

V.V.A.A. National Presidents Notes

August 2015

I have continued my involvement in the Future of Advocacy working party that early this month finalised a blueprint to be put to the veteran community through the Ex-Service Round Table (ESORT) that meet in late August.

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14 August I represented the V.V.A.A. at a Vietnam Veterans Day dinner sponsored by the NSW ARVN veterans association followed the next day by a commemorative service at the Comradeship memorial in Cabramatta.

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18 August I represented the V.V.A.A. at a commemorative service at the Sydney Cenotaph and later in the day at the St Marys Sub Branch.

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25 August I represented the V.V.A.A. at a meeting of the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) with an emphasis on the Long Tan bursaries for 2016. Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 academic year.

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26 August I represented the V.V.A.A. at a Defence Force briefing of ex-service organisation presidents in Canberra, Subjects included:

- Support to wounded, injured and ill project
- Salary, allowances and military superannuation overview.
- Honours and awards.
- Mental health and rehabilitation programs and initiatives.
- Project SUAKIN and the total workforce model management.
- Cultural review responses

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27 August I represented the V.V.A.A. at a meeting of the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) in Canberra, details of that meeting will be distributed separately. Subjects included:

- Terendak repatriation of war dead.
- Vietnam Veterans family health study.
- Mental health update.
- Hearing services for DVA clients.
- Veteran homelessness.
- Aged care of DVA clients.
- Amendments to the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation act 1988.

Support of victims of abuse in defence.

Veteran Review Board update.

Carers.

Review of the Advocacy Training and Development Program.

Compensation entitlements –women in the ADF Circa 1947-1972

Clarification of Pension Indexation procedures.

Amendments to section 24 of the Veterans Entitlement Act 1986.

Grants in aid.

Classes of TPI

Reports from Younger Veterans- Contemporary needs forum.

Reports from National aged and community care forum

Reports from state and territory forums

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The VVAA National Secretary, Graham Anderson, is on leave until September and I have continued filling that role particularly in distributing information to the executive and states, thankfully this is a quiet time of the year or at least quieter than some other times.

Ken Foster

National president

2 September 2015