

• Laying wreaths during Vietnam Veterans Day at Sandgate RSL Sub-Branch were state member for Sandgate Vicky Darling, Councillor for Deagon ward Victoria Newton and a representative who stood in for Federal member for Lilley Wayne Swan.

THE memories of those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War was honored during a Vietnam Veterans' Day service at the Sandgate District RSL Sub-Branch last Thursday, August 18.

Sub-Branch president Russell Bracken welcomed about 40 community members and local politicians to the service from 11am.

Mr Bracken said it was important to pay trib-

ute and remember those who fought and died during the Vietnam War, which claimed the lives of more than 500 Australian servicemen and women, while some 3,000 were wounded or were victims of wartime illnesses.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of what was originally chosen to commemorate the brave actions of D-Company, 6RAR, who fought in the battle of Long Tan in 1966.

On that day, August 18, 1966, 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought more than 2000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in a rubber plantation not far from the small village of Long Tan.

The Australians prevailed, but only after fighting in torrential rain for four hours.

Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded, the largest number of casualties in one operation since the Australian task force had arrived a few months earlier. After the battle the bodies of 245 enemy soldiers were found.

The Vietnam War was the longest major conflict in which Australians have been involved; it lasted ten years, from 1962 to 1972, and involved some 60,000 personnel.

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• We will remember them' - pictured are (left row, L-R) Howie Gardener, Karen Sharp, Rod Britton, RSL Sandgate Sub-Branch secretary Barry Bean; (right row, back, L-R) president Russell Backen, Peter Keates, Ross McLellan, Vince Nolan, (front) Sub-Branch publicity officer Maree Geiger and Hank Wilson.



• Vietnam Veterans Day was also commemorated at the Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club on Thursday, August 18. More than 40 people paraded down Collings Street to a service on Remembrance Corner. Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley (GZBHA) RSL sub branch member Ron Madigan who fought in Vietnam said, "On this day the company from 6RAR were doing a patrol... the guys couldn't get out and they were stuck there and had to fight their way out. A lot of them died there," he said. Pictured holding the flags of the next of kin was Parade Marshall Ian Andrews on behalf of Mark whose brother Vic Grice was a Long Tan casualty and Kimberley Downing with her grandmother Pauline Hutchinson whose husband John died in Vietnam. "John died in November 1967 and Kimberley and I like to keep his memory alive by carrying the flag that was given to me at the Welcome Home Parade in 1987," Mrs Hutchinson said.

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