

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association



JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING OUR VICE PRESIDENT – BRUCE BOFINGER



In this month's newsletter, I continue the series of articles profiling our Executive Committee members. While he needs no introduction, I nevertheless present our Vice President, Bruce Bofinger, one of our staunchest supporters. Bruce fought hard to ensure the Association survived its near-death experience earlier this year - he lobbied successfully to form a new committee and argued strongly to keep the Association going.

Bruce was born in Chatswood on 22 May 1946. After completing schooling at Balgowlah Boys High School, he took up an apprenticeship as a carpenter, completing his training at Gore Hill Tech. As a young man, Bruce was an active sportsman in pursuits such as sailing, rock fishing, surfing and football.

Bruce was called up for National Service in June 1966 but his service was deferred until he completed his apprenticeship a year later. Bruce married Judi in June 1967 just a few weeks before the Army whisked him off to Puckapunyal for recruit training.

Because he had a trade qualification, Bruce was allotted to the Royal Australian Engineers. Following Corps training at the School of Military Engineering, he was posted to an Engineer Stores Depot at Penrith before being sent to Vietnam on 4 June 1969 for service with 1 Field Squadron as a Combat Engineer. (Bruce volunteered to extend his National Service obligation to serve in Vietnam.)

After returning to Australia on 8 June 1970, Bruce worked for A.V. Jennings in Sydney as a supervisor/estimator before moving to Robertson in 1977 where he worked in the building and construction industry before joining NSW Public Works as a construction supervisor. Bruce retired in 1993 due to ill health. He moved to Burradoo in 1997 and finally on to Mittagong a few years' ago.

Bruce and Judi have four adult daughters. Bruce is a foundation member of our Association and is committed to ensuring that the Association survives and continues to support veterans and their families.

NEXT DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 7th June 2017

Lion Rampant Hotel Mittagong

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

If you are coming - RSVP to Gordon McCreadie Ph 4861 3126 or 0425 233 019 or gkmccreadie@bigpond.com by the Monday before (Bob and Noelene are having a well-earned break).

LADIES VIP LUNCH

Wednesday 21st June 2017 @ 12:00 pm

Stumps Café, Bradman Museum, Bowral

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

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS 2017

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.

XMAS IN JULY DINNER

The **5 July 2017 Monthly Dinner** will take the form of a 'Xmas in July' function at the Mittagong RSL Club at the usual time of 6:00 pm for 6:30 pm. The Committee has agreed to a single main course – a Yuletide Roast – and an alternate-drop dessert, Xmas Pudding or Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta. Good quality red and white wine will be provided at each table. A bar will be available for purchase of other drinks.

The cost will be \$50 per person and includes food, wine, Xmas decorations and lucky door prizes.

For this dinner only: Please book and pay by Friday 23 June to Graeme Moffatt, our Treasurer, grakarmoffatt@bigpond.com or 0419 484 482 or 4861 7767. Payment can be by cash, cheque or direct debit to the account below:

Name of Account: VVPPAA Southern Highlands

BSB No: 641 – 800

A/C No: 2007 55934

Reference: [\[your name\]](#)

Address cheques to: SHVPPA, PO Box 900, MOSS VALE, NSW, 2577

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY 18 AUGUST 2017

Planning continues. Our principal speaker will be Phil Badcock, a Burrado resident, who served as a 2nd Lieutenant with 6 RAR in Vietnam in 1969/70. HMAS ALBATROSS has been asked to provide a catafalque party.

PENSION INTERVIEWS

Dennis Hanmer, VVPPAA(NSW) Pension Advocate, Granville, will be visiting the Southern Highlands on Monday 19 June to assist our members with any matter relating to Service Pensions, Disability Pension Claims or War Widows Pensions. If you have not already done so, please contact me if you wish to see Dennis so that I can arrange an appointment time.

DVA GOLD CARD FOR VETERANS OVER 70

If you are over 70 years of age with eligible service, you are entitled to a Gold Card which is not means or asset tested. If you meet this criteria and have not received a Gold Card, give me a call on mobile 0402 813 753.

ARE YOU OVER 60 AND STILL WORKING?

Veterans with qualifying service can apply for the Service Pension at 60 years of age even if they are still working. Income and assets tests apply. If you are over 60 and don't have a Gold Card and don't meet the income and asset tests for the Service Pension, you should check your eligibility for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC). Income and asset test limits also apply for the CSHC.

VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK VHW2017

Veterans' Health Week will run from 21 – 29 October 2017 and the theme this year is physical activity. We can claim up to \$720 from DVA to support a planned activity. Please let Bob Bailey know if you have any suggestions (eg bowls, golf, bush walk, 10k steps walking challenge, etc) as our Committee needs to submit a funding application to DVA before 31 July 2017.

Further information can be found on the DVA VHW2017 web page.

DVA BUDGET 2017–18

\$11.3 billion has been allocated for Veteran' Affairs in 2017-18 in support of 293,000 clients (veterans and dependents) including:

- \$6.2 b for income support and compensation
- \$5 b for health services
- \$105.5 m for commemorations

A one-off energy assistance payment of \$75 (single) or \$62.50 (partnered) will be provided to income support and compensation recipients. Compensation-only recipients will receive the single rate.

SHVVPPA

Did you know that our Association has survived for 14 years? It was established in July 2003 with David Babbage as President and Norm Austin as Secretary. Membership numbers have remained constant over the years and many foundation members are still 'on the books'.

SICK PARADE

Several members have been in hospital recently with serious health issues. To those members, we hope you have a speedy and complete recovery.



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 (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.

Ray McCann
Editor/Welfare Officer
Mobile: 0402 813 753

1 June 2017