
SALUTE

Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently
Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited

Autumn 2023



Free 12 Month Health and Fitness Program

for Returned Veterans & Peacekeepers

Did you know the DVA provides a free 12-month health and fitness program that can be delivered to returned veterans and peacekeepers with overseas operational service? This program is available throughout Australia, and can accommodate participants living in metropolitan, rural or remote areas. The program is also flexible, and people who are retired or still working, studying, or with other time constraints can take part. Run on behalf of the DVA by Corporate Health Management, the program aims to help increase your physical health and wellbeing through practical exercise support and 12 months of health coaching and advice on healthy lifestyle choices provided by one of our team of highly qualified allied health professionals.

Am I eligible?

Started 20 years ago for those returned from Vietnam, the Heart Health Program is free and now open to all *returned veterans and peacekeepers with overseas operational service* who have not previously done the Heart Health Program. To check your eligibility visit: <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>.

Individual Heart Health Program—How it works

Each participant receives 12 months of healthy lifestyle coaching from a highly qualified and dedicated allied health professional via *fortnightly health coaching calls* with information and advice tailored to your specific health and fitness goals. The health coach will use their extensive knowledge, along with health surveys and food diaries, to guide you through the program. The

program covers a range of topics including:

- setting healthy goals
- nutrition and diet advice
- advice on lowering alcohol consumption
- developing better sleep patterns
- stress management
- managing diabetes
- taking care of your body
- managing your weight
- maintaining a healthy heart

Program Exercise Resource—Exercise how You Like to

The program can provide an exercise resource to help participants exercise the way they like to or provide an opportunity to try something that's different from the usual.

Resources can take the form of:

- assistance with the cost of a gym or pool membership
- providing a piece of exercise equipment for use at home
- providing assistance with accessing new exercise or training gear

Registering Your Interest

Registering your interest or checking eligibility is easy. Simply visit: <http://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>, and follow the steps. Or please call the program phone number, **1300 246 262**, at any time to speak to one of our team.

Kind regards,

Heart Health Team, DVA Heart Health Program

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Lady Joan Cutler

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Kevin Kelly

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SALUTE

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited

Our mission is to ensure the welfare of all members and their recognised carers.

Non-sectarian – Non-political

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Our Front and Back Covers

Front Cover

Informal portrait of 15989 Corporal (Cpl) Thomas Henry (Tom) 'Buddy' Lea, 10 Platoon, D Company, 6 RAR, of Grovely, Qld, moving cautiously into a Viet Cong village with his Owen gun at the ready during the first mission by the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), Operation Enoggera. Cpl Lea is an Indigenous soldier of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander heritage. Australian War Memorial Accession Number CUN/66/0507/VN. William James Cunneen, Photographer. More information about Buddy Lea is found on page 36.

Back Cover

Photograph 1: Members of the HQ1ATF Association at the reunion in Canberra in November 2022. From left to right: Greg Tulloch, Ned Dixon, Rod Meeke, Peter Bridley, Bob Ellis, George Udvardy.

Photograph 2: Members of the HQ1ATF Association at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra, for the service by Padre, Arthur Fry. Patron of the Association, Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM (Rtd, Col) is in the front row.



Find us on Facebook here

Editor's Note, Autumn 2023

Greetings TPI members, I hope you're well.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War coming to an end. We remember Australia's participation in the Vietnam War in this issue of *Salute* with a feature on Australia's deadliest battle during the war, the Battle of Long Tan, on page 30. Also, in commemoration of one soldier's loyal service during the Battle of Long Tan, see our portrait of Corporal Thomas Henry (Tom) "Buddy" Lea, on page 36.

TPI NSW held its Christmas luncheon on 6 December 2022 at Club York in Sydney. This event was well-attended by TPI NSW members and guests. Those present included TPI NSW President Les Vincent, TPI NSW Directors and staff from the TPI NSW office. AVCAT Scholarships Manager Robyn Richardson was also at the function.

Prior to the lunch, Honorary Life Membership certificates were presented to longstanding board members Leslie (Les) Vincent and William (Bill) Roberts, OAM, JP. See the article by Director Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP on page 14 for information about the service of Les Vincent and Bill Roberts to the Association.

The food at the luncheon was tasty and the conversation lively. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by musicians John Revai on piano and Paul Sun on double bass and vocals.

Following the lunch guest speaker Air Vice-

Disclaimer: *Notwithstanding anything contained in any federal or state law or regulation whereby a person may be entitled to set up a claim against the president, vice presidents, board members, and/or Association members any views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor(s) or the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited.*

Notice Board

Marshal Kym Osley gave an engaging speech that covered the role of the RAAF in the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, as well as interesting anecdotes about Air Vice-Marshall Osley's own career in the airforce.

An article about the Commemorative Service for Remembrance Day at the Australian War Graves Cemetery at Rookwood Cemetery held on Sunday 6 November 2022 is found on page 28 of this issue of *Salute*. This event was organised by the Western Metropolitan District Council of RSL NSW. Thanks to all of the contributors for their articles.

TPI NSW Facebook page

TPI NSW has a new Facebook page that you can access [here](#) (digital version). If you're reading the print version of *Salute*, you will need to go to Facebook and search for TPI NSW. Please like the TPI NSW page as this is another way to keep up-to-date with news.

Monthly E-Newsletter

TPI NSW publishes a monthly e-newsletter that is emailed eight times a year, between issues of *Salute*, to keep TPI NSW Association members updated on matters of interest. The e-newsletter can provide information that is more time-critical than can be communicated via our quarterly magazine, *Salute*.

If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Sara Thorne and request to be put on the mailing list. Sara's email address and the TPI office's contact details are on page 1 of *Salute*. It's also possible to receive an electronic copy of *Salute* by email, if you would prefer this to a printed copy. However TPI NSW will continue publishing *Salute* in printed form.

We hope that both *Salute* and the e-newsletter will not be just one-way communication and that you will share your ideas and experiences with other TPI NSW Association members. If you have information or contributions that you would like to share or suggestions for topics that you'd like to read about, please email: editor@tpinsw.org.au. TPI NSW has over 2,700 members and therefore, over 2700 stories. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you receive the monthly e-newsletter you may notice that some items that appear in the e-newsletter also appear in *Salute*. The reason for this is that the majority of TPI NSW members have not provided their email addresses and prefer to receive the printed version of *Salute*. Reprinting certain items from the e-newsletter in *Salute* is to ensure that all members get the same information.

Contributions

Please send me contributions including articles, letters, poems, items of interest and information about reunions and social events. You can submit material to *Salute* in the following ways:

- by mail, either handwritten, typed or on CD to TPI NSW, GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001
- by fax on (02) 9279 0156
- by email to editor@tpinsw.org.au.

Photos and pictures are always welcome in *Salute* as the old adage of a "picture tells a thousand words" is very true. We are able to scan and return pictures. If you are submitting any scanned pictures for publication, they work best if they can be scanned at not less than 300 dpi (dots per inch), and are in "tagged image" (TIFF) format. If you are emailing photos JPEG (JPG) format is acceptable.

Notice Board

Editor's Note, Autumn 2022 continued

New Topics

As well as continuing to publish the sections that have previously been included in *Salute*, CEO John Szabo and I are planning to widen the range of articles and items published in *Salute*. We have been thinking we could include articles on the following topics:

- health
- environmental issues
- youth
- book and film reviews
- personal stories about TPI members and what they've done either during or after their military service
- any other topics that readers are interested in.

Please get in touch and let me know if you're interested in reading about any of the topics listed above or any other topics not mentioned here.

Send Us Your Email Addresses

We would like members to send in email addresses so we can start communicating electronically with those who want to. There is also an option to receive an electronic copy of *Salute* by email. Please send your email address to Membership Services Co-ordinator Sara Thorne at office@tpinsw.org.au and let us know if you would like to receive *Salute* by email instead of a printed copy.

Publication Deadlines

Please note, the publication deadlines for *Salute* have changed in order to make sure that members receive *Salute* early in the first month of the season. Members wishing to send correspondence, articles,

photographs and reports to *Salute* for publication, please have items in before the following dates:

18 January for Autumn issue

18 April for Winter issue

18 July for Spring issue

18 October for Summer issue

I look forward to hearing from you and finding out what you'd like to see in *Salute*.

Victoria Dawson

Salute Editor

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Attention Members

If anyone is getting good service or a discount from a business then share it with the rest of the members, or if you want a discount, approach the owner/manager of the business and simply say "Would you consider giving a discount to Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans, there are over 3,000 in the state and I'll get your business mentioned in *Salute*, the TPI members magazine, and maybe get some more business."

Get the following particulars from the owner/manager:

- name of business
- address of business
- phone number/email
- type of business
- discount offered.

If you don't feel like asking and think a discount will benefit the members, one of the TPI volunteers can give them a call. Supply the above information and send it to Sara Thorne, Membership Services Coordinator.

Notice Board

Change of Venue for TPI NSW General Members Meetings

General members meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. The new venue for general members meetings is Level 2 of The Occidental Hotel at 43 York Street, Sydney. (Some dates may be subject to change due to public holidays or cancelled at a general meeting). If in doubt call Head Office Phone: 9235 1466, Monday - Thursday, 9am – 4pm.

Widows/Widowers

Would you like to receive *Salute* magazine regularly? The magazine will now be provided free of charge to widows/ widowers. Please contact Sara Thorne at the TPI office on (02) 9235 1466 Monday – Wednesday, 9am – 4pm or via email on office@tpinsw.org.au

Forthcoming meeting dates are:

Tuesday 28 March 2023

Tuesday 25 April 2023 – no meeting due to Anzac Day public holiday

Tuesday 23 May 2023

Tuesday 27 June 2023

Tuesday 25 July 2023

Tuesday 22 August 2023

Tuesday 26 September 2023

Tuesday 24 October 2023

Tuesday 28 November 2023

Do you have a reunion or function happening?

Let us know and we can advertise it.

DVA – NSW & ACT Veterans' Access Network (VAN) Offices

Telephone: 133 254 Regional callers: 1800 555 254

Postal address: GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001

- **SYDNEY:** Tower B, Centennial Plaza, 280 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills (Mon-Fri, 8.30-5.00)
- **LISMORE:** Office 6, Level 1, 17 Conway Street, Lismore (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)
- **NEWCASTLE:** Suite 1 & 2, 6-8 Auckland Street, Newcastle (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)
- **TWEED HEADS SOUTH:** DHS Service Centre, 100 Blundell Boulevard, Tweed Heads South (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)

VAN information and services are also available through arrangements with Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Centres:

- **BEGA:** 49-61 Church Street, Bega

- **CANBERRA:** Services Australia, 2-6 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT (Mon-Fri, 8.30-4.30)
- **COFFS HARBOUR:** 21-25 Duke Street, Coffs Harbour
- **DUBBO:** 64 Wingewarra Street (Cnr Macquarie), Dubbo
- **NOWRA:** 4 Lawrence Street, Nowra
- **ORANGE:** 189-191 Anson Street, Orange
- **PORT MACQUARIE:** 5-7 Short Street, Port Macquarie
- **TAMWORTH:** 219-223 Peel Street, Tamworth
- **TAREE:** 184-188 Victoria Street, Taree
- **WAGGA WAGGA:** 63 Thompson Street, Wagga Wagga
- **WYONG:** 25-27 Hely Street, Wyong.

Veteran Yoga Mindfulness Program

The following information has been forwarded by Kevin Kelly, TPI NSW Senior Vice President.

As requested, please find below more details regarding the program.

What you have enquired about is a Yoga and Mindfulness program. We have come up with an amazing program that not only gives you improved strength and increased flexibility but also helps create mind-body awareness.

Life is busy, with too much to do and too little time. Technology, social media, the pressures of work, poor health, family and financial stress can push people to living in a constant state of stress. On top of that transitioning to civilian life can feel overwhelming or that you will never find your place in the world again. You may need time to grieve your defence family and identity whilst creating your new sense of self in the civilian world. Living in a state of stress – day in, day out – is doing our physical and mental health harm. Our brains and bodies are not designed to withstand prolonged exposure to stress. Mindfulness is a strategy to counteract that.

Mindfulness is a scientifically-proven practice that is simple, time efficient and is a way to unwind during the day. It helps find us more focus and improves productivity. It only takes 10 minutes a day to change the neuroscience of our brains. A Mindfulness practice combined with regular Yoga will create a feeling of underlying calm whilst you go through your daily life. It physically brings down the stress and brings clarity to the mind.

So what is included in the Body and Mind Yoga and mindfulness program?

Fully funded Yoga – Online through our dedicated website Yoga for Veterans and you can join on your phone/laptop/computer and do the yoga at home online at a time that's convenient for you and fits in with your schedule.

Please head to this link to watch one of our videos to give you an idea of what to expect with our online yoga platform –

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z2aevcp28z5z3fq/YogaforVeterans.mp4?dl=0>

Free Class Link –

<https://yogaforveterans.com.au/free-online-class/>

Mindfulness Course

As part of the program you will also receive a weekly follow up call from a psychologist to make sure the program is working for you. They will be able to guide you, share great techniques regarding mindfulness including topics such as Self-care, Health, Fitness, Wellbeing, Sleep Strategies and Meditation. They are there to assist you should the program bring on any trauma or triggers. It is important that you speak to them **ONCE** a week. If you do not then you will **NOT** be able to gain access to yoga.

This program is designed to help you make positive changes in your life and help integrate mindfulness from the physical activity of doing yoga to your everyday life. We have already seen great results from veterans currently in our program

since June 2019 and would love you to join us as well.

If you have made the decision to join that's great, let me know and I can give you a quick call back to collect your details as well as provide you with information on online yoga so we can get you started.

Otherwise, if you require any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Lauren at

operations@bodymindonline.com.au who can assist you further.

