

# *CONTACT !*



Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans  
& Associated Forces Inc.

2023  
Issue 1  
January to May

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

## *Contact Details & Meetings*

***Patron: Brigadier Nerolie Irene McDonald***

© **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**

**Office Address:**

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

**Postal Address**

Post Office Box 55 Springwood NSW 2777

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

Graham Christian - Email: raafvansw@gmail.com

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

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

### *Your Committee*

<b>President:</b>	Jack Lake	0481 041 356
<b>Secretary:</b>	Chris McKay	0427 794 914
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Craig Terrey	0411 125 666
<b>Vice President:</b>	Roger Lawlor	0414 380 884
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Norm Fraser	(02) 4757 1453
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Les Hogan	(02) 7252 3318
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Greg Meek	0447 536 694
<b>Wellbeing Coordinator:</b>	John Fenton	0412 679 802
<b>Vietnamese Liaison Officer:</b>	Jack Lake	0481 041 356
<b>Association Padre :</b>	Colin Aiken OAM RFD	0417 203 722
<b>Website Manager :</b>	Wendy Humphrys	(02) 7252 3318
<b>CONTACT! Editor:</b>	Wendy Humphrys	(02) 7252 3318

**2023**

### **Association Meeting Dates**

*Meetings commence at 11:00am in our office at  
the Blue Mountains Theatre &  
Community Hub, Level 1,  
Springwood NSW*

**Committee  
Meeting**

**Tuesday  
13 June**

**Committee &  
Pre-Memorial Day  
Meeting**

**Tuesday  
11 July**

**Committee &  
Post Memorial Day  
Meeting**

**Tuesday  
15 August**

**Committee  
Meeting**

**Tuesday  
12 September**

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

**Office Manager: Wendy Humphrys      Phone: (02) 7252 3318**

**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) 7252 3318**

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

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

As everyone is aware we've just had our AGM. It was very pleasing to have a couple of new younger members join the committee, Norm Fraser and Les Hogan. Congratulations to both and welcome aboard.

We now have two ladies on our list of raffle ticket sellers to add a bit of class to the street stalls. The first raffle date is the 25<sup>th</sup> May at Blaxland, so if all our tickets sellers could start checking their calendars please. Brendon Fensling and myself will be organising.

Cheers

*Jack Lake*

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

Here it is halfway through May and nearly half 2023 gone, where does the time go?

Your Association is pleased to advise that we held a successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) and have a few new Committee members and we Welcome their input.

Our Good Morning Vietnam, Musical was an outstanding success in March raising over \$10,000 to assist Veterans and War Widows, which in fact is the reason for the Associations existence. I thank everyone who came to the Show, and we are looking at having a similar show in 2024 so watch this space.

2023 is a challenging Year with interest rate and inflation increases and I hope all us members are ok. We have our 2023 raffles starting soon so any assistance in selling/buying tickets will greatly be appreciated.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing some of you during the year.

Best regards

*Chris*

## ***WELLBEING REPORT***

### Budget 2023 At a Glance

The Government has allocated an additional \$328M over four years to support the more than 340,000 veterans & dependents accessing DVA services. This builds on the \$537M allocated in the October 2022 Budget.

An amount of \$64M in 2023/24 will retain the 500 staff who deliver frontline services. Of interest DVA continue the “fluctuation” policy, this means frontline staff will be increased/decreased as the need arises.

To modernise the ageing IT systems an amount of \$254M has been allocated over the next four years to stabilise/modernise current systems, some systems are over 25years old.

I should explain, when a Disability Claim is received & certain parameters are evident, a computer provides an immediate positive decision (not quite AI but getting there).

If the claim detail is not evident then an Integrated Support Hub looks at the claim, finally a Delegate & if necessary, a Team Leader assess the claim.

A change to the Acute Support Package with \$500K over four years for Grandparents to now be eligible, if they are full time carers of grandchildren if veterans are incapable of providing care due to mental/physical disabilities.

An amount of \$2M over two years to continue Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Intervention Training for volunteers, this training to be provided by Open Arms.

The fees paid to GPs & Specialists are already above the general rate, with GPs for example being paid 115% of the Medicare rate plus a Supplementary Veteran Access Payment.

Also, as an example, GPs are paid \$16.00 a page to complete reports requested by DVA. There is to be a tripling of the bulk billing initiative with \$33M over four years.

