

# *CONTACT !*



*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year*

*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans  
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2018  
Issue 4  
October, November, December*

*BMVAF express their thanks to Senator the Hon Doug Cameron, Senator for NSW, for his support to the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc., particularly by allowing the BMVAF to use his communications entitlement for the production of this newsletter.*

# CONTACT !

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 incorporating  
 RAAF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION and the QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSOCIATION  
 ABN 74 645 329 198 CFN 17276  
 THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN ALL POST WORLD WAR II CONFLICTS

**Your Committee**

<b>President:</b>	<i>Peter Jones</i>	<i>(02) 4751 8833</i>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<i>Angus McDonald</i>	<i>(02) 4575 1997</i>
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**2019**

**Association Meeting Dates**

*Meetings commence at 1000hrs in our office  
 at the Blue Mountains Theatre &  
 Community Hub, Springwood NSW*

Committee Meeting <b>10 February 2019</b>	Committee Meeting <b>10 March 2019</b>
Committee Meeting <b>14 April 2019</b>	Tentative AGM Meeting <b>19 May 2019</b>

**Office Manager: Wendy Humphrys Phone: (02) 4751 8528**

**Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au Web site: www.bmvets.com.au**

**Face book: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces**

**Office Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 and 14:00**

## *Welfare*

***Please contact our office on (02) 4751 8528 Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am to 2:00pm***

***Or***

***Angus McDonald, our Welfare Co-ordinator, on (02) 4575 1997***

***for referral to a Welfare Officer***

### ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

This year has slipped by as quick as a flash and Christmas is upon us again. I don't know about all you people out there, but I'm still paying for last Christmas.

The Christmas raffles have gone off a little better than last year thanks to all of our volunteers and two or three dynamic sellers, who don't let anyone get passed without asking.

Congratulations to all our winners.

Wishing everybody a very *Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.*

Remember most accidents happen on the road, so drive on the footpath!

Cheers

*Peter Jones*

### ***SECRETARY'S REPORT***

You know Christmas is just around the corner we have drawn the Christmas Raffle and congratulations to the three people who won the prizes and we thank everyone who purchased tickets as these funds are used for our Welfare services.

2018 seems to have flown past and I'm not sure if this is because we are all getting a bit older but Christmas is a time to reconnect with Family and friends and in particular "EX" Comrades from our Military Service period who might be doing it tough, so reach out and see how they are all travelling.

I'd like to thank all my fellow committee members who put in an enormous amount of time and effort to keep things humming along. We are all Volunteers and try our best to serve our members. I'd like to give special thanks to our right hand person Wendy who keeps us all focussed and makes sure things get done on time – Thanks Wendy.

I hope you and your Families have a Safe and Enjoyable Christmas and that 2019 is a fantastic Year. I look forward to seeing or talking to you all in 2019 and **MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

*Chris McKay*

## ***VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

I have been giving some time to supporting the Blue Mountains' NASHOS and inviting them as a non incorporated association to join us, retaining their own identity and continuing to participate in local commemorative events as they have done in the past.

Watch this space for more to come, I hope.

I attended the National Remembrance Service in Sydney representing our Association on the 11th November. On the 14th November the Premier's Centenary of ANZAC Service at the Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour Sydney, an impressive gathering of "Old War Horses".

However, looking to the future, on the 17th November I was at 203 Army Cadet Unit Dining In Night at Penrith RSL Club. This was in strict Army tradition and the Cadets performed at the highest standard possible. Our next generation of community leaders, moving forward .

On 21st November at the City of Sydney, with my wife, I attended an Annual Widows Luncheon organised by NSW Police RSL Sub-branch.

On 1st December at Orchard Hills at the T.S. Nepean March Out I presented the Annual Shield and awarded certificates to the winning Cadets.

On 8th December again at Orchard Hills I attended the 21 Penrith Army Cadet Unit Annual March Out and Awards Parade. I presented certificates to the winning cadets. A very enjoyable and satisfying experience to proudly represent our Association.

The Cadets training programme is now completed at the age of eighteen years and potential recruits can apply then to join the respective Service.

