

CONTACT !



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2021
Issue 1
January/February/ March/ April*

BMVVF 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 BMVVF to use her communications entitlement for the production of this newsletter.

CONTACT !

Patron: Brigadier Nerolie Irene McDonald

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

Postal Address

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ABN 74 645 329 198 incorporating CFN 17276

RAAF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION and the QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSOCIATION
and the BLUE MOUNTAIN NASHOS ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN ALL POST WORLD WAR II CONFLICTS

Your Committee

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| President: | Peter Jones | (02) 4751 8833 |
| Vice President: | Mick Visinko | 0404 004 715 |
| Secretary: | Chris McKay | 0427 794 914 |
| Treasurer: | Craig Terrey | (02) 4754 1957 |
| Committee Member: | Sydney Cole | (02) 4784 3717 |
| Committee Member: | Darrell Carter | (02) 4754 1302 |
| Committee Member: | Roger Lawlor | (02) 4754 4753 |
| Lawn mowing Coordinator: | Norm Fraser | (02) 4757 1453 |
| Wellbeing Coordinator: | Association Office | (02) 4751 8528 |
| Vietnamese Liaison Officer: | Jack Lake | (02) 4754 2144 |
| Association Padre : | Colin Aiken OAM RFD | 0417 203 722 |
| Website Manager : | Wendy Humphrys | (02) 47518 528 |
| CONTACT! Editor: | Wendy Humphrys | (02) 47518 528 |

2021

Association Meeting Dates

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

| | |
|--|---|
| Committee Meeting Thursday 10 June 2021 10:00am | Annual General Meeting Thursday 8 July 2021 10:30am |
| Committee Meeting Thursday 5 August 2021 10:00am | Committee Meeting Thursday 9 September 2021 10:00am |

**Please contact the office to confirm
these meeting dates and time, as they
may change.**

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

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now winter is upon us all it's time to sit by the fire and read our latest Contact!, full of news and tidbits to our far ranging members.

Terry Ryan must be thanked for his ongoing support of our lawn mowers, by supplying coffee money.

With the advent of COVID-19 our Memorial Day is still up in the air.

But all being well we will have a memorial service regardless and maybe we'll have something on at The Royal afterwards.

There definitely won't be a march through the town.

Maybe I'll see you all there, Sunday 15th August at 11:30am.

Peter Jones

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well here we are the Year almost half gone and all of us trying to stay safe and having our Covid-19 injections and trying to lead life as normal as we possibly can under very trying conditions. Obviously the Covid-19 pandemic is having a major impact on your Association by way of cancelling our Mid-Year raffle which has a major negative impact on our Financial position but enough of all the negatives let's look at some positives.

We conducted a mini Anzac Day commemoration at the Springwood Cenotaph which was greatly appreciated by local members and the general public seeing as we couldn't do anything last year 2020. It was great to see members who we hadn't seen for a while and our President Peter Jones gave an inspiring speech to remind us all that as tough as things seem compared to being in trenches back in WW1 things weren't that bad. We are endeavouring to hold our Memorial Long Tan Day on Sunday the 15th August 2021 albeit with NO march but a commemoration service at the Springwood Cenotaph followed by lunch at the Royal Hotel Springwood. You will see more on this in our Contact Newsletter. Obviously this Memorial Day 2021 will be dependent on Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

It is with sadness that our member Lorrae Desmond passed away and what a great Lady she was. Did many tours to Vietnam entertaining our troops and she will sadly be missed. One of our great Rugby League players and 9th Intake National Serviceman Bob Fulton passed away and he too will be greatly missed. Our President Peter Jones had a kidney removed in April and he is doing well. Roger Lawlor one of our Committee members had a quadruple bypass and he also is doing well. Well done guys and we look forward to buying you a beer when next you are in the office.

John Fenton JP our ATDP3 Advocate has been busy as normal helping members with claims and also putting in applications for Grants. Thank you John and as always Well Done. Don't forget our Annual General Meeting AGM is on Thursday the 8th July 2021 at 10:30am in our Office at the Hub. I'd like to thank all our Office Holders and Committee Members who have kept the wheels turning during a very difficult period for the Association but as always
UPWARDS AND ONWARDS.

Best regards

Chris McKay

WELLBEING REPORT

DVA submissions

Currently there are several claims being considered by DVA & one case submitted to the Veterans Review Board. I reinforce my earlier statement that DVA endeavour to satisfy claims within 70 days but, with a combination of a plethora of claims coupled to COVID 19 restrictions, with Delegates working remotely, claims are taking in excess of 250 days.

The Secretary Liz Cosson is well aware of the concerns expressed by ESOs relating to the time taken to resolve claims.

