

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com

CFN 23847



NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



The Executive Committee would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

In the festive spirit table wines and mineral water will be provided.

Make it a date:

Wednesday 4th December 2019

BOWRAL BOWLING CLUB (Club Bowral)

6 for 6:30

Please RSVP for this dinner to **Ian Humby** on 0402 415 056 or ianhumby@bigpond.com by
12:00 noon on Monday 2nd

NEXT DINNER

Wednesday 5th February 2020

Moss Vale Hotel

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewal notices will be posted out shortly. Although payment is due by 31st December, early payment would be appreciated so that we can send dues off to Head Office. We encourage payment by EFT but cheques are accepted. Please use the stamped addressed envelope. Please do not forget to sign the form and return it in the envelope. We need the form to send a copy to Head Office. If you do not receive a renewal notice please contact Norm Austin 0427 854 141.

The money paid to the Association helps to provide services to all Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers and with declining membership overall it is much needed to ensure the employment of permanent staff.

OCTOBER DINNER

Twenty diners went to the Scottish Arms where we occupied two tables. Our host took orders and delivered delicious meals. As usual the conversation covered a wide range of topics.



NOVEMBER DINNER

The turnout was somewhat less for this event but the food and company were excellent. Although the chef was pushed to get meals out, they were good pub food.



MENS LUNCHEON NOVEMBER

About 20 members turned up for lunch at the Mittagong RSL. Judging by the noise in the Springs Room everyone certainly had something to say - whilst they enjoyed the food, a few drinks and good company. The Committee is planning to keep these functions as a regular activity.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERANS' COVENANT

According to DVA - The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath. These provide the opportunity for Australians to identify veterans when they are not in uniform or wearing their medals, and offer respect to them and their family.

This initiative is now being rolled out by DVA with one new and important difference: any person who has served in the Defence Forces including Reserves and the CMF, is entitled to the Veteran Card.



All of our members should have a DVA health card but if you do not you will need to apply for the Veteran Card, and the Lapel Pin and Oath – which will be mailed to you. You can do this through a My Gov online account or by ringing DVA 1800 550 457 and saying “Veterans Card” to the automated system – good luck.

If you already have a DVA health card there is no need to apply unless you want to get the Lapel Pin and Oath. The new Veteran Card will be sent to you and will replace your white or gold card. For further details: <https://recognition.dva.gov.au/veteran-card>

In conjunction with the Covenant card members can join the Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) which is a discount marketing venture set up by Veterans for Veterans and their families. At first glance this seems to be similar to other discounting schemes whereby business offer discounted services.

For more information and to check eligibility go to: <https://apod.com.au/about>

BOOK PROJECT

Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Walk

Work on the history of the Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Walk has progressed steadily. As a preliminary step for writing the history of the memorial, using a grant from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust, we have commissioned the Berrima District Historical & Family Society to review the historical documents of the now defunct Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Trust, with a view to preparing a Timeline.

We have accessed Wingecarribee Shire Council's records in relation to formation of the Trust and the development and final approval of the overall project. The Bowral Rotary Club is also combing its records for details.

History of the Sub-Branch

As the first step towards compiling a history of our Sub-Branch we are also consolidating electronic copies of Meeting Minutes and Newsletters.

Bowral High School Project

The oral history project is proceeding at a pace this term. To date five interviews sessions have been videoed and the sessions will continue weekly until the end of term. Those interviewed so far are: Phill Moscatt, Tony Blake, John Stead, Ken Burt, John McDonnell, Norm and Sue Austin with Lee Bourgeois, Ray Kuschert, Graham Moffatt and Rick Morse in the pipeline.

The student interviewers, although nervous, quickly settle down and interview participants based on pre-prepared questions, which have been very thoughtful and provoking. History Teacher, Geoff Andrew, is editing the videos and we are looking forward to seeing the results.

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.

Norm Austin – Newsletter Editor, Secretary and Treasurer – 0427 854 141