

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian soldier in swamp north of Nui Dat, 1968 [D 8182/15]. Photographer Graham McInerney

Preserve your memories of the Vietnam War at the State Library of South Australia

On the 18 August 2016, Vietnam Veterans Day, the State Library commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Australia's long involvement in the Vietnam War. We remember all those men and women who served in Vietnam and the sacrifices they made. We also reflect on a war that impacted on Australian society in the 1960s and 1970s and the memories that resulted. These memories are held by South Australians as their personal items from the Vietnam War and tell stories that are important to preserve for future generations.

As a collector and preserver of the State's history, the State Library is holding two donation days for people to bring in their personal items from the Vietnam War. Librarians will be available to talk about the items and the possibility of donation.

Items may come in different forms – they might be original photos, diaries, maps, moving footage or keepsakes. They are also held by many South Australians who were involved in the Vietnam

War including soldiers, doctors or nurses, performers who entertained the troops, media staff, activists or family waiting back home.

“The State Library is the custodian of yesterday’s history and South Australian’s experiences of the Vietnam War are part of this history. We play a vital role in keeping these memories and stories alive so that all generations have access to the information that helped shaped the State we live in,” says Director of the State Library of South Australia Alan Smith.

Our unique collections are at the heart of what we do. The State Library has a long and proud tradition of connecting people with the knowledge about our State and the contributions made by its community.

We welcome the involvement of South Australians in the growth of our collections and the added knowledge they bring when interacting with our collections. This ensures that the lessons from the past are not lost and are available for future generations.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Come to the Library and talk to our Librarians about your Vietnam War related item(s) on one of the following days:

- **Wednesday 24 August, 1pm - 4pm**
- **Sunday 28 August, 11am – 3pm**

Treasures Wall, State Library of South Australia, Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.

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