

Patron:
David McLachlan
AO,
MAJGEN (RL)



Our Websites:
New

http://www.raasc.com/vspa_forum

Paludrine Parade
Issue 20

Existing: www.raasc-vspa.org.au

RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA) NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is in PDF format – download FREE reader now-

www.adobe.com/products/reader/

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Dear RAASC Veteran,

It was great to see those of you who came to our recent RAASC Plaque Dedication here in Canberra and trust you all arrived home safely. Many thanks to those who assisted us over the weekend.

Some 80 members and wives/partners came to the Dedication from the Association, Some 20 turned up for the AGM. Overall from the Corps - in excess of 240 turned up for the Dedication, 170 for the Corps Dinner and a slightly smaller number for the Church Service and BBQ.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

The Minutes of the AGM will be promulgated shortly. This is a summary of what occurred:

Executive .Our President has stood aside from our day to day activities due to health reasons, but will ensure our annual legal obligations are met. Our Treasurer will deliver a financial statement post 30 June to the membership via our next newsletter.

The Executive sought a break from reunions and newsletters and will not be running any RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911
President 0439 020 418 Secretary 0408 947 935 Treasurer 0419 011 597
Membership 0430 125 195

reunions for the foreseeable future. The existing Executive will continue, and we have created two new positions. Many Thanks Christina.

1. Membership/Attendance Manager position, and
2. Welfare Officer position - Christina will take on both roles.

If you know someone who is not travelling well, please let us know. We will contact them to see if they are happy for us to release whatever details they wish to have promulgated.

Regional Executive members The following members were re-elected:

Don Noy	–	re-elected Gold Coast	UNAVAILABLE-do you know someone?
Bob Walters	–	Brisbane and Environs	07 3863 2946
Bob Denner	–	NSW Country	02-6657 1145
Barry Carroll	–	Sydney Metro	02 9816 2064
Noel Schluter	–	South Australia	08 7288 0110
Mal Saxby	–	Western Australia	08 9593 4806
Tony Galea	–	Victoria East	03 9772 0421
Glen Breden	–	Tasmania	email: jen.kennedy@bigpond.com
Mannie van Rijswijk	for Nth Qld		07 4789 2962

Duties of the positions – see Minutes of the AGM which will appear on the existing website.

Reunions. Bob Denner has offered to run the next Reunion at Dorrigo in **August 2011**, ably assisted by Ken and Marilyn Taylor. through until August 2011. We will be seeking another team to plan and run the 2012 reunion from August 2011.

Welcome We especially welcome and encourage any members & wives from Sup, HQ's, Postal, Canteens, Cash Office, etc who wish to make VSPA their Association home.

Membership We agreed to properly rescind a motion from the 2009 AGM which now ensures consistency with our Constitution. We are in the social business of networking and catching up with old mates. Our membership is open to any who want to join us.

There is a discussion topic on our website about whether we could better title our Association on the internet. No change to our Constitution – just the **opening title** our internet surfers see that might attract and have them join our Association.

Looking to the future, we need to consider the needs of ADF members who do not have a numeric sub unit identity like we have, and we know they are looking for an Association to belong to. This is another forum topic– so join in now & offer your opinion. Read on.

Membership Renewal or New Members

If you received a letter from our Membership Manager, we either would like you to

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consider JOINING, or for all others – we ask you to REJOIN. ALL WELCOME. Contact Christina (Membership/Welfare) details below.

Fees

Some of our folks renewed their membership at the Dedication. We encourage you to rejoin and take an active part in its life. The Executive is keen to pay the bills etc, but still need your help to make this an active group of Veterans.

SHOPPING - RAASC Corps Collared Shirts

Alan Willmott has offered to source and provide initial quotes for:

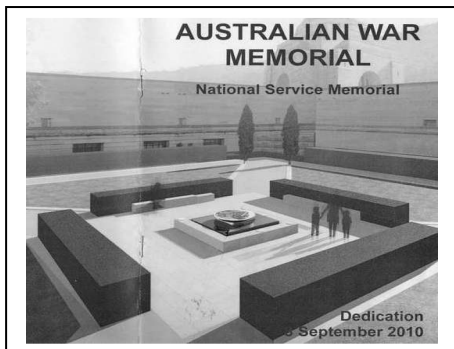
- collared shirts with appropriate RAASC Corps Badge left hand side upper, and
- member name and Association on the pocket (each Assn responsible for design).

Memorial Boards – haven't ordered one? FINAL Orders close 30 Apr – contact Secretary ASAP dabblers2@bigpond.com or 0408 947 935 to discuss further.



NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL DEDICATION 7-8 SEP 10

Are you a Nasho? We have just dedicated our RAASC Vietnam Plaque, and now the AWM has built a Memorial just for our National Servicemen. Your time has finally come. We have just been told that the Dedication of the National Service Memorial will be held at the AWM in Canberra Tue 7-Wed 8 Sep 2010. See this site for details:



<http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/memorial.htm>

On this site you will find details of the program, and you can download a copy of the form to notify your attendance to the National Service Federation.

No computer? – go to your local internet café, library etc and ask for help to download the information. The program involves:

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- a. Tue 7 Sep 10-Reception at Parliament House on the – first 1000 National Servicemen/their relatives will get preference to the reception. Details on the form.
- b. Wed 8 Sep 10 – 0900 form up for parade and dedication ceremony with the Governor General.
- c. Wed 8 Sep 10 – 1230 on - Associations to arrange reunions etc as appropriate.

POPPY LAYING CEREMONY PM 8 SEP 10

The AWM have said to us: "It is a suggestion by the Memorial, that if association members wish too, a small poppy laying ceremony can take place over the plaque once installed. Some associations like to move into the tomb of the unknown soldier after the plaque to facilitate a larger laying of poppy's. A separate ceremony at the Tomb could also be facilitated. You would have to look at the numbers, but both are possible."

We have sought and had agreement from the National Service Federation to conduct a poppy service on the afternoon of the dedication.

To minimise costs for members, we will offer a poppy laying ceremony for ALL RAASC members available, on the afternoon of the National Service Memorial dedication. Lunch will follow at Olims after the ceremony. There are no specific costs like there were for our plaque dedication. Attending? Please let Christina know before 1 Sep 10 at the latest.

For those of you who missed out on the Dedication, we believe this is a wonderful opportunity to view our RAASC Vietnam plaque. The plaque is to be laid on the existing walkway, but to the right of the walkway after leaving the carpark for the AWM grounds. Earthworks have already commenced on site.

Proposed Transition to our New Website

The new site address: http://www.raasc.com/vspa_forum
The Web site designer Email address: Sexton@raasc.com

Barry Lang, Webmaster Barry, a keen volunteer, told us at the AGM about some of the difficulties he has had without the help needed to develop and maintain the website over the past few years. The Exec offered to find a web site designer to support Barry at little or no cost to the Association.

We agreed we need an internet presence to publicise our activities and to use the site as a repository for our history to be told for generations to come. This is a summary of what has since transpired – full details are included with the Minutes of the AGM.

We have found a local Canberra-based web designer who will assist us in developing a new website, and whilst the old site will remain, we may wish to migrate all the material across to the new site in the foreseeable future.

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The Website designer does it as a hobby – for FREE, but he responds favourably to us making use of the site – no use, no Web Designer.

If you want the new site to continue-USE IT OR LOSE IT! Please - write to:

Sexton Stonex – his email is: Sexton@raasc.com, and tell him you require a login and password for the forum located at: http://www.raasc.com/vspa_forum

He will write back and issue those to you, and you can then start posting in the Forum.

If the topic is not there, create a new one. Or read the old ones, and reply to one of them. We encourage you to include photos too. **Use it regularly. Feed and nurture it and it will grow!**

Unit Points of Contact for photos, oral history.

The material that goes onto the site has to come from somewhere – YOU! We all deployed, and have memories and photos worth including. Not much on Corps training and Battle Efficiency photos received to date so have a dig around and let us have them please.

To take the load off Barry, what we propose is a Content Coordinator for each year of our service, by Unit or sub unit as below.

We need you to be a coordinator. Let one of the Exec know if you can help. We currently have the following unit and year positions – no names means WE NEED YOU. We welcome anyone with material from their time in Vietnam or in the period leading up to Vietnam that may wish to contribute to their oral and pictorial histories from:

ALSC Bien Hoa	
21 Sup PL	
25 Sup Pl:	
1967-68	
1968-69	
1969-70	Dave/Russ

25 Sup Pl (continued)	
1970-71	
1971-72	Noel Schluter/Barry Lang
Det 52 Sup Pl	
1967-68	
1968-69	
1970-71	

Members from any other units:

Cash Offices	
Postal Units	
Canteen Units	

Members from other Headquarters

HQ Australian Force Vietnam (Saigon).....
HQ 1 Australian Task Force.....
HQ 1 Australian Logistic Support Group (ALSG)

For more info on the transition to the site, see the last few pages of the newsletter.

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REUNION 2011 DORRIGO NSW

At the AGM, Bob and his team offered to run our next reunion. This is their preliminary plan. It is the basis for the weekend but there will changes made.

