

# *CONTACT !*



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans  
and Associated Forces Inc.*

*2021  
Issue 2  
May - December 2021*

*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: Brigadier 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.  
 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

**Contact Details for RAAF Vietnam Association (NSW)**

Graham Christian - Email: raafvvnsw@gmail.com

**Contact Details for Qantas "Skippy Squadron" Association**

Rene Herbert - Email: renelynne@live.com - Mobile: 0490 054 240

## *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:** Darrell Carter (02) 4754 1302  
**Committee Member:** Sydney Cole (02) 4784 3717  
**Committee Member:** Roger Lawlor (02) 4754 4753  
**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

## **2021/2022**

### **Association Meeting Dates**

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

Annual General Meeting Thursday 9 December 2021 10:00am	Committee Meeting Thursday 10 February 2022 11:00am
Committee Meeting Thursday 10 March 2022 11:00am	Committee Meeting Thursday 14 April 2022 11:00am

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***

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

**Or**

**Our office on (02) 4751 8528**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am to 2:00pm**

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

Here we are close to the end of the Year and Christmas upon us. Another year of Covid-19 lockdowns and log ins and if you are like me as much as we needed to do all this for Health reasons it is certainly demanding on us all. As it is the final Contact for 2021 I have a few notices that I'd like to share with all our Members:

1. Our AGM is on Thursday the 09/12/2021, because of Covid we will need to know if you intend to attend ASAP.
2. The Committee has decided to hold an end of Year Raffle further details can be read in Contact BUT please consider buying a book or two.
3. Any members who would like to stand for a Committee Member as ALL positions will be declared vacant at the AGM – Some new young blood would be great.

As I do in the final Contact for the Year I like to give my shoutouts for above and beyond the call of Duty: President Peter Jones hasn't been feeling well recently but still gives it his all. Well done Peter.

Brigadier Nerolie McDonald our Patron. I heard Nerolie may be coming back to OZ which would give her the opportunity to attend some of our functions which would be fantastic.

Craig Terrey our Treasurer who keeps the books balanced and getting Craig to spend money is like getting your wife/partner to agree to you having a Mistress.

John Fenton what can I say but WOW John is an exceptional Advocate and getting Government grants for your Association, John is second to none.

Mick Visinko / Darrell Carter / Stafford Lowe / Jack Lake all who assist in providing humour and advice

Colin Aiken OAM who offers us all comfort with his Padres Corner ,Thank you Colin,

A special mention for Wendy Humphrys who keeps us all inline and keeps this buzzing.

The association acknowledges and thanks Susan Templeman MP for printing our newsletter using her communications entitlement.

None of us are getting any younger unfortunately, so new members from more recent Conflicts after SVN would ensure the ongoing success of your Association. Get recruiting younger members.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Covid free New Year.

The Power of Love will always overcome the Love of Power.

This is Call Sign 3 Over and Out.

*Chris McKay*

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

All the best for Christmas and wishing everyone a safe and Happy New Year.

*Peter Jones*

## ***VICE PRESIDENT'S - MEMBERSHIP REPORT***

We have 251 financial members and 165 unfinancial members, a total of 419.

If you are unfinancial please pay for the current year, we do not require back payment. The current year of your membership, is printed on the front of your envelope.

In the coming months I will contact all unfinancial members to ratify the membership numbers.

*Mick Visinka*

## ***WELLBEING REPORT***

### ***November 2021***

As we emerge from winter & the prolonged lockdown due to COVID 19 restrictions, it is very important to remember this virus is still in our community, regardless of where we are located.

It is a fact of life that the majority of our members are in the most vulnerable cohort within the greater community.

Your Committee urge you to certainly enjoy life & the pursuits you followed before lockdown but be aware at all times, wear a face mask if it is a requirement, practice good hand washing hygiene & importantly follow your Health Department Guidelines.

On a personal note, it was pleasing to attend the office for the first time since the lockdown & discuss issues face to face with Vice President Mick, Secretary Chris, Treasurer Craig & our ever-hard-working Office Manager Wendy. The team has been working behind the scenes to ensure your Association provides the services your membership brings.

