

Patron:
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RAASC Vietnam Supply
Platoon's Association
PO Box 207 Mitchell
ACT 2911

Dear Member,

Christmas approaches and provides an opportunity for me and the VSPA executive to offer each of you and your families our sincerest best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas.

I always seem busy throughout the year. Meeting with friends on a recent weekend our discussion got round to how did I manage to go to work and also do the daily things of life because this retirement business is really hard work, there seems to be so much to do. Having a full and busy life is a great help to me. I hope that each of you has the opportunity to experience such fullness in life.

Although my life is full I always acknowledge that Christmas provides a time for us to reflect on and take time out for our families or for those who are very near to us. I hope that you can just take a little time out from the celebrations, a little time away from the dinner table and enjoy the people and things around us. I suspect that, if you do, you will realise how blessed most of us are.

Our Association is a small one. Looking back I can see that our regular reunions have given many of us an opportunity to catch up with each other. I can see that they have provided for us the opportunity to understand that although we were logistic soldiers we too served in Vietnam and that there we did something very important in the life of our Army.

During the year the year our two Barrys, Barry Carroll and Barry Anderson have done a great deal of work for organising our next reunion in Wollongong in 2014. Thank you to both friends for their work. I look forward to meeting you again in 2014.

We have asked the Wollongong Surf Leisure resort to earmark some accommodation so get in early and secure your spots. Please give them a call and let them know if you are coming sooner rather than later - 02 4283 6999. No fees are required at this stage.

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Contact us on: 02 6241 2358 or mobile 0430 125 195 Home Page: <http://raascsupply.asn.au/>

I would like to thank our executive for its continuing work to keep VSPA ticking along.

Some weeks ago we were asked if a dying supply veteran in Melbourne was part of our Association. Although not a member, some of our own Victorian members and especially members of the RAASC Vietnam Association for whom we are deeply indebted, were able to organise to fulfil his wishes.

Although he may not have been aware of the touching events that occurred it gave me great pride in the fact that we can help each other when help is needed. Geoff Christopherson provides the following follow up:

Bob Evans ashes were committed to Port Phillip Bay (just off St Kilda Beach Foreshore) at 1.15 pm on Saturday 12 October 2013 by Paul Curran after a very simple ceremony (a few words from Ian McDonald (Bob's friend) and me and then the ODE).

There were 14 mourners , the three previously mentioned, Denny Van Maanenber, Buzz Kennedy and eight other members of the Vietnam Veterans Motor Cycle Club-Gippsland Chapter and Memorial Riders. One of the daughters of a member of the VVMC took a number of photographs.

I think it was what Bob would have wanted and he was farewelled appropriately with great support from Denny and his VVMC group. A short Wake was held afterwards at the St Kilda RSL Sub-Branch.

Vale Bob Evans

As part of our networking, we had an email recently wanting to track down two Veterans, to pass on details of a funeral of one of their mates. One member was RAASC/RAAOC, the other was from a Medical unit. So, if you happen to discover an ex RAASC member who may not a member, offer to pass their details on to us so we can keep in touch

For me, this year contained another sad and difficult occasion with the passing of Gordon Meares. Why single out Gordon? Well Gordon was my nemesis in Vietnam and in a strange way I just miss him even though after Vietnam I never met him. Vale Gordon.

In conclusion I wish you all, Happy Christmas, travel safely and enjoy your family and friends,

Bruce Manning.

President, RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association