



**RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA)
NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS EDITION 2011**

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Helpful material from Dept of Veteran Affairs

www.adobe.com/products/reader/

Dear RAASC Veteran,

We would like to wish a Merry Christmas to all our members and families. We hope you have a blessed Christmas with your loved ones and if you are travelling, come home safely.

Do you know who your State Executive Member is? Here they are. If you want to contact any of them, give Christina a call and she will give you their contact details.

Canberra-based Executive:

President	Bruce Manning
Vice President	Ray Brown (in absentia)
Secretary	Russ Morison
Treasurer	David Evans
Membership/Welfare Manager	Christina Luff
Public Officer	Tony Galea

Regional Executive members

North Queensland	Tony Simon (in absentia)
Brisbane and Environs	Don Noy
Gold Coast	(no one available but covered by Don as required)

NSW Country	Bob Denner
Sydney Metro	Barry Carroll
South Australia	Noel Schluter
Victoria	Tony Galea
Tasmania	Glen Breaden (in absentia)
Western Australia	Mal Saxby (in absentia)

NEXT REUNION-PHILIP ISLAND VIC – MAR 2013 (TENTATIVE DATE)

Folks-this one ought to appeal to all the WA, SA, TAS and others as well as the regulars- why not join us. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND COME ALONG.

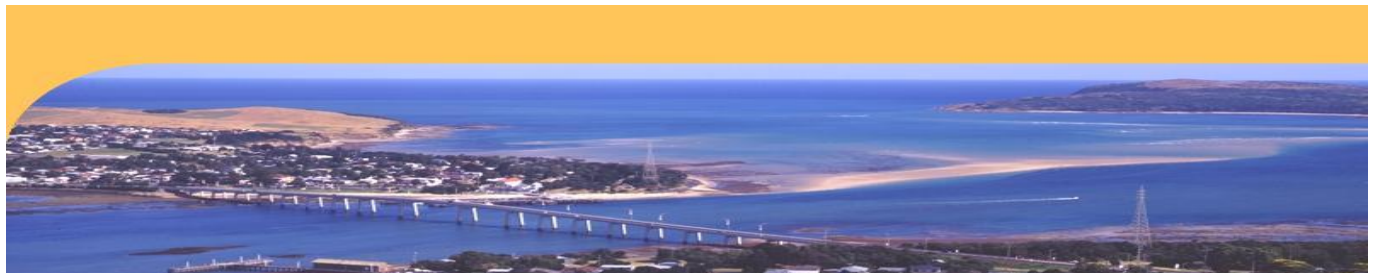


Have you been to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum yet? A visit not to be forgotten? Here's a good reason to join us in March 2013. One of the highlights will be the Museum!!



Fairy Penguins – what a delight at sunset when the Fairy Penguin parade begins.

Why not join us? Lots more to see of this island paradise. From Melbourne, it's no more than a two-hour drive over 137 kilometres of sealed roads -- you cross The Narrows from San Remo to Newhaven, and you're on the island.



More details to follow in the 2012 edition of the newsletter.

RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association PO Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911
Contact us on: 02 6241 2358 or mobile 0430 125 195 Home Page: <http://raascsupply.asn.au/>

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM.....

Vale: Bernice Kneller – late wife of David Kneller, ex Det 52 Sup Pl, passed away 19 Aug 2011

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Vale Tony Hazel

Born: 11 Dec 1949 Gin Gin Qld

SVN: 25 Supply Pl in South Vietnam 15 Mar 1971 -12 Feb 1972 and,

Passed away from a massive stoke on Thursday 10 Nov 2011

He was a regular at reunions esp VSPA reunions. Farewell mate!

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Vale LTCOL John M. Gillespie, (Rtd)

Born: 6 Jun 35

OCS Portsea Class of Dec 53

SVN: OC 5 Coy RAASC 12 Nov 68 - 12 Nov 69

Died: 14 Nov 2011

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A Tribute to Tony Hazel –“Coco” a special fellow by Bruce Manning

I first met Tony at our VSPA reunion in Albury. He moved with difficulty close to Don Noy. They seemed great mates. Tony moved slowly for reasons I did not then understand. He had a smile and a sense of great enjoyment about being with friends. I liked the guy then and today feel a great sense of loss with his departing. My sense of loss prompts me to pen just a few reflections on Tony.

Tony came to our several reunions. He appeared to love being with us. My mind's eye still brings forward a picture of “Coco” at lunch on the patio of the Canungra. I can see his smile and grin. He exuded a joy at just being with friends.

Despite his afflictions Tony always tried to keep up. I will never forget our march to the

cenotaph in Dorrigo. Those who were there will recall the biting cold and the rise from our start point at the RSL to the cenotaph. Tony was obviously unwell and unsteady on his feet and the march was obviously a daunting task, yet Tony was going to march with us.

I sensed that he felt this might be his last march with friends and march he proudly did. Tony's wife Sue commented at the time, "it looked like he had a special position as the one in charge." As I left Dorrigo I farewelled Tony with the remark that I will see you next year Tony, his reply was that he was not so sure. I now hope that we will see Sue next year.

I never knew Tony personally at home or in other settings but he struck me as happy, kind and gentle fellow. He cared for others and felt especially blessed by the love of Sue, his wife, and his friendship with Donnie Noy with whom he seemed inseparable. Thanks Don for looking after this friend of ours.

I do not know what heights "Coco" reached in life. Do heights matter? What I do know that he touched me greatly and touching others is great part of the measure of men. I know from "Coco" that regularly getting the members our Vietnam supply platoons together enriches us all and adds to our lives. We were in Vietnam together and have now a bond of friendship that helps us greatly, just as Sue and Don did for "Coco". Rest in peace "Coco" good friend.

HELPFUL EXTRACTS FROM THE DEPT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

The White Card provides access to the full range of services funded by DVA for all disabilities and illnesses accepted as service-related, and special arrangements that exist for Australian veterans suffering from malignant neoplasia, pulmonary tuberculosis or post traumatic stress disorder.

http://www.dva.gov.au/service_providers/doctors/lmo/notes/Pages/4.aspx-Eligibility for treatment at DVA expense

Fact Sheets-HSV 61 White Card, HSV66 Treatment of cancer

<http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/documents/DVA03%20Overview%20of%20DVA%20Benefits%20and%20Services.pdf>

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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