During lockdown, I conducted interview, submitted claims & obtained Determinations from DVA using the standard electronic mediums, mobile phone, email & of course faithful Zoom & Teams.

The first day back in the office also brought my first two face to face interviews in some months.

A final note as this report will be in the final Contact before Christmas.

Enjoy the Festive Season with family & friends stay safe on the road if travelling & importantly continue with your good COVID 19 practices, if you still have doubt about obtaining vaccinations, remember you did get various vaccines as children, the same may have happened during your Service career & we did survive.

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

## Padre's Corner<sup>5</sup>



Hello Everyone,

Christmas is almost upon us, again I ask where has the year gone? I don't have to tell you what a horrendous time the last few months have been for all of us. With lockdowns, quarantines, stay at home orders, businesses, clubs, and shops closed for varying periods, postponed weddings, restricted numbers able to attend funerals, community sports cancelled and most churches relying on streamed services. ANZAC DAY, Remembrance Day, Memorial Day at Springwood have either been cancelled or numbers attending severely restricted. And for many of us, we have had little or no contact with family and friends, and many of us have seen family or friends admitted to hospital due to Covid. However it appears that the lifting of some restrictions our various situations are beginning to change for the better.

During this challenging time, we should remember that the Bible has encouraging words for us. In Matthew's Gospel, **Jesus promised to be with us always**, this is not conditional it is just what Christ has said, he is with us always. A second passage that encourages us to support and help each through this terrible period, is found in the Epistle to the Galatians, where St Paul encourages us to "**Bear one another's burdens.**" This passage encourages us to share the load, to help and offer assistance to each other in times of needs.

As we commence to come out of various lockdowns and restrictions, **Christmas is almost upon us**, this year we will be able to celebrate Christmas in our traditional ways. Remembering, Christmas celebrates the birth of the Christ Child, **God became man and dwelt among us**; we claim Christmas is a time of peace and goodwill among all people! But for some people **there will be no Christmas Celebrations**, either by choice or circumstances; in many places the pandemic has seen to this. In many countries, such as Syria, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Mali, within cities, towns, and homes there will be little cause for celebrating due to war, conflicts and civil unrest, in these countries; 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 always remember at this special time those who have little or nothing and remember not just those in need who live overseas, but those within our own country and communities, who have for varying reasons, little or nothing, with which to celebrate Christmas. In many countries throughout the world Christians will be unable to celebrate Christmas, due to the lack of religious freedom, and the restrictions Christians have placed upon them.

This Christmas season as we commence to come out of the pandemic as we are thankful for the lifting of many restrictions, let us remember that **Jesus' birth is the reason for the season**, let pray that there might indeed be peace on earth and goodwill amongst all people. Let us live this prayer in our daily lives by caring for one another as Christ cares for us. May I close with a prayer for Christmas?

**Loving Father, help us remember that the birth of Jesus is the real meaning of Christmas; may we share in the songs of joy of the angels, the happiness of the shepherds, and the worship of Christ by the wise men. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. Be with those who are separated from families and loved one at this time by distance or circumstance. Amen**

I wish you a very happy and **Holy Christmas**, I pray that you will be able to share Christmas with your family and friends without any Covid restrictions. To our Jewish friends I wish you happy **Hanukkah**, and to you all I send best wishes for a happy and safe 2022, may all your dreams come true,

May your God bless you all.

**Colin Aiken**

0417203722

# Vales



## Brian Greatorex Hammond

**2/09/1937 - 25/08/2021**

Royal Australian Airforce  
30/06/1960 to 12/08/1983  
Service Number 055985  
Wing Commander

Overseas Service in Vietnam/PNG/Malaysia/Singapore  
Dates of Service Overseas 64-65, 65-66, 69-70, 71, 80-83  
Units: 35 Sqn, Det A 38 Sqn, 2 Sqn, 1(B) Det, RAAF SU Ten

Service in Vietnam - Flight Lieutenant  
RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam 24/08/1964 - 12/05/1965  
No.2 Squadron 22/10/1969 - 25/06/1970

Honours: Mention in Dispatches



## Patrick Gordon Mills

**20/09/1937 - 11/2020**

Royal Australian Air Force  
Flight Sergeant  
20/11/1957 to 16/12/1977  
Service Number A18721

