

# Anzac Day Schools' Awards

The 2006 Anzac Day Schools' Awards will encourage all Australian schools to mark Anzac Day in new and creative ways.

The Awards, presented annually by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, are open to all Australian schools, primary and secondary, public and private. Schools are encouraged to look at innovative and creative ways of marking Anzac Day. They are urged to involve all members of the school, the local community and particularly, veterans.

Entries must be coordinated and submitted by a teacher and should contain a detailed description of the activity or activities undertaken, as well as — where appropriate — visual evidence.

Entries close on Friday 26 May 2006 and are judged by panels made up of representatives of the Department, ex-service organisations and educators.

The primary and secondary school winners from each State and Territory will each receive \$1000 and a commemorative plaque and will automatically qualify for judging for the national award.

The national award winners will each receive an additional \$2000 and a second commemorative plaque. All schools that take part will receive a Certificate of Participation.

For more information about the 2006 Anzac Day Schools' Awards, contact the commemorations officer in your DVA State Office on **133 254** or email [commemorations@dva.gov.au](mailto:commemorations@dva.gov.au).

# Plans to mark Long Tan 40th anniversary

The Battle of Long Tan in 1966 stands as one of the significant events of Australia's wartime history. In 2006, the Australian Government is working with ex-service organisations to look at the best ways to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Long Tan and to honour the service of Australians in the Vietnam War.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has set up an advisory committee to consider appropriate commemorative activities on and around Vietnam Veterans

Day on the 40th anniversary of Long Tan on 18 August. Chaired by the Repatriation Commissioner, Rear Admiral Simon Harrington AM RAN (Retd), the national committee includes representatives of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia, the RSL and the TPI Federation, as well as Long Tan veteran David Sabben and a representative of the Australian Defence Force.

DVA's Deputy Commissioners have convened committees rep-

resenting the ex-service organisations at a State level.

"The State committees will assist the national committee in advising on the 40th anniversary events, particularly in making sure that key events don't clash," the Commissioner said.

RADM Harrington said the national committee's role would be to provide the views of the Vietnam veteran community on how their service might best be commemorated, to coordinate commemorative events, rather than organising them, and to

assist the Government in allocating any funding made available for commemorative events.

"This is still early days, but we expect there will be some funding through DVA for some 40th anniversary events at the State and regional level," he said.

"Of course, the *Saluting Their Service* commemorations program has funding to support smaller local events and I would encourage local sub-branches to be thinking now about making an application."

## Rules for visiting Long Tan

With the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 2006, many Vietnam veterans may be considering a trip to Vietnam.

The Long Tan Cross is one of only two memorials to foreign adversaries permitted by the Vietnamese Government and those considering going to Long Tan should be aware of the protocols for visiting the area.

The Long Tan Cross is on non-public land, in a rubber plantation. The local Vietnamese community remains sensitive about the Cross, not least because Vietnamese veterans and their families still live in the area. In recognition of this sensitivity, certain procedures have been agreed with local authorities for visitors to the Cross.

All visitors need to be registered with local authorities, which is organised by one of

the recognised local tour operators. There is a small registration fee which is part of the tour cost.

The tour operators are:  
**OSC Vietnam Tours**

09 Le Loi — Ward 1 — Vung Tau City

Ph: (064) 852008 — 810515,  
Fax: (064) 852318.

**Vung Tau Tourist Corporation**

02 Le Loi St — Ward 1 — Vung Tau City.

Ph: (064) 850110

Fax: (064) 856444.

**South East Asia Tours**

1st Floor 208 Ly Thai To Blvd  
District 3 Ho Chi Minh City

Email: [victoria@fmail.vnn.vn](mailto:victoria@fmail.vnn.vn)

Mobile: 0903 913 711

Ph/Fax: 84 8 835 7855



Members of 6RAR pictured at the erection of the Long Tan Cross in Phuoc Tuy Province in 1969.

Visitors should observe the protocols in order to ensure continued access to this important site:

- Visitors to register with the local authorities as set out above 24 hours prior to visit;
- Groups visiting the site to be kept to a maximum of 30 at any one time;
- No medals or military uniforms to be worn;
- No wreaths to be laid;

- Any services held at the site to be low-key and quiet. No speeches to be given;
- Visitors to conduct themselves with appropriate decorum.

More information about the protocols is available at [www.mfa.gov.sg/hochiminhcity/](http://www.mfa.gov.sg/hochiminhcity/). Travellers are also advised to check the latest advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au).

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AUGUST 2005

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## WWII anniversary DVD available

Highlights of the celebrations and commemorations held across the country last year to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II are now available on DVD.

Included on the *Salute to Veterans* DVD is footage of the centrepiece event, held in Canberra in August.

The DVD features the air pageant, with aircraft from World War II to the present day, flying displays, ground activities, historic footage and interviews with veterans.

The event's spectacular finale—a fireworks display culminating with F-111 bombers roaring over the Australian War Memorial, Anzac Parade and Parliament House—is also included on the DVD.

The *Salute to Veterans* DVD is available through the Australian War Memorial Shop for \$21.95 plus postage and handling.

It can also be purchased online at [www.awm.gov.au/shop](http://www.awm.gov.au/shop) or by returning the coupon on this page, with your cheque/money order or credit card details, to eSales Unit, Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra ACT 2601 or fax (02) 6243 4469. To order by phone, call (02) 6243 4578.

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