



AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION - TASMANIA



"LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN"

WINTER 2010

E-NEWSLETTER - EMAIL: TASPRES@PEACEKEEPERS.ASN.AU

ISSUE FOUR



The tempo of operations continues to have an impact on the younger veteran community

APPVA TAS Forging Ahead In 2010

After its first eighteen months since formation, the Tasmanian Branch of the APPVA is forging ahead.

All I can really say in starting this column is how hard the members of the APPVA-TAS have been working for the wider younger veteran community across the State.

In early February, National Conference was held at Anglesea Barracks with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs flying down to attend along with APPVA delegates from most States.

It was a time to farewell National President Paul Copeland who had retired after three terms in the chair. However, Paul hasn't gone far and is still strongly involved with the APPVA.

We wish he and Rhonda well for the future and welcome David Penson as the new National President.

Representation is now present in almost all forums at the State and National levels. Often providing this representation means seeking input and support from other ex-service groups - especially when there is a request for pension advocacy support.

We now have a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (Tas) which was signed on the 15th of May in Launceston.

More recently, under generous sponsorship of the Hobart Media Centre, APPVA-TAS began running a television advertisement on Southern Cross and the digital channel 7Two.

I personally thank the Hobart Media Centre, Mr Stuart Churton and Ms Sophie Creek for assisting us in this regard.

The ad is about raising awareness of the APPVA in Tasmania, its links with other ESO's and how it can represent

younger veterans in a range of forums.

Since November, I have had the opportunity to deploy to the Solomon Islands where I met up with ADF and Federal Police peacekeepers.

I also had the opportunity to visit Rifle Company Butterworth and see the training being undertaken in the Malaysian jungle. However, I am not sure on the culinary aspects of cooked monkey and python.

Additionally, the Anglesea Memorial is in the process of being constructed and I encourage you to read the article on Page 2.

The State election has come and gone and we have a change of Minister and Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Post election Mr Bryan Green has taken over the Veteran's Affairs portfolio from Graeme Sturges.

(To Page 5)

Vale

For several members of APPVA-TAS, news of the Royal New Zealand Air Force crash on ANZAC Day bought a sad outcome.

Flight Lieutenant Hayden Madsen was the pilot of the RNZAF Iroquois which crashed into a hill while flying to ANZAC Day commemorations.

Hayden (or Muddy as he was known) worked with the International

Stabilisation Force in Timor Leste in late 2007 - 2008. When not flying, he filled the role as the aviation operations officer at the Headquarters of Joint Task Force 631 at Camp Phoenix

where he was known to a number of us. Our thoughts are with Hayden's wife, Kim and family along with the families of Flying Officer Daniel Stephen Gregory, pilot, 28, and Corporal Benjamin Andrew Carson, helicopter crewman, 25 who were also killed in the crash. Another crewman survived and continues to recover.

Air Vice-Marshal Graham Lintott, head of RNZAF, said: "We remember those who lost their lives doing their duty at Gallipoli 95 years ago and now we must add the names of three more who have lost their lives in the service of their country.

"They were all too young, and all with good futures to look forward to, and now we mourn their loss."



FLTLT Madsen wears his badge of honour for his 31st birthday in Dili.

Tasmanian Peacekeeping Memorial Project - Anglesea

When a pine-tree in the memorial garden at Anglesea Barracks became ill, Phil Spehr the Defence Support Group Base Support Manager -, Tasmania decided to lop the top but to leave the stump with the far sighted idea of using it as a memorial for those who gave their lives in Peacekeeping and Peacemaking operations.

The project was taken on by APPVA Tasmanian Branch and we are well on the way to project completion.

A committee was formed to review three submissions by local artists to create an appropriate sculpture using the stump as a basis.

