

THE OFFICIAL ANZAC FRIENDSHIP MATCH

RECORD



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25th of April 2015

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VS**

SINGAPORE WOMBATS

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Welcome from the Australian Consul-General, John McAnulty

Dear Swannies Supporters,

I would like to welcome you to the 6th Annual ANZAC Friendship Weekend in Vung Tau. It is my honour to be involved in an event that celebrates the close relationship between Australia and Vietnam.

Today is a special day, being the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC. It is also the first occasion on which the Friendship Match has been held on ANZAC Day.

100 years ago the ANZAC spirit was born. This spirit has continued through the generations that have followed, including by many who are in our presence today and saw action in the battlefields not far from here.

ANZAC Day is a time for all Australians to pause and remember the sacrifices made by their compatriots – from the beaches of Gallipoli to the fields of Northern France, from Tobruk to Kokoda and in Korea and Vietnam and in more recent theatres in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Today's Dawn Service at Long Tan was an opportunity to show our respect to the fallen, reflect on the tragedy of war and the selfless service of the many, many thousands of men and women who have served to defend and promote the institutions and values which are the foundation of our societies. We are forever indebted to them.

More veterans are returning to Vietnam each year to commemorate the service of their friends and colleagues and contribute to strengthening the friendship between our two countries. I especially welcome them here today. I also would like to acknowledge the veteran and non-veteran community who reside in and around Vung Tau, many of whom are doing tremendous work to help others in the area.

This event is a wonderful example of the generosity of the Australian community in Vietnam in regards to helping those less fortunate. Today's event will raise money for Swim Vietnam and the Vung Tau Orphanage. I encourage each of you to consider how you might make your own contribution to these worthwhile organisations.



Australian Consul-General, John McAnulty

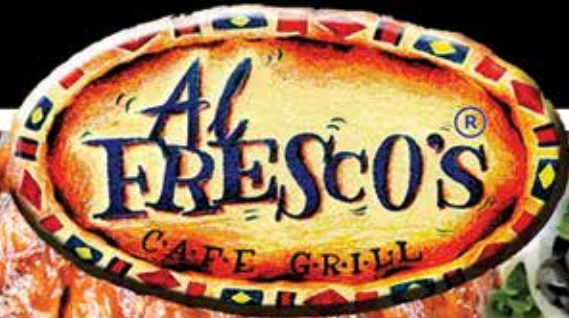
“This event is a wonderful example of the generosity of the Australian community in Vietnam in regards to helping those less fortunate.”

I'd also like to welcome the Singapore Wombats and their accompanying supporters to Vietnam and thank them for accepting the invitation to take part in this special event.

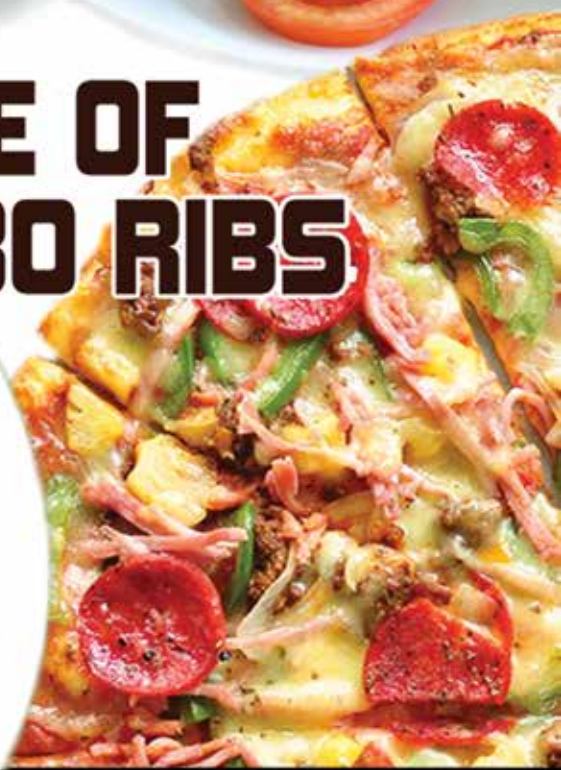
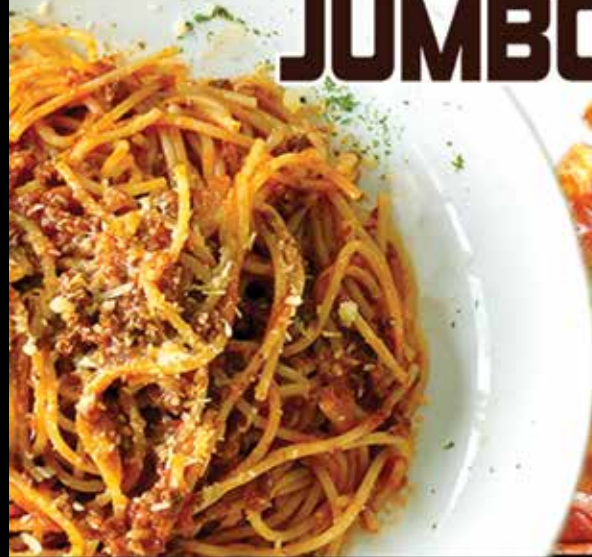
Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the Vietnam Swans and their supporters throughout the country. Your efforts to grow this ANZAC Friendship Weekend into the celebration, and commemoration, that the occasion deserves are truly appreciated.

I wish today's event every success.

John McAnulty
HCMC, Vietnam



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Grant Keys Vietnam Swans President

How good's footy in Asia? AFL Asia's slogan is more a rhetorical statement than a question. Playing footy in Asia gives those of us living away from home the opportunity to celebrate Australian culture with our new mates, connect with the community we live in and play the game we love in some of the most amazing places. How good is it? AWEEEEESOME!!

I've been playing footy all over Asia since 2007, but nothing comes close to Vung Tau. The dog track, Tommy's Bar, the people, the history, the passion... its an absolute privilege to be here today on ANZAC Day to play our national game in the same place so many diggers did during the war.

On behalf of our leadership group, I welcome all our veterans, their families, players and supporters to this 6th ANZAC Day Friendship Match in Vung Tau.

The ANZAC Friendship Match is one of the most highly sought after trophies in Asian footy, the key event on the Swans calendar and the game every Swannie wants to play. This year is no exception, with the added significance of the ANZAC Centenary falling on the same day as our game against 2014 Asian Champs the Singapore Wombats. Welcome to Cameron and his team, its great to have you in Vung Tau and we hope you enjoy your time in Vietnam.

Of course the weekend is about more than football. It's about celebrating all that is good about Australia and the respect we have for those who gave their lives for us to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today.

An important part of the weekend is our interaction with the community and our supporters and we hope the arrangements this year provide an avenue for us to do just that through



Swannies President Grant "Keysey" Keys dominating in the ruck.

the dawn service at Long Tan Cross and the after game function at Tommy's.

We remain committed to using this event to support Swim Vietnam and the Vung Tau orphanage. I invite everyone to come down to Tommy's Bar after the game to help us raise some money and awareness for these two great charities.

The Swannies have a massive year ahead with tours to Manila, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Laos, home games in Saigon and the Asian Champs in Bangkok. This doesn't happen without the generous support of our valued sponsors and supporters and I thank our signature sponsor Dragon Industry Holdings, our Platinum and Gold sponsors, my committee, players and loyal Swannies supporters for getting behind our 2015 campaign.

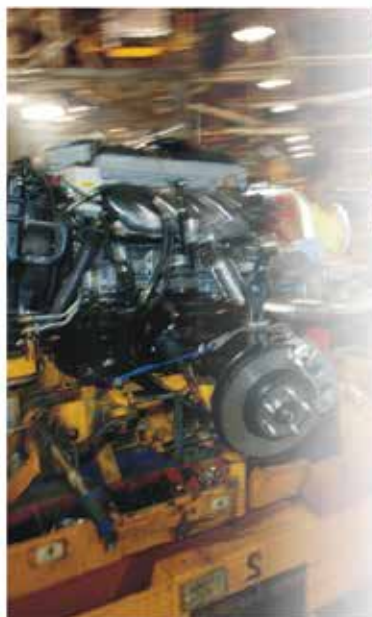
Thank you also to the many people that make this day so special. Glenn Nolan makes everyone's job easier by shouldering much of the responsibility and we are grateful for the work that he and others conduct in cooperation with local ground staff and authorities to prepare the field and ensure all runs smoothly.

I hope you have a great time in Vung Tau, enjoy two of the best footy clubs in Asia going hard at it and I look forward to meeting many of you over the course of the weekend.

Go Swannies!



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Cameron Fidler Singapore Wombats President

On behalf of the Singapore Wombats, welcome to Vung Tau and the 6th ANZAC Friendship Match. Whilst this is the Wombats third tour to Vietnam as a team, it's our first opportunity to play on the ANZAC Day weekend, and feel extremely honoured and privileged to be doing so on such a significant occasion.

Whilst the majority of Wombats have made a conscious decision to leave Australia for Asia, it is safe to say very few, if any, have had to overcome the challenges that our Diggers have had to face over the past 100 years. Whether it be landing at Gallipoli to help create the ANZAC legend, or dealing with the potential danger of suicide bombers in Afghanistan, the sacrifices that our troops and their families have, and continue to make, must never be underestimated or forgotten.

I was once told that the greatest patriot in the world is an expatriate, and as someone who has lived out of Australia for just over 18 years, it's hard to disagree. When living in Australia, it is very much a state versus state mentality, however the minute you're overseas and someone wants to "bag" your home country, I can guarantee you will join your "Cockroach" or "Sandgroper" mate, and defend Australia with everything you have.

