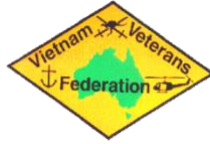


Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com CFN 23847



APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Of course, the hot topic of conversation is the Coronavirus. Its spread may impact may impact on our activities. At this stage ANZAC Day marches and services have been cancelled.

The Executive has decided to push on with upcoming activities, in the hope that the virus does not spread to the Highlands. However, if we get any advice or instruction from Government we will take appropriate action and inform members by email. Members of course always have the discretion as to whether or not to attend functions.

We are monitoring events on these websites which may be of interest to members:

COMMONWEALTH Government: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics>
click on "Coronavirus (COVID-19)"

NSW Government: <https://www.nsw.gov.au>
Click on "NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)"

NEXT MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 1st April 2020

Scottish Arms Hotel, East Bowral

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

Please RSVP for this dinner to **Ian Humby** phone 0402 415 056 or
ianhumby@bigpond.com

[by 12:00 noon on Monday 30th February](#)

AQUA AEROBICS

The pool at Annesley has been repaired and Aqua-vets can now splash-in!

ANZAC DAY 2020 - CANCELLED

The following message was received from the NSW RSL today. We will keep members posted if there are further developments.

"Dear Members,

Following further discussions with the NSW Government, RSL NSW has made the decision to cancel all public ANZAC Day commemoration services across the state. The risk to vulnerable people during the current health situation is simply too high for these events to continue in their traditional format.

Given the significant concerns around the spread of COVID-19, it would be irresponsible to allow such large gatherings as we see each year on ANZAC Day to go ahead. This is not a decision we have taken lightly. The RSL has a responsibility to act in the best interests of veterans and the general public. In these uncertain times we must follow the advice of medical experts and do everything we can to protect the community.

This is a recognition of the penalties linked to events over 500 people, and the potential exposure to RSL sub-Branches. This acknowledges the fact that most ANZAC Day events are open to all members of the community and therefore have the potential to attract crowds of over 500 people.

ANZAC Day as a marker of our respect and admiration for ANZACs past and present will still be observed. Exactly what form this will take will be different from previous years, but as custodians of commemoration, the RSL will still honour the service and sacrifice of our brave servicemen and women. In these challenging times, we will remember them.

Ray James
Acting President
RSLNSW

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

We had a very good turnout for the Annual General Meeting on 4 March 2020 with 26 members present.

President, Phill Moscatt thanked the committee members for their work and advised that a focus for the coming year would be the development of a SHVPPA Book Proposal.

He thanked those members who contributed to the success of Vietnam Veterans' Day.

Phill said that the Danger Close movie Premier was one of the highlights for the year and thanked the promoters for involving our Association. It also proved to be financial success and raised almost \$3,000 which will go towards the book project.

He said progress on the Book Project particularly the work on the Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Walk are progressing well. The Berrima District Historical and Family Society have prepared and documented a timeline based on the records of Effy Kerr, formerly of the Memorial Trust. Further work is being done in conjunction with Bowral Rotary and Bowral Lions. Also contact has been made with the Council and its former engineer Ken Halsted who was involved in the design and construction of the Memorial.

Phill thanked those members who had been interviewed at Bowral High and said that those who missed out because of the bushfires would be interviewed this year.

The Special Resolution to reduce the required quorum for a Committee Meeting from 4 to 3 was passed 22 for with 4 against. This amendment was moved because the current committee has 6 members instead of the 10 provided in the constitution. President Phill asked that any member who would consider joining the Committee to contact him.

MAY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday 6th May 2020

Lion Rampant Hotel, Mittagong

6:00 pm for 6:30 pm

Please RSVP for this dinner to **Ian Humby**: phone 0402 415 056 or
ianhumby@bigpond.com

by 12:00 noon on Monday 4th May

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2020

This year's Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday 16 August 2020 at 11:00 am at the Bowral Vietnam War Memorial in Settlers' Park. Planning is well under way and HMAS Brisbane will be providing the Guard of Honour and our guest speaker will be Brad Parker, one of our members who served in Vietnam on the ship's predecessor. Hopefully Coronavirus will be over by then!

VETERANS ACCESS NETWORK (VAN)

VAN staff will be at MITTAGONG RSL CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 6TH May 2020 to provide veterans with information on your income support & compensation entitlements, transport options, health care and in-home support services. By appointment only Phone 1800 555 254

VETERANS HOME CARE

As we get older and most of us are either approaching or have passed our 75th year, we need to look to our current and future needs. The Veterans' Home Care Service offers a wide range of support aimed at enabling us to stay put - in our homes. The Service takes into account the needs of the veterans and their carers. Attached is an information sheet which may be of interest to many members and also those who are already availing themselves. This is a great service and as they say "use it or lose it!". Give Norm Austin a call if you would like more information Ph 0427 854 141

GOLD CARD

A reminder that if you are a veteran with "Qualifying Service" ie. Overseas War Service and you are over 70 years of age you qualify for a Gold Card and the benefits that come with it.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY AND SAFE EASTER

REGIONAL SENIOR'S TRAVEL CARD

At the AGM David Babbage provided information about this concession which was a 2019 election commitment by the NSW Government. But there is some problem with implementation.