***Angus McDonald***

## ***WELFARE REPORT from our Welfare Coordinator***

Welfare as we all know is an ongoing responsibility we have, to support our walking wounded.

Since my last report I have had five nursing home and one hospital visit and five home visits.

Contact with widows by phone and other assistance total ten and tragically attendance and advice on one funeral.

Keep the information flowing to me about your needs and I will try to keep that smile on your face.

God bless and keep you safe.

***Angus McDonald***

## ***Sick List***

Our thoughts are with:

- \* Ken Barnett who, his wife Rita has advised, is now in a Rest Home in Bateau Bay.
- \* Kevin Blakelock & his wife Carol, as Carol has had a few hospital stays.
- \* Maurice Green & his wife Margaret, Maurie has been ill recently.
- \* Glenn Daly & his wife Jane, as Jane's mum Mary Cole has been sick for a very long time.
- \* Graham Glasson & his wife Janet, as Graham has had some health issues.

## ***WELFARE REPORT*** ***from our Welfare Advocate***

Members, your Welfare Team continue to provide support to all who seek assistance & importantly advice with their dealings with DVA.

With Ray Westwell needing some respite from his very busy program the baton has been taken up with Angus providing the primary link with those seeking assistance.

The ESORT recommended to the Minister two years ago that the State based Pension Officer TIP Program be replaced by a competency based Nation wide ATDP Program. This was accepted & implemented with some Pension Officers choosing not to undergo conversion training. The new program has two streams, Compensation & Welfare. Member Del Heuke OAM stepped down as NSW Welfare Coordinator after giving of her best over many years. Being awarded the OAM was just reward for her endeavours.

Syd Cole has accepted the need to undergo ATDP1 Welfare Training under the guidance of the ATDP Regional Mentor. The training program requires completion of online modules, the ATDP Regional Implementation Group continue to address some computer glitches in their training program, let us hope Syd can proceed soon.

The Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (NBMPHN) has approached your Association in an endeavour to identify Homeless Veterans. Once identified help is available from the staff at H4H Penrith, including temporary accommodation. Many Members will remember the report commissioned by the BM GP Network (BMGPN) that involved our members some time ago addressing veterans health, NBMPHN has replaced the BMGPN.

Some statistics will be helpful in providing Members with some concept of Welfare Support being provided since the publication of the last Contact!:

VEA VRB Appeals: Two appeals progressed through the ADR System to a full Board Hearing with positive Determinations for the Applicants.

MRCA VRB Appeals: Four appeals progressed through the ADR system with positive Determinations without the need to proceed to a full Board Hearing.

DRCA: One Primary Claim resulted in the veteran gaining a Permanent Impairment Payment as compensation & an Income Payment for loss of earnings.

VEA: One Primary Claim submitted awaiting a Determination  
One Primary Claim accepted, Determination awarded TPI  
One interview undertaken with a possible Claim to be submitted

DRCA: One primary Claim submitted awaiting a Determination

MRCA: One primary Claim submitted awaiting a Determination

*John Fenton*

Welfare Advocate

## PADRE'S CORNER DECEMBER 2018

### CHRISTMAS IS HERE AGAIN



Hello Everyone,

Yes, it is true Christmas is nearly upon us again. As I do every year, I ask the question, how will we spend Christmas? Each year Christmas seems to be taken over more and more by commercialism; the shopping centre decorations seem to go up earlier and earlier each year. Far too often, the real spirit of Christmas is hidden by our concerns for things un-Christmas. Christmas cards that have no relevance to Christmas, putting up a pine Christmas tree with decorations that also have little relevance to Christmas in Australia. Sorting out the Christmas Day menu, will it be a hot roast lunch with all the trimmings, or will it be a seafood and salad lunch. Will lunch and dinner be at home, at a relative's or friends or at the beach or a park? Trying to find the time in our busy life style to finalise Christmas present making sure we don't give the same presents to the same person as we gave last year. Perhaps working out what present from last year we can regift. Yes, these things are important, some more than others, but where is the real spirit, the real message of Christmas?