Likewise AFL football in Asia is one common bond that brings Aussies together, and also helps show others what mateship is all about. The Wombats are fortunate enough to have players from Australia, New Zealand, UK, France and Singapore as part of our club, and like ANZACs I know that when the going gets tough today, they'll put their bodies on the line for their mates and do all they can to win.

Finally I'd like to thank Grant and his team who have put in a tremendous effort in organising today. Hopefully we can repay their faith and provide an entertaining and competitive match.

Lest We Forget



Singapore Wombats President Cameron Fidler

"...I know that when the going gets tough today, they'll put their bodies on the line for their mates and do all they can to win."

Clubs Spread Anzac Spirit Across Asia

AFL Asia

Australian Rules football will be used to commemorate the ANZAC centenary across Asia this Saturday through AFL Asia's massive ANZAC ROUND of matches.

Seven clubs will host ANZAC matches in conjunction with dawn services in some of the most significant locations in Asia where Australian defence forces previously served.

"ANZAC matches have become a special part of playing footy in Asia." AFL Asia President Darren Whitfield said. "Our clubs and players realise the significance of the day, using it to celebrate the relationship we have with the communities we now live in".

AFL Asia's ANZAC games will this year be played on Saturday 25th April in Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Headlining this year's AFL Asia Anzac Round will be reigning Asian Champions the Singapore Wombats' first visit to Vung Tau for the Vietnam Swans' 6th ANZAC Friendship Game, following a dawn service at the nearby Long Tan Cross Memorial.

"Our ANZAC Friendship Match is our biggest game of the year" Vietnam Swans President Grant Keys said. "The history associated with Vung Tau and the support that we receive from the veterans that travel back each year makes this game so special. It defines us as a club."

In Kuala Lumpur the Malaysian Warriors will be looking to continue their impressive 2-0 start to the AFL Asia season when they host the Jakarta Bintang following a dawn service.

The Warriors are the form team in AFL Asia after big away wins against the Swans and Thailand Tigers.

In Thailand the Thailand Tigers will return to Kanchanaburi on Saturday for the 12th annual ANZAC Commemorative Match, with a dawn service and wreath laying ceremony at the

Kanchanaburi War Cemetery prior to the game. The Tigers will play one of AFL Asia's newest and most exciting clubs, the Myanmar Fighting Cocks, in what promises to be a fitting and hard-fought contest.



The Guangzhou Sports University Seagulls.

While Australian ex-pat players continue to dominate Asian footy, a recent focus on local development is starting to bear fruit, no more so than in Indonesia and South China.

In Hong Kong, the Dragons in conjunction with Port Adelaide AFL club will host an all-Chinese player exhibition game, ANZAC lunch, Auskick clinic for 300+ kids and a special ANZAC Round of the 6-team South China Australian Football League (SCAFL). The SCAFL includes two teams of Chinese players from Guangzhou.

In Balikpapan, Indonesia, the Borneo Bears will face off against the Jakarta Garuda's, an all-Indonesian team that made their debut at the 2014 AFL International Cup.

In Manila, the Philippine Eagles will also be honouring the day with a special ANZAC round of their PAFL between the Dingos and the Eureka's, who have been battling for bragging rights in Manila since 2005.

In Pakistan several games have been organised across the country to commemorate the day, coordinated through the Pakistan Australian Football League.

For more information about AFL Asia visit our website www.afl-asia.com

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Rodney (Rod) James Pope Vietnam Veteran & SANFL Footballer

West Adelaide: 209 games (1963 to 1973)

Norwood: 95 games (1974 to 1979)

South Australia (State): 10 games

Total Games: 314

Had he not served in Vietnam during his National Service Rod Pope's career statistics listed above would undoubtedly have been substantially higher.

Rod almost joined Essendon in the VFL but a higher offer kept him in Adelaide. Whilst many would argue he did not compete in the VFL our Vietnam Football Historian (from the Vietnam War Days) Stan Middleton disputes this! He played a number of games in the VFL in Vung Tau in Vietnam for 5 Company RAASC. This VFL (Vietnam Football League) was still the VFL! As Stan would say the standard of this VFL was as high as the Victorian VFL! Many VFL Players played in this competition. Wayne Closter (Geelong), Bill Thompson & Greg Perry (both Essendon) to name a few. Glenn James former VFL Umpire also played in this VFL.

“the digger who started footy in Vung Tau (John Heaney) remembers Rod humiliating him by standing on his shoulders to take a mark in one of the very early games.”

When representing South Australia he stood Alex Jesaulenko (who delivered last year's Middleton Address) at least once. From all reports he performed very well on Jezza! At other times he was matched against Darrel Baldock, Des Tuddenham & other VFL Legends!

There have been many more spectacular footballers than Rod Pope, but few more dependable or consistent. His 314 game senior

career began with West Adelaide in 1962, and ended with Norwood in 1979. While on the footy field he won two best and fairest awards with West Adelaide and one with Norwood. Solidly built, tenacious and assured, Pope played most of his career, including his 10 interstate games for South Australia, as a half back flanker.

After 209 games with West he moved to Norwood in 1974 out of a desire to play in a premiership team, and got his wish sooner than he might have dared hope when he was one of the best players afield in the Redlegs' two-goal grand final defeat of Glenelg the following year. Pope's all round contribution to the flag was significant, and he continued in fine form in 1976 when he won the club's fairest and most brilliant award.

Rod was inducted into the South Australian National Football League's Hall of Fame in 2004.

In Vietnam Rod served with 8 Petroleum, Platoon RAASC in Vung Tau & Nui Dat from late 1966 until August 1967. We are not sure how many games Rod participated in playing for 5 Company RAASC & other combined teams. However the digger who started footy in Vung Tau (John Heaney) remembers Rod humiliating him by standing on his shoulders to take a mark in one of the very early games. John reckons he was a pretty good footballer and had no idea at the time who this young upstart was! Later he was to learn that this young upstart was none other than Rodney Pope.

Rod has returned to Vietnam on a couple of occasions. He still lives in Adelaide with his wife Helen and is very involved in the South Australian TPI Association. He has close connections still at both West Adelaide & Norwood Football Clubs.

Rod you are a "Legend"!

By Stan Middleton
Official Historian for the Vietnam Football League 1967 to 1971



2015 ANZAC Friendship Match FAQs



1. What is “ANZAC Day”?

ANZAC Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders “who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations” and “the contribution and suffering of all those who have served”.

2. Why is ANZAC Day commemorated on 25 April each year?

25 April is the anniversary of when members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed on the beaches of Gallipoli (Ottoman Empire (Turkey)) in 1915. The ANZACs were met with fierce resistance from the Ottoman Army and suffered heavy casualties.

3. What is the history of the ANZAC Friendship Match?

In 2009, the Vietnam Swans were invited to play in the Thailand Tigers’ 2009 Commemorative ANZAC Match in Kanchanaburi which is near World War II’s infamous Thai Burma Railway.

The following year, 2010, the Vietnam Swans played the inaugural ANZAC Friendship Match. Players were divided into two teams that were named after previous playing clubs, the Hanoi Hawks and Saigon Saints.

The ANZAC Friendship Match was designed to:

- Thank the Vietnamese Government and people for warmly and generously welcoming us into their country;
- Encourage emotionally wounded people from abroad to return and experience the New World of Vietnam;
- Learn from those who have been here 40 years before us;
- Show those from abroad, through our eyes, what an amazing country Vietnam is to live and work in today
- Focus attention on the number of children drowning in this country (more children die from drowning than road accidents);
- Raise money for local causes supporting the future, the kids, via Swim Vietnam and the Vung Tau Orphanage.

4. Why do players wear two Black Armbands?

It is about bringing people together. It's about recognizing that in times of war, people on all sides suffer.

Typically, only one armband is worn to commemorate the loss of life. By having all players, from all teams, in all matches wearing two black armbands, it becomes very clear that we are explicitly recognizing the losses suffered by all.

In every photo taken on the day, every player will be wearing two black armbands. This is the ANZAC Friendship Match.

5. What is the Vietnam Football League?

In 1966, Private John Heaney was given the call: organize a game of Aussie Rules Football – or face detention for a minor disciplinary issue. He chose the latter!

The following year, 1967, a full scale competition was organized between the various Australian units based in Vung Tau.

The competition, known as the VFL (Vietnam Football League) ran until 1971. There were two premierships seasons played most years.

6. What is the Lord Mayor's Oval?

Most of the Vietnam Football League's games were played at Lam Son Stadium which is now the Vung Tau Greyhound Racing Track – and home of the ANZAC Friendship Match.

This is the same oval that the diggers used to play on but they fondly referred to Lam Son as the Lord Mayor's Oval.

7. Who is Stan Middleton?

In 2010, the Vietnam Swans were very aware that footy had been played by Australian diggers during the War – but we had been unsuccessful in tracking down any of the players or any detail of its history.

So we went ahead and played our Inaugural ANZAC Friendship Match on 24 April 2010.

Then, just two weeks later, on 10 May 2014, a guy named Stan Middleton left a comment on the Swans' website.

"I served in Vung Tau in 1967-68. A full scale Aussies Rules Competition between Australian units was conducted (twice a year). The Competition commenced in either 1966 or 1967 and I believe went through to 1971."

