

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com CFN 23847



MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Following the first Committee meeting the office bearers are now:

Elected Committee Members:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| ▪ President | Phil Moscott |
| ▪ Vice President | Bruce Bofinger |
| ▪ Secretary/Treasurer | Norm Austin |
| ▪ Social Co-ordinator | Ian Humby |
| ▪ Publicity Officer | Norm Austin |
| ▪ Committee Member | Tony Blake |
| ▪ Committee Member | John Stead |

Appointed Officers:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| ▪ Public Officer | Norm Austin |
| ▪ Auditor | Ross Cowley |

Non Committee Appointment:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| ▪ Welfare Support Officer: | David Babbage |
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Should anybody have questions or concerns about pensions, please contact one of the Committee in the first instance.

NEXT MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 5th June 2019

Lion Rampant Hotel, Mittagong

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

Please RSVP for this dinner to **Ian Humby** on 0402 415 056 or ianhumby@bigpond.com by 12:00 noon on Monday 3rd June 2019.

DRINKS at MOSS VALE HOTEL

Friday 7th June from 4:00pm

MEN'S LUNCH

Friday 28th June 2019

Mittagong RSL Club - 12:00 Springs Room

DINNER MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday 7th August 2019

Bowral Bowling Club

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

Please RSVP for this dinner to **Ian Humby** on 0402 415 056 or ianhumby@bigpond.com by 12:00 noon on Monday 3rd June 2019.

DANGER CLOSE – The Battle of Long Tan

President Phil is talking with a local facilitator about a premier at Empire Cinema, including drinks etc., for the public with Vietnam Veterans as honored guests. Incidentally I was lucky enough to read the script and believe that movie will be a faithful representation of the Battle and those that participated in it – but remember that it is a movie not a documentary.

Make it a date: August 8.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MOVIE

Late afternoon August 18, 1966 South Vietnam – for three and a half hours, in the pouring rain, amid the mud and shattered trees of a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Major Harry Smith and his dispersed company of 108 young and mostly inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers are fighting for their lives, holding off an overwhelming enemy force of 2,500 battle hardened Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. With their ammunition running out, their casualties mounting and the enemy massing for a final assault, each man begins to search for the strength to triumph over an uncertain future with honour, decency and courage. The Battle of Long Tan is one of the most savage and decisive engagements in Australian military history, earning both the United States and South Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry along with many individual awards. 18 Australians and more than 500 enemy were killed.

DANGER CLOSE is a nail biting and dramatic exploration of war illustrating heroism, tragedy and the sacrifice of battle. It will take its place alongside war classics such as *BLACKHAWK DOWN*, *SAVING PRIVATE RYAN*, *GALLIPOLI*, *BREAKER MORANT* & *ZULU*.

The movie was made by Red Dune Films and website has a trailer and other information.

<https://www.dangerclosemovie.com>

Have a look – you will be impressed.

Thanks for the members that referred the information to me. Further information will be published as it comes to hand.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2019

This years Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 18 August 2019 at 11:00 am at the Bowral Vietnam Veterans' War Memorial in Settlers' Park. Make sure you put it in your diary. Afterwards: veterans, family, friends and the public are invited to join us at a function hosted by Mittagong RSL Cub in the Springs Room.

ANZAC DAY 2019

About 30 members marched behind our banner at Mittagong and attended the service, which was well run by the Mittagong RSL Sub-branch. Afterwards drinks and lunch were at the RSL Club's Springs Room where about 50, including family and friends enjoyed the camaraderie and an opportunity to support their veterans.



John Stead and Family enjoyed lunch.

SCHOOL VISIT - FRENSHAM SCHOOL

Phil Moscatt, Ian Humby and Norm Austin visited the school this week to talk about their Vietnam War experiences with about 60 year 10 students. The veterans made a brief presentation about their life prior to, during and after Vietnam. The students then asked varied and penetrating questions about the war: ranging through the personal, politics, the Vietnamese people, conscription and agent-orange. The students were very engaged, thoughtful and at times provocative.

Should any members want to become involved in this very worthwhile project they would be most welcome - please contact Phil – details below.

BOOK PROJECT

We are working with local schools and the Historical Society on background information and trying to get a handle on just how the content will work. A new Sub-committee had been formed so if you have any contributions, suggestions or comments please get in touch the Chair, Phil Moscatt – 48 72 1727 or 0420 864 133 and have a chat.

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 for RSVP details.

Norm Austin
Publicity Officer
0427 854 141