Budget at a Glance

\$302.8M-Additional resources

\$12.1M-Expanding Support for veterans

\$55.4M- Veteran Health Care

\$60.7M- Wellbeing

\$32.1M- Commemorations

The obvious ones of concern to Veterans & hopefully the Government, is the outcome of the Suicide Royal Commission & the Enquiry into the inequality of the DRFDB Scheme

Grants

Fund raising has been a problem for your committee.

We continue to rely on membership fees for our ability to provide services.

In particular the regular issue of "Contact" Newsletter.

We have been successful in obtaining Grants, never as much as we have requested but as the saying goes "every little bit counts"

John Fenton JP
ATDP3 Advocate
Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Mob: 0412 679 802

Padre's Corner

Their Great Sacrifice



My Friends, Easter is now past; during Easter we reflected on the great sacrifice of Christ on the cross for us and for all people, soon we will commemorate ANZAC Day, like last year ANZAC Day 2021 will be different but nevertheless we will have an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to those who have served our Nation in

the cause of world peace.

While ANZAC Day was originally a day to remember the first ANZAC's and their sacrifice and service; over the years it has developed into a day when we can remember and pay tribute to all who have served in all theatres of war or peace making or peace keeping duties, wherever their service has been; and we particularly remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the cause of peace. In John's Gospel we read those words that we find on many War Memorial throughout Australia and overseas:

Greater Love has no one than this: than to lay down one's life for another- John 15:13 (NIV)

These words remind us of the willingness of men and women to serve their Nation, to leave our shores to serve throughout the world in the cause of world peace. Many of these men and women would not return having laid down their lives for others in the cause of peace; many would be wounded in body or mind.

Again, this year ANZAC Day and Easter occur within a few weeks of each other, and so as you read this page, I invite you to reflect on both the sacrifice of those who have served our Nation, and the great sacrifice of Christ on our behalf on the cross for us where Christ paid the supreme price for our sins. We read in St John's Gospel 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not die but have everlasting life.

I hope that you will join with me belatedly in the following ANZAC Day prayer as we remember and give thanks for the sacrifices made by others on our behalf.

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth, and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May we prove worthy of their sacrifice and the sacrifice of Christ.

LEST WE FORGET

Best wishes to you all.

Colin Aiken

0417203722

Vale

Robert Polo

23/08/1945 - 22/04/2021



Royal Australian Navy
8/07/1961 to 7/07/1973
Service Number R93420

Overseas Service in Vietnam
HMAS Vampire, HMAS Sydney, HMAS Swan
Petty Officer Stores Naval
31/05/1965 - 06/12/1971

Peter Jones

9/12/1938 - 10/05/2021



Royal Australian Airforce
25/04/1956 to 25/04/1968
Service Number A217838
38 Squadron

Overseas Service in Vietnam
RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam
Leading Aircraftman
11/01/1965 - 12/07/1965

Lorrae Desmond

Died 23/05/2021



Lorrae was an Honorary Member of the Association.

She did five tours to perform in Concerts in Vietnam, to entertain the troops. Seeing her perform was very much appreciated by the troops.

Lest We Forget



The Flying Red Tail Rats

Further to the Article written by Jeff Basford. (Contact Issue 3, 2020)

By John McIntyre - Ex Qantas Crew

I too, crewed several military charters from Kingsford Smith Airport to Saigon in the mid to late 60s. I have fond memories of the young men, looking so immensely proud in their uniforms, clean cut, and a credit to our nation, but you could also see a look of apprehension in their eyes not knowing what lay ahead of them.

I have several memories. The first was in-flight heading out of Sydney, the Captain announced over the aircraft PA, if anyone would like to have a look at the flight deck just wander up the front and come in.

With that, about 142 headed for the flight deck, within seconds the captain's back on the PA, asking everybody to return to their seats as the mass movement of load in the aircraft was altering the trim of the aircraft, so then the troops went to the flight deck six at a time, or thereabouts.

The second memory was just after landing on my first flight into Saigon, I was the junior flight steward on the flight, and NCO came up to me and asked who had meat for him. I looked dumbly at him and said I knew nothing about a delivery for him. I made inquiries with the rest of the crew and nobody knew about a delivery of Australian Beef. He then proceeded to tell me on my next trip back to Saigon, I should bring 4 pounds of Australian beef frozen, (no sausages) in exchange for 2 only 40 ounce bottles of Bacardi Rum. Two weeks later I was rostered to do another charter to Saigon, so I ordered from my local butcher 2 pounds of T-bone steaks and two pounds of sirloin steak which he froze for me. I refrigerated this and kept it frozen with the help of some dry ice off the a/c. On arrival the NCO appeared again looking for any meat, he said I'll be right back with the Bacardi. I thought I had made the deal of the year. On arrival back in Sydney I declared on the crew customs form 5, 80 ozs of spirits, most people used to put down one bottle or show it in ounces, I just wrote 80 ozs with a large 0ZS. It was a hit or miss if bags were searched by customs. My bags were searched, and the customs officer said I'd have to pay duty, consequently I paid \$10 duty which I thought was a bargain. I did this several times again on further trips.

