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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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PROUDLY SERVING THE ADF, IT'S MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959

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Please do not contact the Editor or National Office for membership enquiries etc. Member's Branch contact details are at page 4.

Camaraderie is produced with the object of keeping every member abreast of the more important actions taken by the Association on behalf of its members, as well as keeping them informed about matters of interest.

It is published three times a year and distributed free of charge to every member of the Association usually in March, July and December.

Members are particularly encouraged to submit brief articles for consideration for publication in *Camaraderie*.

Articles by members about their own views or experiences often stimulate wide discussions and alert other readers to particular points not previously highlighted or appreciated.

Members are also invited to send letters for publication as "Letters to the Editor".

Material for inclusion in the next edition should reach the Editor at the above address, ideally as a MSWord document attached to an email, no later than 7 November 2014.

The views expressed in individuals' authored articles are theirs and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association, except where expressly stated.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This edition has a lot information to digest, ranging from comments about the Budget from our Money Matter author, to the Policy Objectives the Association will be pursuing on your behalf. I trust you enjoy this edition, and would welcome any comments or recommendations for future articles.

Les Bienkiewicz

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FRONT COVER

Major John "Jack" Thurgar, the officer in charge of the investigation to locate, identify and recover Lance Corporal Spencer Walklate and Private Ronald Eagleton, kneels beside the grave stone for Private Eagleton. The final two Z Special Unit soldiers killed on Kairiru Island during World War II have been laid to rest at the Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery in Papua New Guinea on June 12.

Lance Corporal Spencer Walklate and Private Ronald Eagleton were buried with military honours in the presence of their families. Also attending was the sole surviving member of their last patrol, Sapper Edgar "Mick" Dennis, MM. Soldiers from the Special Air Service Regiment and the 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments provided the funeral party. Lance Corporal Walklate and Private Eagleton were captured and killed by Japanese soldiers during an eight man Z Special Unit patrol during World War Two. They were thought to be lost at sea, before evidence discovered by the Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties unit lead to the discovery of their remains on Kairiru Island.

Lest We Forget.

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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Welfare Trust Fund

The Association maintains a **Welfare Trust Fund** for the welfare of members of the Association and regular members of the ADF and Reserves on fulltime duty or their widows/widowers and dependants who are in urgent and necessitous circumstances involving real hardship.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA SA Branch is being re-established. Existing SA members will be transferred to the SA Branch by the end of 2014. President DFWA (SA) - John Wilson. Tel: (08) 8391 2111 or 0409577035.

TASMANIA Members administered by the Victorian Branch.

NORTHERN TERRITORY Supported by the Queensland Branch. NT contacts: Simon Harvey: simon.harvey2@bigpond.com and Ed Keogh: poppa.e@bigpond.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



At the time of writing I, along with Alf our Executive Director have been busy preparing for ADSO's first formal policy discussions with the Government. The Assistant Minister for Defence reiterated the Government's commitment to this process at a meeting with us on the morning after the Budget was presented. This edition of the Camaraderie includes an article on the policy agenda we will be pursuing over this term of the Parliament. The top four policy issues were

agreed by all ESO members of the Ex-Service Round Table in March (with the exception of the RSL which did not attend the Pre ESORT ESO Leaders Meeting). We are hopeful that the regular series of consultations the Government has committed to will enable us more effectively explain our policy objectives and lead to mutually acceptable outcomes for the benefit of our members and supporters.

The 2014-2015 Budget presented contained a number of measures that will have an adverse impact on the ex-service community and has changed the landscape for a number of issues about which the serving and ex-serving communities have been seeking a resolution. In some ways it may be more difficult for us to make progress but on the other hand the makeup of the Parliament after the first of July means there will have to be a deal of negotiation for many of the budget measures to be agreed by the Senate. The major adverse impact on veterans comes from the winding back of the hard won indexation mechanism for the Veterans' Disability Pension. This is a particular disappointment to TPI's and other Veteran Disability Pensioners who fought for many years to achieve the indexation levels which the Government now wants to wind back. Veterans with treatment cards were shielded from other measures such as the co-payments for visits to doctors and those eligible for the Veterans' Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme

will be reimbursed the additional costs. The Budget also provided for;

- greater access to the Veterans and Veterans Families Counseling Service for ex-serving members and their families, for those with border protection service, service in a disaster zone either in Australia or overseas, and members medically discharged;
- greater access for eligible veterans to treatment for diagnosed post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression, without the need to establish that their mental health condition is related to service;
- from 1 July 2014, DVA will also pay for treatment for diagnosed alcohol and substance use disorders; and more categories of peacetime service will also become eligible; and
- funding under Medicare for a new physical and mental health assessment for ex-serving personnel to help their GPs identify any mental and physical health concerns early and to treat or refer appropriately to other services.

So while the Budget contained some harsh measures, the Government kept its word on DFRB/DFRDB indexation and included other measures recognising the needs of serving and former ADF members.

We understand the budgetary challenges confronting the Government, but never the less are in no doubt that there are opportunities for the Government to fund the fixes required.

Additionally we are confident from our consultations across the political spectrum, that positive actions to achieve these would have the support of the Opposition, the Australian Greens, Palmer United Party and independent Senators & MPs.



David Jamison

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSUMER COUNCIL

The Australian Defence Force Financial Services Consumer Council is an expert and impartial entity that has three tasks:

1. Independent Financial Education

To offer, in consultation with appropriate regulators, independent, professional financial education (not personal advice) and relevant resource material to all ADF personnel, in order to assist them to make informed decisions and plans about their financial affairs, and empower them to improve their financial situation throughout their careers.

2. Advisers to the Chiefs

To act as an expert and independent advisory body to the Chiefs on consumer matters related to the financial services industry. For the

purposes of this Charter, 'financial services industry' generally describes organisations that offer banking, insurance, lending, superannuation and investment products and services.

3. Relationship Managers

To develop, foster and maintain a professional and positive relationship with regulators, particularly Australian Securities and Investment Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, relevant industry associations and participants in the financial services industry.

ADF members are encouraged to use this resource, which can be accessed at: <http://www.adfconsumer.gov.au/>

NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (February 2014 - June 2014)



Much has already been said about the milestones that bore witness on Thursday 27th March 2014 to the final passing into law in the Senate of the long-awaited Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2014. In the House two days earlier 25 speakers from both sides, including an Independent, spoke in its unanimous support. Five speakers rose in the Senate to do the same. What struck me most as I sat in both Galleries on both days to listen to each and every syllable that was spoken was 'how could it have been that it took so long to reach such a consensus when there had been numerous opportunities before to pass similar legislation'.

What satisfied me most, the passing of the indexation Bill aside, was to hear many speakers openly acknowledge and give recognition to the 'unique nature' of military service. In part, it seemed to very much form the basis of their support for the Bill. It occurred to me that it portends well for a growing manifest acceptance by them of the ultimate need for what DFWA and indeed the ADSO membership as a whole consider important, namely an Australian Military Accord.

