



ESB-VIC



# Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.

SUMMER 2017 EDITION



## NVVM's latest Vietnam era Warbird, former Wallaby Airlines Caribou 231.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ President's Report.
- ◆ Secretary's Report.
- ◆ Sub Branch activities.
- ◆ Vietnam Veterans Day 2017.
- ◆ Vietnam Veterans Day 2018
- ◆ Achievements & awards.
- ◆ Medical/Health/Wellbeing issues.
- ◆ Vietnamese Memorial to Australian veteran deaths.
- ◆ Nasho myths debunked..

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



## VVAA Victorian State Branch—Executive

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



Just where has the year gone? Seems that the saying that the years seem to race by as you age has something to it!

Welcome to your newsletter, I hope you find it interesting and informative. As printing costs go up and our membership declines, it has become extremely difficult to

continue to fund the production of our magazine. As with the national newsletter, we will change 'FSB VIC' to an electronic copy provided on our website starting next year, and rely on Sub-Branches to provide copies to those members not able to access the internet. This decision has not been made lightly as Maurie Benson as editor and the Sub-Branches have consistently combined to produce a high quality and interesting magazine; unfortunately printing and mailing costs have become prohibitive.

We are about to lose two more Sub-Branches, with West Gippsland and Warrnambool about to close. I am sad to see them leave, but I want the members of those Sub-Branches to know how much I have appreciated their input to the running of the Branch and I wish each and every one of them all the best for the future. Did any of us think that less than two years after we finished the Branch quilt that four of the Sub-Branches represented on the quilt would be gone? What an important historical piece the quilt has already become. Despite losing members, we have still managed to achieve a 2017 membership in excess of 2000, which represents about 47% of the national membership-great effort everyone.

Staying on the matter of national membership, our bid to reduce national capitations failed on the basis that there was uncertainty about the level of funding the national body would need going forward. The funding issue allowed Victoria to open up discussion on the future of the VVAA National body and it will be interesting to watch how the national membership trends over the next couple of years. We are well prepared to deal with rapid change, I hope others are as well.

At our State Council meeting at Lakes Entrance, the delegates voted to go with VV Day at the Shrine on 18 August 2018 with a Coral/Balmoral focus, rather than conduct a specific Coral/Balmoral service in May. This will likely be the last "big ticket" VV Day activity conducted by the State Branch and as such I have an expectation that all Sub-Branches will make a special effort to ensure that they are formally represented and that they provide their members with the chance to attend. There is plenty of time to prepare.

Staying on the State Council, it was great to get back to Lakes Entrance again where we were hosted magnificently by the Gippsland Sub-Branch and Lakes Entrance RSL. The delegates decided that after the 2018 AGM in Geelong, the State Council will convene in Horsham in June and Goulburn Valley will host the October meeting.

The State Treasurer and I met with VetRide representatives recently and at the time of writing actions are underway to transfer all administrative and financial management of the VetRide pro-

gram to the VetRide Committee. The VetRide Committee will now have full autonomy to manage their activities.

I am sure all members will join me in congratulating Harold Heslop OAM on his much deserved award of the RSL Meritorious Service Medal-the highest award that can be bestowed upon a member of the league-marking at least 25 years of outstanding service to the RSL.

The National body wrote to the TPI Federation President in relation to comments made to the Senate Enquiry into suicide which the VVAA saw as potentially diminishing the status of veterans with war service. I took particular issue with comments from the Tasmanian TPI President who in my opinion insulted all of the Vietnam veterans who work hard on claims for all service personnel when he queried whether VVAA has any genuine concern for service members without operational service. Maybe he needs to spend some time in a Veteran Centre or busy Sub Branch for an opinion re-adjustment.

I have written to all Sub-Branches seeking input on issues they would like considered at the national level for inclusion in the VVAA National priority list to be served on the major parties in the lead up to the federal election next year. I encourage all members to pass their particular issues to their Sub-Branch committees. Let members think it is a waste of time, I would like to think that Vietnam veterans sent the Howard government a clear message in 2007 that we disapproved of the PM's refusal to address honours for Long Tan veterans.

I have been slightly disappointed by the response to our book "*Victoria Remembers Vietnam*". It is a magnificent publication which chronicles a year to remember and which reached publication only after herculean efforts by members of the 2016 Commemorations Committee. There are a few books still available and I encourage members who have not obtained a copy to do so by contacting the State Secretary, and of course as a valued 2016 member you can obtain copies at a special price. The book is your piece of history and will surely be enjoyed and appreciated by your family.

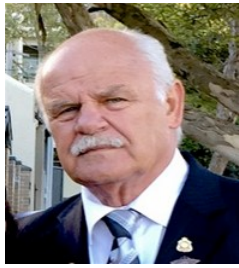
The Victorian Branch functions and continues to flourish because of the wonderful band of volunteers across the state. I am grateful to your State Executive for once again managing the Branch affairs with professionalism and diligence, and extend my thanks to all Sub-Branch committees for your faithful service at the coal face. In my first year as State President, a former State President told me to trust the State Council, wise advice, as the strength of our Branch comes directly from the collective wisdom and experience of our State Council delegates. Thank you one and all.

In closing I want to mention the role of our wives, partners and carers upon whom we rely so much for our physical and mental well-being as well as their tolerance of the time we spend on veteran matters. To my wife Lyn and all the ladies, a heart-felt thank you.

May you all have a joyous and Holy Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to a great 2018 for our Branch.

Regards,

Bob Elworthy



2017 has certainly been a very positive year, a year where great progress was made leaving VVAA Victoria in a very strong position for 2017 into 2018. In fact Victoria is currently close to 50% of the National membership and well ahead of any other State. This places us

in a very healthy situation going forward and something we can build on.

**VVAA Victoria's membership** is in a very strong and healthy position with numbers again beginning to slowly increase. Sadly though both West Gippsland and Warrnambool are in the process of closing down due mainly to their inability to attract members to committee positions.

In view of this and with elections coming up in February 2018, I urge any member who feels they have the time and something to contribute to put up their hand for a role in either the State Executive or within their own Sub-Branch. You will find it very rewarding.

This year VV Day stands out as another great success story with good numbers in attendance. The parade was headed by the SEATO Team and the address was given by Dr Dot Angell OAM, FACN with the emphasis on the SEATO Nurses and Civilian Medical teams and their quest for long overdue recognition and their continuing fight for a Gold Card, something VVAA Vic continues to fight for.

The **2018 VV Day Commemorations** are already in the planning stage with the focus this time on the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Coral/Balmoral**. In comparison to this years VV

Day larger numbers are expected for next year's event as the 18<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday allowing for greater participation by the public.

On a personal basis my role as Secretary has been a real learning curve, made easier by the advice and assistance given by my Committee members and the past Secretary Peter Bright. To them I say thank you.

Reference in this **Summer Edition of FSB-Vic** will be made to the cessation of hard copies in favor of FSB-Vic being added to our VVAA Victoria Website. All past copies dating back to 2005 have already been placed on the VVAA Vic website. Website updates will start with the 2018 Autumn Edition and continue for each edition after that. Sub-Branches also will have a role to play by printing and providing copies to members who do not have computer access. It is unfortunate it has come to this, however, costs of production and postage have taken it's toll.

When the year comes to an end Christmas and the New Year follows. So to all of you, my family and I wish each and every one of you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and the very best for the New Year 2018. Please keep safe. Also during this time you might also want to reflect on mates and those doing it tough by giving a helping hand where you can.



