

# Your Home – Your Legacy



The multi-award winning National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) at Phillip Island continues to expand, develop and amaze. Since it's relocation and official opening in March 2007 it has doubled in size and continues to impress all who visit.

The Museum works hard to be an educational resource for future generations and you would be pleased at the increasing number of schools that are visiting. When they have been once, the schools continue to come with each new class.

The Museum is established as the Spiritual Home of Vietnam Veterans and after a visit you will understand why. Perhaps more importantly, the NVVM is the legacy of ALL Vietnam veterans. It is your Museum, it is your history. When we all 'fall off the perch', the Museum will remain as a tribute to your faithful service.

Most Corps and Services are represented; some better than others. Recently as a result of a visit by one person, the members from the 1 Australian Field Hospital Association Committee visited and now there is a drive for better representation of the important work that they did for us. Unfortunately the Medical Corps, the Nurses and the Red Cross don't have the coverage that they deserve. That is now being rectified. If you can assist – please do.

The point is that one person with a bit of drive can make a difference. That could be you and your unit may have its' important story told.

Please have a look at your memorabilia (Stuff), work out what the kids are going to do with it – and then if there is any doubt - give it to us! We want your photographs / slides – or copies of them. If you can fill in some gaps and say who is in them or where they were taken – so much the better. Even if you can't or don't have the time – we still want them.

Any letters to or from home? You could put a caveat on them if you want to, that they are not to be displayed until ... 2015! These personal mini time capsules provide a snapshot of a tumultuous time in your life, and will have immense value in years to come. Sometimes we forget that we are living history- and when we are gone, people will be even more interested.

Roll Books, Phone books, text books. Pamphlets, Cards, Aide memoirs, uniforms or part thereof, instruments, anecdotes, old newsletters, old newspapers, we want it all. If it was interesting enough for you to store it, we are happy to receive it.

We will acknowledge all donations to the Museum or deliberately forget who gave things to us, if that is what you want. As a rule, things are gifted to the Museum and then become the property of the Museum. That way we don't get caught up in disputes at a later date. Please don't be too fussy: let us sort out what is junk.

One fellow who visited the Museum got the 'What are your kids going to do with it?' question and said he might have something. He sent us little chipped rice bowl, a tiny cracked Chinese tea cup and a little pill bottle with a small wick coming from it as a make-shift lantern- junk from his drawer. When he added that they were taken from a cave in the Long Hai's on Operation Pinaroo they become diamonds in context.

The Museum is pleased to have a marching banner from the Nurses. But that is all we have. Many soldiers at one time or another were in love with a nurse (or would liked to have been!) We do not even have a nurse's uniform. This is an area that we are criticised on – so we really need your help.

Other ways to Help.

Volunteering: We can always use a helping hand in almost every field. If you have the time and are able to commit to being there regularly – you can assist. Even a few hours or one day per month, don't under-estimate your skills – put some of your experience to good use.

Donations: Memorabilia is our main interest however if you have something that we can use that would also be welcome. Recently we have benefited with display cabinets from a change in furnishings in a Mess, the closing down of an RSL and a Chemist Shop having a new fit-out.

Money:

- Recently we have been the beneficiary of two small bequests and they have been of great support. We can help with information on bequests if required.

We continue to have the Buy-A-Brick program for the maintenance and development of the Museum but recently have added Buy-A-Slab program, from Bronze through to Platinum – plus Corporate, which is specifically designed to pour the Slab floor for the Museum extension.

- So far we have one person who has made a programmed allotment to us so that every 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, we get \$35.00 into our account. If he had a few more mates doing a similar thing, these small amounts add up to something special.

We look forward to a good turn out at the Museum Day on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Most of the Slab should be poured to better present the new Wessex helicopter and to facilitate the restoration of the other Wessex and the Canberra Bomber.

When the slab is down the next project will be to utilise the new display space available. To this end The Mezzanine will be extended down the west wall by another 30+ metres and the east wall mezzanine will extend over the top of the 'Light and Sound show' and 2/3's across the interior back wall. All of the corresponding bays will be lined to significantly increase the display area.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum has won a number of both business and Museum awards. What this indicates is that your Museum is in good hands. Come and see us. Get a feel of the place and see how you as a veteran are portrayed and how your Corps or unit is represented. Any comments are listened to and most donations are displayed. If you are considering a bequest – please let us know.

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The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is open every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day between 10.00 and 5.00pm. Ph: (03) 5956 6400

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven – next to Phillip Island airfield.

Postal: P O Box 318, San Remo Vic 3925

[www.vietnamvetmuseum.org](http://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org) (Note the website is undergoing a makeover. It can be used but is not current at the moment.)