

# *CONTACT !*



## *Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day*



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans  
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2019  
Issue 2  
April, May & June*

*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

**Office Address:**

Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, 104-108 Macquarie Road Springwood NSW 2777

**Postal Address**

Post Office Box 55 Springwood NSW 2777

© JOURNAL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS and ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.  
 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>
<b>Committee Member:</b>	<i>Sydney Cole</i>	<i>(02) 4784 3717</i>
<b>Committee Member:</b>	<i>John Haynes</i>	<i>(02) 4751 8528</i>
<b>Committee Member:</b>	<i>Roger Lawlor</i>	<i>(02) 4754 4753</i>
<b>Lawn mowing Coordinator:</b>	<i>William Hogue</i>	<i>(02) 4753 6755</i>
<b>Wellbeing Coordinator:</b>	<i>Angus McDonald</i>	<i>(02) 4575 1997</i>
<b>Vietnamese Liaison Officer:</b>	<i>Jack Lake</i>	<i>(02) 4754 2144</i>
<b>Association Padre :</b>	<i>Colin Aiken OAM RFD</i>	<i>0417 203 722</i>
<b>Website Manager :</b>	<i>Wendy Humphrys</i>	<i>(02) 47518 528</i>
<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 & Raffle Draw	Memorial Day Meeting
Sunday 14 July 2019	Sunday 28 July 2019
Committee Meeting	Committee Meeting
Thursday 15 August 2019	Thursday 12 September 2019

**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***

Once again our Mid Winter raffle is completed, monies were down. So we will blame the Liberal Government and the Elections for the deficit.

Congratulations to all winners, spend wisely.

Our Wellbeing Officer & ATDP Advocate, John Fenton is onboard and doing a marvellous job, although he refused to see Don Rowe (ha ha).

John is also a JP, if you need a witness to signatures etc.

Memorial Day preparation is well underway and just the finishing touches are needed.

Don't forget we need volunteers on Memorial Day morning at 6:00am.

Cheers

*Peter Jones*

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

I'm writing this report flat on my back after having a fall and fracturing my hip/pelvis and ribs. As we get older our sense of balance isn't as good and we need to take special precautions to avoid falls.

I was surprised to hear when I was in Westmead Hospital that over 70% of the people in the ward, I was in, were there due to falls.

So look after yourselves and in future Contacts we will provide information on fall prevention.

I'd like to congratulate the winners of our Mid-year Raffle and all the people who bought tickets and all our volunteers who turned out to see tickets.

If it wasn't for you we would have no raffles!

You will see in this edition of Contact!, details of Memorial Day on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of August and a Special Fundraiser on Vietnam Veterans' Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. A special screening of the film "The Odd Angry Shot" a very exciting event, so do yourself a favour and buy your tickets before they sell out.

Best regards

*Chris McKay*

## **WELLBEING REPORT**

### ***John Fenton JP - ATDP3 Advocate***

During the reporting period your Wellbeing practitioners have been as busy as ever, even though Angus has not been able to get into the office, he has continued to provide support from home.

I have been attending the office one or two days a week & since the last issue of Contact, as well as conducting home interviews have completed; on average two new claim applications each week. Additionally I have currently three submissions undergoing reviews.

Our success rate in achieving positive outcomes for our veterans remains reasonably positive. Positive outcomes of three very complex claims achieved good results, one under the MRCA provided good Permanent Impairment (PI) & Incapacitated Payment (IP) results & two under DRCA achieved a reasonable Permanent Impairment (PI).

Unfortunately there are no trained ATDP practitioners in our geographic catchment from Lithgow to Penrith with the additional burden being taken up by a single qualified practitioner within your Association. The major ESOs in our immediate area who could provide support have failed in what really is their primary role to the veteran community. There is however trained support available at Windsor RSL Sub Branch & St Marys VVAA. Within the Regions mid North Coast of NSW is doing great work & one practitioner is operating in Townsville.

During the reporting period I chaired a successful Community of Practise (CoP) session at Seven Hills RSL, attended by representatives from several ESOs in greater western Sydney. Topics discussed included:

- Use of the ESO Portal
- AusKey providing access security
- The need for CPD by ATDP Advocates

I am grateful to my colleagues at VVAA St Marys who conducted an information session on the use of the ESO Portal to those Advocates who were unfamiliar with its use.

Finally I mention briefly the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant. The current Gold & White Health Cards will retain their colour & meaning but will be known as the Veteran Card, there are also two lapel pins available a veterans pin & for eligible reservists and a reservists pin. If you are already registered with DVA there is no need for any action, if not known to DVA members need to register using the "My service" link.