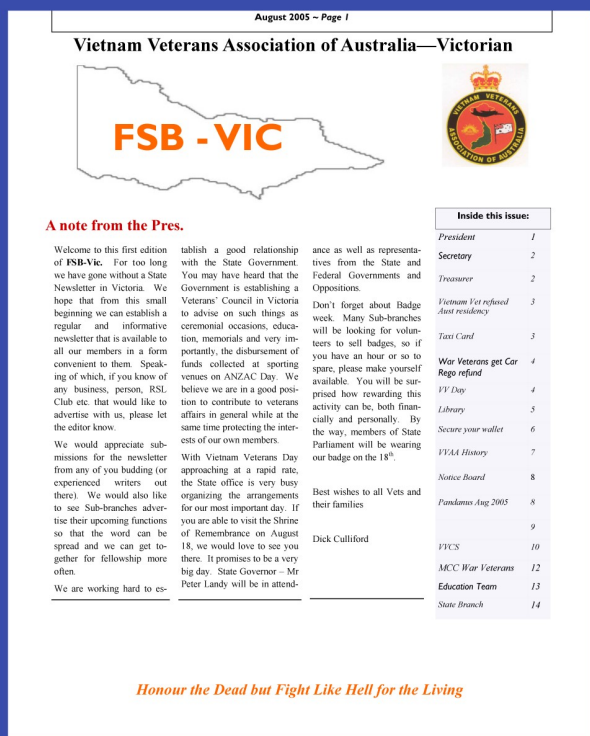
Warmest regards,

George Skell

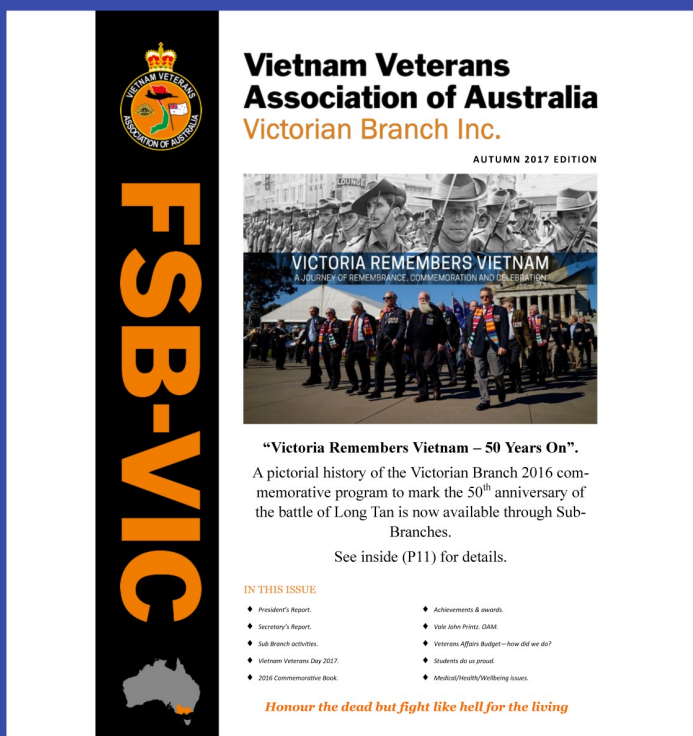
## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL



# FSB-Vic now on the VVAA Website



The first Edition of FSB-Vic Autumn 2005



Our current Edition of FSB-Vic Autumn 2017

Changes to the cost of production and distribution of FSB-Vic since 2005 has made it necessary to review our operating procedures. Production of FSB-Vic in hard copy format, while a preferred option, is no longer viable due to increased printing and postage costs which impacts on VVAA Vic's other welfare objectives.

The 1<sup>st</sup> stage of moving to an electronic version of FSB-Vic was to have all copies of past editions from 2005 to Autumn 2017 (see above) available on the VVAA Vic website - that is complete. Those editions and future editions, are available for viewing and downloading.

Beginning in 2018 FSB-Vic will issue in electronic format only and Sub-Branches will assist those members who do not have computer access by providing printed copies if required.

Members are requested to ensure that current email addresses are held by their Sub-Branches and that any changes are advised promptly.



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

## GRAEME WATTS



Graeme, a National Serviceman, served in Vietnam 1969/70 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion RAR, and upon his return to the community took up the position of Station Master for Victorian Rail at Drouin Station.

Graeme took an active role in the formation of VVAA West Gippsland Sub Branch and was a foundation member of that Branch. He was its Vice President for eleven

years and for many other years led the fundraising efforts for the Branch in Drouin.

About twenty years ago Graeme was part of a steering committee to explore interest regarding the opening of a Welfare Centre for the benefit (in the main) of local veterans, war widows and their dependents. As a result the West Gippsland Veterans Welfare Centre was established; staffed solely by volunteers who are trained to provide expertise to those wanting to lodge Compensation claims with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Graeme is also an active Compensation Advocate and for the past fifteen years he has been the Centre Manager and Chairman of the Management committee. Graeme is tireless in his efforts to ensure that the Centre succeeds in its quest to assist veterans and their families in gaining entitlements that are rightfully theirs. Many Vietnam Veterans and their families have benefitted from Graeme's involvement with the local Veterans Welfare Centre as have those from other conflicts.

Aside from Veterans advocacy and ESO involvement Graeme has, since 1989, been an active member of Drouin Rotary. A key role was his organizing of the annual Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment Seminars (94-2001); a invaluable service for local youth. Graeme is involved with many Rotary charity events and is pivotal in fund raising activities. He was also

involved for many years with the production and distribution of the Rotary Bulletin. In 2012 for his services to Rotary and the Veteran community Graeme was the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow award. He has also been a Legatee for over twenty five years.

His foresight is the driving force behind the West Gippsland Veterans Welfare Centre which has benefited many Vietnam Veterans and their families and will continue to do so.

### THE LESLIE FARREN AWARD

*Leslie Farren was conscripted into National Service in June 1965 and served in Vietnam with D Coy 5 RAR. He was the 1st Victorian National Serviceman killed in Vietnam.*

*The Leslie Farren Award was established to recognise outstanding interest, endeavor and perseverance in improving the welfare of Vietnam Veterans and their families and is awarded annually.*

### FOR THE HISTORY BUFFS

*There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it.*

*Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course!) to be hanged.*

*The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK".*

*If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD.*

*If he declined, that Prisoner was ON THE WAGON.*

*So there you go ...*

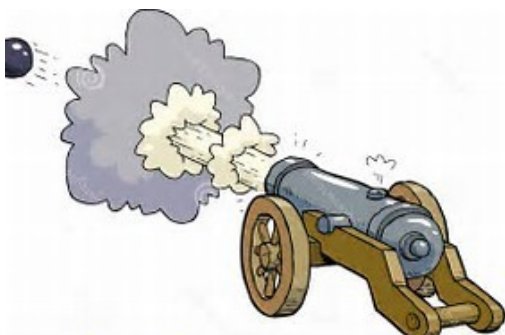
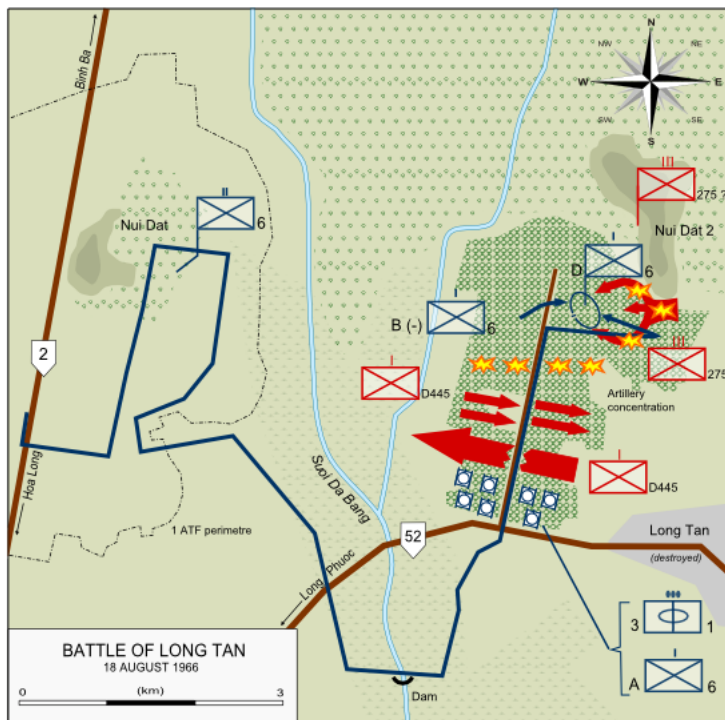
2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Battles of FSPB Coral and FSPB Balmoral—our largest and most costly engagement of the Vietnam War.

Vietnam Veterans Day 18th August 2018 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance will include recognition of that anniversary.

- ◆0930 GUNFIRE BREAKFAST- IN SHRINE PRECINCT.
- ◆1030 MARCH FORM UP- OPPOSITE GUNFIRE BREAKFAST.
- ◆1100 MARCH UP SHRINE FORECOURT/SERVICE.

**Any queries to Maurie Benson, Event Coordinator**

**MOB: 0417 588 886 Em: [office@vvaavic.org.au](mailto:office@vvaavic.org.au)**



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

## PRESENTATION TO THE VVAA Vic – STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 27 OCT 2017 – AT LAKES ENTRANCE

The Vietnamese-Australian community led by the Vietnamese Community of Australia – Victoria Chapter (VCA-Vic), in a final gesture to mark forty years of settlement in Australia, expressed the desire to create a memorial to honour our 521 fallen. The memorial is being constructed in the Kevin Wheelahan Gardens, adjacent to the Sunshine R&SL, Dickson St, Sunshine and is being built with the substantial support and collaboration of the City of Brimbank.