Christmas celebrates the birth of the Christ Child, God became man and dwelt among us; we claim Christmas as a time of peace and goodwill among all men! Where does this fit into the busy-ness of the season? Some of us will go to Midnight Mass, some to Christmas Day Services to celebrate the birth of Jesus; some will celebrate with family or friends. For others there will be no Christmas Celebrations, either by choice or circumstances. Unfortunately, while we are able to celebrate peace on earth at this time in many places around the world, there is no peace and goodwill. In many countries, cities, towns and homes there will be little cause for celebrating; there will be shortages of food, medical care, housing, clothing and other necessities of life that we take for granted. We who have much should remember at this special time and at all times those who have little or nothing and remember not just those in this situation, who are overseas, but those within our own country who have little or nothing with which to celebrate. In other places in our world there will be war and conflicts, again the people have little cause for celebration. In many of these places we have members of our Defence Force striving to bring peace to these countries, while they themselves are separated from their loved ones at this special time. I encourage you to remember these people also.

The Bible teaches us; Jesus is the light of the world. I pray that Jesus might be the light in your life also. As we celebrate Christmas let us remember that **Jesus birth is the reason for the season**, if we take Christ out of Christmas as many are trying to do in our many of our local shopping centres, schools, Government and private businesses and kindergartens we are left with mass. May I close with a prayer? This prayer was prayed by Frank Borman Commander of the Apollo 8 Space Mission on Christmas Eve 1968; the team also read the first 10 verses of the Book of Genesis.

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace

I wish you and yours a very happy and holy Christmas. To our Jesus friends, I wish you happy Hanukkah. May we pray together that there might be Peace on Earth and goodwill amongst all people.

Colin Aiken

0417 203 722

# Vales



**Graham Baggaley**  
23/02/1948 - 11/10/2018  
Royal Australian Air Force  
30/01/1968 to 30/01/1980  
A118203  
Leading Air Craftsman  
Vietnam - 01/04/1971 to 25/02/1972  
1 Operational Support Unit



**Dee Donavan OAM**  
28/05/1934 - July 2018  
Entertainer in Vietnam  
in 1967

*Lest We Forget*



## Donation to "Soldier On"

A photo of our Memorial Day Guest of Honour, David Savage AM, presenting the donation cheque from our Association to the "Soldier On" organisation.

( David Savage AM on the left )



Here is the article written by Mrs Dianne Parker, M.A.  
Poppies were given to her by our association to take on her recent visit to World War Battle Sites in France and Belgium.

Thank you Dianne

### WORLD WAR 1

This year I was privileged to visit some World War 1 areas that shaped Australia's history. I went in search of three cousins who had died in the war before my parents were born. Wanting to take something from Australia, my brother contacted the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces who sent me some poppies. I used them to make some cards so that anyone reading would know their source. At Pozieres, in the valley of the Somme, in France, I was able to locate the graves of two of my cousins and the Commemoration of my third cousin at Villers Bretonneux. Pozieres was a strategically important location within the German second line positions. The village was attacked by Australian troops on 23 July 1916. The subsequent weeks of action to save the village cost the Australians dearly with 16,000 men becoming casualties in and around Pozieres and the Windmill site and a further 7,000 falling during the assaults on nearby Mouquet Farm. As Charles Bean, the Australian World War 1 war correspondent and historian wrote: "The Windmill Site marks a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth".



Windmill Site Pozieres



Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux



My cousins had served at Gallipoli and were sent to the Somme for more of the same. Here I found not only the town of Pozieres and the Windmill Site; Mouquet Farm; the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF Memorial and the last vestiges of the German "Gibraltar" bunker; the Adelaide Cemetery and Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux and the newly opened Sir John Monash Museum; Le Hamel and Sailly-le-Sec with its 3<sup>rd</sup> AIF Division Memorial; Dernancourt and its Communal Extension Cemetery; and Flers-Courcelette where a major battle was fought.