*John Fenton*

Wellbeing Coordinator

### From the Editor

John Fenton is having health issues and needs to undergo a heart valve replacement operation.

If you have any wellbeing enquiries please contact our office as follows:

Phone (02) 7252 3318 or

Email: [secretary@bmvets.com.au](mailto:secretary@bmvets.com.au).

Our thoughts will be with John for his future operation and recovery.

## Padre's Corner

### *The Search for Peace through Sacrifice*

Hello Everyone,

Recently Christians celebrated Easter; recently we commemorated ANZAC Day; each of these major events in history, speak of sacrifice, sacrificial love, duty, and death however, only one event speaks of Resurrection and Eternal Life. **For Christians Easter is a major religious festival of our year, it is the culmination of the message of Christmas.** For Christians it was the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection. The Easter Story is summed up in the in the following words.

**Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.**

But Easter commemorates not simply an empty tomb, rather the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and his resurrection in fulfillment of the prophecies of the early prophets. It is a most important Christian festival for all believers. **Without Christ's resurrection on that first Easter Day there would be no Christian faith, for the basis of our Christian faith is the birth, death and resurrection and ascension of Christ.**

While we continue to reflect on the true message of Easter, we move onto the sacrifices made on that first ANZAC Day, and in many wars and conflicts since; what does ANZAC Day mean to the average Australian today? It is more than getting medals out of where you safely keep them and preparing them for their annual outing, for some people it may be attending a Dawn Service followed by a Gunfire Breakfast.

For others it may be attending an ANZAC Day March or watching the March on TV.

However, we observe ANZAC Day, we must remember that the true message of ANZAC Day, is not a message to glorify war, it is a message of sacrifice and service by a few for the benefit of many! Like the message of Easter, it is a message of hope for the future.

Winston Churchill's tribute to Battle of Britain Pilots remains true today of all who served in the cause of peace.

**"Never was so much owed by so many to so few."**

Christ's Message or teaching on sacrifice,

***Greater love has no man that he should give his life for another (John 15:13)***

which is found on War Memorials throughout the world, is particularly significant as we observe ANZAC Day and highlights the sacrifices of others for us. We give thanks to Christ, and to all those who have sacrificed their lives, their blood, or their minds for us, and in the cause of world peace.

Remembering the sacrifice of the few for the many we pray for peace.

**Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving, the sacrifice of your Son and those who made the supreme sacrifice for us. We pray that their offering of their lives may not have been in vain. May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better and peaceful world.**

**Amen**

Kei Wareware Tatou, Lest we forget, we will remember them.

Best wishes to you and all who are important to you.

*Colin Aiken*  
0417203722

# Vales



## Frederick Gosbee

2/06/1938 - 28/04/2023

Royal Australian Airforce  
Rank: Squadron Leader

15/03/1953 - 30/03/1984  
Service Number A217039  
79 Squadron

Theatre of Operation  
Malaysia/Ubon/Vietnam  
Dates of Service Overseas: 1966-1975



## Rodney Ernest William Murdoch

13/09/1940 - 12/12/2022

Royal Australian Airforce  
Rank: A.C.

29/03/1953 - 15/03/1960  
Service Number A211719  
QANTAS Skippy Squadron

Theatre of Operation  
Vietnam

*Lest We Forget*



## *Vietnamese Dolls*



These Vietnamese dolls were generously donated by Kay Plummer.  
She is the wife of Clive Plummer,  
an association member who died on 9 June 2022.

One is on display in our association office in  
Springwood and the other is on display  
at Penrith RSL.

## *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 organisation by wearing a lapel badge. I would ask Association members to abide by the RAS Badge protocol.

*John Fenton*

## *50th Anniversary Medallion & Certificate*



To acknowledge the 50th anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will produce a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration.

The medallion and certificate will be made available to every living veteran, widows of veterans and other family members of veterans of the Vietnam War. Please note that only one medallion is available per Vietnam War veteran.

The obverse design will feature the Commonwealth Coat of Arms with 'Vietnam War' inscribed at the top and "Australia remembers" at the bottom. The medallion reverse design will feature words of thanks at the bottom with the years 1962-73 inscribed at the top to represent the years in which Australia was involved in the Vietnam War. The medallion also features a UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" Helicopter, a depiction of HMAS Sydney (III) "Vung Tau Ferry" and an Australian soldier holding an SLR.

