



**RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA)  
NEWSLETTER – MAY- JUN 2011**

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**Dear RAASC Veteran,**

**DORRIGO REUNION Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2011**

There are now less than 70 days before the start of this year's Reunion. This has been a completely solo exercise with Bob organizing a wonderful reunion for us all to enjoy. Why not come along and join in the fun.

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.

**WHY HAVE AN ASSOCIATION AT ALL?**

Many of the key reasons for the Association's existence:

**Networking.** Catching up with old mates, some of whom we haven't seen since Vietnam, responding to welfare issues, and as a network for Veterans who may not belong to other associations.

**Beyond a Single Vote.** Some of our members have been active in supporting efforts to improve Government services to Veterans including DFRDB and other relevant issues. Governments will do what suits them, not us and therefore we must stand firm on issues that concern us and continue our lobbying efforts.

**Decline or Reaching Out.** When we formally became an Association in August 2006, we had tracked down in excess of 170 or about half of those who were posted to Supply units in Vietnam. Interestingly, they are a mix of HQ, Canteens, Air Dispatch, and others, not just the Supply guys, who themselves have been slow to take up membership. We have around 50 members now. We'd like to know why and how we can provide a service to you!

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

“Vietnam veterans have reached the highest level of business, professional and political ranks within Australia, and every one of them who has overcome psychological or health problems in order to raise a family and live a relatively normal life has overcome adversity in order to achieve. Vietnam veterans aren’t victims, they are achievers.” Vietnam Veterans Association.

The Exec will also seek expressions of interest to run another reunion in 12-24 months. The Exec will continue “to pay the bills”, but it is your Association, not just ours.

## MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to those that have renewed their membership. For those who have not done so, membership is due June 30<sup>th</sup> for the next financial year 2011-2012.

You can send in your form to Christina who will issue a receipt and new membership card at the Reunion for those attending, or will post out to those not attending.

## NEW WEBSITE

We can now offer you details of our new website which was professionally built for us by Graham from Flairnet Web Design. Graham gave us a really good deal and David E worked closely with Graham to deliver something that gives us the information specific to our Association. Lots of cups of coffee and cake also helped in the deal.

To access our website:

Type [www.raascsupply.asn.au](http://www.raascsupply.asn.au) into your browser and press Enter.

You will notice the scrolling photos on the right hand side of the top banner.

On the left hand side of each web page are internal links to all pages on our site.

**Note** Navigation to all (internal) pages, eg. *Reunions and Events* page, within the site are accessed from the left hand menu, and all (internal) links, eg. *2009 Coolangatta Tweed Reunion*, on those pages are accessed by clicking on the link – to return to a webpage, click on the back button in your browser.

All links to external websites, eg. on the *Links* and *Photographs* pages, open into a separate window and can be exited by closing it down.

Our existing store of photos have been uploaded onto a separate site in Picasaweb. These can be accessed from the *Photographs* page on our website. There are two links, one of which allows you to view the photos and the other which allows to you to add your photos. To add photos to the Picasaweb site you will also need to obtain a password from us – refer to our *Contact Us* page.

As members were less involved in using our previous Forum site, our new website will continue to provide information on our reunions, and be a great repository for our newsletters, photos, and, our Vietnam History.

**Regarding our history - from Corps Historian Neville Lindsay**, “In a future time where the logistic support side of the Army has to be expanded to match the combat side, the old units will no doubt reappear on the order of battle and it is to be hoped that such associations will ensure that detailed and accurate unit histories are prepared and preserved so that resurrected units have available to them their background, traditions, service and operations records, back to early Federation times, on which to build.

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Vice President 0421 468 352

Secretary 0408 947 935

Treasurer 0419 011 597

Membership/Welfare 0430 125 195

The Australian Army has copied so much from the British Army, but rarely that which is perhaps the most important – the unit tradition which contributes greatly to esprit. As was the case in RAASC units, most RACT units' knowledge of their background is sparse and RACT, as a corps which has not so far been to war, misses out if it fails to lean back on its predecessors. In consequence members are not inculcated with the fact that they belong to units with a proud lineage and tradition to uphold, and a record of service equal to or bettering many of the so-called arms units. It is an important gap to be filled".

If we don't preserve our military history, no one else will.

### **Letter from President Bruce:**

Attached is a letter from Bruce regarding his cycling trip through Italy. He has also been providing day by day (puff by puff) updates of his trip. If you would like to keep in touch you can email him at [brucemanning1@hotmail.com](mailto:brucemanning1@hotmail.com).

If you wish to sponsor Bruce on his ride for the Oncology Children's Foundation (OCF)

You can do so at:

[http://www.everydayhero.com.au/bruce\\_manning](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/bruce_manning) Then on the bar at the top click on 'Sponsor a friend'.

Then select B from the alphabet listed and this will bring up my name with a tab "make donation". This then brings up a page which allows you to donate.

## **SERVICES TO HELP VETERANS - NOTICES**

### **AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST LIMITED**

**ACN 008 609 032 / ABN 50 008 609 032**

#### **2012 Scholarships, Bursaries & Grants**

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) gives financial assistance to help selected children & grandchildren of the Australian Ex-Service Community with the costs of tertiary education. Selection is of the most deserving candidates of merit, who, without our help, would be unable to start or complete studies without financial difficulty. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

The 2012 Applications open on 18 August, 2011 see [www.avcat.org.au](http://www.avcat.org.au) for **details**

#### **DVA WEBSITE - TOUCHBASE**

The [touchbase website](#) is an information portal where you and your family can access information and links to resources on a wide range of topics, from jobs, sports clubs and hobbies through to fitness, wellbeing and counselling.

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

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**

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Enclosures:

Dorrigo Reunion 2011 Registration Form  
Membership Form 2011-2012  
Letter from President Bruce

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