It was quite heart breaking to see the sheer numbers of losses. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has done an amazing job to give our boys pleasant and beautifully tranquil places to rest, after what they all went through, but it is the rows and rows of white crosses that tear your heart apart. Ordinary people achieved amazing things and died for it on the other side of the world – my cousins were farmers and blacksmiths, off for an adventure perhaps, but at a great cost. Pieces of ground were taken and lost and re-taken several times. The body of one of my cousins was never found. The Australian National War Museum in Canberra had provided me with the coordinates of where he was buried in the field, but by the time all the to-ing and fro-ing was over, there was nothing to be found. It was very humbling really. For the locals the relevance of what happened over a hundred years ago in their villages, is still dominant in their lives.

In nearby Albert, there is the Somme Trench Museum 1916, a tunnel under the town which tells the story of trench warfare in the Somme.



Outside Somme Trench Museum 1916 Albert – Text:

Soldier: Mike Nationality: Australian Nickname: Digger

In Pozieres itself, there is a café and restaurant and bar; out the back is a private museum which consists of a series of trenches showing various relics collected from the local battles. Inside, the owner, Dominique, has assembled a wall with the names of all the Australian soldiers who served in this area.



Private WW1 Museum Pozieres - text at top: Look After The Boys

And there are Australian bronze commemorative plaques at all the sites designed by Ross Bastiaan. These plaques document the Australian involvement on each battlefield and give you an overview of how events happened. They have maps and detailed information about World War 1 and the battles.



Ross Bastiaan Plaque Windmill Site Pozieres - Le Hamel Australian Corps Memorial Park and Remains of Trenches



Fromelles: Pheasant Wood, VC Corner, the Australian Memorial Park with the “Cobbers statue – here I was standing on what had been “no man’s land’ with traces of the German bunkers still visible

Moving on to Belgium I was able to get more of an idea of just how the “Great War” had unfolded. I was honoured to take part on the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres – a profoundly emotional event, as you stand under the great arch on which is inscribed on every part, the names of those who served and sacrificed.



Menin Gate Memorial Ypres Belgium

After this I travelled to places from history books where I found many Australian service people were laid to rest or remembered. Here are some photos:



Polygon Wood and the 5<sup>th</sup> AIF Division Memorial



Tyne Cot Cemetery and Visitor Centre with views of the Passchendaele Battlefield



Passchendaele



Messines Museum

Everywhere I went I left a little bit of Australia in the form of poppies from the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veteran and Associated Forces and was proud to do so. We all need to be more grateful for the lives that we have been able to lead because of their sacrifice.

Dianne Parker  
October 2018



### ***What is a Men's Shed***

The Lower Mountains Men's Shed is a community-based, non-profit, non-commercial organisation that is accessible to all men residing within the Lower Mountains area and whose primary activity is the provision of a safe and friendly environment where men are able to work on meaningful projects, at their own pace, in their own time, in the company of other men.

A major objective of the Men's Shed is to advance the well-being and health of its members.

Members of Men's Shed come from all walks of life - the bond that unites us is that we are men with time on our hands and would like something meaningful to do with that time.

### ***What do we do?***

Is is a place to socialise and share stories. A place to "get away from it all" for a few hours... A haven from the pressures of life... A place for a man to just "be"...

### ***But what would you do?***

Gather with other men of various ages (minimum 18yo). Use tools (with as much assistance as you need). You can pursue your own hobbies or watch and learn and help others working on their own projects of hobbies or just chat over a cuppa.

### ***How do you join us?***

Come and see us any Tuesday (Public Holidays excepted at the Shed (9:00am to 1:30pm) and we will let you know about us. Or contact the numbers below for any further information.

#### **Location:**

Blue Mountains Woodcraft Centre  
19 Calver Avenue, Mount Riverview

Enquiries: Ken - 02 4751 2663  
Cameron - 02 4751 2704  
Bill - 0414 473 931

Email: [Immensshed@gmail.com](mailto:Immensshed@gmail.com)

#### **Opening Times**

Tuesdays

9:00am - 1:30pm

## ***OFFICE CLOSURE FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR***

***Last Day Office Open - Tuesday 18 December 2018***

***Reopening - Tuesday 22 January 2019***

# Christmas Raffle Winners

The Christmas Raffle was drawn and we congratulate the following winners:

**1st Prize** of \$1500.00 goes to  
Ticket Number 05202  
Kevin from Winmalee NSW

**2nd Prize** of \$ 600.00 goes to  
Ticket Number 07629  
Sue from Springwood NSW

**3rd Prize** of \$ 400.00 goes to  
Ticket Number 11616  
Therese from Empire Bay NSW



Thank you to all the members who supported the Association by purchasing raffle tickets.