It turned out that Stan had albums of photos, historical documents, contacts - and we were away. The Vietnam Swans had played our Inaugural ANZAC Friendship Match just two weeks earlier - but, suddenly, we had more than 40 years' of incredibly rich history!

It is about bringing people together. It's about recognizing that in times of war, people on all sides suffer.

8. What is the Peter Badcoe Club?

The Peter Badcoe Club was a rest and recreation club for diggers during the war. The Imperial Hotel stands on the site of the Peter Badcoe Club.

Major Peter Badcoe VC served in the Vietnam War and is the last South Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross – the military's highest honour for bravery.

Since 2004, AFL Club, Port Adelaide has presented the Peter Badcoe VC Medal to the best player on the ground as part of ANZAC Round.

9. Where do proceeds from the ANZAC Friendship Match go?

The ANZAC Friendship Match's tagline is "Honouring lost lives; saving young lives".

We remember and acknowledge the past and then, while we have everyone's attention, we offer them a way forward to make a positive difference.

Children are the future of Vietnam and with more children dying from drowning than road accidents, money raised will be donated to Swim Vietnam and Water Safety Vietnam. In addition, we also support the Vung Tau Orphanage. All proceeds from gate takings at the ground and raffles, less direct expenses, will be donated.

The Birth of the ANZAC Spirit Gallipoli



Today marks the 100 year anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, which began a period that would change Australia and New Zealand forever. On the 1st November, 1914, the first convoy of Australian and New Zealand ships left Albany in Western Australia, bound for unknown lands and an unknown war. After four months of training in Egypt, the ANZAC troops left for Gallipoli, Turkey.

At dawn, 25th April 1915, the troops landed at a beach in Gallipoli, now known as ANZAC Cove. With steep slopes above them, nowhere to take shelter, and highly-organized Turkish troops awaiting their arrival, the landing was traumatic. Within one week, the ANZACs suffered 6,554 casualties, including 1,252 deaths. The toll on the Turks was also high, with an estimated 14,000 casualties. These young Australian and New Zealand men were in a foreign land and facing the harsh realities of war. Yet through these tragic circumstances, stories of extreme bravery, courage, larrikinism and mateship abound. The ANZAC Spirit was born. The ANZACs began evacuating from Gallipoli eight months later on 20th December 1915. 8,709 Australians and 2,701 New Zealanders had lost their lives.

It is testament to the spirit of the Gallipoli ANZACs that then-president of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk wrote of them in 1934:

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives ... You are now lying in the soil of a

friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours ... You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.”

World War I also saw ANZAC troops fight on the Western Front (France and Belgium) and in the Middle East. By the conclusion of war in 1918, 416,809 Australian and 100,444 New Zealanders had served, with over 77,000 of them dying and more than 193,000 wounded.

Today is a day that we honour those who have served, and sometimes died, for our countries. Australians and New Zealanders will hold services around the world, from Albany – where the ANZACs left from – to Gallipoli – where many of them now rest. In our own ways, we will all remember the sacrifice of the brave men and women that have served for us. And we thank them.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning

We will remember them.



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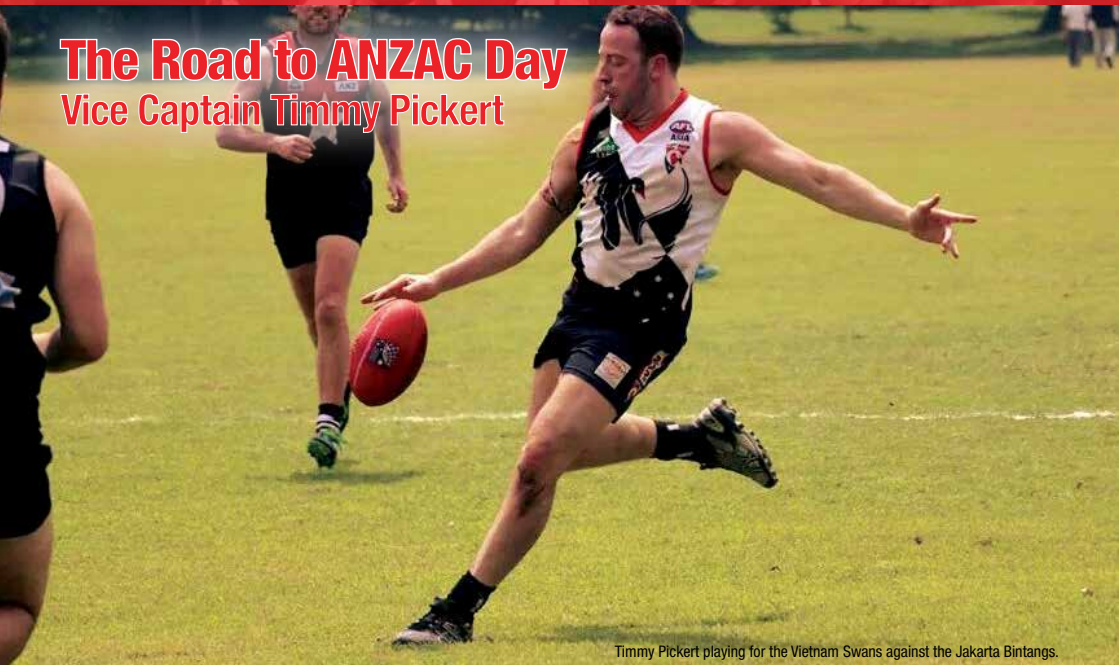
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The Road to ANZAC Day

Vice Captain Timmy Pickert



Timmy Pickert playing for the Vietnam Swans against the Jakarta Bintang.

Saturday, April 25th 2015. A day that I've been looking forward to for two years now.

Some say everything happens for a reason. Being on holiday in Phnom Penh in January 2013, when the Vietnam Swans came over on the famous Cannonball Run to play the Cambodian Eagles, cements this in my books. I was googling where to have a beer on Australia Day when I saw an article about the game, and contacted my mate Shag (Shannon Leahy, now dead to us), to see if they required any extra players. It turns out they were a couple short, and both myself and my mate, Jo Delarozza, played our first game for the Vietnam Swans.

Ever since the ANZAC Friendship Match was mentioned to me that day against Cambodia in Phnom Penh, I wanted desperately to be a part of it.

I immediately booked to travel to Vietnam for the ANZAC weekend in Vung Tau, and participated in the Legends v All-Stars curtain raiser with some true Swannie legends in the April of 2013. After that, I sat and watched the main game over a few beers, and couldn't take my eyes off it, in what ended up being a

very close loss to the Jakarta Bintang. As a life-long supporter of the ANZAC tradition, I saw this team tick every box on the list. Courage. Endurance. Mateship. Sacrifice. I was hooked. I began flying over whenever I could afford it, to tour and play footy with the Swans and be a part of this unbelievable football and social culture that I hadn't experienced at any other football club back in Adelaide.

After several more tours, the ANZAC Friendship Match came around again. 2014. I was closer to the guys this time. They were true mates. I emailed the committee early and spoke of my intentions to play in the main game. I told them of my appreciation for the ANZAC's, the friendships I'd forged with certain Swannies, and that I wanted to use my football ability to help get these lads over the line. There were rules in place within the football club, and the committee held firm. I wasn't living in Vietnam, and there were guys that were putting in a lot of effort in order to earn an ANZAC Guernsey. I wouldn't be playing in the main event yet again. I appreciated this, and although I was disappointed, I understood 100% and travelled over regardless. I participated in the curtain

raiser once again, and felt honored when I was asked to address the crowd at the end of the game alongside my very good friend, the late Nick Shiells. A moment (and weekend) I'll never forget. We held the trophy up, thanked the crowd, both teams, and our sponsors, then I put on the fluros and went out to run water and messages in the big match.

The Vietnam Swans hosted the Malaysian Warriors this time around, and we had a very convincing win.



Poor guy has no idea what's coming...

“Leave it all out on the oval, lads. Be prepared to take a hit, not just for your teammates, but for the ANZAC’s, and the Swans that have represented the jumper in past years.”

I was rapt for the guys. I took a back-seat and watched them celebrate, then began conjuring up ideas to get myself over here full-time. A few options came up over the next few months, but nothing concrete, until a great mate of mine, Tim Clements, basically created a brand new role for me in his company, Dragon Industries Asia, just to get me here! I immediately accepted, and by the end of September in 2014, I was finally a full-time Swannie.

There have been a few unfortunate incidents since I moved over permanently, including a motorcycle accident and a torn hamstring tendon, but thanks to the help I received, mainly from Mitch Hyde, Maz Scanlon (Morrison), and the legendary Dr. Trinh from Columbia Asia Hospital in District 1, I got through both mishaps and am now feeling fit and ready to go. Fingers crossed it stays that way throughout the month of April.

I’ve never won a senior footy grand final. I’ve had the opportunity to join successful clubs back home, but have chosen to play with my mates. Although it would’ve been great to win a flag back in Australia, I don’t regret it.

Saturday, April 25th 2015 feels like a grand final to me already. We are hosting the reigning Asian Champs, the Singapore Wombats. One of the strongest outfits in Asian Footy. Perfect. This day has been a long-time coming. I’m very fortunate to be Vice-Captain this season and to be working alongside our National Coach, Andy Glendenning, Captain Bill Crang, Deputy Vices Nathan Milner and David Sronkowski (SOS), and a great committee from both the North and South. We’ve been working hard preparing the boys for this upcoming season. We have new faces at the club, and it’s been greatly satisfying watching both old and new players’ skills improve over the months. Now the time has finally come for us to go out and put it all together. Courage. Endurance. Mateship. Sacrifice.

