

VICTORIAN VETERANS COUNCIL - BIOGRAPHIES

Peter Haddad, Chairman

Peter served as an Army Officer for 38 years, including active service in Vietnam, and retired in 2005 at the rank of Major General. For the period 2000-2005, he was the senior defence officer in Victoria and represented the interests of the Australian Defence Force in this state. As a logistician, most of Peter's career at senior levels was spent in joint appointments where he had responsibility for supporting Army, Navy and Air Force units. Peter has a strong interest in veteran's issues but is not affiliated with any Ex Service Organisation.

Peter is the Principal of a consultancy company and currently has responsibility for the operations of the Defence Industry Unit established by the Victorian Government to assist with the sustainment and development of Victorian firms in the defence industry sector. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Management at RMIT University.

Peter Liefman, Deputy Chair

Peter served as a National Serviceman with the Armoured Corps and including service in Vietnam with C Squadron, First Armoured Regiment.

Peter is a self employed Barrister and Solicitor, who specialises in the area of Administrative Law and including legal representation for veterans of all wars. He is also the Honorary National Solicitor for the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

In addition to having been a member of the former Patriotic Funds Council of Victoria; Peter has held a number of Executive positions in ex-service organizations over the last 15 years; particularly the VVAA; wherein he was the Victorian State Branch President and National Vice-President. That body of work has been recognized by the VVAA, through the granting of State and National life memberships.

Maree Bowman

Maree served as a career public servant working in a range of Commonwealth Government Departments, including the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). In DVA she was Director of Health and had responsibility for health and aged care policy development. Most recently she was Victorian State Manager of the Department of Health and Ageing from 1999-2004.

Peter Colliver

Peter served in the RAAF Reserve for 8 years and for 16 years with the Air Training Corps (now Australian Air Force Cadets), during which he commanded the Victorian Squadron for five and a half years.

A member of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (Victorian Division) since 1968, Peter has served a total of eleven years as a member of the Divisional Council and six years as Treasurer before being elected State President in May 2004. Peter was elected as a National Vice President in March 2006.

In a career spanning almost 50 years Peter has occupied senior roles in accounting and finance, employer advocacy and association management. For the past 14 years he has been a principal of a public accountancy practice. He is a Fellow and accredited quality assurance reviewer of CPA Australia, a licensed financial advisor, a registered tax agent and has completed training as a Pension Officer.

John Deighton

Graduating from Portsea Officer Cadet School, John spent 30 years as an Army Officer, including active service in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. In 1983 he resigned from the Army with the rank of Brigadier.

John was the CEO of the RSL (Victorian Branch) for 17 years before retiring in April 2006. He was a member of the Patriotic Funds Council of Victoria for four years and is now the RSL representative on the Council.

David Ford

David was an Army Officer for 20 years and served in Vietnam. He was then employed as Chief of Protocol for the Victorian State Government until he semi retired in 2000. David is an active Legatee, a former President of Melbourne Legacy and represents Legacy on the Veterans Council. He is also a Life Governor of the Shrine of Remembrance.

Mary Kelly

Mary enlisted in the Army in 1980 and served in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals for 16 years. Mary is a veteran of Cambodia where she served in the Force Communications Unit with the United Nations. Mary was in Cambodia for 13 months and worked in Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh. Mary is currently employed with the Defence Computing Bureau in the Information Technology area. Mary had been a member of the Patriotic Funds Council of Victoria for 3 years.

George Logan

Enlisting in the army in 1956, George served for nearly 36 years with war service in Malaya, Malay-Thai Border and Vietnam.

Currently a member of the RSL State Executive, George is a former Board Member of Melbourne Legacy, was President of the Beaumaris RSL, The Royal Australian Regiment Association, The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam and the Defence Reserves Re-employment Board whilst acting Chair of the Patriotic Funds Council.

Since retiring, Maree has been involved in volunteer work with several organizations, including Board membership of Vasey RSL Care Ltd.

Stephen Ryan

Stephen was a member of the previous Patriotic Funds Council of Council for five years and has a strong affinity with ex-service organisations.

In his civilian career, Stephen has over 25 years experience in finance and accounting and has been Chief Financial Officer for various multi-national companies. Stephen has no direct service affiliations and is appointed as an independent member of the Veterans Council.

John Wells

John's main profession was as a school teacher/principal for 31 years. He is a Vietnam Veteran having served with the Royal Australian Artillery. Post Vietnam he continued his service with the Army Reserve.

John is a member of the RSL and has been a member of Carry On Victoria for 24 years, currently serving as Chairman.