

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans'
Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association
NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

This year will be big as we have a number of 50th Anniversary commemorations planned - details follow.

We will also continue to provide opportunities 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH

Alexandra Room - Mittagong RSL - 5 pm

(This is a non-election year) - Notice of meeting and agenda to follow.

FOLLOWED BY DINNER

At 6 pm In the Bistro (order from menu)

LADIES VIP LUNCH

16th March - 12 noon

Coffee Culture - Bowral

Please RSVP to Julia Billows Ph 4872 1727

NEXT DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 6th April 6pm for 6:30

SURVEYOR GENERAL INN - Berrima

CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Mittagong RSL Club provided an excellent meal that was enjoyed in the new facilities by all. Thanks to Bob and Noelene for organising the evening and the extensive lucky door prizes. The bar service was friendly and a great effort was made to supply the old beer.



Well Bruce, perhaps you were exaggerating just a little. Perhaps Noelene was nearer the length of - just what was it anyway? You can see more photographs on our website at: http://shvva.com/?page_id=3347

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We have three new members to get acquainted with and to share our activities.

Tony Streeter RAAF - 36 Squadrons

Steve McLarren - 17 Construction Squadron

Ray Tilley RAAF - 9 Squadron

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS



This year, as we rotate throughout the Highlands, we will be marching at Bowral and attending in the RSL Sub Branch service. Afterwards we will adjourn to the Lion Rampant in Mittagong.

This year is again of special significance.



100 years ago our diggers continued to fight in Europe with the hope that "soon it will all be over". Alas this was not to be as both sides "dug in" for what was to be a long and bloody battle.

50 years ago World War II was settling down into what would be another long drawn out catastrophic struggle.

25 years ago the 1st Australian Task Force moved to South Vietnam, not realising that its war would not be over for seven years.

25 subsequent years of war, peacemaking, and peacemaking operations throughout the world.

This will be a day to remember our fallen mates and their families. A day to remember the contribution of our fathers and their fathers to the cause of peace. A day to remember the sacrifices and service of those Australians who have serviced in our Armed Forces.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

Commemorative Dinner

The Sub Committee is meeting regularly and preparations are proceeding smoothly. Make it a date - 20th August 2016.

The meal will be a three course alternate drop similar to the Christmas dinner. Jeff Harvey and his band will perform a concert of 60's and 70's music and at this time Little Pattie is hopeful of making it back from Vietnam to entertain. A dance floor will be available for the agile who remember how to rock.

The cost of the evening will be \$50 per head with a maximum of 300 attending. Tables will be set for 10 people. This will be a great night to share with family and friends and a number of members have already indicated that they will be booking a table. Our members will have first option after which tickets will be sold to the public through the RSL Club.

Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of Certificates of Service to veteran members. In this regard the committee will be in touch to request information to be included in the certificates - including a photograph taken in Vietnam during your service and a recent similar photograph.

Art and Memorabilia Exhibition

As part of the commemorations an exhibition of veterans portraits and memorabilia will be held at the Mittagong RSL Club from 13th to 20th August. We will be inviting local schools to view the exhibition. A catalogue will be available and we will have a roster of members to attend during the afternoons to host the exhibition and answer questions.

Portrait production is proceeding well with Brian Mc Farlane, Bruce Bofinger, John Everett and Terry Lemcke having "sat". Artists Robin and Kim are still very enthusiastic. If you nominated and have not participated don't despair we will be in touch with you shortly.

In relation to the memorabilia display we will be accessing the RSL Sub-Branch and John Stead's collections; however, if you have any "souvenirs", memorabilia or photographs that you think would be suitable please contact Norm or Phill.

Vietnam Veterans Day 2016

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of: the 1st Australian Task Force going to South Vietnam, the return of 1RAF from its first tour, and the Battle of Long Tan. Subject to approvals we hope to parade from Bowral to the Vietnam War Memorial in Settlers Park. The Navy will again provide the Guard of Honour and we are planning a few surprises.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

These were due by 31st December, so please dig out your forms, fill them out and post them to: SHVPPA PO Box 900 MOSS VALE NSW 2577.

Prompt payment not only facilitates our administration but also provides much needed cash flow for Head Office. Lost your form? Then contact Sandra or Norm for a replacement. If you are not intending to renew please let Sandra know so that records can be adjusted.

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 - 4872 1727.

WATER AEROBICS – at Annesley Lifestyle Centre, Bowral. Tuesday and Thursday – aquavets at 9.30 a.m. Tel: Belinda at Annesley – 4861 4366.

BILLIARDS NIGHT - 3rd Wednesday of each month – Men's billiard night at Tony Mitchell's house – 7.00 p.m. start. Tel: Tony – 4869 3639.

DINNER MEETINGS – Monthly - usually 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. Tel: Bob or Nolene Ph 4862 3741