



FSB-VIC



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.

NEWS BULLETIN

JULY 2026



LONG TAN CROSS 1990



LONG TAN CROSS - MORE RECENTLY

Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living



VVAA Victorian State Branch—Executive

ABN: 34 750 672 219

State President	Bob ELWORTHY AM	Mob: 0402 106 262
------------------------	-----------------	-------------------

Vice President	Brendan KINCADE OAM JP	Mob: 0414 948 305
-----------------------	------------------------	-------------------

Secretary	George SKELL	Mob: 0410 275 651
------------------	--------------	-------------------

Assistant Secretary	Michael North	Mob: 0400 661 707
State Welfare Director		

State Treasurer		
Editor FSB-Vic	Maurie BENSON	Mob: 0417 588 886
Webmaster		

Membership Manager	Peter BRIGHT	Mob: 0437 936 391
Assistant Treasurer		

VVAA Victorian Branch

STATE OFFICE:

VVAA Victorian Branch is no longer located in Anzac House Melbourne.

Refer enquiries to State Secretary or one of the other Executive Members listed above.

MEMBERSHIP MAIL:

Membership Manager

PO Box 189

MELTON VIC 3337

Secretary: secretary@vvaavic.org.au

Newsletter: editor@vvaavic.org.au

Web Site: www.vvaavic.org.au

Enquiries: *Refer Secretary - Office no longer manned.*

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

Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living



President's Report FSB

Just where do the years go? Hard to realize it is 60 years on since Long Tan and we keep on keeping on. Congrats to all who have achieved their OBE - ***Over Bloody Eighty*** - and still going, if not so strong.

We have much to be proud of this year to date, not the least of which was the unveiling of our tribute plaque at Pucka to all Nasho's who trained a 2RTB.

We welcomed a new State Honourary Life Member, Master Gunner, RSM Royal Australian Regiment of Australian Artillery WO1 Anthony Charles in recognition of his support to the branch, and I had the honour on behalf of the National VVAA Executive to present National Life Membership to DViet Roger Greene OAM JP in recognition of his TIP, ATDP and advocacy work. Congrats Anthony and Roger.

We are now sponsoring two young Australians undertaking tertiary studies through AVCAT, another practical way we are giving back courtesy of the donations given to our E Team over the years. At the NVVM we

have used remaining schools visits grant funding to install two audio/visual kiosks containing veteran interviews and a tribute to the fallen. John Schuman AM allowed us to use parts of his anthem "I was only 19" in the 3 kiosks.

In exciting news, a large truck and trailer bearing Vietnam images is currently being prepared and it is hoped it will be on display on Vietnam Veterans Day. Glen Ferrarotto, an Afghanistan veteran, graciously asked us if we would like to have one of his trucks decked out with Vietnam images - we jumped at the opportunity.

As expected, some of our Sub-Branches are closing and I thank their members for their years of support. Our focus is now firmly on looking after our ageing membership and doing what we can to help our younger veteran cohorts. Have a listen to John Schumann's song "A Fishnet In The Rain" included in the newsletter, do we need more inspiration to

"Honour The Dead, but Fight Like Hell For The Living"

Cheers till next time, ***Bob Elworthy***.

AGM/SCM BENDIGO JUNE 2026

The VVAA Victorian Branch met at Bendigo in June 2026 for the annual AGM and State Council Meeting.

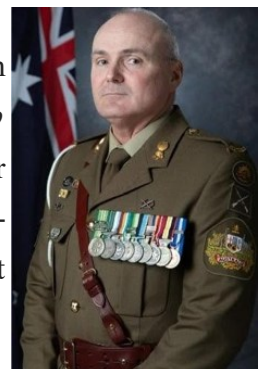
Delegates provided their Reports, particularly noting how they were dealing with age and health related issues. Membership, while slowing, continues to be strong with Victoria holding close to 60% of National Membership - great credit to all the ongoing hard work maintained within our Sub Branches by Sub Branch Executive and Welfare initiatives.

This year we were privileged to have WO1 Regimental Master Gunner RAA address the meeting and provide

a comprehensive overview of today's army.

Interesting to hear of advancements in equipment and weapons in today's Army and how they relate, if at all, to the Vietnam era. Basic training, however, remains the same

The RSM was also presented with an *Honorary Life Membership* from VVAA Victorian Branch for his exceptional support of our recent Memorial Plaque laying at Puckapunyal Military Base.



2026 FEDERAL BUDGET

The 2026 Federal Budget announced cost savings of \$748.0 million through **the introduction of a \$5,000 Annual Monetary Limit for veterans' allied health services.**

This Monetary Limit is said to help limit unnecessary over servicing, while still supporting veterans whose care needs go beyond the limit where this is clinically indicated.

Fee increases apply to chiropractic, diabetes education, dietetics, exercise physiology, occupation therapy, orthotist, osteopathic, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, social work, and speech therapy services. It does not include dental, optical or hearing services, or medical or specialist services.

For further information go, to **DVA website:**

Changes for allied health from July 2027 | Department of Veterans' Affairs.

EDITOR:

Is that really going to advantage veterans?

Are we to believe that veteran payments over the \$5,000 limit will be a simple matter of individual case by case review/assessment?

How many veterans use exercise physiology services that provide crucial physical and mental health benefits? A service that arguably reduces our need for some GP intervention and provides social interaction for veterans who may be somewhat isolated.



Veterans concerned over the \$5,000 annual cap on allied health services announced in the 2026–27 Budget,

RSL NSW is currently engaging with the Government and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) for more information.

See website: **[Clarity from Government needed on allied health cap for veterans | RSL NSW](#)**

Services Australia provided the following explanation at website:

[Budget 2026-27 - Continuing to support veterans and their families](#)

DVA has issued the following information which can be seen at:

[Changes for allied health from July 2027 | Department of Veterans' Affairs.](#)

Veteran Heart Health Program

Keep fit and improve your wellbeing.