Service Overseas in Vietnam/Ubon/ Malay  
Corporal  
RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam 21/09/1964 - 23/04/1965  
No. 79 Squadron 2/06/1966 - 25/08/1966,  
23/02/1967 - 20/04/1967, 5/06/1967 - 29/06/1967

*Lest We Forget*



# <sup>7</sup> *Vales*

## **John Harry Pearson**

**4/03/1950 - 24/08/2021**



Royal Australian Navy  
Chief Petty Officer  
14/01/1966 to 13/01/1986  
Service Number R43233

Service Overseas 14/07/1968 - 08/12/1971  
Service in Vietnam - Marine Engineering  
HMAS Hobart 16/03/1970 - 09/10/1970

John was a volunteer for many, many years in the association. He worked very hard as a valued member of the Lawnmowing Team, which greatly assisted veterans and spouses of deceased veterans.

He is greatly missed by the association and the members of the Lawnmowing Team, which is no longer operating.

## **Eric Charles Glover**

**4/08/1936 - 31/10/2021**



The Australian Army  
Bombardier  
06/10/1953 - 05/10/1959  
Service Number 6/980

Service Overseas 08/10/1955 - 30/10/1957  
Malaya Emergency  
105 Field Battery - Royal Australian Artillery  
Gunner

*Lest We Forget*



## Patrick Gordon Mills' Service

Pat passed away in November 2020. Pat's daughter Sharon Winks said "Dad was always very proud of his service and enjoyed catching up with mates and others who served at Anzac Day events as well as the many reunions and other commemorative events held by organisations such as yours. He also loved reading the newsletters."

Sharon would like to share his Service details from his eulogy:

At the age of 18 dad joined the Airforce which took him to Richmond Air Base in Sydney and to mum. Mum and dad met at an old time dance held in the Riverley Ballroom in Parramatta in 1958. Dad was a dashing young Airforce man and mum a young working woman. He was 20 and she was 15.

Dad spent most of his life working and was especially proud of his time serving. As most of you would know he served in the Vietnam War and we found the following Citation for Meritorious Service that we would like to share with you. It was for an event that happened on 5th of February 1965.

The citation reads -

*'This airman has shown considerable resourcefulness, tenacity and courage at ARO 5<sup>th</sup> Vietnam, the crash site of Caribou A4-185. Besides assisting in the salvage of this wrecked aircraft he demonstrated how the dropping zone could be improved to allow for successful aircraft operations. This involved operating a bull dozer close up to the defence perimeter where he was prominently and constantly exposed to the risk of enemy fire. His efforts did in fact permit the subsequent successful operation of a Caribou aircraft into and out of this area. He has been a great credit to the service.'*

In response Colonel/Commander Fleming USAF stated,

*'Leading Aircraftsman Patrick Gordon Mills has displayed a high degree of initiative and ability. His courage and professional skill, demonstrated while exposing himself to possible hostile fire have greatly improved aircraft operations.'*



## **Patrick Gordon Mills' Service continued.....**

Dad deployed in the early years of the war and worked with Transport Flight Vietnam also known as the Wallaby Airlines. They worked out of camp runways that were dirt – not bitumen - to support the Caribous. Some of these runways were as short as 1200 feet and were often nearly unusable due to the heavy rains in Vietnam.

The following is another story from this time:

On 18 November 1964 Leading Aircraftsman's Pat Mills and Charles Lee were the groundies for a delivery from Da Nang to A Camp near the border of Laos. On landing one wheel of the Caribou sank onto the soft edge of the runway resulting in the prop hitting the ground, disabling the aircraft. All on board scrambled to safety however the plane was now blocking the runway. A runway that was needed for more landings. Using some Aussie ingenuity, namely an axe, a chainsaw and a borrowed American grader, dad and Charlie promptly chopped up the plane and dragged it off to clear the runway.

Pictures of dad cutting the tail off this plane are in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

For us this was a great example of dad just getting on with the job that had to be done, something we saw a lot in his life.

Dad returned from Vietnam to Australia on Anzac Day to a country that wasn't always welcoming of those returning home. This couldn't have been easy.

