



**VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN
AUSTRALIA - NSW CHAPTER**

**CỘNG ĐỒNG NGƯỜI VIỆT TỰ DO ỨC
CHÂU TIỂU BANG NSW**

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Annual Report 2024 for Vietnamese Community in Australia - NSW Chapter

1. Organisational Information

Mission: To serve and represent the Vietnamese community in NSW, promoting Vietnamese culture, supporting social integration, and providing social work services.

Vision: To be a unified, thriving Vietnamese community in NSW, recognized for its contributions to Australian society.

2. Organisational Structure

Executive Committee Roles:

1. President: Coordinates activities and represents the organisation externally.
2. Vice Presidents: Oversee internal affairs, external affairs, planning, culture, and education.
3. General Secretary: Manages documentation and records.
4. Treasurer: Manages finances and financial reporting.

Additional Members (optional):

- Commissioners for Youth, Women, Students, Welfare, and Sport.

Advisory and Supervisory Council:

- President, Vice President, Secretary, and Four Commissioners.

Executive Committee members for 2023-2025 term:

- President: Thang Ha
- Vice President Internal Affairs: Janice Le
- Vice President External Affairs: Patricia Ho
- Vice President Planning: Nhan Tran
- Vice President Education and Culture: Trung Nguyen
- General Secretary: Phuong Tran
- Treasurer: Bill Tran

3. Achievements and Performance in 2024

Tet Festival:

- Dates: February 16-18, 2024
- Location: Fairfield Ground
- Attendance: Approximately 20,000 attendees
- Event: Celebrated Vietnamese Lunar New Year with activities such as lion dancing, dragon dancing, firecrackers, fireworks, amusement rides, and live entertainment
- Significance: The biggest event in the Vietnamese Australian calendar, celebrating Vietnamese art, culture, history, and food in a family-friendly environment.

Clean Up Australia Day Event:

- Date: March 3, 2024
- Event: Participated in Clean Up Australia Day in Cabramatta
- Location: Freedom Plaza, Cabramatta
- Details:
 - 10am - 12pm: Clean-up activities
 - Participants: The Buddhist Youth Association of Phap Bao Temple, Asian Women at Work Inc, Vietnamese Women's Association in NSW, and Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam
- Outcome: Successfully removed a sizeable amount of rubbish, showcasing strong community spirit and youth involvement.

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and Karaoke:

- Date: March 10, 2024
- Event: BBQ and Karaoke event to thank volunteers and gather feedback for the Tet Festival
- Location: Vietnamese Cultural Centre, Bonnyrigg

Statement on Vandalism of Vietnam Forces National Memorial:

- Date: March 13, 2024
- Event: Official statement condemning the vandalism of the Vietnam Forces National Memorial on March 11, 2024
- Content: Emphasized the importance of respecting freedom of speech while condemning actions that dishonor the sacrifices of veterans

- Significance: Reinforced the community's commitment to honoring and respecting those who fought for freedom and democracy.

Social Worker Services Expansion:

- Date: March 14, 2024
- Event: Expanded operating days of Social Worker services to include the Bankstown office
- Purpose: Provide volunteer-based social worker services to the community

Trung Sisters Commemoration:

- Date: March 17, 2024
- Event: Trung Sisters Commemoration at the Vietnamese Cultural Centre
- Purpose: To honor the legendary Trung Sisters, who are celebrated for their leadership in Vietnam's history

Fundraising Gala for April 30th Commemoration:

- Date: April 5, 2024
- Event: Fundraising dinner at Crystal Palace, Canley Heights
- Purpose: To raise funds for the April 30th commemoration events
- Outcome: \$22506 raised

Hung Kings Commemoration (Lễ Giỗ Tổ Hùng Vương):

- Date: April 21, 2024
- Event: Commemoration of the Hung Kings at the Vietnamese Cultural Centre
- Purpose: To honour and remember the legendary founders of Vietnam
- Attendance: Strong attendance by the community, particularly, male youths.

ANZAC Day March:

- Date: April 25, 2024
- Event: Marched alongside veterans of the ARVN during the ANZAC Day Parade
- Significance: Honoured and privileged to participate in ANZAC Day, showing solidarity and respect for the veterans.

Annual Rally for Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam:

- Date: April 27, 2024
- Event: Rally in Canberra for freedom and democracy for Vietnam
- Activities: Rally for democracy in front of the Vietnamese Embassy, Canberra. Protested against the annexation of the Paracel Islands outside the Chinese Embassy, followed by a ceremony at the Vietnam Forces National Memorial
- Collaborations: Organised by VCA Federal, with participation from VCA chapters from Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, ACT, and Northern Territory.
- **Flag Display for the Fall of Saigon Anniversary:**
- Event: Annual display of the Republic of Vietnam flags in Cabramatta, Bankstown, and Marrickville
- Purpose: To remind the Vietnamese Australian refugee community of their history and roots
- Community Impact: Flags symbolise a proud part of their identity and a reflection on the freedom and opportunities provided by Australia.

