

V.V.A.A. National Presidents Notes

December 2015

As many would be aware there is a group initiating out of the APPVA pushing for a royal commission into the DVA, to date this does not have the support of the V.V.A.A. National Executive and I am not aware of support from other major ex-service organisation, that said, the matter is not closed and can be reconsidered if, and when, more information is provided.

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I have attended a meeting in Canberra related to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battle of Long Tan.

There have been a number of questions put to me and the advice to date is that there will be no government sponsored commemorative mission due to concerns and restrictions imposed by the Vietnamese government.

There will be groups returning to Long Tan on 18 August 2016 and these will be self-funded.

The national commemorations will be held in Canberra commencing 17th August and concluding on the 19th August.

6RAR will be holding a commemorate service and parade at Enoggera on the 18th August.

Funding has been made available for state and regional commemorative services and events to be held principally by Vietnam veteran organisation.

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I have had a meeting in Canberra related to the commemorative program at Gallipoli in April each year, the proposal is that due to crowds and other difficulties the official Lone Pine commemorations no longer be held in April and alternatively held, possibly every 5 years, in August on the anniversary of the battle. I have agreed in principle to this change subject to there being no major concerns expressed by V.V.A.A. members and that the Lone Pine commemorations be held at least every five years.

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I apologise for the late distribution of the Debrief magazine, we did attempt to have it to members before Christmas however there were delays in preparation, partly, but not as an excuse, by the delayed submission of promised material to the editor. To keep to our agreed timetable we may need to apply the cut-off date for submissions more strictly in future.

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I have nominated for the DVA Hearing Services Working Party on behalf of the V.V.A.A. any concerns regarding provision of hearing aids etc. should be forward to me as soon as possible.