Council Acknowledges Long Tan 50th Anniversary

South Gippsland Shire Council and the Leongatha RSL are hosting a 50th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan event to honour those who served Australia during the Vietnam conflict, whether in Vietnam or within Australia, and their families and friends.

The event has been organised to create an opportunity for people who served and those who supported them to talk about their experiences in a comfortable setting, to provide an opportunity to show our respect and to have some fun.

Former South Gippsland Shire Councillor and Vietnam Veteran Richard Lester was a catalyst for the event and will be laying a wreath on behalf of Council.

We are very pleased that our guest speaker is Barry Heard, a Vietnam Veteran who has written a highly regarded memoire about his time in Vietnam and the difficult years following his return to Australia.

The South Gippsland Shire Brass Band will be providing musical entertainment of the era and the Leongatha RSL will supply light refreshments.

South Gippsland Mayor, Councillor Bob Newton said the Long Tan event will provide an opportunity for participants to speak about their stories during the evening.

"We can only imagine the gruelling conditions experienced by those who fought in Vietnam during the war but it is our responsibility to listen to those who did and demonstrate our gratitude.

"It is vital that we provide our respect to not only those who bravely fought in the Vietnam War but in all wars and conflicts as they have sacrificed to ensure our safety and quality of life.

"Council looks forward to supporting the event and we encourage everyone to attend to support those who served and to show their respect," said the Mayor.

The event is open to the public and will be held on 18 August 2016 from 5.30pm to 7.15pm in Leongatha Memorial Hall. Please contact Council on 5662 9200 to advise your attendance for catering purposes. Individuals are welcome to continue socialising in the Leongatha RSL after the event.

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