Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Victorian Branch Inc.

FSB-VIC

SUMMER 2020 EDITION





HMAS SYDNEY
aka
VUNG TAU FERRY

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Report.
- Secretary's Report.
- Sub Branch news.
- Veteran Interest issues.
- National Vietnam Veterans Museum.
- Books.

Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living

VVAA Victorian State Branch

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO VVAA VICTORIAN BRANCH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020

So just where has the year of the great lockdown gone? Here we are meeting via ZOOM for our last council meeting of the year and the state hopefully returning to some sense of normality with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Will we ever be normal again?

The manner in which we have had to conduct our meetings this year does raise an interesting and important point for the way ahead. On the one hand, I believe that there is nothing better than getting together as a council so that we can enjoy each other's company. On the other hand, we are getting better at conducting meetings via ZOOM which save us all travel time and costs involved in meeting across the state. So perhaps there is a case to say for instance that we meet for the AGM/first State Council meeting of the year and then do the rest of the meetings by ZOOM. An interesting discussion.

So what have we achieved this year? We should all be very proud of the way in which we have continued to operate under trying conditions. The response to the call to make contact with all of our members in lock down was magnificent. Thank you one and all for responding to this most important grass roots welfare activity. Personally, I really enjoyed my contact calls from my sub-branch; I felt encouraged.

We have been very active on the donations front. The Buchan community will benefit enormously from our bushfire relief donation, and our contribution will be acknowledged in a prominent place in the town, exactly what we wanted our donation to do. We donated a blanket warming cabinet to Ward 17; I was surprised by how significant the Ward 17 staff regarded this donation as part of in-patient treatment. We have made a donation to each of the Vasey RSL Care Independent Living Tenant common rooms. The items, such as a brew urn, small BBQ and indoor bowls set will be available to all tenants using the meeting rooms.

I am very proud that the Victorian Branch was in the vanguard along with WA Branch in calling out DVA's lack of acknowledgement of the origins of Open Arms in its promotional and formal material. It was a non-negotiable part of our gifting of the name VVCS to the younger veteran cohorts that the Vietnam veteran legacy must appear on Open Arms materials. I am also proud that Victoria has again taken the lead in calling out the diminishing Open Arms services for older veterans caused by the re-ordering of client priorities due to the massive increase in Open Arms clients because of the ill-advised introduction of the term "Veteran", and all that the term implies. It is my opinion, and the opinion of those close to the introduction of the Original VVCS, that this is little more than the theft of Vietnam veteran entitlements by stealth, and that the ADF has abandoned its responsibility to look after the mental health of its workforce, and dumped the responsibility onto Open Arms.

During the COVID-19 restrictions, the Education Team has been unable to conduct school visits and the like. During this shutdown it became necessary to find a new place to park the E Team van and I am pleased to report that a funeral company has provided under cover space at no cost. It has been confirmed that the E Team van is not being converted to a hearse!

The Branch website is to undergo significant change and upgrade, Maurie Benson has carriage of this with our website management company. Additionally, the option of creating our own Facebook page has been raised.

As you would be aware, we have been involved in detailed discussions with all of the key parties in the Vasey RSL Care future issues, and we have been provided with detailed briefings on future plans, Vasey RSL Care viability going forward and related matters. I think it is a source of pride for us that we have been given privileged access to such information, some of which continues to be "Commercial in Confidence". As expected, the hysteria and abuse coming from certain quarters has thankfully died down. It is our position, as an interested and concerned observer, that we support the Vasey-RSL Care management be given the opportunity to fully explain its plans going forward and to explain how it will manage the needs of its clients.

We are now in receipt of Victorian Vietnam veteran client information which allows us to identify where the DVA clients are located by state postcode. However, this is only a part-albeit the main part- of the total Victorian Vietnam veteran population, as we have yet to identify other Vietnam veterans who are not on the DVA radar. The aim now is to have a targeted survey across the state to try to identify these veterans.

The development of the contents of a Welfare Information pack for members is underway, with the final contents to be agreed by the end of November, with the delivery of packs to members expected in the first half to 2021. It is anticipated that a company will be contracted to undertake collection of the relevant documents, assembling the packages and the mailing task. This is an important initiative that will rely on all Sub-Branches making sure that their membership contact lists are up to date and accurate; what we don't want is welfare packages being returned because of incorrect addresses. The membership manager will be in contact with Sub-Branches to ensure that a review is conducted prior to the delivery of the packs.

We have agreement from the Veterans Unit DPC to provide funds for the conduct of 100 professionally conducted Vietnam veteran interviews which will be included in displays at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum and also be made available on-

line and included as part of the "Learning First Hand" education package being developed for schools. The funds will also provide for the digitization of the images of our Vietnam War dead.

The development of plans for the rejuvenation of the Older Veterans Psychiatric Program outdoor space adjacent to Ward 17 has continued albeit at a slower pace due to COVID-19 restrictions. The initial design sketches are in and being refined. The area will be known as the "Furphy Garden", a reference to the habit of diggers to tell yarns while gathered around a Furphy water cart during WWI. An original Furphy water cart has been obtained and will be refurbished and placed in the garden. I have written to the Furphy Company about the project and the plan to use of the Furphy name. The response has been very positive, including potential sponsorship with the provision of outdoor furniture. It is planned to open the garden in the week of VV Day 2021.

The VP has been doing preliminary work with Defence at Puckapunyal in relation to the potential placing of plaques to mark the places where recruits trained and Corps training was conducted prior to deployment to Vietnam. It is planned to undertake research into the locations in Victoria which had a direct relationship with training troops for Vietnam or providing support to the Vietnam War effort.

VV Day 2021 plans are already underway for what will be the last large scale commemorative event at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. VV Day 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the cessation of Australian combat operations in Vietnam, and is a highly appropriate occasion at which to bring our Shrine commemorations to a close. Special activities and highlights are planned, so it is not too early for EVERY Sub-Branch to make the commitment to be in attendance for this special day. It is my hope, no it is my expectation, that EVERY Sub-Branch will attend in order to pay a final tribute to our Vietnam War KIA and to all those who have since passed on, and to acknowledge the huge amount of work your committee has put in over many years to provide the best VV Day commemorations in the nation.

Despite the problems we have faced this year, we have overcome. Take the time now as restrictions ease to re-boot your Sub-Branch activities and give 2020 the send -off it deserves. Above all else, stay safe. Thanks for your continued support.

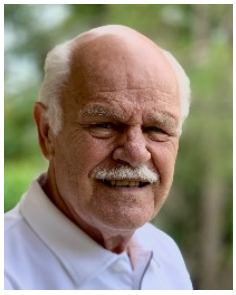
Bob Elworthy AM

State President

VVAA Victorian Branch



A WORD FROM YOUR SECRETARY



2020 has been a year like no other. The bushfires, the floods then the COVID-19 pandemic with all it's restrictions that lasted 3-4 months and limiting our freedom of movement, gatherings, setting the scene for how we as a group did business.

Like other organizations and ESO's around the country we adopted ZOOM meetings as our way of communicating with Sub-Branches and members going forward.

Sub-Branches contacted their members regularly by phone and/or email to check on their welfare and wellbeing, in addition some Sub-Branches took the approach of emailing funny stories and pictures to members assuring them 'help was always available'.

We have been fortunate in that, to the best of our knowledge we have emerged from all of this with no members contracting or dying from the Covid virus.

For 2020 VVAA Victoria has met all it's administrative and operational obligations. Our AGM held at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in February was the last face to face meeting for the year before Covid hit, ZOOM was then the norm for conducting meetings.

Your State Executive and State Council meetings have been online and although not ideal have served the purpose and let's hope, fingers crossed will be the last. With the easing of restrictions now we look forward to next years *(2021)* State Congress (AGM) and Council meeting in Geelong this will be the first face to face gathering for the Sub-Branches in the new year. Something to look forward to.

Amongst the Sub-Branch activity during this COVID-19 year Noble Park, in particular had a unique way of responding to this crisis. Donations of bakery products by Kingclere Bakery in Keysborough to the Noble Park RSL for the regular meetings of Vietnam Veterans spurred Michael North into action.

