

50th Anniversary 1965-1972 Second Era National Service Scheme

June 30, 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of the second (1965-1972) Australian National Service Scheme.

Half a century ago, the first of the 63,735 young men called up for two years (later reduced to 18 months) service in the Regular Army marched into Recruit Training at Kapooka, Puckapunyal and later Singleton. Of these, 150 served in Borneo and 15,381 in Vietnam. 212 made the Ultimate Sacrifice.

The era was most significant in Australian military history with the war in Vietnam and the rapid escalation in the size of the Australian Army.

Although not part of their original life plan, most regarded their time in the Service favourably.

It is proper that this milestone be appropriately acknowledged. Accordingly, the National GYfj jWa Yb@5ggcWUjcb`cZ5i grfU]Uz]b`Wcb`f bWjcb`k`j`h`h`Y`C`"H`I` . Association is planning a ceremony to pay the occasion the recognition it deserves.

A commemorative service is to be held at the National Service Memorial in Canberra, ACT at 1000 hours on June 30, 2015. It will take the form of a march from the National War Memorial to the site followed by the service itself.

His Excellency, The Governor General of Australia, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, has been invited as Guest of Honour.

We would ask that you make your members aware of this significant Commemoration and encourage as many as possible to attend. It will be a worthy celebration of this important part in the lives of so many of your members.

In addition, it provides the opportunity for units of old to hold reunions around the time.

For any further enquiries or further details, please contact the email/postal addresses or telephone numbers given below.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours faithfully,



Frank Miller
OFFICER TRAINING UNIT (O.T.U.)
ASSOCIATION



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