

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 Rural City Band



128th Transport Troop RACT
Salvation Army

Returned & Services League, Horsham

have pleasure in welcoming you to our

Anzac Dawn Service

Thursday 25th April, 2024



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

Commencing at 6.15am for 6.30am



At conclusion of Service a light breakfast, tea and coffee will be Available at Horsham RSL

The Salvation Army will be onsite to provide free Tea/Coffee and "Anzac Biscuits."

NOTE: This Service will be broadcast LIVE by ACE Radio, 1089 3WM



Order of Service

4 'Bells' 6.15am

- 6.15am Veterans March (from Hocking Street to Memorial Drive)
- 6.25am Army Catafalque Party Mount Guard
- 6.28am Spirit of ANZAC torch to be placed by Horsham 1st A.I.F. re-enactment troop

5 'Bells' 6.30am

- Opening remarks, Master of Ceremonies Gareth Lane

ALL STAND

- Prayer – CAPT Chris Sutton, Salvation Army will lead all in the Lord's Prayer

PLEASE BE SEATED

- Welcome – CR Robyn Gulline – Introduction and Remarks.
- Address – Horsham RSL – The Anzac Requiem – MC to recite
- Address – LT David Herbert – Australian Army
- Vale' – MC - Gareth Lane
- Passing of the Torch from Old Digger Rex Dumesny to Young Digger **TBC**
- Wreath Laying – Official Wreaths, The Mayor, President Don Pirouet, and others
- Poem by David Sherry "The Slouch Hat"

PLEASE STAND

- "Ode" – Horsham RSL MC to recite
- Last Post

One Minute's Silence

- "Lest We Forget" All Repeat, "Lest We Forget"
- Rouse

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

- New Zealand - Mouri and English version – Malachy O'Brien
- Australia –Malachy and All

6'Bells' 7.00am, approximately

- Closing remarks – MC Gareth Lane
- Army Catafalque Party Fallout
- Close – Public are invited to lay a handmade Remembrance Poppy or Rosemary on the Memorial Crosses, in memory of 542 of our community that have paid the Supreme Sacrifice in all wars including 48 on Gallipoli.

A lone piper will play a lament



National Anthem of New Zealand "God Defend New Zealand" (First Verse)

*God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
from the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.*

National Anthem of Australia "Advance Australia Fair" (First Verse)

*Australians all let us rejoice
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia fair!
In joyful strains then let us sing,
"Advance Australia fair!"*



Horsham RSL Sub-Branch acknowledges the loan of the Ships Bell from HMAS
Horsham, 1942, by the Horsham Rural City Council.