After securing regular supply line of surplus bakery goods from Kingclere Bakery he assembled a team of volunteers to assist in providing regular food deliveries of bread, pies and other bakery products and welfare care packages to the Vasey RSL Care unit in Cheltenham, the Carry On units at Noble Park and to veterans doing it tough in the surrounding suburbs.

In addition to this, the Welfare team dealt with several complex issues with one case in particular involving the relocation of a very difficult veteran, living alone who was totally incapable of looking after himself. He is now in aged care and getting the attention he needs.

Sadly VVAA Victoria has announced the passing of 42 members to date this year. The extra burden on family, veterans and friends of not being able to attend funerals collectively hit home very hard, the only reprieve has been Funeral homes have recently started Live Streaming Services for members and friends to view. Now that restrictions are easing and with the size of gatherings increasing we will start to see belated memorial services take place.

Although difficult at times much has been achieved this year. In respect of the sale of Vasey RSL Care and thanks to the work done by Bob Elworthy, resident's concerns have subsided considerably.

Public forums conducted at the Vasey Independent living centres at Geelong, Frankston and Cheltenham allowed for lively debate between residents and your VVAA delegates which was in stark contrast to the toxic comments and fear mongering on social media from the RSL Reform Team and in particular the Melbourne Patriots and Veterans. Our own Outer Eastern Melbourne Sub-Branch has since, out of concern, taken on board by assisting Vasey RSL Care – Croydon at the same time releasing their Position Paper on the proposed sale of Vasey RSL Care by RSL Victoria and the War Widows Guild.

The cool calm methodical approach by Bob Elworthy helped considerably in allaying the fears of residents eliminating virtually all the white noise that was previously all so common. The RSL Reform team also appear too have gone quiet.

It has been a difficult year for membership renewals. Many members wait to renew when they attend the ANZAC and Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration marches. Despite this, it was pleasing to see 2020 end with 1889 members, a shortfall of just 113 on the previous year.

In an effort to keep in touch with our veterans, former members of the now closed Sub-Branches of Castelmaine, Warrnambool, Murray Border and West Gippsland, I am pleased to say we are, with the assistance of dedicated former executives of those closed sub-branches, keeping them informed on what's happening amongst the VVAA community here in Victoria. A Veteran Survey is also underway to try and identify the number veterans here in Victoria and where they live by postcode.

Planning for Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorations 2021, marking the cessation of Hostilities in Vietnam is already well underway. It is expected all VVAA Victorian Sub-Branches will be gathering in Melbourne to take part in what will possibly be the last major Vietnam Veterans Day event to be held at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

COVID-19 had put a temporary stop, rather a slowing down to some of our VVAA Victorian projects. With restrictions

now starting to ease we look forward to some form of normality. As a result one of the first programs to move forward is the refurbishment of the outdoor area of the Older Veterans Psychiatry Program facility at the Coral/Balmoral building at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Work on that project is about to commence shortly.

At long last with the easing of the COVID-19 restrictions the National Vietnam Veterans Museum is again open for business. As part of the State Government Grant to VVAA Victoria the School Visits program to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum will begin again soon when the students return to school for Term 1 early February 2021.

Bookings for the Education team to speak at local Secondary Schools as part of a 4 year history program have already started coming in.

Speaking of the Education team, they have been sent an invite by the Buchan Bushfire Relief committee to attend the Buchan Races on Saturday 13, February 2021 where they will also be setting up their usual display of memorabilia in the Clubrooms at the track.

In April just prior to ANZAC Day the E-Team will return to Buchan for a round of speaking tours at the local Primary Schools.

The town of Buchan, badly hit by the bushfires was the recipient of VVAA Victoria's Bushfire Appeal Fund receiving a donation of $7,000. Discussions are currently underway to hold a State Council meeting in Buchan later on in 2021 in support of the community and give something back to local businesses.

A Sponsorship amount of $5,000 has recently been sent to the Veterans Film Festival organizers so this years' 2020 Festival can to go ahead. Due to COVID-19 the sponsor had to withdraw his financial report, leaving the festival organizers to look for another sponsor. This presented a great opportunity for us to support a very worthy cause by helping to showcase veteran capabilities and talents and at the same time contribute to better mental health of the younger veteran cohort by supporting programs that assist with their mental health and adjustment to civilian life.
The festival will be held 30 November – 31 December 2020. You can view this event by going to their website on and entering: veteransfilmfestival.com

Work on preparing a welfare & well-being package for veterans and their families is well advanced, the Sub Branches at the same time are reviewing and updating their membership listings then forwarding these on to the State Membership Manager for inclusion on the State database.

With 2020 coming to a close I truly hope all the grief is now behind us and we can look forward to a much happier and brighter 2021. As a reminder our first major event for the new year is the State Congress/AGM and Council meeting to be held at the Geelong RSL on Saturday 20 February 2021, we look forward to seeing all there.

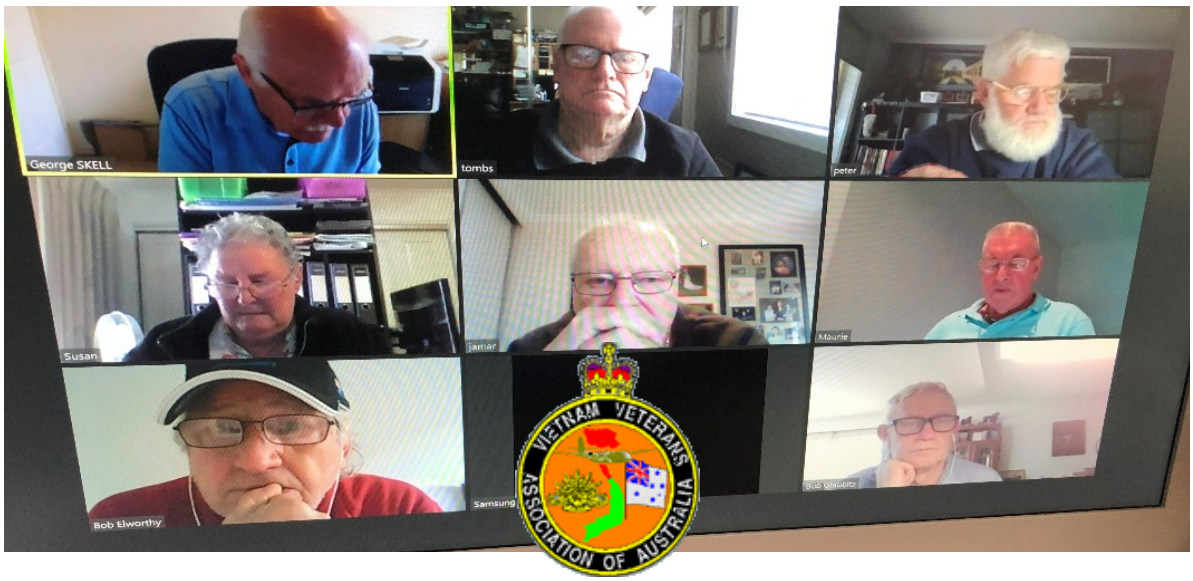
On behalf of me and my family I wish you and yours the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

May it be full of happiness and peace.

George Skell

State Secretary

VVAA Victoria



State Executive Meeting (Zoom) August 2020

Buchan Phoenix

Rising from the ashes …..



In January 2020 Buchan residents were finally allowed to return to their devastated town after the Gippsland area was ravaged by bush fire - 24 homes lost, one man died and everything else a charred and tangled scene of unimaginable destruction.

Since then those determined residents, with financial assistance from government and other sources, have steadily rebuilt the town they call home.

With Vietnam Veterans living in those fire ravaged areas the VVAA Victorian Branch is proud to provide a small donation of $7,000.00 to the Buchan Community which will go towards replanting areas lost in the fires.

For more information on the Buchan Community go to :-

https://buchan.vic.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Buchan-Phoenix-Nov20.pdf

VIETNAM VETERANS
SUPPORTING VETERAN FAMILIES
AND
COMMUNITIES

VETERANS FILM FESTIVAL

The ***Veterans Film Festival*** (VFF) is now in its 5th year and aims to raise awareness and contribute to an understanding of veterans' experiences before, during and after service, their families and the impact war has on society. The VFF is curated by a not for profit creative enterprise that engages, entertains and educates audiences by showcasing films made by creatives of all ages, cultures and abilities around the world.

