

PALUDRINE
PARADE
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Patron:
MAJOR GENERAL D J MCLACHLAN AO RETD

Our other address:
www.raasc-vsapa.org.au

RAASC PLAQUE DEDICATION WEEKEND 25-28 MARCH 2010

Seasons Greetings to you all.

This edition is addressed to all RAASC Veterans and their families for whom we have contact details. If you know folk who might be interested in attending, please ask them to contact us ASAP so we can include them in our planning. We have something in the order of 280 veterans and their wives coming to Canberra – considering it is over 40 years ago, it is a good effort.

This plaque seeks to dedicate the service of all RAASC soldiers who served in the Vietnam conflict.



Nui Dat, Vietnam. 1967-12. Newly arrived members of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), preparing their base camp for the Christmas season. Private John Barnes of Mullewa, WA (left), and Lance Corporal John Phillips of Coleraine, Vic, putting final decorations to a rubber tree outside their tent.
 Source: Flickr

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RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association Executive

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RAASC VIETNAM PLAQUE

This is a mock up of what our RAASC Vietnam plaque will look like.



INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS

One Sunday morning, the priest noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small Australian flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."



"Good morning Father," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Father, what is this?" The priest said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, Which service, the 8.30 am or 6.00pm?

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**WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE WEEKEND?
ALL THE DETAILS TO DATE!!**

Thank you to those who have indicated an interest in coming to this VERY SPECIAL ACTIVITY.

The RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association (VSPA), has been working with the other known RAASC Vietnam sub unit associations to arrange the program.

We have suggested that each association may wish to run their own Meet and Greet on the Thursday night. We expect they will notify you shortly of their plans. Do they know you are coming?

FRIDAY and **SUNDAY** are designated as **OFFICIAL CORPS ACTIVITIES DAYS**, with Saturday being a free day or Do it yourself day. We do have some recommendations for the free day, but first some explanatory notes for the activities we are putting on:

FRIDAY MORNING PLAQUE DEDICATION AND MORNING TEA

Morning Tea – Catering contracted by AWM. Please check the weather on the day and dress accordingly. No covered accommodation available in the event of inclement weather.

Free Guided Tour available after morning tea , Free time thereafter

FRIDAY EVENING RAASC VIETNAM CORPS DINNER MENU

To enable you to catch up with your mates from that era, we will arrange our seating to match the units that you belonged to back then.

Corinna 1 Ballroom Canberra Southern Cross Club Woden 6.30 for 7pm start (buy your own drinks)

ENTREES

Apricot hot smoked salmon served on garden salad with cherry tomatoes and rocket
Antipasto of prosciutto and smoked chicken with cheddar cheese and pickled vegetables and kalamata olives

MAIN COURSES

Eye fillet of beef rolled in pesto and baked in a puff pastry crust served with red wine jus
Roasted chicken breast supreme filled with sundried tomato and mozzarella cheese on rich tomato sauce

DESSERTS

Sliced fresh fruit with honeyed yogurt
Old fashioned sticky date pudding with rich butterscotch sauce and cream

All meals issued alternatively during the evening.

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SATURDAY MORNING

The RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association (VSPA) will hold its AGM on the Saturday morning at the Heritage Hotel starting at 0900. No advice yet from other associations as to what they will be doing. Watch this space.

NOW SOME IDEAS FOR SATURDAY:

Pitch'n Putt Golf game – Narrabundah – this will be held at the International Golf Course at Narrabundah – open to all, but we ask you nominate now, pay on the day, corporate rate \$17.50/head for 18 holes, two golf clubs, ball etc. Why not get a team together. We need you to confirm if you are going – on the Confirmation page.

Location- Cnr Jerrabomberra Ave & Hindmarsh Drive, Narrabundah ACT 2604 **Open from 8 am to 10 pm daily.**

We need a coordinator to run this event – c'mon you golfers – help us out!

Jump On Jump Off Bus Tour – see all the major attractions in Canberra. Spend whatever time you wish at each. <http://www.canberradaytours.com.au/> for further information.

We will arrange further with the company. Also available with this tour is a one hour boat cruise. Cost \$25-\$30 for the bus tour, \$15 boat cruise Lake Burley Griffin – worth doing if you haven't done it before.