Leave it all out on the oval, lads. Be prepared to take a hit, not just for your teammates, but for the ANZAC’s, and the Swans that have represented the jumper in past years. Win or lose, as long as you give it your all.

Cheers,
Timmy Pickert.

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The Number 10

Determination - Hard at it - Dedication



Tom Doer awarded the inaugural Nick Shiels Medal playing against Malaysia Warriors in Hanoi.

Twelve months ago Swans legend Nick Shiels coached and won (at all costs) in the Legends vs All Stars game at this very field. While it tore Nicko apart to not be playing due to injury, true to form, he gave everything he had to the role.

Unfortunately those were some of the final days of a club legend, star player, former Swannies president and fantastic representative of our club across Vietnam and Asia.

Whilst Nicko will be missed by those he touched throughout his time in Vietnam he'll also be remembered and his contribution is one that will echo on as the club he was so passionate about continues to go from strength to strength.

Throughout international games in 2015 the Swans will remember and recognize some of Nicko's most positive traits - his determination, his hardness at the ball and his dedication to the Swannies cause - in the form of a medal to be awarded and the chance to wear Nicko's beloved number 10. It's intended that this tradition will continue to remind the Swans of

“Nicko will be proudly looking down on the number 10 crashing packs and kicking a few goals on this day and for years to come.”

Nicko's efforts on and off field for the Swans and take these forward in the productive spirit Nicko would have wanted.

After a stunning game against Malaysia in Hanoi Tom Doer, a first year Swannie, has been chosen to take this honor into his first ANZAC Friendship Match. A lot of the Swannies who were team mates of Nicko look forward to seeing Tom do the number 10 proud on our clubs biggest day of the season. Nicko will be proudly looking down on the number 10 crashing packs and kicking a few goals on this day and for years to come.

Billy Crang,
Vietnam Swans Captain



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Legends V All Stars Match

By Michael "MJ" Johnston



Years come and go, but we remember some of them. We don't remember coming into the world and we probably won't remember departing.

People come and go. Richie Benaud just passed away, but cricket lovers will always remember his commentary and the 12th man's lampooning of Benaud's style ensures the memories will be enjoyable.

Events come and go for many reasons. Some we don't remember because they happened too long ago or we weren't there, like the landing at Gallipoli 100 years ago, and others fade into insignificance like Meatloaf on AFL Grand Final Day.

The All Stars versus Legends Match combines years, people and events in celebration of those who became better the longer they have been retired, those who never had the opportunity to be as great as they could have been, and those who are on the cusp of greatness.

Together, young and not so young players expend energy in the midday sun. Everyone puts in hard while respecting the opposition.

Helping people up is the norm after putting them down.

As a coach, the challenge lies in bringing together 20-odd odd players who've never met each other before and moulding them into an awesome unit with 10 minutes to go until the first bounce. Most tactics are out the door by the end of the first quarter as the heat starts to take its toll and the interchange rotations mount up.

This year, we'll remember Nicko for the fantastic job he did last year coaching the All Stars team to victory in the CommBank Cup at his first attempt. Rowan and I hope we can do as good a job this year. We know the players will keep the crowd entertained with their skills and spirit.

Whoever plays for the Legends and All Stars, Nicko put it best with, "OK, awesome. I'm happy with that – Game On!"

Special thanks to Commonwealth Bank for sponsoring the CommBank Cup, Lagler Flooring for supporting the Legends Team and Al Fresco's for supporting the All Stars.



Vietnam Swans ANZAC Friendship Match Team

1 Sean Milner (Silk): Sean has been in a hyperbaric chamber for 6 months to prepare for today's game. Expect big things!

2 Scotty Mills (Birdman): A champion schoolboy high jumper and volleyballer and fullback with the Hanoi Dragons Rugby team, this Kiwi is one to watch. Run-down tackle specialist as long as he can tell the colours of the jumpers apart.

5 Tim Clements (Timmy C): The former mayor of Vung Wow will be looking to take back his turf in front of a home crowd. The wrecking ball of Asia.

6 Colum John (Precious): Tough, fit and hard at it... unless someone messes up his hair. Don't miss his dance moves later.

7 Mitch Hyde (Hollywood): Has driven half the team out of Saigon's bars and into the gym. Powerful midfielder has the ability to turn a game on its head.

8 Andy Glendenning (Flapper): Inspirational coach known for his philosophical yet empowering pre-game addresses. Runs all day and lives for the Vietnam Swans.

10 Tom Doer (Shazlick): Wearing the vaunted number 10 after a dominant game a fortnight ago against Malaysia. Expect Tommy to run the 'Bats midfielders ragged. Could use a shave.

13 Tim Pickert (Pikelet): After years of touring, the Swans Vice Captain will be making his long-awaited Friendship Match debut after moving to Vietnam just so he could qualify for it. Will be keen to display his hard attack at the ball and leadership around the ground. Hates being beaten.

15 Joe Vile (The Emu): Look for the self appointed Vietnamese fashion guru to be sporting a special edition ANZAC Day 'twosie-onsie' with matching crocs upon arrival at the oval. Loves hitting leading forwards on the chest, Daryl Braithwaite and former Swannie Jake Dojcinovic.

16 Shane McFarlane (The Chief): Looking for a few goals on Saturday, looking for a new iPhone on Sunday. Will see if his alleged abstinence pays off this weekend!

17 Gus McEwin (The Pest): GUS looks in career best form, impressive given his career dates back almost as far as the ANZAC legend!

18 Dan Morrison (Cameron Ling): Newly-wed Swannie sporting a new haircut, won't hide the Lingy-esque mongrel come game time.

19 Bill Crang (The General): The Swannies captain shows fearless leadership and rebounds well out of defence. Hates losing coin tosses, doesn't mind losing his phone.

20 Alex Maskiell (The Rig): One of the Swans best tacklers, his preseason has focused on gruelling mountain biking in the hills of Dalat. Huge upside.

27 Grant Keys (Keysy): Swans are hoping big Keysy, our Club President, can pull himself away from his rigorous letter writing schedule to switch on for the big game. 2014 All Asian as an agile key forward.

30 Mark Horkan (Horko): Standout Irish recruit from the Hanoi Viet Celts. Strong, tall and splits lines with hard running. A valuable addition to the boat race team.

32 Trent Davies (The Tiger): The Tiger has balanced match preparations delicately between hard yakka in the gym and bloody marys at The Republic. Creative off half back and with the selection of his own nickname.

35 Andy Marr (Banjo Paterson): Tireless wingman known for his silky skills, never-say-die attitude and post-game poetry

37 David Skowronski (SOS): The Hanoian spiritual leader will be keen to impress in his final ANZAC match for the Swans. Freakish aerial skills and goal sense.

49 Bart Schneemann (Honey Badger): Hard running utility. Loves 'uncorking the genie' from outside 50.

50 Daniel Hopkins (Crazy Dan): After a few years missing in action, Hanoian legend Crazy Dan makes his comeback to ANZAC footy. A tough uncompromising defender that loves a contest, expect Crazy to feature heavily in both the on and off-field action over the weekend.

55 Tuan Nhan (Back Pocket): This newly-wed Swans cult figure loves the last line of defence and one-on-one battles. Swannies on 3!

60 Damo Judd (The Ox): Spent 6 months fasting in the Vietnamese wilderness to get into ANZAC squad shape. Looking lean, mean and keen to have a big impact on today's game.

67 Nathan Milner (The Wiz): Gets by on a diet of cheesecake. Still looking for crumbs all over the back half when playing. The 2014 All Asian never fails to make a contest.

76 Jason Carter (JC): After years in Vietnam JC has finally come in from the cold to the Swannies coalface. Proudly flying the Central Vietnam flag in today's game.

99 Tim Burdeu (Ferret): Engine room of the Swannies midfield, clearance king and loves a goal... and his family.

Vietnam Swans - A Brief History



Year team formed: 2003

Coach: Andy Glendinning

Captain: Bill Crang (Saigon), David Sronkowski (Hanoi),
Tim Pickert (Vice)

President: Grant Keys

Spiritual Advisor: Phil "Fabbo" Johns

Website: www.vietnamswans.com

The Hanoi Swans began playing footy in Hanoi back in 2003. In 2007, the club went national forming a base in Saigon. Reflecting the "One country; one club" principle, the name was changed to the Vietnam Swans and the same year, we made our inaugural appearance at the Asian Championships.

The Swans try to tour as much as possible, and participate in every major tournament in the region. In 2014, we toured Malaysia and participated in the Indochina Cup (Thailand), Manila Cup (Philippines) and Asian Champs (Philippines). In addition to this, we hosted Malaysia for the ANZAC Friendship Match as well as the Philippines for a Ladies Day Special.

The Vietnam Swans also encourage matches against clubs from further afield. A highlight is the Phoenix Cup Perpetual Trophy which has been played on four occasions against visiting ships from the Royal Australian Navy. The Southern Dragons, a sister club of the Vietnam Swans, based in Melbourne, comprises many players of Vietnamese origin. The Dragons toured Vietnam for the second time in 2013.

The Swans regularly train and play friendly matches with the Ladies Saigon Gaels (who officially merged as sister club of the Swans in 2014) as well as the Viet Celts in Hanoi. In collaboration with the Gaels, the Swans participated in a mixed AFL 9's tournament from November to January, a competition that is anticipated to become an annual fixture.