The VFF provides a platform for veterans who are film-makers and they can make films in any genre. It also provides a platform for film-makers who make films that deal with veterans' issues that affect their families or the wider community or the effects of conflict on our world.

It is not uncommon for veterans to feel that what they did was meaningless and wonder whether anyone would remember them after they returned home. The VFF helps to ensure we protect against these feelings. The VFF, and all other veterans' art, 'challenges each of us to see the world through the eyes of others'.

VVAA Victorian Branch, as a Veteran Welfare organisation, supports the VFF concept and has recently agreed to provide $5,000.00 sponsorship to what is considered a worthwhile project to better the lives of Veterans and their families.

"Vietnam vets have always understood the importance of empowering veterans to express themselves creatively as a means of showcasing their talents and also as a means of improving their physical and mental health wellbeing. We are therefore pleased to support the Veterans Film Festival in a small way and in doing so encourage younger veterans to involve themselves in worthwhile projects such as the Veterans film Festival.

Bob Elworthy AM,
State President
VVAA Victorian Branch. "

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION
VICTORIAN BRANCH Inc.

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Vietnam Veterans Day

Wednesday 18th August 2021

Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance

- 55th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.
- 50th Anniversary Cessation of Australian combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

0930 Hrs	Gunfire Breakfast.
1030 Hrs	Marchers gather at Northern Forecourt for 1100 Hrs step off.
1100 Hrs	March step off.
1215 Hrs	Formalities conclude.

Enquiries to VVAA Vic

Maurie Benson
Commemorations Manager
Mob: 0417 588 886
***Email*: office@vvaavic.org.au**

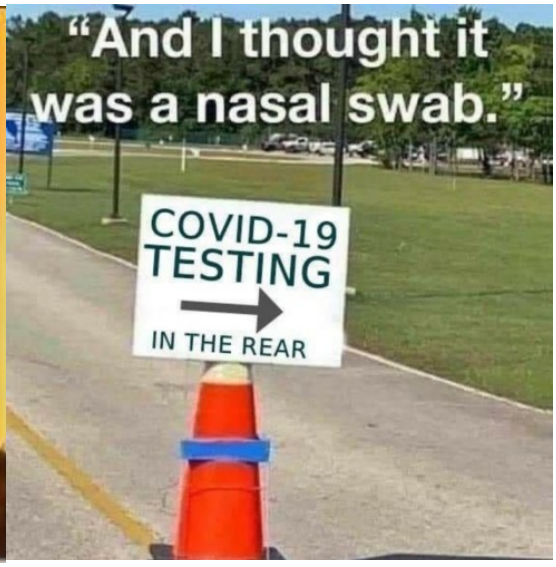
Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living

VIETNAM VETERANS - COUNTRY OF BIRTH

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS
ARGENTINA
AUSTRIA
AUSTRIA (IN USSR OCCUPIED ZONE)
BELGIUM
BERMUDA
BULGARIA
BURMA
CANADA
CENTRAL PACIFIC
CHILE
CHINA
CHINA (OF RUSSIAN PARENTS)
CRETE
CYPRUS
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
DENMARK
EGYPT
ESTONIA
EUROPE
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FIJI
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMAN (BORN OF RUSSIAN PARENTS IN BAD ROTHENFELDE)
GERMANY (BORN OF GERMAN PARENTS)
GERMANY (BORN OF POLISH PARENTS IN GERMAN SLAVE LABOUR CAMP NEUSTADT
GERMANY (BORN OF POLISH PARENTS IN PAPENBURG AND THEN SENT TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP NEAR BREMEN.
GREECE
GUYANNA
HOLLAND/NETHERLANDS (NAME INTERCHANGEABLE UNTILL 2020)
HONG KONG
HUNGARY
INDIA (BORN OF BRITISH PARENTS)
INDONESIA (BORN OF DUTCH PARENTS)
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAPAN
KENYA
LATVIA
LEBANON
LITHUANIA
MALAYSIA (BRITISH CROWN COLONY)
MALTA
MAURITIUS
MOROCCO
NETHERLANDS
NEW HEBRIDES
NEW ZEALAND
NORWAY
PAKISTAN
PALESTINE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PERSIA
PERU
PHILLIPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
RHODESIA
ROMANIA
SAMOA
SCOTLAND
SEYCHELLES
SINGAPORE
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TIMOR
TONGA
TRINIDAD
TURKEY
UGANDA
UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM
USA
USSR (RUSSIA, UKRAINE)
VENEZUELA
WEST INDIES
YUGOSLAVIA

Research has uncovered some interesting facts relating to the country of birth of Vietnam Vets. Here is the list as compiled by the VVAA Vic Executive as at November 2020. There are some very interesting stories about the circumstances of some of the births, in particular those in Germany during WWII. Also, some Vietnam vets were enlisted without having Australian citizenship. The research continues.





Throughout the journey that is VVAA Vic Branch many of our Veteran Family have opted to be Members of VVAA Vic and some have moved on for various reasons.

Much effort is devoted to our Veteran Family welfare and well being and it is for that reason your State Executive and Sub Branch Welfare efforts are directed at keeping members and past members "***Under the Radar***".

We appreciate that not all Vietnam Veterans wish to be actively involved with Branch/Sub Branch activities but may retain an interest in what is going on in the Veteran Welfare scene.

To that end VVAA Vic Branch has established **VVAA NEWS** that will be circulated to all Past Members for whom we hold a current email address. That will include copies of FSB-Vic, Debrief and other matters of interest and will be issued on a random basis depending on interest material available at the time.

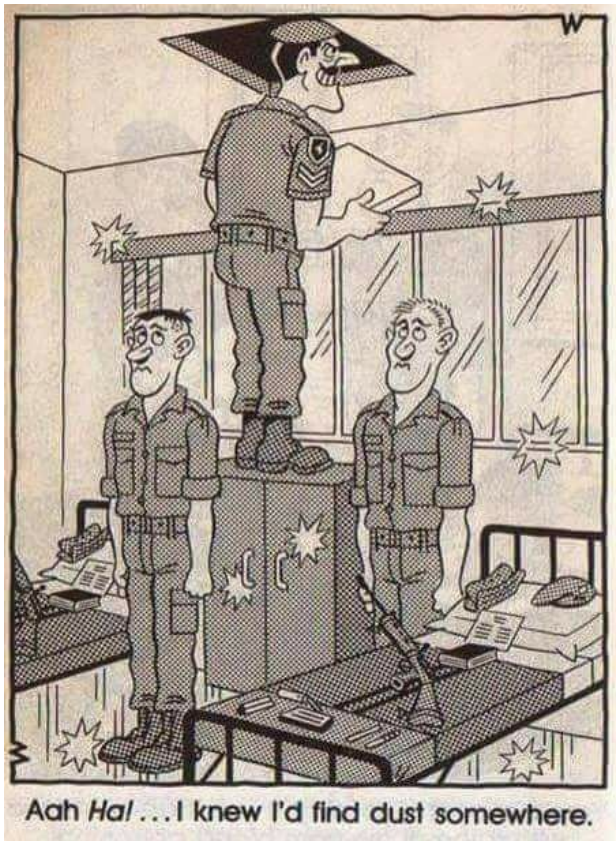
Regional coordinators, for Sub Branches that have closed, have been established to maintain email data bases of Past Members in those areas. They will receive News from the VVAA Vic State Secretary for on forwarding from time to time.



The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc

Congratulations to Mrs Cheryl Myers OAM , VVAA Frankston Sub Branch, on her appointment as Victorian State President, Partners of Veterans Association.

A tireless worker for Veterans and Families who has much to contribute to PVA Victoria.



