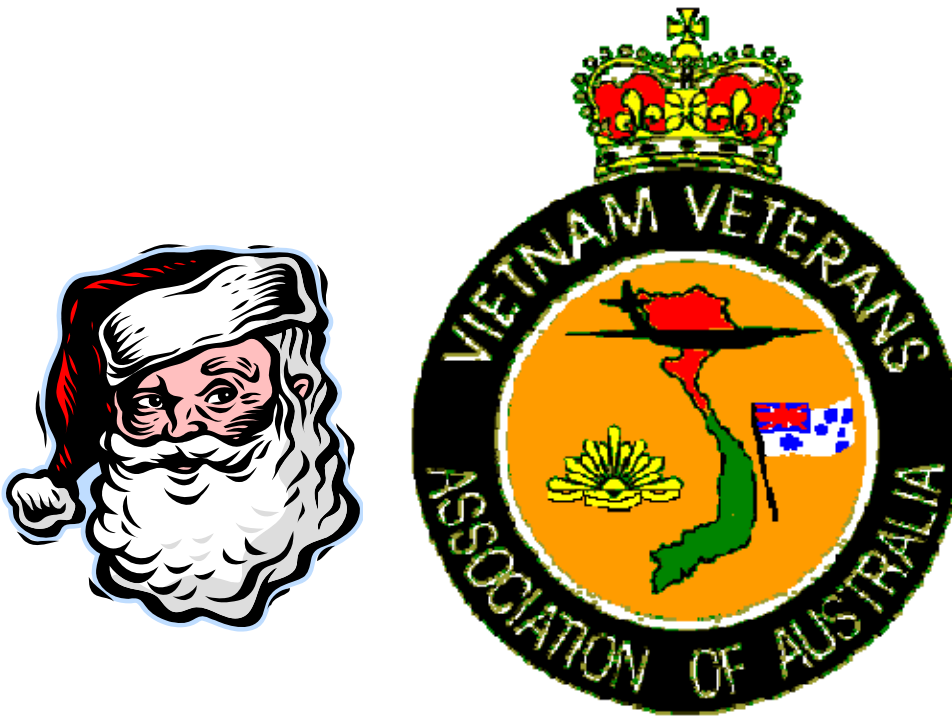


**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH (INC)**



MELBOURNE WEST SUB-BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2010

(www.melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au)

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Committee	John Mines	Ph: 9741 4098
Committee	Eddie Taylor	Ph: 9741 6495
Committee	Heather Taylor	Ph: 9741 6495
Committee	Bill Brear	Ph: 0408 356 840

Western Suburbs Veterans' and Services Centres

12 Smith Street (PO Box 981)
Melton 3337
Phone: 9746 9582 Fax: 9746 9583
Mondays to Thursdays

Kelly Park Community Centre
4 Synnot Street (next to RSL Club)
Werribee 3030
Ph: 9731 1608 (Wed only)
Wednesdays 10:00 till 14:00
Email: werribeevetcentre@westnet.com.au

Pensions: Barry Yovkoff,
Heather Taylor (training)

Welfare: Vic Pilch, Brendan Lynch, Eddie Taylor, Fran
Ruddle and Bill Brear (Training).

Inner Metro Veterans' and Services Centre

Ph: 9282 3518 Fax: 9282 7854

Disclaimer

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Editor: Sub-Branch Committee -- Publisher: Tony Hind

From President Vic:



Things have been fairly busy since the last Newsletter:

Our volunteers at the Veterans' Centre at Kelly Park, Werribee have been kept busy in assisting Veterans in relation with their pension and/or welfare entitlements and have put in an average 135 hours each month; with 23-25 visitors each month; and 25 inwards and 20 outwards telephone calls each month. Our Pension Officers Barry Yovkoff, Heather Taylor and PO- in-training Bogie Knight averaged 8-10 interviews each month. Our Welfare Officers Brendan Lynch, Bill Brear, Eddie Taylor and I attended a couple of funerals and assisted in an average of 10 welfare cases each month. Wyndham Council have approved our use of the facilities at Kelly Park at no cost again for 2011. We greatly appreciate Council's support for our services to the Veteran Community. Similarly, we greatly appreciate the administrative support provided to our volunteers by Werribee RSL.

Recently 7 - 8 of our Members have embarked on a twice weekly 'reconditioning' program approved by DVA that will either help to make us healthier or kill us. There is room on the program for more Members wishing to participate.

Various bus trips were organized to encourage some comradeship including Cricket Willow at Shepherd's Flat; to our sister VVAA Sub Branch in Ballarat; and more recently to the VVAA National Museum at Philip Island. Special thanks to Bill Brear for organizing these trips and to Eddie Taylor for driving the bus.

