



DEBRIEF

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LONG TAN CROSS –VIETNAM AUGUST 2019

HONOUR THE DEAD, But Fight like Hell for the Living

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Once again Vietnam Veterans Day was marked with solemn commemorations around Australia and overseas, our cover photo on this edition is the current memorial on the site at Long Tan Vietnam.



Also in this edition I have added photos of various Vietnam Veterans Day services , if yours are missing they probably didn't arrive in time, send a selection and I will try and include for the information of others in the next edition.

Late August I attended the annual defence force briefing of ex-service organisation in Canberra followed by the meeting of the ex-service organisations round table (ESORT). Details of these meetings are distributed separately and are available on request, enough to say at this time that both days were educational and of benefit.

The Productivity Commission Report "A Better Way to Serve Veterans" remains a major subject of discussion and debate, there is little expectation of any response from government this year and many recommendations will be subject to budget submissions and will require additional funding before they can be implemented.

Next month, October, the National Council meet in Canberra and now is the time to think on matters of concern that can be considered as new policy or amendments to existing policy. The primary objective of the executive is to follow the lead of the membership however there are times we need to respond to government quickly and that is when we need to rely on existing policy to influence our comments.

Stay well and look after each other.



Ken Foster OAM JP
National President

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VETERANS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

VETERAN wellbeing, mental health, homelessness and transition have been the focus of a meeting between federal, state and territory Ministers in Canberra recently.

The Veterans Ministerial Council provides an opportunity for ministers responsible for veterans issues from across Australia to come together to discuss how different levels of government can collaborate to support veterans and their families.

Chair of the Council, Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester provided an update on the recent release of the Productivity Commission's final report of its inquiry into compensation and rehabilitation for veterans, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*.

The importance of a successful and smooth transition from the Australian Defence Force was noted and Ministers discussed veterans' employment and how federal, state and territory governments can work together more closely to improve and coordinate support for veterans and their families transitioning to civilian life.

Mr Chester advised a priority for the Council is veterans' mental health and provided an update on the development of six Veterans' Wellbeing Centres around Australia, as well as Director of Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, Professor David Forbes, delivering a presentation on the topic.

State and territory Ministers agreed to support the new Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan on veterans' mental health and wellbeing and suicide prevention, which will be delivered by the end of the year.

The state and territory Ministers also discussed the benefits of including a question regarding Australian Defence Force service in the 2021 Census and looked forward to the upcoming decision from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the matter.

There was a strong emphasis on the importance of continuing to improve cooperation between different levels of government, healthcare providers and the veteran community in order to ensure veterans and their families have the support they need, when and where they need it.

The need for a more coordinated approach with state and territory governments and the ex-service community on veteran homelessness, particularly when it comes to the collection of data and provision of on-the-ground services, was also discussed.

Ministers also agreed to work together on a quantitative research project to better understand and support veterans who find themselves incarcerated or dealing with the criminal justice system, including the establishment of a working group to commission, design and enable the research project.

Mr Chester briefed the Council on the Commonwealth's plans to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with a particular focus on Victory in the Pacific.

As it was the first meeting of the Council since it was agreed to elevate the Veteran's Ministers' Roundtable to a Veterans Ministerial Council, the Council's Terms of Reference were also considered and agreed to by members.



**i got so drunk
last night i
walked across
the dance floor to
get another drink
and won the
dance contest.**

Hilarious Things My Mother Taught Me...

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE . "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL . "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. " Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me IRONY "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."



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Counselling
ARMS

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BY VIETNAM VETERANS**

1800 011 046

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES IN COPING WITH TRAUMA

Families of serving, transitioning, or ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who are experiencing mental health concerns following trauma now have a new resource to help them.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said families play a critical role supporting current and former ADF members and it is vital they are supported themselves.



“The message from the Government is that help is available and these booklets add to the supports already in place for families through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling,” Mr Chester said.

“The booklets are designed to assist not only the ADF member, but also their loved ones, in understanding the effects of trauma, and providing practical steps to enhance the wellbeing of their family members.