Such an Accord would have the effect of enshrining in words and on the public record what is probably little understood, that the Nation does indeed have an enduring obligation to those who serve and have served in the ADF. Equally, those same servicemen and women in the ADF who wear a uniform have an obligation also to the Nation. At the moment this set of responsibilities and obligations are not articulated anywhere. The general community is largely oblivious of them and the only time the public becomes conscious that looking after the well being of those who are charged with defending the Nation is when a sympathetic media sometimes runs stories promoting their cause. This would begin to change if an Accord was put into place. How appropriate would that be as the Centenary of ANZAC approaches?

Closer to home, readers will have probably noted in the pages of this issue and in individual Branch Supplements that despite the successes we have achieved in our efforts to foster the best interests and welfare of all members of the Australian Defence Force, including their families, in a wide range of matter likely to affect them during or after their period of service, our membership base has been slowly falling. In the last issue of Camaraderie I made a plea that if you are a member and know of a friend and/or an acquaintance that is not, please gently encourage them to consider joining. I double that plea this time and would ask that you join the recruiting campaign that your Branch is undertaking as part of our collective effort for new members. We need a strong team to go forward and the only way to strengthen it is through membership growth. Please help in any way you are able.

On the personnel National office front, many will already know but the National team was recently boosted in strength by two new appointees. Don Malcolson accepted our National President's

invitation to be the Association's Honorary Legal Adviser forthwith. As most will know, that position has for too long been vacant and it is good to see it now filled by someone who is no stranger to Defence legal issues, having Defence affiliations spanning back almost 50 years of continuous commissioned service. He is a member of the RAAF Legal Reserve. DFWA warmly welcomes Don to the fold.

Also joining the team is Kristie Schwarz who is now our Administrative Assistant. Kristie is more than highly qualified with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and having worked as an Office Manager/Administrator with several companies. A warm welcome is extended to Kristie as well.

Finally, I know I can speak on behalf of all of us in warmly congratulating Kerry Mellor on his recent award by the National Executive to Honorary Life Membership of DFWA. The award is only a small measure of the thanks due to him for his long years of voluntary service to the Association and to the wider ex service community. He has served concurrently not only as our Vice President Advocacy and Compensation but also as our Deputy President. Wearing those hats he was the driving force and the original thinker behind the first of the papers that articulated 'The Unique Nature of Military Service'. That the term has been accepted in the lexicon of language even within the precincts of Parliament is largely the result of the work Kerry put into clarifying 'elements of military service which render it unique as an activity (or vocation) within a democratic society such as Australia'.

Finally and as always, please know that DFWA is there for you. Your feedback on any issue of concern is always welcome. Please remember my personal plea – we have a recruiting campaign under way for new members. If you are not a member, please consider joining now. If you are a member, please help in identifying those who could add to the strength of our Association and to the voice we carry in our lobbying efforts for fair and equitable treatment of all current serving and former members of the ADF and their families.

Also finally, please know that your small or other donation will help immeasurably with our work on behalf of the Military family.

Alf Jaugietis
Executive Director



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Camaraderie is a great advertising medium for the Association – why not ask your Branch or National Office for additional copies so you can distribute to your friends, clubs, local library etc ?



THINGS I WISH I KNEW WHEN I LEFT THE MILITARY

BY RUTH BAYLEY

1 YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU DO!

A career in the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) certainly teaches you a lot of useful things! You may be surprised at how easily your trade, professional and people skills will transfer to a civilian career. Most people leaving the ADF have built good solid trade or professional skills through their ADF training and practical work experience. This is no real surprise to people in the outside world as the ADF is well known for providing good technical training. Your trade and professional skills are not always captured into a recognised civilian qualification, but they are definitely there. Visit www.defencequals.edu.au to see what qualifications you are already entitled to by service, rank and specialisation.

What is less well known is the fact that most people leaving the ADF have also built a good portfolio of “soft skills” in areas like communication, negotiation, leadership and customer focus to get things done. The extent of your skills and experience in this area may be a bit of a surprise to potential civilian employers, who often have an image of life in the military built from Hollywood movies.

Don't sell yourself short on your people skills. Be ready to explain to potential civilian employers just what you can do, and give them examples they can understand.

You should consider using your available resettlement schemes to update your qualifications to a recognised civilian standard. Talk to your career transition coach about the options that might be best for you.

2 GET RID OF THOSE TLAS – RFN!

All workplaces do it to some extent, but Defence has to take the cake for using three letter acronyms (the good old TLAs!) for just about everything. The problem is, the TLAs might make sense to you and your ADF colleagues, but no one else can understand what you are talking about (and they are probably too busy or too embarrassed to ask you to explain)! So you need to go through your CV with a fine tooth comb and remove all acronyms and jargon so that anyone can understand your skills and experience, without the need for an acronym translator. Once you think you've

done this, get a civilian friend to go over your CV with you just to make sure that you are being clear, in plain civilian English.

The next thing to work on is the way you talk – once again, hunt down and eradicate those TLAs as well as any military specific phrases that civilians just don't get. The best way to do this is to ask a civilian to help you! You also need to be aware of some of the more old fashioned phrases that are perfectly acceptable in the military, but that grate on civilian ears. Manpower, superior officer and subordinate are three examples. Instead try words like staffing levels, supervisor or manager and team member.

A professional career transition coach can be really useful in helping you to clean up your CV and the way you talk at interviews, and even in casual conversations with potential civilian employers. That way you won't scare them off by sounding like you are talking a foreign language.

3 FORMER ADF MEMBERS ARE A GREAT NETWORK!

And they live everywhere, and do just about any job you can imagine. Keep in touch with military colleagues who have already left the forces before you. They are a great source of information and support for you. They may be able to refer you to people who can help you make a successful transition to civilian life, or they may even be able to help you get a job. They have been there and done that before you, and so will have good advice to offer. Don't be afraid to ask them a lot of questions! And then listen to what they tell you.

4 YOUR FORMER RANK IS NOT TATTOOED ON YOUR FOREHEAD!

To be blunt, most civilians don't care what your former rank used to be. Most of them don't even understand military ranks anyway, and find the whole thing a bit confusing. Potential civilian employers are much more interested in what you can do for them than what your rank once was.

Now this is not to say that rank is irrelevant in every way. You will

Continued overpage

obviously have built particular skills that relate to the rank you achieved, with senior non-commissioned officers and officers having more opportunities to develop their leadership skills, for example. To help with the transition to civilian life, you need to be able to explain clearly and in plain English (see point 2 above), using examples a civilian can understand, the skills and knowledge that you have acquired over your service career. It is easy when talking to other ADF members to rely on a shared understanding of what it means to be a Sergeant so that you don't have to explain your capabilities, but civilians do not share that understanding! So if you can't explain it to them, they probably won't get it, and you won't get the job.