Remembrance Day commemorations at various locations on 11/11/ 2010 were well attended. A special thanks to Williamstown RSL for providing refreshments and to Thomas Chirnside and Werribee Primary Schools for inviting our Members to participate in their services.

Eddie Taylor and I represented our Sub Branch at the State Council Meeting held at VVAA Frankston on 13/11/2010.

Our Christmas Dinner Dance was held at Werribee RSL on Saturday 27/11/2010 with 60 Veterans, Partners and friends attending to what was an enjoyable night. Special thanks to Heather Taylor for organising the event and our sponsors who donated some lovely prizes.

We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Hoppers Club and have embarked on a Membership drive to encourage more of our Members to become Members of the HCC.

Our AGM will be held at HCC on 6th February 2011 where hopefully we can get some new blood on our Committee. I strongly urge Members to nominate for Committee for next year.

In conclusion on your behalf I would like to sincerely thank all the members of my Committee for their hard work over the past year and to wish all Members and their loved ones a Happy Christmas and safe 2011.

Vic Pilch

From (Secretary/Treasurer) Ray:



Hi Everyone,

With the Festive Season almost upon us I'd like to wish all Members and their loved ones a joyous Christmas and a healthy and safe 2011.

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living

You should be well pleased with what our Sub Branch has achieved over the past twelve months.

1. Membership is currently 130 (comprising 75 ordinary members; 1 second member; and 54 associate members) which is the most we've had since we were formed and at a time when other VVAA Sub Branches are struggling for numbers;
2. The Sub Branch's financial position is sound and provides a good base going into 2011;
3. The Veterans Resource & Services Centre at Kelly Park has an excellent complement of capable and enthusiastic pension and welfare officers who are more than capable of attending to veterans and war widows needs;
4. An excellent rapport has been established with the R.S.L.'s in the Western Suburbs who allow us to utilise their facilities for meetings etc;
5. Similarly, we have great relationship various schools in the area who invite us to participate with the children in ANZAC and Remembrance Day commemorative services;
6. The relationship with Hoppers Club (our spiritual home) has been maintained and \$4,100 raised during 2010 for our welfare fund from the HCC Members' raffle nights;
7. Badge Week 2010 was hard work but was a great success with gross receipts of \$14,216 and a net profit for welfare fund of \$8,304 – a big thank you to everyone who so generously volunteered their time;
8. The Veterans Reconditioning Program got under way and currently there are seven or eight of our members who are experiencing considerable benefits from the program;
9. We have had a very enthusiastic Social Activities Committee that organised an excellent program including goodwill visits to three of our adjoining VVAA Sub Branches;
10. We now have a Merchandise Officer who looks after the procurement and management of our VVAA merchandise and there is now a wider range of merchandise available for sale;
11. Our Delegates and Observers represented our Sub Branch at each of the four VVAA State Conferences during 2010;
12. VV Day commemorative services were organised and were well attended;
13. A Regional Welfare Seminar was conducted by the VVAA State President and was well attended;
14. All in all a pretty 'full on' year.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee especially our President Vic for helping me get through the mountain of administrative work during the year.

Once again we are looking for some volunteers to assist the Darwin Defenders Association conduct their memorial service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Friday 18 February 2011.

Finally, with the AGM and election of office bearers for 2011 coming up on 6th February 2011, I would once again ask you to consider becoming involved in the Sub Branch activities.

Fond regards,

RAY MATTHEW

Secretary/Treasurer

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living



Vietnam Veterans Day at Thomas Chirnside School 2010 – Lyle Rogers & Reg Loats



Hi friends,

A lovely day was had by all 13 of us who ended up on the bus today; unfortunately 5 of the people didn't make it in time to catch the bus at 0900hrs. A great day was had by all. The service for the revealing and dedication of the plaques was held undercover, due to the weather conditions, at the back of the museum in the new extended area for the planes etc. It really was a special time and wonderful to see the blend of Vietnam Veterans and also the South Vietnamese counterparts together.

Instead of staying for lunch we ventured down to the Phillip Island RSL and shared some time of fellowship and getting to know you time. Then it was back on board the bus for trip home, via the chocolate factory.

Thanks everyone for an enjoyable day and a special thanks to our driver Eddie Taylor.

Take care,

Heather Taylor
Activities

A man is stopped by the police at midnight and asked where he's going.

"I'm on the way to listen to a lecture about the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the human body."

The policeman asks, "Really?"

And who's going to give a lecture at this time of night?"