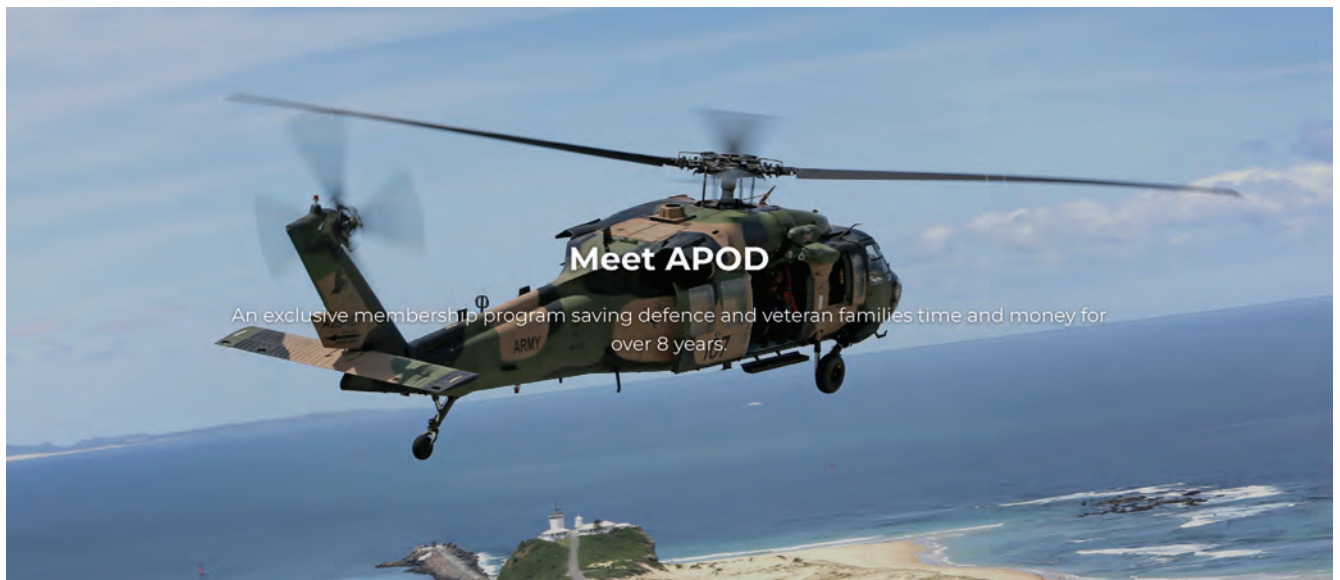
Have a wonderful day and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,

Rachel Jegathesan

admin@bodymindonline.com.au

www.bodymindonline.com.au



Australian Partners of Defence

Many thanks to Elaine Constable for alerting us to Australian Partners of Defence (APOD). Veterans, former Defence personnel, serving veterans and families of these groups can get great discounts by joining APOD. APOD has partnered with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to help Veteran Card or DVA Health Care Card holders

access money-saving offers from thousands of businesses throughout Australia. These businesses include Woolworths, Dan Murphy, Priceline Pharmacy and David Jones.

You can check out the APOD website <https://apod.com.au/about/> or phone 1300 002 763 to find out more and become an APOD member.

President's Report

January 2023

I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas with family and then welcomed in the New Year in fine style. Summer was a bit late arriving, but the warmer weather was appreciated. From all reports the Christmas Luncheon was a great success. The menu was wonderful, and the presence of musicians was a welcome addition to the day. The standout, of course was our Guest Speaker, Air Vice Marshall Kym Osley who gave an outstanding presentation which had everybody in attendance absolutely mesmerised with his detailed account of the RAAF service in Vietnam and his own Air Force career.

During the Luncheon, Director Bill Roberts, OAM was awarded Life Membership for his many years of loyal service to TPI NSW. Congratulations Bill. I am proud to report that I was also awarded Life Membership at the Luncheon.

Moving on, it is most important that the TPI

Congress scheduled for March sets the groundwork for our dealings going forward in Canberra. With not only a new Government in power, the DVA Secretary Liz Cosson completed her contract in January 2023 which means we will be dealing with a new appointee in March. Ms Cosson, AM, CSC proved a very competent Secretary during her tenure and always made herself available to assist the Federation. She will be missed. The Association thanks Liz for her valuable contribution and the help she provided.

Following changes implemented within "The Barrack" Club, now part of the City Tattersalls Group, the new venue for general members meetings is Level 2 of The Occidental Hotel at 43 York Street, Sydney.

Les Vincent

President, TPI NSW



TPI NSW Director John Hoban introduces Air Vice-Marshal Kym Osley, guest speaker at the TPI NSW Christmas party in December. Photographer: Victoria Dawson.

President's Response to the Member Survey

The board received a significant amount of feedback as a result of the recent survey, for which we are extremely grateful. The board welcomes the comments received and appreciates your taking the time to include the remarks in the survey return. We assure members that they will be treated seriously, and we will endeavour to implement changes as are deemed appropriate.

It is also obvious that there are some unrealistic expectations expressed by the members. However, included here is an attempt to address some of the remarks that came up a number of times. There were a lot of issues raised and we will provide additional comment in the future, time permitting. Members are invited to contact the office at any time with your questions. The office staff and volunteers may not be in a position to provide an immediate answer, but they will either note the query and have someone that can deal with it call back or arrange for someone to call you back with a resolution.

Members are encouraged to raise questions at the members monthly general meeting. The board acknowledges that you may not have felt that you received a "fair hearing" in the past, but we are determined to improve that interaction in the future. Thank you for your patience,

Comments

- Continue efforts to increase TPI payments to return to an acceptable level.
- To represent members at the government level to ensure all benefits keep in touch with CPI and relevant government issues.
- It's a shame our cause falls on deaf ears in govt. Maybe more could be done. Vets are suffering.
- DVA ministers ignore TPI submissions. We need better Canberra access.

- By putting more pressure on the govt to look after ex-service members than they do now.

Response

A major focus of the TPI Federation is to gain an increase in the TPI rate, currently sitting at 63% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. This campaign has been waged over the past eight years, three Governments, five DVA ministers and five reviews. It must be remembered the success achieved by John (Blue) Ryan and his team took seven years.

Comments

- Closer relationship with NSW RSL or VVA.
- Most RSLs are only there for the public not much ever talked about at venues.
- Do organisations like the RSL have input to TPI needs?
- Keep in contact with RSL clubs.
- Utilise info to RSL and Day clubs. Local RSL clubs do this kind of service through their social representatives.
- Visit and have presentation at rural RSLs. Promote and increase membership.
- More communication with RSL sub-branches
- Have closer contact with other ESOs, not just the RSL.
- Partnership with regional RSL clubs.
- Consult RSLs and Legacy to see what number in their organisations are TPI and see if they can be encouraged to to join.
- Closer cooperation with regional RSLs to spread the word of the work the TPI Assn has done and is doing.
- Contact local RSL. Visit rural areas.
- Possibly working with the local RSLs in the areas.
- Keep up the good work and RSL in line, they are devaluing the RSL movement.



Left to right: Andy Brown, TPI NSW volunteer, and Phil Hurren, TPI NSW Director, with the surveys at the TPI NSW office in York St, Sydney.

- In the past the RSL was avoided by young veterans. Prejudiced attitudes by veterans to veterans. This leads to destruction from within! This must be avoided by our association.
- *Salute* – Should be similar to new RSL format.
- More RSL information.

Response

The TPI Association acknowledges the fine job the RSL does and encourages our Members to consider joining their local RSL Sub-Branch, however the Association has different objectives and has a focus on issues that are unique to TPIs. This is also true of our close ally the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association (VVP&PA). Notably, they undertake the vital work of Pension Claims and

associated follow up through appeals, often Tribunals.

Currently three of our Directors also serve on the Board of VVP&PA. The TPI Association is **not** an RSL Sub-Branch.

Comments

- Until Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) and Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) recipients are permitted to join, the assn. will eventually fold up and become extinct.
- SRDP – yes, EDA – no, have their own assn.
- Bring younger EDA/SRDP veterans into the fold – they have new and refreshing ideas on our assn.
- The assn needs to change to allow EDA & SRDP recipients to join and increase membership.
- EDA should be able to join TPI Assn.
- We need more members for us to survive into the future so allowing EDA and SRDP would be a step in the right direction. Is it possible to contact some of the younger TPI Recipients and do a membership drive?
- An article in *Salute* explaining why EDAs or other pensioners are not

allowed to be designated TPI.

- Do everything we can to encourage EDAs and contemporary disabled veterans to join the TPI Assn. This would increase our numbers and they are younger, have new ideas and will extend our tenure.
- Opening up to EDA and SRDP may help declining membership.
- Please promote the inclusion of veterans on EDA and SRDP to the TPI Assn. This will boost membership and ensure the long-term survival of the Assn.
- Feel SDP veterans would be double dipping if also get TPI.

Response

Generally, those with EDA have worked their working lives and have an opportunity to save for retirement in addition to superannuation. They have their own association that prosecutes the aims of their members. It is expected the rewrite of our Constitution will allow for veterans with SRDP and having equivalent impairment points will be invited to join the TPI Association.

Comments

- Any man that has seen active service should be able to join the TPI Assn.
- Get as many like-minded members as possible. Help all members with disabilities whatever their degree of disability.
- If we do not take in those who should have received TPI status, we will fade into oblivion as many RSL Clubs are.

Response

Provided the veteran has been granted TPI by Government, he/she is welcome to join the Association.

Comment

- Maybe pay for specialist training to improve the quality and knowledge of advocates.

Response

The Association does not, and never has, provided trained Advocates, rather we refer veterans in need of that support to contact specialist organisations such as VVP&PA.

Comment

- Maybe as there is so much money in the bank, twice a year free raffle for the Ghan or Indian Pacific train trip.

Response

The Association has raised the rail trip ballot with the Federation Director responsible for Concessions, however we are looking to approach the rail operators ourselves and go it alone if Federation isn't successful.

Comment

- I would like to see the Assn working towards meeting the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) policies and objectives 2022-2025.

Response

At the September TPI Congress a policy was agreed regarding ADSO, who have not in the past demonstrated support for our Campaign, despite our financial contributions.

Footnote

A number of genuine member concerns were raised in the survey, some of which are not within our power to address, as we do not make Government policy. These include:

- Why is Veteran Affairs selling us off, e.g. equipment through Allianze. Will not replace faulty equipment.
- We do not have any occupational therapists in Coffs Harbour due to its minimal wage. They refuse to work for DVA.
- Assist with fuel costs. Regional meetings.
- Petrol allowance, cheaper insurance.
- Encourage more medical officers outside of Sydney – country NSW.
- Regional areas do not have access to occupational therapists because DVA do not pay enough wage to live on.
- Push governments for more GPs in country areas. More specialist services.

Response

In conclusion, the Association will continue to petition the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs where services that should be provided are not.

Many of the issues here have been raised with DVA at Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) Meetings. The Association works closely with ESOs, such as Partners of Veterans Association (PVA), on Submissions to Government.

Les Vincent

President TPI NSW

From the CEO

Happy 2023 to all of our members, friends and extended families! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and festive season in general.

The Association held its annual Christmas luncheon at Club York on Tuesday 6 December 2022. Please see pages 2, 8, 13, 14 and 15 for photos and more details.

Membership renewals

TPI Association memberships are now due. Please use the renewal form on page 21 and return it to the freepost address as follows:

Reply Paid 4429
Sydney NSW 2001

Renewal forms can also be scanned as a PDF and emailed to office@tpinsw.org.au. A stamped self-addressed envelope is no longer required. We will forward your new member card at our cost.

In the past 12 months, many of you have taken the opportunity to take up the Life Subscription at \$200.00 and I encourage everyone do so. We firmly believe this is the ideal and most convenient membership option for all.

We are no longer taking telephone renewals as this often creates logjams in our phone system, leading to lost calls and frustration for all.

Honorary Life Members

As was mentioned in the President's report, Mr Bill Roberts, OAM, JP and Mr Les Vincent (current TPI NSW President) were awarded Life Memberships by the members in November 2022, with certificates being presented to them at the Christmas luncheon (please see page 14 for photos of the presentations). Board member, Mr Steve Emerson moved the motion to award the Life Memberships

and made the formal presentations on the day. I congratulate Bill and Les on their awards and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the TPI Veterans' Association of NSW.

Draft Constitution

As has been foreshadowed since mid-2022, the board has been working on a new constitution for the Association (see Autumn 2022 and Winter 2022 editions of *Salute*). The draft constitution has been sent to all members for comment. At the end of April this year, members will receive a notice of a special general meeting for Tuesday 23 May 2023 to vote on the draft constitution. For those members who cannot attend in person, electronic voting will be available prior to the meeting. Details of the voting procedure will be sent with the notice of meeting. For those members who cannot attend the meeting, online voting will also be available beforehand. In addition, we will provide a physical voting paper on request. The ballot will be conducted on our members' behalf by an independent elections service provider. Members will also have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions by email.

AVCAT Presentations

In November 2022, I was very pleased to attend the annual presentation of certificates to some recent university graduates who were supported by TPI NSW financial scholarships. The guest speaker was Assistant Minister for Defence and Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite, MP.

Certificates were presented to Portia Yates (Bachelor of Policing Leadership Program at WSU);

Shannon Baker (Bachelor of Health Science at UTS); and Lachlan Cooke (Bachelor of Computer Science at WSU). Please see photos on pages 37 – 45.

Membership Database

In order to keep in regular contact with you, we are striving to keep our database up to date. You can help us by notifying us (as soon as possible) of any changes to your postal address. Also, please give us your email address (or ask a family member to provide theirs) so we can keep in touch. Any updates can be forwarded to Sara Thorne (Membership Services Coordinator) by email to office@tpinsw.org.au.

Salute Magazine and E-Newsletter

Our editors, Victoria Dawson and Alex Kaufman, are on the lookout for articles and stories of interest from TPIs. They are keen for members to get in contact and provide them with content for our publications, especially with 2023 being the 50th anniversary of Australia ending its formal involvement in the Vietnam war. Please email editor@tpinsw.org.au.

Thank you and best wishes to all.

John Szabo, CPA.

Chief Executive Officer.



TPI NSW members and guests with musicians John Revai on piano and Paul Sun on double bass and vocals at the TPI NSW Christmas party in December. Photographer: Malcolm Botfield.

Honorary Life Memberships



Honorary Life Membership certificates were presented to longstanding board members Lesley (Les) Vincent and William (Bill) Roberts, OAM, JP, at the TPI NSW Christmas Party in December. Left to right: TPI NSW Director Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP, Director Bill Roberts, President Les Vincent and Senior Vice President Kevin Kelly. Photographer: Victoria Dawson.

TPI NSW Director Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP, nominated longstanding board members Lesley (Les) Vincent and William (Bill) Roberts, OAM, JP, for Honorary Life Membership of TPI NSW. The following information about the service of Les Vincent and Bill Roberts was supplied by Stephen Emerson

Les Vincent

Les joined the TPI Association of NSW in approximately 1999 following his being awarded the Special Rate (TPI) pension shortly beforehand. In around 2004, Les nominated for the Board of Directors and at the completion of the election, was voted in as Director and thereafter was actively

involved in the running of the Association.

Les' career for the greater part placed him in senior management with a well-known electronics industry firm, a valuable asset, boding well for his role on the board.

Along with the role of Junior Vice President, the opportunity arose for Les to accompany President Pat Bright to Canberra for representation at TPI Federation meetings. Les willingly filled this role and took detailed minutes of these meetings, which he then passed on to NSW membership at their monthly general meetings. As others moved on, Les was then appointed as Senior Vice President, thereby fulfilling his role as Federation Delegate in Canberra again.



Left to right: TPI NSW Director Bill Roberts, CEO John Szabo, AVCAT Scholarships Manager Robyn Richardson at the TPI NSW Christmas party in December. Photographer: Jenny Wang.

For his achievements, Les Vincent was honoured by the TPI Veterans Association, being awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in 2020 presented by President Pat Bright.

Bill Roberts, OAM, JP

Upon being awarded the Special Rate (TPI) pension in around 1995, Bill joined the TPI Association of NSW.

Bill was also a pensions officer with the

Vietnam Veterans Association (NSW Inc.) for several years, being well known for his patient and unhurried approach to the administration of veterans' disability pensions. He remains a Compensation Advocate at Granville office to this day.

Following four years as a TPI NSW member, Bill nominated for the Board of Directors in 1999 and was duly voted onto the Board by the members, many of whom had experienced firsthand Bill's expertise in dealing with their respective claims.