The take-off from Saigon was very emotional for the returning troops who looked completely different to the ones we had just delivered, the noise, cheering, yelling, and joy released by these men was very moving.

On arrival in Sydney which was at about 9/10 o'clock in the evening as the wheels touched the runway again, the emotion and noise of those returning troops must have been heard in Canberra. The joy of returning safely to Australia was very obvious, as they departed the aircraft everyone shook the hands of the crew. The smiles and realisation on their faces that they had returning safe was there to see.

Outside the terminal there were some relatives waiting to reunite with their loved ones. Another memory I have, is flying over Vietnam at 39 thousand feet, from Hong Kong to Bangkok on the way to London. Looking down at the countryside in the early evening you could see tracer fire and explosions on the ground. On another flight, our aircraft was buzzed by two US jets, they were so close you felt you could step from one wing to the other, the passengers thought this was a real buzz, I even have super 8 movie footage of it.

John McIntyre

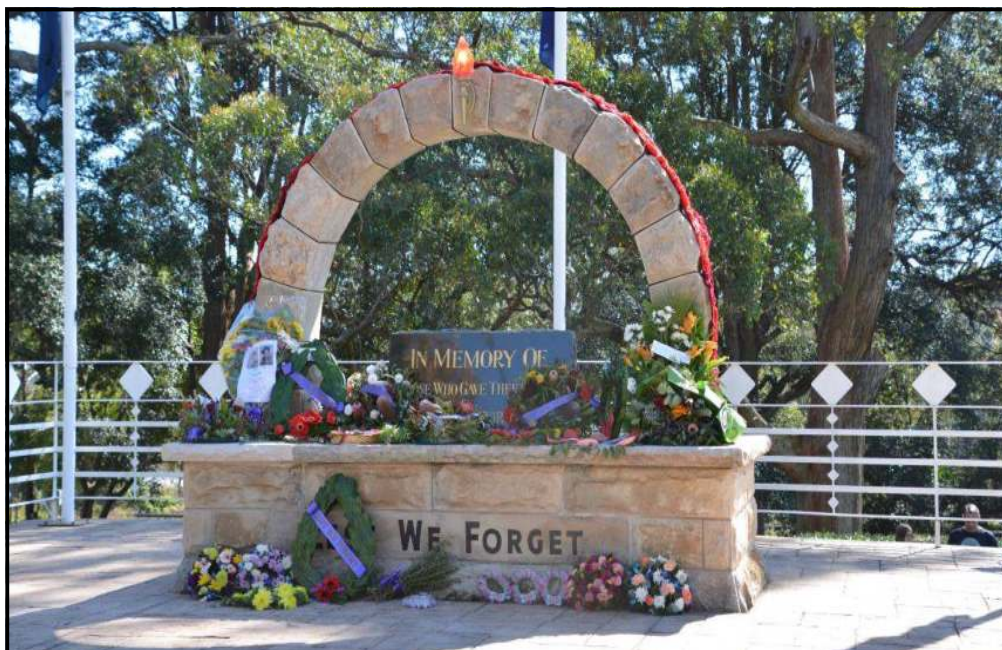
Springwood War Memorial Damaged

Springwood War Memorial was damaged on 1 January 2021 by someone climbing and standing on top of the sandstone arch, causing the structure to collapse. The young offender had been drinking and was very remorseful when she appeared in Court. It was an unfortunate incident but luckily, being a Council owned site, it was covered by insurance. The stone archway had previously been damaged by vandals in the 1980s and was rebuilt.

See the photo of the damage below:



The Memorial was repaired ready for the ANZAC Day Service, see the photo below:



ANZAC Day 2021 Service

Our association organised a low key wreath laying service at the Springwood Cenotaph, which was attended by a small crowd of veterans and members of the public. The Australian Airforce conducted a flypast by a C-130J Hercules over the cenotaph just before the formal ceremony started.



VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL DAY INVITATION

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day Service will be held on

Sunday 15 August 2021 at 11:30am
at the Springwood Cenotaph,
followed by lunch at
the Royal Hotel in Springwood at 1:00pm.

Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty of requirements in August, there will not be a March.