"My wife", comes the reply

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living



Article November 2010

Vietnam Veterans' Family Study (VVFS) Update

The VVFS is investigating the long term effects of war service on Vietnam veterans' families. This study will help provide a better understanding of what those impacts are and how best to assist those who need help.

The VVFS was originally programmed to conclude in December 2016, however, it is now anticipated that the final report, incorporating all the research elements, will be completed and handed to Government late in 2012. This is over four years earlier than originally programmed and will be achieved without compromising the scientific validity of the study.

New registrations have slowed considerably, however anyone who hasn't registered and would like to is encouraged to call the Family Studies Program Team on 1800 502 302 to discuss eligibility to participate. If eligible, you can be registered immediately.

The first research component of the study, the **Re-analysis of the Vietnam Veterans' Sons and Daughters Project** data, which was undertaken by Enhance Management, has been completed. This report is available on the main DVA web site (www.dva.gov.au/vvfs).

Five of the study's other research components are underway. These are the:

- **Semi-Structured Telephone Interviews** being undertaken by the Institute for Social Science Research and the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health.
- **History of Health Case Studies** being undertaken by Open Mind Research Group.
- **In-depth Case Study (Ethnographic Study)** being undertaken by TNS Social Research.
- **Main Survey** being undertaken by Colmar Brunton Social Research.
- **Children of Vietnam Veterans' Mortality Study** being undertaken by TNS Social Research.

The first three research components detailed above, along with the Re-analysis of the Vietnam Veterans' Sons and Daughters Project data, have provided information to assist with the development of the main survey questionnaire. It is expected that results from these three components will be finalised shortly with the final reports being referred to the Minister within the next few months for public release as soon as possible in 2011.

Once the main survey questionnaire has been piloted and its development completed it will be sent out to all registered participants. This will most likely be in the second quarter of 2011.

You can contribute to the success of this research by telling your friends and family about this study and by participating in the study.

More information on how to register for the study can be found at www.dva.gov.au/vvfs or by calling the FSP Team on free call 1800 502 302.

Timor-Leste Family Study Progress

Military service, particularly deployment, may have a profound effect not only on those who serve but also on their families. The Timor-Leste Family Study aims to determine what, if any, physical, mental or social health impacts there are on military families as a result of deployment to Timor-Leste. The study also aims to identify any potential risk or protective factors that influence the ability of Defense families to cope with deployments. The Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH) is conducting the Timor-Leste Family Study as part of the larger Department of Veterans' Affairs Family Study Program.

The research includes information provided by the families of people who:

- deployed to Timor-Leste, or
- were eligible to deploy to Timor-Leste but did not.

These families may or may not have been deployed on other operations.

The study will help DVA and Defense better understand the impact of deployment on Defense families and identify any additional support services that would best help these families prior to, during and after deployments.

You can contribute to the success of this research by telling your friends and family about this study and by participating in the study. Potential participants will soon be sent information packages explaining the research and asking them to participate.

For further information:

Contact us: call 1800 708 335

Email: families@cmvh.org.au

Mr Ted Baillieu
Victorian State Premier
Level 1
Treasury Place
East Melbourne

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the members of the Victorian Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, I extend congratulations to you and your Liberal-Nationals Coalition colleagues on your victory in the 2010 Victorian State elections, and send best wishes to you personally on your appointment as Premier of Victoria.

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living

I am aware that you have a very full agenda and understand that you will be heavily occupied in the immediate future, making priority changes that you have flagged and paving the way for the introduction of your new policies. I would be grateful however, for an early indication of your intentions in relation to veterans' affairs in Victoria, and whether the veteran community can expect significant changes to the way in which the veterans' affairs portfolio will be managed under your leadership.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with your government to improve conditions for Victorian based veterans.

Yours sincerely,

R W Elworthy

R W (Bob) Elworthy
Victorian State President

VVAA SOCIAL CALENDER 2011

This is only a guide & suggestion item at this stage.

JANUARY

No planned activities – enjoy your holidays

FEBRUARY

Friday 4th - Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Sunday 6th February – AGM @ the Hoppers Club – 2.00pm – all welcome.

Wednesday 9th – Re-opening of Veterans' Centre @ 10.00am

MARCH

Friday 4th – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Other Activity – A weekend trip away – possibly to Canberra to see the Memorial & contact with their VVAA? Dates & costs to be confirmed.

