



"We dedicate this newsletter to those who have been affected by the floods in Qld, NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and WA and also the cyclones in Qld and WA. Our thoughts and prayers are with you"

**RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA)
NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2011**

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www.adobe.com/products/reader/

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Dear RAASC Veteran,

DORRIGO REUNION AUG 2011

Bob has been working solo to organise a wonderful reunion for us all to enjoy at Dorrigo (one of NSW hidden places) Aside from the AGM (participate in the decision making), mates to catch up with, we will be able to do visits to old WW2 sites, RSL, rainforest, golfing and games etc just to name a few-how about a few more blokes from the southern states showing up!! Some of us would like to have a get together further south next time.

Christina really needs to hear from you. Please sign up now for the reunion, complete the registration form enclosed, send it and the deposit to Christina via our mail box as below pronto. She will offer an accommodation brochure with your receipt so you can select your accommodation.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to those that have renewed their membership. A current paid up members list is enclosed.

SECRETARY'S ABSENCE The Secretary and his wife are away until further notice. Personal mail to dabblers2@hotmail.com in the first instance. All other mail to our PO Box in the interim for distribution to the action officer. Or call Christina, Ray or Dave – their numbers are shown below.

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911
President 0439 020 418 Secretary (absent on leave wef Feb2011) Treasurer 0419 011 597
Christina: Membership 02 6241 2358 or mobile 0430 125 195

CONTINUING GOALS

New year opportunities Well, the silly season has come and gone and 2011 can be a wonderful opportunity for new goals, hopes and dreams. Hope to see you at Dorrigo in August. Now the plaque laying is behind us, we will be refocusing our energies on some of our original goals such as our coffee table book.

NEW WEBSITE

The Exec agreed we would promote our presence and activities-a new site is being professionally built for us prepared for us. We have a heap of photos and we have digitized them and they are now on a separate site in Picasaweb. When the site is completed it will have a link to our RAASC VSPA Home Page.

To Log in, first paste this link into your browser: <http://picasaweb.google.com/home?tab=mq>

Then you will be asked for an email and password. Those details are:

Email: raasc.supplies11@gmail.com

Password: vungtau6970

Hit enter, and you should see a page which reflects 23 albums. Note we have set them up in the year in which the photos were taken, and generally the Album cover and name reflects the person that took the photos.

Got some photos you want to include? Look across the screen and you will see three tabs:

My Photos **People** **Explore** then **“UPLOAD”** CLICK THIS and you will be presented with another screen listing all the current albums and two lines of text which state;

Upload Photos: Create or Select Album

Choose an album below or [create a new album](#) .

If you are going to do this, please let Dave, our photo guru know first out of courtesy.

Along with our photo albums and documents from the era, we will continue to populate our site to enable us to produce our book. We feel our new invigorated look will enhance our activities and encourage our people to come forward. There's even links to other Veteran sites and some on the weapons we used in the conflict. There's a news link which will help to keep you abreast of things happening in the veteran community including early warning of DVA changes to policies.

SERVICES TO HELP VETERANS- NOTICES

DVA WEBSITE - TOUCHBASE

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Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

This is the address of the new Touchbase DVA website. Recommend you have a look at it and pass it on to others <http://www.touchbase.gov.au>

FREE PHARMACEUTICALS

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 November 2010 to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, concerning free pharmaceuticals for veterans with war caused disabilities. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Government's 2010 election commitment to introduce the Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme (PRS) will provide relief for those veterans with disabilities arising from war service. The net effect of the PRS will be free pharmaceuticals for eligible veterans in receipt of a disability pension and who have qualifying service. Initial payments will be made in early 2013 for expenses incurred from 1 January 2012.

THREE VETERAN SERVICES (DVA) YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

The Veterans' Home Maintenance Line

The Veterans' Home Maintenance Line (VHML) is a toll free telephone service for members of the Veteran Community which:

- Provides advice on general home maintenance matters;
- Provides local referral to reliable and efficient tradespeople with appropriate qualifications, and both professional indemnity and public liability insurance cover;
 - Provides 24 hour access for emergency repairs;
- Offers a home inspection service to identify current or possible future maintenance problems and is available during weekdays in business hours; and
 - Provides links to Government subsidised services where possible.

How to apply?

