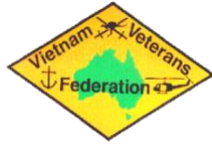


# Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: [www.shvva.com](http://www.shvva.com) CFN 23847



## MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope you are all well and staying sane in these restricting times, great news is that we should be able to travel soon even if we are restricted to NSW.

ANZAC DAY was very different this year with no march and get together. It was very pleasing when I arrived late in the afternoon to find over a dozen wreaths and floral arrangements laid at our memorial.

In other news:

Pension rise to take effect on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

I have received my NSW Government Regional Travel card which can be applied for on line or at the Government Service branch at Mittagong. Don't forget if your wife/partner is on a DVA pension they can also apply.

The National Vietnam Veterans' Museum at Phillip Island has gained museum accreditation by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association of Victoria.

The Federal Government has committed to invest \$30 million in a network of Veteran Wellbeing Centres in partnership with ex-service organisations and state and territory governments. The closest centre to us will be in Nowra. These centres will be a one stop shop for government and non- government services, including connections with local health services, community organisations, advocacy and wellbeing support.

5RAR Association in co-operation with ANU Press have published a new book "Vietnam Vanguard – the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion's approach to Counter Insurgency 1966". The book comprises 456 pages, 17 chapters written by 33 contributing authors, 7 appendices, 44 photographs. The book can be viewed on line at:

<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/vietnam-vanguard>

That's all from me, stay safe, stay sane, if any member needs assistance in any way please contact myself or Norm.

Phill Moscott

## ANZAC DAY

Well it was a very somber day this year with all official ceremonies cancelled. It appears that most of our members were able to find a way to commemorate their departed comrades and remember their service to Australia.

At 8am President Phill conducted a short service at the Vietnam War Memorial in Settlers Park by laying a wreath, playing the Last Post, Rouse and reciting the Ode while David Babbage attended the flag. Bob Bailey, and Norm Austin and the Burts were there to represent members that could not be present in the Covid environment. Brian Hicks laid a wreath on behalf of the Nations.



Vice President, Bruce Bofinger did the honours for SHVPPA at the Mittagong War Memorial and Ray McCann laid a wreath on the National Servicemen's Memorial at Sutton Forest.

Later in the day Bruce rounded up quite a few members to do the Cherry Tree Walk and pay respects at the Memorial. Bruce recited the Ode to the scattered assembly. John Stead and his fiancée Sue also visited the memorial.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

"We stood in our driveway at 6 a.m., neighbours on both sides were also out, listening to the service on the radio. At the end of the service young Lucy from next door, dressed in her Girl Guide's uniform, came over and gave Brian a handmade wreath and a candle and said "Thank you for your service". We were both really touched by her thoughtfulness and it really made Brian's day."

Sandra Freer



## HONOURING OUR HERO'S



SBS will be airing a documentary about one of our national treasures, Mr Keith Payne VC, AM at 8:30 pm on 27 May 2020. The documentary is dedicated to our oldest living Victoria Cross recipient. Please pass this far and wide, and tune in to SBS on 27 May. The actions for which Keith Payne was awarded the Victoria Cross occurred on 24th May 1969.

Extract from SHN website 25 April 2020

### **'Lone Nasho' pays his respects at Mittagong on Anzac Day - John Swainston**

Anzac Day 2020 will probably become one of those days everyone will remember like no other Anzac Day.

In over 100 years it's the first occasion in peacetime that Australians did not march collectively to remember the service of those who had served in earlier conflicts.

Dawn saw a mass turnout of individuals in so many streets across the Southern Highlands at 6.00am, with candles to see and mobile phones echoing out the sound of a lone bugle, streamed from Canberra's War Memorial broadcast.

Most stood in silence, quietly acknowledging neighbours, few words were passed. Red Poppies brightened the streets.

Ex-serviceman, Norm Mallard of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia, Southern Highlands Branch, based out of Mittagong RSL, made his own special tribute later in the morning. At 9.45am he brought his own PA system and set it up next to the two Anzac flags. To the sound of a recorded bugle playing The Last Post he purposely marched forward, saluted and paid his respects in front of the Mittagong War Memorial. The clock hands reflected an earlier hour of 5.45am. Nearby



early morning walkers carrying takeaway coffee along the adjacent footpath also paused and followed his lead, many bowing their heads while the music wafted across the road. (Thanks to Ray McCann for passing this on.)

## DINNERS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The Corona outlook is brightening up somewhat with restaurants, clubs and intrastate travel opening up. As soon as we are able we will organise a men's lunch or dinner and hopefully get on with the "new normal" whatever that is. In doing this the Committee is mindful that we are all over or approaching the 70 year mark and need to take a bit more care than others.

## AQUAVETS

There is no news as to when we can get back into the pool but hopefully this will not be too far away.

## WALKING GROUP

If you need to get out of the house the group is still doing the Cherry Tree Walk every Tuesday at 8.00 am, meeting at the Vietnam War Memorial in Settlers Park, Bowral.

Norm Austin

Publicity Officer