The following organisations form the memorial committee:

VCA Vic Chapter	President	Vivien Nguyen (Chairperson)
R&SL Footscray	President	Long Viet Nguyen
R&SL Sunshine	President	Garry Collins
Vietnamese Veterans Ass Vic	President	Dan Chinh Hoang
VVAA-Vic (E-Team)	Community Liaison	Steve Lowe
Bruce Davies of the AATTV is the Principal Designer.		

Among the things that make this project unique is that:

- ◆ Only Vietnamese have been approached to fund the memorial, as it is to be a gift from Vietnamese-Australians to honour our fallen.
- ◆ At the ‘Turning of the Sod’ / Ground Breaking Ceremony, 521 white crosses, bearing the name of each of the fallen veterans, an Australian Flag & Poppy of remembrance, were placed in tribute.
- ◆ Each of the 521 fallen veterans has been ‘adopted’ by members of the Vietnamese community, who specifically made donations to honour each veteran.
- ◆ After the ceremony, the adopting Vietnamese were given the cross for the soldier they adopted. These crosses were taken home where they were placed on their home altars, where they will be remembered and honoured, as one of their own family.
- ◆ The memorial will also include a tribute to the five Vietnamese Generals, who sacrificed their lives, rather than surrender to the enemy, in April 1975.
- ◆ The Dedication Ceremony is planned for 16th December 2017, and it is hoped that the GG Sir Peter Cosgrove will lead the special guests.
- ◆ A special book is being published to mark the occasion and is planned for launch at the first commemorative service on 30th April 2018, which marks the fall of Saigon & South Vietnam to the communists.
- ◆ Any funds remaining, when the project is complete, will be donated to TPI Association Vic.

The Memorial Committee extends an invitation to all members of the VVAA, your families and friends, to attend the Dedication Ceremony commencing at 11:00am on 16th December 2017, and the Commemorative Service on 30th April 2018.

As Vivien has asked me to say “We look forward to sharing this very special event with you, as together we honour those who gave up so much for us”

More details will be made available as they come to hand.

Report prepared and presented by Steve Lowe



## RSL 2017 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL WINNERS

At the 2017 RSL State Conference, Victorian RSL State President Dr Rob Webster OAM and guest of honour, Commander of the Australian Defence College, MAJGEN Simone Wilkie AO presented Harold Heslop OAM JP with the RSL's prestigious Meritorious Service Medal.

Harold joined the Woorinen RSL Sub Branch in 1967 after his return from Vietnam. Since then he has spent time as Secretary, Treasurer, Appeals Officer, Welfare Officer, Pensions Officer and Fundraising Officer. He has also served as President since 1981. Harold has been a member of the Victorian RSL State Executive since 2005 and Chairman of the State Branch Heritage and Commemorations Committee since 2010.

Harold was awarded RSL Life Membership in 1996, Life Membership with Gold Badge in 2013 and a Medal in the Order of Australia in 2014.

In the Swan Hill area Harold remains an active member of the VVAA Victorian Branch through the VVAA Vic Swan Hill Sub Branch where he has held a number of senior positions including President.

Other involvements include Swan Hill Legacy Group since 1989 serving as Secretary and Chairman; Swan Hill and District Veterans' Information Centre since 1996.



*"The Meritorious Service Medal is the League's [RSL] highest honour over and above Life Membership. The medal is awarded on a restricted basis to preserve its prestige.*

*There are members within our [RSL] ranks who have given exceptional service over a sustained period of time and deserve to be acknowledged in a particular way. This award caters for those members."*

## NEW REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

From 12 October 2017, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) replaced the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) for current and former members who have injuries or illnesses arising from their service prior to 1 July 2004.

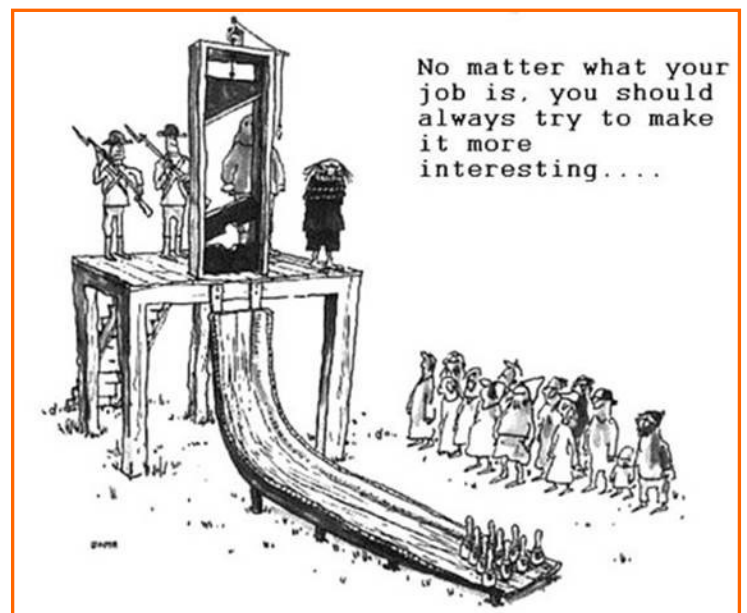
The DRCA duplicates the SRCA, but has been modified to cover only current and former ADF members and their dependents.

Eligibility and benefits under the DRCA will be the same as those that were available under the SRCA. Those members and dependents with existing claims and entitlements under the SRCA will now be automatically covered by the DRCA instead.

The commencement of the new Act does not alter the eligibility and benefits currently available under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 or the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986.

The new Act gives the Minister for Veterans' Affairs responsibility for all rehabilitation and compensation schemes that cover current and former ADF members and will recognise the unique nature of military service.

Further information on the DRCA, and on making a claim for rehabilitation and/or compensation due to a service-related injury or illness, can be found on the [DRCA page of the DVA website](#).



## VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED

VVAA Registered Charity

ABN 34-750-672-219



# Education TEAM

The Education Team has been effectively covering schools, Colleges and Clubs around Victoria and the display vehicle has been used to enhance displays for both schools and Sub Branches.

Following the recent 2016 Anniversary year, the Education Team was tasked with finding suitable resting places for 105 crosses used at the Shrine of Remembrance on Vietnam Veterans Day. There were 65 crosses from NSW and 40 crosses from QLD. Surplus crosses were to be offered to Colleges within Victoria. Every school and college approached was keen to be part of this project. Consequently, all crosses have found a suitable resting place with NOK, ESO's or Colleges.

Some of the Battalions took all of their members' crosses; in particular, 5RAR requested all 13 crosses and have located NOK for almost all of them with the remainder resting within the meeting venue for the Battalion in NSW.

Individual members requested the cross of a mate and there has been some very emotional handovers over the past months. The local Vietnam Veterans group at St Mary's in Sydney took all of the remaining NSW crosses and will be responsible for distributing them.

A cross was presented to a full school assembly for a private college in Werribee. The cross has been blessed and laid up in the new chapel adjacent to the College. A fitting tribute to honour our dead.

The ETeam is having discussions with the National Vietnam Veterans Museum to assist with the fitout of Caribou 231 as a classroom for student groups visiting the museum. It is also suggested that a dedicated education room will be attached to the main building and this will also need to be fitted out for education purposes..

The Tet Festival hosted by the Vietnamese Community will be held in Victoria Street Richmond on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and at the Melbourne Showgrounds, Epsom Road Pascoe Vale on Saturday 03 February 2018 and Sunday 04 February 2018.

The ETeam will be losing Rob Lowe to a northern climate in the New Year. Rob is one of the original members of the ETeam and has been a constant committee delegate prior to 2017. Rob will relinquish his role as Team Leader for the Eastern Team that will continue under a new leadership.

The ETeam thanks Rob for his work and mateship over the past years and we wish him all the best in his new endeavours in Queensland.

Ray Weston

President

Education Team

VVAA (Vic)





Geelong and Districts Sub Branch President Reiny Nieuwenhof accepts a Sub Branch *Conspicuous Achievement Award* acknowledging the establishment of the Geelong Vietnam Veterans Precinct and having the precinct included in the Geelong Council heritage overlay.



The Lakes Entrance State Council Meeting was conducted on Saturday 28th October and was opened by Cr Richard Ellis.

