

State Minister's Message Issue 21 (1 July, 2009)

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

Vietnam Veterans' Day 2009

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs recently noted that 18 August 2009 will be the 43rd anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

From an Australian perspective this was, arguably, the most defining battle of the Vietnam War. Minister Atkinson encourages all members of the veterans' community to pause on that day to remember the young Australians who fought so well under difficult circumstances. Completely outnumbered and having only recently arrived in South Vietnam their courageous stand is truly the stuff of legend.

On behalf of the State Government and the citizens of South Australia Minister Atkinson congratulates and thanks every Vietnam veteran. You all served your nation well and we remain truly proud of you.

The Vietnam Veterans Day Concert will be held on Sunday 16 August, 2009 and Minister Atkinson encourages all veterans, not just Vietnam veterans to acknowledge the day. The Commemorative March will commence at the corner of Gawler Place and North Terrace at 10.30am.

The Concert commences at 11.30am will be co-hosted by "Big Pretzel" Pat Kennedy and the veterans friend, Mr Peter Goers. It will include performances by the Royal Australian Navy Band, comedian Dave Flanagan, 60/70s band "The Boomers" singing sensation Michael Bates and the Rosie Clark Dancers.

Approval given for Aboriginal Veterans War Memorial

The Adelaide City Council this week gave approval to the concept and location of the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial to be erected adjacent Torrens Parade Ground.

This impressive and culturally sympathetic memorial will acknowledge the thousands of Aboriginal veterans who have fought in every conflict in which Australia has been involved from the Boer War through to current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Much of this early service was rendered at a time when our Aboriginal peoples did not even enjoy full rights of citizenship.

Aboriginal Australians have served our nation with professionalism, dedication and selflessness, and their loyalty and sacrifice deserves to be recognised. The Aboriginal War Memorial Project is offering fundraising pavers at a cost of \$50 - a similar project to that employed in raising funds for the Vietnam War Memorial.

If you would like to enquire about a paver you should ring Andy Robb on 8226 8881.