To ensure there is no delay in obtaining Compensation support, I can be contacted either through the office during office hours or at any time seven days a week on my mobile number shown below.

John Fenton JP  
ATDP3 Advocate  
Mobile: 0412 679 802

### **Sick List**

*Angus McDonald* - Our Vice President is recovering at home from a hernia operation.

*Chris McKay* - Our Secretary is out of hospital and recovering at home from his fall injuries.

Our thoughts are with them and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

## Padre's Corner

### What A Wonderful World

Hello Everyone,

The late Louis Armstrong amongst others made famous a song called, What a Wonderful World. In part the words tell us:

*I see trees of green, red roses too  
I see them bloom for me and you  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
I see skies of blue and clouds of white  
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world*

Songwriters: DOUG DIPRETA © Warner/Chappell Music

We could be forgiven for thinking that our world is a crazy place to live in now. Recently we have witnessed several terrible situations resulting in the loss of numerous lives and the wounding of many others. We have witnessed from afar through the medium of television, the suffering of people in Christchurch New Zealand, Paris France, Columbo Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nigeria and many other places throughout the world. We could be forgiven for thinking that people do not care for each other anymore, and maybe today many parts of our world are not a wonderful place to live. Professor Julius Sumner Miller, was a physicist who brought physics to television in a way that everyone could understand, frequently during his experiments he would say **“why is this so?”** Perhaps this is a question we should ask ourselves today?

Is the answer to this question that for many people their relationship with God has changed? If this is so, the psalmist writing about 3000 years ago has the answer for us when he wrote: **God is our strength and refuge, our present help in trouble, and we therefore will not fear, though the earth should change! Though mountains shake and tremble. Though swirling waters are raging, God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!** (Psalm 46:1)

The message for us today and every day is that no matter who we are, where we are, what we have done or not done in our life God is willing to walk with us and will provide for us, this is a message of hope for the future.

#### **Please join me as we pray for peace in our world**

Father of all, we are your family, and you call us to live together as brothers and sisters. Help us to overcome the barriers that divide people and nations one from another. Bless every effort being made to bring peace and understanding to our world, so that we may learn your ways and serve your will. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord **AMEN**

Best wishes to you all,

**Colin Aiken**  
**0417 203 722**

# Vale



## Alan Kitchen

05/12/1943 - 12/05/2019  
 QANTAS Skippy Squadron  
 Service Number 157758  
 Vietnam 1966 to 1972  
 with QANTAS 05/05/1965 to 24/02/2002

Alan commenced flying with QANTAS in 1965 and was involved in the early Viet Nam flights from Richmond. He continued operating flights to Saigon until Australia withdrew from the war.

He was actively involved in the establishment of Skippy Squadron and in joining Skippy Squadron with Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans. Until his health failed, Alan was a regular attendee at BMVVets Committee Meetings and travelled from Sydney to sell raffle tickets.

Alan was one of the organisers of the laying of Skippy Squadron's memorial plaque at the Australian War Memorial. This plaque was the first one allowed by the AWM to mention a commercial enterprise. It particularly honoured the civilian QANTAS crew killed in WW2.

Alan was also a very keen student of WW1 and often lectured on aspects of that war.

Alan battled prostate cancer for several years and died at age 75.

He is survived by his two sons, Gavin and Neil.

*We thank to Rene Herbert (a Member of our association and a former QANTAS Skippy Squadron Member) for this tribute & photo.*

*Lest We Forget*





## Murals in Gunnedah

These murals were unveiled on ANZAC Day this year in Gunnedah NSW. Looks like a fitting tribute to Vietnam Veterans and a worthwhile place to visit



Photos from Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia  
Far North Coast (NSW) Sub-Branch Inc.  
"The Furphy - June/July 2019"

## Memorial Day Parade & Service

### Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.

cordially invites you to attend our

### *Annual Parade & Memorial Service*

**Sunday 11th August, 2019**

The Parade will be assembling at 11:00am,  
at Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

The Service, at Springwood War Memorial  
will be followed by a social function at the  
Royal Hotel, Springwood  
to which members are invited.

#### **Our Guest of Honour is Brigadier Phillip Bridie, AM, ADC**

He is an Honorary Colonel for 1st/15th Royal  
NSW Lancers, Director of RSL NSW & an  
Honorary ADC to the Governor General.  
Currently of the Standby Reserve.

*(See reverse for more of his biography)*



#### **Guest of Honour Bio - cont.**

In his forty year active military career  
he graduated from Duntroon into the  
Armoured Corps, Regular Army  
& amongst many postings, commanded the  
Lancers & the 8th Brigade,  
served as Director General Army Reserve  
& in 2014, was deployed to Afghanistan as  
Deputy Commanding General of Regional  
Command-East with US 10th Mountain  
Division & 3rd Infantry Division & was the  
DCG of US I Corps for TALISMAN  
SABER 2015.

