

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans'
Peacekeepers and Peacemakers
Association

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

ANZAC DAY

The service at Mittagong was well attended on a beautiful day. President Phill led our contingent with Mick Cupitt and John McDonnell carrying the banner.

The Lion Rampant put on an excellent lunch and we were very pleased that mine host/fellow member, Allan Swift and his wife joined us at lunch. Many thanks to Allan for his continued support – we are very grateful. It was good to see Tony Mitchell enjoying a beer after the service. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Tony and Jean at this difficult time.

The photograph shows David Babbage, Terry Lemcke and Ray McCann carrying the flags at the Sutton Forest 2016 Anzac Day Parade. Amazingly, they're all in step. Ray laid a wreath on behalf of the SHVPPAA.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY 6TH JULY - DORMIE HOUSE 1800h for 1830h

This is a warm; wood fired, and central winter location.
The old world atmosphere will add to the festive feeling.
The food is very good. So make it a date.

If you are coming - RSVP to Bob or Noelene by Monday 4th July
Ph 4862 3741

DINNER MEETING 3rd August at The Bowral Club 1800h for 1830h

The Chef made a great effort for our healthy lunch last year.
So we are promised good food in the club's comfortable dining room.
If you are coming - RSVP to Bob or Noelene by Wednesday 29th June
Ph 4862 3741

LADIES VIP The Vale Cafe Moss Vale

12pm Wednesday 20th July

Please let Julia Billows Ph 4872 1727 know by the Monday before if you are coming.

0TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

Under the Chairmanship of President Phill Moscott, the Sub-Committee comprising Norm Austin, Terry Lemcke, Ross Latta and Bruce Bofinger continues working hard to ensure the success of the Commemorations.

VIETNAM "50 Years On" - A DINNER & SHOW

This event promises to be the "best ever". Attached is a "flyer" giving full information. Only two months to go!!!!

Tickets are now on sale from the Mittagong RSL Club. At this stage we have over 100 committed to the dinner. However, we would like you to purchase tickets as soon as possible to ensure that you do not miss out and so that we can gauge our demand before promoting the event to the public.

Tickets can be purchased by phone or in person at the Club. When booking you can purchase a table of 10, or nominate whose table you would like to sit at. We will attempt to ensure that our members and other veterans get prime positions. Why not get a table together?

We have obtained great support to date with grants from DVA, Mittagong RSL Club and Mittagong RSL Sub-Branch

CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE

Service Certificates will be prepared for all veteran members. A presentation ceremony will be held for those attending the dinner. We have decided not to proceed with photographs because their varying quality would make clean presentation difficult. Our artist friends are now working on the design. We will shortly be contacting veteran members to clarify the information to be put on the certificates.

MEMORABILIA

John Steed has volunteered to be the curator for our exhibition at the Mittagong RSL Club and is working with the Sub-Branch on this. If you have some memorabilia that you think would be good to display please give him a ring on Home: 4889 5427, Mobile: 0414 946 694. Thanks John Innes for the fantastic collage of "Little Pattie" photographs.

HAVE YOU COMMITTED TO ATTENDING?

Thanks to all those members who have been in contact with Bruce Bofinger about commitments and potential numbers attending the show. Now is the time to purchase tickets.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2016

Please put it in your diary - 18th August at 3:00 pm at the Vietnam War Memorial, Bowral.

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and will be a very special function.

Bruce Bofinger has rustled up his boss from Vietnam thanks Bruce. So our Special Guest Speaker will be John Hopman, Col Rtd, Representative Colonel Commandant, Special Operations Engineer Regiment.

We are hoping to have a flyover of Navy helicopters to start the ceremony and with an Army guard of honour for the day. The march-on will be led by Highland Pipe Band pipes and drums. We are purchasing "bush hats" for veterans to wear on the day.

DINNER MEETING 1st JUNE BUNNINGS - SAUSAGE SIZZLES



The sizzle on the June long weekend went very well. The weather was sunny and fairly warm bringing lots of handypersons to Bunnings. We sold out of sausages and buns. Including donations of over \$50 we made a little over \$900 on the day - a great winter result. Special thanks go to our happy sizzlers for a job well done. They were Terry Lemcke, Bruce and Judi Bofinger, Graham Moffat, John Mc Donnell, Norm Austin, Lee Bourgeois and very special thanks go to Ian Flanigan a mate of John's who was the master sizzler. The next sizzle is in November.

BRINGING THEM HOME

For many years now the Vietnam Veteran community has been lobbying successive Commonwealth Governments to "bring home" those diggers who were killed in Vietnam and Malaya and buried in cemeteries in Malaysia and Singapore. The campaign culminated when the remains of the last 33 arrived at Richmond RAAF base on 3rd June.



