

December 2005 Edition

Welcome to the December 2005, edition of The ***“Yellow Butterfly”***, the newsletter of The MiVAC TRUST NSW Chapter.

MiVAC Trust Tours Launch NSW Parliament House

On 16 November 2005, MIVAC NSW launched their tour program to Vietnam. Co hosted by the Hon Charlie Lynn, MLC. The launch was attended by, some 100 persons, from Veterans, Parliamentarians, retired Military officers, Business and Corporate personnel and of course The MIVAC NSW leadership.

Firstly we must thank the Speaker, The Hon John Aquilina for the use of the Parliamentary Theatre, to screen the documentary, “Fragments of War”.

Secondly, Seen here is Lyla Coorey (on the left) Deputy Director of the Vietnam Veterans Counseling Service at Parramatta with the ladies on the Hospitality desk, made up of Louise Binnie, Bev Phelan and Sue Paxton. Thank you ladies we could not have done it without you.



Thirdly to The Hon Charlie Lynn for his support of The MiVAC Trust. We will never forget his dissertation on how he and John Pritchard met in Singapore, whilst attending the selection panel for attendance at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea.



(Mr Tony Smyth, Printwiz, The Hon Charlie Lynn, MLC, Mike Gleeson, Vietnam Veteran, and Dr Tony Williams, consulting psychiatrist to the Vietnam Veterans Counseling Service)

Lastly to both Printwiz and Chippendale, for designing and printing the MiVAC Brochure



(Mines Victims & Clearance)

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Austcare Relationship

In late November both Kerry Phelan and John Pritchard met with Austcare to brief them on the expansion of The Trust. This briefing covered the tours, vision, growth, NSW Chapter Organisation and the future. Also discussed was the Memorandum of Understanding. We should be able to brief you in the February newsletter, in reference to this document and what it means to the Trust.

Land Mine Action Week



In 2006, Land Mine Action Week will be held from 20-26 May 2006. Above are just some of the types of land mines that the third world countries have to deal with. ***Your support for this is requested.*** There are estimated to be some 70 million land mines still to be removed. Thirty percent (30%) of these are in Cambodia.

On 2 June 2006, it is planned to hold a major fund raising dinner, to coincide with Land Mine Action Week. The dinner will be held at NSW Parliament House, dress black tie. The February edition of this newsletter will provide more details. ***Please mark your calendars for 2-3 June 2006.*** Moreover Travelscene American Express will be putting together a number of land content only packages, for MiVAC members to be able to come to Sydney for this event.

Night of a Thousand BBQs

For four years now MiVAC in Tasmania has celebrated the "Night of 1000 Dinners".

This great event is an initiative of Adopt-a-Minefield, a program of the United Nations Association. It is held right around the world during the first week in December. We find it is an excellent way of combining our concern about the landmine issue with a night of fun and friendship, while asking participants to make a donation to the landmine cause.

This year, as MiVAC's contribution to Human Rights Week events in Tasmania, we have decided to give the event an Australian flavor by hosting a "Day of 1000 Barbeques" on 11th December.

We are planning to hold the Inaugural Day of a Thousand Barbeques at Soundly Park in North Hobart. The BBQ will go from 11 AM till 3 PM, with jazz music, games for the children and a puppet show. If you are in Southern Tasmania, you are most welcome to come.

We would like to encourage all MiVAC Reps and supporters to consider taking some time during the months of December or January to host a barbeque with friends, neighbors or workmates, and support MiVAC by asking for a donation to help with our projects. It doesn't need to be a grand event. Just a simple BBQ with a few people



(Mines Victims & Clearance)

This year the fundraising efforts from the day will be directed towards rebuilding the orphanage in Batticaloa province, Sri Lanka.

Batticaloa is on the Northeast part of the Sri Lankan coast, the orphanage sheltered children affected by the conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Elam. More detailed information is available on our website <http://www.mivactrust.org/>

The orphanage was completely destroyed by the Tsunami. Fortunately, most of the children were away for the Christmas holidays. However the manager of the orphanage and his wife were killed while pushing the few remaining children to safety in a large tree.