We especially wish to thank Stan Towers, a very supportive and long standing member from Bannockburn in Victoria for consistently selling numerous books of raffle tickets, every raffle time.

Also we send our thanks to all the people in his local community and family, for their generous support of our Association.

*From  
The Committee*

## Membership Renewal

Just a reminder that your membership falls due on 1st January each year, unless you are ahead in your payment.

When you received the Contact! newsletter by post, your date of membership will be printed on the front of the envelope.

For people on our email list, that is twice a year at non-raffle ticket time.

Your membership is current to 31 December of the year printed on the envelope. A Renewal of Membership Application form is on the last page of this newsletter.

If you have any queries regarding your membership please contact the office. Our office will reopen on Tuesday 22 January 2019.



### CROSSWORD # 9

#### ACROSS

- 1. Woodland flower (8)
- 5. Swelling (4)
- 7. Secret store (5)
- 8. Exceptional (7)
- 9. British Secretary of War in 1914 (9)
- 13. Fruit skin (4)
- 16. Wrath (3)
- 17. Garland (3)
- 18. Smallest particle (4)
- 21. Dividing wall (9)
- 24. Thrift (7)
- 26. Swig (5)
- 27. Sieve (4)
- 28. Garden post (8)

#### DOWN

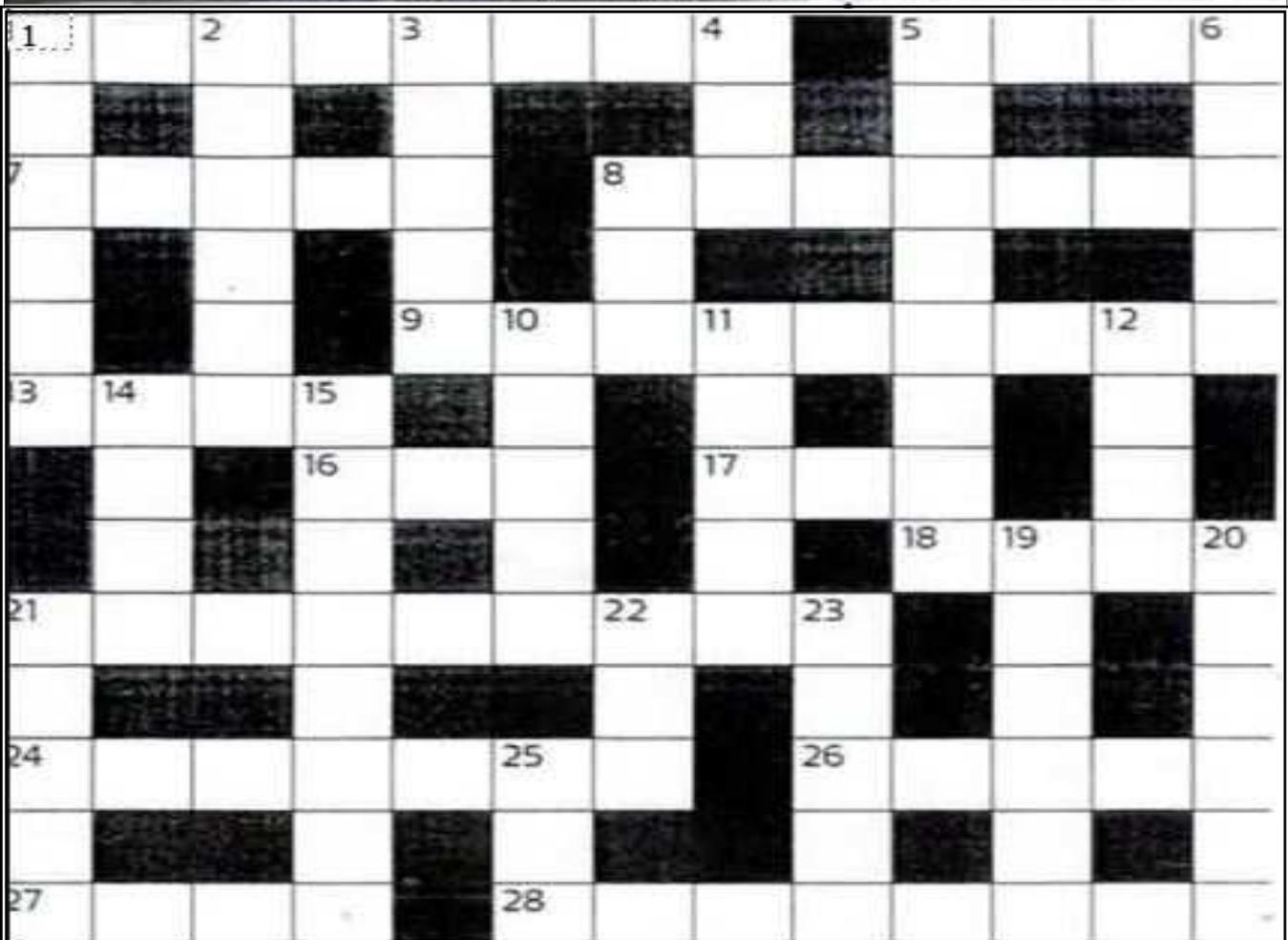
- 1. Sponsor (6)
- 2. Ragamuffin (6)

