

# CONTACT !



## Remembrance Day



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans  
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2019  
Issue 3  
July, August & September*

*BMVAF express their thanks to Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie, for her support to the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc., particularly by allowing the BMVAF to use her communications entitlement for the production of this newsletter.*

# CONTACT !

**Patron:** Colonel Nerolie Irene McDonald

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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>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Chris McKay</i>	<i>0427 794 914</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Craig Terrey</i>	<i>(02) 4754 1957</i>
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<b>Committee Member:</b>	<i>John Haynes</i>	<i>(02) 4751 8528</i>
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<b>Association Padre :</b>	<i>Colin Aiken OAM RFD</i>	<i>0417 203 722</i>
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<b>CONTACT! Editor:</b>	<i>Wendy Humphrys</i>	<i>(02) 47518 528</i>

## 2019

### Association Meeting Dates

*Meetings commence at 10:00am in our office  
 at the Blue Mountains Theatre &  
 Community Hub, Springwood NSW*

Committee Meeting  <b>Thursday 10 October 2019</b>	Committee Meeting  <b>Thursday 21 November 2019</b>
All Members Meeting & Raffle Draw  <b>Sunday 8 December</b>	Committee Meeting  <b>Thursday 13 February 2020</b>

**Office Manager:** Wendy Humphrys      **Phone:** (02) 4751 8528  
**Email:** [secretary@bmvets.com.au](mailto:secretary@bmvets.com.au)      **Web site:** [www.bmvets.com.au](http://www.bmvets.com.au)  
**Office Hours** are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am and 2:00pm

## *Wellbeing Support*

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

*John Fenton JP, ATDP3 Advocate on 0412 679 802*

*Or*

*Angus McDonald, Wellbeing Coordinator on (02) 4575 1997*

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

We folks, Christmas is nearly here, so its raffle time again.

Those of you who receive tickets, don't forget if you can't sell the tickets, please return to:

Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.

PO Box 55

Springwood NSW 2777

Soon our Website will have the documentary taken on and about "The Odd Angry Shot" fundraising movie event.

We also need volunteers for the raffles. Please phone me on (02) 4751 8833 or the office on Tuesdays and Thursday on (02) 4751 8528.

All the best

*Peter Jones*

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

It's hard to believe that we are nearly in November and we have already started selling our Christmas 2019 raffle tickets, so please dig deep as you can buy and sell tickets and the funds we raise from these raffles are our major source of income to keep the association going and providing welfare services to Veterans.

Talking of welfare, I'd like to give out a Special shout out to John Fenton who you all know is our ATDP3 Wellbeing Advocate and doing a fantastic job. So thank you John and of course our Vice President Angus McDonald, who works tirelessly making hospital visits and keeping us all informed of how all of our sick members are going.

I'd like to thank everyone who came along to **The Odd Angry Shot** fundraiser. It was a great success and to have Bryan Brown our great Australian actor - Tom Jeffrey the writer and director of the movie and David Stratton our iconic film critic attending the event was absolutely magnificent to all us Veterans.

DVA has announced that the new Veterans' Legislation passed through Parliament on 22nd October 2019, so you can all go to the DVA website to see what it is all about.

I'd like to hear from any **National Servicemen** who served in Vietnam and who did not have enough time left in the two (2) years conscription period, didn't serve in Vietnam for 181 days or more - hence them not qualifying for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) - (The Green and White one). As you are aware there is a push to get some fairness in this as most of those NASHOS who missed out on getting the RVCM served in the Infantry Battalions as Grunts.

It is important to note here that - The conscript entered the army under a contract with the National Service Act 1964 as amended, whereas the enlisted man signed a different contract with regard to extensions of service. The employer was obligated to protect civilian employment under the Act for 2 years (later 18 months) - not a day longer. So this only applies to National Servicemen.

Best regards

*Chris McKay*

## ***WELLBEING REPORT***

Since the last issue of Contact your Wellbeing & Compensation Team have continued to be extremely busy.