Pictured is Cr Ellis with VVAA Vic State President Bob Elworthy AM and VVAA Gippsland SB President Geoffrey Hopkins.



Rugs featuring 3 Ribbon and 4 Ribbon Vietnam medal colours were generously crocheted & donated by Carol Clough, wife of Vietnam Vet Graeme Clough.

Following a fund raising raffle \$1,514.14 was raised throughout the VVAA Vic Sub Branches .

Winners of the raffles were:

- ◆ 4 Ribbon rug Mornington Peninsula SB.
- ◆ 3 Ribbon rug Swan Hill SB.

A special thanks to Carol and Graeme Clough and to all who purchased tickets.

*Editor's comment:*

*Apologies for the poor picture quality—these people stack up much better in “real” life !!*

## To our Wives, Partners and Carers,

I could not let National Carers Week slip by without taking the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your on-going care, compassion and love for your Vietnam Veteran.

The Victorian Branch is the strongest Vietnam Veteran group in the country, possible in no small way to the contribution that you make each day to ensure the health and well-being of your veteran. In many ways I regard you as veterans as well. Going the distance over many years with a Vietnam Veteran takes a special commitment from a special person, and I have no doubt that there are many Victorian Vietnam Veterans who are in better shape physically and mentally because of your devotion.

I thank you all for keeping our Vietnam Veterans safe, cared for and valued, and thus enabling them to enjoy quality of life and the comradeship of our State Branch. You are the glue that keeps it all together.

With great respect and awe,

## R W Elworthy

R W (Bob) Elworthy AM  
Victorian Branch President

## GEELONG & DISTRICT

Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration service was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August at the VV Memorial Park. A highlight was a march through our own Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honour. The Avenue now has 6 perforated metal screens depicting scenes for the Vietnam war, featuring



turing HMAS Sydney, Huey helicopters with infantry on the LZ, the medical team, the mine detecting dogs, a 105 Howitzer of the artillery and APCs of the Armoured regiment. Guest speaker service was Michael Annett, who compared his experiences in Afghanistan with those we experienced in the Vietnam War.

On the Saturday prior to the VV Service the Sub Branch held a special memorial service prior to the GDFL Football and Netball games. At the end of games I presented the Vietnam medals to the best on ground and best on Court (see pics opposite).

A contingent of members of the Geelong Sub Branch attended the Vietnam Veterans March & service at the Shrine of Remembrance on the 18<sup>th</sup> August. There

were other services held across our region, with special mention for the march and service held in Queenscliff, which was well attended, and a credit to the organiser, Graham Christie JP.

We continue to be unable to access our Veterans Centre (Osborne House) due to a breakout of dangerous levels of mould spores. It is unlikely we will return in the near future, which is a great disappointment for our Committee and members. We continue to have our meetings and 'Pay Day' lunches at an alternative venue. Our Ladies lunches also continue to be

popular with members.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> the Sub Branch organised a Commemorative Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, where there is a memorial Vietnam plaque on the wall. The service was not as well attended as it was last year.

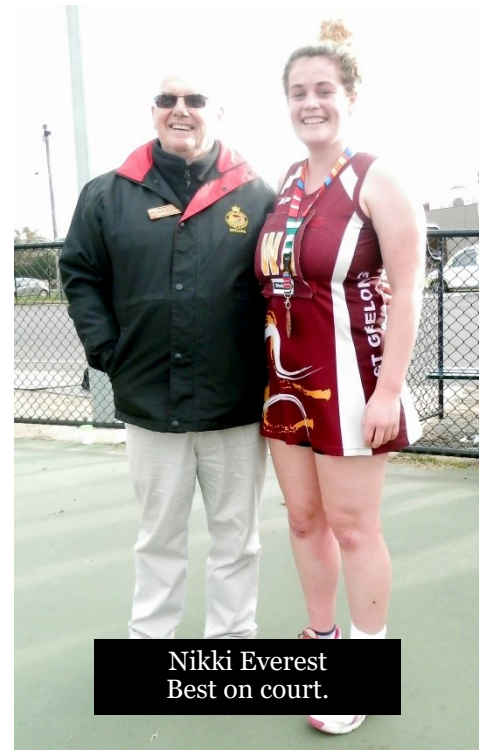
Despite a few challenges the Sub Branch continues to offer support to our members across the region.

Rieny Nieuwenhof

President



B J Harding  
Best on ground.



Nikki Everest  
Best on court.



# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2017 ~ MELBOURNE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



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

# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2017 ~ MELBOURNE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



**THE PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
VICTORIA BRANCH Inc.**  
Patriotic Fund W 542 ABN: 51914348018  
National Patron: Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove

Mr. Bob Elworthy. AM.  
President,  
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia,  
Victoria Branch.

11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

Dear Bob Elworthy,

In these last few days of my stint as President of the Victorian Branch of P.V.A. I have given a lot of thought to those who have helped our members, and myself and your name came instantly to the top of this list.

Bob, you have treated me, and our Association, with respect and kindness at all times and I thank you for that. It has been appreciated greatly.

I think what I want to say most especially is that by giving our men a strong sense of dignity and by encouraging them to respect both themselves and their service, you have also allowed us, their Partners, to share in those feelings and to say loudly, "My Husband is a Vietnam Veteran", with the pride those words should hold.

I am sure I will bump into you around the traps, though not as often, so thank you Bob, thank you.

With best wishes to Lyn who has shared you for so long with the ESO Community,

Sincerely,

  
Heather Evans,  
President.  
P.V.A. Vic. Inc.

RECEIVED  
12/10/17

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Victoria Branch Inc.  
Postal Address: P.O. Box 829, MELTON, 3337  
www.pva.org.au



VICTORIA POLICE

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Our Ref: D17/047472

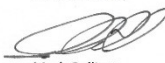
Mr R W Elworthy  
Victorian Branch President  
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia  
ANZAC House  
4 Collins St  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Elworthy

The Chief Commissioner has asked me to thank you for your recent letter acknowledging the occasion of the 2017 National Police Remembrance Day. Your kind words are most appreciated.

Victoria Police values its relationship with the Vietnam Veterans Association and to that end looks forward to providing continued support to the Association's own commemorative activities.

Yours sincerely

  
Mark Galliot  
Superintendent  
Deputy Chief of Staff to the  
Chief Commissioner

5/10/17

*Also from the SEATO Civilian Surgical Teams:*

Dear Bob,

Please convey my sincere thanks for the honour you bestowed on the members of the SEATO Civilian Surgical teams this last Vietnam Veterans Day. It meant so much to us all, as does your friendship and support.

You may have noticed that some of the doctors are getting quite frail, but there was no way they were going to miss out.

Again, thank you for the day.

Regards

Dr Dorothy Angell OAM



## DIAMOND VALLEY

The Diamond Valley Sub Branch is motoring along very well, maintaining our membership base in excess of 200 and with our weekly Friday night meetings averaging between 40-60; a very social group.

We continue a strong focus on getting out and about with our members, especially involving all our partners as we see this as vital to our ongoing survival as a sub branch.

We have our *Annual Boys Day Out* at the Clarkefield Haunted Hotel where we use our free travel and go by train, have a very social day and come home in good order.

The Ladies prefer their day out in Shepparton by Bus and this has been an Annual event for years and is well attended.

Our Annual Dinner Dance in July was held at the Watsonia RSL and with the



Band the KingPins (who are as old as us) belting out the 60's Rock and Roll and us proving we have still got the spirit, it is a pity that some other sub branches no longer hold their Dinner Dance.



August as usual was full on, with Badge week being very successful and our events even more so:

12<sup>th</sup> August we held our local VV Day service in the Memorial Park Greens-

borough and once again with the attendance of the local schools, scouts, politicians and local government in attendance made for a turn out in excess of 400. The support of Viewbank College, Parade College, 39<sup>th</sup> Cadet Unit, Scouts and the 49<sup>th</sup> Sqn Air Cadets make it a real community event. Using a keynote speaker from the local schools also adds to the day.

17<sup>th</sup> August attendance at the Repat Service was the first time we have had to go inside for the service, must be getting soft.



18<sup>th</sup> August at the Shrine for the usual service and then back en mass to the Greensborough RSL for drinks; another good day.



19<sup>th</sup> August the Northern Football League club Lower Plenty dedicated their match to Vietnam Veterans and put on a very good show. 35 Veterans attended with medals and were presented to the crowd and the players of both teams prior to the game and the local member for Eltham Vicki Ward laid a commemorative wreath. This is really appreciated by the DViets.