Four members of APPVA Tasmania were joined by Phil Spehr and representatives from DVA and RSL State Branch. Each submission was viewed as to portrayal of APPVA values, sympathy with the Memorial Garden and Anglesea Barracks historic precincts, the project's impact upon Defence operations within the barracks, ongoing maintenance requirements, aesthetics, OHS considerations and the artists approach to project management. Cost was not set as a limiting factor.

By an overwhelming majority the proposal from Geeveston sculptor, Bernie Tarr was selected.

The sculpture will be created off site and will then be incorporated into the stump in the near future. It will be made from King Billy pine and the design will be of a peacekeeper with weapon slung carrying a child.

The emphasis will be on humanitarian aid rather than combat but with a definite military bearing and presence.

Fund raising is well under way and it is anticipated that APPVA Tasmania will have raised sufficient funds to have the project completed by early November 2010.

Assistance has been gratefully received so far from the following organisations:

RSL Tasmania - State Branch

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Navy, Military and Air Force Club (Tasmania)

Blackmores Australia

Defence Health

Anglesea Barracks Sergeant's Mess

Anglesea Barracks Officer's Mess

RSL Hobart Sub-Branch

12th/40th Battalion, The Royal Tasmania Regiment - Regimental Trust Fund

Foxhole Medals - Hobart

The support of these organisations is greatly appreciated and has contributed to the project moving forward.

Unfortunately the Board of the Tasmania Community Fund didn't see the relevance or uniqueness of the project not just to the younger veteran community but also the wider Tasmanian community - rejecting our application for a grant for the third time.

The refusal was perhaps more difficult to accept on a week when two younger veterans died doing their duty for this country. If this aspect of sacrifice isn't relevant to this project, it is confusing to work out what is an acceptable project to this Board which manages funds from the sale of the former Savings Bank of Tasmania on behalf of the Tasmanian community.

While the Board professes not to give feedback, APPVA-TAS has formally requested this through Treasury.



DefenceHealth



Key Dates

17th of July - The next APPVA meeting is set for the 17th of July 11 am at the Launceston RSL. Hope to see as many as possible. For any agenda items, please forward to Rodney Teague APPVA-TAS Secretary.

17th of July - 150th Anniversary of 16 Field Battery (Launceston). Freedom of the City will commence at 0900 hrs and there will be an Open Day at Paterson Barracks in the afternoon.

18th of August - Vietnam Veterans' Day. Commemoration services around the State. Service at Hobart followed by a function afterwards at the Lindisfarne RSL. Cost per head \$20.00

1st of September - Battle for Australia Day. Commemoration service at the Hobart Cenotaph

14th of September - Australian Peacekeepers Day. No services held in Tasmania as yet.

29th of September - National Police Remembrance Day - Rokeby Academy

22nd/23rd October - APPVA National Conference Victoria. Venue TBA

11th of November - Remembrance Day. Services held around the State.



VVAA and APPVA Join Forces

Recently the Vietnam Veterans' Association (Tas) and APPVA-TAS joined forces through the signing of a formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Based on the National MOA, this was the first one to be signed at the State level which took place on the 15th of May at Launceston RSL.

Also present as VVAA State President, Warwick Luttrell and APPVA State President, Phil Pyke, signed the MOA was National VVAA President, Mr Ron Coxon and APPVA-TAS Vice President, Tony Richings and Treasurer, Oliver Breeze.

"There is much respect for our Vietnam veterans amongst APPVA membership and we look forward to working with them on a range of projects into the future," said Phil Pyke.

"The Vietnam veteran community are responsible for many of the services and benefits we as younger veterans can access today and therefore it is pleasing for the APPVA to take this step of a formal relationship which will benefit all veterans of all operations."

As the APPVA develops, our Vietnam counterparts will guide and assist us in many ways, including in the areas of welfare and pension advocacy.



