



VIETNAM VETERANS 50 YEARS ON

On Saturday 18th August, the Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans paid respect to their fallen and those that served their Nation during the war in South Vietnam. A war in which Australia became involved 50 years ago.

The Vietnam Veterans' Day Commemorative Service was well attended by local ex service men and women, their partners, dignitaries, schools, the public and families and friends.

Whilst the weather was dry and sunny the westerly gale was bitterly cold; however, this did little to dampen the spirit of the Service.

Lt David Sabben, one of the surviving platoon commanders at the Battle of Long Tan addressed the gathering. He emphasised that although his unit D Company 6RAR fought gallantly, it could not have prevailed without substantial support from others. In particular the artillery, our armoured personnel carriers, the A Company that came to its aid, and the Air Force that dropped much needed ammunition. However, either directly or indirectly everyone in the Task Force and the units that supported it in Vietnam and in Australia played a role. It was a team effort of which all Australians should be proud. David said that he regularly visits Vietnam and has been asked by the Vietnamese, particularly those that we fought against, to say that they have a great admiration for all Australians, particularly those that fought against them, not just for what we did but how we did it.



James Austin, School Captain of Moss Vale High School represented a youthful view. He acknowledged courage, determination and commitment of those who served in South Vietnam. He pointed out that this was Australia's longest war. He highlighted the fact that it took many years for service personnel to receive the public recognition that had been experienced immediately after other wars. He saw the Vietnam War Memorial as providing a link to the ANZAC military tradition.



Chevalier College Cadet Unit, again did a sterling job mounting a guard of honour on the Memorial, particularly the catafalque party which did not flinch in the bitterly cold winds.

As usual many wreaths and floral tributes were laid on the memorial.

Tea and bickies after the ceremony warmed us up, as did the "toddy" provided by Mittagong RSL. The reception at the Club was very enjoyable and most people met and had a few words with David Sabben. Our sincere thanks go to the Club that provided a room and delicious, hot finger food.

The Executive would like to thank all those that participated and particularly those who helped make the function a real success.

VIDEO OF THE SERVICE

Sue Austin has made a half hour High Density DVD of the complete service. It includes the whole of David Sabben's address and a "slide show" at the end. It is a great memento of the occasion. With a view to offsetting costs of the service we are selling these attractive items for \$5.00 each. To order your copy give Norm or Sue a buzz on 48691772 or email normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au



MORE PHOTOGRAPHS

The Southern Highlands News has published an article and pictures of the Commemorative Service. To go to it copy the address below and past it into your web browser:

<http://www.southernhighlandnews.com.au/story/236270/vietnam-veterans-day/?cs=266>

and press "Enter" .

To cycle through the pictures use the arrow at the side of the pictures.

