

**PHILLIP ISLAND, VICTORIA  
2013**

# CHOPPERS

**Helicopters and the War in Vietnam**

- Conference Day – 20 April
- Museum Dinner – 20 April
- Activity Day – 21 April

MILITARY HISTORY AND HERITAGE VICTORIA INC. NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

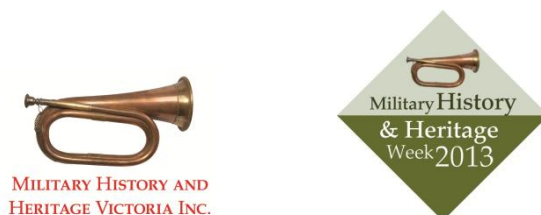
## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The war in Vietnam has left indelible impressions upon our society. One of the great icons from that decade-long conflict was the helicopter. It was the first time that helicopters were used extensively in a war and as the war progressed the roles employed by helicopters expanded dramatically. Whether operating as slicks (troop carriers), gunships, medevac, heavy lift, observation or aerial trucks, 'choppers' became the ubiquitous symbol of the war in Vietnam - and essential for the conduct of the war. No-one who served in Vietnam left without some experience of helicopters, directly or indirectly.

For the Australian and New Zealand forces, whether operating in concert with the American, South Vietnamese or other Allies, or alone, helicopters were essential to their operations. Some support was provided by Australian and New Zealand Air Force and Army helicopters, much by the Americans. Similarly, Australian Navy personnel flew in American Army combat units. Helicopters were common but never taken for granted. Australian pilots and crew were killed and wounded in action and accidents, while many were awarded decorations for bravery and valour.

This symposium aims to explore the helicopter experience of the Vietnam War and will draw together academic and professional historians as well as veterans to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island, Victoria. What Australian helicopter units served in Vietnam and what were their stories? How did the Australian and New Zealand air and ground crew and performance compare to others? How did they adapt to new helicopter types and tactics? How did helicopters help or hinder our operations in Vietnam? What was the impact on casualty evacuation and survival rates for wounded? What did we learn from the helicopter experience? These are some of the questions this symposium seeks to address.

### Conference Sponsors



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Saturday 20 April 2013**

8.00 – 9.00 am **Conference Registrations**

8.45 am **Doors Open**

## **SESSION ONE | Choppers: Helicopters and the Vietnam War**

9.00 - 9.02 am **Welcome**  
Major-General Jim Barry, AM MBE RFD ED (Rtd)  
MHHV Inc. Patron  
*Introduction of Guest Speaker*

9.03 am **Opening address**  
Dr Peter Edwards, AM  
Official Historian of Australia's involvement in  
South-East Asian Conflicts 1948-1975

9.18 am **Opening of the Conference**  
Colonel Marcus Fielding  
MHHV Inc. President and Conference Chair  
*Introduction of Keynote Speaker*

9.20 – 10.00 am **Keynote Speaker**  
**Paper: *Helicopters and the War in Vietnam***  
Air Vice Marshal Bob Treloar, AO (RAAF Rtd)

10.00 -10.30 am **Morning Tea**

## **SESSION TWO |**

**Session Chair:** Colonel Ken Anderson, AM (Rtd)  
NVVM Historian

10.30 -11.10 am **Paper: *New Zealand's Helicopter War***  
Air Vice Marshal Robin Klitscher, CBE DFC AFC  
(RNZAF Rtd)

11.15 – 11.55 am **Paper: *A Bloody Job Well Done: the RAN and Combat Assault in the US Army***  
Commander Max Speedy, DSC, RANR

12.00 – 12.45 pm

Lunch and Museum

### SESSION THREE |

**Session Chair:**

Mr John Methven OAM  
Chairman, NVVM Board of Trustees

12:45 – 1.25 pm

**Paper: *9 Squadron in Vietnam***  
Wing Commander Nick Leray-Meyer, AM RAAF

1.30 – 2.10 pm

**Paper: *Huey Support in Vietnam***  
Air Vice Marshal Mac Weller AM (RAAF Rtd)

2.15 – 2.45 pm

**Paper: *A tour of duty with 161 Recce Flight - An Experience to Remember - or an Event to Forget!***  
Mr Tom Jobling  
President, 161 Recce Association (Vic)

2.45 – 3.15 pm

Afternoon Tea

### SESSION FOUR |

**Session Chair:**

Mr Gary Parker  
President, NVVM

3.15 – 3.50 pm

**Paper: *Helicopters and the Vietnam War- A Soldier's Perspective***  
Major George Logan, RFD  
Vice-President RSL Victoria

3.55 – 4.35 pm

**Paper: *Bringing them Home Recovery and Repatriation of two Australians from Vietnam***  
Mr Brian Manns  
Manager, Unrecovered War Casualties - Army  
Army Headquarters

**Close of Day**

Colonel Marcus Fielding, President MHHV  
Conference Chair