April 30th Candlelight Vigil:

- Date: April 30, 2024
- Event: Candlelight vigil at the Vietnamese Cultural Centre
- Purpose: To reflect solemnly on the Vietnamese refugee experience

Candlelight Vigil:

- Date: June 20, 2024
- Event: Candlelight vigil in front of the Boat People's Monument in Bankstown
- Purpose: To commemorate the journeys of Vietnamese Boat Refugees and remember those who did not survive

Documentary Screening "Boat People: a 50 Year Journey":

- Date: June 7, 2024
- Event: Screening of "Boat People: a 50 Year Journey" by Director Thanh Tâm
- Location: Vietnamese Cultural Centre
- Attendance: Over 400 attendees
- Support: Donations went to Director Thanh Tâm's projects.

Refugee Week Event: "Remembering the Vietnamese Refugee Journey"

- Date: June 23, 2024
- Support: Sponsorship from Fairfield City Council
- Highlights:
 - Speakers shared stories of the refugee experience
 - Special presentation of artifacts by former Australian Immigration officer Joe Rodigari
 - Attendance by esteemed guests including Mayor Frank Carbone and MP Tri Vo
- Outcome: The event was insightful and valuable, with plans to continue next year.

Free Tax Help Service:

- Dates: Every Friday from July 26 to October 25, 2024.
- Overview: Assisted low-income Vietnamese individuals with tax filing for 2023-2024
- Location: Community Office in Cabramatta

4. Programs and Services

- Free Tax Help Service
 - Overview: Assisted low-income Vietnamese individuals with tax filing for 2023-2024.
 - Impact: Enabled eligible community members to meet their tax obligations efficiently.
- Social Worker Services Expansion
 - Overview: Expanded social worker services to include the Bankstown office.
 - Impact: Increased access to social worker support services for the community.
- Community Events
 - Tet Festival: Celebrated Vietnamese Lunar New Year with 20,000 attendees.
 - Clean Up Australia Day: Engaged community in environmental stewardship.
 - Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and Karaoke: Gathered feedback and thanked volunteers.
- Cultural and Commemorative Events
 - Trung Sisters Commemoration
 - Hung Kings Commemoration
 - April 30th Candlelight Vigil
 - ANZAC Day Parade
 - Refugee Week Event
 - Documentary Screening: Boat People: a 50 Year Journey
- Advocacy and Awareness
 - Annual Rally for Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam
 - Statement on Vandalism of Vietnam Forces National Memorial

5. Partnerships and Collaborations

Collaboration with South West Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)

In 2024, we strengthened our collaboration with the South West Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) to enhance community engagement and address health-related issues within the Vietnamese-Australian community.

High-Level Meeting with SWSLHD:

- Date: July 29, 2024
- Location: Vietnamese Cultural Centre, Bonnyrigg, NSW
- Purpose: Improve collaboration and engagement between the Vietnamese-Australian community and SWSLHD.
- SWSLHD Representatives:
 - Simone Proft, Director Strategy and Partnerships
 - Katina Varelis, Director Multicultural Services
 - Mandy Williams, Director Population Health
 - Kate Jesus, District Manager Consumer and Community Engagement Unit
 - Matthew Jennings, Acting director Community Health and Community Services

6. Future Plans

In the coming year, we aim to continue our successful programs and events with a strong emphasis on enhancing collaboration with other community groups, particularly the Cambodian and Laotian communities. Our key initiatives will include:

1. Community Events:

- Continue hosting the Tet Festival, cultural commemorations, and community clean-up days.
- Expand participation to include Cambodian and Laotian cultural elements.

2. Collaborative Initiatives:

- Continued partnership with South West Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD).

3. Volunteer Engagement:

- Increase volunteer opportunities and training programs.
- Foster a volunteer base to support our diverse community activities.

4. Cultural and Educational Programs:

- Attend events with Cambodian and Laotian communities to develop inter-community relations
- Promote inter-community understanding and appreciation through shared history and traditions.

5. Advocacy and Awareness:

- Continue advocacy efforts for freedom and democracy for Vietnam.
- Collaborate with Cambodian and Laotian groups on shared advocacy goals.

By focusing on these areas, we aim to build a more inclusive, engaged, and supportive community network.