There have been multiple claims submissions under each of the three Acts, VEA, MRCA & DRCA. In some instances under VEA there have been new submissions & AFIs or a combination of new claims & AFI.

What is not readily understood by some claimants are the differences in benefits stemming from the various Acts. Simply put the VEA provides a successful submission a Disability Pension whereas the MRCA & DRCA provide PI & IP. Also not understood is that the VEA & MRCA provide various Review/Appeals steps to the VRB/AAT whereas the DRCA has an Internal Departmental Review only as well as recourse to the AAT, there is no avenue to the VRB.

The above leads me to address the Productivity Commission report. Let me say firstly that the traditional ESOs & their Sub-Branches have been particularly tardy in failing to put submissions to the PC Enquiry & also failed to follow up with submissions once the draft report was circulated. Some submissions were very narrow in content, for example addressing only their Members' concern about issue of the Gold Card. Traditional ESOs in the BM, Nepean, Penrith areas were not particularly pro-active in addressing the concerns of their members.

For those of us who submitted comments, the one stand out change from the draft report to the final report was the decision the not pursue the amalgamation of the DVA with Defence, the DVA will remain a stand alone Department & in so doing recognises the unique aspect of military service.

The recommendation to make Legislative changes to bring DRCA reviews into the purview of the VRB is a plus, the downside is the recommendation to, in the future, curb the role of the VRB & have internal departmental reviews with a possible avenue to VRB ADRs then access to AAT. I prefer the current status quo.

I could write a lengthy tome on the Productivity Report & the Ombudsman's Enquiry into the DFRDB but let us see what Government does with both.

***John Fenton JP***  
***ATDP3 Advocate***  
***Mob: 0412 679 802***

### **Sick List**

Maurice Green, Ted Hartley, John King, Ray Westwell, John Woolley

**Padre's Corner**  
***HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD***

Hello Everyone,

Fifty years ago, this year hundreds of thousands of Australians of all ages and faith groups participated in the Billy Graham Crusades throughout Australia; maybe some of you may have participated in one or more of the crusades either by attending the crusade or listening to them on the radio. Two hymns played a leading part in all the crusades; these hymns are now regularly sung in churches throughout Australia and across the world.

One of these hymns, **How Great Thou Art** is a [hymn](#) based on a Swedish poem written by [Carl Boberg](#) in Sweden, in 1885. It was translated into [German](#) and then into [Russian](#); later it was translated into English. It was popularised by the late [George Beverly Shea](#) of the Billy Graham Team.

**How Great Thou Art**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

**Chorus**

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

**Chorus**

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

**Chorus**

This hymn speaks for itself, it has a message for all of us, when it tells us How great our God is, and that God is with us all the days of lives; no matter who we are, where we are, or what we may have done. This hymn has been a blessing to many people over the years the years; it's message reflects God's promises to you and me and our response to his love for us.

**Let us pray for our Great Nation Australia**

We bless you, God of the Universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. We bless you for our history, with all its struggles in adversity, its courage and hope. Give us in our diversity tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**My best wishes to you all,**

**Colin Aiken            0417203722**

## Vales



### Victor (Vic) Leslie Baker

9/04/1927 - 5/07/2019  
 Royal Australian Airforce  
 19/04/1948 to 30/08/1981  
 Service Number A21387

Vietnam 19/11/1968 to 20/11/1969  
 35 Squadron  
 Warrant Office Engineer



### Edward Grimson

29/07/1934 - 11/09/2019  
 Royal Australian Navy  
 15/10/1952 to 11/07/1974  
 Service Number R49126

Korea 27/10/1953 to 2/06/1954  
 Malaya/Indonesia C/FESR  
 HMAS Sydney, HMAS Vendetta, HMAS Melbourne, Supply  
 Assistant Steward

*Lest We Forget*



### Wellbeing

In our next Newsletter, Issue 4 there will be an article about Falls which is a very important read.

As someone who has a tendency to fall over once in a while, it is not pleasant and is in fact life threatening.