Foxhole Medals

the perfect choice



Medal Mounting - Replica Medals - Military Framing - Ribbon Bars - Plaques & Badges

Discounts to Serving Members of the RSL & all Armed & Emergency Services

Office: 66 Upton Drive, Honeywood, TAS 7017

Phone: (03) 6268 1272

E-mail: sales@foxholemedals.com.au

Web: www.foxholemedals.com.au

Soldiers of Peace Affiliation for APPVA Membership

The Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) aka l'Association International des Soldats de la Paix (AISP), commemorated the 62nd Anniversary of the world's first Peacekeeping Troops to deploy into the field on 29 May 1948, at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland on Tuesday 31st May 2010.

The Australian Branch and Oceania Representative (Paul Copeland, OAM, JP), was represented by former Royal Australian Navy Quartermaster Gunner, later Stoker, Steve Wright.

"I am pleased to have Steve represent Australia and myself at this very important commemoration, which remembers well over 1,250,000 UN Peacekeeping Troops and Police, who have served since 1948." Mr Copeland said.

"Unfortunately, almost 2,800 Peacekeepers have been killed on UN Duty, with many becoming ill, injured, wounded and traumatised from their experiences."

This important milestone comes after the airing of the difficulties of UN Peacekeeping Operations, particularly

with the ABC1 "Australian Story", which provided an insight to an Australian Army UN Military Observer's experience of the Israeli and Lebanese War of July to August 2006. Major Mattina Jewell (nee Stanfield) told her story with honesty and courage of her experiences with war and peacekeeping.

Australia has been an active donor country to UN Peacekeeping Operations since 14th September 1947, and has continued this contribution non-stop to the current operational contributions.

"I thank the Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Minister for Defence Personnel, The Hon Alan Griffin, MP, for recognising Australia's contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, by Media Release last week." Mr Copeland said.

"This is a welcome recognition, of which we would like to see the Australian Government recognise Non-warlike Peacekeeping Service with the proposed Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal."



Wear your APPVA membership with pride.

Polo and chambray shirts, caps, stickers, books, a range of bears and other items are available from the APPVA website.

APPVA-TAS member, Chris Chatterton is the National Merchandising Officer and can be contacted on 0409 402 072

VVCS Service Model/Mix Review

The Veterans and Veterans' Families Counselling Service (VVCS) is a key part of the Department of Veterans' Affairs approach to community based mental health care providing counselling and group programs to all Australian veterans and their families. Originating in 1982 in response to the needs of the Vietnam veteran community the organisation underwent a name change in 2007 to improve access by recent and current serving veterans and their families.

Following discussion with the Minister's National Advisory Committee of the VVCS, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Deputy President of the Repatriation Commission, an independent review is to be undertaken to provide advise on the appropriate service delivery model for VVCS to meet the changing needs of the veteran and defence communities and their families.

VVCS has always been responsive to the changing needs of veterans and more recently the Defence community, providing services to a much wider range of veterans, and their families, veterans with multiple deployments, veterans with very current operations service, female veterans as well as families with young children. In order to ensure we continue to provide responsive flexible services it is timely to look at the mix of programs and the way we deliver our services.

VVCS is seeking input from the veteran community. Further information can be found at www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/health_programs/vvcs/Pages/model.aspx

VVCS - 1800 011 046 (24 hr assistance)

APPVA- TAS Executive Contact Listings

Phil Pyke (State President) - 0408 300 148. Email: taspres@peacekeepers.asn.au

Tony Richings (Vice President) - 6267 5002. Email: tony.richings@yahoo.com.au

Rodney Teague (State Secretary) - 0419 267509.

Email: Rodney.Teague@utas.edu.au

Oliver Breeze (State Treasurer) - (03) 6336 3760. Email: oliver.breeze@ses.tas.gov.au

Alex Thomson (Membership Officer) - 0408 401 447. Email: alex.thomson@defence.gov.au

Andrew Herbert (Police Liaison Officer) - 0417 341 812. Email: andrew.herbert@defence.gov.au or andrew.herbert@police.tas.gov.au

Useful websites

Department of Veterans' Affairs

www.dva.gov.au

Vietnam Veterans Association - Tas

www.vvaa.org.au/tas.htm

Veterans and Veterans' Family Counselling Service

www.dva.gov.au/vvcs

Department of Defence (including access to the Service newspapers)

www.defence.gov.au

(From Page 1)

Graeme was a strong supporter of the younger veteran community and of the Anglesea Memorial project.