Our President Phill Moscott attended the "welcome home" ceremonies and services. Phill served with D&E Platoon, Headquarters 1st Australian Task force and unfortunately one of its soldiers was killed, on Operation Parkes, the very first operation undertaken by the Task Force.

Arthur Ruduss "Rudi", whilst on operations with the platoon and D Coy 5 RAR, on 12th June 1966 was hit by our own artillery fire which had been called in by 5RAR. Rudi died of his wounds in the Medivac helicopter. He was interred in Tarendeck in Malaysia because it was not government policy to repatriate our dead. Rudi was born in Latvia and his mother didn't know he was in Vietnam. A regular soldier, he was 29 years old.



Rudi left Australia from Richmond at midnight on 14 May 1966, was killed on 12th June 1966 and returned there almost 50 years to the day on 3rd June. After the ceremony at Richmond, Rudi was finally laid to rest in Australian soil on 10th June 2016 at Springvale War Cemetery in Melbourne. 7 RAR provided a guard of honour and more than a handful of his D&E platoon mates were able to pay their respects. RIP Arthur Ruduss "Rudi".

An excellent coverage of the homecoming is at: Tribute to the Vietnam Veterans Finally Returning Home <https://youtu.be/FyJ-ih5kjEs>

Thanks - Terry Lemcke and 2 RAR for this link

Another article from our Welfare Coordinator Ray McCann

Medical Legacies of the Vietnam War

Work has commenced on an independent history that will document and analyse the medical legacies of the Vietnam War.

The volume has been commissioned by the Australian War Memorial Council and will be written by Dr Peter Yule, a research fellow at the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne.

This history will examine the development of various medical issues experienced by Australian veterans, with a particular focus on the health effects of exposure to herbicides, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). During the four-year project, Dr Yule and a team of researchers will undertake interviews with a wide cross-section of veterans of the Vietnam War. Specialist epidemiologist Dr Michael Fett will also review the extensive existing research and medical studies as part of the project.

The focus of the history will be on the health concerns of veterans and Dr Yule believes the best way to find out about these concerns is to talk with the veterans themselves. He emphasises that the voice of the veterans must be heard.

The final manuscript is expected to be completed by the end of 2019 with publication due in 2020.

Thanks Ray

LEGACY WEEK - VOLUNTEERS

As I was going to press I received this email from John Innes. If you can possibly help out please give him a buzz.

I have just been talking to Berrima Legacy's Office Manager, Jean Bewert, who is concerned about having adequate numbers to staff badge selling places. Numbers of Legatees thinning and so Legacy is seeking assistance from veteran community for helpers to sell Legacy badges and other sundry items during Legacy week 2016, 28 August to 3 September.

Would you run a notice in your newsletter requesting volunteer helpers from among the Veteran Community. There is a need for badge sellers during the week Monday, 29th August through to Friday 2 September, in shopping centers in Moss Vale, Bowral, Mittagong and Bundanoon. In addition, I seek the specific assistance of a couple of helpers at Berrima to help me selling badges to weekend day-trippers on Saturday and Sunday on W/E 27-28 and Saturday 3 September. Time for each day is from about 11am to 3pm.

Volunteers please contact John Innes on 4861 5425, or Jean Bewert (Legacy Office) on 4862 4385.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS VIETNAM VETERANS'
PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION INC.

PERSENTS

VIETNAM

"50 Years On"

A COMMEMORATIVE DINNER, CONCERT and DANCE

MITTAGONG RSL CLUB - SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST 2016 -
FEATURING

THE GEOFF HARVEY BAND with JOHNNY SPITZ
&
SPECIAL GUEST SINGER - "LITTLE PATTIE"

IN A SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE
of MUSIC and SONGS from the 60'S and 70's

&

A presentation of Certificates of Appreciation
to Southern Highland's Veterans

&

A viewing of a Veterans Art and Memorabilia Exhibition

&

A three course meal prepared by the Club's award winning chefs
will be served to guests as an alternate drop.

**Tickets cost \$80 per head and can be purchased at the club or by phone: 02 4872 6700
or in person at the Club - Cnr. Hume Highway & Bessemer Street, Mittagong NSW 2575**

The Dinner is part of weeklong commemorations including:
An exhibition of Art and Memorabilia at the Mittagong RSL Club,
and a Vietnam Veterans' Day Service on 18th August
highlighting the 50th Anniversary of The Battle of Long Tan
at the Vietnam War Memorial, in Settlers Park, Bowral.

Why not get a table of 10 together to make the evening even more memorable.

For further information please contact Association President, Phill Moscott on 4872 1727
or Vice President Norm Austin on 4869 1772