Despite his many other commitments within the ex-service community, which have kept Bill spread fairly thinly on the ground, Bill has also played an important role in the distribution of bursaries to the children of veterans who are not financially able to maximise their educational opportunities.

Bill additionally represents our Association by attending various ceremonial functions throughout the year, thereby enhancing our presence in the veteran community.

During the 2016/17 year Bill Roberts was nominated for and duly awarded on Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his many services to veterans and their families, an award overdue in many respects in light of his many achievements.

Circa 2019, Bill was honoured by the TPI Veteran's Association of NSW with a Certificate of Appreciation presented by President Pat Bright.

Stephen Emerson, OAM, JP
Director, TPI NSW Association

Federation President's Report

February 2023

The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd (Incorporated in the ACT)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

Disabled in Our Service - United in Our Cause



Happy New Year to all TPIs and their families. 2023 brings some changes for TPIs and their families.

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payments Increase

Following the long running TPI Federation campaign for the rightful adjustment to the TPI Economic Loss Compensation Payment, the small but necessary adjustment of \$1,000 per annum (or \$38.46 per fortnight) to the annual rate of the "Totally and Permanently Incapacitated" (TPI) Payment commences from 1 January 2023.

This increase is a mere 10% of what is required to bring the Economic Loss Compensation to the level of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. The TPI Federation will continue to seek the more justified economic loss compensation payment.

The increase will appear in your bank accounts from 12 January (partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate, as the 12 January 2023 payday is for the period 28 December 2022 to 10 January 2023). The first full payment at the new rate will be paid 25 January 2023. The increase will provide additional financial support to TPI, "Totally and Temporarily Incapacitated" (TTI) and Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) Veterans and their families who are already in receipt of the payment, and for Veterans who become eligible in the future.

Vale Senator Major General Jim Molan, AO, DSC (11 Apr 1950 – 16 Jan 2023)

It was with great sadness that the news of Senator Jim Molan was announced. Jim was a great friend of the TPI family and, in particular, the TPI Federation. Jim's support of our political endeavours was greatly appreciated by the Executive and Directors. His greatest legacy will be the many and varied achievements during his lifetime and the friendships he enabled to so many. The TPI Federation extends the condolences of the entire TPI family to Mrs Molan, her children and grandchildren and Jim's extended family. Rest In Peace Jim – Your Job is Done.

DVA Secretary

The new DVA Secretary was announced by the Prime Minister on the 15 December 2022 to be Ms Alison Frame. Ms Frame will commence duties as DVA Secretary on 23 January 2023 with a five-year appointment. Ms Frame is not ex-military but she has a wealth of experience, following 21 years in the Australian Public Service. The TPI Federation congratulates Ms Frame on her appointment and also congratulates Ms Cosson, AM, CSC on completing her tenure as Secretary and wishes her well with her endeavours into the future.

Ms Frame comes from the Department of

the Prime Minister and Cabinet where she has been in the role of Deputy Secretary, Social Policy. She has been a senior public servant for both the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments in a range of complex service delivery and policy roles. Ms Frame brings significant experience working with stakeholders and leading staff to deliver positive outcomes for the community.

Ms Frame's previous positions included:

- Group Deputy Secretary, Property and Housing at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: Apr 2019 – Sep 2020
- Deputy Secretary Policy and Strategy at NSW Department of Planning and Environment: May 2014 – May 2019
- Deputy Secretary of NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet: Mar 2014 – Jun 2014
- Executive Director of NSW Department of Family and Community Services: Apr 2012 – Feb 2014
- First Assistant Secretary – Processing – Centrelink: 2010 - 2011
- Area Manager of Centrelink: 2008 – 2010; and
- Ministerial Advisor in the Australian Parliament: 2003 – 2004.

From September 2020 Ms Frame was with the Prime Minister and Cabinet Department as Deputy Secretary for Social Policy.

Pharmaceutical 2023 Changes

From 1 January 2023, the maximum cost of general prescriptions under the PBS will fall for the first time in the 75-year history of the PBS.

PBS Co-Payment Reduction

From 1 January 2023, the PBS co-payment for general patients (non-concession card holders) will reduce from \$42.50 to \$30.00 which will be indexed on the first day of every year from 1 January 2024.

PBS and RPBS Co-Payment Increase

Also from 1 January 2023, the concessional co-payment will increase from \$6.80 to \$7.30 per script.

PBS and RPBS Safety Net Increase

The Safety Net for 2023 will remain at 36 scripts but will increase from \$244.80 to \$262.80.

Pharmaceutical Allowance Increase

For the first time since 1 Jan 2012 the Pharmaceutical Allowance will be increased for 2023 from \$6.20 to \$6.60 per fortnight.

The TPI Federation will continue to advocate for the removal of the pharmaceutical allowance and the pharmaceutical co-payment for all TPIs who should be receiving their medications in full, for all conditions, as all other Australian compensation recipients receive.

50th Anniversary of the Proclamation to End Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War

The DVA Minister announced on the 11 January 2023, that we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the then Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck proclaiming an end to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

This milestone marks the beginning of recognising in 2023, the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's commitment to the war and to acknowledge Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, over 3,000 wounded and 523 gave their lives in the longest conflict Australians were involved in during the 20th Century. Throughout the commemorative year, DVA will raise awareness to specifically recognise and honour the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families, with:

- documentary series on Australians in Vietnam to be screened on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and
- Saluting Their Service grants to assist with honouring the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel and preserve our wartime heritage, including projects and activities marking the 50th anniversary and the service of Vietnam veterans.

These activities will lead into a national commemorative service on Vietnam Veterans'

Day, 18 August 2023, recognising the service of all Australians in the Vietnam War and honouring the sacrifices that they and their families made. Further information can be found at <http://bit.ly/3HDCWmQ>. The service will be held at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Government Support For People Directly Affected By Flood

Over the last 12 months Australians have endured a series of devastating flooding events. Many lives and business have been impacted and suffered great damage; the clean-up and recovery process will take time. If you or a loved one has been directly affected by a recent flood you may be eligible for financial assistance through Services Australia.

Any veterans or family members of veterans who are struggling with their mental health as a result of the floods, please remember free counselling support is always available, 24/7 through Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling on 1800 011 046.

Hearing Aids

The TPI Federation will continue to advocate for the full compensation entitlements that all other Australians are entitled to receive the full hearing requirements for their Defence caused hearing

conditions. For too long the Government has treated Veterans the same as Australians who are not compensation recipients. True medical compensation must be acknowledged and accepted by the Government.

Royal Commission Update

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide is continuing, and will recommence in Perth on 15 May 2023. The interim report was provided by the Commissioners on the 11 August 2022. The final report is due to be tabled on 17 June 2024.

TPI Federation Congress

The TPI Federation Congress will be held from 22 to 24 March 2023 in Canberra.

Conclusion

The TPI Federation will continue to assist all TPIs and should you have any questions, please call or forward them to the email address below.



Ms Pat McCabe, OAM
TPI Federation President

Phone: 0417 291 546

Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

Important Dates

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Royal Commission Started | 8 July 2021 |
| Rent Assistance Eligibility for TPIs begins | 1 January 2022 |
| Royal Commission Interim Report done | 11 August 2022 |
| Royal Commission Hearings, Wagga | 28 November 2022 |
| Royal Commission Private Session Requests | 28 April 2023 |
| Royal Commission Submissions Close | 13 October 2023 |
| Royal Commission Final Report | 17 June 2024 |
| For further information call 1800 331 800 | |

National Vietnam Veterans Museum

Dear Pat,

Attached is a flyer addressed to all Vietnam veterans alerting them to a Victorian Civil and Administrative Council (VCAT) hearing at which the NVVM will argue against some objections raised by self-important individuals to the construction of a new museum building on our land. The objections are flimsy, to say the least, and negotiations to settle the matters without recourse to VCAT have stalled. Ironical that one of the objectors is the very same person who sold us the land knowing full well what was planned for it.

We have spent \$1M on achieving the DA which is extremely comprehensive, has the unanimous support of the Bass Coast Council who issued the DA, and is regarded by a town planner as the most comprehensive DA he has seen. It meets all of the extant regulations and legislation. The objectors pay nothing, we cop the bills for legal representation at VCAT!

The legal costs to defend our case at VCAT

cannot be met by any form of grant nor from other grants and donations received which are tied to specific projects, hence our appeal to all Vietnam veterans to join the fight for their museum.

A significant number of your members are Vietnam veterans and I am seeking your support for our call by sending this flyer to the state associations for the attention of the Vietnam veterans. Of course, we would welcome donations from any of your associations and members irrespective of their service.

I would be grateful if you would support the call by agreeing to circulate the flyer.

Cheers,

Bob Elworthy AM

Mobile: 0402 106 262

P.S. We are attempting to get the flyer to every Vietnam-related association, and your help in this would also be gratefully received.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra. Photographer: LS Nadav Harel. Copyright: Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence



Calling all Vietnam Veterans: Your Museum Needs Your Help

At a cost of over \$1M, your museum now has a Development Approval for the new museum building. However, the DA is being challenged by residents who do not want to see the new museum on our land.

So, now we must fight the objections at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

At a cost of around \$140K!

Vietnam Veterans Have Never Walked Away from a Fight

***So we are appealing to all Vietnam Veterans (and friends) to
donate \$10 (more if you can afford it) to a fighting fund.***

Every cent raised will go towards the legal costs of fighting the objections. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made by direct debit until the end of March to the museum as follows:

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Trading Account

Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Account: 149 738 577

Identify the donation as “VCAT FUND” along with your name.

For other donation options please contact the museum Tel: 03 5956 6400

Authorized by R W Elworthy AM, NVVM Secretary M: 0402 106 262

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To renew your membership for 2023, please complete the details below and return the completed form with your remittance to: TPI Association, Reply Paid 4429, Sydney 2001

Please note: we are no longer be able to accept membership renewals by telephone.

Make cheques and money orders payable to: TPI Association of NSW.

Subscriptions are from January to December of each year.

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| NAME | | TPI BADGE/MEMBER NUMBER | |
| ADDRESS | | | |
| SUBURB | | STATE | POSTCODE |
| TELEPHONE (HOME) | TELEPHONE (MOBILE) | EMAIL ADDRESS | |
| Is this a change of address? Yes / No (please delete whichever does not apply) | | | |
| NEXT OF KIN NAME | | RELATIONSHIP | CONTACT NO |
| ADDRESS | | | |
| DETAILS | | COST | TOTAL \$ |
| SUBSCRIPTION 1 YEAR | | \$30.00 | |
| SUBSCRIPTION 2 YEARS | | \$60.00 | |
| SUBSCRIPTION 3 YEARS | | \$90.00 | |
| SUBSCRIPTION 4 YEARS | | \$120.00 | |
| SUBSCRIPTION 5 YEARS | | \$150.00 | |
| LIFE SUBSCRIPTION | | \$200.00 | |
| CAR STICKER | | \$1.00 | |
| MINI BADGE | | \$6.00 | |
| TIE | | \$25.00 | |
| DONATION (Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible) | | | |
| TOTAL PAYMENT | | | \$ |
| PAYMENT METHOD (Tick box) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> INTERNET TRANSFER | | | |
| BSB: 082001: ACCOUNT NUMBER: 025402663 Please quote your surname and member number in the details section of your internet payment | | | |
| CARD NO. | | | |
| CVV NO. | | | |
| EXPIRY DATE: | | | |
| / CARDHOLDER NAME: _____ | | | |
| AMOUNT: \$ _____ SIGNATURE: _____ | | | |

Marched On

We deeply and sincerely regret to report the deaths
of the following Members since our last issue.

Ode

*They bade no-one a last farewell, or even said goodbye
Their souls had left before we knew, and God alone knows why.
They would not ask for sorrow, they would not ask for tears
But just to be remembered throughout the passing years.*



| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------|--|
| Goldfinch | Mr John Stanley | Sapper | Australian Army, 1 Field Squadron |
| Harley | Mr William David Angus | Sergeant | Australian Army, 7 RAR |
| Herbert | Mr Colin Leslie | Army Corporal | Headquarters Australian Army Service Corps BC |
| Jago | Mr Kenneth Alexander | Corporal | Australian Army, 17th Construction Squadron |
| Legg | Mr James | Corporal | Royal Australian Navy |
| Moscatt | Mr Phillip Graham | Private | Australian Army, 7 RAR |
| Scullin | Mr Patrick | Sergeant | Australian Army, Vars |
| Woodward | Mr John Henry | Private | Australian Army, 2/18 Battalion |



Australian War Graves Cemetery at Rookwood Cemetery. Photographer: Alexandra Kaufman.

On Death

Then Almitra spoke, saying, We would ask now of Death.

And he said:

You would know the secret of death.

But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?

The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond;

And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring.

Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.

Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honour.

Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king?

Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered.

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

Kahlil Gibran



Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Australia at sunset. Photographer: Pixilated Planet

Reunions & Functions



HEADQUARTERS
1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE
SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972

Reproduced from the *Red Rat Newsletter* November 2022

G'day to you all.

The 2022 reunion in Canberra has come and has gone. In the words of nearly all attendees, "What a hoot!"

We had 103 members and wives/partners, along with widows of three veterans (Wendy Goodman, Pam Moloney and Diane Dickson) join for four days of action-packed fun. We all remembered that we are all one big close family. Unfortunately, a few

members and their wives had to withdraw due to illness. I attach the reunion leaflet that was given to all attendees.

Registration was from 2pm on Friday 18 November and Helen and her team were kept busy. Some members had brought some memorabilia with them and these were showcased on tables and walls. Dot Cunningham and her team had the DOT Shop open as a few people had brought items to sell. The Association received many donations in the course of the afternoon from members and we thank them all.

The bar (wine and beer included all weekend) opened about 3pm on 18 November and the



Members of the HQ1ATF Association at the reunion in Canberra in November 2022. From left to right: Greg Tulloch, Ned Dixon, Rod Meeke, Peter Bridley, Bob Ellis, George Udvardy.

atmosphere was electric – bearing in mind no person had had a drink at that time. After four years without a reunion veterans and wives, partners, carers, etc. were just happy to see each other, catching up on lost time. Friday evening was the barbeque which is the norm for the first night of a reunion.

Our Association meeting was held on Saturday morning and we paid respects to our departed veteran members, especially Phil Moscatt who had only passed away three days prior to the reunion and had booked to attend with Julia Billows, his partner of many years. RIP Phil.

Due to health problems, Heppy (Rob Hepburn) has retired as WA committee member; his position has been taken over by Ned Dixon. Welcome Ned, and thank you Heppy – we look forward to you and Beth being with us in 2024. Which brings me to 2024.

The group decided at our meeting that Adelaide will be our venue for November 2024. It will most likely be Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, as their holiday park has space for us and our requirements. Our SA committee person, Graeme Pulford, and his wife, Rosemary, joined by Helen and myself will visit the Park, and other suggested locations first week of February 2023. We will then share with the membership in our February 2023 *Red Rat*. Another reason for Adelaide is that recently Graeme, along with myself and Treasurer Helen, visited the Commemoration Walk of Honour in Adelaide. We saw numerous memorials for Vietnam Vet groups. Subsequently I completed the required forms for the DVA “Saluting their Service” grant and received our required amount of \$7300. The idea would be to dedicate our first capital city



Reunion organisers Dr Helen Lange and John Verhelst with His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia at Duntroon House, Canberra.

monument during our 2024 reunion. And this will happen, thanks to DVA.