However, it is the ANZAC Friendship Match that has become the Vietnam Swans' signature event. First played in 2010 between Hanoi and Saigon, we have played against the Hong Kong Dragons, China Reds, Jakarta Bintangs and Malaysian Warriors. This year we are very pleased to host the Singapore Wombats.

Off field the Swannies continue to work hard on building our credentials in the local community. We actively promote and raise funds to support Swim Vietnam, an organisation that strives to reduce the number of drownings in Vietnam. In Vietnam, more children die from drowning than road accidents. We also actively support the Vung Tau Orphanage which is putting love back into the lives of less fortunate children.

Singapore Wombats - A Brief History



The Singapore Australian Football Club (SAFC) was formed on April 24, 1993 by 10 homesick, football deprived Aussies toughing it out in the tropical balm of Singapore's business trenches.

With around 6000 Australian and New Zealand expats in the community the visionary founding fathers of Singapore Aussie Rules figured there had to be at least 30 blokes who could get together on a weekend and have a trot on the old paddock. It sounded simple! The following three years were definitive for the team that Singaporeans would affectionately know as 'the Wombats'. Through a series of recruitment drives that led team crusaders on a vigilant and exhaustive tour of pretty much every pub in the land, a playlist was assembled that made weekly intra-club games a reality.

Adding depth, match toughness and certainly a respect for the beer consuming capacity of our armed forces, the Singapore Wombats are able to schedule matches throughout each year against visiting Royal Australian Navy ships. The RAN Liaison Office in Singapore has been instrumental in keeping the navy series alive.

The game is always played in good spirit with the Navy boys as thankful of a run on terra firma as the Wombats were chuffed to strut their stuff as the national side and build team strength.

With an influx of expatriates to the region during the 90's, several other Aussie Rules teams have appeared on the scene. This provides the club with an opportunity to travel regionally and participate in our great game. The Wombats continue to travel to China, Hong Kong, Indonesia (Bali & Jakarta), Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and also host teams from these countries.

In 2014 The Wombats took out their 6th Asian Champs win in The Philippines and this weekend start their campaign to defend their title and keep themselves atop of the Asian Champs table.

Year team formed: 1993
Coach: Jeames Gillett ("Razor")
Captain: Ben Hart
National President: Cameron Fidler
Website: www.singaporewombats.com

Singapore Wombats ANZAC Friendship Match Team

3 Daniel Branchflower ("Branchy"): More preseason controversy than Ben Cousins and would be causing some anxiety for his roommate leading up to this tour.

5 Jeames Gillett ("Razor"): The Razor on tour for the first time in his new role as Coach. Looking forward to starting his international coaching career with a big win. Will come away knowing what it's like to herd cats.

6 Andrew Farnsworth ("Fonsie"): Possibly the opposite to burner. Will stick to plan A no matter what. Probably will consider it safer to bring his valuables away!

7 Adam Wilkinson ("Sgt Wilko"): Wilko will probably be the only bloke carrying his phone with him during the game. Don't be surprised to see him trading wheat on the ground during stoppages or after a goal.

9 Luke Anderson ("Double Glove"): Double Glove is one of Asia's finest glove wearing AFL web journalists. He's also a handy player and loves a tour.

10 Trevor Inglis ("Non Cat"): Non Cat's kids have been on more combined footy trips than he has. Definitely a contender for 2015 FOTY.

11 Jack Rolfe ("Superman"): Superman will be looking to get in a solid performance before having to face the legendary 'post marriage loss of football ability' curse.

12 Chris Mitchell ("Clanger"): Clanger they call him...but not by nature. Will be the engine in 2015, replacing the departure of Juddy. If he's not punting at the Vung Tau greyhound track he may lead off the wombats winning something.

13 Sam Brewster ("Sammy"): The one time leading goal kicker back after suffering a grade 3 FOMO injury at last years Asian champs. Could need some support after the Boat Quay withdrawal symptoms start to creep in.

15 Craig Geehman ("Geeza"): The big telly tubby Geeeeeezzaaa is a past coach of the

'bats and should play as a key forward. Second most likely to fall asleep in a bar and be robbed at 5am. Where's ya phone? In ya pocket?? :) Lucky...

18 Kyle Austin ("Cloughy"): Won't wait till next week to make an impact. After struggling for game time due to unsatisfactory skin folds, could be in for a breakout season under the new coach. Will likely be racking up stats in the midfield and on the d-floor.

19 Neil Stefensen ("Steffo"): Legendary Wombat back man and self proclaimed "Asia's Most Decorated Player" will no doubt scare the crap out of opposition forwards when he thrusts his intense death stares and imposing jutting bottom lip towards them. If he can't see it, he won't do it.

20 Grant Bell ("Belly"): Certainly not running for office material. The only bloke in the world to have a second 'Idiot Switch'. Watch for the transition from 'Grant' to 'Belly' to 'The Goblin' then sit back and enjoy the fireworks.

23 Stefan Wood ("Woody"): RAAAHHHH!!!! COOMMEE OONNN!!!!!! RAAAHHH!!!!!! AAARRRRGGGHHH!!

27 Dylan Mudge ("Smudgy"): Smudgy has had a ripper preseason and should be launching himself into some contests on and off field. Hopefully his significant drop in weight hasn't affected his balance.

29 Jay Everingham: Solid defender who really needs to work on earning himself a nickname on this trip. Could be Benny Hart's older brother... except he's not.

32 Kim Wimbush ("Bushy"): Dr Goodlove could find the conditions challenging in Vietnam. A connoisseur of plump wealthy older whiskey tangoes, might have more luck on the ground than off. Does not mind a public pash.

36 James Stephenson ("Stevo"): Did we just see Dane Swan? Or just a bloke who runs around the field with a flute up his arse? Loves a name drop as much as he loves a jar. Expect him to be everywhere on that the ball isn't.

37 Owen Howden: The big Asian champion ruckman is in good shape after a solid preseason. Trains at altitude naturally even when standing at sea level. Will certainly be keen to give the 'bats first use of the sherrin.

40 Anukorn Choulo ("Sensation"): A new sensation? The new draftee from The Bondi Bubble is touted to spend more time in front of a mirror than Snow White. We anticipate the sensation to link up well with the vertically challenged Walt Disney figure Ed Hughes.

41 Dale Carmody ("Boof"): Good to see Boof lining up. Could play up forward or share the ruck duties with Owen. Unfortunately, there's no dirt on Dale despite having a name for digging holes that fill with water.

44 Ben Hart ("Harty"): Harty is probably the only bloke on the list who could run for office. He's also the only bloke on the list who can actually run. Will be looking to use plenty of that off half back or in the centre.

47 Scott Murphy: Inject another Ranga to a red hot Wombats side ready to start a successful 2015 campaign. Allegedly has big noted numerous capabilities of himself so should fit right in like a meathead does to Frankston.

50 Liam Lucas: The new Branchy? This guy is smooth and hopefully can transition that style to the back flank. May be seen lurking around McDonalds at 3am and leaving with more than a Big Mac meal.

51 Peter Turner ("Burner"): Burner on his first Wombat tour really could do anything. Should leave a fresh, sticky trail of calamity behind him. Would be wise to leave all his valuables, including credit cards, at home.

53 Craig Walton ("Whiskers"): Whiskers will be downing straight Jager whilst listening to Pantera and head banging as soon as the siren sounds. His roommate would be wise to 'toddler proof' the hotel room covering up all sharp edges and corners.

58 Ed Hughes: One of the greatest English hobbits to pull on the Wombat jumper in April 2015 should be at home in the back line.

Steve Brosnan ("Pierce"): Rumours have it that Pierce could be the biggest big noter with the Wombats to date after playing one more game of AFL than Ed Clarke (Wombats biggest big noter). Taken 57th pick in the 1999 AFL draft was the second biggest day of his career following his inclusion with the Wombats in the 2015 AFL Asia draft.

Sam Stanton-Cook ("Beltsie") - The guy has had a very green start to his Singapore campaign. Some could say he has a potato fetish? Alleged himself as the cobra, but in reality he bought an overpriced, shit belt you wouldn't hang yourself with from Teka market.

64 Gregoire Patacq ("Frenchie"): Will be looking forward to drinking 'Le piss de championne' once again with the 'bats. Strong ruckman/key position player who is no stranger to International footy. Asian champion and National representative for France. Wee wee!

99 Andrew Jacobs ("Jayco"): Asia's most decorated fiend is not coming off the best footy preseason having recently returned from a 3 week South American bender where he sustained elbow and head injuries.

Robert Ashton ("Phoenix"): Hopefully being recently engaged will not affect Phoenix' water running prowess or off field skills. Has had more bum injuries than any other heterosexual male to have lived. Durhhh... Any queries, just ask Robbie.

Tim Cuthbert ("Cutho"): Should save the need for a message runner with his voice on the side lines. Remember to keep at least 1 cuthometer (1.5 pool cues) distance when indoors for eardrum safety.

Quinton Ritchie ("Q"): 'q', 'agro', 'feral kiwi' just some of his aliases. Will probably be remembered for not being remembered or not remembering. 5% chance of actually making the game.

Cam Fidler: El Preso will likely be on the cans straight after the dawn service. Will do his best work on the whiteboard and at the bar. Will do his best sleeping at the bar also. Catching up to Phoenix in the bum injury stakes.

