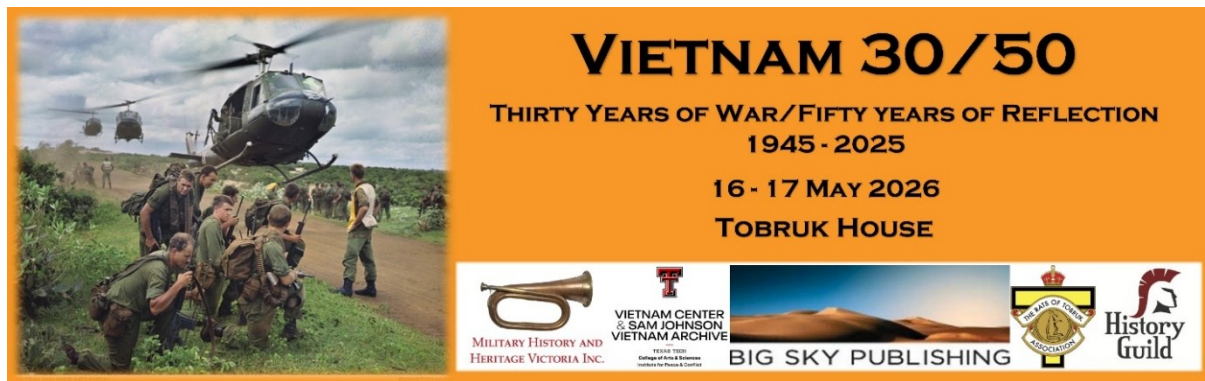




Dr. Stephen F. Maxner has been the director of the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University since July 2007. Originally from Massachusetts, he left after graduating high school to serve in the United States Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 1st Special Operations Command (Airborne). After leaving the Army, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History (magna cum laude) as well as a Regular Army ROTC Commission (Distinguished Military Graduate) at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He then served as an Infantry Platoon Leader at Fort Benning, Georgia. After leaving Fort Benning, Dr. Maxner returned to North Carolina where he earned his Master of Arts degree in History before going to Texas Tech University where he earned his Ph.D. in History.

In addition to his day-to-day work at the Vietnam Center and Archive, Dr. Maxner is responsible for the Vietnam Center and Archive Study Abroad in Southeast Asia that has provided international educational opportunities to approximately 100 Texas Tech students. He is also the series editor for the Modern Southeast Asia Series at the Texas Tech University Press. In September 2008, Dr. Maxner was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Board of Directors for the Vietnam Education Foundation, where he served as Chairman of the Board and as a regular member until 2012. He has also served on the board of directors for CASA of the South Plains and on the City of Lubbock Veterans Advisory Committee.



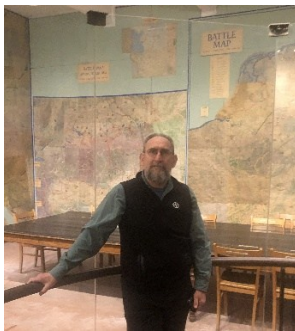
Andrew Kilsby is a professional historian with a focus on military, business and biographical history. A graduate of RMC Duntroon, Andrew holds a PhD in history from UNSW. He was a founder of Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc., is a member of the Victorian Military Society (UK), the Professional Historians Association (VicTas) and in 2024/25, a Fellow of the C. J. La Trobe Society, investigating 'La Trobe, Law and Order 1836-1854'.

He is the author/editor of 15 books and numerous articles. His most recent military titles include: *Resolute: The Australian Air War in Burma 1942-1945*, with Daryl Moran (BSP 2025); Contributing Editor, with Daryl Moran, of *In the Fight: Australians and the War in Burma 1942-1945* (BSP 2024); and *The Reservists: A History of the DRA 1970-2020* (DRA 2023). *A Remarkable Gamble: The story of Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. F. Gamble OBE MC* is forthcoming in late 2026 followed by *Redcoats: The British Army in Australia Felix 1836-1854* (both by Chiselbury UK).

