

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans'
Peacekeepers and Peacemakers
Association
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

DINNER MEETING 2nd APRIL
The Bowral Hotel, (opposite Woolworths)
1800 for 1830hrs.

If you are coming - RSVP to Bob or Noelene Ph 4862 3741 **ASAP**

LADIES VIP LUNCH
Wednesday, 16th April at 1:00PM
THE MILK FACTORY
33 Station St., BOWRAL

Please let Julia Billows Ph 4872 1727 know by the day before if you are coming,
to enable table booking.

ARRANGEMENTS



ANZAC Day is here again and most of our military forces have been withdrawn from Afghanistan but of course many still remain posted throughout the world. ANZAC Day provides us with a uniquely Australian opportunity to honour: those that have been killed or injured in the service of our nation; comrades; family members and friends; and those that we have not known. It provides a time to reflect on their sacrifice, and the debt we owe for that sacrifice. Their legacy is a free and proud Australia that pursues the cause of freedom throughout the world.

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 behind our banner at 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. The march will be led by the 1/21 Royal NSW Lancers and will march to the music of the Southern Highlands Concert Band and the Hawkesbury/Nepean Valley Pipe Band.

The ANZAC Day service will commence at **11:00 am**.

After the service we will adjourn to the Moss Vale **Golf Club**, which is about a kilometer away, to have a few drinks before lunch. The Club's Dining area will be available to us and Lunch will be from the bistro menu and paid for individually. The menu offers a wide range of meals at reasonable prices.

We encourage members to bring their families along to watch the march, participate in the service and join us for lunch. The Golf Club is a great place, in a serene setting with vistas over the verdant golf course.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The AGM was well attended and received reports from all office bearers - Draft Minutes are on the Website at http://shvva.com/?page_id=2626 or go to the site SHVVA.com MEMBERS AREA -AGM 2014. These pages are protected and the password is **SITREP**.

The general tone of the reports is that all is well, our membership continues to grow steadily and stands at 58. Our finances are in good order and our functions are well attended. The various activities we undertake are also proceeding smoothly.

Last year we made a submission to Wingecarribee Shire Council seeking approval in principle for the creation of a Post-World War II Memorial Precinct in Settlers' Park, Bowral.

The proposal includes separate memorials commemorating service in Korea, Malaya-Borneo, the Middle East and Peacekeeping operations. Council has agreed in principle to our proposal subject to us providing detailed designs and costs.

As the Committee felt that the view of the general membership should be gauged, Phill Moscott spoke to a slide-show presentation outlining the proposals. Phill, Norm and Ray answered questions.

A show of hands at our Annual General Meeting in March indicated general support for further development of the proposal (11 for and 9 against) but this will need to be considered at our next Committee Meeting in April.

You can see the slideshow presentation in the MEMBERS AREA as detailed above.

DINNER MEETING FEBRUARY

Held at the Lion Rampant, with over 40 attending, this was one of our best-attended dinners. With an alternate drop of food, with plenty of extras most said that the food was excellent. You can see photos in the news section of our website or go directly to them http://shvva.com/?page_id=2647

DINNER MEETING MARCH

This was held after the AGM and was a great success with about 25 in attendance. As usual all seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the food and drinks.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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

VALE EFFIE KERR OAM



Aged 83, Effie passed away on 2nd March in Sydney after a fairly long illness.

Effie will be remembered by our members and the community at large for her tireless efforts to ensure that the Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Walk was established in Settlers Park Bowral. Without those efforts it is possible that the memorial may not have been built. Our Associations' sincere appreciation, and I am sure the appreciation of Vietnam Veterans throughout

Australia, go to Effie for her tremendous contribution. Whilst in good health, Effie proudly attended our Vietnam Veterans' Day Commemorative Services.

David Babbage and Norm Austin attended her funeral in Sydney and offered a floral tribute. Her family was pleased that we attended and that the Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans held Effie in very high regard.

VVCSA GROUP PROGRAMS

Programs near to us are:

[Sleeping Better](#)

[28th May and 4th June](#)

[Jambaroo](#)

Having trouble sleeping? Is this affecting your quality of life and impacting on your relationships? Learn to sleep better by participating in this program!

[Pain Management](#)

[13th and 14th November](#)

[Kangaroo Valley](#)

Suffering from lots of pain - this program will help you manage pain better.

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

Phone VVCS Canberra 02 6225 4620 or email VVCSKANBREG@dva.gov.au

SENIORS HEALTH CARD

If you have qualifying war service and do not get a service pension, age pension etc. you may be eligible if you have a taxable income of less than \$80,000.

If an application is successful there are a number of benefits including :

- *A quarterly payment of a seniors supplement
- *Pharmaceuticals at concession rates
- *A considerable Reduction of the PBS Safety net
- *A considerable reduction in the Medicare Safety Net
- * Bulk Billing
- *Concession fares on The Indian Pacific, The Ghan and the Overland.

Give Norm Austin, our Pensions Office a ring if you are interested Ph 4869 1772

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS VETS WEBSITE

The site is running smoothly and the addition of the **EVENTS CALENDAR** enables members to check on functions up to a year in advance.

In the **BLOG** section you will find interesting articles and video contributions of members. The idea of a Blog (Web Log) is that items are posted by the webmaster in chronological order. There is an option for comment on them: however, to weed out inappropriate comments they are vetted by the webmaster before posting. If you see something that might be of interest please email it to me.

The **NEWS** section - Recent Events - you will find photograph galleries. Let me know if you would like a copy. You will also find copies of all Newsletters - just in case you forget something and want to look them up. This also means that you do not have to save electronic copies.

Some members have slow internet access - but the NBN is on its way!!

Since opening the site up to public visibility activity on the site has increased considerably, to the extent that we may need to consider upsizing.

Committee and AGM minutes are posted in the **MEMBERS** area - to which the password is SITREP (which is all in capitals).

Thanks Norm Austin, Webmaster - normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au

SCHOOL VISITS

This year we have visited Frencham and will visit Bowral High later this month. These visits are very well received. We have a good collection of memorabilia that attracts a great deal of interest. We talk mostly about our personal experience of the Vietnam War and its impact on our lives. Teacher feedback is very positive.

Wider membership participation would be appreciated - please give Phill Moscatt a buzz if you can assist - Ph 4872 1727



WISHING YOU ALL A QUIET AND SAFE

