

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope you all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year. This year your Association will continue to provide camaraderie, the opportunity to cement old friendships and make new friends and opportunities to support veterans locally and nationally through the NSW Branch and the Federation.

This year should see the completion of the Incorporation process, with SHVPPA registration and adoption of a constitution. It is also an election year, which provides an opportunity for some members to increase their involvement in running of the Sub-Branch whilst giving others the opportunity to be a bit less involved.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

This was a very good function with 50 in attendance at the Mittagong RSL Club. The food was plentiful and delicious and there was lots of noisy reveling. Norm forgot his camera so there are no paparazzi pics. It was a great night that was very much enjoyed by all. Thanks again to Sandra for organizing the function.

DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 6th February
LION RAMPANT HOTEL - MITTAGONG

6:00pm for 6:30pm

If you are coming - RSVP to Sandra Ph 48681945 by 5:00pm on the Monday before.

This is a nice, quiet venue with good food. Lets start the New Year with a good turn out.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

These were due by 31st December, so please dig out your forms, fill them out and post them to: SHVPPA PO Box 900 MOSS VALE NSW 2577.

Prompt payment not only facilitates our administration but also provides much needed cash flow for Head Office. Lost your form? Then contact Sandra or Norm for a replacement.



AUSTRALIA DAY

The GREAT AUSSIE BBQ is on again at the home of Norm and Sue Austin.

Where: 6 Church Road, MOSS VALE.
When: From mid-day for lunch about 1:00
Who: You, your family and friends.
What to eat: **BYO - BBQ MEAT AND DRINKS**
(ice and Eskies will be provided)
What to wear: Fancy Dress - Aussie theme
Why: To celebrate Australia and what it means to us!
How: Eating, Talking, Laughing, and Playing



Come in Fancy Dress with an Aussie theme: a famous or infamous Australian, sportsman, politician, gold digger, bushie, country gentry, stockman or jillaroo. Think up your own idea!!!! BUT -You must wear an Aussie Hat and don't forget The Slip Slop Slap (the next sensational Aussie TV Drama).



We will again have hilarious field games after lunch!! Thong throwing, wet balloon catching, and skittles were hits last year. Maybe some back-yard cricket this year!!!!

In the event of inclement weather there is plenty of under-cover space and maybe some coin tossing!!!

If you can't make it for the BBQ - drop in for a drink and a laugh.

We would like some volunteers to bring salads and deserts - so if you would like to help let Norm or Sue know when you RSVP and we will compile a list.

RSVP to Norm or Sue - phone 48691772

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE - CONSTITUTION

I would like to say a few words as President.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 6th March at Moss Vale RSL Club and I would like to encourage members to stand for the Committee.

Over the past 10 years as an organisation we have settled down, and a core group of inaugural members has managed the Sub-Branch. However, we have had some difficulty in getting other members involved. I think we do a good job but that doesn't mean that others couldn't do a better one.

What does the Committee do?

The biggest job is that of Secretary Treasurer which also takes on the responsibility of Public Officer and social organiser. I would like this job to be made a bit easier by the appointment of a separate Social Secretary. The President and Vice President provide leadership and others undertake various portfolios. Being on the Committee only requires a commitment to attend about 6 meetings per annum.

Vietnam Veterans Day is the biggest annual function we have. This is usually managed by a Sub-Committee which has extensive check lists and the necessary equipment - so it's not a big deal.

This year we will adopt a Constitution and Incorporate - protecting members and office bearers from personal liability - in the unlikely event that we are sued.

In relation to communication with membership, last year we moved to emailing newsletters (saving time and money) and this year I hope that we can establish a website - SHVVPPA.com.

Pensions work is diminishing and is now handled by Head Office with Sub-Branch liaison. Welfare work is intermittent and on an as needs basis. School Visits, of which we have 3 or 4 a year, are well received and running effectively.

Our other regular activities continue with little input from the Committee.

Some years ago, to avoid Monthly Meetings being burdened with administrative and organisational issues, we decided that the Committee should be responsible for management of the Sub-Branch and that business would not be conducted at member's meetings. This has worked very well.

So now the main function of office bearers is to ensure democratic input to the management of our Sub-Branch.

I would therefore like to encourage you all to think seriously about putting your hand up for office in this election year. If you are interested please give me a buzz - 4869177

The request for registration of our name, and the Draft Constitution, have been returned to the Department of Fair Trading.

At this year's Annual General Meeting, on the 6th of March, a special resolution will be put to adopt the Constitution. A Special Resolution requires a support by at least three quarters of members present. This should not be contentious as Draft was approved at the last General Meeting. No substantive changes have been made to the Draft and it is unlikely that the

Department of Fair Trading will require any further changes.

However; there are a quite a number of members that have not seen or read the Draft. Rather than send a copy the 28 page document to every member, it would be best if any member requiring a copy contact me so that I can make it available in soft (emailed) or printed versions. I will also be available to answer any questions or concerns prior to the meeting. If you are interested do this now so that there is time to sort out any concerns prior to March. Norm Austin, President - Ph 48691772 or email normanbaustin@yahoo.com.au

LONG TAN CROSS - TRIP TO AWM

On Friday 1st February we plan to take a "boys" bus trip to the Australian War Memorial to see the Long Tan Cross.

The Cross, which is usually kept in a museum in Vietnam, is on display until April this year. During its second tour 6 RAR made, erected and dedicated, the cross on the actual site where its 11 Platoon was beleaguered during the Battle of Long Tan on 18th August 1966. Rick McCarthy was present at the dedication. Since then the cross has become an icon of Australia's war in South Vietnam.

We propose to leave the Highlands by 0800h to arrive at the AWM about 1000h, where we will spend about two and a half hours. Subject to numbers, we may be able to get a guided highlights tour. We will then have lunch in the ACT and then come home in the afternoon via some well-known pit-stops.

We will use the Moss Vale Ruby League Club's bus **but** need from 10 to 20 starters to get this off the ground. So please phone or email Norm if you are interested. (Contact details are above.)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WALKING GROUP – every Tuesday at 8.30 a.m. - all welcome at the Cherry Tree Walk, Bowral (meeting at The Vietnam War Memorial).
Tel: Phill - 4872 1727.

EXERCISE CLASSES – at Annesley Lifestyle Centre, Bowral.
Tuesday and Thursday – aqua at 10.00 a.m.
Tel: Belinda at Annesley – 4861 4366.

BILLIARDS NIGHT - 3rd Wednesday of each month –
Men's billiard night at Tony Mitchell's house – 7.00 p.m. start.
Tel: Tony – 4869 3639.

DINNER MEETINGS – Monthly - usually 1st Wednesday.
Details in newsletter. Tel: Sandra - 4868 1945.

LADIES 'VIP GOURMET CLUB' – 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Ladies meet for lunch at different local cafes & restaurants. Details in newsletter.
Tel: Sandra – 4868 1945.