In 2013-2014, as operations officer and then CEO of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Andrew was responsible for arranging several exhibitions including: *The Show Must Go On: Entertainers in Vietnam* (with Wendy Anderson) (Apr-Jul 2014); *Diggers in the Nam*: a photographic exhibition by Tim Page (February-April 2014); *Vietnam: The Helicopter War*: a travelling exhibition from the Texas Technical University Vietnam Center & Archives, (November 2013-January 2014); and *Support from the Sky*: a photographic exhibition by Susan Gordon-Brown, NVVM (November 2013-January 2014). Andrew has also convened three one day conferences of relevance: *The Great Debate: Conscription and National Service in Australia 1912-1972* (March 2015) and *Choppers: Helicopters and the Vietnam War* (April 2013) for MHHV and *Phantoms: Australia's Secret War in Vietnam* (April 2014) for the NVVM. In April 2024, Andrew convened the MHHV 5th bicentennial two day conference *Game of Dominoes: Australia's Security and the Cold War 1947-1991*.



Dr Tom Richardson is a historian at UNSW Canberra. He specialises in Australian military history, and histories of insurgency and counterinsurgency. His first book, *Destroy and Build: Pacification in Phuoc Tuy 1966-1972*, was published by Cambridge in 2017. His most recent book, *Soldiers and Bushmen: The Australian Army in South Africa 1899-1902* was published, also by Cambridge, in 2025. He is currently working on a history of the Australian Army and limited war in Asia.



Martin James MDS, Martin James joined the RAAF in 1979 as an Aircraft Technician, and was posted to No 2 SQN, the Aircraft Research and Development Unit, No 1 Flying Training School and Support Command. In 1996 Martin commissioned as an Aeronautical Engineer and served in DGTA, Officers Training School and No 38 SQN.

In 2005 Martin was selected to complete a Chief of Air Force Fellowship at the Air Power Development Centre, where he researched and wrote on the development of air power doctrine and contributed to the RAAF Air Power manual. During this time he also completed a Masters of Defence Studies and lectured at ADF training institutions on air power history and doctrine.

In 2008 Martin left the RAAF in order to take up a position at the Office of Air Force History and in September 2013 he was appointed the RAAF Historian. In this role he lectured extensively in Australia and overseas, wrote numerous papers on aspects of RAAF history as well as completing several deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan in support of operational analysis and artefact collection. Martin's published works includes a history of the Air Force experience of air power, Air Force education and the Australian Flying Corps' No 1 Squadron operations during World War I. Martin retired from the Defence in 2025 and is currently writing an official history of the origins of Australian air power.



Terry O'Farrell, OAM enlisted in the Australian Army in 1966 when the war in Viet Nam started gathering momentum. He completed two combat tours of Viet Nam as an SAS soldier and went on 40 patrols behind enemy lines as a forward scout, a patrol signaller and eventually as a patrol commander, and was wounded twice. Following Vietnam he remained in the Army rising through the ranks to major and executive officer of the SASR. His operational deployments included to Vietnam, the Sinai and East Timor and several deployments to Afghanistan (with Task Force 64). On retirement, Terry joined the United Arab Emirates defence force where he rose to brigadier in charge of the Emirati SF.



Major General (Rtd) Michael O'Brien CSC, MDA, BSc graduated from Australia's Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1968 into the Royal Australian Infantry and served as a platoon commander and intelligence officer in the Vietnam War. He later wrote the history of his battalion (*Conscripts and Regulars: with the Seventh Battalion in Vietnam 1967-68 and 1970-71*) that was published in 1995 and short-listed for a British military history prize. His extensive military career included regimental, staff training, equipment acquisition engineering and logistics postings culminating in his appointment as Support Commander-Army. He was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for services to Defence procurement.

His last task before retiring from full-time service in 2001 was to review the Australian Army's wider use of history. He is a graduate of the Australian Command & Staff College, Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies, Royal Military College of Science (UK), University of New South Wales and Cranfield University (UK) and was a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University's National Graduate School of Management. He had supervised an Australian government undertaking (as a serving Army Reservist) to co-ordinate the recovery and identification of more than one hundred Australian soldiers killed in action at the Battle of Fromelles, France, during the First World War. He is a President of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria, the Book Collectors Society (Victoria) and Rare Books Melbourne Inc.



Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen is Professor of History at Monash University and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA). A Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Oxford and former Australian Research Council Future Fellow, she is the author of 4 books including *South Vietnamese Soldiers: Memories of the Vietnam War and After* and 2010 Choice Outstanding Academic Title *Memory is Another Country: Women of the Vietnamese Diaspora* (both reprinted by Bloomsbury in 2024), and editor of 4 works including the *Routledge Handbook of the Vietnamese Diaspora* (2024), the first major reference work in the field. She has held 4 fellowships including 2 major ARC fellowships, a Visiting Fellowship at Oxford and a Harold White Fellowship at the National Library of Australia. Her latest book is *The Refugee Legacy: The Vietnamese Diaspora in the Second Generation* (Bloomsbury forthcoming).