The prepaid Visa credit card which has a PIN provides seniors with \$250 to ease the burden of travel costs and assist in getting to and from essential services and getting about daily. It can be used for: fuel, taxi trips, train and train link services.

To be eligible seniors must be:

- an **age pensioner** with a valid Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Human Services **or Department of Veterans' Affairs**; or
- a **Commonwealth Seniors Health Card** holder – card issued by the Department of Human Services Affairs or Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
- In our case, living in the Southern Highlands.



Information can be obtained as set out below, **however** successful members suggest that the best way is to go to **Service NSW** at the **Highlands Hub Mittagong** where you will be assisted with your application. **However (army style) some applications have been accepted and some rejected – but the staff at the office do not know why. SNAFU!** Give it a go if you will. As soon as we find out more information we will advise. You can also apply: online at **service.nsw.gov.au**, or call **13 77 88**. More information is also available at www.service.nsw.gov.au

VETERANS TO BE COUNTED ON 2021 CENSUS

Better late than never? This has finally been achieved after years of lobbying by Ex-Service Organisations.

By including in the 2021 Census, a question asking whether someone has served in the Australian Defence Force, the Department of Veterans' Affairs says that it will be able to locate and help more veterans.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs said: "The Census data will provide a better understanding of how many veterans we have and where they live, allowing us to deliver the right services in the right areas to support their needs. The improved data will help inform our policy response to issues facing veterans, such as health, housing and employment."

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.

Veterans' Home Care - Information

Veterans' Home Care (VHC) is a DVA program designed to assist entitled persons who need a small amount of practical help to continue living independently in their own home. Services include Domestic Assistance, Personal Care, Respite Care, and safety-related Home and Garden Maintenance.

What services may I receive?

Personal Care

Personal Care includes assistance with daily self-care tasks that a person is unable to do for themselves. Services may include assistance with: showering, bathing, toileting, dressing, grooming; eating; application of non-medicated skin care creams and lotions; and putting on compression stockings, protective bandaging, splints and callipers.

Respite Care

Respite Care gives a break to a carer.

For more information, please refer to Factsheet HSV06 Respite Care and Carer Support.

Domestic Assistance

Domestic Assistance provides support with basic household tasks such as:

- internal house cleaning like dishwashing, vacuuming and mopping, bed making and linen changing, clothes washing and/or ironing;
- some assistance with meal preparation (but not total preparation of meals);
- bill paying and unaccompanied shopping; and
- collection and/or cutting of firewood in rural and remote areas.

Safety-related Home and Garden Maintenance

Safety-related Home and Garden Maintenance services are designed to keep the home safe by minimising hazards. Services include minor tasks that could be done by a handyman such as:

- **replacing light bulbs;**
- **changing batteries in smoke/security alarms;**
- **cleaning gutters, external and internal windows or ceiling fans;**
- **minor home maintenance (e.g. cupboard door adjustment);**
- pruning, grass cutting or weeding (only where a safety hazard exists);
- clearing of debris following natural disasters;
- collection and/or cutting of firewood in rural and remote areas; and
- one-off garden clean ups in specific circumstances.

Safety-related Home and Garden Maintenance services do not include major repairs or services requiring a qualified tradesperson, including for example, gutter replacement, major landscaping or garden tasks such as tree lopping or tree felling/removal.

Garden tasks such as lawn mowing and pruning can only be undertaken if an environmental health or safety hazard exists. Routine, cosmetic or ornamental gardening services such as weeding, maintaining flower beds, regular lawn mowing, or pruning of roses are not available under this service.

Please Turn Over

Am I eligible to receive VHC services?

Entitled persons who have a Gold Card or White Card are eligible for an assessment for VHC services.

Call a VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450 to discuss your eligibility, as it may vary from what is outlined in this Factsheet.

How do I apply?

To receive VHC services you must have an assessment by a VHC assessor. Most assessments are done over the phone. To arrange an assessment, call a VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450. The VHC assessor will discuss your circumstances with you to identify the range of services you may need. Don't be a martyr and pretend that you are fit and healthy.

Following the assessment, the services you need will be detailed in a Care Plan and sent to you and the VHC Service Provider. The VHC Service Provider will call you to discuss a suitable time to provide their service(s).

Co-payments apply and are a contribution towards the cost of providing the services.

This is an abridged copy of the Fact Sheet, for full details go to [dva.gov.au/factsheets](https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheets) or contact DVA.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/care-home-or-aged-care/help-so-you-can-stay-your-home>

Inquiries and Requests Phone Veterans Home Care on 1300 550450

(Thanks – to “The Furphy” - Far North Coast Sub Branch)