APRIL

Friday 1st – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L. (Not Joking)

Saturday 23rd – ANZAC Day Dinner – details to be confirmed

Monday 25th – ANZAC Day – Dawn Service @ Cenotaph

MAY

Friday 6th – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Get together with another VVAA

JUNE



Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living

Friday 3rd – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Possible trip somewhere

JULY

Friday 1st – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Get together with another VVAA

AUGUST

Friday 5th – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

BADGE WEEK – Dates to be confirmed

Saturday 13th – Long Tan Dinner - Details to be confirmed

SEPTEMBER

Friday 2nd – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

OCTOBER

Friday 7th – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Trip away somewhere

NOVEMBER

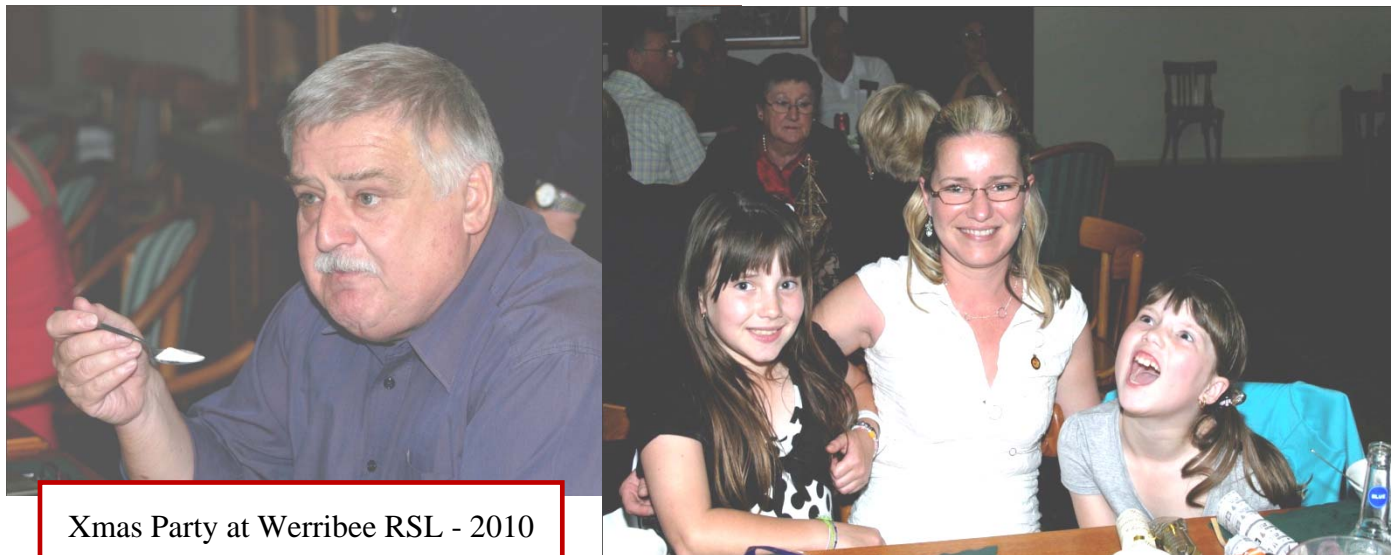
Friday 4th – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.

Friday 11th – Remembrance Day

Saturday 26th – Christmas Party

DECEMBER

Friday 2nd – Lunch @ Werribee R.S.L.



Xmas Party at Werribee RSL - 2010

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living

Please note that there will NOT be a 1st Friday lunch in January

Report to VVAA (Vic) November 2010

Welfare General

Interestingly Veterans are still in trouble everywhere. A lot of the effort is now with the Children and Spouses / Partners. Alcoholism, Drugs and Anger and sometimes all three are often present in our children. Suicide also rears its ugly head.

The Children of Vietnam Veterans Study is still ongoing and if your children are involved the Study is looking at related Children whose parents did not go to Vietnam. In Our case that is my nieces and nephews who are involved. Please be patient as this study is very important and will take time. Please continue to support the study.

Talking about children not everyone knows that you can set aside money in a trust fund for severely disabled dependants of veterans without effecting their pension. The Trust is called “Special Disability Trust” and one of the first statements is the need to consult a Financial Advisor and or Solicitor. It is a very complicated document but we have a lot of Veterans with Severely Disabled children. See DVA fact Sheet IS163

TIP (Training and information Program)

The training program for 2011 was approved by the TCG (TIP Consultative Group) at their last meeting and if it hasn't been distributed yet, it will be soon. Please make sure that everyone gets to see it and names go in to attend courses. All that you ever wanted to know about funerals, death, burial etc. is contained in a document entitled “What to do when death comes calling”. This document was approved for release to the Ex-Service community at the AGM of TIP national, and is only waiting for release by John Printz, the TIP chair in Victoria.