Saturday afternoon and evening was busy for us all. First, in two coaches, to Duntroon House, Officers Mess of the Royal Military College where the Commandant had invited us all to afternoon tea, resplendent in our lounge suits and medals – wives appropriately attired. The Governor General David Hurley joined us and, after introductions, chatted informally to most people for over 90 minutes.

Then we were off to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Anzac Parade for our service by our Padre, Arthur Fry. A Canberra Bomber flyover was on time at 1635 hours. Two Squadron “Magpies” were part of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing and were tasked by HQ 7th Air Force in Saigon, for eight



Members of the HQ1ATF Association at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Anzac Parade for the service by Padre, Arthur Fry. Patron of the Association, Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM (Rtd, Col) is in the front row.

sorties per day for seven days a week, in all areas of South Vietnam from 23 April 1967 until returning to Australia in 1971. The Americans referred to the Canberra bombers as B57s. I may be wrong, but do believe it is the only Canberra Bomber flying in Australia today. It is based at the Air Museum at Temora, NSW and this flight was coordinated by the RAAF – thank you RAAF.

Our service commenced by reflecting on and commemorating our D & E Platoon losses at Long Khanh on 12 June 1971, during Operation Overlord. Bob Ellis from D & E Platoon was a survivor of the ambush and gave us a brief and emotional overview of the morning in question. Wreaths were laid in honour of the seven losses at Long Khanh, a further four wreaths laid in honour of the other four D & E soldiers killed during our period at Nui Dat, along with a wreath for D & E and a wreath for HQ1ATF. Doug Lawrence, from D & E Platoon also laid a wreath. Brian Harper delivered “The Oath” and the RMC Military Band bugler played “The Last Post”. We then spent some reflective time at the memorial before the rain started and we were into our coaches for the third part of this emotional day.

We had cocktails at the Members Restaurant at the Old Parliament House, followed by our Commemorative formal dinner, in the presence of

our Patron, Dr Mike Kelly (Col, Rtd) and the Federal Minister for the ACT, David Smith. The RMC Military Band played throughout the evening, culminating in a conga dance and some line dancing by members and wives – remember we are in our mid to late seventies, and even older. A great conclusion to a memorable day and evening.

Sunday 20 November, most people were in the coaches for a tour of Canberra with a few rest hours in the afternoon. Cocktails, followed by a lovely dinner and some good sixties and seventies music by our own Steve Mahoney.

Next morning our breakfast, cooked by the park manager and then farewells were said for another two years. Our 2024 reunion will revert to five days and will be held at Hahndorf, SA from 21 November to 25 November 2024

Reunion photos are on our website. (www.hq1atf.org)

Best regards,

John Verhelst - HQ1ATF Ass.

John Verhelst, MSc, MBA, JP

Phone: 0437 212 121

Email: jeverhelst@gmail.com

www.hq1atf.org



Commemorative formal dinner at the Members Restaurant at Old Parliament House, Canberra. The RMC Military Band played throughout the evening, culminating in a conga dance and some line dancing by members and wives.



Broken Hill Reunion 2023 50 Year Anniversary Monday 20 March to Friday 24 March 2023

Reunion is for Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Friends are welcome.
For reunion and accommodation details contact Tony Brown on 0428852736 or
email tr4950@optusnet.com.au

Remembrance Day Commemorative Service

Australian War Graves Cemetery, Rookwood, NSW

The Western Metropolitan District Council of the RSL took the initiative to hold a special Remembrance Day Commemorative Service on Sunday, 6 November 2022. The master of ceremonies was Lt Col John Moore, AM, RFD. Lt Col Moore is well known as an ABC commentator for many of Sydney's Anzac Day parades and an emcee at 12 of Sydney's Martin Place Anzac Day dawn services. Also addressing those at the commemorative service were Mr Ray James, OAM, President RSL NSW. In addition to Mr James, the wreath laying ceremony was conducted by RSL Western Metropolitan District Council Vice-President Mr John Thornton and Colonel Michael Millar, RFD, Official Secretary to Her Excellency, the Governor of NSW Margaret Beazley. Mr Robert Ridge, President of the Five Dock NSW RSL sub-branch led delivery of The Ode. Prayers were led by Monsignor Greg Flynn. Representatives from the governments of New Zealand and the United Kingdom were also present. The Newington College Cadet Unit formed the catafalque party. Music was provided by the Burwood Girls High School Concert Band, along with choral leader Mrs. Kate Foot. Bugler Ms Harriet Channon performed *The Last Post* and, following a reflective silence, *The Rouse*.

An informative Remembrance Day Address was delivered by Colonel Michael Millar. Colonel Millar remarked in his address that this service was unusual in being held on 6 November, rather than 11 November. Remembrance Day has been continuously held in Australia on 11 November since 1919 – the year following the armistice that ended the First World War. Australians observe Remembrance Day at RSL clubs, war memorials, workplaces and schools on 11 November each year

with a one-minute silence at 11am, to mark the hour at which the 1919 armistice took effect.

In his address, Colonel Millar outlined the significance of a Remembrance Day Commemoration taking place on the Sunday before 11 November, as primarily a United

In 1939, at the outset of the Second World War, ... the UK government made the reluctant decision to observe Remembrance Day on the Sunday before 11 November, so as not to lose a day of work, which was vital for production during the war effort.

Kingdom tradition. "In 1939, at the outset of the Second World War," Colonel Millar explained, "the UK government made the reluctant decision to observe Remembrance Day on the Sunday before 11 November, so as not to lose a day of work, which was vital for production" during the war effort.

"From the 1950s, Remembrance Sunday was mainly observed in Australia by churches, particularly the Anglican and Presbyterian churches following the UK example. But it's impressive to see that there are now public community services in Australia occurring on Remembrance Sunday."

Colonel Millar's address highlighted the many Australians who have given their lives in defence of Australia, "those whose lives were affected by

their service, and those affected by the loss of loved ones". He noted the roughly 103,000 Australians who have died as a result of their military service – observing that the vast majority of those died away from our shores. Many are in Commonwealth war cemeteries across the world, and some have no graves. "Families have always found solace in commemorating the dead and visiting their graves," Millar said. But where graves are in distant parts of the world or where there is no grave, families can be denied solace. Cenotaphs, both at the Sydney War Graves Cemetery and elsewhere, take inspiration from the democratic ancient Greeks to address this issue. The word *cenotaph* is derived from two Greek words – *kenos*, which means empty and *taphos*, which means tomb. Many cenotaphs were built in Greece and other parts of the ancient world to honour those who went to war but didn't return. The Stone of Remembrance and the Cross of Sacrifice at the Rookwood War Graves Cemetery are moving architectural features that help us to commemorate the many Australians who did not return from battlefields.

The Sydney War Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing was established at Rookwood by military

authorities in 1942. It is Australia's largest war cemetery, but it contains only 734 graves. Most of the graves at this cemetery are of those who died at the nearby Concord Hospital from accidents, wounds or sickness. The Memorial to the Missing honours 741 who died. A further 199 names of service personnel appear on the Cremation Memorial within the cemetery. One-hundred-and-twenty-two of the cremated remains are those of UK personnel who died as POWs in Japanese hands.

Colonel Millar ended his address by urging us to use the Sydney War Cemetery as a place for reflection on the sacrifices that were made to preserve our way of life. "Let us remember those Australian, British, New Zealand and other allied servicemen and women commemorated here. Let us remember those who were affected, the families who lost loved ones and let us give thanks for all who have served."

Lest We Forget

Alexandra Kaufman

Salute Subeditor

email: subeditor@tpinsw.org.au



Catafalque party from Newington College Cadet Unit at the Commemorative Service for Remembrance Day at the Australian War Graves Cemetery at Rookwood Cemetery held on Sunday 6 November 2022. Photographer: Alexandra Kaufman.

The Battle of Long Tan

In the early hours of 17 August 1966 the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base at Nui Dat comes under attack from mortar and recoilless rifle fire. Soon after, counter artillery is fired from 1ATF Base. In the pre-dawn, 6RAR (Royal Australian Regiment) Bravo Company is sent out from the base to find the enemy firing positions. Near the Long Tan rubber plantation Bravo Company locates mortar positions and weapons pits, with tracks leading away from these sites. Although members of 6RAR Alpha and Charlie Companies are also patrolling the area, no enemy soldiers are found. But it's clear the enemy is nearby – Alpha Company is reporting trouble sending messages due to enemy jamming.

The following morning, 18 August, Delta Company 6RAR is sent to relieve Bravo Company. Bravo Company commander, Major Noel Ford, points out to Delta Company commander, Major Harry Smith, evidence of a hasty enemy departure – bloody rags, abandoned sandals, a destroyed bullock cart. Ford observes that the counter artillery attack by 1ATF the previous day “obviously got a few of them”. During a ratpack lunch, that includes tinned meat and biscuits, members of Bravo and Delta Companies hear the band warming up for the concert at Nui Dat scheduled for later that day. Col Joye and the Joy Boys and Little Pattie are the star attractions. Delta Company 11 Platoon commander Lieutenant Gordon Sharp says to his mate, Bravo Company Lieutenant John O'Halloran, that O'Halloran can go back to the concert while Delta Company will stay at the rubber plantation and “face the music”.

It seems there is little chance of a major enemy force nearby – that the previous day the enemy had carried out just “another ‘shoot and scoot’ operation”. Bravo Company had been through

the area on the morning of 18 August, before the arrival of Delta Company, and had found no enemy soldiers. What Delta commander Major Harry Smith doesn't know is that there is evidence of a “3,000-plus-strong” enemy force in the vicinity. Australian signals intelligence unit, Signal Troop 547, have been intercepting radio transmissions indicating a build-up of North Vietnamese troops in the area – but this information is not passed down the line.

What Delta commander Major Harry Smith doesn't know is that there is evidence of a “3,000-plus-strong” enemy force in the vicinity.

Signal Troop 547 Captain Trevor Richards recalls being warned, “None of the Australian Officers in theatre had any experience with signals intelligence and I was going to have to be careful!!” Captain Bob Keep has been working closely with Captain Richards and Keep tells his superior, Major John Rowe, that Signal 547 Troop analysis indicates an enemy force growing in strength near the 1ATF Base at Nui Dat. When Rowe is dismissive, Captain Keep approaches 1ATF commander Brigadier Oliver Jackson to voice his concerns. Brigadier Jackson also decides to not raise a general alarm. Some of Captain Keep's personal attributes might contribute to his superiors' disinclination to take his warnings seriously. Major Rowe states that Keep's “sense of self-importance reached drama queen soap opera levels”. Keep's attire of a sarong, Hawaiian shirt and sandals contributes to an impression



Viet Cong (VC) soldiers wearing black "pyjamas", believed to be from D445 Provincial Mobile Battalion. D445 Battalion fought alongside North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers of the 275 Main Force Regiment at the Battle of Long Tan. This photograph is from an album captured by the soldiers of 1 Platoon, A Company, 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR), during Operation Santa Fe at YS561825 on 1967-11-08. The album was used for propaganda purposes, probably by a political officer from D445, the local VC Battalion in Phuoc Tuy Province. (Donor Colonel E.J. O'Donnell). Photographer unknown, supplied by AWM.

that he is "going troppo". His personal hygiene is also described as doing him no credit. In *The Battle of Long Tan*, Peter Fitzsimons writes that Keep's breath "could make a skunk faint, and his teeth run the gamut from green to brown with some black spots speckled throughout for good measure". Just over a week before the Battle of Long Tan, an allegation is brought to Brigadier Jackson that Keep has made homosexual advances towards an RAAF officer. Later that day Keep is medically evacuated to *Vũng Tau*, based on a diagnosis of malaria and encephalitis.

Other evidence supports the signals intelligence that VC forces are amassing in the area. A South Vietnamese police agent has reported a substantial VC force on the march nearby. A Delta Company patrol has found a long knotted rope, a device used by VC forces for measuring distances prior to mortar attacks. But this is Brigadier Jackson's

11 Platoon Sergeant Bob Buick spots a group of seven or eight enemy soldiers strolling nonchalantly about 100 metres away – apparently the VC haven't noticed the Australians.

first experience with signal tracking, he is unsure of its reliability, and he is still unsure about what action to take. Peter Fitzsimons writes that the spreading of such reports "would be embarrassing and potentially damaging to the war effort. The Australian presence had been meant to diminish the VC presence in the area [and] broadcasting these reports would be an acknowledgement of failure." Brigadier Jackson decides to tell no one

about this other than his immediate staff. (Please note, all enemy forces are grouped here under the umbrella term VC – for Vietnamese Communist. This is because a variety of combined enemy units operated entirely interdependently during the Vietnam War. See: <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/vietnam/vietcong-org.htm>)

...

Eighteen August 1966, 1300 hours – Delta Company begins moving into the Long Tan rubber plantation for a night base that affords some protection against both enemy attack and mosquitoes. In the distance, Delta Company can hear the concert at 1ATF Base featuring Col Joye, the Joy Boys and Little Pattie. At approximately 1535 hours Delta Company 11 Platoon is crossing a clearing in the rubber plantation, part of a 20-metre-wide sunken road for the passage of bullock carts. Part of 11 Platoon has already crossed the road when, about to cross, 11 Platoon Sergeant Bob Buick spots a group of seven or eight enemy soldiers strolling nonchalantly about 100 metres away – apparently the VC haven't noticed the Australians. Buick and Private Barry "Custard" Meller will be seen if they either advance or retreat, so Buick shoots at the enemy soldiers. The VC retreat through the rubber plantation. When advised over radio of this incident, Delta Company commander Major Harry Smith orders 11 Platoon to chase down the VC group. Lieutenant Gordon Sharp, 11 Platoon leader, orders his men to sweep through the rubber plantation in search of the enemy. But all they find is an abandoned rifle and bloody skid marks.

Eleven Platoon continues its search in the rubber plantation. Then, just after 1600 hours, an enfilade of massed weapon fire mows into the left section of 11 Platoon, and the Platoon are forced to the ground. Lance Corporal John Robbins, who is with the hardest hit section of 11 Platoon later says he "couldn't believe what was happening. "We never expected anything like that. We were the ones going to give them the touch up and at that

stage they were giving us a mighty nice touch up." The fire on 11 Platoon intensifies and starts coming at the Platoon from three sides. Fierce monsoonal rain strikes down, mud splashes up and white latex spills from the wounded rubber trees. Waves of VC are now openly moving towards the Diggers of 11 Platoon.