20<sup>th</sup> August saw us saddle up and go to our Chapel Service at Simpson Barracks

to atone for our sins and remember our comrades who are no longer with us. We then naturally adjourned to the Sergeants Mess for a meal and drinks to finish off the day.

In September we organised a Mystery Tour which was well attended but also fell on the coldest day we had for years and it was snowing when they arrived at Trentham, but being a hardy group we survived.



In October 34 of us ventured to Echuca for 2 nights and had a grand time at the Echuca Caravan Park, fitted in a meal and visit to Echuca Working Mans club and RSL one night and Moama RSL for the next. We had a tour of the Kyabram Fauna Park (bit old and tired like us) and 32 degrees didn't help then onto the Emmy Lou for a Paddle Steamer ride up the Murray.

We are planning next year already with a 5 night trip to Canberra and Lakes Entrance in April 2018, with 3 nights in Canberra and 2 in Lakes Entrance should be good. We are in the process of gaining a tour of the War Memorial warehouses by Brendan Nelson and hopefully a tour inside Parliament House with our local Federal Member Jenni Macklin. We have applied for a subsidy to cover the Coach cost and are hopeful of success.

With the doom and gloom of the predictions in VVAA membership we are actively trying to buck the trend and remain a very viable group. We believe that success is only possible with an active Committee and involvement of not only the members but their partners as well, we might be getting older but we aren't slowing down. So get on board.

Best wishes to all Sub Branches for Xmas and a Safe and Happy New Year

## OUTER EASTERN MELBOURNE

Another eventful and busy six months for OEM since reporting last. Our many interest groups still reported strong numbers attending activities despite a colder/longer than usual winter and the exodus of many, chasing warmer weather up north.

Our Men's Coffee Club recently boarded a bus and headed for the hills for morning tea with our counterparts at the Healesville RSL. Not to be outdone, our Veterans Wives Group went on a 3 day trip to Echuca where they caught up with members Al and Val Sullivan who moved there a short while ago.

The Gypsy Caravaners continue to gain strength in interest



and numbers, and have 3 trips planned for 2018. This year they stayed at Paynesville, Rutherglen and Beechworth. To address our future changing welfare needs, and in line with our mantra for simplifying and streamlining internal procedures, and sharing workloads, OEM has established an Advisory Support Group to assess our needs and make decisions on implementation measures going forward. A decision has already been made to forge a close working relationship with the Welfare/Support Teams at the Ringwood RSL.

The Sub-branch was invited to a "Veteran's Breakfast" by



students of the Monbulk College. Following a very hearty breakfast, prepared by the students, our members participated in a discussion/questions group with students. By all accounts it was very successful and rewarding day for all.

Badge Week was again also very successful this year. Sixty four of our members braved inclement weather conditions to ensure we are able to fund our Member Support Programs into the future.

This year we also hosted a well attended "Thank you Spit Roast", at the Boronia RSL, to recognise the fund raising commitment of our members over the years. The annual "Bob Russell Memorial Darts Tournament" was held in conjunction with the luncheon. The trophy was won by Alan Ramseyer in a nail biting finish with our Membership Officer, Pat Young.

The annual Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans Day March and Service this year, was hosted by Lindsay Fisher and the Warburton RSL team. Once again there was a large attendance including local MPs and Councillors. The Speaker was Tim Fischer AC who gave a very insightful Vietnam Veteran's perspective on the impact of the Vietnam War.



At what we hope will become an annual event, the Sub-branch and Ringwood RSL co-hosted a Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon at the Ringwood RSL on 16<sup>th</sup> August. A large attendance included 82 of our OEM Members. We thank the Ringwood RSL President David Jamison and his team for organising the event, including the Guest Speaker Dr David Hay, former National Serviceman and Vietnam Veteran. David gave an interesting talk on some of the major battles of the Vietnam War in which Australia was involved.

For OEM attendees, the highlight of the day was the bestowing of OEM Sub Branch Life Membership on our dear friend, Rob Huggan, for outstanding service in welfare leadership over many years. Rob becomes our sixth Sub-branch Life Member.

Member support for our "Bunnings Sausage Sizzles" continues to grow in strength. Tony Zammit "Mr Sausage" seems to have no trouble regularly filling a roster. The sizzles have established themselves as an integral part of our fund raising program.

Sadly, since the last issue, we have lost some of our loved ones, including members Jim Bell, Leigh Lewis and Robert Kraal, our former Membership Officer. We will miss these mates and express our condolences to families and friends.



## MELBOURNE WEST

Following the loss of our President, Charlie Peterson in May, James Coghlan, our Vice President stepped up and became Acting President of Melbourne West Sub Branch until the AGM on 4 February 2018. James, together with the Committee, has overseen a steady period in which we have financially improved our situation and successfully run a few events for our membership.

Badge Week, while on a reduced basis from last year, still proved the major fundraiser, and the favourable comments received from the public indicate that VVAA is well accepted as an ex-service organisation. "Thank you for your service" becoming a more often used phrase, which is quite pleasing to hear. Sausage Sizzles have also been a good source of funds throughout the year.

VV Day this year was a departure from the norm, with the Sub-Branch not being represented in the Shrine service. As most of our active members are finding it harder to get around, we opted for a local day. We started with a 7am service at the Werribee Cenotaph which was attended by the Mayor and four councillors of Wyndham, State member Tim Pallas, Federal member Joanne Ryan and representatives of other State members. These dignitaries, local school reps, the general public and our membership undertook a short service which was ably supported by our local Werribee RSL.

We then went by bus to the Altona RSL where we held another short service at the Long Tan Cross Replica which sits at the front of the RSL. This was followed by a light morning tea provided by Altona RSL. After returning to Werribee, we all went to the Hoppers Club, Hoppers Crossing, our ancestral home (where we

were formed as Melbourne West Sub-Branch) for a special VV Day Luncheon. The day was such a success that we are looking forward to a repeat next year.



Our membership increased since the last report and we now have 65 Ordinary members, 3 Second members, 63 Associate members, 5 Life members and 3 State Life members.

On the Social side, we enjoyed a night at Melton Trots on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept where we joined other Community Groups for a special night, including a few songs by another Vet, Normie Rowe. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct we visited the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, lunched at the Golf Club, paid our respects at the Ex-POW Memorial and stopped for a wine tasting at St. Anne's winery at Myrning on the way home. A very enjoyable day. We are considering

another day trip to take in the Barwon Mansion, lunch at Colac RSL, and of course, the obligatory visit to a winery on the way home.

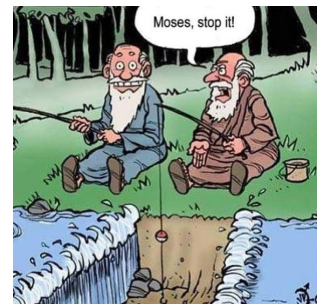
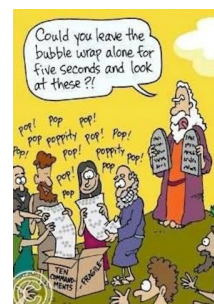
Our Drop-in Centre, which operates every Wednesday at Central Park, Hoppers Crossing has seen a steady attendance throughout the year, albeit a few short during the colder days of winter. Our last day for 2017 will be our Christmas Luncheon on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, which this year will be a full catered sit down Spit Roast meal, accompanied by some liquid refreshments. The centre has operated throughout the year on donations from attendees and has been so successful that over \$1000 has been passed on to the Welfare Fund, besides funding the Christmas Luncheon.

The Werribee RSL puts on an Ex-Service luncheon on the last Friday of each month and our members and wives/partners enjoy this little get-together.

The "West Side Story", our Newsletter continues to grow in its' quality and content which is due in no small part to our Editor, John Curbishley. Our Spring issue was circulated in late Sept.

We are now looking forward to renewing our membership and winding up what we consider has been a very good year overall. We take this opportunity to wish all VVAA Victorian Vets, their wives/partners and families a very Happy Christmas and may 2018 be a Good Year for us all.

**VIETNAM VETERANS**  
HOPPERS CLUB



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

## WIMMERA

As in past years, Wimmera Vietnam Veterans held their VV Day Commemorative Service on 18<sup>th</sup> August with the Member for Lowan, Ms Emma Kealy and the Horsham Royal City Council Mayor Cr Pam Clarke participating.

The Keynote Speaker was George Logan RFD Snr Vice-president of Victorian Branch of the RSL and a two tour veteran of Vietnam. George was extremely well received by all in attendance, both Veterans and the public.

The weather proved to be inclement with rain and wind prevalent during the week leading up to the Service.

