



The Long Tan Trek set to raise funds for AVVRG aid work

Baria/Vung Tau Province, Vietnam: Volunteer members of the Australian Veterans Vietnam Reconstruction Group (AVVRG) will be able to expand their aid work thanks to the fundraising support of participants on the Long Tan Trek, according to AVVRG president Kevin Erwin.

The Long Tan Trek operates in the Baria/ Vung Tau province of South Vietnam with a focus on the local culture, heritage and military aspects associated with the country and takes its name from the now famous battle that took place at this location on the 18th of August 1966.

The Long Tan Trek was established in 2006, (Website at www.longtantrek.com) with a philanthropic objective, to raise awareness and community based support for the peoples of the Baria /Vung Tau province with **\$15 USD** per Trek participant going to the AVVRG.

“ Furthermore the Trek operators, are proud to support the AVVRG’s community building programs and development work in the Baria/Vung Tau province of Vietnam,” Mr Erwin said.

The AVVRG was formed in 1994 to help alleviate poverty and strengthen communities devastated by the war in Vietnam, achieving remarkable results.

Veterans have built an orphanage in the Provincial capital of Baria which now cares for approx 83 children whose ages range from month-old babies to teenagers. Long Tan trekkers actually get the opportunity to visit this centre on the 5 day trek.

The AVVRG have also established a scheme that provides small, interest-free loans to disadvantaged women to help them set up sustainable businesses and support their families. “Furthermore Mr Erwin confirmed that the AVVRG now has Tax Deductibility Status and the long Tan Trek fundraising monies would assist in funding the following projects “

The Qld Healthcare Team Sub-Committee – in September 2006 arrived in Vung Tau to undertake a needs analyse assessment of the Nurses Teaching College, Ba Ria Hospital and Le Loi Hospital. As a result a MOU (memorandum of understanding) was signed with the Nurses Teaching College and this will allow the AVVRG to assist in the establishment of formal training skills within the Nurses Training College, which will benefit the Students and the people of the Vung Tau Province.

Victorian Health Education Team Sub-Committee – In January 2007 the Victorian Health Education Team enjoyed a successful trip to Ho Chi Minh City. A team of 35 went to 6 Hospitals and a Community Health Clinic. The team spend their time their working along side their Vietnamese counterparts on a ward level providing informal education. RMIT students acted as Translators. A seminar was held at each hospital with content chosen that suited their particular speciality, formal in-service was provided via PowerPoint presentation, which has been translated into Vietnamese.

Current Project News:

Long Tan Community Health Development – has been finalised. The Clinic was officially opened in June 2007. The Phuong Uyen Medical Assistance – Orthopaedic surgery is booked for July 2007

New Projects for 2007:

Malcolm Parker is coordinating these projects,

- Nhat Hong Blind School Refurbishment – the blind school has new premises
- Allied Health Workshop Vung Tau
- Crisis Health Project – Poor funds for Le Loi and Ba Ria Hospitals –

Kathleen Parker is coordinating this project

- DR. DAT
- Training and Assessment Course for one member of the staff of the Vung Tau Nurses Training School

Kevin Erwin is coordinating

- Typhoon Durian – Poverty Elevation post Typhoon project

Ken Morrison is coordinating the

- Ben San Cattle and Goat project

The Nui Dat Child Care Centre (Kindy) - Project is being considered for 2007/08



Trekking through a local hamlet and farm land enroute to Long Tan

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