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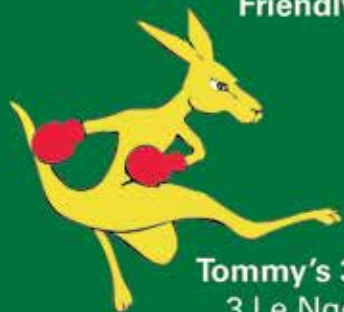
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CÁC ĐỘI: Trò chơi gồm 2 đội với 22 cầu thủ mỗi đội, có 18 cầu thủ của một đội ở trên sân tại cùng một thời điểm. Trò chơi bắt đầu khi siren (tiếng còi) vang lên và field umpire (trọng tài chính) tung quả bóng ở giữa sân. Bóng cũng được tung ở giữa sân để bắt đầu mỗi hiệp và sau mỗi bàn thắng.

THỜI GIAN: Trận đấu chia thành bốn hiệp mỗi hiệp 20 phút, thời gian bù giờ và các đội đổi bên sau mỗi hiệp. Các đội cố gắng giành lấy bóng, chạy, sút và handball vào khung thành ở cuối sân đối diện. Các cầu thủ có thể chạy với bóng miễn là họ tung bóng mỗi 15 mét một lần.

DI CHUYỂN BÓNG: Các cầu thủ có thể chuyển bóng cho nhau bằng cách sút hoặc handball.

Handball là giữ bóng bằng một tay và bàn tay còn lại nắm lại để đánh bóng. Nếu cầu thủ có thể mark quả bóng (bắt lấy bóng từ cú sút bóng ở cách xa tối thiểu là 15 mét miễn là bóng chưa chạm đất hoặc chạm vào cầu thủ khác) thì cầu thủ đó được quyền

set kick và đối phương không được quyền cản phá cho đến khi cầu thủ này sút xong.

CẢN PHÁ: Cầu thủ có thể giành được bóng bằng cách cản phá đối phương. Cản phá hợp lệ là giữ chặt đối phương đang có bóng dưới vai và trên gối. Cầu thủ không được phép đẩy đối phương ở phía sau khi cản phá và cầu thủ bị cản phá phải xử lý bóng trong thời gian hợp lý (một hoặc hai giây). Cầu thủ bị cản phá không hợp lệ sẽ được thưởng quả đá phạt trực tiếp. Trong một số tình huống khi mark hoặc được đá phạt trực tiếp thì đội đối phương cũng sẽ bị phạt 50 mét nếu cầu thủ cố tình kéo dài thời gian hoặc xúc phạm trọng tài.

TÍNH ĐIỂM: Mục đích của trò chơi là ghi bàn. Điều này có nghĩa là sút bóng qua giữa hai cột cao bên trong (cột bàn thắng) sẽ ghi được sáu điểm. Nếu bóng đi vào giữa cột bàn thắng và cột nhỏ hơn phía ngoài (cột biên) thì sẽ ghi được một behind (bằng một điểm).

Khi đọc hoặc ghi điểm, bàn thắng sẽ được tính trước, kể đến là behinds và cuối cùng là tổng số điểm. Ví dụ 10 bàn thắng và 6 behinds sẽ được tổng số điểm là 66 và được viết là 10.6 (66). Đội nào có tổng số bàn thắng và behinds cao nhất khi kết thúc sẽ là đội thắng.

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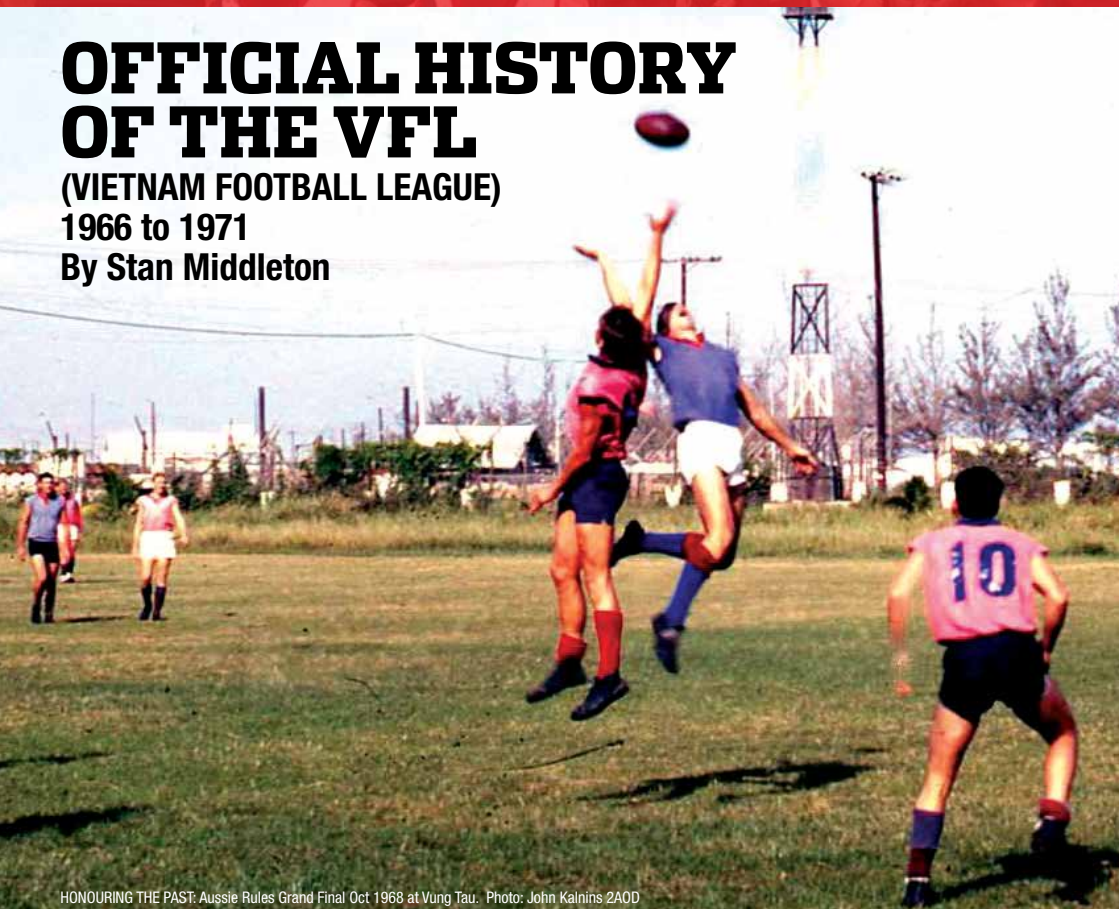


OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE VFL

(VIETNAM FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

1966 to 1971

By Stan Middleton



HONOURING THE PAST: Aussie Rules Grand Final Oct 1968 at Vung Tau. Photo: John Kalnins 2A0D

The Aussie Rules footy competition (Vietnam Football League) was formed within 12 months of the Australian Base (1st Australian Logistic Support Group) being established in the sand hills on the Back Beach of Vung Tau in early 1966 (it wasn't the beautiful place it is now!) The base was closed down six years later in March 1972 when the last of the Australian soldiers returned home. Football was last played in 1971.

Footy first commenced in Vung Tau when one digger (Private John Heaney, a "Nasho" from 1 Transport Platoon RAASC) was in trouble with his Commanding Officer. The CO gave him an option (actually, two options): organize a game of Aussie Rules Footy or face detention or other penalties! John (who now lives in Geelong) thought about it for a second and chose the first

option! Thus the first game of Aussie Rules footy was played in Vung Tau during the latter part of 1966.

1967

A full scale competition was then organized between the various Australian units based in Vung Tau. It commenced in 1967 and ended in 1971. There were two premiership seasons played most years. The competition was known as the VFL (Vietnam Football League)!

In the early days of the VFL, most games were played at what is now known as "San Van Dong Lam Son" Stadium (now with a Greyhound Racing Track). Unbelievably, this is same venue that the annual ANZAC Friendship Match is now played.



In the early days, the ground was fondly known as The Lord Mayor's Oval by the Australian diggers! As it was a soccer ground, games were played with 14 a side when playing there. No forward or back flanks! Other games were played at the Military Academy (also a soccer field) and later on at a much larger ground near the Vung Tau Airbase.

In 1967, the first of the two premierships was won by the RAAF. Ron Vernon who with his wife Ailsa spends considerable time each year in Vung Tau helping with Orphanages run by My Huong at Vung Tau and Long Hai was a member of that team. A very strong 2 Composite Ordnance Depot team was decimated before the finals when most of their star players went on strike and did not play in the finals! I have no idea what the dispute was about!

The second season in 1967 was won by 5 Company RAASC (Service Corp). Terry Holden (who I knew his family in Stawell, Victoria) and a close friend of Swannies' President Phil was a member of that premiership team.

1968

In 1968, both Premierships were won by a brilliant Ordnance team 2AOD (2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot). On each occasion they defeated 17 Construction Squadron. Led by their outstanding captain Bob McKenna, the late Tommy Perks, Micky Miller, Dick Johnston, Kevin Judge (cousin of Ken, former Hawthorn player and coach of Hawthorn and West Coast), Steve Costelow, George Soumilas, John Meehan (brother of Simon, ex St Kilda) and many other excellent footballers. The coach



2AOD VFL Premiers June 1968 Vung Tau. Back row from left: Ken Mountford, John Watkins, Andrew Cranston, John Bell & Geoff Walls; Middle row from left: Kevin Back, Colin Ryles, Mick O'Connor, Ron Lalor, John Cooper & Mick Miller; Front row from left: Dick Parr, Tom Perks, Ian Waddell, Bob McKenna, Terry Fogarty, Dick Johnstone & Terry Bennett. Photo by John Barker

Merv Rudd. The footballers from those teams have been the focal point of reunions held every two years since 1998. Laurie Chick (brother of former Carlton Vice Captain, John Chick) also played in some of these games.