Dinh Nguyen, born in Hue, Central Vietnam was drafted into the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) in 1970. He served as a Platoon Leader and then as a Psychological Warfare Officer of the Psychological Warfare Company with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

After the fall of Saigon, he was imprisoned in four concentration camps and released in December 1981. Dinh then managed to escape from Vietnam in 1983 and arrived in Australia from a refugee camp in Malaysia. He was reunited with his wife and daughter in 1990.

Dinh obtained a BA degree in Interpreter and Translator studies from the University of Western Sydney and has been working as a freelance interpreter and translator since.

He is the former President of the Vietnamese Veterans Association in Victoria (2019-2022) and has been a volunteer for the Vietnamese Museum Australia since 2020.



Bob Hall served in Vietnam as an infantry platoon commander. After a career in the Australian Regular Army, in 1991 he joined the staff of the UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy as the Executive Director of the Australian Defence Studies Centre. From 2006 to 2010 Bob was a Queen Elizabeth II Fellow in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences where he completed an ARC funded research project examining the combat effectiveness of Australian forces in the Vietnam War.

Since 2010 Bob has been an adjunct lecturer working on the analysis of combat operations including as project leader for the 'Australia's Vietnam War' website (<https://vietnam-war.au>) and Operation Wandering Souls, a project aimed at assisting Vietnam with discovering the burial sites of Vietnamese soldiers killed in action by Australian and New Zealand forces during the Vietnam War. It also aims to return documents and artefacts of a personal nature that were recovered from the battlefield by Australian and New Zealand soldiers.

He is the author of *Combat Battalion: The Eighth Battalion in Vietnam* and co-author (with Andrew Ross and Amy Griffin) of *The Search for Tactical Success in Vietnam*. He has published numerous articles on aspects of Australian Task Force operations.



WO1 Blair Tidey is a part-time PhD candidate at the Australian National University. His thesis focuses on the clandestine Viet Cong infrastructure in Phuoc Tuy province from 1966 to 1971. He completed undergraduate study at Griffith University, and postgraduate study at UNSW Canberra and the Queensland University of Technology. He is a full-time member of the Australian Army, having completed several operational deployments including to Rwanda, Iraq, Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea and postings in Australia and overseas, including in the Defence Attaché staff in Hanoi, Vietnam. He is the author of Canberra Paper 160, *Forewarned Forearmed: Australian Specialist Intelligence Units in South Vietnam*, which is currently included in the Chief of Army's Professional Study Guide as mandatory reading for WO1 (Tiers B & C) and LTCOL.



Commander (Rtd) Ian 'Max' Speedy DSC RAN joined the RAN in 1962 as an observer/navigator. From helicopter anti-submarine warfare he later went to Sea Venom all weather night fighters operating from the RAN's aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*. He graduated his pilot's course in 1967 with no thoughts beyond flying the Navy's A4 Skyhawk fighter. Fate intervened and in 1968, he was posted to the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam which was fully integrated into the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company, an experimental military unit called, not surprisingly, the EMUs.

From 1967 to 1971, four contingents of Fleet Air Arm personnel (pilots, aircrew, and maintainers) were to all intents and purposes in the US Army for their year of active service in Vietnam. Within weeks, Lieutenant Speedy was 1st Platoon Leader with ten Iroquois UH-1H troop lift helicopters, its American officers and crewmen. Later he became Operations Officer and with that became Air Mission Commander, directing the daily troop insertions into enemy defended landing zones. He flew 1250 combat hours and many of the helicopters at the height of the Vietnam War.

After Vietnam, a succession of postings; 723 and 817 Squadron commands, XO of HMAS *Vampire*, staff appointments and the like were all part of his 25 year career, retiring as a Commander DSC. Max has written a comprehensive history of the Navy's Vietnam involvement – *A Bloody Job Well Done* (with Bob Ray) and was a major contributor to the Helicopter Flight's award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry.