WED	17 AUG	1700	Meet & Greet	Dorrigo Memorial RSL Club
THURS	18 AUG	AM	Tour of Dorrigo Steam Railway Museum	Steam Railway Museum Dorrigo Historical Society
		1700	Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service	Dorrigo Monument
		1830	Vietnam Veterans' Reunion Dinner	Dorrigo Memorial RSL Club
FRI OPTION ONE	19 AUG	AM	Veterans Recovery Walk	Dorrigo Rain Forest Centre
		1230	Lunch - Barbeque	Dorrigo Rain Forest Centre
		1800	Happy Hour	Dorrigo Memorial RSL Club
OPTION TWO		AM	Bus trip to Ebor WW2 Tank Traps & other WW2 historical sites	Followed by Barbeque Lunch at Dorrigo Rain Forest Centre
SAT	20AUG	AM	Sports: Golf, Indoor bowls, croquet, darts, quoits	Dorrigo RSL Golf Club, Dorrigo Memorial RSL Club
SUN	21AUG	1030	Church Parade	St Stevens Anglican Church
		1230	Lunch-Barbeque	Dorrigo Memorial RSL Club
		1400	Dispersal	

Yes, you can book your accommodation now: <http://www.dorrigo.com/accommodation.html>
or go to: <http://www.dorrigo.com/> for general information.

Bob advises to call him-02 6657 1145 or email - rdenner@bigpond.net.au and he can advise of the standards of the accommodation, eg the caravan park is unrated and pretty basic. Registration and other notices to come – watch your newsletter for further details.

ARMY NEWSPAPER

Feel like a member of the MUSHROOM BRIGADE! Miss the old days, or just want to keep up to date with what is happening in the Army now. You can get ARMYNEWS on line FOR FREE!

It won't cost you anything if you have email. Go to: www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews
Register and you will get a fortnightly reminder. Full ARMYNEWS - download FOR FREE.

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PLANNED TRANSITION TO NEW WEBSITE

Dear Veteran,

From our last newsletter, you will be aware of some of the difficulties we, and particularly Barry has had building the website over the past few years. Barry has agreed to continue as our Web Master and maintain the existing site but we have decided to find a suitable web designer to assist us in getting a new one up and running, and at minimal cost to ourselves.

An Introduction.

We have been looking at some solutions to the difficulties involved, and we believe we have found that in a Canberra-based guy called Sexton (his pen name). Meet Sexton. He is a nice guy to boot and we both felt like we had found our person to help us get the site moving forward:

"I joined the RAAF in 1968 and retired in 2000 - now I'm a Defence public servant. Never got posted to Vietnam. Went to have a look in 2007 and would like to go back with my sons. I've been a webmaster at Defence DMO for 10 years and have tinkered with private websites for a hobby for almost as long. My services are free - but I move on if there's no interest from participants."

If you wish to have a look at what Sexton is capable of, and managed by the Associations involved, see the following sites:

<http://www.khuts.org/>

<http://www.monashnhw.org.au>

<http://www.capitaledge.org.au/>

Transition from existing to new site.

Our aim is to maintain the existing site until well after a transition takes place. Both sites will be linked, both will be accessible. One will act eventually as a live repository for what has already been added. However, we plan to eventually transition to a new website that will cost us less and give us greater capability into the future.

You are very aware that we are keen to produce a coffee table book, but more importantly our history needs to be told for generations to come. Perhaps the current generation of "Army Supply Platoons" may one day add their history too.

FORUMs. Think of Q&A on TV and you have an idea of what the forum is for. It is the means by which we all communicate with each other on line, creating discussion on any topic of interest. We ask you to use the FORUM on the new site.

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The existing Boards or topics being used are on the forum above are:

Website Features	Forum features
Impressions of Vietnam	Reunions
ANZAC Day	Events
What I liked about (those of our number who have Marched On)	
Meetings	General discussion

You can post a response to any article or post that is there.
There are two topics from us especially:

The Association "Public" name, the other about the Shirts, Alan offered to source for us. When you write to Sexton, always include as CC, dabblers2@bigpond.com just so he knows you are with the Association (otherwise I will get too many phone calls).

Initial Set up and Ongoing costs

Our current Domain name runs out in March 2012. We had no web hosting costs thanks to our previous Web Host, and we will not have any design and development costs.

We will need to eventually pay for:

1. a domain name (that's the address on the web) at around \$35/per annum, and
2. web hosting (our electronic real estate) at around \$190 per annum.

For that we get heaps of upload and download capacity on a better software platform. We will have a photo album capability too. We look forward to seeing lots of activity on the new site at:

http://www.raasc.com/vspa_forum

To help things along, we will make available a list of files we have to date in the next newsletter.

Happy surfing.

Dave, Russ and the team

Until next time – keep talking, & enjoy your newsletter!
Your RAASC VSPA Executive.

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