He was previously the President of Castle  
Hill RSL Sub-Branch & in civilian life is  
the Defence Deployed Service Director  
with the large IT services business, Fujitsu.





**Memorial Day Transport  
Sunday 11 August 2019**



Our Ref: OM19/01594

Mr Peter Jones  
President  
Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.  
104-108 Macquarie Road  
SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777  
Email: [secretary@bmvets.com.au](mailto:secretary@bmvets.com.au)

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for the request made by your office on 19 February 2019 for free public transport for participants in the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day Service at Springwood on Sunday, 11 August 2019.

I am pleased to advise that free transport has been approved for Members and Ex-Members of the Australian Defence Force and the carers, spouses, children and grandchildren of living and deceased service personnel travelling to and from the service on Sunday, 11 August 2019. Free travel will be available on Sydney Trains, NSW TrainLink intercity services, Sydney Ferries, Inner West and Newcastle Light Rail services and bus services in the Sydney metropolitan and outer-metropolitan areas.

This free transport will not require participants to hold a valid ticket. Instead, to access services, participants will be required to:

- wear an Australian Defence uniform; or
- display service medals; or
- carry a War Widow's gold card; or
- carry an official letter of accreditation from a branch of the Returned and Services League or other recognised ex-services organisation.

If a participant parks in a Transport Park&Ride car park, they should use the intercom button at the exit gate and advise the operator that they are a participant in the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day Service. The locations of Park&Ride car parks are available at <https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/ways-to-get-around/drive/transport-parkride-car-parks>.

The items listed above must also be shown to Transport Officers or Police, or a car park operator, if requested to do so.

For quick and convenient access to timetables, trip planning and other service information, participants may call 131500 or visit [www.transportnsw.info/](http://www.transportnsw.info/).

**The Iconic Movie “The Odd Angry Shot”  
Vietnam Veterans’ Day - 18 August 2019  
Fundraiser for our Association and Soldier On**

**THE ODD ANGRY SHOT**

**Hosted by David Stratton**

**with special guests Tom Jeffrey and Bryan Brown**

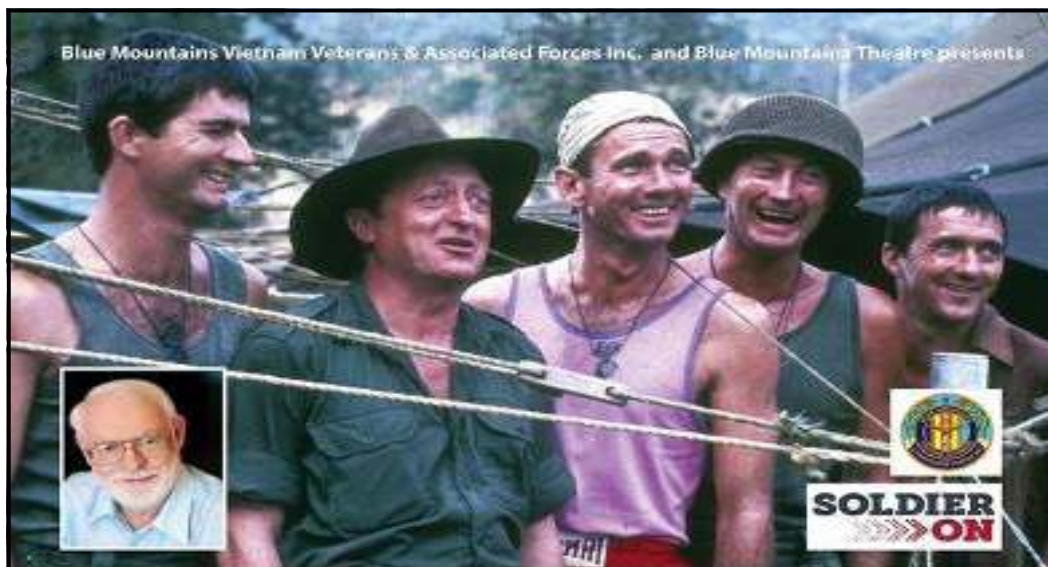
**A special fund raiser for the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated forces Inc. and Soldier On with money from ticket sales used to provide welfare services to Australian Veterans.**

Join us at the theatre for a wonderful commemorative screening of the 1979 Tom Jeffrey written/directed and co-produced film of *The Odd Angry Shot*. This seminal piece of Australian cinema is considered to be the best movie made that reflects what Vietnam was like for an Australian Soldier back in that era and to add to the screening being of particular relevance, it is featured on Vietnam Veterans’ Day.