50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF RAAF CANBERRA 'Magpie'91

On 3rd November 1970, RAAF Canberra A84-231 (Callsign Magpie 91) successfully carried out a night, high level bombing mission under radar control over South Vietnam close to the Laotian border. The flight crew comprised pilot Flying Officer Mike Herbert and navigator/bomb-aimer Pilot Officer Bob Carver. The weather was fine, the aircraft was flying above the range of anti-aircraft artillery and there were no known North Vietnamese missile sites along the flight path. As the aircraft headed back to Phan Rang, the US Radar Operator complimented the crew on the successful mission saying, "That was an excellent run, sir. It looked real good down here, and we enjoyed working with you and see you again another day." Mike Herbert replied briefly: "Magpie 91."



Shortly after, the aircraft radar return vanished from the operator's screen and despite numerous search and rescue flights by Australian and American aircraft over the next 3 days, no trace of the aircraft could be found. The flight crew were classified as Missing in Action.

When Australian forces were withdrawn from South Vietnam, a total of six MIA (four Army personnel and the two crew members of Magpie91) were left behind. The need to repatriate these six servicemen was keenly felt by all veterans and none more so than Lieutenant Colonel Jim Bourke AM MG who initiated his "Operation Aussies Home" programme to search for and recover the Missing in Action personnel.



The programme was instrumental in the discovery of the four Army Australians missing in action, and led to the eventual 2007 appointment of Major Jack Thurgar, from the Army History Unit, and RAAF Squadron Leader John Cotterell to review all the records and documentation and to visit Quang Nam province in Vietnam to speak with former North Vietnamese and Viet Cong commanders who had been stationed in the area where the aircraft had disappeared. Vietnamese officials visited local villages in the area and returned with an air position indicator from the crash which was later identified as part of a Canberra aircraft. This in turn led the RAAF to create a larger team to visit the crash site in 2009 to confirm the wreckage and recover the remains of Mike Herbert and Bob Carver.



The search and recovery process was completed on 21 August 2009 and was assisted by the Vietnamese Government who also expedited the repatriation of the crew including a formal ceremony at Hanoi as the two caskets, accompanied by an RAAF honour guard and relatives of Mike and Bob, were reverently placed aboard the RAAF C130 aircraft.

The C130 arrived back at Richmond on 31 August 2009 and a formal ramp ceremony with various dignitaries, senior RAAF staff, an Honour Guard and former members of No 2 SQN was conducted at RAAF Base Richmond after the aircraft arrived.



Coincident with the arrival of the C130 aircraft at Richmond, another ceremony was conducted at the

RAAF CANBERRA 'MAGPIE' 91 (cont'd)

National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island where the last two of a precious collection of six Bracelets were closed.

The idea of Bracelets representing Prisoners of War or Missing in Action for service personnel in Vietnam originated in the US. The Bracelets were made by volunteers for each serviceman listed as a POW or MIA and engraved with their name, rank and date of loss. The Bracelet would be worn by a close relative of the veteran with a vow that it would not be removed until the day that the person's real status was determined, or he returned home. In the mid 1990's a group of Australian veterans were visiting the US and by chance met people from Ohio who made the Bracelets for each of their MIA servicemen. These people kindly made six bracelets for the Australian missing servicemen and they were forwarded to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum for safe keeping. Four of the six bracelets were closed in ceremonies in 2007 and 2008 as four Australian Army missing personnel were recovered and returned to Australia. That left just the two Bracelets for Mike Herbert and Bob Carver which were closed at the moving ceremony at the Museum as they arrived at RAAF Base Richmond on 31 August 2009.

Footnote

A YouTube video is available on this article.

Copy/paste the following into your web browser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EWbru14I3A&feature=youtu.be



AROUND THE WATER TANK

"Did you hear that VVAA Vic. is fixing up the OVPP outdoor area at Austin Hospital'?

"Yeah, but I reckon it's a furphy!"







VICTORIAN STATE BRANCH INC.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

PRESENTED TO

ALLISON MONKHOUSE

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE EDUCATION TEAM, VICTORIAN STATE BRANCH, VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

BRENDAN KINCADE OAM
VICE PRESIDENT
VVAA VICTORIAN BRANCH INC.

DATE

HONOUR THE DEAD BUT FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING



Jim Dewar, Sec/Co-ordinator, VVAA Vic ETeam.

Rob Edgell, President VVAA Vic ETeam.

Kevin Reardon, General Manager Victoria, Allison Monkhouse Funeral Directors.

Brendon Kincade OAM JP, VVAA Vic ETeam.

The ***ETeam Van*** is an important piece of kit used for numerous presentations and promotions around Victoria and is fitted out with all the paraphernalia esential for conducting educational excursions at schools and other places that might benefit from a high profile piece of Vietnam educational equipment.

When the VVAA Vic ETeam found themselves having to find an alternate storage location for the ETeam Van it was a great relief when Allison Monkhouse Funeral Directors offered to provide their secure premises and allowing the Team 24 hours access.

As a token of appreciation a ***Certificate of Appreciation*** was presented to Mr. Kevin Reardon, General Manager, Victoria, Allison Monkhouse Funeral Directors for allowing the Education Team to garage the VVAA Vic "Nam Van" in VVAA Vic in their premises.

NEW DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS VICTORIA

Mr Michael Harper has been selected to permanently fill the position of Deputy Commissioner DVA Victoria. Michael has over 20 years' experience in the Australian Public Service and was also a member of the Australian Army Reserve. Michael will commenced with the Department on 7 December 2020. I am sure you will welcome Michael and I am confident the strong relationships with DVA and the Victorian ex-service community will continue through Michael as the Deputy Commissioner and primary representative of DVA in Victoria.

Alan Jones | Acting Deputy Commissioner Victoria
Department of Veterans' Affairs

RAAF

REPORT TO VVAA STATE COUNCIL OCTOBER 2020

Vietnam Veterans Day was a little different this year, of course, with COVID-19 getting in the way of our normal attendance at the Shrine and VV Day gathering for lunch.

Most of our members watched the YouTube presentation from the Shrine and looked back on our days in "Nam" with a collection of photos from our younger days on duty or in-country R&R (you can share our memories by copy/pasting the link **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2rlvm3Xp1s** into your search engine).

On 3 Nov 20 we are planning to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the loss of the Canberra "Magpie 91" on 3 Nov 70 by gathering at the NVVM and reflecting on the *Closing the Bracelets* ceremony held at the NVVM more than 11 years ago. Air Force has offered to provide a fly-past by the Roulettes aerobatic team. Our gathering, of course, will be dependent on the Victorian Government's COVID-19 restrictions on the day and being able to travel out of the Melbourne Metro area to Regional Victoria to visit the Museum.

Monthly committee meetings continue via Zoom and we continue keeping in contact with our members by 'phone during the current isolation period making sure they are travelling OK.

Chris Hudnott

President

RAAF Sub Branch

DIAMOND VALLEY ~ (DVIETS)

REPORT TO VVAA STATE COUNCIL OCTOBER 2020

I pondered over submitting a report but decided that its time to be positive and get out of this slumber party we have all been in.

The main positive is we have had no cases of COVID-19 in the DViet Community and none that I have heard of from other Sub Branches, so that's damn good news; lets hope it keeps that way.

We, along the lines of other Sub Branches, have kept in contact with all our members, firstly with Committee doing two ring arounds and then DViets themselves ringing each other and keeping spirits up. Whilst we have a few on the RAP list it is no bigger than normal - a lot of it is Old Fart problems we all have.

Our Secretary Alan Comben continues to put out a weekly DViet Bulletin to all members with updates of what we are doing and what we are not doing. It has been the vehicle for all the bad jokes that come our way and snapshots of us all, some we would like to forget, but the general mood and spirit of the DViets is still strong and eagerly looking forward to "Breakout".

Having a bit of time on our hands, we have revised and updated the DViet Operating Instructions into a single document that complies with VVAA Vic Constitution. Also, we have reviewed our "Under our Control" document and it has been approved by Committee and will go to our AGM in 2021.

Whilst it has been many moons since our last get together, we are looking forward to next year, and Marg Van Poeteren, our coordinator of all social events, has already started forward planning for 2021.

We are holding our monthly Committee meetings, albeit by phone and Internet but keeping things moving.

Lets trust that by the time of our Conference on the 28th we have had some relief from the strict lockdown we are experiencing, and we can get out and about

The main thing is to keep obeying the rules and keeping our spirits up and we will all come out the other side as we did in Vietnam.