Eleven Platoon leader, Lieutenant Gordon Sharp, radios for artillery support from the New Zealand 161st Battery stationed at Nui Dat. By 1616 shells are being fired at the VC. Lieutenant Sharp lifts his head

"We never expected anything like that. We were the ones going to give them the touch up and at that stage they were giving us a mighty nice touch up."

to help him better ascertain directions for further artillery fire – and is shot dead. Sergeant Buick takes over from Sharp. Many in 11 Platoon have been either killed or injured. Of the original 11 Platoon contingent numbering over 30 men, there are now only about a dozen left who are able to fight. At around 1630 hours Delta Company 10 Platoon, led by Lieutenant Geoff Kendall, move close to the VC who are attacking 11 Platoon. Kendall's 10 Platoon take down several enemy soldiers, but it is obvious that Delta Company is seriously outnumbered and 10 Platoon is also now pinned down by enemy fire. Three men of 10 Platoon are killed and five others injured. However, most of 10 Platoon manages by 1715 to follow Major Harry Smith's order to retreat to the Company HQ position. Also at around 1715 hours, Major Smith orders Lieutenant Dave Sabben to take 20 of his 30-man 12 Platoon to approach the VC from an unexpected angle of attack. At 1730 hours 12 Platoon encounters enemy forces trying to outflank 11 Platoon. Twelve Platoon comes under severe attack from three sides. Two men of 12



Bruce Fletcher, Long Tan action, Vietnam, 18 August 1966, oil on canvas, 152 x 175 cm, 1970. A reconstruction of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam between 'D' Company and Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces; several events that happened at intervals during the battle are shown here happening simultaneously.

Platoon are killed and 11 others injured. But then the rain becomes so heavy that a "mud-mist" rises from the ground camouflaging the Australians and prevents the VC from having clear targets to fire at.

At 1800 hours two 9 Squadron RAAF helicopters brave the torrential rain and poor visibility to drop further ammunition to the embattled Delta Company soldiers. At the same time, Alpha Company 6RAR is heading out from Nui Dat in Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) to support Delta Company. While the APCs are enroute to Long Tan, survivors of 11 Platoon make a desperate dash to escape the enemy and they locate the 12 Platoon survivors. Together, the members of 11 and 12 Platoons who are able to do so fight their way back to Company HQ, where Major Smith deploys them into defensive positions. Seven APCs commanded by Lieutenant Adrian Roberts, and heading towards Delta Company, are ordered to plough through both rubber trees, where possible, and enemy soldiers. Infantry soldiers are firing out the top hatches of the APCs at the swarming enemy, while

the rain becomes so heavy that a "mud-mist" rises from the ground camouflaging the Australians and prevents the VC from having clear targets to fire at.

the APCs run at full speed over any VC in the way. The APCs reach Delta Company at 1900 hours.

Both sides in the battle have paid a heavy price, but the VC have finally been overwhelmed. The VC retreat and the battle is over. The following day, members of 6RAR and 5RAR return to the battlefield to retrieve the dead. Two missing men from Delta Company are found wounded, but still alive, and are evacuated. Eighteen Australians have died and many more have been injured. The official estimate of dead Vietnamese is 245, but other estimates of VC fatalities go as high as 800.



Vietnam, 19 August 1966. A wounded VC on the Long Tan battlefield. He is being questioned by 6RAR Intelligence Officer Captain Bryan Wickens. Left To Right: Captain Bryan Wickens, Private Stan Hodder, unknown Vietnamese Interpreter, Pte David J. Collins.

Was The Battle of Long Tan an Encounter Battle or an Ambush? You Decide

A major point of contention regarding the Battle of Long Tan is whether or not Delta Company was ambushed by VC forces. Many accounts of the Battle describe Delta Company as having been ambushed. However, this interpretation has been discounted by some of the Australians who took part in the Battle. Lieutenant Dave Sabben, who led 12 Platoon at the Battle of Long Tan writes, "The VC neither intended nor executed an ambush on 18 August 1966". Delta Company commander Major Harry Smith said, in 2006, "Vietnamese officials recently admitted that Long Tan was not an ambush but an encounter battle that ended in victory for the Australians ... I never thought Long

Tan was an ambush," Smith continued, "because it occurred within the range of our artillery". Peter Fitzsimons writes in his recently published book *The Battle of Long Tan*, "In my view there is no chance it was a deliberately executed ambush of a patrol lured to the spot. If the whole thing was well thought out ... why on earth would [the VC] not have hit Delta at their most vulnerable," when they were crossing the Suối Da Bang Creek as they moved towards Long Tan? Why did the VC wait to attack until Delta Company were near the edge of a clearing "where they could crawl to cover?"

The Battle of Long Tan was the deadliest battle for Australian troops during the Vietnam War. We pay our respects to all who took part, those living and those who did not survive:

To the innermost heart of their own land they are known

As the stars are known to the Night

Laurence Binyon

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Long Tan, South Vietnam, 1969-08-18. The Pipers' Lament is played for the dead of Long Tan on the third anniversary of the Battle. The pipers are Corporal (Cpl) David Newland of Gosnells, WA (L), and Gordon Black of Belmont, NSW. On either side of the memorial cross are men who served in 6RAR's first tour and who fought at Long Tan. From left: Cpl Richard Brown of Stafford, Qld; Lance Cpl Malcolm Campbell of Bicton, WA; Cpl Reilly of Auchenflower, Qld; Sergeant (Sgt) John Beere of Woodville North, SA and Cpl William O'Rourke of Chelsea, Vic, who was a member of the cavalry troop that brought relieving forces to the battle. From right: Cpl Bill Roche of Narrandera, NSW; Cpl Brian Halls of Stafford, Qld; Cpl William Akell of Townsville, Qld; Cpl George Richardson of Kelloe, United Kingdom and Sergeant Neil Rankin of Wollongong, NSW.

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Thomas Henry “Buddy” Lea

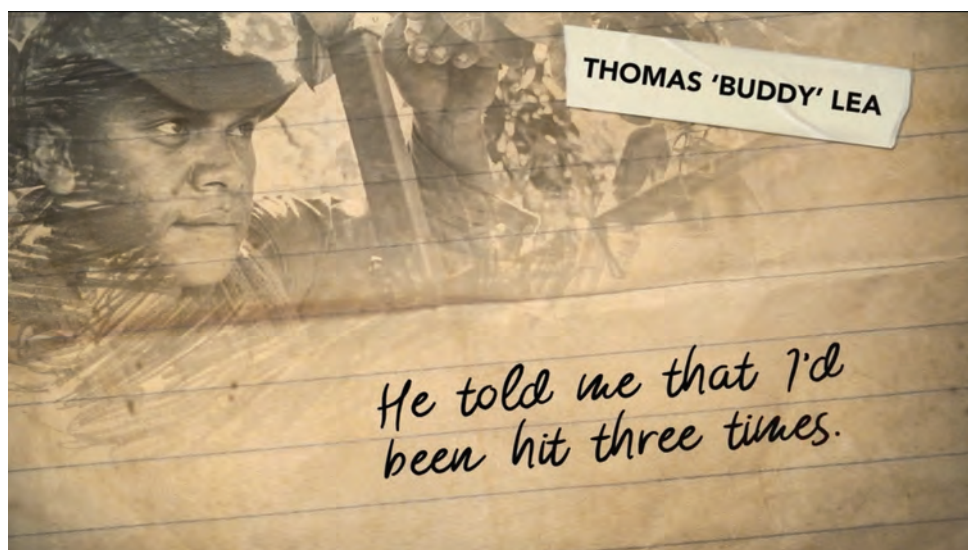
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this story contains names and images of deceased persons.

In 2023 we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the proclamation to end the Vietnam War. As part of this commemoration, TPI NSW will highlight stories of service connected with the Vietnam war.

Thomas Henry “Buddy” Lea was a man of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander heritage. He was a member of the Australian Defence Force for 35 years. Buddy served in Borneo, Malaya and Vietnam. As part of 6 Royal Australian Regiment

(RAR) Delta Company, Buddy was a Section commander at the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966. During the Battle of Long Tan, Buddy was shot three times while trying to drag his injured mate Sergeant Paddy Todd to safety. Buddy later said, “You put your own life on the line to save your mates”. Buddy’s heroism was commended by Delta Company commander, Major Harry Smith, who said of Buddy, “He was very brave and one of the most loyal people I’ve ever come across”.

The video from the DVA Anzac Portal tells more of Buddy Lea’s story: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/thomas-henry-buddy-lea-stories-service>.



Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)

TPI NSW Scholarship Updates & Students Thank You Notes



AVCAT scholars at the NSW presentation event in November 2022.

2019 Cohort

Tessa Lucas – Bachelor of Arts (Culture and Heritage), University of Canberra

Course Completion: June 2022

Tessa has completed her degree and achieved outstanding results throughout. Tessa has enjoyed her learnings and is extremely thankful to TPI NSW for their support over the years as she knows that it has aided her in her studies. Tessa is to be

congratulated on her fine effort and becomes a member of the AVCAT Alumni Network.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

I am very excited to finally tell you that I have finished my undergraduate degree with a Bachelor of Arts (Culture and Heritage). It's a wonderful feeling to finally be finished, especially as I am finishing with a Grade Point Average of 6.5 out of 7.

I would like to say a massive thank you for all

your support over the last three and a half years. Especially as it has not been a walk in the park.

My letters haven't been the most exciting to read over the years I imagine, because your scholarship has helped me with all the little things that studying requires. Your scholarship helped me buy things such as glasses (who knew they were so expensive?), textbooks, stationery (so many notebooks and pens), university amenity fees every semester, campus parking costs, a lab coat, a laptop and boring everyday stuff like rent, food, and fuel to get to my classes as prices rose last semester.

All very mundane stuff but you have taken so much financial stress off my shoulders as I juggle two jobs, full time university, moving a couple times, Covid related stresses and several lockdowns thrown in the mix.

I'm nervous to be finished but I am mostly excited because I am looking forward to seeing where this degree will take me. Currently I am still working in my job as an education assistant at the Australian War Memorial, however, who knows where I will end up next!

Thank you for this opportunity TPI NSW and AVCAT, I truly am grateful for your assistance over the duration of my degree. You have been a large help in enjoying university life and making the most of my degree.

Kind regards, Tessa Lucas

P.S. One last hello to my Nanny and Grumpy who I know have looked out for my letter each time in *Salute*. Thank you both for your love and support with uni and especially to you Nanny, for discovering this scholarship in the first place.

Madellyn Urquhart – Bachelor of Science. Majoring in Genetics and Zoology, University of New England

Course Completion: December 2022

Madellyn continues to excel in her studies despite the significant health obstacles that she faces. She now enters her final semester of her degree and she is extremely grateful to TPI NSW for their continued support.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

Please accept this as a sincere thank you for the generous support I've received from your scholarship.

My name is Madellyn Urquhart. I am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Genetics and Zoology. I am very much enjoying this degree and am entering into my last trimester of study for my undergraduate degree. The conversion to mainly online learning has been a struggle but I've still done my best to achieve results that I am happy with. Due to having Covid at the start of the year I got an extension for a trimester 3, 2021 unit to complete it during trimester 1, 2022.

Your continued support has made undertaking my studies possible. It has allowed me to focus solely on my studies and earn great marks.

My spine makes it very difficult to participate in a learning environment in the same manner as most other people my age. The nature of my condition means sitting for more than five to ten minutes causes severe pain and muscle spasm in my spine.

Because of this I've had to make major adjustments to every aspect of my life to access a university education. They have been costly and are ongoing. I have currently got a grade two tear in my medial collateral ligament in my knee that is exacerbating my spinal condition.

I have significant physiotherapy and medical

commitments; this has a financial impact but also impacts on my time. With my study and medical commitments I am unable to work my way through university as most other students do. This has made your support very important to me being able to continue my study this year.

My most notable personal and academic achievements are that I am able to attend university and I have completed my enrolled units to a high standard. This is a very important personal goal I have set for myself. I am forever most thankful for your support allowing me to do so in these difficult times.

I am now entering into my final trimester of undergraduate studies; it has been very challenging physically and has taken a great deal of planning and dedication.

I have significant hurdles to overcome so I can have a career in the future. This scholarship is helping me work towards that career where I can fulfil my passions with genetics.

I am sincerely very grateful for this scholarship and cannot thank you enough for your support.

Kind Regards, Madellyn Urquhart

2020 Cohort

Ethan Surace – Bachelor of Software Engineering, University of Canberra

Course Completion: December 2023

Ethan has withdrawn from his subjects in semester 1 due to ill health. His scholarship is currently suspended.

Thank You Note

To TPI NSW

Thank you for your continued support in my academic development. Through this scholarship I have been able to afford the recent increases to the cost of living across the nation and through that, the additional costs that a student in my position

must accommodate into their budget.

Unfortunately, I cannot show you definitive marks. All of my marks have been withheld for the time being. During the semester, my overall health took quite a hit, and I was unable to acquire the medication I needed, as it was stolen while in transit to me. This caused a lasting effect on my wellbeing and I was therefore unable to complete the semester as I would have liked. My marks have been withheld to give me a chance to complete my units and I am working on them during my break, giving time for any recuperation needed.

Despite this, I still march forward, into the breach, awaiting the next step in my life, and the next challenge to face. With your support, you can help guide a person, who has had the determination to keep going despite being isolated from the natural path, and I hope to see your help beside me when that next challenge comes.

Ready to march forward?

Let's do it together...

Cheers, Ethan Surace

"Forward Unto Dawn"

Fight for what you believe in until the end, where you will achieve victory.

2021 Cohort

Aidan Hill – Bachelor of International Security, Australian National University

Course Completion: December 2023

Aidan has enjoyed another successful semester. His study last semester included two electives that were slightly different to what he would normally choose to study, however Aidan found it a nice departure from his normal subject selection. Aidan is looking forward to the last year and a half of his degree.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

It's been another six months and six months that have felt almost like we have returned to normality.

I'm almost through my second year of study at ANU, with only a touch over a year to go (in theory!). I'm now most of the way through my minor, focusing on the Middle East/Central Asia, with the option of making it a major should I complete two more units as well. This semester just gone I completed two electives that I normally wouldn't look at doing, but thought I'd get a taste of philosophy and demographic studies. Whilst I won't do it again, it was a good break from my usual course material. This semester coming, I am taking three units that contribute to my degree and minor, with all of them looking quite interesting as well as bearing a bigger course load. I will be taking a historical course focusing on the Cold War, a Middle-Eastern course looking at Iran and a security course looking at contemporary Australian security. Additionally, I am hoping to take a summer course on North Korea to help catch up a little bit, as well as to keep my mind active, as summer break seems to last forever!

In terms of my personal life, I am still working a few days a week and training most days for my cycling. I have had the opportunity to travel to participate with my cycling team by playing a support role at races but am yet to race, with the opportunity hopefully right around the corner. This scholarship has certainly helped here as I have had to miss a lot of work to have these experiences, but the scholarship has lightened the burden. In addition, I was sick for just over two months at the start of the year with a virus and missed a number of days of work through this. Being a casual employee, I had no option to use sick leave, and therefore this scholarship helped to cover some of the costs I had during this time. Otherwise, it is nice to experience this 'pre-Covid' normality and to be able to live without the constant thought of

looming lockdowns or other restrictions.

Ultimately, this scholarship has been super helpful this semester. With life returning to normal, this extra financial help has not gone unnoticed as it has allowed me to travel and say yes to things, I may not otherwise have felt like I could due to the need to work. So, thank you very much for your continued support of myself and others in a similar position by giving us this ability to enjoy experiences, by giving us that helping hand.

