

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association



MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER – GRAEME MOFFATT



Graeme Moffatt was born in Newcastle in 1949 but moved to South Australia at the age of seven. After leaving school in 1964, he worked in Adelaide for the PMG (now AustPost) for two years before transferring to Alice Springs for another two years. In 1968, Graeme decided there wasn't enough excitement in the Post Office; so, he took a leap into the unknown by enlisting in the Army for an initial six-year engagement.

After basic training at Kapooka, and following Corps training, he was posted to 6RAR and sent to SVN in 1969. Upon return to Australia 12 months later, and back in the Battalion, Graeme was fortunate enough to jag a two-year posting to Singapore. Back in Australia, Graeme transferred to the Royal Australian Corps of Transport and served in a number of locations throughout Australia, including Puckapunyal, Canberra (several times), Townsville, Melbourne and finally on the staff at RMC where he retired after 25 years' service.

Life after the Army, involved owning a Health Food Wholesale business in Canberra for nine years, followed by an eight-year stint as a Driving Instructor. His exit from the Army was short lived as he returned to fulfil another six years in the Active Reserves with his final posting to Bendigo commanding an Army Reserve Transport Squadron. Graeme finally retired from the work force in December 2014 including a total of 31 years in the Military.

Graeme and his wife Karen moved to the Southern Highlands in January 2013 (although Graeme was still working in the Reserves in Canberra and Bendigo). They haven't looked back since. While Graeme has been a member of our Association for only two years, he has developed a good circle of friends and is very keen to ensure the position of Treasurer is fulfilling and rewarding, not only to himself, but more importantly to all the members of the Association.

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 17 May 2017 @ 12:00 pm
Nasz Stolik (The Polish Café) Station Street Mittagong

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

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS 2017

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| 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



The Sausage Sizzle on 23 April was a great success with \$1,109 being raised. Our thanks go to Terry Lemcke for organising the day and for doing a lot of running around. Many thanks also to the hardworking volunteers: Jeff and Michael Forbes, Ross Latta, Bernadette Larratt, Bob Bailey, Bruce and Judy Bofinger, David Babbage, John McDonnell, Phill Moscott and Rod Cashmere.

A great result folks and thanks from all of us.

ANZAC DAY 2017



About 30 Veterans and family marched behind our banner at Mittagong. The service featured a number of our members - Steve Spence, Phill Moscott and John Stead. As usual, the service went very well with the flyover being a highlight. The lunch venue was very crowded which impacted on comfort and service. Your Committee has decided to try the Springs Room at the Mittagong RSL Club for lunch on Anzac Day 2018. The Club has agreed to our requested on a trial basis for 2018.

The photographs on this and the next page are courtesy of Norm Austin. Thanks Norm.
For more photos visit our website www.shvva.com



ANNESLEY POOL CLOSURE

Annesley Lifestyle will be undertaking major works to the pool deck in May. The pool and change rooms will be **closed** to all members from **Monday 15 May to Sunday 21 May 2017**. All classes during this time, including Aqua-Vets, will be cancelled.

BOWRAL HOTEL DINNER 3 MAY 2017

Twenty-four members dined at the Bowral Hotel for our May Monthly Dinner. The level of service has improved since our previous visit and the meal was reasonable. A good outing.



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 Fri 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 has commenced. We propose to follow the same format as in previous years.

VIETNAM BATTLE MAP

Want to relive some of your worst nightmares? The Australian Defence Force Academy has developed a *Vietnam Battle Map* showing contact locations superimposed on a map linked to the date of the contact/action. Go to <https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au> and hit the <Launch Battle Map> button.

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. Please contact me if you wish to see Dennis so that I can arrange an appointment time.

PORTRAIT ARTISTS WIN AWARDS

Following on from Robyn Kinsella's achievement in winning the 2016 St George Art Award - *Theme* - with her portraits of Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans, Kim Savill's work - *Boots on the Ground* - was recently selected as a finalist for the 2017 Gallipoli Art Prize. Well done Robyn and Kim and thank you for your efforts in promoting Vietnam veterans.

NATIONAL DIGGERS BOWLS CARNIVAL

The National Diggers Bowls Carnival will be held in Dubbo from 12 - 14 September 2017. Bowls will be played in Triples with 5 games of 15 ends per team. Call our Secretary for further details if you are interested.

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 nbbailey@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.