Cheers,

Peter Blackman

President DViets

YEP .... ANOTHER BLONDE STORY

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, ' Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that'? 'HELLLOOOOOOO. . .. ,' answered the blonde. 'They're watch dogs.'

GEELONG

REPORT TO VVAA STATE COUNCIL

28th October - Zoom

Since the July State Council the Geelong & District SB has continued in lockdown mode with the VV Centre closed, under direction from the City of Greater Geelong. Contact with the membership has been via personal phone calls from Committee members, membership emails and zoom meetings.

On 3rd August the Premier declared a state of 'disaster' for Victoria, with Stage 4 restrictions in Metro Melbourne. Here in regional Geelong we entered into Stage 3 restrictions, at least we could travel more than 5 kms from home and didn't have a curfew.

At the start of August the City of Greater Geelong raised the VVAA Geelong SB banners across the city. This is a notable expression of the city's high regard for Vietnam veterans. Some 50 banners flew in the city and surrounding entry points.

VV Day in Geelong was a low - key affair, with a few members laying a wreath at the Vietnam memorial in North Geelong. Many also watched the ceremony at the Shrine. Thank you Maurie for co-ordinating this memorable service.

Committee member, Nigel Wilson, again organised the Vietnam Memorial Service at St.Paul's Cathedral. The ceremony is available as a podcast of the St.Paul's website. We thank President Bob for his welcome address. While this ceremony does not have a high profile we believe it is important to maintain this tradition which is over ten years old.

As delegates will know we decided to not re-establish our Vietnam Museum and members have now completed the mammoth task of returning donated items to their rightful owners, a huge task. There are other items which we will retain at the VV Centre for the time being or transfer to the NVM.

We have canvassed members for ideas for Veterans Health Week and we are working on the most appropriate way to achieve 'social cohesion' given the restrictions that remain. A member has offered two sessions of Tai Chi via Zoom. This should attract a number of participants.

We are going through our records to clarify the history of the Geelong Vietnam veterans association. We know that the Geelong Vietnam Ass. (GVA) began in 1975. We believe the VV Action Ass. was established in Melbourne in 1979, and later became known at the VVAA, operating out of the Cheltenham RSL. In 1990 the GVA amalgamated with the VVAA (Geelong SB) to form the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Ass. of Australia. The Geelong VVAA SB has hosted 2 National Congresses and 2 State Councils.

Like the Outer Eastern SB we keep our eye on what is happening with the proposed sale of Vasey RSL Care. There has been greater information since Bob has posted his updates and there has been a Vision statement coming from Vasey RSL Care. We await greater clarity from RSL Vic and the WWG in the future.

We hope to get permission to re-open the VV Centre from the Council very soon and then organise a luncheon for members.

Rieny Nieuwenhof

President



Cenotaph Port.



Flags Half Mast.



The Grand

MELBOURNE WEST

Melbourne West Sub-Branch, like others in Metro Melbourne has had a very quiet time since the last FSB-VIC was issued, thanks in no small part to the dreaded virus, COVID-19, so we have very little to report.

As our weekly gathering place was closed by Wyndham Council, and our local RSLs and Clubs are closed as well, we have had no opportunity to get together since February. To say we are looking forward to the day we can again socialise with one and other, is an understatement.

One slight benefit to come out of the lockdown is that our bank balances are still healthy and we are financially well placed to meet 2021.

While we were hoping to have a small ceremony for VV Day, we were restricted to a wreath laying by myself at Werribee Cenotaph. Was very strange having no members or spectators at the Cenotaph, not to mention being masked.

One thing COVID-19 may have created is the ability to recognise people by their eyes.

All going well for the opening of Clubs, we intend to hold our annual Christmas Party at our ancestral home, the Hoppers Club in Hoppers Crossing.

Membership Renewal notice, AGM Agenda, Committee Nomination form and a general letter have been posted out and we have already started receiving renewals through online banking. A good sign for the future.

I take this opportunity of wishing all members of VVAA a Very Happy Christmas and may 2021 be a good year for us all.

Regards,

Glen Smith

President

VVAA Melbourne West



NORTH WEST MELBOURNE

This year the sub-branch has been very quite due to the Covid 19 virus out break, it put all our plans that we had organized for our Vietnam Vets day service at Maygar Barrack's had to be cancelled. The President laid a wreath at our Long Tan cross at the Glenroy RSL, and the Secretary laid a wreath at the Keilor East RSL Long Tan cross.

The committee has decided for the sub-branch to pay all the financial members capitation fees for next years membership fees as we couldn't do anything. The secretary was sending the emails from the state branch to all the members to keep them up to date of what's happening around the place. And some funny ones to keep every body amuse .

Well see what we can do and can't do in November, on behalf of the committee and members we like to wish every body a merry Xmas.

Keep safe.

Basil Tiligadis

Secretary

North West Melbourne Sub Branch



NOBLE PARK

The last three months have been very hard on our Sub Branch with the loss of five of our members and also the wife of one of our members. The sign of the times as all up we have lost nine members overall this year to date. Among these was one of our life members and one of our long serving welfare team. On behalf of our Sub Branch I would like to thank Brian Dunn for acting as celebrant for two of our members and Mick North for his organisation and welfare work behind the scenes.

On a brighter note our welfare workers and committeemen continued to work from home during the shutdown and our welfare office has reopened from Monday November 23rd.

One of the good news stories to come out of all the gloom and doom is our food delivery man Michael North who, thanks to Kingsclere Bakery in Keysborough, has been delivering bread, rolls, pies, donuts and cakes to our members and others including the Vasey Units in Cheltenham, Carry On Units in Noble Park and several of our veterans in the Dandenong, Glen Waverley and Wheelers Hill areas. Our welfare team has travelled in excess of 2000 kilometres throughout this lock down. A big thanks to John Pilkington for coordinating this activity through one of his welfare clients.

Our members bar is now open and usual Thursday get togethers are still restricted to 25 people, but hopefully this will double from Monday 14th of December.

In closing I wish all our members a Merry Christmas and look forward to a much brighter New Year in 2021.

Ray McCarthy

President

VVAA Noble Park.













VVAA NOBLE PARK
WELFARE IN ACTION

OUTER EASTERN MELBOURNE

WELFARE: OEM continues to ensure contact with our members via *phone tree*, whereby members have been calling others, even if they are not 'close contacts'. The Executive meets Bi Monthly via Skype, ensuring current & any ongoing issues are dealt with/managed

Our Welfare Support Group maintains contact with our sick and injured, maintain a register (SIL) and ensures contact is maintained and any support required is delivered. COVID-19 has presented some difficult issue with 'visiting', however within the COVID-19 Rules we have maintained as best overview as is possible.

The Welfare Support Group has recently been recognised for their wonderful efforts by gaining an award from MP Michael Sukkar MP (**Federal Member for Deakin, Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer)** in the Deakin Community Awards. An initiative by Michael Sukkar MP, to recognise our unsung local community leaders and volunteers who generously give their time and energy to make our community a better place to live.

Quote:-

> ***"It is my great pleasure to recognise the outstanding work and commitment to our local community conducted by VVAA Outer Eastern Melbourne Sub-branch - Support Group. Without this contribution and sacrifice, our community would not be the wonderful place it is today".***



OEM SUPPORT GROUP

VASEY RSL CARE:

OEM continues to support and seek a realistic understanding, as to why there continues to be intent to sell the Vasey RSL Care facilities. We and Vasey are 'heartened' by the support acknowledged by our organisation and Sub-Branches. Our Executive was recently invited to attend a function at the Cheltenham facility.

LEST WE FORGET VIETNAM Project:

Two of our members and a close associate of OEM, have been selected to have their portraits painted, namely;

Douglas George Hill RAAR

Dot Angell, Nurse Vietnam era

Dr James Raymond Bourke MG AM PhD Lt Col (RTD) (Deceased).

When completed the portraits will go on display and then be presented to the VV Museum. Thus far perusal of completed portraits has shown a 'real likeness' to the participants and certainly 'brings in' the Vietnam era theme(s).