However, this did not deter about 80 people from attending.

The event received good coverage by the local press with the Wimmera Mail Times actually streaming it live via Facebook. It was reported that around 600 people viewed the live stream.

During the same week leading up to the Service members of the sub

branch sold badges etc. at various locations around the Wimmera.

Unfortunately, sales this year were not as good as in previous years considered to be due to the inclement weather during that week.

Early November members of the sub-branch and their partners headed off on an overnight bus trip to Mt Gambier and Portland.

This year the Wimmera Sub Branch sponsored the Horsham RSL ANZAC Library Awards held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

For the last two years the local Catholic Secondary College, St Brigid's and the Horsham RSL have combined to present the ANZAC Library Awards.

The Awards consist of three groups of three students from the College selecting a WW1 digger or nurse, investigating that person and then giving a 10 minute presentation on their chosen person.

Awards are given for the best presentation in each group with a special award for the best overall presentation.

This year a Vietnam Digger or Nurse will be included.



## RAAF

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the birdies is!!! I wonder where the rain is??? It is hard to believe that we connect to memorable happenings more so when it rains. While numbers were down on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August compared with last year and the clouds didn't explode until the service was completed, most of our members managed to get to our reunion venue reasonably dry.

Our group of around 35 enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow veterans, partners & families after the march at "The Orient" restaurant at the Seasons Hotel on St Kilda Road.

We have had a few on the "unwell" list this last quarter; I guess as we all age a little it is to be expected.

Quite a few of our members have had the "travel bug" these past few months and we hope you all enjoyed your adventures. Our intrepid leader had just returned in time for the State Conference at Lakes Entrance after treading the moors and improving his brogue, (we don't think he lost it!!)

It is that time of the year again where those that are able are about to begin packing parcels for our overseas troops to give them some Christmas cheer to help lift their spirits while being far away from home. We thank the Air Force Association for their initiative and support with this project, also those who can give their time to pack these parcels as it is a tedious process but greatly appreciated by the recipients. It is pleasing to

know that all RAAF members on overseas deployment will get a parcel this year.

To all the Vietnam Veteran fraternity and their families, we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2018. Stay well and remember we are all here for each other. And to anyone needing help don't hesitate to contact us, we can't help if we don't know.

Kind regards

Gill Coughlan

Secretary RAAFVVVA



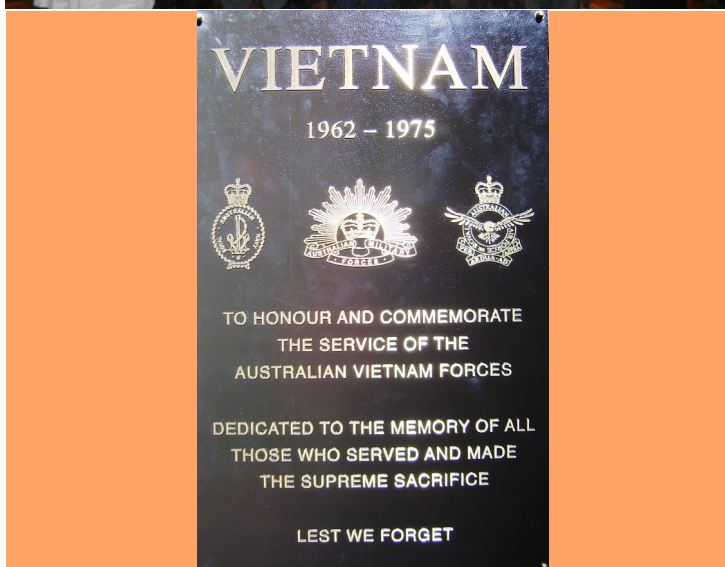
## Commemorative Service at St Paul's Cathedral 4 October 2017

On Wednesday 4 October at 1.30pm around 12 Vietnam Veterans, partners and supporters gathered in the vicinity of the Vietnam Commemorative plaque in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. The gathering was to commemorate the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the plaque and the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the deployment of Australian service personnel to Vietnam. The service also gave us the opportunity for our own personal reflection on the time that we spent as a part of the Australian Vietnam Forces.

The service was conducted by the Precentor of the Cathedral, the Rev'd Canon Heather Patacca, who also gave the address, which was most inspiring, showing great empathy, along with a great understanding of Veterans.

Following the Ode, Mr Graeme Balderstone from the Cathedral played the Last Post and Rouse.

Among the attendees were VVAA members, RSL members and those from other ESO's. Included in these were Mr Rieny Nieuwenhof, President Geelong and District Sub-branch VVAA and Mr John Poland, President TPI Victorian Branch.



## David McLachlan to lead Veterans Employment Strategy



Major General David McLachlan AO (Rtd), former President of RSL Victoria Branch, will use his extensive expertise and sector knowledge to ensure the state's *Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy* is implemented with veterans' needs at front of mind. Major General McLachlan will work with the Victorian Veterans Council, Victoria's ex-service organisations and

veteran employment providers to explain the value that skilled veterans can bring to the public sector. The *Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy* is a key initiative of the Government's response to the Victorian Veterans Sector Study Report with a commitment to employ 250 veterans through the strategy.

The strategy will be developed over the next 12 months and promoted to veteran networks and people leaving the Australian Defence Force who live in, or intend moving to Victoria. The strategy will help veterans apply for public sector jobs by offering advice and interview tips, and track the number of veterans applying for positions to address any barriers in securing employment.

### England in the 1500s:

*Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.*

*This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed.*

*Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## NASHO VIETNAM SERVICE FURPHYS DEBUNKED

Dr Brendan Nelson  
GPO Box 345  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir

I served in the Australian Army from January 1970 to October 1971 as a National Serviceman, with 12 months in Vietnam from October 1970 to October 1971. My Army No. was 3797802.

On Saturday, 25 March 2017 my wife and I did a tour at the National War Museum. The tour was called the "post 1945 era to the present" and started around 11.15 am.

As part of the tour at the Vietnam display, the tour guide stated on a number of occasions that National Servicemen at the time were asked if they wanted to go to Vietnam and, if they said that they did not want to go, they were not sent there and that if they agreed to go they signed a document stating that they had agreed to go.

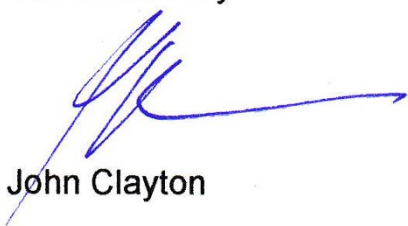
After nearly 50 years, this is quite different to my memory of events. My recollection is that if we did not want to go to Vietnam, we were told we could hire a lawyer and go to court as a conscientious objector and possibly end up in jail.

I thus found the guide's account of events rather disturbing and consider that if this is the official line of the War Museum, then you should produce some documentation or perhaps survey other National Servicemen on their recollection of events.

The guide's description of the situation sounded rather like political spin to me and not what I would expect for the National War Museum.

As I feel rather strongly about the matter, I am also sending a copy of this letter to the Vietnam Veterans' Association.

Yours faithfully



John Clayton

### *Editor's comment:*

*From time to time we hear/discuss whether or not "Nashos" were given the choice to decide if they were prepared to proceed to Vietnam during their time in the Army. While discussions generally rely on our memories, that can at best be somewhat unreliable, the following exchange between a Victorian Nasho and Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, provides an official position on that subject. Perhaps the confusing element in these discussions may have been that for logistic reasons some units may indeed have accepted an individual's choice not to serve in Vietnam where it suited the unit and its logistic requirements. We thank John Clayton and Dr Nelson for allowing us to reproduce these letters.*



**Dr Brendan Nelson**  
Director

31 May 2017  
ENQU10006-054573

Mr John Clayton  
11 Jeffery Street  
BLACKBURN VIC 3130

Dear Mr Clayton,

Thank you for your letter of 12 April 2017, following your recent visit to the Australian War Memorial and participation in a guided tour.

I note your recollection of the tour guide's account of the selection of National Servicemen for service in Vietnam. I can understand your concerns if this did not accord with your memory of your own personal experience as a National Serviceman.

Our tour guides are not Memorial staff but unpaid, public-spirited volunteers, many of whom have prior military service themselves. They are trained for the role that they carry out with dedication and commitment, and they possess considerable knowledge of Australia's military history and involvement in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

However, I accept that in this instance, the guide may have misunderstood the complexities of the controversial National Service Scheme (1964-1972) and its implementation from November 1964 to December 1972.

