7940 9317 7304	0409 163 702
<b>GOULBURN VALLEY</b> President: Peter Dealy Secretary: Jeff Stanyer 139 Fuzzards Road, NUMURKAH VIC 3636 secretary.goulburnvalley@vvaavic.org.au	5862 3969 5862 3829	0419 135 909	<b>SWAN HILL</b> President: Harold Heslop OAM JP Secretary: Maralyn Toppinen PO Box 1650 SWAN HILL VIC 3585 secretary.swanhill@vvaavic.org.au	5033 1896 5033 2614	0448 778 010
<b>HEADQUARTERS</b> State Branch Asst. Secretary: Sue McQueen C/- CVVSC PO Box 820 Bendigo Central Vic 3552 asstsecretary@vvaavic.org.au	5444 1871	0400 821 457	<b>WARRNAMBOOL</b> President: Don Roberts Secretary: Refer President. C/- 9 James St PORT FAIRY VIC 3284 secretary.warrnambool@vvaavic.org.au	5568 1837	0467 556 818
<b>INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS</b> Administrator: State Branch Asst. Secretary: Sue McQueen C/- CVVSC PO Box 820 Bendigo Central Vic 3552 asstsecretary@vvaavic.org.au	5444 1871	0400 821 457	<b>WEST GIPPSLAND</b> President: Mike Latimer Secretary: Frank Grant PO Box 556 DROUIN VIC 3818 secretary.westgippsland@vvaavic.org.au	5628 7692 5625 4457	0418 386 871 0430 123 527
<b>MARYBOROUGH</b> President: Bernard (Ben) Holscher Secretary: Daniel McIver OAM PO Box 274 MARYBOROUGH VIC 3465 secretary.maryborough@vvaavic.org.au	5460 5033 5464 1219	0410 627 965	<b>WIMMERA</b> President: Ken Taylor Secretary: Tony Welbourn PO Box 345 HORSHAM VIC 3400 secretary.wimmera@vvaavic.org.au	5385 2719 5381 2438	0428 852 719 0418 378 098

\* To close as at 31st Dec 2016

# SEYMOUR FAMILY RACE DAY 2016



The Vietnam themed Family Race Day held on Saturday 19th November was the last of the VVAA Vic Commemorative events for 2016 and what a great day was had by all under magnificent sunshine and a great atmosphere.

Fortunes won/lost, plenty of entertainment, food, drinks and camaraderie ... and of course there was much amusement when Maurie Benson and Garry Elliott were awarded the *Best Duo in Fashions on the Field*, especially as their wives Sue and Alma were awarded Runners Up!! The boys handed their bouquet to a couple of young contestants who were no doubt wondering what was going on!! All good fun and added to the day.



Mae Parker again had the crowd grooving to her toe tapping music with many of the well known Vietnam era numbers.

She not only added greatly to the atmosphere but delighted crowds.



The winner of the Long Tan Handicap received a Vietnam themed horse blanket.

Above is Bob Elworthy AM presenting the blanket to the winning connection.



VVAA Vic State President Bob Elworthy AM addressing the race goers and explaining the significance of the day.



... and the children were not left out of the fun and games.

Face painting, pony rides, food and drinks all went a long way to ensuring even the youngest had a great day while mum and dad did their best to back a winner or two.

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

# SEYMOUR FAMILY RACE DAY 2016



Great to have the boys from Pucka turn up with their "toys". Apart from the Aslav pictured above there was that magnificent 155 mm Howitzer ... only 2 of our members managed to trip over it!!



A day for young and not so young.



A race meeting would not have been complete without trophies for effort. Magnificent engraved glass trophies were presented to all winning horses/connections immediately after each race.

Above is Peter Meehan with Maurie Benson awarding a trophy to a winning connection.



Wouldn't be complete without the Pipes & Drums providing some stirring music for the gathered crowd and the Bendigo Highland Pipe Band looked magnificent as they paraded up the main straight.



There's always some who just must get in on the act.



Plenty to do for the ETeam who once more turned up with their Van and displays to reinforce what the day was all about. Well done those men.