“The Government is committed to putting veterans and their families first and provides more than \$230 million a year towards veteran and their family’s mental health, as part of more than \$11 billion for veterans in this year’s budget.”

The booklets have been developed in partnership with Phoenix Australia, which has a long history in supporting the defence and veteran community through its research, advice and practical programs. These booklets will be an important resource for families whose members have experienced trauma.

Ms Anne-Laure Couineau, Director, Policy & Service Development from Phoenix Australia, said that help is available and it’s important that families know they don’t have to get through this on their own.

“Trauma can have profound impacts on the families of the affected person, including children. The booklets aim to inform, educate, and provide practical information not only to help a loved one, but also to support the wellbeing of the family members,” Ms Couineau said.

“Family members had a chance to road test the booklets to ensure that they are easy to read and contain the information most useful for them.”

For those in need of immediate mental health support and counselling, Open Arms — Veterans and Family Counselling Service can be contacted on 1800 011 046. DVA’s online wellbeing portal, AT-Ease.dva.gov.au, also provides veterans and their families with information, resources and links to services for support with mental health and wellbeing.

The five booklets are free to download via the At Ease website - www.at-ease.dva.gov.au/resources/coping-trauma-military-family



Well guys, I hate to break it to you, but we were way late at flying in Vietnam.

Meet Valerie Andre.

She started as a Medical Captain in Indochina in 1948, already a qualified parachutist and pilot, in addition to being an army surgeon. While in Indochina, she realized that the most difficult part of her duties was retrieving the wounded, who were often trapped in the jungle. She returned to France to learn how to pilot a helicopter, then flew one to Indochina. From 1952-1953, she piloted 129 helicopter missions into the jungle, rescuing 165 soldiers, and on two occasions completed parachute jumps to treat wounded soldiers who needed immediate surgery



Open Arms, Veterans and Families Counselling.

24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling.

Phone 1800 011 046.

AWM DIRECTOR THANKED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

THE Federal Government will undertake a nationwide search for a new director of the Australian War Memorial after Dr Brendan Nelson AO has announced that he would finish in the role at the end of the year.

After seven years as Director, Dr Nelson told Australian War Memorial staff this morning that he will conclude his service when his appointment ceases at the end of the year.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester thanked Dr Nelson for his passion and outstanding contribution to honouring the service and sacrifice of the almost two million people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

“Brendan has provided leadership to the Memorial that has made it world-renowned, including managing its extensive upgrades and overseeing the Centenary of Anzac program,” Mr Chester said.

“Having previously served as Minister for Defence, Brendan’s passion for telling the stories of service and sacrifice of current and former Australian Defence Force personnel of more recent conflicts has been extraordinary.

“Under his guidance, the Memorial has also led a range of exhibitions, displays, memorials and documentaries of our First World War, Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and more recently, the commemorations of the Centenary of the First World War, including the poignant display of 62,000 knitted Poppies.

“More recently, I worked closely with Brendan and the Council of the Australian War Memorial to secure a \$498 million investment to expand the Memorial for future generations, which will ensure all Australians who have served in our armed forces are honoured and that their stories are told.

“However, his most important achievement is the solemn and respectful Last Post Ceremony held at the Memorial each night. It was Brendan’s vision to have this brought to the Memorial, which is inspired by the daily ceremony held at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres, Belgium.

“I commend Brendan on his passion and commitment to commemorating the service and sacrifice of all Australians who have served our nation. His enthusiasm and leadership will be missed and I wish him all the best for the future.”

HONOURING WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO OUR DEFENCE

WOMEN and families from across Australia whose lives have been impacted as a result of Defence service have come together during August at the Honouring Women United by Defence Service (HWUDS) dinner in Canberra.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said the HWUDS dinner seeks to acknowledge and honour all those women and their families united by service with the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

"Following the centenary of the First World War ending last year, 2019 celebrates the Year of Peace, and tonight we honour those women who have served and made sacrifices for that peace, and for those who continue to make those sacrifices on a daily basis," Mr Chester said. "Women who wear our nation's uniform are also mothers, partners, sisters and daughters and these roles brings their own set of unique challenges.

