

*This Newsletter
is a publication
of the Geelong &
District Sub-
Branch of the
Vietnam Veter-
ans Association
of Australia*

The Slouch Hat

On 19 August this year, the Member for Geelong, Ian Tresize MP, had the following to say about the GDVVAA and Vietnam Veteran's Day 2008. Mr Tresize has been a regular attendee at our annual memorial service and we thank him for his show of support.



Tuesday, 19 August 2008
ASSEMBLY

Mr TREZISE (Geelong) - Last Sunday, 17 August, it was a pleasure for me, together with the member for Lara, to attend the annual Vietnam veterans memorial service held at Osborne Park in Geelong. This year approximately 70 Geelong-based Vietnam veterans marched to the memorial with more than 200 people in attendance to show their support. The memorial service is organised each year by the Geelong and district sub-branch of the Vietnam

Veterans Association of Australia. The master of ceremonies for the service was Bernard Clancy, whilst sub-branch president Mick Mutton welcomed people to the service. Guest speaker was Colonel Bruce Murray of Fort Queenscliff, and the national anthem was once again beautifully sung by Hannah Pearson, daughter of Vietnam vet Colin Pearson. The bugler for the proceedings was Christina Bowden, and the march was ably led by the Geelong RSL Pipes and Drums with lone piper Dale Keating. Salvation Army chaplain Laurie Parks, himself a Vietnam veteran, led the prayers.

Of course the Geelong sub-branch does far more than organise the memorial service. The sub-branch of the Vietnam vets raises more than \$6 000 a year, with much of that being donated to the important work of the Geelong Veterans Welfare Centre. In addition, the sub-branch provides regular newsletters for members and organises monthly events, such as bushwalking, tennis

and badminton, and a number of social events, including the annual dinner preceding the memorial service. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Geelong and District Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia for its important work and to commend president Mick Mutton and his committee for their personal efforts and the support they provide in assisting their fellow Vietnam veterans. It is a job well done. Lest we forget.



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Forthcoming Events

- Trip to Yarrawonga 7-17 November (see details inside)
- Trip to Mallacoota
- Christmas Break-up Barbeque Sunday 14 December—Grounds of Osborne House

Postal Address....

**PO Box 484
GEELONG VIC 3220**

Visit Us At.....

**Clancy House
St John of God Hospital
80 Myers St
Geelong**

Or Contact Us At.....

**Ph 5222 6003
Ph 5222 8931
Fax 5222 5566
secretary@geelong.vaavic.org.au**

Or

president@geelong.vaavic.org.au

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F.A.C.S.**

**Immediate Past President:
Kevin Bate**

**Newsletter Editor:
Michael Byrne**

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Geelong & District Sub-Branch

Honour The Dead And Fight Like Hell For The Living

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Your Committee at Work!

The Executive Committee is made up of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The Full Committee consists of the executive and remaining committee members excusing the Minute Secretary. Meets monthly depending on level of business and input required.

A general meeting for all members is held on the second Monday of each month. Venue is normally the Geelong RSL 7 for 7.30pm. Usually try to finish by 9.00 pm to allow some social discourse. Two daytime meetings are usually held throughout the year at venues throughout the Geelong region and advised in our electronic newsletter "Listen Up" and in The Slouch Hat.

GEELONG & DISTRICT VIETNAM VETERANS SUB-BRANCH TO CLOSE UP SHOP (eventually)

Now that I have your attention lets talk about the need to maintain a strong & vibrant association.

Have you ever noticed how organisations gradually lose their “mojo” over a period of time if the office bearers aren't replaced every couple of years? Well, whether you have noticed or not, it is a fact that strong organisations depend on new energy, new ideas and new personnel. Many associations these days have actually applied a two-year limit on terms of office, particularly of their executive members. In the event that members do not come forward to do take their turn at the helm, there are provisions to wind up the association and distribute its assets.

Over the years, the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans has had a reasonable turnover of people in charge but the overall committee has altered little. In recent times, however, it has become increasingly hard to get people to step up to the plate. Some who do have set limits on their term of tenure and have stepped away when their time is up.

Office holders (and I include all committee members) become increasingly tired and less inclined to inject enthusiasm into their work if they see the majority of their fellow members not becoming involved.

By the amount of **positive feedback that we have received for our events this year, it is obvious that you appreciate the time and effort that the committee has put into keeping alive the memories of those that did not return** and providing support and assistance to members in a variety of ways, including recreational activities such as yoga, tennis, bush-walking etc and our fundraising efforts which provide much need operating capital for the Veterans Centre.

The **GDVVAA AGM** will be held in **February 2009** and you should be considering now whether you intend to be involved or not. As you current president my two-year term will conclude in February and I will not be standing again. Unfortunately, while we have had two very involved vice-presidents this year; neither took on the role with the intention of stepping into the president's position. This is not a criticism of those two members but an indication that they were prepared to help me out when no one else would take on the positions.

Should there be no nominations for the executive and committee positions it will be necessary to **call on the VVAA State Branch to assume caretaker control of the association with the intention of winding up its affairs.**

As the oldest, and one of the largest sub-branches in Victoria with almost 200 paid-up members such an outcome is almost hard to imagine but that is where we are headed.

