



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL Sub-Branch

Through an active membership we keep the ANZAC spirit alive and growing

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2015

Editor Doug Smyth – email rlsubbranch@rslifecare.org.au or mail to PO Box 56, Narrabeen, NSW
Sub-Branch Office Hours Monday and Thursday 9am – noon Phone 8978 4266

“ Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting”

The President's Message

Vietnam Veterans Service - 18 August 2015



“Vietnam Veterans” Day service will be held in our War Vets Chapel on the 18 August 2015 at 10am for those unable to go to Manly. Everyone is welcome to attend and the service will be followed by Morning Tea in the Lone Pine Lounge. There will also be a Book chat “In my Father’s House” during the morning tea. In honour of Vietnam Veterans Day, we have author Jane Mundy visiting RSL ANZAC Village to talk about her latest novel, “In My Father’s House”. Her book deals with the impact of the Second World War, the Vietnam War and Afghanistan War, and shows both sides of the divisive issue of conscription which affected the lives of both veterans and civilians in Australia.

VP Day Celebrations - 14 August 2015



Join us for a Dance Party Celebration and Luncheon to be held in the Montgomery Theatre to celebrate Victory in the Pacific day on the 14 August 2015. The fabulous John Baird “VP Party Band” will be cranking out the tunes and our very own veterans Voices will be adding their finely tuned pipes to a sing a long around the piano. It promises to a great celebration and a trip down memory lane for many. Bookings are essential and can be made with Retirement Living reception. The normal Friday lunch for the 14 August 2015 will not be held in the Lone Pine Lounge.

To commemorate VP Day there will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the Sydney Cenotaph on Saturday 15/8/15 at 11am. Anyone wishing to attend who requires transport please contact the Retirement Living reception on 89784244.

George Main
President

Chaplain's Comment

Some Church signs!

- 1 How will you spend eternity -- Smoking or Non-smoking?
- 2 Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives
- 3 It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- 4 Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.
- 5 If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- 6 Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon.
- 7 This is a ch__ch. What is missing?
- 8 Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- 9 In the dark? Follow the Son.
- 10 Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
- 11 If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.
- 12 Avoiding the Son can be hazardous to your health.

Bob Durbin
Chaplain

John Wesley's Rule of Conduct

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can

Observations on Growing Older

Some people are not good at counting calories and they have the figures to prove it

You sleep better in a lounge chair with the TV on than you do in bed. It's called your 'pre-sleep'

When people say you look “Great” . . . they add “for your age!”

Turn Our Backs or Extend Our Hand?

This month we commemorate two significant events in Australia's military history, VP Day and Vietnam Veterans Day. The following article is from an Australian Government web site and provides an insight into the reception of our Vietnam Veterans who felt shunned on their return. LEST WE FORGET

For Vietnam Veterans public commemoration can take several forms. Communities around the country have erected plaques or monuments commemorating the dead from the local district or the state. In many cases veterans, impatient at what they regard as slowness by the government or the RSL, were the driving force behind the establishment of monuments in various locales, such as Tamworth and Newcastle in New South Wales. In other places Vietnam was added to existing memorials, giving veterans a sense that the conflict in which they fought was part of a continuing tradition. In many cases Vietnam, along with Korea, Malaya, Confrontation and the Second World War, has been added to First World War Memorials.

Vietnam memorials typically list the names of those killed from a particular district or state. They are predominantly monuments to the dead as well as sites at which veterans can commemorate their own service. While such memorials and monuments serve as commemorative sites for Vietnam Veterans in particular places, a national memorial to the Vietnam War also exists. Unveiled in 1992, the construction of the Vietnam Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, followed another significant milestone in Australian commemorations of the Vietnam War, the welcome home march of 1987. The idea of such a march, like so much to do with Australia's experience of Vietnam, originated in the United States where similar events had taken place in 1986. Australian veterans hoped to emulate the American welcome home parades in Australia, but here the march would take place in only one city, Sydney. On 3 October 1987 thousands of veterans and their families converged on Australia's largest city. Some 25,000 people who had served in Vietnam participated in the march, at the front were the next-of-kin of those who had not returned, each carrying an Australian flag representing the dead. Estimates were that several hundred thousand people lined the streets to watch the march. Fifteen ANZAC days had passed since the end of Australia's war in Vietnam, but for many veterans this Spring day was the first time they had marched.

As a commemorative event the march was an enormous success. Veterans, particularly those who had felt shunned on their return, began to feel a sense of acceptance that had previously been lacking. But there was more to be done.

Veterans now wanted a national memorial in the nation's capital, on ANZAC Parade where a series of memorials commemorate earlier wars.

The government made a financial contribution to the construction of such a memorial, and the balance was collected through the fundraising efforts of Vietnam Veterans. When a site was selected a small wooden cross was erected, it stood there for almost four years before construction started and in the absence of the yet to be built memorial, people began to visit the ground on which it would stand.

When it was unveiled, five years to the day after the welcome home march, about 15,000 veterans marched past, another 15,000 people watched. One, who had served in Vietnam, commented that the march 'was for those who came home. The memorial's dedication was for those who didn't.'

Dates to Remember

Monday 10th August Committee Meeting 11.00am
(Amy Taylor Room)

Thursday 13th August General Meeting
9.30am (Montgomery Centre)

Monday 1st September Committee Meeting 11.00am
(Steven Stack Room) (Note meeting is one week earlier in the month due to RSL LifeCare Management Conference)

Thursday 3rd September General Meeting
9.30am (Montgomery Centre) (Note meeting is on the first Thursday this month due to the RSL LifeCare Management Conference being held in the second week of the month)

Who's Who - Name Tags

Please wear your name tag to all Meetings

(If you need a name tag please drop the Secretary a note, or email and request one.)

Membership

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Life Member | = 2 |
| Life Subscribers | =10 |
| Service Members | =62 |
| Associate Members (belonging to other sub-Branches | =44 |
| Affiliate Members | =21 |
| Our strength at 28 th July 2015 | Total=139 |

Punography

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went.
Then it dawned on me.