"It is important that we recognise, and seek to better understand, the service and sacrifice of women who have either served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) themselves or been affected by the service of a loved one."

Mr Chester said photographs of women and families from the '*Thank you for your service*' photographic exhibition were on display at the dinner.

"The exhibition is made up of remarkable photographs taken by Alex Ellinghausen, one of Australia's most respected photo-journalists and 2018 Press Gallery Journalist of the Year," Mr Chester said.

"The photos showcase the diversity of our current ADF members, veterans and their families and tonight's dinner was the perfect opportunity to showcase some of the photos and the stories their subjects have to tell."

Australians can view an online gallery of the photographic exhibition on the DVA website



OUR MILITARY HISTORY

Lest we Forget

September 1971 Battle of Nui Le, South Vietnam

Soldiers of B Company and D Company, 4RAR/NZ, fought an intense battle against a large enemy force from 33 North Vietnamese Army Regiment in the north of Phuoc Tuy province. The enemy defended their well constructed bunker systems and then attacked D Company for several hours.

The last battles fought by Australians in Vietnam occurred during Operation Ivanhoe (18 September-2 October 1971). Intelligence reports had alerted 4RAR/NZ to the presence of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops in northern Phuoc Tuy.

The battalion engaged the troops and became involved in heavy fighting. Although it sustained comparatively high casualties during these engagements, (Five Australians were killed in action, and 24 were wounded in this battle,) 4RAR/NZ was successful in hindering NVA attempts to move further south.

The withdrawal of Australian forces from the area cut short 4RAR/NZ's tour. It completed eight of its twelve-month tour and was the last Australian battalion to leave Vietnam. On 7 November 1971 it withdrew from Nui Dat to Vung Tau, before departing for Australia on 8 December.





Having reached the point where we no longer needed to operate under the welcome auspices of the Victorian Branch of the VVAA; VetRide has now established itself through incorporation, as an organisation in its own right.

The inaugural AGM of the newly formed VetRide Incorporated was held in late 2018 and the eleven members of the elected committee includes a broad mix of personnel, including members who are still working and two who are currently serving.

Since its inception in 2011, we have continued to conduct an annual event, that varies between a distance or return to base multi day ride. The 50th anniversary of Long Tan ride to Canberra in 2016 was the last distance ride we undertook, thanks to the availability of funding provided from the VVAA, as part of the State Government's support for the anniversary.



ADFA cadets from Defence Cycling Club and Bruce

The riders have since been challenged through taking on the hills around the Bass Coast in Gippsland South and with an increase in the presence of younger veterans and those currently serving in mind, we have invited riders to join us from Soldier On, Ride2Recovery and RSL Active. The boost in numbers saw 80 riders undertake a day ride last November to commemorate the Centenary of the signing of the Armistice. The 100k :100 years 'Ride of the Century' included a stop at the Shrine.



Vetride continued



We have also entered combined teams in events run by Bicycle Network, Victoria, including the 9 day 'Great Victorian Bike Ride'. We will reprise last years participation in the 100k Frankston return leg of the 'Around the Bay' ride on Sunday 6 October and our annual event will be held over four days based at Warburton. Check in is on Remembrance Day, so even if you don't ride, come along and join in after hours, at the Warburton Holiday Park (half owned by a Vietnam veteran).



at Frankston during the 'Around the Bay' 2018

Comradeship between past and present service personnel is at the heart of what VetRide is about; and we continue to make changes that focus upon the improvement of that connection.

Dealing with the increasing number of new norms is particularly challenging to older veterans, but then not that long-ago veterans of the Vietnam era were voicing their new ideas to those who had established reliance upon what they had learnt.

Although riding a bike is able to be undertaken solo, VetRide operates as a group activity, undertaken by riders of all ages and experience; and as such its continuing success is built upon understanding and compromise. It works.