Also, don't limit yourself to the traditional hierarchical way that the ADF makes promotions when you apply for civilian jobs. Go for jobs where you know you can perform well, even if they seem to be "promotions", at least on paper. See point 1 – you know more than you think you do. The skills and knowledge brought by former military members are usually highly sought after by smart civilian employers.

Be aware that you might end up working for someone who held a lower rank in the military once you are both in civvy street. It always pays to be respectful to your military colleagues as you never know where it might end up!

Again, your career transition coach can help you decide what jobs might suit you.

5 YOU CAN LEARN QUICKLY ON THE JOB.

The posting cycle that you have endured for the duration of your military career has given you something that you might not recognise – and that's the ability to learn very quickly on the job. Let's face it, every couple of years you have had to pick up, pack up and learn a new job! So in comparison to a lot of civilian job applicants, you have regularly demonstrated the ability to quickly get your head around a new set of responsibilities, to ease into a new work team and to get yourself up to speed. This is a very attractive and valuable skill to

civilian employers, who are looking for staff who can learn fast and turn their hand to whatever is required.

Make the most of this aspect of your military career when you apply for jobs and at interviews. It is something that most ADF members just take for granted, and probably don't even think about as a particular skill, let alone mention to a potential employer. And most civilians think that you have had just one job – "being in the military" for all those years - without realising that this may have involved quite a number of different jobs. Be sure to show them the variety of positions that you have had - and remember to do that using language and examples that a civilian can understand (see point 2).

Talk with your career transition coach about the other hidden skills you may possess that will interest a civilian employer.

The ADF provides funding for career transition services and for upgrading qualifications to certain military members. Check with your local unit representative to see what support might be available for you.

Ruth Bayley

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruth was a member of the Royal Australian Air Force for almost 14 years before successfully making the transition to civilian employment.

Ruth's next job after her RAAF career was in the Australian Public Service. After positions in the Australian Public Service she then went on to found Bayley and Associates, a flourishing private Registered Training Organisation based in Canberra. Ruth now employs almost 20 staff and contractors – many of whom are former ADF members!

Visit www.bayleyteam.com.au for more information on qualifications and accreditations. And remember, we speak your language!

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN



The membership levels in all Branches have been gradually eroded over the past few years so it was decided at the last National Executive meeting to conduct a recruiting campaign.

This campaign will be run out of Branch Offices and is intended to build on the wide support provided by members to the recent 'Fair Go' campaign.

In essence we are asking all members to think about their service and ex-service colleagues who are not DFWA members and to suggest to them the benefits of membership. The mechanics of the campaign are further described in the enclosed Branch information bulletin..... *please get behind the campaign.*



KAPOOKA TRAGEDY

21ST MAY 1945.

On 21st May, 1945, just months from the end of World War II, a tragic accident occurred at the Engineers Training Base, Kapooka. While being shown demolition and explosive procedure, an enormous explosion occurred in a dugout, killing 26 personnel. Kapooka Camp had been established by the Australian Government as the main Royal Australian Engineers training facility in Eastern Australia, in 1942.

On that day, two instructors were taking 26 young conscript sappers through training in the use of explosives. They were located in a dugout, where men usually waited while an explosion occurred above ground level. This and two other underground rooms were located a large distance away from the Kapooka buildings (towards today's San Isidore). An enormous explosion occurred in the dugout at about 2:45 pm. 24 sappers died plus the two instructors. Two men who were just outside survived. The sound of the explosion could be heard in Wagga, more than 10 kms away.

Surprisingly by today's standards, death certificates were issued for the dead men later on the night of the accident. From the 23rd May until the 1st June a military inquiry was held on site. The few witnesses were interviewed. However, outside of the army, censorship occurred. In the Daily Advertiser of 22nd May a small front page story said "Shocking Tragedy". No names were released. There was an enlarged story on 23rd May, but no names again. Some names were printed on 24th, the day of the funeral. Even allowing for the limited information that had been released, the turn-out for the funeral was amazing. It is said that 7000 people lined the route. That would have been half the city's population. The coffins were carried on the back of four army trucks. Another truck was reserved for wreaths and tributes.

The funeral was said to have been the biggest military funeral in Australia up until that time, and may still hold that honour. The accident is, according to current army officials, still the largest training accident that the army has suffered.

After the war ended, nothing was publicly said about the tragedy for decades. No doubt the families never forgot, but at other WWII ceremonies in Wagga nothing was publicly remembered, probably until 1992. In that year, the 50th anniversary of the opening of Kapooka was being celebrated and many officials were coming to town. The army arranged for a plaque to be placed on a concrete block, in private property near the explosion site. There were some family members of the deceased at the ceremony and more than one newspaper articles. Later, in 1995, another ceremony was held marking the 50th anniversary of the accident. A local committee called, Australia Remembers was involved, together with Historic Society members, attended a moving ceremony at Kapooka. Many family members plus at least one survivor gave their thoughts on the tragedy for the press. Then in 2000 an information board on the accident was unveiled at the War Cemetery.

More recently, the plaque which had been located on the concrete slab in the farm paddock, was relocated across the road to a spot where the public could view it without entering the private land. In 2012, the army has built a commemorative enclosure across the road from the actual site, allowing for car parking and with interpretive boards to be erected. A tree has been planted for each soldier killed, and there is a name plaque in front of each tree.

The army has plans for a walking trail from the base to the site, which is about 400 metres. Another action required is for the City's tourist brochures to mention the event and the memorials.

Gary Croker June 2012.

References.

- Various editions of the Wagga Daily Advertiser 1945 – 2012.*
- Peter Rushbrook The Kapooka Tragedy 1945: History or Heritage 2003*
- Sherry Morris Wagga Wagga A History 1999.*



How Do We Honour and Look After Our War Veterans?

As Australians look towards the celebration of the Centenary of ANZAC it is time to pause and consider how, after all the tumult and the shouting has died, the Australian Government is really looking after the nations war veterans in 2014 -15.

In the latter months of 2014 there will be a significant commemoration, in Albany, Western Australia, of the sailing of the first contingent of the Australian Imperial Force, young men and all volunteers, to the battlefields of Gallipoli and France. Many would not return; many who did were disabled for life in the service of their nation.

In 2015 more commemorations will be held throughout Australia, many with funding assisted by the national and state and territory governments. The representatives of the people, from all political parties and houses will attend these commemorative events, as they should.

As part of the Centenary of ANZAC the Coalition Government, in its 2014-15 budget has provided \$6.9 million to develop a detailed business case for the construction of an Australian Western Front Interpretive Centre at Villers-Bretonneux in France to be an enduring legacy of the centenary of ANZAC. This funding will also enable the commencement of land acquisition and preliminary project development and design activities, so it seems likely that the project will go ahead, as it should, but at a cost yet to be revealed.