SUNDAY MORNING- Church Service at RMC Chapel Duntroon

Chaplain Ken Jarvis, ex 1 ALSG Vung Tau and Chaplain at large will be conducting our service of dedication. Our first opportunity to catch up with Ken was at our reunion in 2006 – very moving service.

It will be followed by a caravan style BBQ lunch - steak, sausages and salads. The cost is expected to be no more than \$15. Drinks extra. The Vietnam Veterans Federation ACT will provide the catering services for us on this occasion.

This is an opportunity to farewell one another on the conclusion of the weekend's activities.

HOW TO PAY FOR THE OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES WE HAVE ARRANGED

We have included a sheet for you to complete. You need to indicate what you and your partner (as appropriate) will attend and arrangement payment to suit. Please send the form to Christina at our PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911. There are several ways you can pay the full amount:

1. **Electronic Funds Transfer to: NAB, Account name RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association, BSB 083 422, Account 207269708 Reference: RAASC Plaque, Your Name, (preferred method)**
2. **Cheque payable to RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association, or**
3. **Money Order.**

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**RAASC VIETNAM PLAQUE DEDICATION WEEKEND 25-28 MARCH 2010
CONFIRMATION AND PAYMENT FORM**

I/We, Mr.....andwish to attend the weekend, and are staying at..... Our contact details are as follows:

.....
.....
.....

(Address, phone, email, Vietnam unit)

Please indicate what activities you will attend, as below:

			Member	Spouse	Total \$\$
Thurs 25 Mar PM	Vietnam units and sub units Meet and Greet at association selected venue-own cost				
Fri 26 Mar 0900	Rehearsal – key speakers				
1000	Commemoration – all, Dress smart casual, medals				
1030	Morning Tea	\$3/head			
1830 for 1900	RAASC Corps Dinner Dress – smart casual	\$60/head			
SATURDAY - DO IT YOURSELF DAY – FREE TIME					
Sat 27 Mar 0900	VSPA AGM (Heritage Hotel) Nil Cost				
(For details see over page) Some suggestions, but bookings essential now					
Pitch'n Putt Golf game – Narrabundah (nominate now, pay on the day)					
Jump On Jump Off Bus Tour (nominate now, pay on the day)					
Boat Cruise (nominate now, pay on the day)					
Sun 28 Mar 1000-1100 (tbc)	RMC Church Service Nil Cost				
1200-1400	BBQ, and farewells	\$15/head			
TOTAL FUNDS BEING TRANSFERRED					

Please complete, return this page and your monies to our PO Box below before 30 Jan 2010.

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CHANGES TO DVA CARDS

(from the DVA website) All Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Repatriation Health Cards (DVA Cards) are due to expire during 2010. From March 2010 DVA will begin reissuing all cards. As part of this reissue there will be some improvements made to DVA cards. All eligible veterans, war widows/widowers and dependants will be issued with a new card.

Changes to DVA Cards will not reduce or change current eligibility to hold a DVA Card.

The changes being made to the cards are to increase:

- veteran access to services; provider satisfaction; and security of the cards.

Veteran Access to Services

The magnetic stripe on the cards will contain the following information:

- full name; file number; card Type; and expiry date.

This change is expected to improve provider satisfaction, as this will enable providers to swipe DVA cards in the same way Medicare or Private Health Fund Cards are currently utilised. By improving the claiming experience for the providers it increases the likelihood of providers accepting DVA cards.

All eligible clients living overseas will, for the first time, be issued with a DVA card. This will remove the need for veterans to contact DVA to receive a "letter of authority" when receiving medical treatment within Australia.

Entitlement to treatment overseas is limited to veterans that have an accepted disability/disabilities and DVA funds treatment of those accepted disabilities only. This process for receiving treatment while overseas will not change.

Security Upgrade

All DVA cards will have microprinting and a DVA registered hologram added as security features. The microprinting and hologram are added security features to ensure non entitled persons cannot reproduce a card. The reissue of all cards to start March 2010, and to complete in 6 weeks

Best Wishes for a happy and holy 2010

RAASC Vietnam Plaque Dedication Committee

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