Thanks, Aidan

Molly Horne – Bachelor of Education (Primary), Australian Catholic University

Course Completion: December 2024

Molly has enjoyed her semester and achieved pleasing results. She has had a challenging semester which prevented her attendance to some classes but was thankful she was able to complete her first placement which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Molly is very grateful for her scholarship as it allows her to concentrate on her studies.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

Thank you for continuing to sponsor me, allowing me to achieve my dreams at university. This scholarship continues to assist me with travel costs, as well as purchasing the recommended texts and materials for each of my units. I am highly enjoying the university experience, and am studying hard so that I am able to strive to be the best I can be.

I am halfway through my second year at the Australian Catholic University in Strathfield, NSW. I have continued to study a Bachelor of Education (Primary). My results this semester were not my best, however, I am pleased with myself considering the circumstances that interrupted my study this semester. Covid-19 and the floods in my local area prevented me from attending my classes for a lot

of this semester, causing me to struggle and fall behind. I completed my first placement at a local Catholic primary school this semester, teaching Year 6. I absolutely loved the experience and am very keen to complete a second placement at the same school next semester. I am working a part-time job at my local cinema, being of service to the community.

I have attached my semester results and subjects for you:

- The Arts Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment (F-6) – Pass
- English Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment (B-8) – Distinction
- Effective Teaching 1: Becoming a Teacher – Credit
- Health Studies and Movement Education – Credit

I hope that I have, and will continue, to do the TPI Association NSW and my Grandad proud. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship and this opportunity. You have given me a great chance in succeeding in my studies and career. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely, Molly Horne

Keely Jameson – Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Diagnostic Radiography), University of Newcastle

Course Completion: December 2024

Keely has managed to obtain good results in two of her subjects but due to two bouts of Covid and general ill health in the semester, she was unable to complete the placement subject. Keely is looking forward to a healthier semester 2 and continues to be very grateful for the scholarship.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI NSW,

I know I begin my thank you letter with the same thing every year but once again, I just wanted to express how eternally grateful and thankful I am to you for providing me with this scholarship.

It has assisted me in endless ways as I completely fund myself. Even though I have a casual job, I can usually only work two shifts a week maximum due to my course being so highly demanding. Helping pay for my rent, my fuel for my 15-minute uni commute, my parking permit (they are ridiculously expensive), as well as my groceries at times and printing and lamination of study cards and summary posters are only a few things this scholarship has assisted me with. I'm sure I could name more but I would be here all day listing things!

Entering my second year of uni was very different to what I expected, being extremely self-directed and only having a compulsory attendance for about half of my classes. This meant I had to decide whether I wanted to extend my learning to better my knowledge. In order to keep up attendance and therefore my grades, I decided very early on in the semester to drop down to 30 units instead of 40. I dropped statistics of the sciences which is a non-course-specific subject that I can complete over the summer or at another time during my study. This allowed me to focus on my course-specific subjects, meaning I could improve my marks.

During semester 1, I was consistently sick and had a terrible cough for a lot of it. I also had Covid twice this year already. This meant I couldn't attend a few of my labs, missing out on valuable learning time. During this semester I was also trying to complete my NSW health verification process so that I could attend placement and it included obtaining my first aid certificate, police check, doctors appointments, blood tests and booster vaccinations. As I was sick for a lot of the time, the process became delayed for me and I didn't end up becoming verified in time so that I could attend placement. As a result, my placement is now delayed, however my course progression is not.

Despite missing out on several valuable learning opportunities this semester, I still managed to

participate in two clinical simulation exams and three on campus in class written exams, as well as attend almost weekly labs using brand new X-ray machines on fake body parts. This was the first time I have sat an in person written exam since the HSC back in 2019! I ended up achieving marks that I was extremely happy with.

During semester one, I developed a habit of going to the library almost every day to study and catch up on lectures and notes, and I think this may have also had something to do with the marks I achieved this semester.

This year, a couple of my friends and I decided to move off campus into a student share house with three other people. This has proved to be really valuable to me in not only just my studies but also in my personal life. Having a quiet place to escape the loudness of living on campus has been amazing and it has really allowed me to focus on feeding myself properly as well! As I have a larger room now as well, I have really taken up an interest in plants and now have 14 in my room at the moment! I have also started doing clay and painting pots in my spare time, which also helps mentally during stressful exam periods.

Once again, I just want to mention how appreciative I am toward you all at TPI NSW and want you to know my Pa (who was a Vietnam Vet) would also be extremely grateful if he knew that I have been provided with increased opportunities from this scholarship.

Thank you and kind regards, [Keely Jameson](#)

Gemma Plant – Bachelor of Creative Industries, University of Newcastle

Course Completion: June 2023

Gemma has completed her bachelor's degree in Creative Industries. We are awaiting her enrolment for future study in order to confirm whether Gemma is eligible for her scholarship to continue or whether she now becomes a member of the AVCAT Alumni Network.

Thank You Note

"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything"- Vincent Van Gough

Hello there,

I wanted to say thank you for your generous donations to me.

I cannot put into words how grateful and thankful I am for this support in not only my studies but in my life. Thank you for your part in my journey for wherever that may lead me. I appreciate your recognition of my efforts and cannot express my gratitude. I just finished my bachelors degree in creative industries and I am so proud of myself. I even had my graduation. I now look forward to the future study I am taking the next couple of years and having the opportunity to study further.

Best regards, [Gemma Plant](#)

2022 Cohort

Shannon Baker – Bachelor of Health Science, University of Technology Sydney

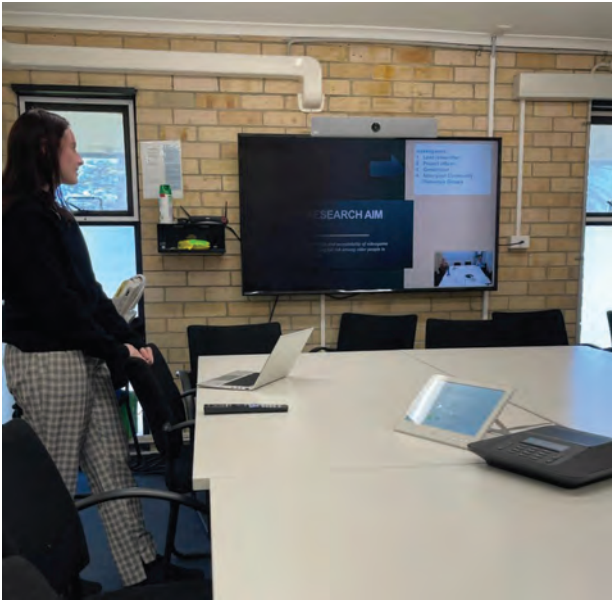
Course Completion: December 2022

Shannon has had an exceptional semester achieving impressive results and also embarking on some exciting extra-curricular activities. Shannon also completed her professional placement during the semester where she gained valuable experience. She is very grateful for the support from TPI NSW as it has allowed her to focus on her studies and achieve outstanding results.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI New South Wales,

I would like to thank you sincerely for the provision of a scholarship to assist with my tertiary studies. Receiving this has been an encouraging support and assisted greatly in my completion of a Bachelor of Health Science. During this semester I completed three subjects and unpaid professional placement. I received two high distinctions and one



Shannon Baker giving a presentation of the project protocol she designed as part of her Bachelor in Health Science course.

distinction, which is a notable achievement I am proud of.

During the months of April to June I completed my professional placement with the research unit at the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network. This is an organisation which provides health services to those in contact with the NSW criminal justice and forensic mental health system. During my placement I completed tasks such as report writing, data entry, data analysis and designed a project protocol. A photograph of me presenting the project protocol I designed will be attached to this form. The placement has enhanced my skills and abilities, significantly benefiting my education and enhancing career opportunities. The scholarship assisted greatly in successfully completing professional placement through covering financial costs of travel, work clothes and technology devices.

I recently embarked on a nine-day volunteer trip with the University of Technology Sydney, called The Big Lift. The mission of The Big Lift is to pay it forward, through engaging with five regional

towns across New South Wales and Queensland to complete service projects at local schools and community centres. The trip allowed me to develop my sense of civic duty and leadership, while making meaningful connections with regional towns. The scholarship provided by TPI New South Wales allowed me to undertake this trip with the absence of financial complications while taking time off work. This valuable experience will be beneficial for future professional positions.

As I move into the next semester of the university year I aim to continue to develop my communication skills when presenting and expand my scope of knowledge.

While working towards my professional goals of contributing to the public health field to prevent non-communicable diseases through health promotion. I am extremely grateful for the support and assistance provided by TPI New South Wales and thank the organisation greatly.

Regards, Shannon

Lachlan Cooke – Bachelor of Computer Science, Western Sydney University

Course Completion: December 2022

Lachlan has enjoyed his semester and was able to achieve credible results. He is very grateful for his sponsorship and is looking forward to a similarly successful semester 2.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI New South Wales,

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing support in my university studies and would like to write a little about how I believe I have progressed this semester.

I believe I have put in my best effort in order to achieve a good result for my four units and have enjoyed the learning experience for each. I have used a majority of my time this semester to learn my university content, however I have also been



AVCAT scholar Lachlan Cooke and TPI NSW CEO John Szabo at the AVCAT NSW presentation event in November 2022.

fortunate enough to have some spare time to continue working on getting confident enough to take my Ps driving test, and have booked it in for the 22nd of this month.

The scholarship will greatly help in paying off my HECS debt for this semester, and I would like to, once again, thank you for offering me support as I work to learn and get into my dream career path.

Regards, **Lachlan**

Portia Yates – Bachelor of Policing (Leadership Program), Western Sydney University

Course Completion: December 2023

Portia has achieved excellent results in Semester 1. She has faced some significant personal challenges but through hard work and dedication she has had

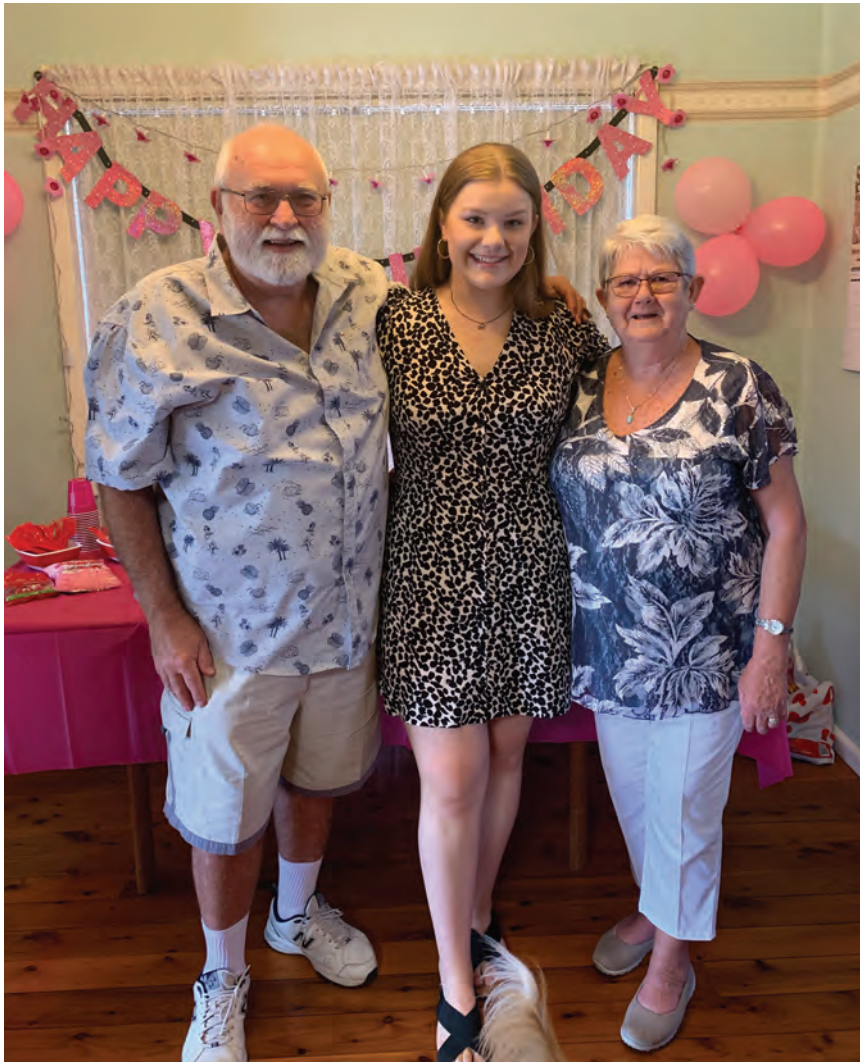
a successful semester and is looking forward to Semester 2. She has also completed a TAFE course in mental health and attained her RSA during the semester. Portia is very grateful for the scholarship as it has provided her with the financial means to concentrate on her study but also given her the confidence and hope that she needed.

Thank You Note

Dear TPI New South Wales,

I would like to address this letter to you so I can express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for receiving the TPI New South Wales Scholarship.

My name is Portia Yates and I am a full-time student at Western Sydney University currently in my second year, studying a Bachelor of Policing (Leadership Program). With this course, my overall goal is to work for the Australian Federal Police.



AVCAT scholar Portia Yates with her grandparents. Her Pop is a war veteran.

At the beginning of 2022, I faced major personal challenges and changing family circumstances, which I really struggled with. These events lead me to consider deferring my studies for a while, something I never thought would cross my mind – until I received a call on the 24 February. This call from AVCAT informing me that I had been awarded the TPI NSW scholarship gave me the motivation I needed to continue my studies and work harder than I ever had.

Growing up as one of five children with only one incoming wage, my family has always struggled financially. I have always worried about paying for things, and hence paying to study at university was something that often crossed my mind during high school. However, I did not want financial circumstances to stop me from achieving

my dreams and therefore pursued my wishes. This scholarship has majorly assisted me in relieving financial-related stress, and also motivated me to work even harder.

Since receiving the scholarship, my academic progress has successfully continued, as well as my personal progress. While completing my university studies, I also completed a TAFE NSW course in relation to mental health and continued to work casually and temporarily at several jobs throughout this time. I also attained my Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate through TAFE NSW

I am extremely proud of myself in relation to my grades to date, having only achieved distinctions and high distinctions in my subjects. I hope to continue this by trying my best in all of my assessments and exams.

My Pop who is a war veteran (photo attached), also expresses his gratitude on behalf of myself to be the recipient of this scholarship.

Once again, I would like to sincerely thank TPI New South Wales for sponsoring the scholarship I was awarded and therefore playing a part in my university studies.