Peter Liefman August 2019

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY—MELBOURNE 2019

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2019—SYDNEY CENOTAPH



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2019—CAMPBELLTOWN NSW



‘Australia’s Vietnam War’ Website.
University of New South Wales Canberra
Vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au



HELPING STUDENTS TO A BETTER FUTURE



The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a national independent charity. AVCAT helps the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-service men and women to a better future by providing tertiary education scholarships. Through the generous support of the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs, ex-service organisations and private donors, AVCAT offers up to 90 new scholarships each year for students enrolled at an Australian University, a TAFE College and a Registered Training Organisation. Scholarships are awarded to students based on financial need, academic merit and deserving circumstances.

To be eligible to apply, students must meet the following criteria:

- A child, step-child, foster child, or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Enrolled, or planning to enrol in 2020, in a full-time course at an Australian University, a TAFE College or a Registered Training Organisation
- Receiving, or eligible to receive, Centrelink Youth Allowance or an equivalent means-tested educational payment
- Other criteria according to the specific scholarship on offer.

"This scholarship has not only greatly assisted me financially, but helped me in my learning by enriching my opportunities. I recognise wholeheartedly that this scholarship has given me the opportunity to be one step ahead in my course and I fully intend to continue making the most of this opportunity. I am so thankful for those who have made of all of this possible for me" – Scholarship Recipient

**Applications for 2020 scholarships open on August 18 2019
and close on October 31 2019**

For information about how to apply contact the AVCAT team!

T: (02) 9213 7999 W: www.avcat.org.au

ADVOCACY CORNER.

The Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) web site www.atdp.org.au has been updated and I believe the new layout is more user friendly.

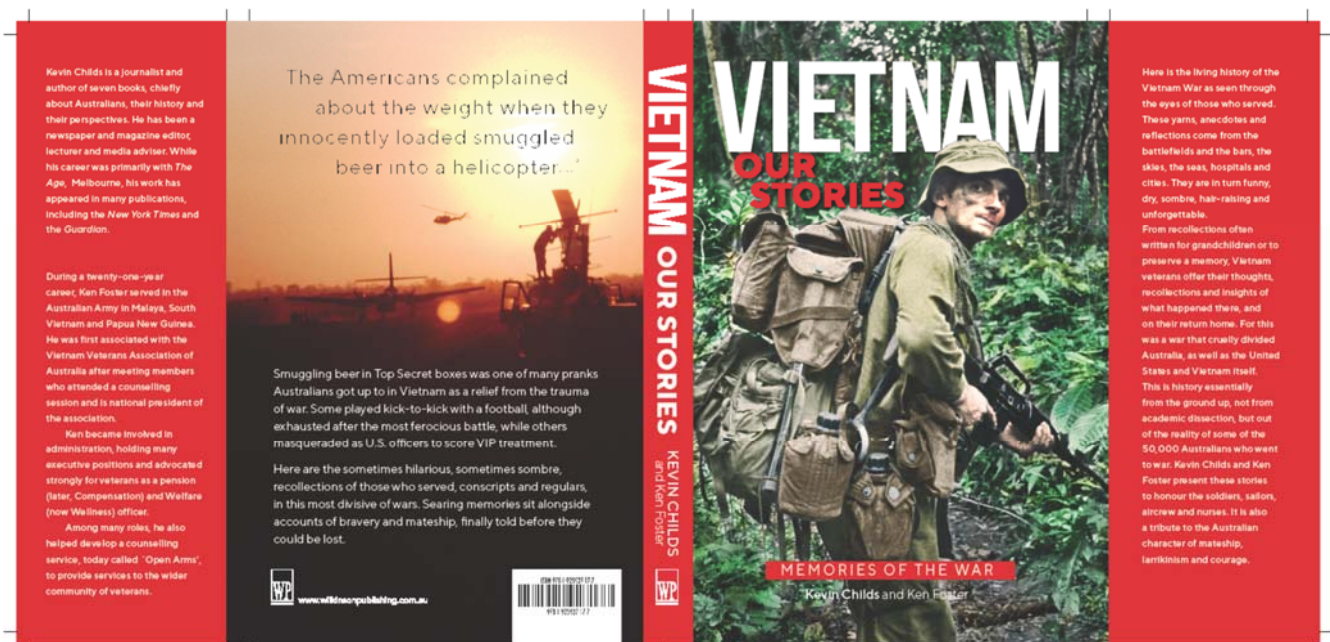
All V.V.A.A. authorised advocates are listed on the web site under their sponsoring branch or sub branch registration, if yours is missing speak to your secretary or contact me and we can work you through the process.

