

# SHVPPA NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012



## VIETNAM VETERANS 50 YEARS ON

On Saturday 18th August, the Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans paid respect to their fallen and those that served their Nation during the war in South Vietnam. A war in which Australia became involved 50 years ago.

The Vietnam Veterans' Day Commemorative Service was well attended by local ex service men and women, their partners, dignitaries, schools, the public and families and friends.

Whilst the weather was dry and sunny the westerly gale was bitterly cold; however, this did little to dampen the spirit of the Service.

Lt David Sabben, one of the surviving platoon commanders at the Battle of Long Tan addressed the gathering. He emphasised that although his unit D Company 6RAR fought gallantly, it could not have prevailed without substantial support from others. In particular the artillery, our armoured personnel carriers, the A Company that came to its aid, and the Air Force that dropped much needed ammunition. However, either directly or indirectly everyone in the Task Force and the units that supported it in Vietnam and in Australia played a role. It was a team effort of which all Australians should be proud. David said that he regularly visits Vietnam and has been asked by the Vietnamese, particularly those that we fought against, to say that they have a great admiration for all Australians, particularly those that fought against them, not just for what we did but how we did it.



James Austin, School Captain of Moss Vale High School represented a youthful view. He acknowledged courage, determination and commitment of those who served in South Vietnam. He pointed out that this was Australia's longest war. He highlighted the fact that it took many years for service personnel to receive the public recognition that had been experienced immediately after other wars. He saw the Vietnam War Memorial as providing a link to the ANZAC military tradition.



Chevalier College Cadet Unit, again did a sterling job mounting a guard of honour on the Memorial, particularly the catafalque party which did not flinch in the bitterly cold winds.

As usual many wreaths and floral tributes were laid on the memorial.

Tea and bickies after the ceremony warmed us up, as did the "toddy" provided by Mittagong RSL. The reception at the Club was very enjoyable and most people met and had a few words with David Sabben. Our sincere thanks go to the Club that provided a room and delicious, hot finger food.

The Executive would like to thank all those that participated and particularly those who helped make the function a real success.

### VIDEO OF THE SERVICE

Sue Austin has made a half hour High Density DVD of the complete service. It includes the whole of David Sabben's address and a "slide show" at the end. It is a great memento of the occasion. With a view to offsetting costs of the service we are selling these attractive items for \$5.00 each. To order your copy give Norm or Sue a buzz on 48691772 or email [normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au](mailto:normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au)

### NEXT DINNER MEETING Wednesday 5th September

#### MITTAGONG RSL - CLUB BISTRO - 6:00PM

RING SANDRA 48681945 BY MONDAY EVENING IF YOU ARE COMING

As usual this will be an informal dinner. Meet in the Bistro for a drink whilst you are ordering your meal. Wednesday night is a two for one night for members - the idea is to team up with a member (if husband and wife are members - find another non-member partner) and order together. Only the highest value of the meals will be charged. All welcome - this should be a relatively cheap fun night.

LET SANDRA KNOW NOW AS YOU READ THIS IF YOU ARE COMING

The forthcoming dinner meetings which are 6:00pm for 6:30pm are as follows:

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| October 3rd  | - | Surveyor General Hotel, Berrima   |
| November 7th | - | The Porterhouse, Moss Vale Hotel.   |
| December 5th | - | Christmas Dinner at Mittagong R.S.L. Club.<br>Great Buffet Menu \$45 p.p. |

### LADIES VIP LUNCHES

September 19 – Stumps Café at Bradman Oval

**Contact Julia on 4872 1727 by the day before if coming.**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| October 17 –  | Exeter General Store – contact Sandra.  |
| November 21 – | this being the final lunch for the year at Eling Forest Winery -<br>contact Sandra. |



### **MORE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The Southern Highlands News has published an article and pictures of the Commemorative Service. To go to it copy the address below and past it into your web browser:

<http://www.southernhighlandnews.com.au/story/236270/vietnam-veterans-day/?cs=266>

And press "Enter". To cycle through the pictures use the arrow at the side of the pictures.



Quota International of Moss Vale

**Hearing & Communication Technology EXPO**

**Wednesday September 5th 10am - 4pm**

Bowral Memorial Hall Bendooley St (at the pedestrian crossing)

**Hearing Loss is invisible, help for 1 in 6 Australians**

**Ten exhibitors**

**Expert speakers from 10:30**

**Free hearing screenings**

**Bring unused hearing aids for recycling**

**Technology explained: "hands on" to assist people with hearing loss.**

**Entry: gold coin donation: Refreshments served all day**

**Enquiries: Pat Fulton 0409 907 543**

## **ALARM SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

It is mandatory to have a smoke alarm in every household where people sleep, but those who are deaf or hard of hearing cannot hear a standard smoke alarm. This lifesaving program will see 3500 high-tech smoke alarms go to people in our community who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing. The average smoke alarm costs around \$50 but those with flashing lights and vibrating under-pillow pads to supplement the sound of the alarms can rise to as much as \$500.

For information and application forms visit this website:

<http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/smokealarms/>

The launch of the scheme also coincides with FRNSW's winter fire safety campaign. The fire service, in collaboration with its Principal Partner GIO, is encouraging householders to complete an online Home Fire Safety Audit as part of the campaign at: [www.homefiresafetyaudit.com.au](http://www.homefiresafetyaudit.com.au)

## **THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) AWARENESS CAMPAIGN Manuka Oval, Canberra. November 25, 2012.**

On November 25, 2012, many interested parties will join together in this event which will launch a national awareness campaign to show the Australian public, the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and point sufferers, their families and their friends towards avenues of help.

This event will attract the majority of the national media, major politicians and at least 10,000 spectators to witness a day of cricket, soldiers and music. While it will be a day of fun and entertainment, the major messages of PTSD awareness will be broadcast in a subtle manner.

More news of this in following newsletters.

## **HOME POWER SAVINGS PROGRAM**

The NSW Government offers free assessments to holders of DVA Gold, White, and Pensioner Concession Cards.

This involves a free inspection of your home and includes:

- In-home Power Assessment
- Power Savings Kit
- Personal Power Savings Action Plan.

Eligible householders can join the program by calling 1300 662 416

The program ends 30th June 2013.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**WALKING GROUP** – every Tuesday at 8.30 a.m. - all welcome at the Cherry Tree Walk, Bowral (meeting at The Vietnam War Memorial).  
Tel: Phill - 4872 1727.

**EXERCISE CLASSES** – at Annesley Lifestyle Centre, Bowral.  
Tuesday and Thursday – aqua at 10.00 a.m.  
Tel: Belinda at Annesley – 4861 4366.

**BILLIARDS NIGHT** - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday.  
Details in newsletter. Tel: Sandra - 4868 1945.

**LADIES 'VIP GOURMET CLUB'** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.  
Ladies meet for lunch at different local cafes & restaurants. Details in newsletter.  
Tel: Sandra – 4868 1945.

**LAWNMOWING** – We always need more volunteers - have a go just one day every three weeks. Tel: Phill Moacatt – 4872 1727.

## NEWSLETTER

With the move to emailed newsletters we still have to post to those that do not have email. However, it seems that some of those that get emails are not opening up the attachment, or they are opening up the attachment but not printing it out so as to not dates in diaries etc.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email or by post please let me know.

Norm Austin, Editor

Ph: 48691772

Email: [normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au](mailto:normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au)