

Each year on ANZAC Day, Horsham RSL Sub-Branch presents a brief outline of a significant event in Australian Military History, as part of our ANZAC Commemorative Services. Fifty years have now passed since the conclusion of the Australian Military presence in Vietnam, following the withdrawal of Australian Combat Units leaving only an Army Platoon guarding the Australian Embassy in Saigon.

So ended a 12-year involvement by Australian Military Units, including the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and all nine Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) Battalions, that served in Vietnam on rotation.

At the peak of Australia's engagement, some 8,500 Australian Service Personnel were involved. These included Army Units, RAN Destroyers and Supply Ships, three RAAF Squadrons including Conscripts on active service with Australian Defence Forces for the first time. All worked closely with the United States of America, Military.

Much has been recorded about the significant Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, where 108 Australian Troops held off an enemy force of over 2,000 in a four-hour battle that cost Australian casualties of 19 killed and 25 wounded. A feature of this battle was the significant contribution given by New Zealand and Australian artillery for close fire support of Australian troops. A true ANZAC battle. Today, on 18 August, the Nation commemorates "Vietnam Veterans Day".

The Wimmera/Horsham contribution to service in Vietnam consisted of 91 Young Men and one Young Lady Nurse, being 42 National Service Conscripts, with 50 Regular Australian Defence Force (ADF) Personnel. One Horsham Conscript, Private James (Jim) McMillan, was Killed in Action and today, as always, we honour his service and sacrifice. Private McMillan is remembered by his family and mates with the Horsham RSL Sub-Branch having named our Memorabilia Meeting Room "The McMillan Room" in his honour.

From 1961 to 1975, over 60,000 Australians, including Army, Navy, Airforce personnel and some civilians, including Salvation Army Officers, served in Vietnam. Casualties were 523 Killed and approximately 2,400 wounded. Today Vietnam Veterans number 35, 000, being the largest contingent of our National Veteran Community.

Lest We Forget

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lt David Herbert
Horsham Rural City Council Staff
Horsham Special School
Horsham Rural City Band
128th Transport Troop RACT



Horsham College
St Brigid's College
Holy Trinity Lutheran College
Salvation Army
Voices of The Wimmera

Horsham Returned & Services League And Horsham Rural City Council

have pleasure of welcoming you to our

ANZAC Commemorative Service



Thursday 25th April, 2024



**At Sawyer Park Cenotaph and War Memorial,
Memorial Drive, Horsham**

**Service Assembly commences at 10.00am
Service commences at 11.00am**



**At the conclusion of the Service
The Salvation Army will be onsite to provide free
Tea/Coffee and "Anzac Biscuits."**



PROGRAM

This Memorial Service will be preceded by a March from the RSL in McLachlan Street

10.00am

- **March Assembly** Horsham RSL, McLachlan Street.

10.10am

- March moves off from Horsham RSL, McLachlan Street via Firebrace Street and O'Callaghan's Parade to Memorial Drive.
- **Saluting Dais** – Former Cenotaph Site, Horsham Aquatic Centre.
- Salute to be taken by **CR Robyn Gulline** and **LT David Herbert**

10.15am

- **'Voices of the Wimmera'** Presentation of a medley of Australian songs

10.45am

- Parade enters Memorial Drive.

10.57am

- Chairman will call for Army Catafalque Party to "Take Post" and Mount Guard at Cenotaph.

6 'Bells' - 11.00am

- **"HMAS Horsham" Bell**

11.00am

- **Call to Order**
- Horsham RSL Master of Ceremonies Gareth Lane will bring Assembly to Order.

Opening Remarks – Gareth Lane.

PLEASE BE UPSTANDING

Hymn – O God Our Help in Ages Past (Led by Horsham College Students and Voices of the Wimmera).

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| 1. <i>O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.</i> | 3. <i>Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting, thou art God,
To endless years the same.</i> |
| 2. <i>Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
Thy Saints have dwelt secure,
Sufficient in thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.</i> | 4. <i>O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.</i> |

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING

- **Prayer** – CAPT Christopher Sutton, Salvation Army Horsham.
- **PLEASE BE SEATED**
- **Welcome** – CR Robyn Gulline – Introduction and Remarks.



- **"Anzac Requiem: (attached) –MC to recite**

- **Vale'** – Tribute to our Sacrifices of 2022-2023 – Gareth Lane

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Lt David Herbert – introduced by Horsham RSL President, Don Pirouet
- **Letters from the front:**
 - Horsham College – Sienna Walscott and Malachy O'Brien
 - St Brigids College – Tom Luke and Ulani Hobbs
 - HTLC— Rebekah Wundke and Alannah Johns
 - Horsham Special School – Ella Massey and Aaron Tanner
- **Wreath Laying** – As called, assisted by Students – Led by CR Robyn Gulline, Horsham Rural City Council, President Horsham RSL, Don Pirouet, LT David Herbert, Parliamentary Representatives, other Services, and the Public.
- **Poem by Ms Alana Sorrell**

PLEASE STAND

- **"The Ode", MC to recite**

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun in the morning,
We Will Remember Them.

(By Laurence Binyon for the Fallen 1914)

All Repeat: "We Will Remember Them"

- **Last Post (Bugler), Horsham City Brass Band**
All remain standing to observe one minute's silence.
- **The Silence** – One minute's silence will be observed.
- **President – "Lest We Forget".**
All then Repeat "Lest We Forget"
- **Rouse (Bugler)**
Flags to Full Mast (Flag Party)

REMAIN STANDING

- **National Anthems assisted by Horsham College Singers and "Voices of the Wimmera"**
- **National Anthem of New Zealand (First verse only), sung by Horsham College Singers**
- **National Anthem of Australia (First verse only), sung by Horsham College Singers**

PLEASE BE SEATED

- **Acknowledgements** – CR Robyn Gulline on behalf of Horsham Rural City Council.
- **12.10pm approx., Close.**
Chairman to call for Catafalque party to dismount. The Horsham City Brass Band will provide a recital as attendees inspect Remembrances Crosses for the Fallen.
- **8' Bells' Conclusion - "HMAS Horsham" Bell**