Dad also served in Malaysia for three years during the Malay Conflict and he and mum lived in Penang. A world away from Baulkham Hills.

Dad was an airframe fitter and was an instructor at the Wagga base teaching new recruits and when we lived in Sale he headed the ground crew for the RAAF Roulettes. We lived backing onto the runway so got very used to listening to planes take off and land. Mum could identify them all by sound!!!

## 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 9 December 2021 at 10:00am at  
Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub,  
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, MRMIA, 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, FTIA has agreed to continue in this appointment).*

General Business.

Close of Meeting.

**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.**



**APOD - the Official Veterans Recognition Platform providing savings to defence families.**

In 2012 whilst her husband was deployed overseas with the Army, Ms Rebecca Waller identified a need that more needed to be done to recognise and reward those who have and were serving from the business community. Importantly, this also included the nuclear family as Rebecca had lived the experience that when one person serves, the whole family serves.

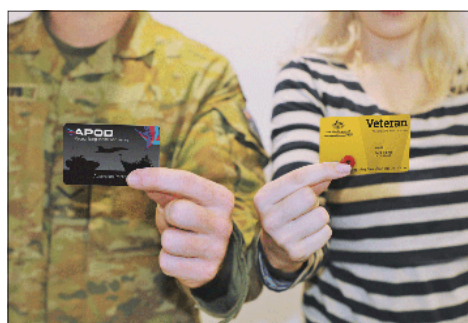
From this, Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) was established. Since 2019, through a partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), APOD has been the Official veteran benefits platform, with DVA providing free access to all veteran card holders and APOD extending this to their spouse. This means anyone who has served more than one day's continuous full-time service and has a DVA Veteran Card can access APOD for free.

APOD exclusively recognises and rewards defence and veteran families by providing access to discounts and other benefits from our business partners providing everyday savings as a small way of recognition. Some of our highlights include:

- \* Over 100,000 Veteran Card holders are now registered to access discounts through APOD.
- \* Over 3,000 businesses promoting exclusive offers through APOD, ranging from national organisations like AGL and Ampol, to local, veteran owned businesses and entrepreneurs.
- \* We now have over 21,000 participating business outlets across Australia which shows the incredible and far-reaching impact this initiative has had in 9 years.
- \* 25% of all new offers are from veteran business owners and entrepreneurs and it's been great to see our members rally and support their own.

We understand from personal experience, that when one person serves, the whole family serves. We're also proud to employ veterans, spouses, and family members of those who have served, as this is at the heart of what APOD is all about.

If you've served or know someone who has, we encourage you to sign up to APOD by visiting [www.apod.com.au](http://www.apod.com.au) and help spread the word to your networks so that we can connect every veteran with every business who supports them!



## Daina's Second Litter

Daina's "A" litter was born on 7<sup>th</sup> June, just in time for the winter freeze. It was made up of three females and five males, four black and four yellow, all healthy.

Sire Vista would have been proud. Their names are Ava, Atlas, Archer, Axel, Alma, Aspin, Aidon and Nelson (sponsored) and all are now with their new puppy raisers for twelve months before being assessed and trained for their final careers.



*We congratulate our Treasurer, Craig Terrey and his wife Karen on another litter of healthy, potential guide dogs, companion dogs or breeding dogs.*

*It takes a lot of time and many months of sleepless nights but it is very rewarding for them both, to see the results of all that work.*

## Christmas Raffle

As you all know that due to Covid-19 we haven't been able to hold our traditional Raffles selling tickets at shops. This has made a big dent in our bank balance.

The Committee has decided to have a Members raffle. How this will work is:

You have received two (2) books of raffle tickets in this edition of Contact!

The prizes are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$500 Preloaded Debit Card

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$200 Preloaded Debit Card

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$100 Preloaded Debit Card

A book of tickets is \$20 and if you buy BOTH the books the price reduces to \$17 per book.

Now I'm not an SP bookmaker but the odds to WIN a prize are extremely GOOD probably at least a one (1) in Forty (40) chances to WIN something, but MORE importantly every book of tickets you buy helps YOUR Association to survive and wouldn't it be nice to have an extra bit of cash in the old sky rocket.