The medallion will be presented in a display case and will include a card that explains the design and contains a brief expression of thanks.

The design of the commemorative certificate will complement the medallion. The design includes the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, 'Australia Remembers' wording and includes the signature of both the Governor-General and the Prime Minister.

The certificate will be contained within its own folder, allowing for independent display, framing and mounting.

Applications can be made online at National Mail & Marketing. Below is the website address:

<https://portal.nationalmailing.com.au/DVA/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fDVA%2fVietnam>

If you are having difficulties with your application and require assistance please phone **1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)** between 9am and 5pm AEST Monday to Friday and when prompted say the word 'medallions'.



## ***2022 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS***

The raffle was drawn on Sunday 11 December 2022 at the Royal Hotel in Springwood .

Congratulations to the following winners:

**1st Prize** of \$1500.00 Prepaid MasterCard  
Ticket Number 26994, Julia from Wentworth Falls NSW

**2nd Prize** of \$600.00 Prepaid MasterCard  
Ticket Number 29568, Jan from Katoomba NSW

**3rd Prize** of \$400.00 Prepaid MasterCard  
Ticket Number 1554, Julie from Raymond Terrace NSW



*The association wishes to thank all our members who supported this raffle by purchasing tickets as well as all the volunteers who sold tickets at the various stalls.*

## ***IMPORTANT NOTICES***

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2022 Annual General Meeting was held on 11 April 2023.  
We congratulate the Committee members who were elected at the meeting.  
Those Committee members are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

### **Year of Membership**

Your Year of Membership is printing on the top right-hand corner of your envelope, when the Contact! newsletter is posted to you. Your membership is up to 31 December of that year.  
Please contact the office if you have any questions.  
A Renewal of Membership Form is on the last page of this newsletter.

### **Office Phone Number**

Just a reminder that the office phone number has changed. The number is now (02) 7252 3318.

### **Email Address**

If you have not already done so please advise us of your email address, if you have one.  
This will really assist us to reduce postal costs in the future.

***Thank you***

## Good Morning Vietnam: Music from the Vietnam War Era Live in Concert!



The special fundraiser for the Association was held on 4 March 2023 at the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub in Springwood NSW, was a great success.

It was hosted by Glenn A. Baker and was a 2.5 hour concert extravaganza of the era's favourite music, of the 60's and 70's.

The songs questioned, stirred and reflected the political turmoil and massive cultural changes happening during one of the most far-reaching and divisive events of the 20th century.

There were songs by Creedence Clearwater Revival, Buffalo Springfield, Steppenwolf, The Beatles, Nancy Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, The Animals, The Doors, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Marvin Gaye and more.

The show was performed by a group of outstanding musicians and vocalists and was a superb interpretations of some of the most iconic music of all time.

The money, from ticket sales, will be used to provide welfare services to Australian veterans and war widows.



Mayor Mark Greenhill OAM, Lynne,  
Glenn A. Baker ,Chris McKay

The Band &  
Glenn A. Baker



# Mid-Year Raffle

Dear Members

We have enclosed a book of 10 tickets for our Mid-Year Raffle, to all members who wish to receive them, with the total prizes valued at **\$2500.00**.

Should you not wish to participate in this raffle, please return the unsold tickets to the Association.

**The tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 (\$17 for the book).**

Please return the ticket butts, with your details written on them, and the monies by cheque or EFT (please do not send cash) as soon as possible, but no later than Tuesday, 4 July 2023.

<b>1st Prize</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>	<b>Prepaid VISA or MasterCard</b>
<b>2nd Prize</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>Prepaid VISA or MasterCard</b>
<b>3rd Prize</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>Prepaid VISA or MasterCard</b>

These cards can be used at **any** retail store, that accepts them and online.

The raffle will be drawn on **Sunday 9 July 2023** and winners will be notified immediately.

Results will be published in the following addition of Contact! and the Blue Mountains Gazette.

Our Bank Details are as follows:

BSB:	032-837
Account Number:	138817
Bank:	Westpac, Springwood NSW

**Please include your name or membership number as the transferee detail.**



Chris McKay  
Secretary

**BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.**  
**(ABN 74 645 329 198 CFN 17276)**  
**PO BOX 55 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777**  
**Phone: (02) 7252 3318                      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:.....