There is no doubt that it is imperative that the Australian people commemorate the sacrifices made by our military forces. In foreign fields tens of thousands of young Australians have been killed, maimed or injured in the service of Australia, and the effect of those events has flowed on to the many thousands of their families and friends. Remembrance and commemoration of those past events is important to us all.

What is curious is that, in 2014, while the Australian Government funds and promotes activities around the Centenary of ANZAC, and now makes subtle noises about another deployment of our troops in Iraq, the government has also brought down in the Parliament a budget which will reduce the financial support it gives to war veterans, including and particularly those who are maimed and disabled. How can this possibly happen?

It would be reasonable for Australians to expect that their

government, regardless of political persuasion, would look after its surviving war veterans and the immediate families of those who did not survive the risks and rigours of combat. It would also be reasonable for Australians to expect that their government would have some constancy about those benefits, and certainly expect that when changes were made they would be beneficial to war veterans, and not detrimental.

But, despite the proposed celebrations of the Centenary of ANZAC, and the whispering by government of another deployment of troops to Iraq, the Coalition Government has, in its 2014-15 budget put forward several measures which will be to the financial detriment of war veterans, especially those who are maimed or disabled due to injury or illness and cannot earn an income.

A specific measure of the 2014-15 budget of this Coalition Government (the indexation of veteran disability pensions) has the effect that in future years there will be a significant reduction in the financial compensation given to disabled war veterans for no better reason than "to repair the budget and fund policy priorities".

What policy priorities are more important than looking after Australia's war veterans?

From where will come the next generation of veterans if the young people of Australia see that the government does not look after the existing war veterans?

This budget measure needs to be withdrawn or defeated in the Senate in 2014.

It is time that Australian governments ceased treating war veterans as they like and legislated, on a bi-partisan basis, a package of conditions that was constant in terms of its policy.

Max Ball

About the author;
Max Ball is a retired Army Colonel, and Deputy President of the WA Branch and National Vice President of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia. Recently the Premier of Western Australia appointed Max as the Chairman of the newly formed WA Veterans' Advisory Council.



GETTING HELP WITH DVA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is committed to ensuring that current and former serving members can access mental health advice and support when they need it. DVA is active in developing tools and providing services to help individuals achieve good mental health, promote recovery and access professional care when needed.

The key to good mental health is to take action early:

Talk to your GP, who may refer you to a psychiatrist, psychologist or mental health social worker if needed. DVA pays for treatment for an eligible veteran with diagnosed PTSD, anxiety or depression without the need to establish that his or her mental health condition is related to service. From July 2014, these arrangements will also cover treatment for alcohol and substance disorders.

Talk to the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS). VVCS provides counselling and group programmes to veterans, peacekeepers and eligible family members. VVCS is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service, call 1800 011 046, 24 hours a day.

Go online to DVA's mental health portal At Ease

(www.at-ease.dva.gov.au).

At Ease helps serving and ex-serving personnel and their family members to recognise the symptoms of poor mental health, recommend self-help tools, mobile applications and advice, and helps them access providers and treatment.

At Ease: Serving and ex-Serving Members, Veterans and Families

Recognise the signs of poor mental health, take action, find self-help tools and advice, access professional support and learn about treatment options. Families can find advice on how to keep their family healthy while caring for someone with a mental health condition.

Wellbeing Toolbox This is an interactive self-help website designed to help those making the transition from the Australian Defence Force to civilian life. It offers help in areas such as problem solving,

building support, helpful thinking, getting active, keeping calm and sleeping better.

The Right Mix DVA's alcohol management site uses interactive tools to provide practical information and strategies to raise awareness about alcohol-related harm and to get the 'right balance' of alcohol, diet and exercise to achieve a healthier and more enjoyable lifestyle.



Operation Life Online Learn about suicide and how to prevent it at Operation Life Online. Along with useful contacts and resources, the site offers learning tools, case study videos and a comprehensive quiz to test your knowledge.

At Ease Professional A website which provides resources for GPs and mental health professionals to improve assessment and treatment of serving and ex-serving ADF personnel with common mental health disorders.

Other tools accessible via the At Ease portal are:

YouTube videos: 'Don't suffer in silence' is the key message in a series of online videos about the impact of mental ill health on current and former serving person

PTSD Coach Australia: A self-help mobile app designed to help current and former serving personnel understand and manage the symptoms that may occur following exposure to trauma. The app provides education about PTSD, information about self assessment and professional care, and tools to manage the stresses of daily life with PTSD. The app is free and downloadable from both App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android).

ON TRACK with The Right Mix: A self-help mobile app to help serving and ex-serving personnel manage their alcohol consumption. Users can track of the number and type of drinks consumed; the amount of money spent and review the impact this has had on their wellbeing and fitness



Air Commodore Michael Kitcher, WA Branch President, Richard Usher and Pilot Officer Daniel Braid with the DFWA Award for Navigation.

Lismore man gains ‘Wings’ and wins DFWA Award

Pilot Officer Daniel Braid (23) recently won the DFWA Award for displaying the highest level of navigational skill during No 235 RAAF Advanced Pilots’ Course. Ten Air Force and two Naval officers graduated and received their ‘wings’ from Air Commodore Michael Kitcher OAM. Michael Kitcher reminded those on parade that they were graduating in the centenary year of military aviation in Australia. He said that it was just 100 years since Lieutenant Eric Harrison took a Bristol Boxkite CFS-3 into the air at Point Cook on 1 March 1914.

Daniel Braid was born in Lismore and began his flying career at the Northern Rivers Aero Club in Lismore at the age of 17. After a visit to the Avalon International Airshow in 2009 he decided on a career in the RAAF and began Officer training at ADFA the following year. He completed a Bachelor of Technology (Aviation) with Distinction in 2012.

WA Branch President, Richard Usher, presented Daniel his award at RAAF Base Pearce. Daniel will remain at RAAF Pearce to join 79 Squadron to fly the Hawk aircraft before eventually making his way back to NSW and hopefully flying Hornets at Newcastle.

The Air Force Wing. Designed by General Sir Frederick Sykes and general David Henderson, the flying badge was approved by H.M. King



Members of No 235 RAAF Advanced Pilots’ Course march off parade accompanied by the Unit Colours

George V in February 1913. It consisted of the wings of a swift in white silk embroidery, with the monogram ‘RFC’ or ‘AFC’ in the centre encircled by a laurel wreath of brown silk; the monogram surmounted by a crown, all on a background of drab cloth. The badge was worn on the left breast of the jacket centrally above any decorations or medals. After slight alterations to the colouring and the change of monogram to ‘RAAF’, this badge became the ‘Wings’ of the Royal Australian Air Force.