It was through the generous support of Graeme that we were able to hold the National Conference here in Tasmania and we wish him well in whatever direction life takes him.

Additionally Shadow Minister Michael Hodgman also retired from Parliament. Always a larger than life character, Michael was a great supporter of the veteran community. It was pleasing to see that Michael received a well deserved award in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours and APPVA-TAS congratulates him.

Whereas the State previously had a Veterans' Affairs Minister and Shadow Minister from the electorate of Dennison, this duality has now swung to the electorate of Braddon.

We welcome Bryan Green into the portfolio and while Veterans' Affairs is a smaller portfolio, I know he will give it due attention.

From the North-West also comes the Shadow Veterans' Affairs Minister, Adam Brookes. A former member of the Royal Australian Navy, Adam is looking forward to working with the Tasmanian veteran community.

As I write this column, the Australian Defence Force is preparing to repatriate two Australian soldiers who were killed in action in Afghanistan two days ago.

For their families, the members of their unit and the wider ADF, this is a sad time. Their deaths serve as a

reminder of how dangerous this environment can be.

We remember their contribution and ultimate sacrifice. Additionally we remember those other members of their deployed unit who, despite the tragedy, must keep on doing their jobs.

The recent story of UN Peacekeeper, Mattina Jewell, on ABC's *Australian Story* also serves as a reminder of how a non-warlike peacekeeping environment can quickly become warlike with tragic consequences.

With Ms Jewell's service reclassified, the challenge is to ensure that others who have served in similar environments to receive the same reclassification - especially those caught between opposing sides in a warlike environment.

Our VVAA counterparts have a motto - *Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living*. Sadly - nearly 40 years after Vietnam, we still often have to do exactly that.

In closing, my thanks to the hard working Executive of the APPVA-TAS. Without them so much wouldn't be happening for the younger veterans of Tasmania.

In particular, I commend Vice President Tony Richings, along with the support of Sandy for driving the Memorial project - the completion of which will be outstanding and unique to Tasmania. Thank you!

Until next time, stay well.

Phil Pyke - State President

The Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association (Tas)
is proudly sponsored by

HOBART MEDIA CENTRE



Studies being conducted on Timor Veterans

In August 2007, the Australian Government announced \$13.5 million for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to establish the Family Study Program, an ongoing research program to assess the impact of service on the health and welfare of the families of deployed personnel, including Vietnam veterans and subsequent deployments, such as Timor-Leste.

The Timor-Leste Family Study will research the impacts of this service on the families of current and ex-members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who either:

deployed to Timor-Leste; or were eligible to deploy to Timor-Leste but did not.

These members may or may not have deployed on other operations.

The Timor-Leste Family Study started in late June 2009 with the engagement of an independent research consortium including UniQuest and the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH).

The study will include different research methods including focus

groups and a questionnaire. It is currently in its preparation stage, which includes a review of outcomes of relevant research such as the Deployment Health Surveillance Program's East Timor Health Study and the 2008 Australian Defence Force Families Survey.

A Consultative Forum has been established to provide a participant perspective on the study. The study is supported by the same Independent Scientific Adviser and Scientific Advisory Committee as for the Vietnam Veterans' Family Study.

People will be asked to participate in the study in mid 2010. More information will be provided later on the makeup of the study groups. The final report for the study is expected in the second half of 2011.

For more information on the Timor-Leste Family Study contact DVA's Health Study Line toll free on 1800 502 302 or the Timor-Leste Family Study research team by either calling toll free 1800 708 335 or by emailing families@cmvh.org.au.