- 3. Dickens novel, \_\_\_ House (5)
- 4. Circuit (3)
- 5. Single-celled micro-organisms (8)
- 6. White bear (5)
- 8. Perch (3)
- 10. Lifeless (5)
- 11. Stringed instrument ( )
- 12. Nymph who loved Narcissus (4)
- 14. Thought (4)
- 15. Well-defined (8)
- 19. Price list (6)
- 20. Actor, \_\_\_ Rourke (6)
- 21. Squeeze (5)
- 22. Climbing plant (3)
- 23. Prod (5)
- 25. Drinking vessel (3)

### Who said smoking kills?



I'm 48 and still feeling good.





**BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.**  
**(ABN 74 645 329 198 CFN 17276)**  
**PO BOX 55 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777**  
**Phone: (02) 4751 8528 Email: secretary@bmvets.com.au**

**MEMBERSHIP/ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION**

Please renew my membership/associate membership of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc for.....year/s

Surname:.....

Given names:.....

Address:.....

Town:.....State:.....Postcode:.....

Home phone number.....Mobile:.....

Email:.....

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY NOTES THROUGH THE POST**

Annual Membership Fee: (BMVV&AF Inc.) \$ 10.00 x.....year/s	\$
Membership Badge \$10:00 (plus \$5:00 postage if applicable) Total \$15:00	\$
Association Logo Car Sticker \$2:00 each	\$
Vietnam Campaign Ribbons Car Sticker \$5:00 each	\$
Pens \$5:00 each	\$
Caps (with Logo) \$20:00 each (plus \$10:00 postage if applicable) Total \$30:00	\$
Polo Shirts (with Logo) - (Please ring the office for colours, sizes and prices)	\$
Donation	\$
I enclose a cheque/money order for TOTAL	\$

**Payment Details**

**Cheque or Money Order** – please make the cheque payable to Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc. and forward to the above address OR

**Direct Credit** - BSB: 032-837 (Westpac Bank Springwood NSW) Account Number: 138817

Account Name: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. Reference: “*your name or membership number*”

**Please Note: Please don’t forget to include ‘your name or membership number’ as the reference.**

I agree to be bound by the rules of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.

SIGNATURE:.....DATE:.....

*Office Use Only*  
Direct Debit/Receipt number:.....Date:..... Membership details updated:.....  
Remarks:.....Membership card:.....