Senior Victorian of the Year 2020:

We were recently advised that OEM member, Dr. Raymond Shuey APM *(former Assistant Commissioner Police VicPol)* had been awarded the honour of being named; **Victoria's Senior Victorian of the Year 2020.**

REMEMBRANCE DAY:

OEM members participated at informal services at Bayswater RSL and the Knox Memorial- Tim Neville Arboretum, Boronia.



The COVID-19 restrictions being in play; best efforts were made to stay within rules. It was also wonderful to see and experience at the Knox Memorial, a significant number of local residents and families who attended to pay their respects. Our fallen are 'not forgotten' even within a pandemic event.



As we are not able to hold our Annual Christmas Luncheon (COVID-19 again); we are holding a Christmas Picnic function at Jells Park (10 December), which will also be the first occasion post COVID-19 that we can gather as a group.

OEM wishes all VVAA and Sub Branches a very Happy Christmas & New Year; and for those travelling (at last), safe and enjoyable travels.

Allan Small

President, OEM

BALLARAT

REPORT TO VVAA STATE COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2020

With the onset of COVID-19 in Feb/Mar, not a lot has been happening.

We were lucky to be in regional Victoria which meant the restrictions were not as extreme as those in Melbourne. We were able to continue with our payday sausage sizzles until late June when Melbourne locked down for the second time. Nothing much has occurred since then, although we were able to have two half meetings late September and early October.

Fortunately none of our members were affected by COVID-19 and the main concern was the forced isolation since then. As far as we are able, we have tried keeping contact with our members wherever possible.

We are looking forward to a further relaxation of restrictions in the coming weeks. Doubtless half of our blokes will pack up their caravans and vanish!

Eric Duggan

President BVVAA

SWAN HILL

REPORT TO VVAA STATE COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2020

VV DAY: We had a very quiet day with the secretary & me performing a short service and wreath laying. The first time that I never had a drink on VV Day.

Our Vice-President Barney has been regularly contacting our members to check on their health & well being - he's done a mighty job.

Secretary "Sailor Pete" has been forwarding all info that comes via internet, so the members have been kept well informed of the fantastic time we have all been having during COVID-19.

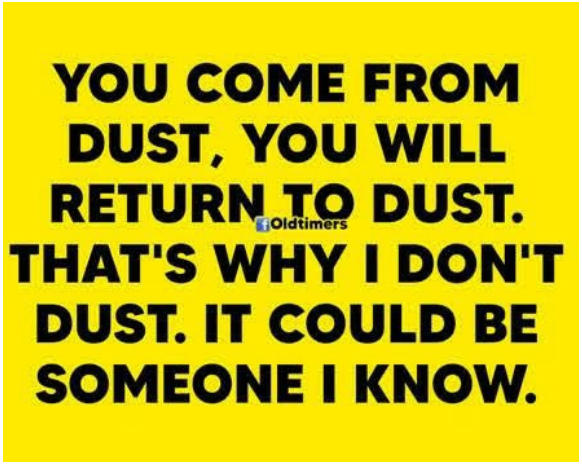
SOCIAL: A few of us are heading to Kangaroo Lake Caravan Park for the Grand Final weekend - there is plenty of room for social distancing.

AGM: Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th. March 2021 at the Swan Hill RSL.

We look forward to working with you all during the coming year and wish you and your families a Merry Christmas & a healthy and stress-free year.

Harold Heslop OAM JP

President





GOULBURN VALLEY

LAST DAYS OF THE BINH BA BAZAAR

As the fund raising effort conducted at the Numurkah Market was recently wound-up, we looked back at how it began and the fun and success we have had selling "heaps of stuff" at the "Binh Ba Bazaar".

Over ten years ago, when looking for a way to raise funds, one of our members (*the Late Joy Tremellen – pictured*) suggested the sub-branch put together a second-hand goods stall at the Bush Market, which was held in Shepparton each year. This idea evolved into us taking a site at the Lions Club market held in Numurkah every second month. Typical of markets, the Numurkah one opens early so our workday started at 7:00 am when we unpacked the goods and displayed them on tables. We certainly noticed the Goulburn Valley frosts in the winter months and discovered how many people you can fit in the caravan, huddled together during a rainstorm. Hot days found us under a portable gazebo or clustered under a tree and keen to pack up before the afternoon heat really got going.

Some of our stock came from members' donations but a lot was donated left-overs at the conclusion of Garage Sales. You could say the goods over the years varied richly but were sold cheaply. There were children's toys including a collection of Monster High and Barbie Dolls complete with accessories, hand tools, camping equipment, kitchen utensils and china (lots of china – and it's heavy!), books (also heavy), sewing fabric, small furniture, bikes, trikes and even children's potties. One of our members delivered home grown plants by the trailer load and these were snapped up enthusiastically.

On two occasions all profits were donated to specific projects : the construction of a memorial in Tatura to Robert Mactier VC and towards a Boer War memorial in Canberra. Generally, the profit from the day would be between $200-$300 which represents many, many small sales.

As well as the band of workers having fun and making money on our Market Days, the stall was a contact point for new or renewing members and anyone who wanted to talk about the Vietnam War or anything else on their minds for that matter.

The workers gather to de-brief the success of the day







FRANKSTON

Frankston is like most of the metropolitan Sub Branches, due to the COVID-19 virus we haven't been able to do much at all this year.

I think most members and their families have found 2020 to be a difficult year.

In between to lockdown our coffee group managed to hold the group gatherings in member's garages, and now that it is over but the rules are still slowing things down the guys are meeting at the Frankston Naval club, usually having a cuppa and a sausage in bread. They are so happy to be back together again.

The committee has tried to keep in touch with most of the members either by email with jokes and what's happening details or via phone calls

Remembrance Day was a quiet affair; I have included a photo of one of our members laying a wreath at the Cenotaph.

On the brighter side we are holding our first get together on the 10th December at the Frankston Naval Club - this will be just a fun day with a BBQ and some raffles

Let's hope that 2021 will be a better year and we can enjoy some activities

At this time Frankston would like to wish all of you a safe and happy Christmas and a great new year





Historic 1967 Australian LIFE Magazine found:

Some 47 years after the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, a 1967 March edition of LIFE magazine has been uncovered in the Geelong suburb of Belmont.
Brothers, James and Robin Ellis (former Army National Servicemen) found the publication when sorting their parent's home effects after their 100 year old widowed mother; Mrs. Nell Ellis, was admitted to a Whittington nursing home.

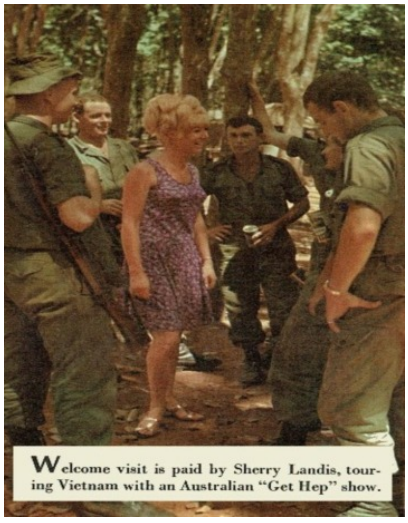
The magazine contains 2 nostalgic articles and 15 photos of B Company 6 Battalion - Royal Australian Regiment (infantry) as well as 161 Battery - Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery during their 1966/67 tours in the Vietnam war. 5 of the 15 photos are depicted below.

The periodical is available for viewing (with an optional hot brew & chat) at the Vietnam Veterans Centre (VVC) 31 Mount Pleasant Road Belmont, Mon - Wed - Fri, 10am > 2pm.

(Craftsman) James Francis Ellis (Jim) born in Ballarat, currently resides in Grovedale. He served with 17 Construction Squadron Engineers (RAEME) from 12th Dec 66 until 27th Sept 1967. His brother Robin (Rob) Royal Australian Army Dental Corp, was home posted to 35 Dental Unit at Holsworthy. Ph.VVC (03) 5243 3700 on above days/times prior to visiting.

Rob and Jim co-ordinate a social badminton exercise group for Vietnam veterans and others in Belmont.

Contact Rob on 0491 704 380 for more information.
Andy Treffry - RAEME - 5RAR 1969



Welcome visit is paid by Sherry Landis, touring Vietnam with an Australian "Get Hep" show.