This web site is also the gateway to the advocates continuing personal development (CPD) program.

Registration on this web site and the receipt of a formal authorisation to represent the V.V.A.A. as an advocate are the best way to ensure you, as an advocate, and we as an organisation are covered under appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

I have been asked why authorisations need to be re-applied for on an annual basis, the simple answer is the authorisations are only issued to V.V.A.A. Members and need to be confirmed by a sponsoring branch or sub branch, as our memberships are on an annual basis the authorisations must confirm to that timing.

VIETNAM Our Stories, Coming soon





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AVCAT scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of Australian Veterans to study at university or TAFE

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Victorian education team bus.

YOUR ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN DEBRIEF

States and sub branches are encouraged to contribute reports on their activities, particularly an opportunity to let others know what is happening in your area.

COMPARE YOUR SERVICE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY WITH THE CURRENT JOB SPECIFICATION.



NAVY COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SAILORS



Communicators and Information Systems (CIS) Operators (known in the Navy as Communication and Information Systems Sailors) operate the Navy's telecommunications systems using equipment which spans the communications spectrum.

The CIS Operator also performs visual communications and operates and administers a number of Local and Wide area information technology networks used in the fleet.

If you are a capable individual who can handle the challenge and responsibility of ensuring essential information flows to enable the Navy to fight and win at sea, a job in the field of telecommunications, visual communications and information technology maybe for you.

Due to the technology CIS Operators are involved in, they require a high level of responsibility and maturity in dealing with highly technical equipment and information.

Precision, dependability and discretion are essential qualities for a CIS Operator due to the exposure to both classified and personnel information. You must be willing to accept responsibility early in your career and be able to either work independently and/or function as part of a team.

The CIS Category comprises of two streams: C - Communication Systems (CIS-C) and C - Communications Systems (CIS-I). The CIS-C Operators are responsible for the successful operation of complex communications and information systems. The CIS-C is able to establish and maintain communications systems connectivity, operate strategic and tactical (Satellite/Radio Telegraphy/Voice/Visual/Internet Protocol) communications and process the information transmitted and received via these bearers.

The CIS-I Operator is a fully trained Information Systems operator to manager, who functions in the highly demanding military Information and Communications Technology (ICT) environment.

The CIS-I is responsible for the successful operation of complex communications and information systems. The CIS-I is able to establish and maintain information systems and network connectivity as operationally required.

The CIS-I Operator can administer and provide service support for maritime C4 network domains.

The primary roles of the CIS Category at sea are:

- Telecommunications
- Information Technology
- Visual communications
- Information and Operational Security and
- Information Management.

Communication and Information Systems Sailors, continued

As a junior member of the CIS team, you will ensure the essential communications links between units at sea and stations ashore are maintained.

You will be required to:

- Operate and coordinate telecommunications systems including automated networks, data links and circuits in the communication spectrum
- Apply diagnostic, corrective and recovery techniques to telecommunications and information systems
- Administer Local Area Networks, network troubleshooting, assigning user profiles, configuring network protocols, configuring networks, and performing system/file back-up and restorals
- Communicate inter-ship by ship/shore radio teletype, ship/shore satellite, voice and radio teletype, video conferencing, chat, facsimile, email, tactical and administrative voice radio, flashing light (Morse code) and flag signalling
- Work with highly classified information and material
- Advise Command on tactical signalling and ship manoeuvring, and encode/decode and disseminate tactical and manoeuvring signals
- Perform shipboard flag ceremonial procedures and

Perform preventive and corrective maintenance on communications compartments and specific equipment such as signal projectors, lights, flags, portable radios and selected information technology equipment

In addition to telecommunications, visual communications and information technology responsibilities CIS Operators:

- Form part of boarding parties and may be required to conduct boarding operations from ships boats or helicopters
- Form part of teams to fight fire, and conduct casualty location and rescue
- Form part of teams to conduct Force Protection to protect the ship when alongside or when anchored
- Perform Combat Survivability plotting and voice communications for the coordination of onboard fire fighting, toxic hazards and floods and

Work at Heights (climb the mast of a ship to carry out routine or emergency tasks, i.e. rig Dress Ship lines or retrieve signal flags).