CANBERRA DAWN SERVICE SPEECH

ANZAC DAY 2014

SPEAKER: WING COMMANDER SHARON BOWN

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we stand here together, awaiting the dawn, the shadow of night tenderly cloaks each of us in a comforting sanctuary of darkness.

In the early hours before the dawn, we are drawn from our private homes to gather here as a community of ordinary strangers, united by the actions of extraordinary strangers who fought for their country; their mates; and their lives, 99 years ago upon the shores of Gallipoli.

They were the soldiers of Australia and New Zealand. They were the Anzacs.

The darkness before the dawn clutches us. We are unable to see that which lies beyond the light; unable to perceive that which may bring us harm. Our security, once delivered by extraordinary strangers of yesterday, remains safely entrusted and protected by the extraordinary strangers of today: the men and women of the Australian Defence Force; men and women who will give their all to defend you and to ensure that you may forever gather here within the comfort of their ever watchful shadow.

As the Anzacs approached the shores of Gallipoli in the early hours before the dawn, the shadow of darkness may have shielded their

presence from the enemy, yet in turn, it also shielded from them, the treacherous peril that lay in wait. From the Anzacs to Afghanistan, the shadow of night which offered protection equally exposed their vulnerability.

Even I, a Nursing Officer of the Royal Australian Air Force, have lived in such a place: where both security and vulnerability arrive with the darkness of nightfall; where we deliberately ensure that all light is extinguished to remove us from the view of those that would do us harm, those that lie and wait for their black cloak of darkness to descend.

I have watched from the dirt ramparts of the base at Tarin Kot whilst brave men and women left the warm glow of its lights to slip silently into the cold clutches of the night beyond, and put themselves in harm's way to protect us. I have felt their departure as they slip into the invisibility of that very darkness in the company of their comrades, striving to shield you from the world's unimaginable shadows.

I have heard the noise of battle in the distance; taken the radio call and annotated the nine liner; then eagerly awaited the sound of rotor blades that would deliver the war to me.

I have awaited their return and tended their wounds, never able to fully comprehend the darkness of man that they encountered upon their journey. I have witnessed their adrenaline fuelled highs of survival and their immense depths of despair at the loss of a mate. I have laughed reservedly at the often black-humoured stories of soldiers who photograph their legs before a patrol, just in case they never saw them again; and faced the reality of their need to loosely wear a tourniquet on each limb, ready to stem the almost inevitable haemorrhage that could end their life. I have been privileged to hear of unimaginable acts of bravery and self-preservation; and I have stood by silently to attempt to pick up the pieces when it all falls apart.

I have worn their blood.

So many of us have worn their blood.

I have seen the strongest and finest reduced to flesh; and witnessed the death of innocence and a once supposed sense of immortality.

I have stood in a trauma room surrounded by the victims of an IED blast and watched as our finest doctors, nurses and medics ask themselves not just “which casualty first?” but “which wound on which casualty first?” I have marvelled at their skill; their courage; their resilience. Together, we have waded through their blood, fighting our own battle to protect and secure. Fending off the enemy of death, of disfigurement or disability; tapping into that unique fighting spirit of the Australian soldier before us, whose courage and sheer determination will see them through another day.

I have sat in silent contemplation amongst peers as we reflect upon decisions made, lives saved and lives lost as a result of, and in spite of our efforts.

I have seen them arrive at the edge of the battlefield and known that when they departed for home, that they would never again be the same. I have gathered the passports of Australian soldiers who were to be repatriated back to Australia, and not been able to match the battle weary faces to the documents in my hands.

I have always, always hoped that they will forever find the strength and courage to emerge from the too often persistent shadows; to stand tall in the world for which they have given so much to secure; to stand shoulder to shoulder with comrades; loved ones; and ordinary strangers, in these early hours before the dawn. I have always hoped that they would somehow come to value and accept that which they have seen, that which they have done, and mostly, that which they have given. I have hoped that they will see the advances and not just the retreats; the gains and not just the losses, and ultimately, the immense value of their service. I have clung to the revelry of their joyous reunion; their unique bond of brotherhood; of victory; of realising the reality of just what they would and could do to protect each other. I have trusted that this will help them to emerge from the shadows and once again feel the sun upon their face.

I have held their widows and widowers; consoled their parents; their brothers; sisters; and friends; and gazed upon their children, some too young to comprehend the enormity of that which they have lost.

As a casualty myself, I have crawled out of the darkness and I have fought for my life.

I am no different from many other Australians.

So many of those like me, stand silently amongst you today; each of them once more shielded by the darkness; each of them withholding the horrors of war, still endeavouring to provide protection to each and every one of you.

They will not likely share the truth of their experience. They will not likely ever find the words to do it justice, and even if they could, it is not likely that anyone other than the brothers and sisters that stood alongside them could ever come close to understand.

They will mostly choose the anonymity of the darkness before the dawn; the anonymity of the dark suit before the uniform.

Shining upon the walls of the Memorial behind me, are the names and faces of the 40 soldiers killed in Afghanistan – Australia’s longest and most recent war; brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

You do not see the 261 who were wounded.[i]

You do not see those who wrestle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder nor the other mental health issues that have resulted from their service.

You do not see the 26 500 [ii] who, if asked, will claim to have simply served.

You may not hear their voices as they reflect:

“If I had died over there, I would have been remembered forever, but I survived and my name will never be known.”[iii]

They stand silently amongst you today.

As the dawn delivers the daylight, pause to reflect upon the memory of those that have gone before us in your name, those whose faces and names grace the walls of our Memorial. But, I implore of you to also pause and watch carefully as the dawn sheds light upon the faces of the extraordinary strangers that stand beside you. Contemplate, if only for a moment, that which they may have done, that which they may willingly continue to do, so that you may return to stand here each year, in the darkness before the dawn awaiting the light of a new day and the warmth of the sun, a community of ordinary strangers . . . drawn together to honour their extraordinary service.

Lest we forget.

We're back - IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA!

After being wound up some ten to fifteen years ago, the South Australian (SA) branch of the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) is getting back up and running! With a large number of veterans and a very significant Australian Defence Force (ADF) presence, South Australia has to be represented by its own branch and we are doing our best to achieve that.



We thank the ACT, Victorian and NSW branches for hosting our members all these years, and they are now helping us to transition members to the SA Branch administration.

The SA Branch folded at a time when the ADF presence in the state was minimal. A long-standing Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base at Edinburgh, the Air-defence Regiment at Woodside and various Reserve units of all three services made up the bulk of the local ADF units and formations at that time. Like many volunteer organisations, we failed to re-generate our membership. That was the time when we should have reached out to the younger, serving members – we forgot that when the DFWA was formed in 1959 we were the younger members!