From  
**Chris McKay**

## “ANZAC Day - Reminiscing” poem background by Sonia Young

This poem is about my Dad, Morris Noel Dwyer (Mick to his army buddies.)

Dad passed away on the 25th of February 2017. A couple of months later I attended the dawn service on ANZAC day with my family in Windsor NSW. I began to think about Dad and his journey through life. A few days later the verse:

“It’s the first ANZAC day since Dad passed away and I am sad to say that I miss him” popped into my head.

It swirled around in my head for a while before I sat down and wrote the poem.

As I began writing the poem I decided to do some research to make sure I had my facts right. I knew some of what happened to Dad but wanted to get the whole story. It was during this research process I realised just how important the 5RAR band was and how serious the incident was that Dad was involved in.

On ANZAC day 2018 I had the honour of reciting my poem at the dawn service in Kurrajong, NSW

Dad served in the Vietnam War. 1st Tour South Vietnam 1966-67

He was a member of the 5RAR band and a stretcher bearer for 4 platoon, B company. Dad’s birthday was 1st February 1945. He was the first intake to be conscripted into the army. After he was called up they were asking for volunteers to join The Regimental band, so dad and his mates thought it would be a good idea to do so. Unfortunately for them they were made medics. Dad went to Vietnam in May 1966, flown out in the middle of the night from Richmond Air base by Qantas because they didn’t want any protestors present.

He was injured in the Long Hai Hills, by a jumping jack mine while administering aid to the wounded in his platoon on 21st February 1966. He was evacuated by helicopter to an American hospital where he was immediately operated on, cut down through the stomach where they took out his spleen & then rolled him over and operated on his back, putting staples in his spine to keep it in place. They told him he’d never walk again.

When he was well enough to fly they transported him back to Australia in a sandwich bed to Ingleburn Hospital where he recuperated, beating all odds by learning to walk again with a very bad limp. After that he went to rehabilitation at Mt Wilga Hospital where he was taught cabinet making. After working for almost 20 years his condition deteriorated and it was found he had a cyst in the spinal cord, something that can happen after 20-30 years after trauma to the spine. This was called syringomyelia and he had to have a shunt placed in his head to drain the fluid out of his spinal cord and into his stomach area. (Which stayed there for the rest of his life) By this time he had lost the use of his legs, his right arm and hand. So now he was an incomplete quadriplegic.

When he returned home (after spending six months in hospital) he decided he had enough of sitting around doing nothing so he asked Mum if they bought a combi van & fitted it out would she be interested in travelling around Australia. She agreed and they went on many adventures together.

Dad still needed some hospital treatment while they were on the road but this didn’t stop them. Visiting 20 different hospitals in the last 22 years. Some do pub crawls but, no, they did hospital crawls. His stamina, personality and joy for life over the years has been astounding and people along the way couldn’t believe what they were doing.

Unfortunately on 3rd October 2016 he became sick in the middle of the night while they were camped in a Cerotodus Rest Area in central western Queensland. Leaving him in bed Mum drove him to Eidsvold hospital where he was admitted. Unfortunately they couldn’t treat him there and once again he was transported by helicopter, his first ride in 49 years to Bundaberg Hospital where he had medical treatment. Mum tried without success to have him flown back home but as usual no one would listen. After spending 5 days at their son’s place they drove home, worried that his condition could worsen. He made it home in quite good health but over the next five months his health deteriorated and he passed away in the early hours of the morning on the 25th of February 2017.

## Anzac Day- Reminiscing



Standing in the darkness of night  
Waiting for the morning light

Thoughts of Dad come to me  
As I think about the tragedy  
Of what he went through in the war  
Changing his life forever more

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*

The Vietnam War, he was conscripted to  
Before he was twenty two.

Stretcher bearer and medic he had to be  
With 4th platoon, B company

He was also part of the SRAR band  
And over in another land  
An important role they did play  
Boosting morale at the end of the day

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*

In the Long Hai Hills  
A terrible sound gave them chills  
An APC hit a land mine  
Exploded and flipped like a dime

21<sup>st</sup> of February nineteen sixty seven  
Many wounded and some went to  
heaven.