Brigadier (Rtd) Kevin John O'Brien, CSC is a military historian and former senior Army officer whose career has combined operational service, strategic leadership, and a lifelong commitment to preserving and interpreting Australia's military history. A graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, he served in Vietnam, held command appointments including Commander 1st Division Artillery, and later led major doctrinal and historical initiatives at Army Training Command. His work in rewriting land warfare doctrine, supervising military history education, and producing documentaries on Kokoda and Hamel earned him the Conspicuous Service Cross.

Promoted to Brigadier in 1994, he later directed Defence Force Recruiting and Army Personnel Policy. In 1997–98 he led the creation of the Australian Memorial Parks at Le Hamel and Fromelles, working from the Australian Embassy in Paris.

Since leaving the Army, Kevin has held significant public history and governance roles, including with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. A recognised expert on the Western Front, he leads battlefield tours, lectures widely, and is the author of *Defending Middle Head - a Short History* and *Long Tan – Myths, Memories and Reality*.



Brigadier (Rtd) David Alexander Wright Webster, AM, CSC began a 45 year service record in the Australian Regular Army after being called up as a National Serviceman in 1965. Graduating from OTU Scheyville in December 1965, he transferred to the ARA in September 1966. David then saw active service 3 RAR, in Vietnam as a platoon commander with 7 RAR in 1967/68, with 1 RAR and 8/9 RAR, and with instructor postings at the Jungle Training Centre. David was the CO of the Infantry Training Centre Singleton 1984-86. David was a student at the National Defence College India 1987/88.

Staff postings included Director Operational Requirements Army HQ, Director Combat Force Development (Land) HQ ADF, Director Personnel Plans Army HQ, DG Pers (Army)

1997/98 while overseas postings included with Australian Army Staff London 1975/76, US Army Development and Employment Agency (ADEA) 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis Washington State USA and was promoted Brigadier in December 1995.

Reserve postings included to the Posting Turbulence Review and Action Plan for People 2000–2003 and the Nature of Service Review and Implementation 2003 – 2011. David retired in 2011. Publications include *Through a Soldiers Lens – the two tours of Vietnam – 7 RAR* (2006) and *Forged in Adversity – The life story of I.R.J. (Blue) Hodgkinson* (2024).



Dr Mia Martin Hobbs is an oral historian of war and its legacies. She completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2018. Based on her dissertation, her first book, *Return to Vietnam: An Oral History of American and Australian Veterans' Journeys* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) won the Oral History Australia Book Award in 2022 and was shortlisted and received an Honourable Mention for the Memory Studies Association First Book Award in 2023.

She has published on security, war memory and veterans' experiences in *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Australian Journal of Politics & History* and *The Oral History Review*, as well as in edited collections including *Challenging Anzac: Stories that don't fit the legend* (NewSouth, 2026) which she co-edited with Carolyn Holbrook and Joan Beaumont. She is presently an ARC DECRA fellow at Deakin University, undertaking a transnational oral history with women and minority veterans from the War on Terror at Deakin University.



Craig Tibbits, MPhil has worked at the Australian War Memorial since 2000, initially as an archivist in the Research Centre and since 2016 with the Military History Section where he is now a Senior Historian. Craig has studied library and archives management

at University of Canberra and more recently (2024), was awarded a Master's degree in War Studies.



Luke Johnston is the son of a 3RAR first tour Vietnam veteran, David Johnston. Luke has conducted extensive research into his personal training and tour of Vietnam which led, over a period of half a decade, to independent travel through each base and operational area he was involved in the modern Vietnam. His interest transferred to the broader Australian involvement throughout the war and subsequent frequent battlefield research and travel throughout all major Australian unit operational areas.

The technical skills gained through this process included extraction of historic geographic and operational data from military records, creation of overlays and vector data in modern spatial formats, knowledge of and experience navigating local terrain and fluency in Vietnamese language. These prove useful not only in battlefield exploration but also in guiding veterans and family members to sites of personal historic significance.

On this pathway, Luke has become part a broad network of individuals and organisations undertaking unique but related activities across multiple continents. I hold the position of Director-at-Large of the charity organisation *Healing Through History* with whom he undertook field surveys and analysis that contributed the successful recovery of the bodies of missing Vietnamese martyrs in a mass grave at the site of 3RAR defensive position Balmoral. In this role he continues to liaise with and provide information to the Vietnamese military to guide future search efforts.

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