

## **V.V.A.A. National President's Notes 1 September 2014**

A consultation draft of the Veteran and Ex-Service Community Social Health Strategy 2014 (the Strategy) has been received and circulated for comment by members of the V.V.A.A. during July, very little feedback to date.

Applications for the 2015 Long Tan Bursaries and associated scholarships with the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) are being accepted now, for more information have a look at their web site [www.avcat.org.au](http://www.avcat.org.au) the VVAA are an integral part of the administration of this trust.

On 4 August I attend services commemorating the outbreak of World War One at the grave of a casualty of that war who is buried at Cowra and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese prisoner of war outbreak also at Cowra NSW, met local Vietnam veterans while there.

On 11/12/13 August I attending a meeting of the president of ex-service organisations, the Ex-service Round Table (ESORT) and a Defence Department ex-service organisations briefing day in Canberra, details of these meetings have been distributed or are available on request.

On 15/16 August I attended a memorial service arranged by the Vietnamese community in Sydney to recognise Vietnam Veterans day, wreaths were laid and many contacts renewed.

I attended the Vietnam veterans Day commemorative services at the Sydney cenotaph on the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

On 19 August I attended a board meeting of the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) that confirmed that applications for the 2015 bursaries and scholarships are now being accepted.

On 28 August I represented the V.V.A.A. at a memorial service in Sydney to recognise the 100 year anniversary of the death in combat of Lieutenant William Malcolm Chisholm who was recognised as the first Australian to die in combat during the First World War, he served with an English regiment but was Australian.

On 31 August I was advised that the V.V.A.A. NSW President Mr Dave Mccann passed away in hospital, Dave has not been well for some time however he carried on with his V.V.A.A. Commitments to the last and he will be missed, Lest we forget.