

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com CFN 23847



MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 2nd OCTOBER

Scottish Arms, East Bowral

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

Please note that this is a different venue to that previously notified and that the Trivia Night is
now not held.

The Following Dinner Meeting

Wednesday 6th November at the Lion Rampant Hotel Mittagong

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2019

On Sunday 18th August, in Settlers Park Bowral, more than 100 local residents and veterans attended the Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans' annual Commemorative Service.

The service marked the 53rd anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966 and gave members of the public an opportunity to acknowledge those who served and those who lost their lives in South Vietnam.

Nathaniel Smith MP, Wendy Tuckerman MP, Cllr Duncan Gair and Cllr Graham McLaughlin laid wreaths along with local ex-Service organisations, Legacy and secondary colleges. Cr Ian Scandrett was also in attendance. Veterans were heartened by this high level of support by the community.

Bowral High School provided the guest speaker and student speakers while Chevalier College provided the bugler. The 4th/3rd Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment, an Army Reserve unit from southwest Sydney, mounted an impressive catafalque

party. Veterans marched down the Cherry Tree Walk to the familiar sounds of Pipe Major Chris Tabram's bagpipes.

SHVVPA President Phill Moscatt, a former National Service Infantry soldier, thanked those present and expressed his appreciation for the outstanding support provided by the Wingecaribbee Shire Council, Bowral High School, the Mittagong RSL Club and Chevalier College.

To view this article and see a video slideshow of the Service go directly to this article via this link: http://shvva.com/?page_id=4337. Alternatively go to our website www.SHVVA.com then NEWS then RECENT EVENTS

DANGER CLOSE – The Battle of Long Tan

The Premier showing on 8th of August at the Empire Cinema, Bowral was a great success. The movie is a very graphic and fairly accurate account of the Battle of Long Tan. Over 170 people filled the theatre that has a capacity of 200.

The movie was well received by both veterans and the public alike and of course it raised many issues for discussion and debate. Afterwards quite a number of people adjourned to the Mittagong RSL Club for drinks and lively discussion.

Proceeds from the event will go towards the Book Project.

If you missed the movie it will shortly be available in October from music stores (Sanity Mittagong) or ebay.

Special thanks go to: the movie promoters; Empire Cinema management; Mittagong RSL Club which provided "ration packs" and President Phill Moscatt for his fantastic organization of the event.

DVA PAYMENTS FOR EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY

New general practitioner (GP) arrangements are being introduced and commence on 1st October 2019. Under the new arrangements, GP's may make a referral for allied health services for up to 12 sessions or a year, whichever comes sooner (also called the treatment cycle).

For exercise physiology and physiotherapy allied health services, DVA clients who receive Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) and Special Rate pensions are exempted from the treatment cycle requirements. In other words these pensioners have no restrictions; however it is still up to GP's to determine what treatments are appropriate. For example a referral to an Exercise Physiologist would enable you to attend our Aqua Aerobics at Annesley free of cost to you.

SEPTEMBER DINNER

Held at the Porterhouse Bistro in Moss Vale Hotel the dinner saw 15 people enjoy very good food and long conversations in its relaxed atmosphere. Here are a few happy snaps to mark the occasion.



TRANSPORT CONCESSION ENTITLEMENT

If you receive a “Transport Concession Entitlement Card” from the NSW Government it expires after three years and you are required to renew it. You will find the expiry date on the back of the card. It appears that they were originally issued in November 2016 and therefore the majority will expire on 30th October 2019.

Concession Cards can be renewed online at www.transportnsw.info/ex-defence with your pension card handy. It’s a bit tricky as you may have to “set cookies” at the top of the first “renewal” screen to continue the process). If you prefer you can phone 131500.



The Concession card entitles holders to a free opal card (which does not need to be renewed) which provides free travel on metro trains, buses, ferries, and light rail in Sydney and surrounds, including the Southern Highlands. You are also entitled to three free trips on NSW country trains and Trainlink. You need to arrange these at your local railway station. However, for some reason



you must carry both cards when travelling. Thanks to Bob Bailey for bringing this to our attention.

If you do not have the concession entitlement and have a disability 10% or more and receive a pension, you are entitled to one. To get further information or apply for a card go to the web address above.

SCHOOL VISITS and BOOK PROJECT

Recently President Phill, Ian Humby and Norm Austin attended Frensham to talk to year 10 students about the war in South Vietnam: particularly their personal experience before, during and after their involvement in the war. The visit was also used to gather information that will be useful with the project.

Bowral High has now obtained approval of a project to document Vietnam Veterans' views and experiences by way of video interviews. This will form part of students work in their history curriculum. To this end the Sub-Committee shortly will be seeking volunteers to participate in this project. At present we are waiting on the school to finalise details and timing of the project. When concrete details come to hand we will be seeking volunteers to participate in the project with the aim of getting interviewees with a range of different experiences. If you would like to participate please contact Norm Austin Ph. 0427854141

In the mean time a grant to us from the Vieola Mulwaree Trust is funding the Berrima District Historical Society to prepare a Timeline history of the Vietnam War Memorial. To do this they are using the historical records of the Vietnam War Memorial Trust which are in their possession.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WALKING GROUP. Every Tuesday at 8.00am 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 or SHVVA.com for details.

MENS LUNCHESES. As advertised.

Norm Austin
Publicity Officer
0427 854 141