

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com CFN 23847



AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEERS FOR SHVPPA COMMITTEE 2019 - 2020

There has been a good response to the call for volunteers to serve on a new Committee for the 2019/2020 term of office. Eight members, including four present Committee members, have indicated that they are prepared to nominate for the Committee at the 2019 Annual General Meeting. This is most heartening and the Committee thanks those volunteers for their generosity of spirit and commitment. Consequently, the Committee has agreed to cancel the proposed Special General Meeting, scheduled for September, that would have looked at winding up the Association.

The Committee still welcomes further expressions of interest because personal circumstances can change quickly and unpredictably. Please talk to Committee member, Phill Moscatt, if you are interested in putting your hand up for 2019/2020 and have not yet volunteered.

NEXT MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 1st August 2018

Bowral Bowling Club

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

Please RSVP to **Phill Moscatt** on 4872 1727 or 0420 864 133 or 29bilmos@gmail.com

NEXT LADIES LUNCH

Wednesday 15th August 2018 @ 12:30 pm

Il Pranzo Moss Vale

If you are coming please RSVP to Judi Bofinger phone 4872 3175 or text 0408 101 575 by the Monday before

SHVPPA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 18 September 2018. Members are encouraged to speak to a Committee member before then to discuss any issues of concern.

REPORT ON JULY MONTHLY DINNER

Eighteen members and partners enjoyed a hearty dinner at the Mittagong RSL Club on 4 July.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2017

VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL – SETTLERS PARK – BOWRAL

10:45 am for 11:00 am start

Please note that this year's Vietnam Veterans' Day Service will commence at 11:00 am and **not** at the historic time of 3:30 pm.

Veterans are asked to assemble by 10:45 am on the Cherry Tree Walk near the 8 RAR memorial. March-on will commence at 10:55 am. Our principal speaker will be John Cummins, President Bowral RSL, who served at the Battle of Coral – Balmoral with 1 RAR in Vietnam in 1968. Schools in the Southern Highlands will be participating as will local dignitaries, families and friends. Moss Vale High School will provide a student speaker.

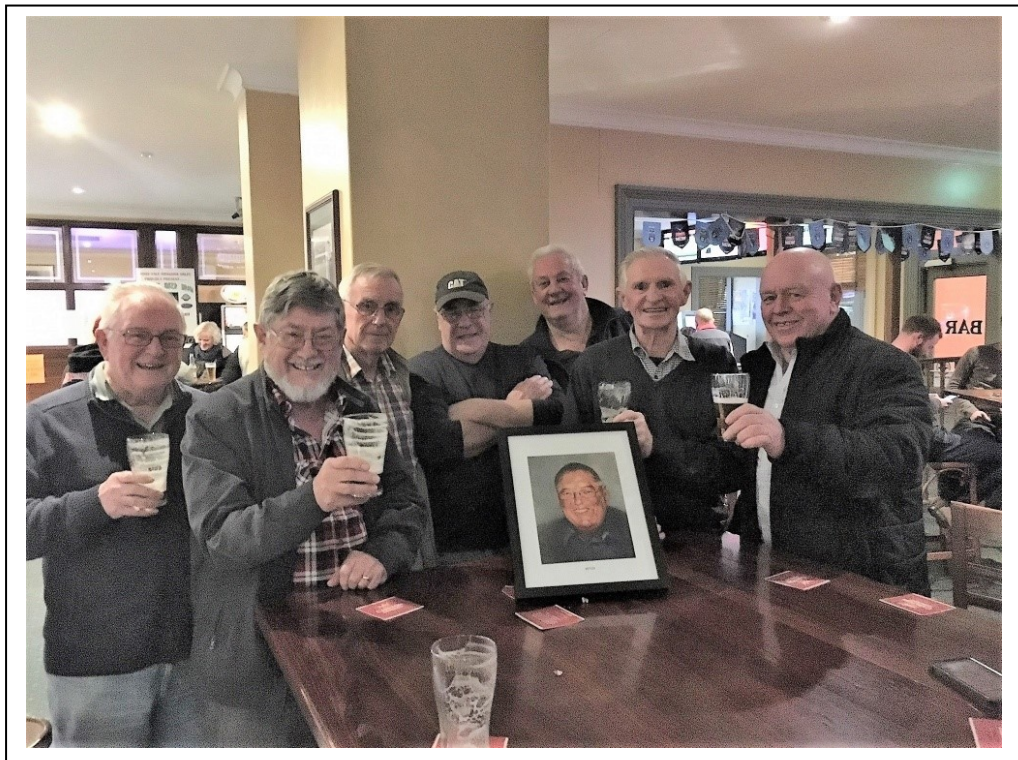
Those proposing to lay wreaths should report to the Wreath Marshall (John McDonnell) prior to commencement of the service.

