

Southern Highlands Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association

Website: www.shvva.com

CFN 23847



SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Wattle Day Edition

COFFEE CLUB – MAKE IT A DATE

With the virus shutting down our regular dinner meeting and limiting opportunities for comradeship the Coffee Club aims to overcome this. For those that are fit and well enough we will meet weekly in the Café area of Mittagong RSL Club at 10:00 on THURSDAYS. No need to book – just turn up for coffee, cakes and a chat at the big table.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have had a busy time in the last few weeks.

On Sunday the 16th at 11.30 we conducted a short ceremony at our Vietnam War Memorial in Settlers Park, Bowral, to mark Vietnam Veterans Day. A small number of members and representatives from local ESO's attended in a cold and windy service. Wreaths were laid by the Mayor, local ESO's and local veterans as Pipe Major Chris Tabram, of The Southern Highland Pipes and Drums piped a lament.



On Tuesday 18th I raised the flag and at 3:15 joined with joined a few members in quiet reflection.

Thursday 20th, Norm, Tony Blake and I had a meeting with Council staff at the Memorial to discuss:

- Trees overhanging and shading out some cherry trees
- Replacement trees
- Trees overhanging the Memorial.
- Wisteria overhanging the Pergola of Peace
- and the care and upkeep of the roses.

The meeting highlighted a problem with the cherry trees between Victoria Street and Mittagong Road in that they have “wet feet” due to the proximity of Mittagong Rivulet. This has made them susceptible to root rot, and Council staff have had to treat for fungus and constantly monitor them.

There is also a problem in respect of replacement trees. We were informed that the original contract has expired and the supplier is no longer in business. Furthermore, there are no mature trees of this variety available in Australia. Council staff are therefore seeking a new contractor with a view to growing trees with a root stock that is not susceptible to root rot. Unfortunately, this means that new trees will not be available for planting for 3 to 5 years.

In relation to the other issues: overhanging trees will be pruned; the Wisteria will be cut back or removed; and the roses will be pruned and to protect them from mowers a garden built around them. If the roses still struggle, they will be moved to a more suitable place.

Then on Friday 21st Norm and I met with past members of the Cherry Tree Walk Trust. They were able to fill in a lot of the gaps in our research which will enable us to move on with our preparations for a draft on the history of the Memorial and the Cherry Tree Walk.

Stay safe,

Phill Moscatt

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY 2020

As reported by Phill, our annual Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service was scaled back to meet the requirements of Covid-19 health restrictions. Unfortunately, most other Veteran organisations cancelled altogether. It was pleasing that we held the service because the first resolution made by our founding members was to always do so.

Sue Austin filmed the Service and made a video to enable those who could not attend to "be there". You can view the video which is up on our website under NEWS – RECENT EVENTS.

This link will take you directly there: http://shvva.com/?page_id=4524

and the Southern Highland News report: http://shvva.com/?page_id=4508

NSW Branch Vietnam Veterans Association

Secretary, Frank Cole reported that he attended the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza and laid a wreath in remembrance on behalf of the Association. As only 20 guests participated, he was proud to have honoured those who served and suffered.

A tip when accessing our website.

You can type or "copy and paste" the link into your address bar and press enter – the address bar spreads across the top of your screen and is one character high.

If you put it in your browser's search box – you may get lots of misleading sites listed – or even part of our website

Alternatively, you can go directly to the "Home Page" by entering this in your address bar: www.shvva.com

More Pictures



CENTURION BATTLES BIG CAT IN VIETNAM 1968

“This is a true story about a fight between a big Cat and an even bigger Centurion during the Vietnam War in 1968. Sound strange? Well, let me explain.” These are the opening words of an article written by Ray McCann – intrigued then follow this LINK to our website shvva.com where it appears under the menu WRITINGS http://shvva.com/?page_id=4474

WATTLE DAY



September 1st is the first day of spring and a National Day celebrating Australia's floral emblem which is a sign of unity and support for our nation. It is a day to champion unity of purpose and direction.

BOWRAL HIGH SCHOOL – VETERAN INTERVIEWS

Avid newsletter readers will recall that late last year a number of Veteran members were interviewed by Year 10 Students about their life and experiences, pre – during – and post, Vietnam. Well teacher Geoff Andrew and the students have been busy since and have now compiled videos for the first two sessions and are working on the remainder. After clearance for copyright these videos will be made available to members for viewing on our website and we will let you know when. The Book Sub-Committee proposes to use some of this “oral history” for inclusion in “The Book”.

MEDALS DONATED

On Sunday 16th August, prior to the Service, Vic Stone, who is a good friend of our Padre John Wheeler, presented to President Phill, as a donation, a collection of his family's medals. Thanks, Vic, for your thoughtful gesture. They are now on display at Mittagong RSL Club.



CORONA TIMES

This Corona-19 is causing upset across our nation but our focus needs to be on ourselves, families and friends. Don't forget we are here to help each other. Need assistance Please give Phill 48721727, Norm 48691772 or Ray McCann 0402 813 753 a call.

Remember the Vietnam Veteran's Counseling Service – well it has morphed into **OPEN ARMS** and offers a wide range of services to all veterans and their families.:

<https://www.openarms.gov.au>

Stay Covid-19 safe,

Norm Austin
Publicity Officer
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