The DFWA is the voice of the defence community and for far too long, that voice in this state has been silent. We have suffered greatly as a result. Our remaining membership has aged and comprises mainly pre-Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans. Many of our remaining members are now (understandably) unable or unwilling to go around again and so we have a major task to recruit younger members to pick up the volunteer baton and provide leadership. This isn't easy due to the Association having been 'off the air' for so long. It's as if we have to re-establish the DFWA all over again.

VETERANS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

One of our World War II veterans still going strong (in fact, as I write he is one of seven veterans attending the 70th Anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landing on 6 June 1944) is Squadron Leader Bob Cowper (Ret), DFC & BAR, OAM, Legion of Honour (FR). The Australian War Memorial, in reviewing *Chasing Shadows* (2007) by Stephen Lewis, with Bob Cowper, stated,

"Bob had a variety of experiences whilst serving the RAAF during World War 2. He force landed his Beaufighter in the Sahara Desert and was chased by hostile Arabs. He was later blown from the sky in his new Beaufighter after being struck by debris from enemy aircraft over Sicily. He joined 456 Squadron, Australia's only night fighter unit during WW2 and flew during the D-Day invasion. By the end of the war he was the Commanding Officer of 456 Squadron."

Aside from Bob Cowper the roll of outstanding veterans involved in the DFWA here in SA and among our supporters is impressive. We have

veterans from all three services, including many women who appreciate the fact that the new branch will have a special interest in providing an inclusive environment for them. Victoria Cross winners from South Australia include Reg Inwood, James Woods, Tom (Diver) Derrick, William Kibby, Phillip Davey, Arthur Sullivan, Lawrence Weathers, Peter Badcoe, Thomas Axford, Arthur Blackburn and Joergen Jensen. (Source: Sunday Mail (SA) 2011).

We owe it to our veterans of all categories, including those who served on operations and those who did not to support them through the DFWA's lobbying activities. Many very deserving cases came to light during the Fair Go Campaign and the level of support for the re-establishment of the Branch was both humbling and very encouraging.

ADF PRESENCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Today, SA is home to an impressive list of ADF units and formations, including Regular and Reserve personnel, units and formations. While the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) portion of the ADF is modest, Army and RAAF units and formations constitute a significant defence presence. Units include 7 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR) and associated units located at Edinburgh, to the North of Adelaide, together with 92 Wing RAAF, the maritime surveillance capability also at Edinburgh. But the profile would not be complete without including the RAN elements, vital to the support and management of the submarine and shipbuilding facilities at Osborne, on the Eastern coast of Gulf St Vincent.



Reserve units and formations constitute an important element of the ADF in SA. Present day Army Reserve infantry units devolve from a rich history. The 2/10 Infantry Battalion was the first South Australian battalion formed for the Second AIF. The 2/27 Infantry Battalion was raised at Woodside in South Australia on 7 May 1940. As part of the 21st Brigade of the 7th Australian Division, the 2/27th's first operational assignment of war was to bolster the defences along the Egypt-Libya frontier against an expected German attack.

The 2/48 Infantry Battalion was Australia's highest decorated unit of the WW2, awarded four Victoria Crosses (three of them posthumously) and more than 80 other decorations.

The 2/14 Battalion was officially raised on 26 April 1940 and began to assemble for training, at Puckapunyal in Victoria, on 11 May. It embarked,

at Sydney, for service in the Middle East on 19 October 1940 and after stopping in India between 4 and 19 November, arrived in Egypt on 25 November 1940 (Source:AWM). Along with supporting arms and services, South Australia has produced some of the finest fighting units in Australian military history, not forgetting the Light Horse units raised here in WWI.

In September 1947 with the creation of the Australian Regular Army, the 67th Infantry Battalion was renamed the 3rd Battalion, the Australian Regiment. On 10 March 1949, HM King George VI approved the title 'Royal'. After service in Korea, Malaya and Borneo, 3RAR settled in Woodside SA. After two tours of duty in South Vietnam, 3RAR returned to Woodside where it remained until 1973 when it was relocated to Holsworthy NSW. 3RAR still holds a special place in the memory of all South Australians.

An important role for Defence personnel is support to defence industry companies such as Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC), BAE Systems, Cobham, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and SAAB. The Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) Systems Centre is the hub of the AWD project accommodating AWD Alliance partners the Defence Materiel Organisation, shipbuilder ASC, Hobart Class Combat System Systems Engineer Raytheon Australia and capability partners Navantia, the United States Navy and Lockheed Martin Corporation. The Alliance is managing the design, schedule, budgets and major procurements of the AWD project. Defence industry in SA is vital to Australia's defence capability and plays a major role in creating value-added jobs within the South Australian economy.

Looking in more detail, the ADF presence in South Australia clearly illustrates the necessity of having a viable branch of the DFWA as the voice of this section of the defence community.

RAN

As a consequence of the closure of HMAS Encounter in June 1994, the Navy Support Office South Australia was established in Keswick Barracks, on the southern outskirts of Adelaide City's parklands. The Navy Support Office fulfilled various roles and functions necessary to represent Navy's interests in South Australia. In 1998, the Navy Support Office was retitled Navy Headquarters, South Australia. Navy Headquarters is located in the Headquarters Building at Keswick Barracks.



The major function of Navy Headquarters is to provide administrative support to Navy personnel working in South Australia and to represent the RAN in the local community. Navy personnel work at various sites in the Adelaide metropolitan area including Keswick Barracks, RAAF Edinburgh, Defence Science & Technology Organisation (DSTO), Salisbury and the Techport facility at Osborne (www.techportaustralia.com/). Navy Headquarters also supports various RANR elements including a Reserve Band, the South Australian Detachment of the Royal Australian Navy Band.

ARMY

A major Army capability, 16 Air Land Regiment (16 ALR), was established on 16 January 2012 following the amalgamation of 1st Ground Liaison Group into 1st Air Ground Operations (AGO) Battery and the re-titling of the Regiment from 16 Air Defence Regiment, to 16 ALR. The Regiment is based at Woodside Barracks in the beautiful Adelaide Hills.



7 Battalion, RAR, with accompanying supporting arms and logistics units is located in world-class facilities at Edinburgh with access to the Port Augusta Training Area, including the close-country facilities at Cultana. The Battalion was originally raised in Puckapunyal, VIC in 1965 as part of Australia's commitment to the Vietnam War and it served two tours in Vietnam in 1967 and 1971. In 1973, following Australia's withdrawal from the conflict, the battalion was amalgamated with 5RAR to form 5/7 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5/7 RAR). These two units remained linked until 2007, during which time they served together in the mechanised infantry role in East Timor and Iraq. In December 2006 – early January 2007, 5/7 RAR was delinked and 7 RAR was re-raised. In January 2009, 7 RAR achieved operational status, a year ahead of schedule.