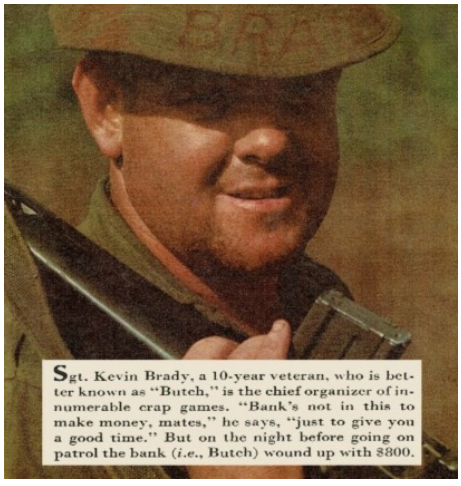


LIFE goes out on patrol with an Australian company

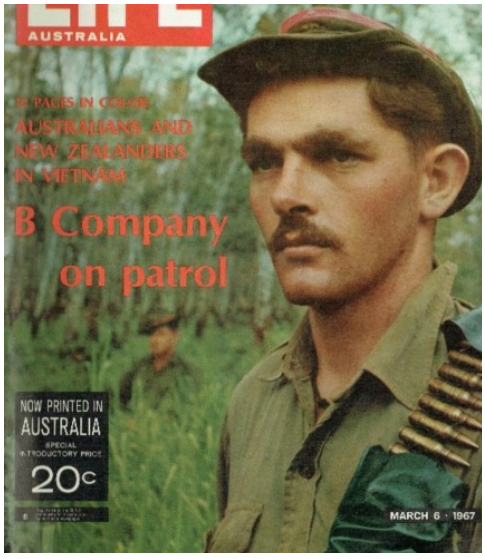
LIFE

B Company: Search and Destroy

Photographed for LIFE by RICHARD SWANSON



Sgt. Kevin Brady, a 10-year veteran, who is better known as "Butch," is the chief organizer of innumerable crap games. "Bank's not in this to make money, mates," he says, "just to give you a good time." But on the night before going on patrol the bank (*i.e.*, Butch) wound up with $800.





A 1 RAR SOLDIER'S MODERN PERSPECTIVE

After hearing of another young man take his life yesterday, for some unknown reason, and having a very meaningful conversation with a long time mate, I have to tell you all this. I want you all to listen. Please just listen.

For those of you who leave the military, particularly after many years' service, who struggle to find your place, to feel complete, and for those of you who are worried about leaving, because it's 'who you are', I give you this thought.

The military is, by its very nature, designed to replace you in a heartbeat. You will leave today, and tomorrow, it will be like you were never there. You will be replaced. They will get the job done without you. That's the nature of the job. While you no doubt make a difference, and your service is vitally important to this nation, you will soon be forgotten and no longer needed. You can and will be replaced.

But do you know who cannot replace you?

Your family.

But do you know who cannot replace you? Your family. Your wife. Your sons and daughters. Your brothers and sisters. Your mother and father. Your FAMILY. To them, you cannot be replaced. There is no substitute for you as a father, a mother, a brother or sister. A daughter or son.

If you are struggling after leaving the military, or struggling with the decision to leave, think about what really matters. Your family, and how much you mean to them. And how much they mean to you.

And for those who think or feel they lose their identity when they leave the military, I can tell you now you're wrong. You will always be a soldier, a sailor or an airman/woman. No one can take that away from you. But that's not who you really are. Who you are is an essential part of a family; that is loved, and cherished, and cannot be replaced, by anyone, EVER. That is far more important than your military service.

So if you're struggling and need help, please reach out. Please talk to someone. Talk to your family and tell them how you feel. Please ask for help. I don't want to see another family lose someone they cannot replace.

Please feel free to share far and wide.

Spike

If you NEED ASSISTANCE

Call *OPEN ARMS*

Ph: 1800 011 046

DEATH IN A FAR AWAY LAND

The following is a story provided by a 9RAR Vietnam Vet Warwick Archer and chronicles the life and death of a fellow Vietnam Vet who's journey began in the Falkland Islands and ended in that far away land - the Republic of Vietnam. Thank you Warwick. The words are addressed to Ray Payne Qld. 1 RAR 65/66.

Thanks for that on FSB Anderson. Last year when planning a trip to study the Falklands War 1982 I became aware of 4719232 Sapper David Steen who was born Falkland Islands, KIA FSB Anderson South Vietnam. I felt some connection with David Steen as we were both 8th intake National Service and came from Adelaide. Our service numbers are very close as are our birth dates. We would have almost certainly been on the same aeroplane and bus going to Pucka so we may well have brushed shoulders though never met. David went into RAE and myself Infantry. David is buried in Penola SE South Australia and is commemorated there by a plaque, on the war memorial and in the RSL and there is a local football annual cup dedicated to him. It seems his family emigrated from the Falklands to SA in the early 1960's under the sponsorship of a well-known SA family, the Rymills.

Tragic that a young man born so far away could be killed in another country's war.

I made contact with his cousin Vernon Steen, a Falklands resident with an arrangement to meet on our trip in January of this year. The trip was arranged by Major (ret.) Bob Darby of the UK, a military history guide, ex 3 Para and Falklands Veteran. I had met Bob in the UK in April 2019 when I went there to attend ANZAC Day at Harefield.

There is a memorial plaque to David in the Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley, interestingly they commemorate ANZAC Day as well as Remembrance Day, and Liberation Day (from Argentine occupation). Following the Falklands trip I went to Penola (SA) to visit David's memorial in the local park and met up with David Strother (ex 3RAR), former president of Penola RSL who ensures David Steen's memory is secure.

In due course I met Vernon Steen in Stanley, a gracious and quietly spoken retired aircraft engineer who has all the details of FSB Anderson. During the Falklands War Vernon and fellow islander Terry Peck (former FI Police Commissioner) made it out of Stanley at great risk and guided British troops across country for the assault on Stanley.

Tragic that a young man born so far away could be killed in another country's war

Regards
Warwick Archer



David Steen Plaque, Christ Church, Stanley FI.



4719232 Sapper DJ Steen, Penola S.A.



Warwick Archer with Vernon Steen.



Warwick Archer with Dave Strother, Penola SA.

A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple."
You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned.

Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsman, sapper or signaler. Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the blokes that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signalers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signalers just to make it clearer. All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signalers private as well.
A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs - - and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment.
Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesmen or not.
The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signalers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm.

Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either

So you see, it's really quite simple.

Consider this.....

Noone has been able to explain to me why young men and women who serve in the Australian Armed Forces for up to 20 years, risking their lives and limbs protecting our freedom, only get a small percentage of their pay on retirement, while Politicians hold their political positions in the safe confines of the Nation's Capital, protected by these same men and women, and receive a good pension ... after serving only two terms.

It just does not make any sense!!

If each person who reads this will forward it on to 20 people, in 3 days most people in Australia will have got the message ... including the politicians "!!

This is one message that really should be passed around.

"If you choose not to pass it on, you have still have made a choice,

And these brave Australian Heroes have given you that right!"



The new Agent Orange/PTSD Official History is out.

THIS is the story of our troubled homecoming told accurately, compassionately, and eloquently by historian Peter Yule.

Some of the story is told through the eyes of over 100 veterans Peter Yule and his team interviewed. Some of the story is a rollicking yarn about veterans' conflict with the bureaucracy and government And some of the story is the technical review of studies, written so we all can understand, on the health of veterans and their families.

Peter Yule delves deeply into the tragedy of the traumatic effects of the war on so many of those who fought it and on their families.

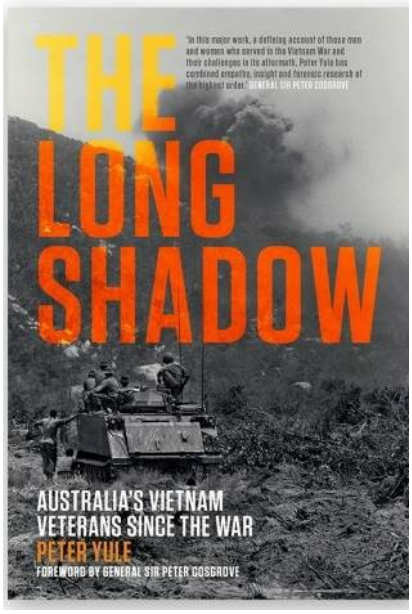
He delves deeply too into the controversy over whether veterans were harmed by their exposure to a variety of herbicides and insecticides.