Career Development

In the first six years you will complete recruit training, Initial Entry Training and serve at sea or ashore performing Communications and Information Systems duties. You can expect to serve at sea for at least 12-18 months on a Major Fleet Unit.

On completion of your service at sea you will serve ashore in a Defence Communications Station or Fleet Information Communications Technology Support element. You may also volunteer and be recommended for sea service in Minor War Vessels.

Over the course of your career you will conduct many professional development courses which include leadership and CIS advancement courses.

These courses further develop CIS skills so that Operators can advance to Supervisor, Manager and Senior Manager Roles in ships and shore positions.

THE VIETNAMESE MUSEUM-AUSTRALIA



Every Vietnamese Australian who arrived here as a refugee has a story to tell.

The proposed Vietnamese Museum Australia (VMA) will be a vibrant multi-cultural hub situated in the iconic heart of Footscray, Victoria. The museum will feature five levels, showcasing the Vietnamese journey through permanent and temporary exhibitions as well as community events.

The museum is planned to open by 2022 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Vietnamese refugee settlement in Australia.

Vision

To build the first Vietnamese Museum Australia and preserve the history, culture and retell stories of first-generation Vietnamese refugees who came to Australia.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Waves

A crucial element of the journey, a symbol of great ***struggle, turmoil, pain and heaviness***. It also stands for the very element which has led to ***hope***, in carrying the people to a ***new land***.

Bamboo

An important part of the culture of Vietnam. Serves as a key construction material in traditional Vietnamese Architecture. It also symbolizes endurance and the essence of the Vietnamese soul: ***hardworking, optimism, unity, and adaptability***.

For more information and to see a visual concept of the project go to;
www.vietnamesemuseum.com.au

REUNIONS

102 field workshop RAEME Reunion

When: 4th. 5th. and 6th. October 2019

Where: Koondrook Victoria.

Friday Saturday & Sunday (including 5 meals wine beer, soft drinks tea and coffee)

COST: Friday to Sunday midmorning (including 5 meals, wine, beer, soft drinks tea and coffee)

Single 100.00

Double 150.00

One day only

Single 60.00

Double 85.00



Please contact Noel Lake on 03 5456 9246

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1ST AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP**
and it is held in BALLARAT,

from the meet and greet on the 8TH NOVEMBER 2019
till the 11TH NOVEMBER 2019

for ACCOMMODATION AND REUNION DETAILS
contact TONY BROWN on 0428852736 or
email on tony11raye13@bigpond.com.

If you would prefer to have this publication emailed directly to you please forward your email address to the National Secretary at secretary@vvaa.org.au.

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LIKE IT'S YOUR LAST.**
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VETERAN FRIENDLY RETREATS

Future listing of these facilities should be available on the various VVAA State branch web sites and these can be accessed through the web site www.vvaa.org.au



HAVE YOUR SAY— LETTERS TO DEBRIEF ARE WELCOME



The subject matter should be generally of interest to Vietnam Veterans and their families. Brief, to the point letters have a better chance of publication. Photographs should be of good colour, quality and subject matter, in jpg or similar format. Text should be submitted in Word format with minimum formatting. Vietnam Veteran writers must identify themselves by name, state, Vietnam Unit and Tour dates. Email: debrief@vvaa.org.au

NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

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WWW.VIETNAMVETSMUSEUM.ORG.AU

Membership enquiries welcomed



THE WAR WIDOWS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

"We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life."



A strong part of the Guilds History is the origins of its Logo.

The kookaburra was adopted as the Guilds Logo from its early inception and remains today.

The Kookaburra is also present on all War Widows' Guild Badges.