The Battalion was deployed in late 2012 for service in the Afghanistan Area of Operations. Their task was to advise the Afghan Army's 4th Brigade in Uruzgan Province. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Wells, the battalion distinguished itself in service in the difficult Middle East operating environment. (See the Defence Media coverage of 7RAR's farewell parade [HERE](#)). The motto of 7RAR is 'Duty First'.

9 Brigade is part of 2 Division, Forces Command and is headquartered at Keswick Barracks. Other elements of the Brigade are located in regional South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and New South Wales. The brigade also provides the Australian Army with a Reserve Response Force and a High Readiness Reserve Combat Team which are capable of deployment at short notice with Regular Army Units or in support of civilian agencies. 9 Brigade currently consists of the following units:

- Headquarters 9 Brigade;
- 3/9 Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles)
- 16 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery
- 48 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery
- 3 Field Squadron
- 144 Signals Squadron
- 10/27 Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment
- 12/40 Battalion, Royal Tasmania Regiment
- Adelaide Universities Regiment (AUR); and
- 9 Combat Service Support Battalion.

RAAF

RAAF Base Edinburgh is home to 92 Wing's AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft that conduct surveillance operations throughout Australia's airspace and Aerospace Operational Support Group that conducts

Continued overpage

research and development. The Defence website lists the following RAAF units located at Edinburgh Base:

- 92 Wing - maritime operations, comprising 10 Squadron - AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and 11 Squadron - AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft
- Aerospace Operational Support Group.
- Information Warfare Wing is responsible for supervision, activity coordination and tasking of the following units:
- Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Unit (JEWOSU) provides electronic warfare support to the Navy, Army and Air Force. The unit also provides subject matter advice to the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) and Defence Intelligence Group.
- RAAF Aeronautical Information Service (RAAF AIS) provides the ADF with tailored, accurate and current aeronautical information in both printed and electronic formats to support air operations. RAAF AIS is located in Melbourne.
- 87 Squadron produces timely and precise Air Force intelligence and combat targeting products and expertise to the operational and tactical levels of the Air Force.
- 460 Squadron, located in Canberra, produces accurate and timely geospatial intelligence and precision target intelligence for Defence and National interests.
- 462 Squadron seeks to exploit, and protect against exploitation of the information domain and supports operational commanders in providing a secure information environment to support air operations.
- Development and Test Wing delivers comprehensive, timely and integrated information to enhance war fighting performance. It is responsible for the supervision, planning, project management, tasking and co-ordination of activities delivered by the following units:
- Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU) plans, conducts and analyses the results of ground and flight tests of existing and new Army and Air Force aircraft.
- Aerospace Systems Engineering Squadron (ASESQN) designs and develops non-standard modifications, special test equipment and facilities, and telemetry functions to support flight tests.
- Aircraft Stores Compatibility Engineering Squadron (ASCENG) is the ADF design authority for aircraft/stores compatibility and air weapons engineering.
- Institute of Aviation Medicine (AVMED) ensures the effectiveness and safety of ADF air operations by conducting research and training ADF aircrew to understand and manage the physiological challenges of flight.
- Woomera Test Range provides instrumented test and evaluation range support services to the ADF and the broader Defence community (both Australian and allied).
- 453 Squadron Edinburgh Flight - air traffic control
- 24 (City of Adelaide) Squadron - combat support
- 87 Squadron - intelligence
- 292 Squadron - sensor operator training
- 3 Security Force Squadron
- 1 Radar Surveillance Unit - Jindalee Operational Radar Network
- 1 Expeditionary Health Squadron Detachment Edinburgh

RE-ESTABLISHING THE SA BRANCH

Members and supporters in SA should not expect miracles because to work miracles requires miracle workers and we just don't have those at this time. A number of concerned supporters have put their hands up and their offer is greatly appreciated and will be gladly accepted. We plan to hold an Annual General Meeting in August this year at which time those members who have accepted acting leadership roles will be asked to seek endorsement by the membership should they seek to continue in their positions.

The National Executive of DFWA voted in May 2014 to approve the re-establishment of the Branch. We now embark on a building and re-generation program that will require considerable effort on the part of all members. We must preserve the place of our older members while reaching out to younger members of the ADF to meet their needs in the current environment.

A special interest in the SA Branch will be our women veterans. The contribution of women to the ADF over many years has been significant, but we have not always adequately acknowledged their service and dedication. Serving in a male-dominated Navy, Army or Air Force is a tough gig. Whether a woman has served for six months or twenty five years, on operations or not, we want to ensure that they feel included and that we are set up to help them to appreciate their contribution to our country's defence.

We have a bank account and those seeking membership of the DFWA (SA Branch) can apply for membership through the Association website (www.dfw.org.au/), either online or postal application.

The challenge for the new branch is to be relevant if we are to grow to a sustainable level.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SA EXPERIENCE

Experience has taught us two things. Firstly, that even though issues such as military superannuation may not be in the forefront of an ADF member's mind while he or she is serving, these matters will become vitally important in post-service life, particularly if they or a partner are unable to work through to their chosen retirement age. Secondly, that the Commonwealth government is not a good employer in regard to military superannuation or the maintenance of conditions of service. Individual members of the ADF generally do not speak up outside the command chain about matters that concern them. Service personnel are totally dependent upon the federal government (particularly the Department of Defence and senior commanders) to ensure their adequate remuneration and support. Governments of all persuasions are faced with difficult economic decisions and the temptation to make those decisions to reduce conditions of service where serving members are unable to effectively represent themselves is obvious.

The lesson here is that there is a proven need for an effective and professional voice of the defence community for those serving and for those who have transitioned to life outside the ADF. Ex-service organisations in Australia proliferate, but to speak effectively for

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THE FIRST FATEFUL SHOT: Port Phillip Bay, August 1914

One Day Conference / 9:30am - 4:30pm 2 August 2014
Queenscliff, Victoria

Shortly after midday the gunners at Fort Nepean lined up the German merchant steamer – the SS Pfalz – as it bolted towards the heads and fired the first shot in a terrible war that would last four long years and scar the world.

How was Australia placed at this moment in history? What were the views of the people and the government of the day? Was our military prepared or equipped for what lay ahead? These and many other questions will be posed and answered at this unique conference event.

Hosted by the historic Fort Queenscliff Museum, The First Fateful Shot: Port Phillip Bay, August 1914 will examine the lead-up to the outbreak of World War I from the Australian perspective, and the events of 1914 including the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landing at Rabaul and

the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago.

A tremendous range of speakers has been gathered for this unique conference event including Dr David Day, Dr Janice Croggon and Dr Dale Blair.

The conference will be followed by the Fort Queenscliff Museum's annual Friends of the Fort Black Tie Dinner – a splendid three course meal featuring a special guest speaker.

For more details including the full conference program and to book your ticket for the conference and/or the dinner visit www.mhhv.org.au

We hope to see you there. Seating is limited, don't miss out!