1969

The first of the 1969 premierships was won by 17 Construction Squadron (Engineers). 2AOD's run came to an end in the preliminary final or, more so the night before that final, when all their star players in the team ignored Captain, John Meehan's instructions to keep off the grog before the big game! A number of 2AODs diggers had their send off party (before returning to Australia) on that night. Everyone got "blind" except John! John Meehan is now the Senior Pension Officer at Noble Park RSL. Those who know John would have been very impressed with his self discipline on that occasion (or more so shocked)!

In the second season of 1969, 2AOD returned to the winner's list but not without a brutal struggle against 17 Construction Squadron. 2AOD's Captain was Wayne Closter (former Geelong star). In the other team was a brilliant

but tough Aboriginal footballer, Glenn James. Glenn later became a very popular VFL Umpire and officiated in two VFL Grand Finals. As there was no trial by video in those days, Glenn was given the job of taking out Wayne Closter at the opening bounce! He did this to perfection and Wayne was useless for the first 3 quarters! At 3 quarter time the scores were level!

Wayne finally came good and kicked 5 goals in the last quarter and 2AOD got home. Wayne and Glenn laugh about it now whenever they see each other but Wayne was not impressed at the time!

1970

In 1970, the 2nd Premiership was won by 2AOD. They beat 5 Company RAASC in the Grand Final. We are not sure who won the other or if there was one! This team was captained by John Huggins (whose son is now married to the daughter of Steve Costelow a premiership player in the 2nd 1968 2AOD premiership team). This team included Bill Thompson who played with Essendon (VFL), Williamstown & Dandenong (VFA) and was a Liston Trophy winner in the VFA. Some other stars were Peter Maloney,

Frank Reynders and many others. Greg Perry who played with Essendon played with the 110 Signals team that year. Interestingly Greg and I played cricket together at Stawell (Victoria) in the summer of 1965-66 before I was called up for National Service in July 1966. Greg was a tear away opening bowler and I was the wicketkeeper and opening batsman!

- RAAF
- 5 Company RAASC
- 102 Field Workshops (Engineers)
- 110 Signals

There may have been other units for some seasons as well.

The standard of football in the Vietnam Football League was very high. This was mostly due to the high quality of the “Nashos” drafted into the army! The competition was fierce! Rivalry between units was intense!

As for the author, I was a “Nasho” who served in Vietnam. I played in the 2 Composite Ordnance team in 2nd half of 1967 and in the 2AOD team in the first half of 1968. I returned to Australia on the eve of the first final and thus missed playing in the first premiership of 1968!

I have a strong connection with Vietnam as my wife (I met Sinh in 2002 and married her 2005) is Vietnamese. She worked in the Orderly Room at the Peter Badcoe Club for the Australian Army on the Back Beach of Vung Tau from 1968 to 1972.

Stan Middleton
Official Historian for the Vietnam Football League 1967 to 1971

1970

We believe there was only one premiership played for in 1971 in which 2AOD, captain/coached by Bill Thompson, beat 110 Signals in the Grand Final. 110 Sigs was captain/coached by Greg Perry. Greg however won the competition Best and Fairest with Bill runner up! That we understand was the last VFL Grand Final played in Vietnam! Bill and Greg are both great mates now and always attend Essendon Past Players functions together.

Units that competed between 1966 and 1971:

- 2 Composite Ordnance Depot (1967 - changed name to 2AOD in 1968)
- 2AOD (2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot)
- 17 Construction Squadron (Engineers)
- 1 Field Hospital/8 Field Ambulance (Australian Army Hospital)

LORD MAYORS OVAL: Now the Vung Tau Greyhound Track and home to the ANZAC Friendship match. Photo: Laurie Hawkins, 1967





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Ladies Saigon Gaels

By Mairead Scanlon



The 2015 Ladies Saigon Gaels.

In November 2013, two expat teachers - Siobhan and Laura – decided it was time for the girls in Saigon to have an excuse to run around in the hot sun kicking a ball. Both having played Gaelic football in other countries, they decided to put the word out to see if anyone would be interested in joining this relatively unknown (to non-Irish people!) sport.

Initially, there was a solid band of around 8 girls that came down for a kick and a run, which grew to 15 in about 6 months. Fast-forward to 2015, and the Ladies Saigon Gaels has a regular training membership of around 30 girls.

In their first year as a team, the Gaels have had some great wins against their northern counterparts, the Viet Celts, and their highlight was winning the Junior Plate against 10 other teams at their first ever Asian Gaelic Games.

Having trained (and partied) alongside the Vietnam Swans Saigon chapter for a year, the Ladies Saigon Gaels officially merged with the Swans in November 2014, with fantastic support from then-Swans President, Josh Lee. There is now a Saigon Gael representative

Plans are now in place for the Ladies Saigon Gaels to play the first ever all-female AFL game in Vietnam at the 2016 ANZAC Friendship Match.

(Maz) on the Swans committee, and the two teams continue to train, tour and hold social functions together.

The Swans and Gaels regularly hold mixed AFL and international rules (hybrid AFL and Gaelic football) matches, as well as a mixed AFL 9's tournament in Saigon from November to January.

Plans are now in place for the Ladies Saigon Gaels to participate in the first ever all-female AFL game in Vietnam at the 2016 ANZAC Friendship Match. We hope to see you then!

To find out more about the Ladies Saigon Gaels, enquire about joining the team or becoming a sponsor visit www.saigongaels.com

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Indochina Bulldogs

By Andy Marr



The Indochina Bulldogs with Andrew Embley at the 2014 Indochina Cup

The 2014 Indochina Cup (ICC) could be remembered for the Thailand Tigers putting a halt to the Vietnam Swans plans of 5 in a row... or as the inaugural launch of the all indigenous Indochina Bulldogs.

Originally the idea of Rut Ngarnarayakul of the Thailand Tigers, the Bulldogs are made up of players who from the 5 countries participating in the Indochina Cup (including Coach Andrew Embley of West Coast Eagles fame).

That day they took out the Cup with a thrilling 3 point win over the expat Australian All Stars.

From a Vietnam Swans point of view, we had 6 representatives that day. Some of these players, namely Tuan Nhan, Bao 'Bi' Long and Joey Nguyen and yours truly train and play regularly with the Swans against countries from greater South East Asia. In fact watch out for Tuan Nhan (55) on ANZAC Day with his ability to break tackles and get his kick away.

Auskick Vietnam Saigon Colts

With 50 kids converging on The Australian International School each Saturday morning at 9am the scene is set for a morning of high kicks, great marks and loads of fun. It's a massive mix of kids from all around the world.

With Boys and Girls from Canada, Korea, Germany, UK, Sweden, and Vietnam, it's a little like having the United Nations of kids on a footy field.

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We Will Run The Song



David Morgan & Steve Spouse

When I first met Phil Johns, former President of the Vietnam Swans, in December 2013 writing this song was not even on the radar. I listened intently as he passionately explained to me how he and his fellow Vietnam Swans committee members had crossed diplomatic social and cultural boundaries in their quest to not only promote Aussie Rules Football but also to unite three nations that just over forty years ago were at war.

He told me how the Vietnam Swans consisted mainly of Aussie expats who lived and worked in Vietnam and that they regularly played games against other expat teams, and that the most significant game the Vietnam Swans played every year was in Vung Tau, Southern Vietnam on ANZAC day. I knew Vung Tau well, a small coastal town where I once lived and worked for three years and probably of greater significance it was once the base for the Australian Logistics during the Vietnam War and where Aussie Rules was first played in Vietnam.

It was in 1967 when Pte John Heaney, a Nasho with the first Transport Platoon RAASC was given two choices by his CO, as punishment for a misdemeanour. One was to organise a game of Aussie Rules, the other was detention, and naturally he chose the Aussie Rules game. After that first game, a full scale competition was soon ongoing between the various Australian units stationed in Vietnam and continued until 1971.

The ANZAC 'friendship game' as it has now become known has been growing in popularity over recent years and many of the aging Vietnam Vets are aware of the event with some actually making the trip from Australia and New Zealand to attend the game and ceremonies which includes a visit to Long Tan. Of great significance is that each player in the 'friendship game' wears two black armbands to honour the fallen from both sides.

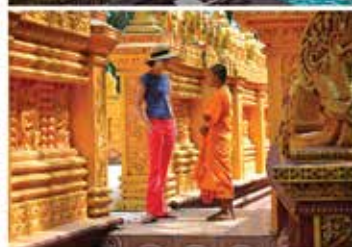
Every year the 'friendship game' unites the worlds of Vietnam, Australia & New Zealand and is now the flagship for a program that benefits the health and well being of Vietnamese children by proactively supporting the Vung Tau Orphanage, Swim Vietnam and Water Safety Vietnam.

I believe there was some degree of fate in the meeting I had with Phil Johns because after our meeting I was well and truly inspired to write and record the song 'Forever We Will Run' which tells the story of Aussie Rules in Vietnam and captures the spirit of the past and the hope for the future.

The song was recorded in Rocket Studios, Sydney and produced by David Holmes and the lead vocals sung by my fellow Mesa Band member Steve Spouse.

So in the words of the song 'Forever We Will Run'

David Morgan



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In typical Swannie's fashion the highlight of the weekend for many was probably the after party...

