

# BOWRAL VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALK TRUST



Chairman: Effie Kerr, OAM  
Phone: (02) 4861 4674

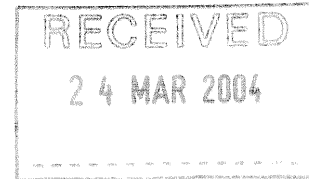
Secretary: Kevin Gallagher  
Treasurer: Darrell Chadwick

ABN 23 505 056 550



22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2004

The Secretary  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
Room SG.64  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Dr Sarah Bachelard,

## **Re: Bowral Vietnam Memorial Walk Trust Inc**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 'Inquiry into the Taxation Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004'.

We are very grateful that we have been granted Deductible Gift Recipient status until August 2005 and hope that it will soon be granted on a permanent basis. It has been particularly difficult to raise money to construct, develop and provide for the future of this important Memorial. Until DGR status was granted, Vietnam veterans and volunteers from the local community cleared the land, achieved the construction and maintained their work. It is not, nor was it ever intended to become a burden on the local Council.

We would prefer Deductible Gift to be granted 'in perpetuity' as there is always the possibility of an annual annuity being given to the 'Trust' to help provide for the future of the Memorial. Without Deductible Gift Recipient status we would not be eligible for this or any other similar financial assistance.

The Bowral Vietnam War Memorial (commonly know as the 'The Cherry Tree Walk') was commenced nine years ago. In that time it has developed into the major Vietnam War Memorial in New South Wales. It is respected throughout Australia and by many overseas countries. It was dedicated by Admiral Chris Barrie, Chief of Defence Forces, and honoured by the attendance at Commemorative Services by Guests of Honour such as Major General Peter Cosgrove and Governor General Dr Peter Hollingworth and Mrs Hollingworth. Following the Monument's recent refurbishment, the present Governor General of Australia Major General Michael Jeffery rededicated it in February this year.

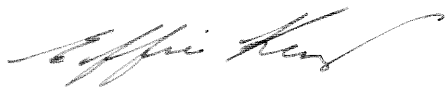
The Memorial's design reflects the Nation's respect for those Australians who gave their life in the service of their country in tragic times. It is situated in a large area of parkland commencing at the entrance to Bowral (Settlers Park). It consists of an avenue of cherry trees, a large monument inscribed with the names of 526 Australians

killed in the Vietnam War plus other symbols of Australia's participation in the War. They include the Casuarina Avenue leading to the 'Pergola of Peace and Reflection' and a small monument to honour the 20 men of the 8th Royal Australian Regiment killed in the service of their country.

We are developing the parkland for the use of tourists as well as members of the local community. It already provides an on-site parking area with disabled entrance to the cycle/walking track and a bridge across the rivulet to the picnic huts. It really is becoming a very special place in a beautiful area.

We hope that your Committee will see us as a conscientious group worthy of receiving our Government's total support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Effie Kerr', written in dark ink.

(Mrs) Effie Kerr, OAM  
CHAIRMAN