

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Veterans' Affairs

Wednesday 5 August 2009

Veterans of Royal Australian Air Force No 35 Squadron Honoured

At an event last Saturday in Coffs Harbour, the state's Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West, presented an honour roll to veterans of the first Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) squadron to be deployed to South Vietnam 45 years ago.

"The honour roll for the Royal Australian Air Force's No. 35 Squadron is dedicated to all personnel who served in RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam and No. 35 Squadron in the Vietnam War 1964 – 1972.

"It was 45 years ago that No. 35 Squadron was deployed to South Vietnam.

"They were the first Royal Australian Air Force to be deployed and the last squadron to return home to Australia in 1972," said Mr West.

Mr West said the Government funded three large honour rolls, with one for the No. 35 Squadron, one for display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and the other for presentation to the state at a later date.

At the 45th anniversary event, the squadron's veterans presented the honour roll to Air Marshal Mark Binskin, AM, Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, for the display in Canberra.

"Government funding for honour rolls was made possible through the Community War Memorials Fund.

"This fund was announced in April 2008 to help protect and restore war memorials in local communities," said Mr West.

The funding of \$2571 for the Royal Australian Air Force's No. 35 Squadron allowed for the costs associated with the production of the three honour rolls and printing of 1000 honour roll banners for the Squadron members and their families.

The NSW Department of Lands' graphics division designed the honour roll, in close consultation with veterans of the RAAF No. 35 Squadron. Together, they identified the key components and designed the honour roll to accurately reflect the squadron's service in the Vietnam War.

Mr West said the government offers its Community War Memorials Grants twice each year.

“The applications are considered by State War Memorials Committee members, who include Mr Don Rowe, President of the NSW RSL and representatives of heritage and community groups,” Mr West said.

“The Remembrance Day round of applications for grants is now open.”

Mr West is encouraging communities, councils and ex-service organisations interested in applying for funding to visit: <http://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/>

Media Contact: Bernadette Rose 9228 4228/ 0418 673 457