What are our projects?

Completion of the Anglesea Barracks Memorial

Establishment of a Combined Veterans' Centre (APPVA, VVAA, TPI Federation and RSL Hobart sub-branch) in the south

Working with the VVAA in relation to providing emergency accommodation for veterans

Reclassification of relevant service

Representation on all forums

Retention of Anglesea Barracks as the centre of the ADF in Tasmania

Membership now due

APPVA Membership is due 1st of July and we need your support in continuing our work in Tasmania with the younger veteran community. If you've joined since April, there is no need to renew your membership until July 2011.

The easiest way to renew your membership is to visit www.peacekeepers.asn.au and fill the form out and return it to the National Membership Officer.

While visiting the website, have a look at the Youtube presentation - another contribution from APPVA Tasmania - and other information relevant to younger veterans.

Renewing your membership means that APPVA-TAS has a level of income through capitation fees - a vital factor as we are working on minimal budgets.

Renew your membership today and encourage other younger ADF, police and UN veterans to join this younger veterans' ex-service organisation.



Lest We Forget

More than 1500 ISAF and Afghan National Army troops based at the Multinational Base in Tarin Kowt bid farewell on the 9th of June to Sapper Darren Smith and Sapper Jacob Moerland who were killed in action on the 7th of June.

The ceremony for the fallen men began at 10am with a closed service attended by engineers of the 1st Mentoring Task Force. The remaining elements of the 1st Mentoring Task Force moved into the service, held inside a Dutch Apache helicopter hangar, at 11am.

1500 troops lined the road to the airfield with a slow march procession with the caskets mounted atop SASR Long Range Patrol Vehicles and escorted by an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, saluted by the troops as it passed by.

Apache helicopters flew past to the gunfire salute of Dutch Panzer Howitzers and simultaneously, a single mortar illumination round was fired from every Australian patrol base in Uruzgan in memory of the two fallen engineers.

As the Australian C-130 Hercules, carrying the soldiers and their escorts, departed towards the mountains west of the base the aircraft dropped flares and the men and women of the 1st Mentoring Task Force said the final farewells.

Services have also been held in Brisbane and the home towns of each soldier.

Our thoughts and prayers go with the families of these two dedicated sappers.



Ramp ceremony as Sappers Smith and Moerland leave Tarin Kowt

Shah Wali Kot Offensive - Afghanistan June 2010



An Australian Special Operations Task Group soldiers observing the valley during the Shah Wali Kot Offensive

Taliban networks have suffered a major blow following operations by Afghan security troops and Australian Special Forces in northern Kandahar province.

The large scale offensive against Taliban insurgents in the district of Shah Wali Kot, was part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF's) Hamkari initiative, an ongoing civil-military activity aimed at bringing security, governance and economic opportunity to the people of Kandahar.

The five-day Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) and Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) operation involved heavy fighting, resulting in the deaths of a significant number of insurgents.

On day two, the large-scale contact lasted over thirteen hours. Following their arrival by helicopter, the combined force was immediately engaged by insurgents using small arms and machine gun fire. Over a four-and-a-half-hour period, the

