

REPRESENTATIVE 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE VIETNAM WAR

More than 3800 New Zealanders served in Vietnam between 1963 and 1975. Sadly, 37 died during the conflict. Veterans' Affairs Minister, Hon Craig Foss, has recently announced a commemorative programme to acknowledge and honour all Vietnam veterans, and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The New Zealand Government has planned two sets of commemorative activities. These will both take place on 18 August – which also marks Vietnam Veterans' Day and the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The activities to commemorate the Vietnam war will take place in Wellington and Canberra. If you are a Vietnam veteran and are

interested in attending either of these services, important information is listed below for each service.

Wellington

A full commemorative service will be held at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington. This will be preceded by a short wreath-laying ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington.

All Vietnam veterans, their families, and members of the public are welcome to attend the Michael Fowler Centre service. If you would like to attend the service you can register your interest by emailing commemorations@nzdf.mil.nz.

Canberra

A group of thirty-five Vietnam veterans will travel to Canberra, Australia, to participate in commemorative activities at the Australian War Memorial. Veterans selected to participate will travel to and from Canberra with support from the New Zealand Defence Force. The thirty-five veterans will be selected via ballot.

There will be two ballots for Canberra:

- a general ballot for thirty Vietnam veterans with qualifying service, and
- a ballot for five veterans of 161 Battery who were posted or attached to 161 Battery on 18 August 1966 and served at the gun line during the Battle of Long Tan. This ballot recognises the significance of 18 August as the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and 161 Battery's involvement.

Veterans can only enter one of the ballots, and must mark their choice clearly on their registration form. A registration form is attached. Completed registration, and

any queries you might have about the commemorative activities, should be forwarded to:

Online enquiries/registrations:
commemorations@nzdf.mil.nz

Postal enquiries/registrations:
Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorations
c/o Heritage, Commemorations & Protocol Group
Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force
Freyberg House, Private Bag 39997
Wellington 6011

Further information regarding the commemorative activities can be found on the Veterans' Affairs New Zealand web page (<http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz>).

CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES – HOUSEWASHING, GUTTER CLEANING AND WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES AND MEDICAL ALARM SERVICES

Our new approach to contracting for services continues to elicit high-quality, and comprehensive, packages of services and support for those veterans who need them – and through this approach, we are delivering more services, to more veterans, than ever before.

From 1 July, Chemwash will deliver a housewashing, window cleaning and gutter cleaning package which will include an annual house wash, 2 annual window washes, and 2 annual gutter cleans to any veteran who currently receives any one of these services – or any other veteran who needs it. Since we announced this contract package in the last VA News, over 170 veterans

who have never received any of these services in the past are now scheduled to receive services through Chemwash.

A new medical alarm provider has also been appointed: in future, Redwolf will provide medical alarms to all veterans who need them. The new contract for medical alarms will mean that, if you receive this service, you will be issued with a transportable medical alarm, which you can carry with you. You will be able to seek help wherever you are. The required response time, and level of service around monitoring of alarms, is also greatly improved under the new contract arrangements: for example, the need for alarm battery replacement



Stan Gardner, of Christchurch, celebrates his 100th birthday with his Crewcut NZ provider

is actively monitored, and fall-alerts are included on each alarm. Redwolf will start providing this service over the next few months. If you think you might need a medical alarm, please contact us on Freephone 0800 483 8372.

Thank you for your service in the New Zealand Defence Force. Your contribution on behalf of our nation is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Australian Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

Canberra Commemorations Postal Registration Form



I wish to register for (please circle one): 161 Battery Ballot / General Veterans Ballot

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name (First Names/Surname):
Email:
Contact Address:
Daytime contact telephone number:

SERVICE DETAILS

Service Number:
Unit(s) Served In Vietnam:
Medallic Recognition:

MEDICAL INFORMATION

If successful in the ballot, I understand I will be required to provide medical clearance from my GP to be eligible for this travel (please tick box)

DISCLAIMER: New Zealand Defence Force may access your personnel record in order to verify your service.

Once completed, please send this form to: **Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorations**
c/o Heritage, Commemorations & Protocol Group
Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force
Freyberg House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington, 6011

Registration forms must be received by Friday 17 June 2016