

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com CFN 23847



MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The 2018 Annual General Meeting will be conducted on Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 5:00 pm at Mittagong RSL Club. Please mark your diary and consider attending. This year is a non-voting year for election of office bearers but please note item 2 below.

Notice has been given of three special agenda items:

1. Confirmation of Bob Bailey, Acting Vice President, as Vice President
2. Subject to AGM confirmation of the Vice President position, call for nominations to fill a casual vacancy for an Ordinary Committee Member.
3. General Business – Donations

Following the formal part of the meeting, the President wishes to gauge members' views on the future of the Association after 2018.

Dinner will follow in the Springs Room at the RSL Club.

NEXT MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 7th March 2018

Mittagong RSL Club Springs Room

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

No need to book in with Bob or Noelene for this particular dinner.

NEXT LADIES LUNCH

Wednesday 21st March 2018 @ 12:30 pm

Rose's Café Mittagong

If you are coming please RSVP to Judi Bofinger phone 4872 3175 or text 0408 101 575 by the Monday before. Last month's lunch at the Grand Bistro was well attended and feedback has been positive.

REPORT ON FEBRUARY MONTHLY DINNER

Last month's dinner at the Porterhouse Moss Vale was well attended by 36 members and guests. The food and service were of the high standard that we have come to expect from the Porterhouse. Some happy snaps are on the page overleaf.



SOCIAL CALENDAR 2018

Please refer to the February 2018 Newsletter for the full year's schedule of Monthly Dinners and Ladies' Luncheons. Reminders will be published in Monthly Newsletters.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANZAC DAY 2018

The previous Committee decided that, rather than rotating between towns, we would only march at Mittagong because Mittagong offers better organisation, more space, good post-march lunch options and the opportunity to build a closer relationship with the Mittagong RSL Sub Branch which already provides us with useful administrative support. This issue was raised at the 2017 AGM without dissent. The current Committee is continuing this policy.

We will march behind our own banner. Please meet at 10:00 am in the Information Centre car park to allow ample time to "have a chat" and form up at 10:15 am. Veterans will step off at about 10:20 am, arriving at the Cenotaph for a 10:30 am start to the service.

After the service, members, family and friends are invited to adjourn to the Springs Room at the Mittagong RSL Club to have a few drinks before lunch which will be from the bistro menu and paid for individually. Veterans will be issued with two drink vouchers each to the value of \$7. If you are a Club member, show your Club Membership Card to gain better value.

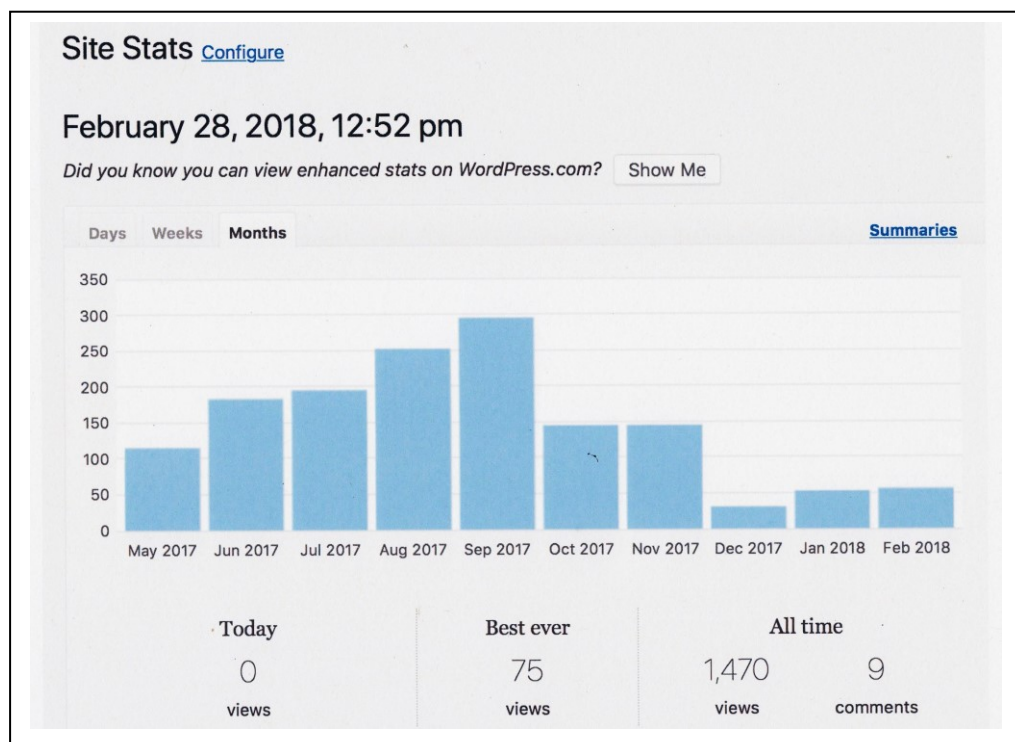
BUNNINGS BBQs 2018

The Committee has decided not to run BBQs at Bunnings this year but the option always exists to conduct a BBQ in the latter half of this year once the future longevity of our Association becomes clearer.

WEBSITE

Our website address is www.shvva.com You can access photographs, information on upcoming events and details of our objectives. The members' area is password protected. Please ring Norm or me if you don't have the password or you are having difficulty accessing the site. Please use the site – the more we use it, the higher profile it will get on Google.

Norm has produced statistics on number of hits on our website. Note the peak number of hits (a demonstration of interest) around Vietnam Veterans' Day:



HEALTH AND RECREATION

Some of our members have now hit 80 and many others are well into their 70's; so it is important for all of us to look after our physical and mental health. It is pleasing to note the renewed interest in our social activities, Aqua Vets, the Walking Group and Exercise Physiology at OnTrac. The objective is to live better, not necessarily longer. This will be the theme for our 2018 Newsletters.

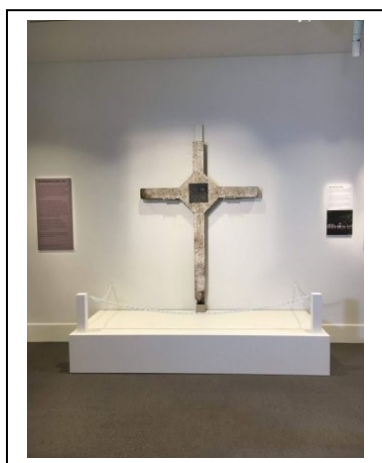
RETURN OF THE LONG TAN CROSS

The Cross of Long Tan has finally been returned to Australian, after standing at the site of the bloody battle in Vietnam for almost 50 years. The cross is now installed in the Australian War Memorial Canberra in the Reg Saunders' gallery.

The Battle of Long Tan could have been an Australian military disaster, but is instead remembered as a decisive victory. The cross's return comes after Vietnamese authorities cancelled official commemorations at the site of the battle on its 50th anniversary in 2016.

Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, said the Vietnamese Government had recognised the emotional significance of the cross to Australians. "It's a symbol of service, of suffering and remembering with love and emotion, the men who fought and suffered and the families who supported them," he said. "In the end, the cross, this place, it's not about war; it's about love and friendship."

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the return of the cross was a "great act of generosity" by the Vietnamese Government. "It is remarkable that older men now, the generations of fighters on both sides, bare no grudges against each other," he said. "They fought and they died and they served and now they are friends." He said the agreement to return the cross promised to carry the friendship of the two nations forward.



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 Newsletter. Tel: Bob or Noelene Ph 4862 3741 or email rnbailey@bigpond.com (note the r and the n are separate letters ie not m)

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

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1 March 2018