The Memorial's chief historian (and author of two volumes of the Australian official history of the Vietnam War), advises that there is a commonly-held, but incorrect belief that National Servicemen had to volunteer for service in Vietnam and could decline to do so. This idea resulted from the practice of several Army schools and units asking soldiers, through various means, if they wished to serve overseas.

Soldiers' responses were used as a guide to assist in the selection of postings to ensure the most effective use of the skills each soldier possessed. In some cases, this questioning was a sincere attempt to cater for the preferences of individual soldiers. However, such practices came to be misconstrued by National Servicemen and had the effect of convincing many that they actually had a choice, when in fact they did not.

All National Servicemen were liable for service in Australia and overseas and were informed of such in both their enlistment documents and the Australian Army's *Information Booklet for National Servicemen* that they received upon call-up. There were provisions which allowed a National Serviceman to apply to his commanding officer to remain in Australia on compassionate grounds, but the commanding officer was under no obligation to assent to any such requests.

The National Service legislation left no room for doubt. All National Servicemen were liable for service in Australia and overseas. In mid-1966 the Army sought to put an end to the questioning of soldiers regarding their posting preferences. A memorandum from HQ Southern Command directed schools and units that:

“Members of the RAS(NS) are not to be instructed, or asked, to express their wish, verbally or in writing, to volunteer for overseas service. Similarly, members of the ARA or RAS(O) are *ipso facto* volunteers for overseas service, and requests to further volunteer are unnecessary.”

(HQ Southern Command, memorandum, ‘National Servicemen—Signing of documents volunteering for overseas service’, R556/1/1 (7RAR), AWM 100)

However, the misconception that National Servicemen had a choice has persisted in popular memory. The reality was that, for most of the period of Australian military involvement in the war, there were more men willing to serve in Vietnam than were actually needed by the Army. Those National Servicemen reluctant to serve in Vietnam were sometimes quietly transferred out of units earmarked to be deployed there, commanding officers taking the view that they could become a liability on operations. On the other hand, there were considerable numbers of National Servicemen who applied for an extension of their service expressly so that they could accompany their unit overseas.

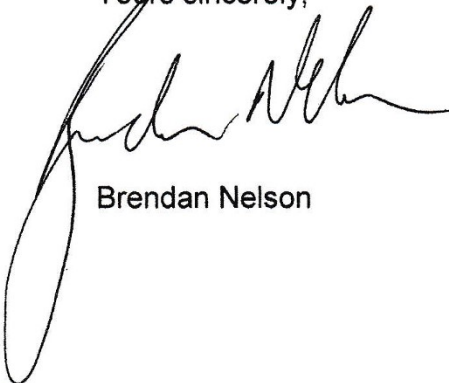
There were undoubtedly some men who served in Vietnam solely because they did not want to let down their mates in their unit or to be perceived by them as being weak or cowardly. In some cases this type of peer pressure was even deliberately exploited. There were instances of parades, often unofficial, being held during which men unwilling to go to Vietnam were asked to step forward or to raise their hands, effectively ostracising them within the close-knit groups that had developed during training.

We will take steps to ensure that all our Voluntary Guides are more fully informed about these complex issues in order to deliver accurate and authoritative information to visitors. Meanwhile, I must assure you that the Guides do not present any “official line” or “political spin” as you suggest. This would certainly not be in keeping with the mission and purpose of the Memorial and would not be tolerated.

Finally, I note from the DVA Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans that you served a full twelve-month tour of duty in Vietnam in 1970/71 as a National Serviceman Lance-Corporal with 17 Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers. I commend you for your service and assure you of the Memorial’s ongoing commitment to honour and accurately represent the military service of all Australians who have served our nation.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and I look forward to welcoming you and your travelling companions to the Memorial again in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Nelson', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Brendan Nelson

# STORY WRITING & ART COMPETITION (SWAC)

Report Nov 2017

The Official Launch of the 2017 SWAC Competition took place at RGH on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and was more than just the Official Launch for 2017 but also the Official Opening of the new **"Duckboard Function Centre"**. This new centre came about following a bequest from the estate of the late George Duncan, a WW2 Veteran, who consistently entered paintings in the SWAC Competition, several of which are on display in this magnificent venue.

The venue was opened by Maj Gen David McLachlan AO (Rtd), former Patron of SWAC & also the former State President of RSL Victoria. Also in attendance was the current State President of RSL Victoria Dr Robert Webster OAM, Board Chair of Austin Health Judith Troeth representing DVA, Executive Officer Ms Ruth Bland, Chair of the SWAC Steering Committee and local Federal Member Ms Jenny Macklin who is a great supporter of the Competition.

Some 160 people attended the official opening of this wonderful venue & the SWAC Competition. For those who know RGH the venue is situated in the location of the old kitchen and was renovated at a cost of some \$850k. Now complete the venue will be used for conferences, nurse

training and of course SWAC activities which were very close to the heart of George Duncan.

The Winners of the 2 Categories that VVAA Victoria Sponsor are as follows:

## 4B - VVAA Encouragement Award

Jillian Smith featuring "Sea Aquarium Singapore".

## Runner Up

John Vincent featuring "Butchart Gardens Vancouver".

One of the key awards, the **"Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Award"**, was won by a very well known Vietnam Veteran Mr George Logan, Snr Vice President of RSL Victoria. We congratulate George on his outstanding achievement.

The Prize Ceremony was again held in the ACACIA Room at RGH on the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov followed by refreshments; another successful year for SWAC.

Next year with VVAA and Vietnam veterans commemorating the Battle of **"Coral & Balmoral"** it is hoped that we are able to have a special one off writing category relating to the battles for FSPBs Coral & Balmoral where Australians fought in the longest and most costliest battles for Australia during the Vietnam war.

Amat "Aff" Binnoore  
VVAA VIC Rep



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

## SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM

**What can you buy for 50 cents a week these days, and also make money for your Sub-Branch?**



**A cut price Chupa Chup?**



**A cheap icy pole?**



**One cigarette?**



**Or a Friend membership of YOUR National Vietnam Veterans Museum? For as little as 50 cents a week you can help ensure the future of the NVVM! Family and friends can join and also enjoy membership benefits. Your Sub-Branch can tell you how to join and how the Sub-Branch benefits.**



**Types of NVVM Membership**

(Endorsed by the NVVM Ltd Board on 30 June 2016)

Types of NVVM Membership:

- Individual:
  - Benefits:
    - Free admission on all visits.
    - Two free individual guest passes per year.
    - 10% discount on admission cost for immediate family.
    - 10% discount in NVVM shop and café.
    - Exclusive member only private viewings and events.
    - Regular e-newsletters.
    - Discounts for guest lectures, film nights, conferences and other special events.
    - Single vote at annual general meetings.
- Concession:
  - Applies to Veteran card holders, full-time students and pensioners. Does not apply to Seniors Card.
  - Benefits as per individual member.
- Family:
  - Allows for two Adults and up to four children.
  - Benefits as per individual member.
- Corporate:
  - Allows for four adults and up to 10 children.
  - Benefits as per individual member.

Membership Fees:

Type	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	Life aged under 60	Life aged 60+
Individual	\$35	\$65	\$95	\$1,200	\$800
Concession	\$25	\$45	\$65	\$800	\$600
Family	\$70	\$130	\$190	N/A	N/A
Corporate	\$200	\$350	\$500	N/A	N/A

## PRESS RELEASE

**Monday 6th November, 2017**

The Chairman of the [National Vietnam Veterans Museum](#), Kingsley Munday AM and the Director of the Phillip Island Airport Unit Trust, Rod Patch announced this afternoon the gifting to the Museum of five (5) acres of land close by the current Museum.

The land, fronting Phillip Island Tourist Road, is located on what is the former Phillip Island Airport site.

“I am humbled that the Phillip Island Airport Unit Trust sees our Museum as an important tourism asset and an integral part of Island culture. This gift could not have come at a better time for the Museum given our plans for the future expansion of the Museum and our desperate need for more space”, said Kingsley.

“Our Museum has run out of room and it is only with the kind generosity of Phillip Island Helicopters that we are

able to display our Caribou and Grumman aircraft. Our collection is growing rapidly and we have exciting plans for expansion.”

“Our Board has embarked upon a New Museum Building Project necessitating finding available land of approximately 20 acres and raising funds to build and operate a new museum” Kingsley commented. “The Phillip Island based NVVM is regarded as the spiritual home of our Vietnam Veterans and we want to create a legacy that will make them and our nation proud.”

