

## I was only nineteen (A Walk in the Light Green)

1) Mum and Dad and Denny saw the passing out parade at Puckapunyal  
It was a long march from cadets  
The sixth battalion was the next to tour  
and it was me who drew the card  
We did Canungra and shoal water before we left

chorus 1

And Townsville lined the footpaths as we marched to the quay  
This clipping from the paper shows us young and strong and clean  
And there's me in my slouch hat with my SLR and greens  
God help me I was only nineteen

2) From Vung Tau riding chinooks to the dust at Nui Dat  
I'd been in and out of choppers no for months  
But we made our tents a home, VB, and pinups on the lockers  
And an Asian orange sunset though the scrub

chorus 2

And can you tell me doctor why I still can't get to sleep  
And why night times just a jungle dark and a barking M16  
And what's this rash that comes and goes can you tell me what it means  
God help me, I was only nineteen

3) A four week operation when any step could be your last one  
on two legs ; It was a war within yourself  
But you wouldn't let your mates down till they had you dusted off  
so you closed your eyes and thought about something else

chorus 3

The someone yelled out "contact" and a bloke behind me swore  
We hooked in there for hours then a god almighty roar  
Frankie kicked a mine the day that mankind kicked the moon  
God help me, he was going home in June

4) I can still see Frankie drinking tinnies in the Grand Hotel  
On a thirty-six hour rec leave in Vung Tau  
And I can still see Frankie lying screaming in the jungle  
till the morphine cam and killed the bloody row

chorus 4

And the Anzac legends didn't mention mud and blood and tears  
And the stories that my father told me never seemed quite real  
I caught some pieces in my back that I didn't even feel  
God help me I was only nineteen

chorus 5 (played after chorus 4 the same as chorus 2)

And can you tell me doctor why I still can't get to sleep  
And why the channel seven chopper chills me to my feet  
And what's this rash that comes and goes can you tell me what it means  
God help me, I was only nineteen.

**Words and music by John Schumann**

## The Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Committee expresses its appreciation to:

Hon. Keith Wolahan, MP - Hon. Aaron Violi, MP - Tom Steele. Bugler  
Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums - St John Ambulance  
408 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets - Fr John Dupuche  
Victorian Military Vehicle Club - Knox School Senior Choir & Strings  
Sound and Audio Visual-David Buchanan - City of Knox  
Boronia Police and Knox Highway Patrol

**Proudly printed by Hon. Aaron Violi, MP**

[www.yvvietnamveterans.org](http://www.yvvietnamveterans.org)

# Yarra Valley & Outer Eastern Melbourne Vietnam Veterans Day March and Service



## KNOX WAR MEMORIAL



## Combined Commemorative Service

**SUNDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**March: 10:45am – Service: 11:00am**

MUSICAL TRIBUTE	The Knox School Senior Strings – <i>Pre-service</i>
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Allan Small President, VVAA Outer Eastern Melbourne – Chair, Vietnam Veterans Day 2024
ADDRESS	Hon. Keith Wolahan, MP Federal Member for Menzies
ADDRESS	Hon. Aaron Violi, MP Federal Member for Casey
PRAYER	Fr. John Dupuche
MUSICAL TRIBUTE	The Knox School Senior Choir – <i>“In Silence”</i> <i>By Glyn Lehmann</i>
STUDENT ADDRESS	The Wall – An Australian View (Lauchlan Irvine) Read by: Amelia Carnell (The Knox School)
CATAFALQUE PARTY MOUNTS *	408 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets
MUSICAL TRIBUTE	*The Knox School Senior Choir / <i>Strings</i>
FLORAL TRIBUTES	Accompanied by the Piper, Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums.
TRIBUTE	Peter Liefman and Paul Beraldo <i>“Message from Long Tan 18 August 2024”</i>
RECITATION OF THE ODE *	"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."
LAST POST *	Tom Steele, Bugler

\* Please stand if you are able

*	ONE MINUTE SILENCE Followed by reciting <i>“LEST WE FORGET”</i>
REVEILLE *	Tom Steele, Bugler
NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ANTHEM *	God of Nations at Thy feet, In the bonds of love we meet, Hear our voices, we entreat, God defend our free land. Guard Pacific's triple star From the shafts of strife and war, Make her praises heard afar, God defend New Zealand.
Led by The Knox School Senior Choir <i>(All Sing)</i>	
and	
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM *	Australians all let us rejoice For we are one and free We've golden soil and wealth for toil, Our home is girt by sea: Our land abounds in nature's gifts Of beauty rich and rare, In history's page let every stage Advance Australia fair, In joyful strains then let us sing Advance Australia fair.
CATAFALQUE PARTY DISMOUNTS *	408 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets
CLOSING ADDRESS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Allan Small President, OEM, VVAA
MUSICAL TRIBUTE	<i>“I was Only Nineteen”</i> Words and music by John Schumann

INVITATION TO LAY A PERSONAL POPPY

INVITATION TO FELLOWSHIP IN THE BAYSWATER OR BORONIA RSLs

---

An initiative of the of the Vietnam Veterans Community; –  
Outer Eastern Melbourne Sub Branch VVAA, and the Lilydale, Yarra Glen,  
Healesville, Warburton, Upper Yarra, Mt Evelyn & Croydon RSL Sub Branches