By all means if you want more tickets let us know and we'll get them to you. Your family / neighbours' can of course buy tickets from you. You need to deposit the money directly into our nominated bank account or by cheque / money order etc.

### Payment Details

**Cheque or Money Order** – please make the cheque payable to

Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc. and forward to PO Box 55,  
Springwood NSW 2777

OR

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

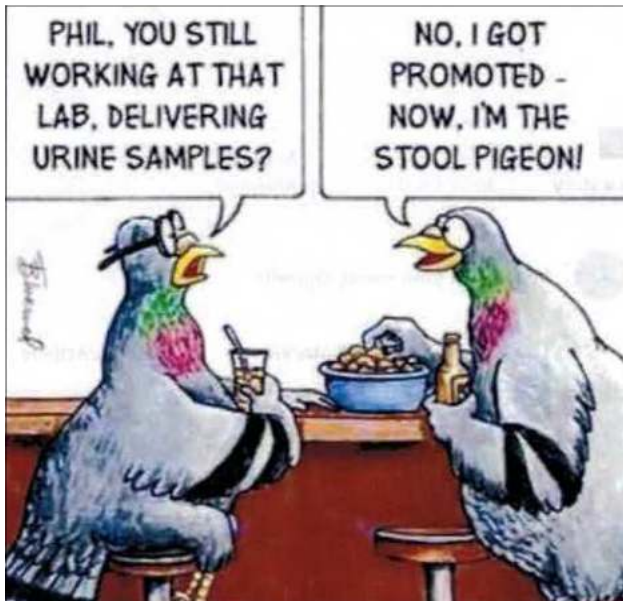
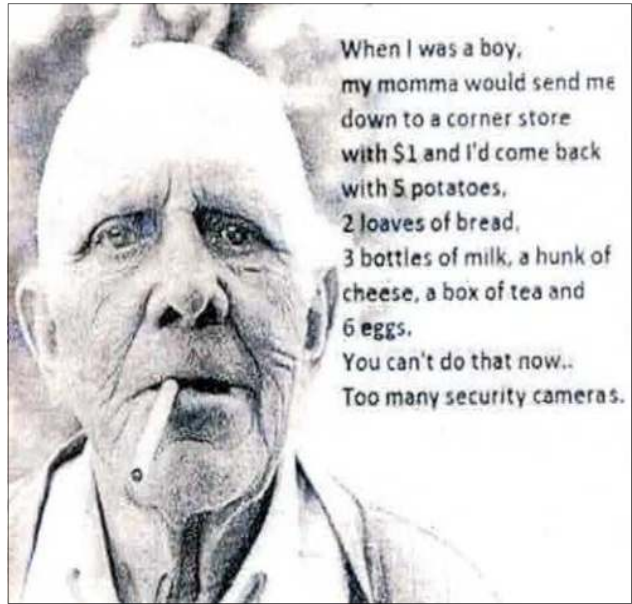
Account Name: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. Reference: *“your name or membership number”*

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

**RAFFLE will be drawn on Sunday the 12 December 2021 tickets need to be paid for and the Butts returned to our office by Friday the 10 December 2021.**



**Darrell's Gopher Page**



Publication Deadlines

Issue 1	15 May 2022
Issue 2	1 September 2022
Issue 3	2 December 2022

**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)

<b>BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS &amp; ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.</b> (ABN 74 645 329 198) <span style="float: right;">CFN 17276)</span> <b>Postal Address: Post Office Box 55, Springwood NSW 2777</b>
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<p align="center"><b>NOMINATION AS OFFICE-BEARER OR ORDINARY MEMBER OF COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>I,..... (name and signature of proposer)</p> <p><b>Nominate</b></p> <p>..... (name of nominee)</p> <p>for the position of:.....</p> <p>I,..... (name and signature of seconder)</p> <p><b>Hereby second the above nomination:</b></p> <p>I,..... (full name and signature of nominee)</p> <p><b>Hereby accept nomination for the position</b></p> <p>of:.....</p> <p align="right">Date:.....</p> <p><i>Office Use Only</i></p> <p>Date received by Secretary: .....</p> <p>Membership status verified: .....</p> <p>Nomination recorded in minutes of meeting: .....</p>
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