Dad went to the aid of an injured man  
But something happened as he ran.

A jumping jack mine exploded  
Onto a stretcher Dad was loaded

Flown to hospital  
Many Operations they had to do  
Hoping that he would pull through

Spleen removed, staples inserted in his  
back.  
Placed in a sandwich bod on a rack

Like a lamb on a spit roasting away  
He was turned every four hours  
throughout the day

Straps! they couldn't remove  
Would stay in his body his whole life  
through!

Wounds so bad that it was said  
He would never walk when he got out of  
bed

But he persevered  
And the nurses all cheered  
When he limped out of the hospital  
room.

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*

The service has started  
Remembering those who have departed

And I think about dad's life  
And how Mum became his wife

Mum was sad and alone  
When Dad came home  
And spied her over the fence

A single Mum  
With four young ones  
She fell in love with him

I was only two  
And didn't know what to do  
So in the shins I would kick him

But He was kind of heart  
Right From the start  
And forgave me for what I did

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*

As the service goes on  
My thoughts linger long  
About Dad's journey throughout his life.

As the years passed by  
We would cry  
As we watched his health deteriorate

Eventually his legs were no longer fit  
and in a wheelchair he had to sit  
but we were still very proud of him

With Mum's strength and courage  
He continued to flourish  
and no words of complaint he did utter

With love and support from his wife  
He started a new life  
Travelling around Australia

Many trips they did make  
Until sickness did take  
This life away from him

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*

With courage in his heart  
he did his part  
And paid a terrible price

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*

The dawn service is now through  
And with nothing more to do  
I slowly walk away  
and continue my day

*It's the first Anzac day  
Since Dad passed away  
And I am sad to say  
That I miss him*





## ***RAS BADGE***



I noticed at both this year's ANZAC Day and Vietnam Veteran's Day Marches & Services that many veterans are wearing their RAS Badge as well as their medals. The correct protocol for wearing the RAS Badge is outlined below. You will notice also that the protocol has changed from "Active Service" to "Warlike Service".

The Returned from Active Service Badge (RAS Badge) is issued to Australian Defence Force personnel who have rendered warlike service. Its purpose is to enable individuals to display their involvement in warlike service while in civilian attire, where the wearing of a medal denoting their service is not appropriate. The ability for veterans to wear a badge recognizing the service and sacrifice in rendering war service to Australia is a befitting tribute to these veterans.

For those of our members who are also members of the RSL, the RSL Protocol Regulation states: "**Wearing of the Returned from Active Service Badge 8.16** The Returned from Active Service Badge (RAS Badge) is issued to indicate a person who has returned from active service with the ADF whilst in civilian dress. It is not to be worn in uniform. It is not necessary to wear the RAS Badge on a suit jacket along with medals, as the medals more accurately indicates ones service to the nation"

Remember it was introduced after WW1 when men often would display their allegiance to a club or organization by wearing a lapel badge.

I would ask Association members to abide by the RAS Badge protocol.

**John Fenton JP**

**ADTP3 Advocate**

# Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day, Springwood NSW - 11 August 2019

Thank you to the Quynh Lan & The Yellow Jacket Ladies for their very generous gifts for Veterans, on Memorial day







## “The Odd Angry Shot” Movie Event



Chris McKay, Bryan Brown, David Stratton, Councillor Romola Hollywood and Tom Jeffrey at the Vietnam Veterans fundraiser at the Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, Springwood NSW  
Here is the link address to view a video of the event <https://youtu.be/jU59Sjhe1v8>

## Events Attended



John King OAM  
attending a Wreath Laying event & laying a wreath on behalf of the Association. The event was organised by Anna Phan



Leona Haynes  
& Anna Phan  
at an event at  
the  
Crystal Palace,  
organised by  
Anna Phan



John Haynes  
attending an event at the  
Crystal Palace,  
organised by  
Anna Phan

**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:.....