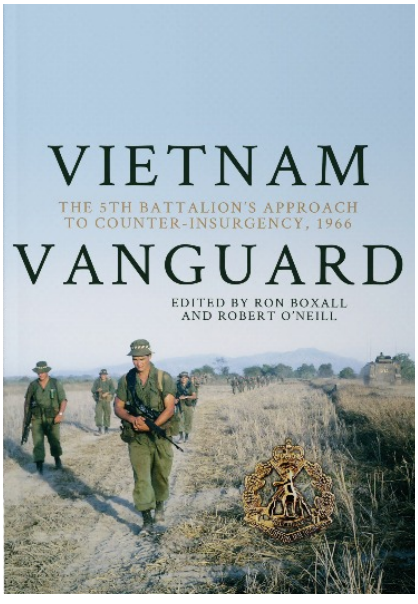
On this exposure issue, there are two parts.

One is the purely scientific question of how toxic were these chemical agents including the most recognised, Agent Orange.

The second part is that which was pursued by the Vietnam veteran movement and, indeed, was the reason for their activism. It stemmed from the veterans' belief that the Department of Veterans Affairs was unfairly rejecting compensation claims based on chemical exposure. The unfairness resulted, the veterans' argued, from the Department not giving veterans the 'benefit of the doubt' prescribed under Repatriation law.

It tells the whole story and is recommended for those who would like to know and understand the whole picture.





The 5 RAR Association in cooperation with the Australian National University Press have recently published a new book titled ***"Vietnam Vanguard – The 5th Battalion's Approach to Counter Insurgency 1966"***. The book recounts 5 RAR's insertion into Vietnam as the initial major unit of the 1st Australian Task Force, the securing of Nui Dat and major offensive operations conducted throughout 1966. The attached flyers in short and longer version give additional background.

The book comprises 456 pages including 17 chapters written by 33 contributing authors, 7 appendices, 44 photographs, 13 maps and 3 diagrams in full colour. The co-editors, Professor Robert O'Neill AO and Brigadier Ron Boxall (Retd) are 5RAR veterans. *Vietnam Vanguard* was launched at the 5RAR 55th anniversary reunion on the Gold Coast on 2 March by Major-General Stuart Smith AO, DSC (Retd) who is the son of a 5 RAR member killed-in-action on the battalion's second tour of Vietnam.

Vietnam Vanguard can be read **free** on line or purchased in hard copy for $55 plus postage. The link at the bottom of the flyer or https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/vietnam-vanguard will take you direct to the book.



NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM LTD.

FSB - Vic REPORT.

NOVEMBER, 2020.

Colin Grey OAM: It was a very sad Sunday, 20th September, 2020 when we heard that Colin Grey, our Museums Restoration Coordinator, had passed away in the Wonthaggi Hospital following his health deterioration over the preceding three months. He had only been transferred from Monash Hospital the Friday before. Colin is irreplaceable. His knowledge of military aircraft and his global contacts will be sorely missed. A public commemorative service will be conducted at our Museum on Thursday 14th January, 2021.

Finances: Notwithstanding COVID-19 and resultant closure of our Museum effectively since March, 2020, we have remained financially stable. This is in no small part due to Federal and State Government Job Keeper and economic stimulus packages.

Coronavirus Open/Close: Our Museum closed on the 25th March, 2020, following emergence of COVID 19 first wave. Reduced case numbers enabled us to reopen on the 1st June, 2020. We traded reasonably well up until the 5th August, 2020 when we closed again due to the COVID 19second wave.

Remembrance Day 2020: Ironically, our Museum finally reopened following protracted closure on Wednesday 11th November, 2020. Staff, volunteers and a few visitors observed a minute's silence.

Staff and Volunteers: Sonia Hogg, our Museum's Sales and Events Executive has resigned to retire to Orbost. Sonia's resignation takes effect from the 31st December, 2020. Our increasing visitor numbers over the last seven years and successful events occurring at our Museum are in no small part due to Sonia's expertise and enthusiasm. Sonia will be sorely missed.

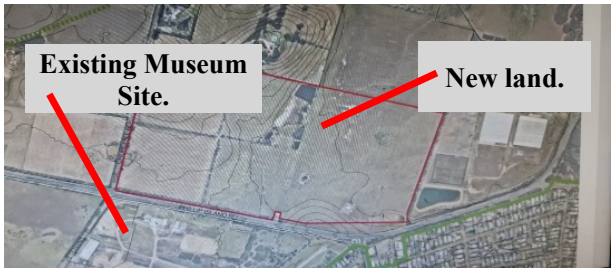
Entry fees: Entry fees have not been increased at this time. The plan is to increase entry fees early in 2021.

2019 Financial Annual Audit Report: Has been attached to our 2019 Annual Report which will be formally tabled at our Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 25th November at our Museum.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI): Farming on Phillip Island is considered uneconomic unless large tracts of land are owned. There may be an opportunity to sequestrate carbon on the unused portion of our new land. To be able to sell carbon credits on the open market, we need to undertake a cost benefit analysis of this type of "farming". Essentially, we can sell the difference between our existing soil carbon content and an improved carbon content. Initial analysis could be funded through the many environmental grants currently available.

Museum Accreditation Program (MAP): After seven (7) years of hard work by a lot of people, almost all Volunteers, we finally achieved formal Museum Accreditation from Museums Australia. This accreditation confirms that we are meeting National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries.

New Museum Building Project: Board Member Marcus Fielding has been appointed to Project Manage activities relating to our New Museum Building Project. Through Federal Government funding we have purchased approximately forty (40) hectares of land on Phillip Island Road, Newhaven. Almost opposite our existing site. Consultants have been mandated to develop and submit our permit application to the Bass Coast Shire Council and an architectural company has



been asked to provide conceptual designs.

Herbert & Carver Commemoration: The mortal remains of RAAF pilots, Herbert and Carver were repatriated back to Australia on the 3rd November 2008. The VVAA RAAF Sub-branch arranged for a service to be held at our Museum on Tuesday 3rd November. A flyover by the Roulettes was to be included but was cancelled at the last minute due to "Operational Matters". An article was also included in the local press.

Museum Visitation Invitations: Minister for Veteran Affairs, Darren Chester, had agreed to visit our Museum earlier this year but cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. In light of the easing of restrictions and the requisite to formally open our new Education Room, we have again extended invitations to Minister Chester and our Federal member, Russell Broadbent.

Education/Multi-Purpose Room: Our new, forty square metre Education Room has now been completed and a Certificate of Occupancy obtained. The room will also be used as a staff lunchroom thus freeing up the Restoration lunchroom container for storage. A Project End Completion Report has been completed for the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund. Hopefully, this will be all that is required for us to receive the $47,000 Federal Government Grant.



Developing Displays: Our Collections staff are planning a number of display upgrades. Most of the air operations area is being reinvigorated; a display featuring Captain John White and the Battle of Ngok Tavak and a display featuring Jimmy James Kerr, a tank driver, killed when the tank he was driving ran over an ied. Jimmy had only been "in country', for a matter of weeks. The tank in question was repatriated back to Australia, repaired and is now at the Pukapunyal Tank Museum.

Phil Dressing,

General Manager,

November, 2020



Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat inc

OFFICIAL OPENING MARCH 6, 2021

LOCATION 26 HIGH ST MACARTHUR

TIME 12 NOON

(The Old MacArthur Hotel)

OPENED BY SENATOR JACQUI LAMBIE

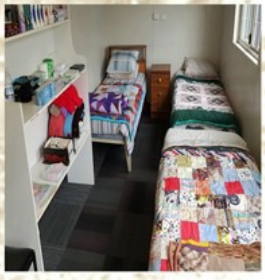
MARCH TO RETREAT MEMORIAL 12.15
MEDALS TO BE WORN

RSVP please to help with catering
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e mail cockatoorise@wideband.net.au











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