

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

E-Newsletter February 2023



Sharky Beach, Coledale, NSW. Photographer: Victoria Dawson.

Welcome to the February 2023 issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

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 three 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-Marshall 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.

Change of Venue for TPI NSW General Members Meetings

The new venue for general members meetings is Level 2 of The Occidental Hotel at 43 York Street, Sydney. However, the February members meeting will be held at Club Blacktown at 1pm in The Glasshouse, followed by a hot meal and drinks for members and their spouses/partners. Then from March onwards, general members meetings will revert back to The Occidental Hotel.

TPI NSW now has a new Facebook page that you can access [here](#). If you use Facebook, please like this page as this is another way to keep up-to-date with news from TPI NSW.

We hope this 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 that you would like to share please email: editor@tpinsw.org.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Dawson

Editor, TPI NSW Association

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au



*Blacktown and District Social and Welfare Club members and guests at the TPI NSW Christmas party in December.
Photographer: Malcolm Botfield.*

Honorary Life Memberships



Honorary Life Membership certificates were presented to longstanding board members Leslie (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

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 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

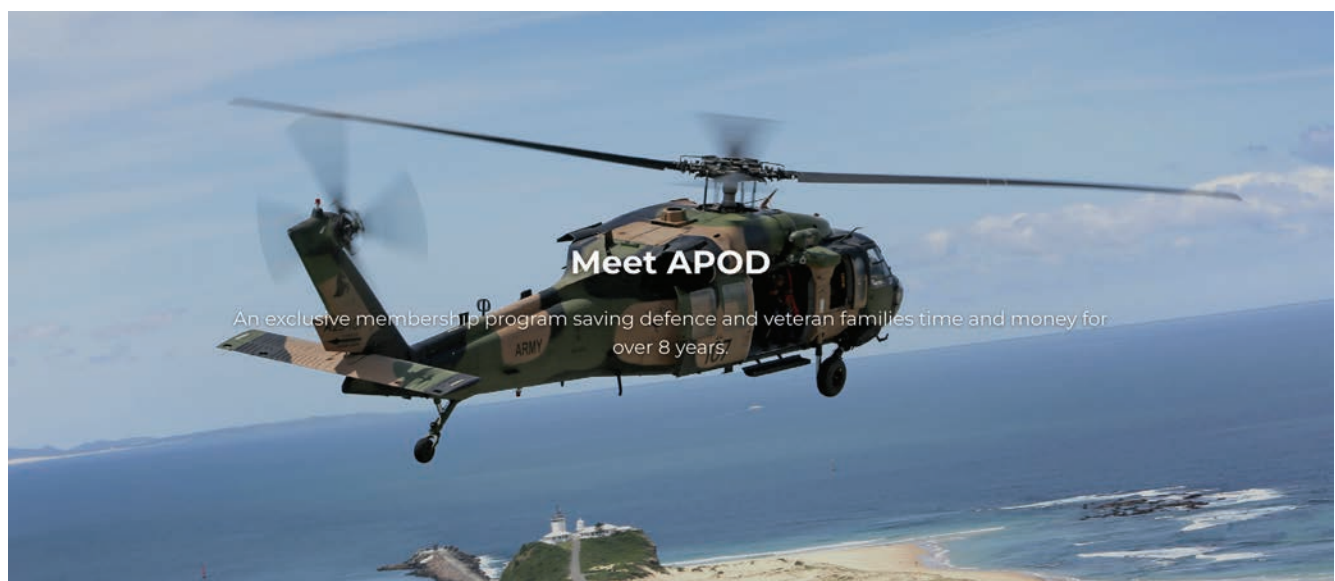
President TPI NSW

Reunions & Functions



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



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 [here](#) or phone 1300 002 763 to find out more and become an APOD member.

Veteran Yoga Mindfulness Program – Information

The following information has been forwarded by Kevin Kelly, TPI NSW Junior 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

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

DVA Media Releases

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 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/



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



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'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



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

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.



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.



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

Contact and Feedback

We value your feedback!

If you have any feedback on what we are doing, please contact us through the following channels:

By Post:

**TPI Association of NSW
Level 4, 55 York Street,
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001**

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Phone: (02) 9235 1466

Free Call: 1800 649 216

Website: www.tpinsw.org.au

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