Discussions with Rod Patch have been on-going for some time and I am thrilled with this most generous gift. It now allows us to concentrate fully on raising the requisite funds to commence building our new Museum.” Kingsley said.

For further comment:

Kingsley Munday

D 02 8988 7507 M 0417 428 759

kmunday@iasdas.com.au

**Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)**  
*A service founded by Vietnam Veterans*  
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TO A VETERAN WITH PTSD**

1. Thank you for your service.
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3. I'm sorry that you are suffering.
4. I am here to listen if you ever want to talk about it.
5. Can I do anything to help make things a little easier for you?

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## DVA Pays

for the clinically necessary treatment

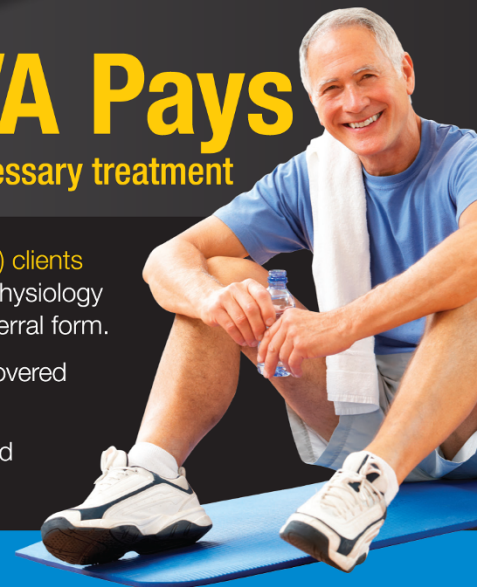
Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

**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.

**Start today and experience the benefits...**

- ✓ Increase mobility and balance
- ✓ Reduce and manage age related illness
- ✓ Assist with the management of chronic health conditions, back pain, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes and more
- ✓ Exercise Physiology, Occupational Therapy, Dietetic & Physiotherapy services available.
- ✓ Operating out of Gym & Aquatic facilities, also with the option of home visits.



**NJF**  
Exercise Physiologists



### VICTORIA

NJF operates out of numerous locations, call to find your nearest location.

**1300 890 507** or 0449 713 472

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

[njfwellness.com.au](http://njfwellness.com.au)

# VVAA Victoria Sub Branches (State Directory current at Oct 2017)

<b>BALLARAT</b> President: Sandy McCann Secretary: Peter Starr PO Box 180 SEBASTOPOL VIC 3356 secretary.ballarat@vvaavic.org.au	5466 7351	0437 764 668 0401 515 085	<b>MELTON</b> President: Gary Paterson Secretary: Jim Fitzgerald PO Box 981 MELTON VIC 3337 secretary.melton@vvaavic.org.au	9743 6496	0438 313 344 0415 679 677
<b>BENDIGO</b> President: Terry Nolan Secretary: Graham Flanders PO Box 89 BENDIGO VIC 3552 secretary.bendigo@vvaavic.org.au	5449 3532	0438 467 089	<b>MITCHELL</b> President: Ross Stewart Secretary: Ross Gregson PO Box 812 SEYMOUR VIC 3660 secretary.mitchell@vvaavic.org.au	5792 2666 5792 3227	0407 646 988 0417 973 573
<b>BOX HILL</b> President: John Haward Secretary: Rod Burgess PO Box 280 DINGLEY VILLAGE VIC 3172 secretary.boxhill@vvaavic.org.au	9803 3301	0412 053 912 0439 378 989	<b>MORNINGTON PENINSULA</b> President: Kevin Mawdsley Secretary: Peter Howard PO Box 4012 ROSEBUD VIC 3939 secretary.morningtonpeninsula@vvaavic.org.au	5982 0817 5986 2510	0429 633 081
<b>CENTRAL HIGHLANDS</b> President: Ken Bryce Secretary: Deidre Knell PO Box 132 GISBORNE VIC 3437 secretary.centralhighlands@vvaavic.org.au	5428 3290 5429 1051	0407 737 386 0427 744 190	<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>DIAMOND VALLEY</b> President: Peter Blackman Secretary: Alan Comben PO Box 542 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088	9459 5117 9435 9213	0400 363 143 0432 631 413	<b>NOBLE PARK</b> President: Ray McCarthy Secretary: John Pilkington PO Box 295 NOBLE PARK VIC 3174	9798 5379 9749 2672	0418 552 804 0413 163 749
<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>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>FRANKSTON</b> President: Kelvin Park Secretary: Cheryl Myers PO Box 1429 FRANKSTON VIC 3199 secretary.frankston@vvaavic.org.au		0432 473 039 0409 962 545	<b>OUTER EASTERN</b> President: Amat (Aff) Binnoore Secretary: Maree Ferguson PO Box 763 BORONIA VIC 3155 secr- tary.outereasternmelbourne@vvaavic.org.au	9801 5537 9722 9787	0409 365 210 0414 369 213
<b>GEELONG &amp; DISTRICTS</b> President: Rieny (Reny) Nieuwenhof Secretary: Vacant PO Box 484 GEELONG VIC 3220 secretary.geelong@vvaavic.org.au		0407 378 808	<b>RAAF</b> President: Chris Hudnott Secretary: Mrs Gillian Coghlan PO Box 281 HAMPTON PARK VIC 3976 secretary.raaf@vvaavic.org.au	9830 4665 8774 0646	0438 331 215 0408 503 986
<b>GIPPSLAND</b> President: Geoffrey Hopkins Secretary: Mick Hawryluk PO Box 902 SALE VIC 3850 secretary.gippsland@vvaavic.org.au		0477 771 907	<b>SWAN HILL</b> President: Laurie Toppinen Secretary: Maralyn Toppinen PO Box 1650 SWAN HILL VIC 3585 secretary.swanhill@vvaavic.org.au	5033 2614 5033 2614	
<b>GOULBURN VALLEY</b> President: Peter Dealy Secretary: Jeff Stanyer 139 Fuzzards Road, NUMURKAH VIC 3636 secretary.goulburnvalley@vvaavic.org.au	5862 3829 5862 3829	0419 135 909	<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>HEADQUARTERS/ INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS</b> State Branch Asst. Secretary: Sue McQueen C/- CVVSC PO Box 820 BENDIGO CENTRAL VIC 3552 <a href="mailto:asstsecretary@vvaavic.org.au">asstsecretary@vvaavic.org.au</a>	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: Paul Gothard Secretary: Daniel McIver OAM PO Box 274 MARYBOROUGH VIC 3465 secretary.maryborough@vvaavic.org.au	5461 1276 5464 1219	0419 541 226	<b>WIMMERA</b> President: Ken Taylor Secretary: Barry McClure 24 Grant Drive DOOEN VIC 3401 secretary.wimmera@vvaavic.org.au	5385 2719	0428 852 719 0402 112 715
<b>MELBOURNE WEST</b> President: James Coghlan Secretary: Glen Smith PO Box 2055 MELTON STH VIC 3338 secretary.melbournwest@vvaavic.org.au		0447 364 702 0418 613 258			



**Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service**  
A service founded by Vietnam veterans

## About WVCS

WVCS provides free, confidential counselling and group program services to support the mental health and wellbeing of the Australian veteran and ex-service community and their families.

WVCS counsellors and staff have an understanding of veteran and military culture that assists them to deliver specialised support and care to members of this community.

## The WVCS Legacy

The Vietnam War was a difficult chapter in Australia's history. For those who served, the experience forged strong bonds and a commitment to look out for each other. This deep sense of mateship, led Vietnam veterans to lobby for a specialised counselling and support service for veterans and their families.

In 1982, the Australian Government established the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (WVCS). Access to WVCS has since been extended to veterans of all conflicts, their families, and other members of the ADF and ex-service community. Reflecting this, the service was renamed, WVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service in 2007.

WVCS is the legacy of Australia's Vietnam veterans. They have ensured that future generations of serving men and women will have access to specialised mental health and wellbeing support.

Contact WVCS by calling

**1800 011 046\***

\*Free local call. Calls from pay phones and some mobile phones may incur charges.

During business hours – connects to the nearest WVCS Centre.  
After business hours – connects with Veterans Line, the WVCS after-hours telephone crisis counselling service.

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

## Operation Life workshops

**safeTALK:** suicide alertness for everyone  
— a half day presentation

**ASIST:** Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training  
— two-day skills training

**ASIST Tune-up**  
— a half day refresher workshop

## SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS FOR VETERANS, FAMILIES AND MATES

**RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE RISK OF SUICIDE**



**Australian Government**  
**Veterans and Veterans Families**  
**Counselling Service**

P01534 June 2014