

# **Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association**



## **NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017**

### **INTRODUCING OUR NEW SECRETARY - GORDON McCREADIE**



Gordon McCreadie was born in Sydney in 1938. After completing schooling at Shore, he entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1956. He graduated into The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) and undertook Electrical Engineering at RMIT. He subsequently served with 1 Sig Regt as Officer Commanding (OC) the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) and then in Vietnam during 1966/67 as OC 1 Fd Regt RAA LAD. Later postings included OC Northern Command Workshop, Australian Army Staff College and the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, UK. He was also Commanding Officer of 3 Army Quality Assurance Unit at Maribyrnong Vic.

Following retirement from the Army in 1976, Gordon worked in HQ Telecom for 10 years and then went on to found the NT Centre for Management Training in Darwin. He worked as a consultant, lived in Wuhan in central China, was an advisor to the NSW Attorney General and Minister for Justice, worked for NSW RTA in charge of Motor Registries in Sydney, then on to ORTA at the Sydney Olympics and finished his working career at City Rail Safety Division. Gordon lives in East Bowral with his wife Jenny.

Gordon says he intends to build on the excellent work of our previous Secretary, Sandra Freer. Sandra worked tirelessly over many years to put the Association on a business footing and keep the Committee in line. Gordon hopes to do the same and accepts that Sandra's legacy will make his job much easier.

### **NEXT DINNER MEETING**

**Wednesday 3rd May 2017**

**Bowral Hotel**

**6pm for 6:30pm**

**If you are coming - RSVP to Bob or Noelene Ph 4862 3741  
by the Monday before**

## LADIES VIP LUNCH

Wednesday 19 April 2017 @ 12:00

Exeter Corner Store, Exeter Road, Exeter

If you are coming please RSVP to Judi Bofinger Ph 4872 3175 by the previous Monday.

## SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS 2017

3rd May	Bowral Hotel
7th June	Lion Rampant Hotel Mittagong
5th July	Christmas in July at Mittagong RSL Club
2nd August	Bowral Bowling Club
6th September	Porterhouse Bistro Moss Vale
4th October	Moss Vale Services Club
1st November	Lion Rampant Hotel Mittagong
6th December	Bowral Bowling Club.

## 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 your diary now. Contact Terry Lemcke 4883 7505 if you are able to help on 23 April.



## ANZAC DAY 2017

Remember our  
Diggers



25th April

On Anzac Day, we remember those who gave their lives in the service of our Nation and those who were wounded and maimed. It is also a day to acknowledge those who served both overseas and at home. It is a day to reflect on the hardship endured by family of those who served and other loved ones who, in one way or another, have also paid a price. However, above all, it is a day to reflect on their legacy - a peaceful and harmonious Australia that lives with freedoms not enjoyed by many others. On this day veterans get together to commemorate, to remember old mates and to reflect on times good and bad that were shared in service to our country.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANZAC DAY 2017

The Committee has affirmed the decision to cease the rotation system for Anzac Day. So, this year we will be marching at Mittagong behind our own banner. Please meet at 10:00 am in the Information Centre car park to allow ample time to "have a chat" and form ranks for the parade which will step off at about 10:20 am. The parade will go down the highway and arrive at the Cenotaph in time for the Anzac Day service to commence at 10:30 am.

After the service, members, family and friends are invited to adjourn to the **Lion Rampant Hotel** to have a few drinks before lunch which will be from the bistro menu and paid for individually. Our fellow member, Allan Swift, ends his association with the Lion Rampant in May but is confident the new owners will continue to provide us with the same level of support that he has.



## OTHER ANZAC DAY SERVICES

**MITTAGONG** - Dawn Service: 5.15 am at the Cenotaph, Hume Highway Mittagong.

**BOWRAL** - Main march forms up at 10.00 am at the eastern end of the central town car park. The parade will march off at 10.35am with the service to begin at 11.00 am

**BOWRAL DAWN SERVICE** - Form up outside Cameron's Newsagency at 5.45 am with service to begin about 6 am at the Memorial. Light breakfast at Campbell Jones Real Estate afterwards.

**MOSS VALE** - The parade will form up at Moss Vale Queens Street Carpark to step off at 10:40 am and march to the Cenotaph at the Services Club with service to commence at 11:00 am.

**SUTTON FOREST** - There will be a service at 8:00 am and participants are requested to form up at 7.45am.

Members are advised to check the local press closer to the day to confirm the above arrangements.

## ANZAC DAY SERVICES IN VIETNAM IN 2017

In August 2016, the Vietnamese Government did not permit the planned Long Tan 50th anniversary commemoration service to take place at the Long Tan Cross site. It remains unclear if the Vietnamese authorities will permit official commemorations and a final formal Vietnamese Government decision is yet to be taken.

The Australian Government cannot commit to holding an official commemoration at the Long Tan site on Anzac Day 2017 until the Vietnamese Government provide official advice. The Australian Government will continue to update veterans and the Australian public on developments. Further information will be available at [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) and the Australian Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City website.

## SUTTON FOREST DINNER 5 APRIL 2017

There was a strong turnout for this monthly dinner with 28 in attendance. The food and the company were good but the service was disappointingly slow. Reservations were made for only 21 diners. Please make sure you notify Bob or Noelene that you are coming as this will have an impact on service levels and seating availability.



Your new Executive Committee enjoying the Sutton Forest Dinner while contemplating the way ahead for the Association.





Photographs courtesy of Norm Austin. For more photos visit our website [www.shvva.com](http://www.shvva.com)

## VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY 18 AUGUST 2017

Planning has already commenced and we propose to follow the same format as in previous years.

## HEALTH ISSUES - SHINGLES

Shingles (herpes zoster) is a very painful condition caused by the reactivation of the virus that causes chickenpox. A single dose of shingles vaccine is available free for adults at 70 years of age. For further information see the *Adult Immunisation* page at [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

## 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). Just show up.

**AQUA-VETS** – Aqua aerobics at Annesley Lifestyle Centre, Bowral. Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 10:15 am. Tel: Belinda 0429 149 847.

**DINNER MEETINGS** – Monthly - 1st Wednesday. Details in newsletter. Tel: Bob or Noelene Ph 4862 3741 or email [rnbailey@bigpond.com](mailto:rnbailey@bigpond.com). (please note the r and the n are separate letters ie not m)

**LADIES 'VIP GOURMET CLUB'** – 3rd Wednesday of the month. Ladies meet for lunch at different local cafes & restaurants. Details in newsletter. Contact Judi Bofinger Ph 4872 3175.