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions and catering requirements, please
RSVP by
5 August if you will be attending.**

Please note:

*This event is dependent on the weather and current COVID-19
restrictions at the time.*

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, please RSVP by 1 July if you will be attending.



BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.

(ABN 74 645 329 198)

CFN 17276)

Postal address: Post Office Box 55, Springwood 2777

Email Address: secretary@bmvets.com.au

President: Peter Jones

tel (02) 4751 8833

Secretary: Chris McKay

tel 0427 794 914

Treasurer: Craig Terrey

tel (02) 4754 1957

Office:

tel (02) 47518528

13 May 2021

NOTICE OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc. will be held at the Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, Level 1 104-108 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW at 10:30am on Thursday 8 July 2021.

A copy of the Financial Report will be available at the meeting.
Copies of the Agenda & Office Bearer Nomination Form are attached.

The business of the meeting will be:

1. Ode
2. Confirmation of minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Receipt of annual financial statements for the year ending 2020
6. Election of office bearers:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer

We encourage you to consider standing for one of these positions to bring new people onto the management committee.

Yours sincerely

Chris McKay
Secretary

The form to put forward your name as an office-bearer or ordinary member of the Committee is included on the last page of this newsletter.

AGENDA
2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.
2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4.26 OF THE CONSTITUTION
Thursday 8 July 2021 at 10:30am at
Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, Level 1,
104-108 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW

Welcome by President.

Silent reflection remembering those members who have departed this life since the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Apologies.

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2020.

Business arising out of those minutes.

President's Report in accordance with Part 4.24 of the Constitution.

Treasurer's Report, receive and consider the financial statement of the Association.

Receive other Sub-Committee Reports.

Suspension of Standing Orders & Election of Returning Officer.

Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of Committee in accordance with Part 4.15 of the Constitution.

Reappointment of Honorary Auditor

(Mrs Jillian Williams CPA, FFIN, FASFA, MRMLA, MIPA has agreed to continue in this appointment.)

Reappointment of Public Officer

(Mr Stafford Lowe has agreed to continue in this appointment.)

Reappointment of Honorary Solicitor

(Mr Trevor Cork BA, LL.M, FTLA has agreed to continue in this appointment.)

General Business.

Close of Meeting.

Congratulations

Mr Ronald Glew OAM

We congratulate Mr Ronald Thomas Glew OAM on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in January 2021.

He received it for service to veterans and their families, and to the community.

Congratulations Ron.

Ms Lorrae Desmond MBE OAM

We congratulate Lorrae Desmond MBE OAM on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia for significant service to the performing arts in January 2021.

Pictured is the Governor of Queensland,
His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
presenting Lorrae with her award.

We are very sorry to hear of Lorrae's passing on 23 May 2021.



Charities & Not-For-Profits Roundtable

Chris McKay and Darrell Carter attended this Roundtable. It was organised by Susan Templeman MP - Federal Member for Macquarie and Dr Andrew Leigh MP - Shadow Assistant Minister for Charities.

The discussion included the following:

How has Covid-19 impacted your group or organisation?

What have been the benefits and shortcomings of federal and state government responses?

And most importantly, what help do you need to recover?

(Left to Right)
Dr Andrew Leigh MP ,
Chris McKay, Darrell Carter
& Susan Templeman MP





"Grandpa, explain again how you stopped the Vietnam war by growing a beard and picking flowers."



"OLD" IS WHEN..... Your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you answer, "Honey, I can't do both!"

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pace-maker opens the garage door.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... "Getting a little action" means I don't need to take any fiber today.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... "Getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... An "all nighter" means not getting up to go to the bathroom.



"I hope the Viet Cong know this!"



"They ought to mutiny and lay down their cars.....!"

Publication Deadlines

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| Issue 1 | 15 May 2021 |
| Issue 2 | 1 September 2021 |
| Issue 3 | 2 December 2021 |
| | |

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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 \$

Pens \$5:00 each \$

Cap (with Logo) \$20:00 (plus \$10:00 postage if applicable) Total \$30:00 \$

Polo Shirts (with Logo) \$30:00 (plus \$10:00 postage if applicable) Total \$40:00 \$

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:.....

(This form must be returned to the secretary 7 days prior to the AGM)

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.

(ABN 74 645 329 198)

CFN 17276)

Postal Address: Post Office Box 55, Springwood NSW 2777

NOMINATION AS OFFICE-BEARER OR ORDINARY MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

I,
(name and signature of proposer)

Nominate

.....
(name of nominee)

for the position of:

I,
(name and signature of seconder)

Hereby second the above nomination:

I,
(full name and signature of nominee)

Hereby accept nomination for the position

of:

Date:

Office Use Only

Date received by Secretary:

Membership status verified:

Nomination recorded in minutes of meeting: