

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

NEXT DINNER MEETINGS

Wednesday 5th October - 6pm

MOSS VALE SERVICES CLUB

Old Hume Highway Moss Vale

The food here has improved considerably and with great company this will be a very pleasant evening.

Wednesday 2nd November - 6pm

LION RAMPANT HOTEL

Mittagong

If you are coming - RSVP to Bob or Noelene Ph 4862 3741
or by email: rnbailey@bigpond.com
by the Monday before.

LADIES VIP LUNCH

Thursday 19TH October

THE MILL - Bowral

If you are coming - please contact Sandra Freer 4868 1945
by the Tuesday before.

BUNNINGS BBQ



The next Bunnings fundraiser will be on **Sunday 6th November**.
Terry Lemcke Ph 0409 607 733 is organizing the event. As usual
we will need plenty of volunteers to spend a few hours cooking and
interacting with the public. It really is not hard work, so please give
Terry a ring now if you can help out on the day.

ALSO FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 25th November

Vietnam Veterans Lunch - Mittagong RSL

Wednesday 7th December Dinner - Bowral Bowling Club

Wednesday 10th December CHRISTMAS PARTY

Luncheon BBQ at the Bofingers

Full details to follow in November

AUGUST DINNER

We had good numbers at Porterhouse Bistro. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates of appreciation to some of the vets who could not make the Commemorative Dinner. For some happy snaps go to our website www.shvva.com and look under NEWS - RECENT EVENTS.

"VIETNAM - 50 Years On" COMMEMORATIONS

ART AND MEMORABILIA EXHIBITION

Our week of commemorations commenced with the Official Opening of the exhibition at the Mittagong RSL Club. There was a good crowd of about 100 who enjoyed complimentary drinks and nibbles. The art exhibition initiated some lively discussion and was very well received and appreciated. Most of the "sitters" were present and proudly shared their portraits with family and friends. Most people commented on the depth of feeling that was captured by them. Artists Robyn and Kim were officially thanked and each presented with a large bunch of flowers.



The memorabilia evoked memories of Vietnam for the veterans who took time to explain and contextualise the objects on display. Sue Austin's compilation of Vietnam videos, particular that of Little Pattie explaining her involvement with the Battle of Long Tan, attracted much interest - well done Sue. Thanks also go to John Stead for organising the exhibition and Steve Spence and Ray Kuschert for their assistance.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

This year we commemorated "VIETNAM 50 Years On" and the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Highlands turned on a beautiful spring day for our commemorations and it was heartening to see a good crowd.

Prior to the service the RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir entertained the assembly with some fine singing.



The commemorations commenced with the mounting of the catafalque party and rousing parade of Veterans proudly marching along the Cherry Tree Walk to the music of the Highlands Pipes and Drums. The parade was led by a Guard of Honour from the Army Parachute School, the Pipes and Drums with the Veterans following behind our banner. Vietnam Veterans wore their "VIETNAM 50 Years On" giggle hats with style.

After the gathering assembled the RAN provided a flyover of helicopters from the RAN's 723 Squadron, with the sounds of Vietnam echoing in the hearts of the Veterans.

Our President, Phill Moscatt opened the Memorial Service. Terry Lemcke addressed the centenary of World War 1, particularly the Battle of Fromelles. Norm Austin then spoke about the Battle of Long Tan and some of its legacies. Surprisingly at this stage a Caribou aircraft from HARS flew over the ceremony.

Our Guest Speaker was Colonel Retired John Hopman, Representative Colonel Commandant, Special Operations Engineers Regiment of the Australian Army. John, a Vietnam Veteran, spoke about the war in Vietnam and the Battle Of Long Tan. He told us about the 80,000 Australian servicemen and servicewomen who have been deployed overseas in peacemaking and peacekeeping operations and other activities since the Vietnam War and who continue to serve in these challenging times.

Our School Speakers this year were Georgiana Kelleher and Annabel White representing Frensham. They confidently spoke about the two parallel journeys since the war in Vietnam: that of the Australian public and that of the Vietnam Veterans. On the one hand, the increasing recognition by the Australian public of the service and sacrifices made by Vietnam Veterans and their loved ones during the war and on the other hand, the ongoing struggle of Veterans and their loved ones to deal with the consequences of the war.

The lilt of bagpipes made the wreath laying ceremony a particularly moving occasion as did Duncan Reay's rendition of the Last Post.

The service concluded with the Choir surprising us by singing the second verse of our National Anthem.

Thanks yet again to Mittagong RSL Club for providing excellent food for our get together after the service.

We would like thank all those who contributed to and participated in our Memorial Service

To Watch a 52 minute video of the full Service and a 5 minute slide show of the Service go to our website www.shvva.com - NEWS

COMMEMORATIVE DINNER

WOW - what a fantastic night.

Veterans and guests assembled for pre-dinner drinks and a viewing of the art and memorabilia exhibition. They were entertained by the RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir and seemed to be reluctant to move into the auditorium. However in a short time the 190 people were seated and as food service began our Master of Ceremonies Johnny Spitz introduced President Phill Moscatt who welcomed all to our "VIETNAM 50 Years On" Commemorative Dinner.

The entrée and main courses were absolutely first class with excellent food and drinks service.

After the main course Little Pattie was introduced to present framed Certificates of Appreciation to our members. The certificates were designed and printed by artist, Robyn Kinsela and framed by Norm. They showed fading and somewhat ghostly images of the Long Tan Cross and diggers preparing to board an Iroquois helicopter - iconic images of the Vietnam War. On this the service record of each veteran was inscribed. They are very impressive. I have the remaining certificates and will get in touch with those members in November (after a month's holiday).



Little Pattie was very warmhearted, sincere and generous in her support. She did a great job of making the veterans feel proud of their service. I know that I was very proud to receive such an acknowledgement - particularly from her as I saw the concert on the morning of 18th August 1966. We also presented a certificate to her and acknowledged her service in Vietnam and 50 subsequent years of supporting we veterans. Thanks Little Pattie.

Then Jeoff Harvey stuck up his band and Little Pattie lit up the stage and the audience with a fantastic show that had everyone rocking. The show seemed to be over in minutes but lasted for about 90. No doubt it was the show she was to have done in Vietnam but unfortunately was prevented from doing so. It was just fantastic. After a break the band played on till late. Everyone was happy and smiling. "Oh What a Night"

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Mittagong RSL Club, its management and staff for their huge contribution for making the night such a success and President Phill will present a Certificate of Appreciation to them. Our sponsors were acknowledged on the Dinner Menu and we would also like to thank Jeoff Harvey and his wife Katrina, Johnny Spitz, the Band and the sound technicians.

The week was fully self-funded owing to the generous support of our sponsors, good ticket sales, and the fundraising abilities of Bruce and Terry.

Finally the Organising Sub-Committee: Phill Moscatt - Chairman, Norm Austin, Bruce Bofinger, Ross Latta and Terry Lemcke did a great job to make the whole week of commemorations an outstanding success. "Well done those men".

A disk with professional photos of the event is available for \$20 - contact Phill 4872 1727. I will get the photos up on the website in November.

VIETNAM VETERANS LUNCH

Would you believe that we held our very first Vietnam Veterans lunch on Friday 23rd September with 15 members attending at relatively short notice. It went so well that we will be having another on Friday 25th November.

Norm Austin, Editor