Afterwards members, guests and dignitaries are invited to Mittagong RSL Club's Springs Room for drinks and finger food from 12:30 pm. Vietnam Veterans will be provided with two drink vouchers.

If you are able to help with setting up, please come to the Memorial at 8:00 am on Saturday. This should allow sufficient time for the setting up team to do their work and go home to change in time for assembly at 10:45 am.

ANNIVERSARY DRINKS WITH TONY MITCHELL

16th July 2018 marked the 2nd anniversary of the passing of our erstwhile and greatly respected member, Tony Mitchell. A few of his veteran mates gathered recently to remember Tony and have a drink with him at his favorite watering hole at Moss Vale. Thanks to Jean Mitchell for permission to use this photo.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CARIBOU?

Many Vietnam Veterans will remember Wallaby Airlines' Caribou DHC-4 aircraft as they plied their trade in and out of Luscombe Field at Nui Dat. The RAAF operated 29 Caribou aircraft from 1964 until they were withdrawn from service in 2009. They were a legend over their long life span, particularly as a result of their service in SVN and PNG. But did you know that the ADF went without this battlefield mobility capability for a decade?

The RAAF has recently taken delivery of ten C-27J Spartan battlefield airlifters to replace the capability previously delivered by the Caribou. The new aircraft will operate from RAAF Base Amberley once permanent facilities are completed in 2019.

The C-27J Spartan will bridge the gap between Army helicopters, such as the CH-47F Chinook, and larger RAAF aircraft, such as the C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globemaster III.

Some Spartan statistics:

- Weight 30,000 kg
- Wingspan 28.7 m
- Range 1700 km at max weight
- Ceiling 30,000 feet
- Max Speed 670 km/h
- Load 31 pax or 21 stretchers or 5 t cargo



CHANGES TO DVA PROCESS FOR ALLIED HEALTH REFERRALS

If you are receiving treatment from an allied health professional (eg. exercise physiologist, podiatrist, physiotherapist, chiropractor, etc), **please read** this article. Note that the changes don't come into effect until 1 July 2019.

The way that GPs refer DVA cardholders to allied health professionals is set to change from July 2019 following adjustments foreshadowed in the May 2018–19 Budget.

Under **current DVA arrangements**, a GP may refer a client to allied health services for up to a year at DVA's expense (except for dental and optical, for which no referral is required). For chronic conditions, the GP can make an ongoing referral.

Under the **new arrangements**, which will be in place from **1 July 2019**, GPs will only be able to make a referral to allied health services at DVA's expense for up to 12 sessions **or** one year, whichever comes sooner. This new arrangement will also apply to those clients with a chronic condition. Dental and optical services will still not need a GP referral.

The new arrangements will be called the 'treatment cycle'. The treatment cycle is designed to improve quality of care for DVA cardholders.

At the end of the treatment cycle, the allied health provider will report back to the GP who will assess whether further treatment is required. If it is needed, the GP may refer the client for a further treatment cycle at DVA's expense of up to 12 sessions, or may refer them to another provider if that better suits the patient's needs, or may consider another type of treatment.

The treatment cycle will not impose any hard 'cap' or limit on the number of clinically required services. DVA clients will receive as many services as determined to be clinically necessary by their GP.

DVA clients attend their GP on average 12 times per year. Seeking a referral for allied health services can be done as part of any GP visit.

DVA will consult with allied health providers, medical associations and ex-service organisations on the treatment cycle changes in the lead-up to their implementation, and evaluate their impact during the first year.

The referral changes will allow GPs to ensure that veterans are receiving the best possible care. This is to make sure that veterans are benefiting from their treatment, and to examine whether there may be better treatment options available.

Subject to the success of the new treatment cycle, from February 2021, DVA plans to update key parts of the allied health schedules to help meet future health needs.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WALKING GROUP. Every Tuesday at 8.00 am meeting at the Vietnam War Memorial, Bowral.

AQUA-VETS. Aqua aerobics at Annesley Lifestyle Centre, Bowral. Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 10:15 am. Tel: Belinda 0429 149 847 or Laura on 0466 905 935.

DINNER MEETINGS. Monthly 1st Wednesday. See Monthly Newsletter for details.

LADIES 'VIP GOURMET CLUB'. 3rd Wednesday of the month except January. Details in newsletter. Contact Judi Bofinger Ph 4872 3175 or mobile 0408 101 575.

Ray McCann
Editor/Welfare Advocate

31 July 2019