VITA

There is nothing new from VITA. At their recent AGM they stressed that the two things that will come Back to bite you are:-

1. **Receiving or asking for payment for services of a pension or Welfare Officer.** You may recover costs for admin eg photocopying, phone cost etc. This is mainly to cover the remote practitioner who may not have admin services of an ex service club handy and has to pay for photocopying, postage, STD calls etc. The fee should only cover actual costs and must not exceed \$50.
2. **Not remaining up to date in your training.**

DVA

DVA has instigated a new centralized complaint system and it works like this: You ring in or talk to a DVA person about a complaint. You will receive a reference number on the spot or within 24 hours. Resolution of your complaint must occur within 20 working days or an extension requested with the reasons for the delay. Note this is a centralized system, a complaint can be put in from anywhere, eg VAN Office / telephone/ in person.

They have bought the system in to ensure good service. The last satisfaction survey put them at 95%

Kevin Hunter
State Welfare Officer
VVAA (Vic)

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living



Please note that the Veterans' Centre will be closed from Wednesday 15th December and will reopen on Wednesday 9th February 2011

Dear Member,

Our Sub Branch AGM including election of office bearers for 2011 will be held at Hoppers Crossing Club on Sunday 6th February 2011 and it's time to think about your level of commitment to the goals of the VVAA. Please write this date in your diary!!!

You might consider some of the following for 2011:

- nominating for an Executive or Committee position ('many hands make light work');
- helping out once a week (or indeed just calling in for a cuppa or a chat) at the Veterans' Welfare Centre
- bringing your partner along to some of our social activities
- attending important commemorative events such VV Day, ANZAC Day etc
- selling badges and other merchandise during Badge Week
- submitting articles for inclusion in our quarterly Newsletter

The Agenda and nomination for committee forms will be sent to you with the December 'Newsletter'.

Unfortunately many of our Members aren't prepared to get involved and seem to have forgotten the VVAA slogan to "Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living".

Regards,
Ray Matthew
Secretary/Treasurer
VVAA Melbourne West Sub Branch.
secretary@melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2011

ROLE OF THE R.A.N. IN VIETNAM

The Tasmania Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia will host a special commemorative event highlighting the role of the Royal Australian Navy during the Vietnam War as it pays tribute to all servicemen who fought and fell.

Vietnam Veterans Day 2011 will be Thursday 18 August 2011.

The broad and varied role of the R.A.N. is little known or understood and inevitably as the years begin to slip by with increasing rapidity, a valuable and important part of our heritage is gradually in danger of being lost.

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living

While Vietnam Veteran's Day has been set aside in the calendar to remember and pay tribute to our fallen comrades, we must never lose sight of the fact that our losses were incurred across all the service arms.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Vice Admiral David Leach A.C., C.B.E., L.V.O., R.A.N. (RTD) has graciously accepted an invitation to attend the event as special guest speaker. VADM Leach, a former Chief of Navy Staff, is one of only two surviving Commanding Officer's of the DDG's HMA ships HOBART and PERTH, both of which were heavily engaged in North Vietnamese waters during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

VENUE

The city of Hobart will be the venue for the 2011 commemoration. The R.A.N. has been requested to consider facilitating a goodwill visit to Hobart of the FFG HMAS PERTH to coincide with the commemoration. The symbolic relationship of the two names and their association with the Vietnam War was an over riding consideration in determining the venue.

ORDER OF EVENTS

16 August 2011 – Arrivals commence. Free Day

17 August 2011 – Morning/Afternoon free, Formal Dinner with invited guests
representing Ship's Associations, Clearance Diving Teams, RANHFV and Veteran
ESO's.

18 August 2011 – Commemoration Event – Commemorative Lunch - Dispersal.

TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION

We are currently endeavouring to negotiate discounted arrangements for both air travel and hotel accommodation in and around Hobart. Airport transfers will be arranged for those arriving by air to and from their accommodation, and event venues.

REGISTRATION

Early registration is strongly encouraged, and is open to all Vietnam Veterans, their wives and partners, irrespective of their Service Arm, and those who although not Vietnam Veterans, may have an affiliation with a particular ship, team, corps or unit.

Early registration is essential to help us with planning the logistics to ensure a comfortable and memorable stay in Hobart, and a successful outcome for the commemoration.

Where possible please include an email address with your registration details so that updates and information on travel and accommodation may be forwarded as they become available.

To Register, please contact either myself, or the Tasmania Branch Secretary Mrs Ann Cash vvtassec@yahoo.com.au with your name and the names of those accompanying you together with your full contact details, and ship or unit.

We need your support to ensure that the Role of the RAN in Vietnam becomes an informative and memorable event.

Warwick Luttrell
President
Tasmania Branch Inc.
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Tel: (03) 64312627
Mob: 0408 333360
vvaataspres@aussiebroadband.com.au

Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living