It's easy! Just ring 1800 80 1945 and ask for home maintenance advice or a referral to a tradesperson, or Visit the link below or call your local VAN office.

http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/health_programs/homefront/Pages/intro.aspx

Preventing Falls

Falls are not an inevitable part of ageing. Most falls can be prevented. One in three people aged 65 and over report falling at least once each year.

- One quarter of these people sustain significant injuries and 5% sustain a fracture (usually humerus, wrist, hip or pelvis).
- Strength and balance exercise has shown to reduce falls by older people.
- Falls and accidents are a key factor in causing otherwise avoidable admissions to hospital.

HomeFront

HomeFront is a falls and accident prevention program available for all Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) gold and white card holders. A free **HomeFront** assessment is available each year

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and the department makes a financial contribution towards the cost of recommended items and modifications.

The recommended minor home modifications and/or aids and appliances are generally low cost items such as the provision of non slip treatment on steps or floors or extra lighting. The **HomeFront** assessor also provides information about local community and Government services that are available to assist veterans and war widows to remain living in their own home for as long as possible. A **HomeFront** assessment can be arranged by telephoning 1800 80 1945.

There are currently around 272 000 Australian veterans that are eligible for the **HomeFront** program. More information, including interesting statistics, are available on DVA's website - http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/health_programs/homefront/Pages/intro.aspx

NOTICES For QUEENSLANDERS

Do you own a Caravan and live in Queensland? Want to avoid a toll fine? From the Combined Caravan Clubs of Queensland-please ensure that anyone who is going to use a trailer or caravan should register that vehicle on their Govia account. From interstate and own an E-Tag? To avoid the admin fee, write to www.govia.gov.au and give them your account and Tag number and travel details, and drop an info copy to your RTA-it pays to help them link up and will save you a heap of hassles you don't want or need.

Keep in touch! If you know someone who might like to join us, let us know- we'll send them a free Association badge when they take up membership.


**Bruce, Christina, Ray, Russ and Dave
VSPA Association Executive**

Enclosures:

Dorrigo Reunion 2011 Registration Form
Letter to QLD President RSL re Public Transport Concessions
Current Members List

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Treasurer 0419 011 597 Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

 **TRANSLink**

RECEIVED
RSL QLD BRANCH

- 6 DEC 2010

FILE NO: 824

FOLIO NO:

TransLink Transit Authority
Level 13, 420 George Street,
Brisbane Q 4000
GPO Box 50, Brisbane Q 4001
Tel: (07) 3167 4029
Fax: (07) 3167 4001
Enquiries: Jasmine Green
Email: Jasmine.Green@translink.com.au
Website: www.translink.com.au

1 December 2010

Mr Mr Doug Formby
State President Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch)
PO Box 629
SPRING HILL 4004 QLD

Dear Mr Doug

TransLink fare and ticketing changes for 2011

The Queensland Government recently announced new arrangements for fares and ticketing which will offer new incentives and benefits for go card users, making travel easier in South East Queensland.

From Monday 17 January 2011, the following changes will be implemented:


- New daily go card cap on fares for seniors, Pension Concession Card holders and Repatriation Health Care Card (Gold Card) holders - after two journeys are made in one day all additional journeys are free.
- Increase in the go card off-peak discount from 10 to 15 per cent providing more incentive to travel during the day and on weekends or public holidays.
- go card fares and single paper ticket fares will increase by 15 per cent - a go card fare will still be 30 per cent cheaper for a single journey.
- go card will replace all multi-trip paper tickets - including all daily, weekly, monthly and Queensland Rail one-third student paper tickets.
- Single paper tickets will remain for sale to ensure infrequent users and tourists are able to easily access public transport.

The revenue generated through these changes will fund and additional 305 000 weekly public transport seats on the network by 2010-11.

I am confident that these changes will ensure we are well placed to continue to deliver a world-class public transport network and address the challenges of a rapidly growing population and record patronage.

Please find enclosed information brochures outlining specific changes to fares and tickets. Should you require further information or require additional brochures please do not hesitate to contact Jasmine Green, External Affairs on (07) 3167 4037 or jasmine.green@translink.com.au.

Kind regards



Peter Strachan
Chief Executive Officer
TransLink Transit Authority

TransLink Transit Authority ABN 46 097 411 749

If you know of any other similar services available to veterans in your state, let us know.

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