Kind Regards, Portia Yates

DVA Media Releases

January 2023

| | |
|--|------------|
| 55 th Anniversary of the Tet Offensive | 30/01/2023 |
| Have Your Say on DVAs Mental Health and Wellbeing Services | 30/01/2023 |
| Reporting the Death of a Veteran or DVA Client | 25/01/2023 |
| Building Excellence in Support and Training 2023-24 Grants Now Open | 18/01/2023 |
| Organisation to Develop Southeast Queensland Veterans' and Families' Hub Announced | 17/01/2023 |
| North-West Tasmania Veteran Welfare Board to Lead the Burnie Veterans' and Families' Hub | 16/01/2023 |
| Learn about Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling | 11/01/2023 |
| 50 th Anniversary of the Proclamation to End Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War | 11/01/2023 |
| Learn About Veteran Support Officers | 10/01/2023 |
| Supporting Veterans to Downsize Their Homes | 06/01/2023 |
| Government Support for People Directly Affected By Flood | 05/01/2023 |
| Introduction of the Workforce Incentive | 04/01/2023 |
| Increase to Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payments | 03/01/2023 |

December 2022

| | |
|--|------------|
| Interview with Damien Thomlinson, Afghanistan Veteran | 21/12/2022 |
| Latest Edition of DVA E-news is Out Now | 20/12/2022 |
| Remembering Those Who Served on Gallipoli | 20/12/2022 |
| Support Available to Veteran Community | 20/12/2022 |
| 80 th Anniversary of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service | 18/12/2022 |
| Appointment of new DVA Secretary | 16/12/2022 |
| Get Support Through Kookaburra Kids | 16/12/2022 |
| Message From the Secretary | 16/12/2022 |
| The Latest Edition of Vetaffairs Is Out Now | 16/12/2022 |
| Podcast on the HMAS Armidale | 14/12/2022 |
| Register for Information on DVA Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Consultation | 12/12/2022 |
| Learn About How DVA Supports Homeless Veterans | 08/12/2022 |
| A Portrait of Multi-Generational Service | 08/12/2022 |
| Grants Available to Salute Vietnam Veterans | 08/12/2022 |
| 2023 Commemorative Service for Vietnam Veterans | 07/12/2022 |
| Anzac Day Schools' Awards 2023 – Entries Now Open | 07/12/2022 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Awards Winners Announced | 06/12/2022 |
| Nowra and Wodonga Veterans' and Families' Hubs Open for Business | 06/12/2022 |
| 50 th Anniversary of the End of National Service | 05/12/2022 |
| The Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum | 02/12/2022 |
| Veterans and Partners to Be Able to Earn More | 01/12/2022 |
| While I Can, I Must | 01/12/2022 |

November 2022

| | |
|---|------------|
| Improvements to Incapacity Claims in MyService | 24/11/2022 |
| Tickets For International Anzac Day Services Now Available | 23/11/2022 |
| New Book Showcases Indigenous RAAF Service | 23/11/2022 |
| Changes to the Way DVA Sends Correspondence | 21/11/2022 |
| "Come and Try' Invictus Australia Family Day Success | 21/11/2022 |
| Have Your Say on the Defence and Veteran Family Support Strategy | 21/11/2022 |
| Veteran and Family Counselling Centre Officially Opens in Melbourne | 21/11/2022 |
| Remembering HMAS Sydney and the Unknown Sailor | 21/11/2022 |
| RSL National President Re-Elected and Looking Ahead | 17/11/2022 |
| Report on Defence and Veteran Suicide Released | 16/11/2022 |
| Veterans' Access Network – Your First Point of Contact | 15/11/2022 |
| Free Financial Literacy Workshops | 14/11/2022 |

55th Anniversary of the Tet Offensive

30 January 2023

The Hon Matt Keogh, MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Today marks the 55th anniversary of the Tet Offensive, a key turning point of the Vietnam War.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said the Tet Offensive played a significant role in changing public opinion about the war. "The Tet Offensive marked a significant escalation in the scale and intensity of the Vietnam War, shaking the resolve

of South Vietnam and her allies," Minister Keogh said. "During the Offensive more than 100 towns and cities across South Vietnam were attacked during what was supposed to be a time of truce – the Lunar New Year, Tet Nguyen Dan (Tet) holiday period."

Although most of the attacks were quickly defeated, graphic footage of the fighting in Saigon and Hue was broadcast around the world, including in Australia. "The bitterness and desperation conveyed in the footage deeply affected many people worldwide, turning public sentiment further against the war, ultimately leading to Australia officially ending our commitment to the Vietnam War on 11 January 1973," Minister Keogh said.

"This was a war that was at times contentious



View of the Hien Nhon Gate, entrance to the former Imperial City of Hue, in Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam. It was damaged during the Tet Offensive of 1968, but has since been restored. Photographer: Chronicle / Alamy Stock Photo.

at home, and for some veterans their service not recognised as it should have been. This year, the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, we will honour the service and sacrifice of all who served, and their families."

Throughout 2023 the Australian Government is recognising the contribution of our Vietnam veterans, both during the Vietnam War, and the contribution they have made in our community since.

On Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023, a national commemorative service will be held at the Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra to recognise the 50th anniversary. For more information about the service and the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the war, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs website: www.dva.gov.au/VietnamCommemorativeService



Experienced senior scientist working with CT/MRI brain scan images on a personal computer in laboratory. Photographer: Gorodenkoff. Shutterstock photo.

First-Ever Australian Veterans' Brain Bank Announced in NSW

25 January 2023

A new research initiative will use the brains of late veterans to help with diagnosis and treatment of brain disease in a first for Australia.

A NSW Government initiative, the Australian Veterans' Brain Bank is a collaboration between the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Neuropathology Department based at Concord Hospital in Sydney's inner west. It will focus on understanding the long-term effects on the brain for soldiers who have been exposed to multiple blast injuries and other head knocks throughout their careers. This includes IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and artillery or rockets, together with other areas such as training and participation in sporting activities.

The NSW Health Minister said the Brain Bank will be able to provide more accurate diagnoses for loved ones of late veterans who have pledged their brains to research and improve the diagnosis and treatment of brain disease during life. Learning about the impacts of brain trauma and injury will increase awareness of the potential impacts of blast injuries. It will also be invaluable for healthcare workers when supporting veterans in the future.

Veteran Damien Thomlinson is one of the first Australian veterans to pledge his brain to the Australian Veterans' Brain Bank. He was severely injured in Afghanistan through a blast injury after serving for eight years in the Australian Special Forces. "[I'm happy] to donate my brain so that we can see what the impact of being so close to a large explosion is. And hopefully we can connect the dots in the future and make sure that other people are prepared for the damage that may be caused and we can also isolate ways to treat and prevent injury moving forward," he said.

For more information or to register for brain donation, please visit [Veterans' Brain Bank](#).



The Australian flag is lowered at the Free World Military Assistance Building at 5.00 pm on 17 December 1972 for the last time, signifying the end of Australia's ten year involvement in the Vietnam war. The flag is being lowered by Sergeant (Sgt) Bernardus Johannes (Bernie) Bom, of Toowoomba, Qld. This image was copied from a print acquired from the Department of Defence in the 1960s.

50th Anniversary of the Proclamation to End Australia's Involvement in the Vietnam War

11 January 2023

On 11 January 2023, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of then Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck proclaiming an end to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. This milestone marks the beginning of recognising, in 2023, the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's commitment to the Vietnam War.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam.

Over 3,000 Australians were wounded and 523 gave their lives in the longest conflict Australians were involved in during the 20th Century.

Throughout the commemorative year, DVA will raise awareness to specifically recognise and honour the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families, with:

- Anzac Day Schools' Awards. In 2023 the awards will focus on the service of Australians in the Vietnam War.
- history and education resources for schools across Australia
- education materials about the Vietnam War included in the national Anzac Day mail-out to schools, ex-service organisations and community groups

- documentary series on Australians in Vietnam to be screened on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and
- Saluting Their Service grants to assist with honouring the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel and preserve our wartime heritage, including projects and activities marking the 50th anniversary of Hasluck's proclamation and the service of Vietnam veterans.

These activities will lead into a [national commemorative service](#) on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023, recognising the service of all Australians in the Vietnam War and honouring the sacrifices that they and their families made.

The service will be held at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Learn About Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling

11 January 2023

This year Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling celebrates 40 years of supporting the veteran community. To help mark this important milestone, DVA TV spoke to veterans and Open Arms staff about how the counselling service was formed and what it can offer members of the veteran community.

Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM has been involved with Open Arms (formerly the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service) for many years. "At the time [of the Vietnam War]," says John, "the veterans didn't have a lot of support. It was still an unpopular thing to be a Vietnam veteran. They couldn't associate." John points out that for this reason, Open Arms has dedicated itself to ensuring that "never again will one group of veterans desert another". "It instilled in us the need to make sure

that we look after our younger veterans the way we would like to have been looked after."

"Our Vietnam veterans had to fight for ten years for a counselling service," says Damien Hadfield, Open Arms Assistant Director of Community Engagement. "Getting it right when people come home is essential. It validates everything that's gone beforehand."

"To look people in the eye and see that we've made a difference to them and their families – nothing can equal that," says Tracey Jobling, Community Engagement Coordinator. "It takes a lot of courage to reach out for help but ... Open Arms is one of those places veterans know they're going to be looked after."

"It's lifesaving and life changing," says Vietnam veteran, Les Myers.

For more about the veteran community and support available, visit [info here](#) or [DVA TV](#).

For more information about Open Arms, visit its [website](#) or phone 1800 011 046.

From 6TTU (Tropical Trials Unit) to Vietnam – An APC (Armoured Personnel Carrier) for Australia

6 December 2022

Helen Meyer (Army veteran, war widow and executive producer of radio program [Service Voices](#)) and multi-award-winning film-maker Ashley Starkey obtained a DVA Saluting Their Service Major Commemorative Grant to produce an eight-part documentary radio broadcast and a documentary film called *From 6TTU to Vietnam – An APC for Australia*. The productions are about the men who travelled to the northern Queensland town of Innisfail in 1964 to participate in 6 Tropical Trials Unit, known as 6TTU. It's a story that has somehow slipped from our military history records. Very little is known about it. This project was inspired by



Helen Meyer, Executive Producer of Service Voices, in the Radio Adelaide studio.

Helen's husband Wally Meyer's service in 6TTU.

From 6TTU to Vietnam – An APC for Australia is a documentary that will appeal to all, not just ex-military. Rather than a technical examination of the vehicles involved, it's down to earth, and draws on archival photos and film about Innisfail and the soldiers who were stationed there, living in hotels among the civilian population for a year in the mid-1960s to conduct tropical trials on wheeled (truck and Land Rover) and tracked vehicles. These trials saw the introduction of armoured personnel carriers (APCs) into the Australian Army. These APCs

and their variants went on to serve Australia well for more than 50 years.

The radio broadcast and documentary film were produced in collaboration between *Service Voices* (Radio Adelaide) and Starkey Productions. Participants are all Army veterans of 6TTU. It has been screened in Victoria, NSW, ACT, Queensland and South Australia, and is coming to more venues throughout Australia during 2023.

In December 2022, the project was announced as a finalist in the Excellence in the Innovative Programming and Content category in the

Community Radio Awards 2022.

The National Military Vehicle Museum (NMVM) in Edinburgh, South Australia is proposing to screen the film in February (date to be confirmed), and public are welcome to attend. Some of the RAASC and RAAC veterans who participated in the film will

also attend a special screening for 1st Armoured Regiment at Edinburgh Military Base.

Enquiries: ash@starkey.net.au or helen.meyer@radioadelaide.org.au or for NMVM screening, call (08) 8285 3011.

EX-ADF MEMBERS – ACCESSING SERVICE RECORDS

Personal Records: Air Force / Army / Navy, WW1 / WW2 / Korea / Vietnam

Contact National Archives of Australia:

www.naa.gov.au Tel: 6212 3600 Email: archives@naa.gov.au

Personal Records: Air Force – Discharged members that served from 1973

Army – Discharged members that served from 1947

Navy – Discharged members that served after WW2

Health Records: Air Force – Discharged members that served from 1952

Army – Discharged members that served from 1947

Navy – Discharged members that served from 1948

Contact Defence Archives

Complete the request for service records form: <https://www1.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/service-records>

Tel: 1800 333 362 or (03) 5258 0675; Email: ADF.Records@defence.gov.au

Health Records: Air Force – Served and discharged prior to 1952

Army – Served and discharged prior to 1947

Navy – Served and discharged prior to 1948

General enquiries: DVA: www.dva.gov.au Tel: 13 32 54 or 1800 555 254

Welfare Officers

ACT/Queanbeyan and surrounding districts

Kevin 'Colin' Berryman, OAM6258 2463

Albion Park/Dapto/Gerringong/Kiama/ Shellharbour

Dinos Potonides4296 5538

Batemans Bay

Michael Scrase, JP0418 461 066

Bega/Eden

Tony Toussain6495 1693

Kevin Webb6495 6975

Blacktown

Ken Ward0427 278 495

Blaxland

Kevin A Ley, JP4739 4978

Byron Shire

John Hawes, OAM, JP6676 2411

Coffs Harbour and Districts

Brian Orr0419 476 362

Casino/Kyogle

Bruce McKenzie, OAM0427 617 404

Forster/Tuncurry/Taree areas

Kerry Redman0488 785 477

Email..... k.redman8@bigpond.com

Grafton/Maclean/Clarence Valley

Eric Lynn6642 6786

Hornsby

Ray Davis 9456 4220 / 0409 123 525

Inverell and District

Philip Hogan0488 423 497

Maitland

Basil D Stemp, JP4932 8008

Milton-Ulladulla (South)

Ross Johnson, JP4455 4882

Nowra (North)

Ernie Payne
0410 415 668

Nowra (South)

Jack Doulis0402 584 041

Howard Van Dervord 4443 2840 / 0419 238 024

Port Macquarie

Bob Metcalfe0409 822 272

South Western Sydney (including Campbelltown/Camden/Liverpool/Fairfield)

Rodney Hoult 4647 8010 / 0419 168 074

St George District

John A Graham, JP 9718 2583 / 0411 809 936

Taree

Robert Hicks0418 979 102

Wollongong Area

John Kiley4228 4068

The Association is seeking members interested in becoming Welfare Officers or joining our Social & Welfare Clubs. If interested, please contact our Social & Welfare Clubs, contact details can be found in this issue of *Salute* on pages 55 - 56.

Social & Welfare Clubs

Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| President: | Malcolm Botfield | 9872 2594 | malbotfield@hotmail.com |
| Snr Vice-President: | Ron Blakely | 0411 131 849 | rjb176@hotmail.com |
| Jnr Vice-President: | Ian Brady | 9626 8823 | ibrady@bigpond.net.au |
| Honorary Secretary: | Kerrie Cooper | 4739 3074 | ked46@bigpond.com.au |
| Asst Secretary: | Kaye Shannon | 0408 714 667 | kandkshannon@bigpond.com |
| Treasurer: | Alan Jones | 8678 3321 | alanejones3@yahoo.com |
| Asst Treasurer: | Lynne Northey | 9872 1751 | lanceandlynne@optusnet.com.au |
| Welfare Officers: | Vacant | | |
| Asst Welfare Officer: | Phil Hincks | 0414 761 032 | phil.hincks@gmail.com |
| Asst Welfare Officer: | Ian Brady | 9626 8823 | ibrady@bigpond.net.au |
| Social Secretary: | Lance Northey | 9872 1751 | lanceandlynne@optusnet.com.au |
| Grants Officer: | John Davison | 9636 7279 | davoddg38@gmail.com |
| Committee: | Ted Cooper | 4739 3074 | ked46@bigpond.com.au |
| Committee: | Ken Ward | 0427 278 495 | Kennethbettyward@bigpond.com |

The Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1.00pm at Blacktown RSL Club, 2nd Avenue, Blacktown.
New members are welcome.

