

13 July 2010

Vietnam author book and film event

Shoalhaven will host a former Vietnam War veteran and author at a special book and film event at 6pm on Wednesday 21 July at Shoalhaven Libraries Nowra branch.

Don Tate, Vietnam veteran and author of *The War Within* will be a special guest in Nowra Library to talk about his book and show the film he took during the Vietnam war as a young infantryman in 1969.

Manager Library and Community Services Noela Lim said the special event will be of value to all people who are interested in Australia's part in the Vietnam War as well as people wishing to know more about life in Australia and as a soldier in the 1960s and 1970s.

Don Tate was born in Brisbane, and raised in Caboolture, Cairns and Richlands before moving to the outskirts of Brisbane at Ellen Grove. The eldest of eight children, Don joined the Australian Army, and volunteered to go to the Vietnam War where he fought across three units as an infantryman. He was wounded in action with the 9th Battalion in 1969, and was repatriated to a military hospital in Brisbane, where he spent two years.

He remains permanently disabled. During his two years in hospital in Brisbane he met and married his wife, Carole.

Moving to NSW in 1974, Don taught English and History across a number of schools in the Illawarra. Active in community affairs, and an outspoken advocate for war veterans, Don lives in Shellharbour with his wife and five children. They have 10 grandchildren.

Background on *The War Within*

In the spirit of *Angela's Ashes*, Don Tate's *The War Within* is a complex analysis of his world, a compelling and unsettling mosaic of his life.

On the one hand, it is an acidic dissection of the role environment and family have in developing a person's character, and on the other, a sauntering chronicle of social analysis and injustice. It is also about the evolution of a man's mind and character, and of those events and characters that influence those processes.

Thus, we grow with Don Tate as he struggles to make sense of his life's experiences, from sexual and physical abuse, teenage delinquency, violence, the clamour of jungle warfare, war atrocities, the corruptions of history and love and lust. And underpinning his life is the pervasive fear that there is a spiritual force manipulating it all.

For further information and bookings, contact Council's Library Services on (02) 4429 3710.

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