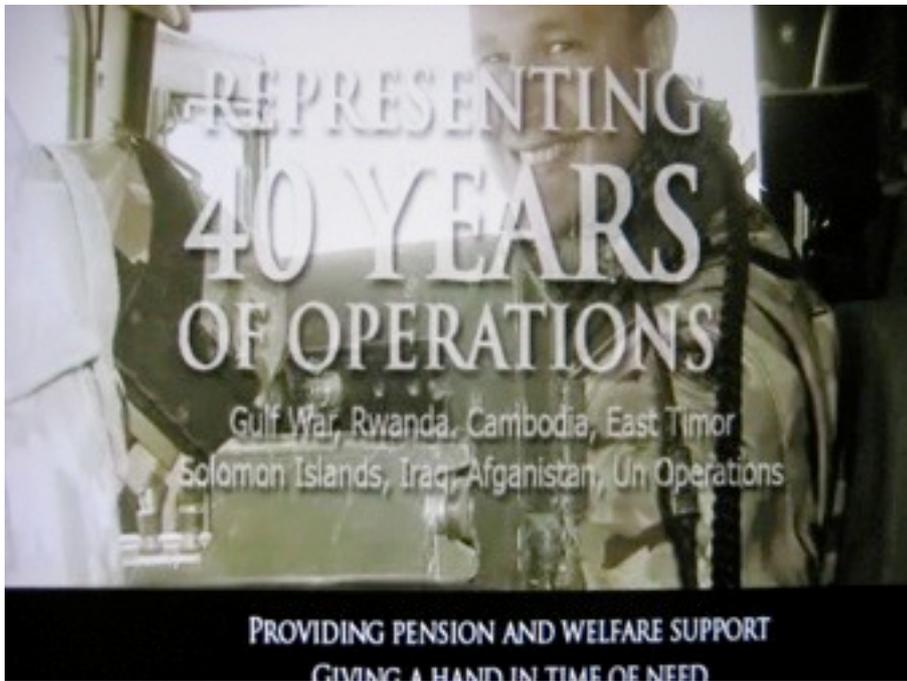
Taliban used concealed fighting positions and access to aqueducts and creek lines to mount sustained fire against the coalition force.

The combined force suffered two casualties from gunshot wounds; one Australian soldier was wounded in the arm and a partnered Afghan ANSF officer was struck in the side. While under fire from insurgents, both were rapidly aero-medically evacuated to Tarin Kowt where they are recovering.

A large number of weapons were recovered after the contact including assault rifles, heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenade launchers and several radio handsets.

The Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East, Major General John Cantwell was particularly happy with the outcome of the offensive.

"Through the Shah Wali Kot offensive, the combined coalition force has severely disrupted an important insurgent stronghold.



APPVA-TAS now has a television advertisement thanks to the generous support of the Hobart Media Centre



IRAQ and AFGHAN VETERANS of AM

Serving alongside other Coalition troops makes one wonder how their veterans are represented at home. For the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' organisation is kicking big goals when it comes to representing those of recent conflicts.

The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans' Association (IAVA) is out there making an impact when it comes to representing their membership and challenging those who sit on Capitol Hill in Washington.

With some 36,000 injured and 6000 killed, the US has borne the brunt of these conflicts.

Some APPVA members have joined the IAVA online which is free and provides an insight into our Coalition partners and their struggles, such as the Walter Reed Hospital debacle.

Check out the IAVA now at:

www.iava.org

The APPVA is in the media with the generous sponsored advertisement under the Hobart Media Centre and also on Facebook nationally under Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association.

Soon APPVA-TAS will have its own Facebook page so if you're not connected - get connected soon.

The page will have numerous links including to the RSL, VVAA, DVA, State Government (where there are many concessions available) and will become the one-stop-shop for all,

younger veterans in Tasmania for information on a variety of subjects.

The aim is to finally to be able to have an APPVA-TAS website but that's a future project in conjunction with the National IT Manger



Become double badged

For many younger veterans who are either still serving in the ADF or police or perhaps have left the services, the thought of attending an RSL sub-branch seems like an activity for retirement.

Yet many sub-branches are ready to welcome younger veterans, especially APPVA members. Most of the APPVA-TAS Executive belong to the RSL as do a number of members.

"The RSL is our premier ESO," said APPVA-TAS State President, Phil Pyke.

"Over the past 90 years, they have built the foundation of a solid veterans' organisation which directly benefits us as younger veterans today. RSL Tasmania strongly supports the APPVA as evident with the assistance for the Anglesea Barracks Memorial."

"Younger veterans are the future of the RSL and I strongly encourage them to consider becoming double badged."

www.rsltas.org.au