The orphanage doesn't receive relief funding from the Government or major NGOs. We are hoping to provide shelter and supplies, so that the children are able to continue with their lives and schooling. You can find out more on our website, at <http://www.mivactrust.org/dutchbar.htm>

Currently, enough funding has been made available to allow engineering plans to be drawn for the orphanage. Its construction will be commenced as soon as more funds are forthcoming. Your help toward this goal will be most appreciated. Your support of MiVAC is always appreciated.



Let us know if you intend to go ahead with a BBQ by emailing either Rob Woolley <mailto:rob05woolley@yahoo.com.au> or John Pritchard <mailto:mivacnsw@iprimus.com.au> both members will be able to advise you of the appropriate bank account for deposits.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Cr Jai Rowell, Campbelltown Council
Mr David Nichols

MiVAC Trust Tours

The MiVAC Tours is for members of the general public and veterans alike. The Mine field Day tour inclusion is designed to "showcase" the effects of mine warfare and you will spend a day in Baria Phuoc Tuy province visiting the Baria Orphanage, The Long Tan Cross, The area of the infamous Barrier Minefield and receive a talk from former Viet Cong members of D445 Main Force VC Battalion, during lunch, at the Long Hai Resort. A portion of the tour costs are donated to the MiVAC Trust, by our travel partner, Travelscene American Express.



(Mines Victims & Clearance)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST VIETNAM TOURS

Travelscene American Express and The MIVAC Trust have developed a fully escorted 9-day group Tour program to South Vietnam and a five (5) day optional Hanoi extension with scheduled departures commencing in July and August 2006. The tours for members of the general public and veterans alike include an ideal combination of first class hotels, air-conditioned coach, train and air travel whilst still allowing time for your own exploration of this rapidly changing country. The tours we have designed cater for those with interests in the cultural, heritage and the military historical aspects in Vietnam.”

To allow us to register interest with our Travel Partners please complete the following and return to MIVAC Tours at the address shown below

I would like to travel on the following tour departure 21st July 2006, 9 days South Vietnam

Tour.....Yes/No.

And 5 day North Vietnam Hanoi extension tour.....Yes/No.....

OR

16th August 2006 nine (9) day South Vietnam Tour.....Yes/No

And a five (5) day North Vietnam/Hanoi extension Tour.....Yes/No.....

Please Fax “Expression of Interest” form to Village Travel, Attn Janelle Brown on 02 9488 7990 or email to <mailto:village@chilli.net.au>

Or Mail To; Suite 2, 188 Mona Vale Road, St IVES NSW 2075

Travelscene American Express advise they are receiving a steady flow of,” Expressions of Interest” enquiries for the 21st of July and 16th of August 06 Departures , which, Janelle Brown Manager Said “ Indicates the high level of interest shown for both for the unique combination of fundraising and the Mine field day tour inclusion these tours offer.”



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Participants Details: (please print clearly).

Title..... Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code:

Phone.....

Fax.....

Email.....

Mobile.....



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Seen Around Town

Also out and about was our roving reporter. Representing MiVAC NSW, was Kerry Phelan, at a ceremony to unveil and dedicate a Memorial to Australian Soldiers who served on the Kokoda Track, PNG, during 1942. General Peter Cosgrove, AC, MC, (Retd), unveiled the Memorial on Sunday 20 November 2005.

Kerry Phelan with Kokoda Memorial Foundation Organiser, Eric Wynn



Master of Ceremonies Channel Sevens' Ross Symonds, his son James, Know Grammar, Drum Major, Hamish McGilvray Pipe Major and Kerry Phelan, MiVAC NSW

Kerry & Bev Phelan. Bev is both a member of MiVAC NSW and Kuringai SES



General Peter Cosgrove and Old Kokoda Veterans



*THE TRUSTEES & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES
WISH TO CONVEY SEASONS GREETINGS TO
ALL MiVAC TRUST MEMBERS < PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF THE MiVAC TRUST
WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR
SEASON & A PROSPEROUS 2006*



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Disclaimer

The “Yellow” Butterfly” is produced for the membership of The MiVAC Trust, its partners and friends. It is written in good faith, from sources we believed are accurate at the time of writing. Neither the Editor nor the MiVAC trust accepts any responsibility for any actions taken by readers. Views expressed in any editorials, written by the Editor, or anyone else, do not necessarily represent the views of members as a whole.

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