

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans'
Peacekeepers and Peacemakers
Association
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

DINNER MEETING 3rd APRIL

The Bowral Hotel, (opposite Woolworths)
1800 for 1830hrs.

If you are coming - RSVP to Bob or Noelene Ph 4862 3741 ASAP
Bob Mobile 0412 269 217 Noelene Mobile 0412 807 156

LADIES VIP LUNCH

Wednesday, 17th April at 1:00PM
Berkelouw Book Barn – “The Kitchen”
(The old Hume Highway 3km north of Berrima)

Please let Sue Austin Ph 4869 1772 know by the day before if you are coming
so that a table can be booked.

Remember our
Diggers



ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS

ANZAC Day is here again and yes we still have our military forces posted overseas fighting on our behalf, in the interests of our Nation and hopefully peace. It is however the time when we specifically remember our fallen comrades, mates, relatives and all those who have selflessly served Australia.

Each year we rotate between the Highlands Towns so that we can march behind our banner and to ensure that we are well represented. This year we will be marching at Mittagong.

The march will form up at 10:15 at the Visitor Information Centre for a 10:30 step off and march to the Cenotaph in the center of town, for a Commemorative Service at 10:45.

After the service we will adjourn across the road to the Lion Rampant Hotel to have a few drinks before lunch. Lunch will be from the bistro menu and paid for individually.

We encourage members to bring their families along to participate in the service and join us for lunch. We have reserved a room for lunch at the Lion Rampant Hotel, which is very close to the memorial. The meals here are very good and there will be a full compliment of staff on duty.

1 RAR ANZAC EVE DINNER

A Coy 1 RAR are having an ANZAC Reunion Dinner on 24th April, at the Mittagong RSL Club. Email members will have received a prior notice. At this stage we have six attendees but a few more would make a table of 10. The cost is reasonable at \$40.00 per head and the food will be good and an early night should ensue. Give Norm Austin a ring if you are interested.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This went off without a hitch. The Constitution was adopted with a unanimous vote and thanks were extended to Norm Austin for his effort on this project.

The combination of the constitution and incorporation now provides a secure platform on which we can move forward with certainty. A copy of the Constitution is on the draft website at shvva.com

Elections were held and Norm Austin handed the Presidency over to Rick McCarthy. There are new faces on the Committee, which should ensure continued growth and change of the Sub-Branch. To those that stood down - thanks for your input and support. To the new members - get stuck into it.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013/15

The Executive

President	Rick McCarthy	4861 7788	0408 670 812
Vice President	John McDonnell	4868 2919	0409 941 864
Secretary/Treasurer/Public Officer	Sandra Freer	4868 1945	0409 714 359

Committee Members

Social Co-ordinator	Bob Bailey	4862 3741	0412 269 217
Welfare Co-ordinator	Ray McCann	4861 3525	0402 813 753
Schools Visit	Phill Moscott	4872 1727	0419 402 162
Newsletter/Publicity/Webmaster	Norm Austin	4869 1772	0427 854 141

Pensions Co-ordinator	Norm Austin	4869 1772	0427 854 141
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Committee Members	Ross Latta	4872 1883	0409 810 237
	Bruce Bofinger	4861 5715	0407 225 045
	Rod Cashmere	4869 3745	0409 903 013

Assistants (non-voting)

Assistant Welfare Co-ordinator	David Babbage	4868 1627	0407 266 048
Assistant Social Co-ordinator	Noelene Bailey	4862 3741	0412 807 156

DINNER MEETING 6TH MARCH

This was held after the AGM and was a great success with about 30 in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and judging by the many animated conversations a good night was had by all.

FOCUS GROUP

On Monday 25th nine members formed a focus group organized for the Australia Council. The aim of the research is to understand how people in Australia feel about their identity and how identity affects the way different groups relate. We represented the Veteran community. The discussion was both lively and entertained all present. There was much discussion about our National Flag and of course immigration was pounced on. I have been promised feedback from the research team. One of the outcomes was that because the participants generously donated their fee to our cause we banked \$180 for their efforts.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

There is still a few to renew or join - please get in touch with our Secretary, Sandra Freer 4868 1945 to complete the transaction.

SOCIAL SCENE

With the appointment of Bob Bailey and his able assistant Noelene to co-ordinate the social events, we kicked off with a first for us - a Car Rally.

This was held on Friday 21st of March and was a great success. Ten teams took to the highway in a test of driving, navigation and observation skills.



The weather was perfect if a little warm as we travelled roads we used 40 years ago. Down the old Hume Highway to Picton road and on through Broughton Pass, which crosses the Cataract River, finally arriving at the Appin Hotel. All teams arrived safely, had a hearty meal and a few (we had to drive home) drinks. Bob and Noelene did a great job in designing the course and assiduously scrutinized the results. Joint winners: Brian McFarlane and his navigating team - the McCanns; and Norm Austin and his navigator Judy McCarthy. Unfortunately somebody had to come last so commiserations go to Phill and Julia. Fantastic prizes can be seen in the picks. The vote was unanimous - lets do it again!



VVCSA GROUP PROGRAMS

Grandparenting - Bowral - Thursday 2nd May 0930h to 1600h.

This is a one day course that will explore the joys and pitfalls of grandparenting and will provide strategies and suggestions to build upon your grandparenting style.

If you can attend please do so, as this will ensure that we continue to have courses made available in the Highlands.

Beating the Blues - Nowra - Monday 6th May and Tuesday 7th May - 0930h 1600h.

This is a two day course that focus on the nature of depression, and on modifying lifestyle factors and styles to thinking to improve the management of depression.

These are very good courses, available to veterans and partners.

Phone VVCS Canberra 02 6225 4620 or email [VVCSANBREG@dva.gov.au](mailto:VVCSCANBREG@dva.gov.au)

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS VETS WEBSITE

Development is continuing and the site should be up and running for members within the month. At present it is functional and will have all updated information in it after Easter. The site is presently shvva.com but shortly will be changed to shvppa.com to reflect our expanded name. Take some time to have a look at it as feedback would be most appreciated. Thanks Norm Austin - normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au

SCHOOL VISITS

At its request we visited Bowral High School in early March to talk to students studying the Vietnam War. John, Rick and Norm addressed two classes totaling about 60 students. We told them about our personal experiences in relation to conscription, recruit and corps training. We explained how we were sent to the war in South Vietnam, our living conditions and some of our experiences. We also told of our post war experiences and the impact of our war serviced on our subsequent live. We now have a great collection of war memorabilia, thanks to John Stead, we exhibited and answered questions about. Here is John talking to the smaller classes. These talks are both emotional and rewarding. If you would like to join in, contact Phill Moscott.



WISHING YOU ALL A QUIET, HAPPY AND SAFE EASTER