Central Vietnam Games

There has long been talk of hosting a footy match in central Vietnam, fuelled mainly by Swannie veteran Michael "MJ" Johnston. In 2014, it was decided to turn the talk into reality, and arrange a "North vs South" friendly match in 2015. As preliminary discussions took place, the idea was raised to invite some other sporting clubs along and make a day of it. Invites were sent to the Saigon Gaels and Viet Celts Gaelic teams, Hanoi Ois and Saigon Shooters netball teams, Saigon Geckos and Hanoi Dragons rugby clubs, and various touch rugby teams from both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The answer from each team was the same – absolutely! The Central Vietnam Games were born.

The Vietnam Swans agreed to organize the Games, with the hope that if successful it will become an annual event with responsibility rotating between clubs. MJ of course volunteered to be the "man on the ground", and recruited new Swan and Danang resident Jason Carter to help out. The first step was deciding whether to hold the tournament in Hoi An or Danang, with Danang being agreed upon due to its proximity to the airport and ability to host a good after-party. A perfect ground was

found and work began preparing it, before some resistance from the ground owners (none other than the Army) meant that a new venue would need to be secured. However, not to be deterred, MJ and Jason Carter put the thinking caps on and turned up the charm, and secured the Sơn Trà sporting complex – right in time for the Tet holiday!

Blood, sweat and tears were spilled while removing existing soccer goals, preparing an uneven and dusty surface, marking out lines, putting up shade coverings and making bamboo netball and football goals – but the work was not in vain! MJ and Jason had pulled off the impossible, and by 7th March the complex was ready for some serious sporting action.

168 competitors descended on Danang to compete in 8 matches across 5 sports, with teams forming along north/south lines to compete for an overall "Pith Helmet" award. The day started early for the netballers with custom made bamboo rings erected and lines taped out on astroturf before the first of two games began at 8.30am between the Saigon Shooters and Hanoi Oi's. The Oi's were lower on numbers than their southern counterparts, resulting in all of their girls playing both the mixed and women's matches. Despite great perseverance



The custom made bamboo netball goals were a big hit.



Ladies Saigon Gael Kelli Trinidad dominating the midfield in the Ladies Gaelic.



The Saigon Gecko's winning the line out in the Rugby.

and effort, the Shooters performed strongly and won comfortably 36-8 in the mixed and 32-8 in the women's game.

Next up was the Saigon Gaels vs Viet Celts men's game. The Celts started strongly before a Gaels comeback that saw tensions rise as the game was placed on the line late in the fourth quarter. The Celts just held on for a 24-22 win. This was followed on by the ladies version. It was a neck-and-neck first half, with both teams performing strongly. However, it was the Ladies Saigon Gaels that picked up where they left off after a successful 2014, defeating the Celts 12-3 in a game played in great spirit.

Rugby was well represented at the Games, with a 4-team touch tournament competed between two Saigon Gecko's teams, the Hanoi Dragons and the Japanese rugby team in addition to the Saigon Geckos vs Hanoi Dragons full contact feature Rugby match. It was all Saigon Gecko's in the touch with both Gecko's teams playing off in the Grand Final; Saigon Blue overturning an earlier 3-0 defeat to win 2-1 against their Saigon Reds mates.

It was also a close affair in the Rugby with plenty of sand flying in a hard hitting and gritty game between two of Vietnam's great sporting rivals. Going into half time 0-0, the second half

saw both teams willing themselves on, on what was a very hot and dusty track right up until the final whistle. The Saigon Geckos running in the only try of the game late in the second half secured a 5-0 win.

The final game of the day was the Swans North vs South "Phil Johns Cup" blockbuster. There were many new faces on the field for both sides, and the game was fierce from the first bouncdown. Both sides fought hard during a tight match, before the South broke away in the end to win the game 44-31.

A fantastic night of celebrations followed at Al Fresco's, with the South named 2015 champions winning 7 matches to the North's 1. Jason Carter was named "best on ground" for his amazing efforts preparing the tournament, as well as his on-field performance for the Northern Swans. The day also raised 40 million VND for charity; 20 million each for Swim Vietnam and Association Xuan.

All parties involved agreed that the Games were a resounding success, and plans are already in place for a bigger and better Central Vietnam Games in 2016!

For the full report visit the Vietnam Swans Website www.vietnamswans.com

Business is growing between Australia and Vietnam

AusCham Vietnam



This morning, 49 years later, many of us stood at the Long Tan Cross and also reflected on turbulent histories:

- Today is the 100th anniversary of the landings on ANZAC Cove
- Next Thursday, marks the 40th anniversary of Liberation Day
- Friday, a week ago, marked the 40th anniversary of the fall of Phnom Penh

Today's ANZAC Friendship Match, hosted by the Vietnam Swans, is about identifying and celebrating what peoples have in common.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce (AusCham) in Vietnam is also about facilitating business occasions where peoples (buyers and sellers) can discover what they have in common and, in the process, strengthen the relationship between Australia and Vietnam.

In 1990, trade between Australia and Vietnam was just USD32 million. Last year, it had risen to USD6 billion (Vietnamese and Australian exports were valued at USD4 billion and USD2 billion respectively). Vietnam is Australia's fastest growing trade partner in ASEAN.

At the end of 2014, USD1.65 billion in Australian Foreign Direct Investment had gone into 320 projects (ranking Australia 19

out of 101 countries). The biggest sectors are processing and manufacturing followed by agro / forestry /fisheries.

Last year, 320,000 Australian tourists visited Vietnam. Just last month, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung visited Australia with a high powered business delegation.

Overseas education is big business and Australia is Vietnam's preferred choice. This year an estimated 20,000 Vietnamese are in Australia studying – all becoming intimately engaged with our culture and country. So far, more than 50,000 Vietnamese have graduated with an Australian qualification and returned to Vietnam – one of whom, just last month, became General Director of a telecommunications SOE (State Owned Enterprise) with turnover of USD9 billion and 90,000 employees.

These Australian Business Alumni (also from RMIT University Vietnam), are people with skill sets, networks, cultural understanding and a passion for Australia.

Going forward with the Australia-Vietnam relationship, there is much to be optimistic about. At multiple levels.

For further information visit the Auscham Vietnam website www.auschamvn.org

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Swim Vietnam



Drowning is the number one injury related killer of children in Vietnam. Many more children drown in Vietnam than are killed in road accidents.* Swim Vietnam trains swimming teachers, builds swimming pools and establishes swim schools which give free swimming and water safety lessons to prevent children from drowning. The Vietnam Swans are a long term supporter of Swim Vietnam.

Summary of Swim Vietnam achievements

- Over 9,500 children taught since program inception.
- Over 150 teachers trained with around 90 employed by Swim Vietnam.
- Seven swimming pools installed.
- Classroom based water safety presentation embedded in school curriculum in Quang Nam Province with over 10,000 children educated each year.
- Partnership developed with Royal Life Saving Australia - NSW branch. Swim Vietnam teachers can now deliver RLS training courses.

Swim Vietnam continues to go from strength to strength. Its classroom based water safety

education program has now been taught to over 20,000 children. This is a very efficient way to disseminate basic water safety education to large numbers of children at a very low cost. Discussions are currently underway with the government to make this program available in other provinces and it is our aim that this vital lifesaving education will be available in schools nationwide within the next few years.

Swim Vietnam is working with other charitable organisations (e.g. Golden West Foundation) to enable them to teach the Swim Vietnam swimming program as part of their charitable operations. In this way we hope to make survival swimming lessons available to children in many other regions of Vietnam.

This has all been possible due to the support and encouragement Swim Vietnam has consistently received from the Vietnam Swans. This is a very special relationship and the Swim Vietnam team and all the children they have taught to swim want to say a big “thank you” to the Swannies for all your help.

Visit www.swimvietnam.com for more info.

* 2012 Vietnam Ministry of Health Injury Mortality Report.

Centre for Social Protection of Children Vung Tau/Long Hai



The Vietnam Swans and associates have been generous supporters of the Centre for Social Protection of Children Vung Tau/Long Hai for some time. Our children and staff enjoy the visits which bring so much happiness. It means a lot to know that there are people who know and care about them.

For most of the children at the Vung Tau centre, this is the only home they have known. They have all been abandoned, surrendered or found on the streets. Some are orphans who's extended family cannot care for them. Some are abandoned or surrendered by a parent who is in jail, dying or simply too poor to care for them. Many are HIV positive from birth but receive ongoing medication at the Centre and are taken fortnightly to Ho Chi Minh City for check-ups and medication. Some children suffer birth defects and disabilities as a consequence of the indiscriminate spraying of Agent Orange. These defects and disabilities are now appearing in the fourth generation of the population.

The greatest need for support in this Centre is food and clothing. The children grow quickly and although clothes are handed down supply barely keeps up with demand.

Long Hai School, now in its sixth year is providing education, vocational training and socialisation for 136 local children whose parents' dire financial and social circumstances prevent them from attending a Government school.

All children attend school for half a day, one group in the morning one in the afternoon. Children studying skills training attend a full day. All children are given a hot meal before going home and each child has two school uniforms made by the sewing class with donated fabric.

Without the desperately needed resources provided by supporters, this program would not survive. Food alone is a huge but absolutely essential outlay and supporting the children's families to ensure the children can go to school is imperative.

Thank you to all who have supported our Centres in any way. Everything is so appreciated and a big thank you to the Swans for helping to spread the word.

Visit www.vungtau-orphanage.com for more information and to find out how you can help.

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