

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans'
Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association
NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope you all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year.

Last year was the 50th Anniversary of the 1st Australian Task Force and Battle of Long Tan but the 50th Anniversary commemorations will continue over the next few years. No doubt for those members who went to South Vietnam in 1967 this year will be a time to recall the good and not so good times experienced during that period of their military service.

This year of course we will also continue to provide opportunities for members to enjoy life, make new friends and enjoy the company of fellow veterans and their partners. We will continue to support our veterans and their families. Through affiliation with the Vietnam Veterans Federation and the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, our membership fees will also provide support to veterans across Australia.

DINNER MEETING
Porterhouse Bistro, Moss Vale Hotel
WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
6pm for 6:30

This is one of our favorite venues with really good food to enjoy
in good company.

As usual, if you are coming, please let Bob or Noelene know by the Monday before
Ph 4862 3741

LADIES VIP LUNCH
Wednesday 15th February 12:00
Berrima Courtyard Café - 4 Berrima Drive
If you are coming please RSVP to Julia Billows Ph 4872 1727 by the Monday before.

WEDNESDAY 1st MATCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND DINNER MEETING

The **AGM** will be held at 5:00 in the Alexandra Room at the Mittagong RSL Club. Have you considered nomination for the Committee - it does not take much time, lets you have your say in how things are done, and provides another opportunity for fellowship. Put the date in your diary now!

The **Dinner** will be held in the Springs Room where tables will be set aside. Dinner will be from the wide range of meals available in the Bistro.

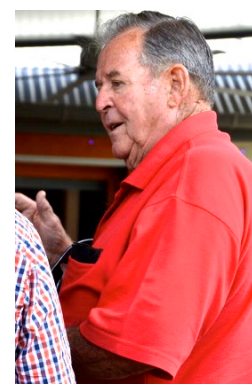
CHRISTMAS LUNCH "Vietnam 50 Years On"

This function was something special. Our hosts Judy and Bruce who graciously provided their home did a fantastic job organising, cooking and presenting us with a fantastic spread.

About 40 attended the function which was held on Saturday 14th December. A highlight of the spread was a giant Atlantic salmon, which must have been a meter long, and was cooked to perfection - unfortunately I do not have a photo of it whole but it was really special. Of course the other food was also superb and certainly very much enjoyed by all. Banjos Run Winery at Sally Corner Road Exeter kindly donated table wines - very good wines too. Check them out at <http://banjosrun.com.au>

A Very big thanks go to Bruce, Judy and Bruce's sister Lilly and everyone else that helped to make this a very memorable function.

Thanks also Christine Forbes for being the "official" photographer on the day.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewal of membership was due on 31st December. We require a separate signed renewal form for each member as it makes up our Membership Register and we have to send a copy to "Granville" for their record. Renewal forms were sent out in November. If you have not done so please fill it in now and post it to SHVV, PO Box 900, Moss Vale 2577. If you do not wish to renew your membership please let Sandra know so your name can be removed from the register of members. If you need another form, please let Sandra know Ph 4868 1945

Vietnam "50 Years On"

This year will mark the 50th anniversary for those of our members that served in South Vietnam in 1967. Each of course will have his own recollections both good and bad. Throughout the coming year there will be many occasions when events and actions that happened in 1967 will be highlighted in the news. Fortunately in the past 20 years or so the attitude of the public towards Vietnam Veterans has mellowed and is now far more positive. Also we Vets have also mellowed and most are now prepared to sep forward proudly and acknowledge our service.

For those who were unable to get to the Anniversary Dinner we still have a certificate of appreciation for you. President Phill will present them to you prior to the AGM on 1st March.

SCHOOL VISIT

In December Terry Lemcke (Schools Co-ordinator), John Stead and Norm Austin visited St Paul's International School in Moss Vale. We were very well received and very well prepared with answers to more than 20 questions that the students had provided in advance. We took it in turns to respond to each question and provide answers from our different perspectives. We had a combined class of about 50, mostly Asian students with a number of very interested Vietnamese.

Overall, students were very attentive. These visits provide an opportunity to talk openly about our Vietnam experiences and are both emotional and gratifying. They also give the students an insight into the politics of war, the living conditions and the emotions of soldiers.



BUNNINGS BBQ

Bunnings has reserved 23rd April and 5th November for us this year. The sausage sizzle is a good fund-raiser, good fellowship and it provides an opportunity to meet with the public as Vietnam Veterans. Put the dates in you diary now.



DARTS

Boys! Remember those heady days in the Wet Canteen? A few beers with your mates and the dartboard is the focus of attention. Teams comprised good, mediocre and indifferent players in friendly competition. Great fun and great times.

Well Bob Bailey has proposed that we get together regularly to see if our aim has improved with age, to see who is still the "Dead-eyed Dick" that can shoot triples and doubles with ease?

Interested then give Bob a buzz and let him know about your enthusiasm - make it happen!!
Ph 4862 3741

KOREAN PEACE MEDAL

At a recent meeting of the Mittagong RSL Sub-Branch, one of our long-term members Peter Toohey was presented with the Korean Peace Medal. Congratulations go to Peter who served with 3RAR from December 1952 to October 1953. Peter recently told me that the freezing cold was what he remembered most.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

After more than 10 years of "going to press", this is my last Newsletter. I would like to thank those who have contributed because it makes the job easier. I would also like to encourage someone to put their hand up for the tasks of Newsletter Editor, Publicity Officer, and Webmaster. I think that communication is what keeps our Association together. Of course I will be happy to assist to get things rolling.

I would also like to thank my wife Sue for her wonderful assistance and support over the years. We are now looking forward to lots of Ambling with our new caravan.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WALKING GROUP – every Tuesday at 8.00 a.m. - all welcome at the Cherry Tree Walk, Bowral (meeting at The Vietnam War Memorial). Tel: Phill Moscatt- 4872 1727.

AQUA-VETS – Aqua aerobics at Annesley Lifestyle Centre, Bowral. Tuesday and Thursday – 9.30 a.m. to 10:15 am Tel: Belinda at Annesley – 4861 4366.

DINNER MEETINGS – Monthly - 1st Wednesday. Details in newsletter. Tel: Bob or Noelene Tel 4862 3741

LADIES 'VIP GOURMET CLUB' – 3rd Wednesday of the month. Ladies meet for lunch at different local cafes & restaurants. Details in newsletter. Contact Julia Billows 4862 3741