[Check out the website](#)

[\[click here\]](#)



VIETNAM ~ BATTLES INVOLVING AUSTRALIA

Battle of Nam Dong (Jul 1964)

Operation Hump (Nov 1965)

Battle of Gang Toi (Nov 1965)

Operation Marauder – Ho Bo Woods
(Jan 1966)

Operation Crimp (Jan 1966)

Battle of Suoi Bong Trang (Feb 1966)

Battle of Long Tan (Aug 1966)

Operation Bribie (Feb) 1967)

Battle of Suoi Chau Pha (Aug 1967)

Operation Santa Fe (Nov 1967 > Jan
1968)

Tet Offensive (Jan > Mar 1968)

Operation Coburg (Jan > Mar 1968)

Battle of Ba Ria (Feb 1968)

Battle of Kham Duc (May 1968)

Battle of Coral–Balmoral (May >
June 1968)

Battle of Hat Dich (Dec 1968 > Feb
1969)

Battle of Binh Ba (June 1969)

Operation Camden (Jul > Aug 1969)

Battle of Long Khánh (Jun 1971)

Battle of Nui Le (Sep 1971)

LOOKING FOR AN OWNER

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

GALLANTRY CROSS

MEDAL w RIBBON

Looking for the owner of this medal
(image not actual) found in Melbourne on
Saturday 25th April 2026.

CONTACT:

Maurie Benson

VVAA Vic State Treasurer

MOB: 0417 588 886

EM: treasurer@vvaavic.org.au



Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living

BALLAD OF LONG TAN

REMEMBERING D COY 6 RAR

AND THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

*We were mortared late one night
From our pits prepared to fight
We watched and waited till the dawn
But no one came they were all gone*

*Early next day D Company
Went out to search the ground
around Phuoc Tau
Unaware of the deadly trap
The tired soldiers check the map*

*From the left hundred came
From the right came the same
We were outnumbered 18 to one
The Battle began and the rain had come*

*They attacked in human waves
While every man strong and brave
Fighting sometimes hand to hand
To win The battle of Long Tan*

*With fifteen minutes left to live
Every man his heart did give*

*With ammunition all but gone
The brave men still carried on*

*Then the men of Company D
Hear a roar looked to see
APC's came on the scene
Crashing through the jungle green*

*VC ran from everywhere
Live or die they did not care
And by the time the end had come
We had survived all but some*

*When at last came the end
We had lost 17 men
The wounded came to 25
Very lucky to be alive*

*If you heard about the fight
Pray for them that died that night
Australian men who fought this war
6 RAR is a child no more.*

Writer Pte A.D. CLARK (6RAR)

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

This document was circulated within Task Force Nui Dat and ALSG Vung Tau shortly after the Battle of Long Tan.

The Editor, who was stationed with 2 Field Ambulance Vung Tau at the time, believes it is meant to be sung to the tune of the Green Berets.

Grammar has not been edited.

A wonderful legacy by Pte A D Clarke (6RAR)



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2026



60th Anniversary—Battle of Long Tan.

Vin Healy

Vin Healy is a master songwriter and teacher who honours veterans with works that tell the stories of Australia's brave and fallen.

The Mist of Long Tan [[Music](#)]

The Long Tan Cross [[Music](#)]

Vin will again join us to play his Tributes at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Vietnam Veterans Day 2026. You can follow Vin on Facebook at:

[[Vin Healy | Facebook](#)]



AVCAT



AVCAT

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

AVCAT Sponsored Scholarships and Long Tan Bursaries for the children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans are funded by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Applications for scholarships open each year on 18 August and close on 31 October.

For further information refer to AVCAT website:

[[Scholarships | Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust](#)]



Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living

VETERAN WELFARE



In the aftermath of the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide and 42 years after the release of "I was only 19", John Schumann found another story that needs to be told.

"*Fishing Net in the Rain*" was written by Schumann ([lyrics](#)) in collaboration with his friend & manager, Ivan Tanner. It's the story of one of the young sailors sent out by the Australian Government to "stop the boats".

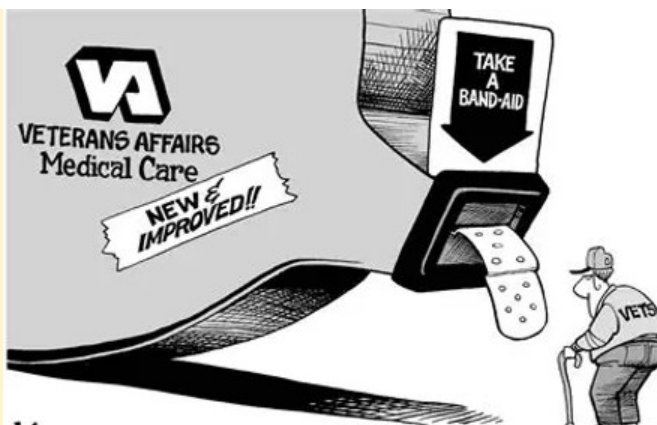
"While the song was inspired by Petty Officer David Finney, it's really important to note that this song is about - and for - the thousands of current and former members of the ADF who have taken their own lives after serving Australia. And, importantly, it's for their families."



Response to the Royal Commission into

Defence and Veteran Suicide

DVA website [[click here](#)]



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2026



**VIETNAM VETERANS
ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN
BRANCH INC.**

Anzac House

L3, 4 Collins St

MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Em: office@vvaavic.org.au



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

10:00 > 12:00

TUESDAY 18th AUGUST 2026

MELBOURNE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living