If you do have a soft spot for your organisation and can't bear the thought of closing up shop right now what can you do to keep it alive, strong and vibrant?

While the day will come when the VVAA is wound up, that day is not just yet. The matter is due to be discussed at the November State Council Meeting and it is possible that a sunset clause might be included in the State constitution within the next 12 months or so with the possibility of a closure around 2015. In the meantime it is up to us all to **keep our association alive and relevant.** Your feedback and comments are welcome but please ensure that any advice includes offers of assistance.

Regards

Mick Mutton



Vietnam Veteran Trekkers

TRIP TO YARRAWONGA
FRIDAY NOV 7th 2008 --- MONDAY NOV 17th 2008

YARRAWONGA HOLIDAY PARK
PIPER STREET
YARRAWONGA
PHONE 0357443420

EMAIL: info@yarrawongaholidaypark.com.au

Feel free to come for a week or just a couple of days. The more the merrier.

Bring your fishing gear, tennis raquets, golf clubs or bocce balls.

HQ Coy/D/E Platoon Reunion on from Nov 8th _ Nov 11th
A chance to maybe catch up with someone who you knew way back then.

Please make own arrangements with caravan park bookings
Limited cabin space available so get in early
Dogs allowed on leash at manager's discretion

Alternately contact Cool Waters Cara-Tel Ph 57443768
Club Mulwala Ph 1800-035347

For more info contact Frank ph 52754057 mob 0429316379
Dorothy ph 52754057 mob 0408393713

Caption describing
picture or graphic.

*"To catch the
reader's
attention, place
an interesting
sentence or
quote from the
story here."*

Caption
describing
picture or
graphic.

Regiment Birthday Dinner

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA BRANCH)

60th REGIMENT BIRTHDAY DINNER

FRIDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2008
(7 RAR is the battalion to be honoured)

~TIMINGS~

1900 hours for Pre-Dinner Drinks
1930 hours Call to Dinner
2300 hours Bar Service Closes

~VENUE~

Hotel Ibis Melbourne, 15-21 Therry Street, Melbourne
Ample parking available.

~COST~

\$75.00 per person includes a three course dinner, with wine, beer or soft drink.
(Cost includes pre-dinner drinks)

~DRESS~

Gentlemen -Lounge suit or jacket and tie with medals or miniatures.
Ladies - After five attire.

~Guest Speaker~

To be confirmed - *"The Regiment Through 60 Years"*

Entertainment provided by the City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band

Members wishing to attend may invite a partner or guest.

Book early to avoid disappointment as seating will be limited.

----- Cut and return -----

RAR ASSN (VIC) REGIMENT BIRTHDAY DINNER 2008

I wish to attend the Dinner

My Name Guest Name/s

.....

.....

Address Post Code

Special Requirements: *Vegetarian*.....*Diabetic*.....*Gluton Free*.....
(Name) (Name) (Name)

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ for tickets @ \$75.00 each

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Royal Australian Regiment Association (Vic Branch)
(Please include a stamped self addressed envelope)

PLEASE RETURN NOT LATER THAN 10th NOVEMBER
TO HON. SECRETARY, P.O. BOX 94, GREENSBOROUGH 3088





*“I hope it never
starts again.
That waste of life.
Those precious
men”*

MARCHING. Written by Jenny Phillips

*We marched so proudly.
It's been twenty years.
The people shouted, and through the
tears,
We Kept on marching, straight and proud,
We are the Vietnam Veterans , and now
we're allowed.
To march through Sydney.
Not be ashamed.
We're heroes.
We can't be blamed.
Look at us.
Some are maimed.
The scars inside will never heal
People don't know how we feel.
They don't know what we saw or had to
do.
I killed a child and so would you!
When he's standing there with a loaded
gun.
It's you or him.
No time to run.
But on we march, my mates and I.
Ever onwards with heads held high.
I hope it never starts again.
That waste of life.
Those precious men*

GDVVAA AGM 2009

Our next AGM will be held on Monday 9 February 2009. While notice of the meeting will appear in the Geelong Advertiser around two weeks beforehand, please mark this date in your diary now. The AGM will be one of the most important meetings held in recent years. Your attendance, or non-attendance, will indicate whether the organisation is to sink or swim. The meeting will start at 7.30 pm and be held at the Geelong RSL. All executive office holders will be required to present a brief written report at least one week prior to the meeting so that they can be collated by the secretary. ALL POSITIONS WILL BE DECLARED VACANT and members are encouraged to use the nomination form below to indicate their willingness to stand for office. Nominations should be returned to the secretary or posted to GPO Box 484, Geelong 3220 in time to be received by close of business on Friday 6th February 2009..

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Plug for Yoga Classes (Poor attendance)

Christmas Break-up Barbeque 14 Dec

This story can fit 75-125 words. Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thou-

sands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



Caption describing picture or graphic.



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**"Honour The Dead And Fight Like
Hell For The Living"**

Honour The Dead And Fight Like Hell For The Living

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You may find some errors in this Newsletter. That is in keeping with our policy of having something for everyone