Hornsby & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | Ray Davis | 9456 4220 / 0409 123 525 |
| Hon. Secretary: | Rod White AM RFD . | 0419 477 179 |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Dave Coleman | 9499 9976 |
| Welfare Officer: | Ray Davis | 9456 4220 / 0409 123 525 |

The Club meets the first Tuesday of each month (except November and January) at 1.00pm at the Hornsby Memorial Hall, 2 High Street, Hornsby.

Illawarra TPI Social & Welfare Club

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| President: | John Kiley | 4228 4068 |
| Vice-President: | Bruce Writer | 4285 0829 |
| Secretary: | Geoff Hicks | 4423 2979 |
| Treasurer: | Robin Kiley | 4228 4068 |
| Committee: | Ian Pascoe | |
| Welfare Officer: | Dinos Potonides | 4296 5538 |

The Club meets on the third Monday of each month at 11.00 am at the Illawarra Leagues Club, "Collies",
97 – 99 Church Street, Wollongong.

Social & Welfare Clubs

Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| President: | Jack Doulis | 0402 584 041 |
| Senior Vice-President: | Ernie Payne | 0410 415 668 |
| Jnr Vice-President: | Howard Van Dervord | 4443 2840/0419 238 024 |
| Secretary: | Leanne Wehmeier | 4443 4038 |
| Treasurer: | Mick Carden | 0402 444 315 |
| Welfare Officer: (North) | Ernie Payne | 0410 415 668 |
| Welfare Officer: (South) | Jack Doulis | 0402 584 041 |
| | Howard Van Dervord | 4443 2840/0419 238 024 |
| Publicity Officer: | Simon Carr | 4443 4038 |
| Social Secretary: | Di Falconer | 0422 298 211 |

The Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11.00am at Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, 124 Wallace Street, Nowra.

South Western Sydney TPI Social & Welfare Club

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | Keith Gorsuch JP | 9825 2298 |
| Vice-President: | Norman Crane | 9825 2321 |
| Secretary: | Maria Scragg | 0417 442 830 |
| Treasurer: | Alan Graham | 0435 084 246 |
| Social Secretary: | Terry Westerway | 0422 581 946 |
| Welfare Officer: | Rodney Hoult | 4647 8010 / 0419 168 074 |

The Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at different locations. Please contact one of the above for details of location.

Would office bearers kindly check details recorded for their club and advise Sara Thorne of any changes or corrections at the TPI office on (02) 9235 1466 Monday - Wednesday, 9am - 4pm or via email on office@tpinsw.org.au

Nowra & District Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Social & Welfare Club

Are you a Military TPI looking for social interaction? Come and join us.

We are seeking new members. We hold our meetings at the Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, 124 Wallace Street, Nowra, on the third Tuesday of each month at 11am as well as having social outings and lunches.

For more information contact the

[Leanne Wehmeier](#)

Secretary

Mobile: 0419 464 313.



CLUB BLACKTOWN

Family Friendly

Newly renovated Level 1, with Both indoor and Outdoor Play areas to keep the Kids entertained.

Parents can relax and enjoy Cocktails from the Greens Bar and Delicious Mediterranean Style Food From Villaggio restaurant.

40 SECOND AVENUE, BLACKTOWN NSW 2148 | 02 9933 7600
Proud Sponsors of Blacktown & Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club

Invitation: Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPIs) & Special Rate (SR) Veterans

The Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club's members invite TPIs/Special Rate (SR) to come and experience our club.

The club meets at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Club Blacktown (formerly the RSL club).

This invitation stands for our general meetings.

Prior to the monthly general meetings, members and wives/carers meet in the Villaggio restaurant to socialise (about 11:45am). Meetings are held in a room set aside on the day. Post-meeting members are treated to cold or hot drinks and more socialising in the Villaggio restaurant.

If attending a meeting contact Ian Brady

ibrady@bigpond.net.au to arrange a member to meet & greet you or just walk in.

The club is the most active TPI Social & Welfare Club in the state, with a different activity each month which could be a meet at a point of interest/ event or a day coach trip.

- Social events are subsidised.
- Longer 3-day country tours are also conducted once per year.
- The purpose of this invitation is to encourage TPIs to join our club and participate and socialize.
- You are encouraged to join the TPI Association of NSW to give it strength in numbers when dealing with government.

Social & Welfare Club Reports



Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club Christmas Party at the Nowra Bowling Club.

Nowra & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

Hello everyone.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope the New Year sees everyone well. Our meetings are going ahead, and we are looking forward to being able to use the facilities of the newly opened Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre for our meetings.

We've had a few enquiries from TPIs in the area who heard about us in the DVA newspaper. We're hoping they will be able to join us at our February meeting and will become club members.

In December we went ahead with our annual Christmas Party that was held at the Nowra Bowling Club. They offered a nice friendly venue and ample space for people to spread out. The attendance was down a bit from usual with a few people unable to come because of family emergencies. The food was

a nice meal of roast meats and veggies and some plum pudding for dessert. The usual good company made for some varied and pleasant conversations.

At the end of last year we had to say farewell to one of our members' wives, Jan Payne, who passed away after a long illness. Jan was a long-time associate member of our group. She was a very loved member and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband Ernie and their family at this time.

Well, that is all I have for this issue. I hope everyone stays safe during this time, and also keep an eye on our fellow members to ensure that they are all coping well.

Simon Carr
Publicity Officer

Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are ready to start the New Year on a happy note.

We finished 2022 with our annual Christmas Lunch and Santa arrived in the afternoon handing out gifts to everyone, and there were prizes galore for our raffle to make sure everyone had a good time.

February 14th is our first event for 2023, and it is our BBQ at Plough & Harrow Park starting at 10.30am and continuing until the last person goes home. Tea and coffee will be on for the day and the ladies always supply us with many cakes and biscuits, and then we continue into lunch. Our members never go home hungry from our BBQs.

We have many things planned for 2023 including a visit to the Fire and Rescue Academy at

Orchard Hills for a behind the scenes tour followed by lunch with the firemen.

We have monthly outings, so if you are interested in joining our group please ring one of the numbers at the back of the book, and we will have someone meet you at the door of Club Blacktown to introduce you to our group. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1p.m February to December. We have monthly outings, sometimes lunch at the Fiddler Hotel at Rouse Hill, or a bus trip to somewhere interesting. We are a good crowd looking for some fun and always welcome new members. It is better than sitting at home watching television ...

Lance and Lynne Northey

Phone: 0411 221 921



Santa's elf delivers presents at the Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club Christmas lunch. Photographer: Malcom Botfield.

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club

Registration No: C.C.2781

ABN: 26159 824 822

The Club meets Monthly on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at Blacktown RSL Club 40 Second Ave Blacktown at 1:00pm.

Our Club membership is open to all TPI Veterans (including Veterans under the MRC receiving the Special Rate of Disability Pension), and welcomes their Carers/Wives/Partners and Friends.

To join the Club a Veteran must be a subscribing member of the TPI Association of NSW Ltd.

In addition to Monthly Meetings the Club arranges subsidised functions generally each month. These could be a Coach Trip, Luncheon, BBQ, or a meet up at a point of interest.

The Club's Welfare Officers also keep in contact through Hospital and Home visits to those who cannot make the Meetings or Functions.

A Newsletter is also distributed quarterly to all members, either by email or "snail mail"

For further Information, please contact

John Davison

Committeeman

Mobile: 0411 737 446 or

Email: davoddg38@gmail.com

Illawarra TPI Social and Welfare Club

ABN 26 063 065 721

Patron

Major-General B.W. Howard (Retired)
AO, MC, ESM

President

J. Kiley

The club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Illawarra Leagues Club, "Collies", 97 – 99 Church Street, Wollongong at 11:00am, unless otherwise notified. No meeting is held in January.

If you are a TPI in the Illawarra and a financial member of state branch you are welcome to come and join us.

We hold a Xmas in July and December at different locations.

If you need further information you can contact me.

John Kiley

President

Phone: 0450 588 257

Open Arms Group Program Schedule

March – June 2023

APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING – ASIST

Two-day workshop

Sydney – Thursday 2 March and Friday 3 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sydney – Monday 5 June and Tuesday 6 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

BEATING THE BLUES

Two-day workshop

Sydney – Thursday 22 June and Friday 23 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

Three-day workshop

Lismore – Monday 29 May, Tuesday 30 May and Wednesday 31 May

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Newcastle – Wednesday 14 June, Thursday 15 June and Friday 16 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Nowra – Monday 26 June, Tuesday 27 June and Wednesday 28 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sydney – Wednesday 24 May, Thursday 25 May and Friday 26 May

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Two-day workshop

Wagga Wagga – Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

DOING ANGER DIFFERENTLY

Two-day workshop

Newcastle – Wednesday 5 April and Thursday 6 April

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sydney – Thursday 23 March and Friday 24 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 8 March and Friday 10 March

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 19 April and Friday 21 April

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 10 May and Friday 12 May

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 31 May and Friday 2 June

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 21 June and Friday 23 June

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

MANAGING PAIN

Two-day workshop

Sydney – Thursday 27 April and Friday 28 April

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Online – 2-day workshop, Tuesday 18 April and Thursday 20 April

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Online – 2-day workshop, Wednesday 10 May and Friday 12 May

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Online – 2-day workshop,
Monday 5 June and Wednesday 7 June

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Online – 2-day workshop,
Tuesday 27 June and Thursday 29 June

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Two-day workshop

Bathurst – Monday 13 March and Tuesday 14 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Dubbo – Thursday 11 May and Friday 12 May

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Lismore – Monday 27 March and Tuesday 28 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Newcastle – Monday 22 May and Tuesday 23 May

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Nowra – Thursday 23 February and Friday 24 February

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sydney – Monday 15 May and Tuesday 16 May

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Tamworth – Thursday 8 June and Friday 9 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Tuesday 28 February and Thursday 8 March

Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

Online – CURRENTLY AT CAPACITY – Self-paced eLearning plus 2 x 2.5hr Instructor led sessions, Wednesday 15 March and Friday 17 March

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Online – CURRENTLY AT CAPACITY – Self-paced eLearning plus 2 x 2.5hr Instructor led sessions, Monday 8 May and Wednesday 10 May

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Online – Self-paced eLearning plus 2 x 2.5hr Instructor led sessions, Wednesday 14 June and Friday 16 June

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Online – Self-paced eLearning plus 2 x 2.5hr Instructor led sessions, Wednesday 19 July and Friday 21 July

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm

OPERATION LIFE – SAFETALK

Half-day workshop

Lismore – Friday 19 May

Time: 9:00am–1:00pm

Newcastle – Friday 14 April

Time: 9:00am–1:00pm

Nowra – Friday 5 May

Time: 9:00am–1:00pm

Sydney – Monday 3 April

Time: 9:00am–1:00pm

RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA

Two-day workshop

Lismore – Thursday 20 April and Friday 21 April

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sydney – Thursday 1 June and Friday 2 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Monday 1 May and Wednesday 3 May

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Monday 22 May and Wednesday 24 May

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Monday 12 June and Wednesday 14 June

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 26 July and Friday 28 July

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

RELAXATION AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

One-day workshop

Lismore – Monday 19 June

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Newcastle – Monday 17 April

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

SLEEPING BETTER

Two-day program

Tamworth – Thursday 4 May and Friday 5 May

Time: Call 1800 011 046

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 3 May and Friday 5 May

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 24 May and Friday 26 May

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Wednesday 14 June and Friday 16 June

Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

STEPPING OUT

Two-day workshop

Newcastle – Thursday 30 March and Friday 31 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sydney – Thursday 9 March and Friday 10 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

Six-day workshop

Newcastle – Over six weeks, every Thursday from 9 March to 13 April

Time: 9:30am–11:30am

Two-day workshop

Sydney – Monday 6 March and Tuesday 7 March

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Wagga Wagga – Tuesday 16 May and Wednesday 17 May

Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Tuesday 11 April and Thursday 13 April

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Tuesday 2 May and Thursday 4 May

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Tuesday 23 May and Thursday 25 May

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Tuesday 13 June and Thursday 15 June

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

Online – 2 x 90-minute sessions, instructor led, Tuesday 25 July and Thursday 27 July

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

To register your interest and for the most up to date information visit:

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families.

Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone: 1800 011 046



1800 011 046
OpenArms.gov.au



A service founded by Vietnam Veterans, now for all veterans and families

Interstate TPI Offices

Federation

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex Servicemen & Women Ltd.

Mail: PO Box 450, Erindale, ACT 2903

Tel: 0417 291 546 Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

Web: www.tpifed.org.au

Australian Capital Territory

ACT TPI Ex Servicemen's & Women's Association Inc.

Mail: PO Box 450, Erindale ACT 2903

Tel: 0417 291 546 Email: secretary@acttpi.org

Web: www.acttpi.org

New South Wales

TPI Veterans' Association of NSW Ltd.

Level 4, 55 York St, Sydney NSW 2000

Mail: GPO Box 4429, Sydney NSW 2001

Tel: (02) 9235 1466 Country Tel: 1800 649 216

Fax: (02) 9279 0156

Email: office@tpinsw.org.au

Web: www.tpinsw.org.au

Queensland

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex Servicemen & Women QLD Branch Inc.

Cnr Enoggera Road & Ashgrove Avenue,
Newmarket QLD 4051

Mail: PO Box 3161, Newmarket QLD 4051

Tel: (07) 3040 3330 Email: secretary@tpiqld.org.au

Web: www.qldtpi.org.au

South Australia (includes Northern Territory)

The Association of TPI Ex-Servicemen & Women (SA Branch) Inc.

171 Richmond Rd, Richmond SA 5033

Tel: (08) 8351 8140 Fax: (08) 8351 7781

Email: office@tpi-sa.com.au

Web: www.tpi-sa.com.au

Tasmania

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex Servicemen & Women (Tasmania Branch) Inc.

Horrie Gorrington Stand, North Hobart Football Oval,
Argyle St, North Hobart TAS 7000

Tel: (03) 6231 3900 Fax: (03) 6278 2648

Email: tpitas@bigpond.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tpi.tasmania>

Western Australia

The Australian Federation of TPI Ex-Servicemen & Women WA Branch Inc.

Royal Aust. Air Force Association Estate,
2 Bullcreek Dr, Bullcreek.

Mail: PO Box 2035, Rossmoyne WA 6148

Tel: (08) 9332 4999 Fax: (08) 9332 6633

Email: tpiwa@tpiwa.org.au

Web: www.tpiwa.org.au

Victoria

Totally & Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association
of Victoria Inc.

23-47 Villiers St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Mail: PO Box 216, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Tel: (03) 9329 8844 Email: tpioffice@tpivic.com

Web: www.tpivic.com



PETER FITZSIMONS

THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

From the bestselling author of *Kokoda*
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of Australia's deadliest
Vietnam War battle

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this historic
conflict
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