



**Message from the Office of the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Issue 74 (17 August, 2010)**

Please find below a message from Bill Denny AM, Director, Veterans SA for your information, distribution and possible use in newsletters, and on "Veterans" themed radio programs.

**Vietnam Veterans' Day & Battle of Long Tan Anniversary**

Minister Snelling congratulates the Vietnam Veterans' Day Council on the commemorations for Vietnam Veterans' Day that were held at the Torrens Parade Ground on Sunday, 15 August. The gunfire breakfast, march, commemorative service and concert were again well organised and well attended.

An important chapter in the Vietnam War, and in South Australia's military history, will be finally brought to a close tomorrow.

Veterans' Affairs Minister, Jack Snelling says a dedication is being made in Canberra tomorrow to South Australian Flying Officer Michael Herbert, as part of commemorations being held at the Vietnam War Memorial.

Flying Officer Herbert from Glenelg was lost while conducting a bombing mission in Vietnam on 3 November, 1971. His remains - and those of his fellow crew member, Pilot Officer Robert Carver - were not found until last year.

When the Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated in 1992, six granite bench seats were placed around it – each one in honour of a serviceman who was, at the time, still missing in action.

Individual seats have been dedicated as these servicemen have been progressively recovered.

Tomorrow, the Governor General will dedicate the last two seats to Michael Herbert and Robert Carver - the last two servicemen lost missing in action to be recovered from Vietnam.

The State Government and the South Australian veterans' community will be represented at tomorrow's dedication by the Director of Veterans SA, Mr Bill Denny, who attended the ceremony with Michael's brother, Mr Shane Herbert."

Mr Snelling will also pay tribute tomorrow to South Australian veterans attending a service in Adelaide commemorating the Battle of Long Tan - the largest single conflict in which Australians were involved in the Vietnam War.

The Battle of Long Tan was the defining military engagement of the Vietnam War for Australia.

"The Australian victory was so comprehensive that the North Vietnamese never again attempted a major attack against Australians in Phouc Tuy province, nor did they attempt any significant attack against the Australian base at Nui Dat.

The men who fought at Long Tan were a mix of 108 regulars and national servicemen who'd only been in Vietnam for nine weeks.

They engaged a combined force of over 2,500 North Vietnamese regular and guerrilla soldiers. Of the eighteen Australians killed at the Battle of Long Tan, eleven were national servicemen.

A Vietnam Veterans' Day Service is also being held at the Repatriation General Hospital tomorrow to remember Australia's involvement in our longest and most controversial war.

While ANZAC Day commemorates those who made the ultimate sacrifice throughout Australia's wartime history, it's also important to individually recognise the efforts of those who served in such a significant conflict.

Between 1963 and 1971 over 500 Australians were killed and 2,500 wounded in Vietnam. Of those killed, 58 came from South Australia.

### **ANZAC of the Year**

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Jack Snelling M.P., wishes to congratulate Mr Glen Stockham on his receipt of the ANZAC of the Year prize from the RSL.

The Award is given to: *Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.*

Mr Stockham enlisted when he was 18 and spent over 10 years in the airforce as an armourer, running bombs and ammunition to the planes.

Mr Stockham was recognised by the RSL for his service to the Australian community, particularly for his help in establishing the Alice Springs RSL Sub-branch war museum.

For more information about the RSL or the ANZAC of the Year award go to the RSL website at [www.rsl.org.au](http://www.rsl.org.au)

### **DVA Transport Scheme**

On Thursday 12 August, 2010, Veterans SA staff attended the presentation of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Transport Scheme.

The presentation outlined the DVA efforts in providing accessible and affordable transport options to veterans and widows/widowers when attending medical appointments.

If you would like a copy of any of the information please contact our office.

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Veterans SA on 8226 8552.