Following the screening, we have Tom Jeffrey, the director and Bryan Brown one of the stars on stage in a Q&A hosted by esteemed film critic, David Stratton.

The Odd Angry Shot is a war and action film with elements of great Aussie comedy, based on the book of the same title by William Nagel, and features an all star cast including Graham Kennedy, John Hargreaves, John Jarrett, Bryan Brown, Graeme Blundell.

Rated M: Contains medium level violence, medium level coarse language, nudity.



**A special film event fundraiser on Vietnam Veterans Day**

# **The Odd Angry Shot**

**Hosted by David Stratton**

**SUN 18 AUGUST, 3PM | \$25**

Join us for a commemorative screening of the 1979 Tom Jeffrey written/directed & co-produced iconic Australian Vietnam film, *The Odd Angry Shot*.

Following the film, esteemed critic David Stratton will lead a Q&A onstage with the film's director Tom Jeffrey and actor Bryan Brown.

Funds raised will support veteran's welfare services.



**4723 5050** | 106 Macquarie Rd Springwood  
**www.bluemountainstheatre.com**

**BLUE  
MOUNTAINS  
THEATRE**



# Mid-year Raffle Winners

The raffle was drawn on Sunday 14 July 2019.

Congratulations to these winners:

1st Prize \$1500 Prepaid Visa Card - Ticket No. 12760, Greg from Winmalee NSW

2nd Prize \$600 Prepaid Visa Card - Ticket No. 06746, John from Linden NSW

3rd Prize \$400 Prepaid Visa Card - Ticket No. 06920, Smiley (purchased in Springwood NSW)

**The Committee thanks the Community and our Members for their generous support.  
Special thanks to our volunteers who generously gave their time to sell tickets.**

## Recent Events Attended



(Left)

The ARVN Veterans' Association in Australia Inc.  
**ARVN Day Flag Raising Ceremony**  
at Cabravale Park, Cabramatta NSW  
on 16 June 2019  
was attended by our member John King OAM.  
The wreath was placed by John, from our Association at the Ceremony.



(Left & Right)  
The ARVN Veterans' Association in Australia Inc.  
**ARVN Day Dinner**  
At the Crystal Palace, Canley Heights NSW on 14 June 2019  
was attended by our members Malcolm Campbell (right) & member John Haynes (not pictured).  
Anna Phan (centre) is the event organiser for the ARVN Association.  
There were about 740 attendees at the function



## “Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan” Movie coming to Cinemas on August 8

# DANGER CLOSE

## THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

IN CINEMAS AUGUST 8

Late afternoon August 18, 1966 South Vietnam – for three and a half hours, in the pouring rain, amid the mud and shattered trees of a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Major Harry Smith (Travis Fimmel) and his dispersed company of 108 young and mostly inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers are fighting for their lives, holding off an overwhelming force of 2,000 battle-hardened Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. With their ammunition running out, their casualties mounting and the enemy massing for a final assault each man begins to search for his own answer, and the strength to triumph over an uncertain future with honour, decency and courage.

The Battle of Long Tan is one of the most savage and decisive engagements in ANZAC history, earning both the United States and South Vietnamese Presidential Unit citations for gallantry along with many individual awards.

**DIRECTED BY** Kriv Stenders

**PRODUCED BY** Martin Walsh, John Schwarz, Michael Schwarz

**WRITTEN BY** Stuart Beattie, James Nicholas, Karel Segers, Paul Sullivan, Jack Brislee

**CAST** Travis Fimmel, Luke Bracey, Alex England, Daniel Webber, Richard Roxburgh, Nicholas Hamilton, Anthony Hayes

This is the link address to view a trailer of the movie.

<https://www.dangerclosemovie.com/videos/>



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc. was held on Sunday 19 May 2019 at The Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, Level 1, 104-108 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW at 10:00am.

Here are your elected Committee Members from that meeting:

### *Your Committee*

<b>President:</b>	<b>Peter Jones</b>	<b>(02) 4751 8833</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Angus McDonald</b>	<b>(02) 4575 1997</b>
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<b>Vietnamese Liaison Officer:</b>	<b>Jack Lake</b>	<b>(02) 4754 2144</b>

## Membership Renewal



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

When you receive 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.

We appreciate your support of your Association, by keeping your membership fees up to date.

It is still only \$10:00 per year and we do not ask for back payment of fees, so \$10:00 will renew your membership.

A Renewal of Membership Application form is included in this newsletter on page 14.

**In the future the Contact! newsletter will not be sent to unfinancial members.**

If you have any queries regarding your membership status please contact the office.

*From the Committee*

**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:.....