



**The 50th Anniversary of the Withdrawal of Australian Combat Forces
from Vietnam on the 11th of January 1973.
11am Saturday the 11th of February 2023.**

Order of Service

Introduction by the Master of Ceremony Mr Nigel Horne, JP,

Opening Prayers by Father Alan Kelb, OAM Albury RSL Chaplain,

Welcome by Albury RSL President Graham Docksey, OAM, JP,

Address by the Mayor of Albury Councillor Kylie King,

Song: "I am Australian" by Australian Army Band Kapooka,

Display by the Australian Federation Guard Precision Drill Team,

Reading of the names of the 14 district soldiers that died in Vietnam – Gary Treeve

Lone Piper – RSL Piper Roger Buck with the tune 'Flowers of the Forest',

Federation Guard form up for salutes,

Ode, Last Post, One minute silence, rouse. Albury RSL President and Bugler,

National Anthem – Army Band, (see over the page),

Final Prayers – RSL Chaplain, and

Closure MC.

Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the then Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck issued a proclamation on the 11th of January 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian Embassy in Saigon (this was withdrawn in June 1973).

In early 1975, the communists launched a major offensive in the north of South Vietnam, resulting in the fall of Saigon on the 30th of April. During April a RAAF detachment of 8 Hercules transports flew humanitarian missions to aid civilian refugees displaced by the fighting and carried out the evacuation of Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift), before finally taking out embassy staff on the 25th of April 1975.

Advance Australia Fair

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.

BENEATH OUR RADIANT SOUTHERN CROSS
WE'LL TOIL WITH HEARTS AND HANDS.
TO MAKE THIS COMMONWEALTH OF OURS
RENOWNED OF ALL THE LANDS.
FOR THOSE WHO'VE COME ACROSS THE SEAS
WE'VE BOUNDLESS PLAINS TO SHARE.
WITH COURAGE LET US ALL COMBINE
TO ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.