Proudly Supported by:



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WE'RE BACK - IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA!

-serving and ex-serving members of the ADF requires a strong, united approach. The DFWA has a proven record of performance, but we must ensure that we work together with all other ex-service organisations (ESO) in our relations with the government and the bureaucracy, but particularly in serving our clients – those who are serving and those who served. It is not ideal for an individual ADF member seeking support to face a confusing array of ESOs.

The SA experience has shown that to remain an effective Association we must preserve and replenish our membership, particularly those who can assist with lobbying and support activities. The lesson from SA is that we left it to too few willing people to continue to carry out our defined purpose and role. We became stuck on the same issues and a limited range of members. As I was advised by the commanding officer of one of our ADF units recently, superannuation is not an issue with today's serving men and women. One of their main concerns is the steady erosion of conditions of service. So our task must surely be to put our membership proposal forward in such a way that answers the inevitable question, "What's in it for me?"

In South Australia we are well positioned to work closely and effectively with our brother and sister ex-service organisations, including Legacy and the RSL. We are all mainly volunteers, but gaining new volunteer members from today's generation of ADF members will not be easy. We are supported in our efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and we must justify that support by demonstrating relevance in an emerging and challenging environment.

I for one am extremely proud to be a member of the DFWA and I want to ensure that the membership of our new SA Branch does everything that it can to pass on a continuing and viable legacy.

John Wilson
President, DFWA (SA Branch)

(Apologies for any errors in fact Blame my researcher! Information is based on Department of Defence or Australian War Memorial sources.)

WOMEN IN THE

FRONT LINE

It has been reported (The Advertiser 4 June 2014) that just two of the 3100 women in the ARA have taken up the highly publicised opportunity to join the Infantry... and both of them are in the Army Reserve.

Since internal transfers to front line units opened to women in January 2013 just 63 female defence members have applied to join combat units.

And 15 of them are from the permanent force and 48 are reservists. The bulk of the those who have transferred to combat units have joined the armour, artillery and engineering trades.

Despite the low take-up rate Army Chief Lieutenant General David Morrison talked up the cause during a recent Senate Estimates hearing saying that the Reserves were leading the way. He said women comprised 14 per cent of the Reserve ranks and for the first time in the Army's 113-year history a woman was in command of a Brigade.

'We are making some really good headway in terms of overall diversity in the army but the Reserve in many respects is leading the way,' Lieutenant General Morrison said.

Defence Chief General David Hurley said the women pioneering the combat shift were being deliberately shielded from public view by the top brass.

'We think that would put more pressure on them,' he said.

New recruits will be eligible to apply to join frontline units from 2016.

In response to the Advertiser article, the President of the new SA Branch submitted the following Letter to the Editor

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) offers a wide range of career opportunities and every member, woman or man is free to choose the occupation that best suits them. There is no requirement to apply any artificial quotas or percentages on employment categories. The men and women of the ADF are outstanding Australians. They are dedicated, fit, professional and confident. They are committed to doing a tough job under tough conditions. It is unhelpful for members of the community (particularly journalists looking to make their name in a story) to suggest that a woman should choose a particular occupation. There are already women in our combat units. We also have women driving heavy transport and operating highly technical equipment. That was not the case 30 years ago. So progress is being made and opportunities are open to women who want to go that way. General Morrison is on the right track. Let the men and women of the ADF get on with doing a top job.

John Wilson
President

Defence Force Welfare Association (SA)

And on a related note ...

The Daily Mail (UK) reported on 24 November 2013 that three female RAF recruits have each been awarded £100,000 by the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) after suffering injuries caused by marching in step with their male colleagues.

The women claimed that parading alongside taller male recruits caused them to over-stride, a repetitive motion which, when repeated over several weeks, led them to develop spinal and pelvic injuries.

Now, after a five-year bitter legal battle, which saw the MoD accuse the women of exaggerating their symptoms, they have been awarded more compensation than soldiers who suffered serious gunshot wounds in Afghanistan.

According to RAF official policy, female recruits should not be expected to extend the length of their strides beyond 27in. They should also be placed at the front of any mixed squad to dictate the pace.

But while undergoing basic training at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire, the claimants were forced to extend their strides to 30in – the standard stride length for men on parades and marches.

Despite the fact that the women – aged 17, 22 and 23 at the time – were



injured in the first nine weeks of their RAF training, they have been compensated for nine years of lost earnings and pension perks.

All have recovered and have successful careers outside the military.

It is understood that at least five cases of female RAF recruits bringing claims against the MOD due to pelvic injuries suffered on marches are being litigated.

A MoD spokesman said: 'When compensation claims are submitted, they are considered on the basis of whether or not the MoD has a legal liability to pay compensation.

'Where there is a legal liability to pay compensation we do so. The RAF takes the welfare of its recruits very seriously and has reviewed its recruit training practices to mitigate against this risk.

BOOK REVIEW by Marcus Fielding

• THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY from Whitlam to Howard - by Dr John Blaxland

The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard is the first critical examination of Australia's post-Vietnam War military operations, spanning the 35 years between the election of Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister in 1972 and the defeat of the Howard Government in 2007.

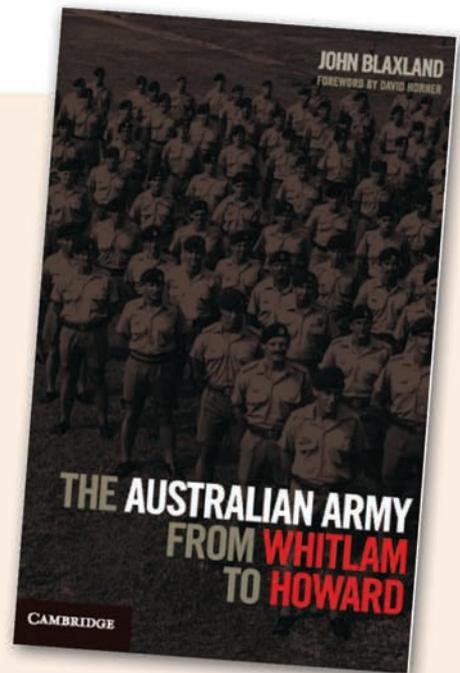
As David Horner, Australia's pre-eminent military historian writes in the foreword "the task of integrating new military operations into the broader narrative of Australia's military history was made difficult because they did not fit the mould of earlier operations." To his great credit, Blaxland has done a tremendous job in collating and documenting what the Army was doing.

John Blaxland is a Senior Fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. Prior to this he spent 28 years in the Australian Army including appointments as Defence Attaché to Thailand and Burma and Chief Staff Officer for Joint Intelligence at Headquarters Joint Operations Command. His previous publications include: Strategic Cousins (2006), Revisiting Counterinsurgency (2006), Information-era Manoeuvre (2002), Signals, Swift and Sure (1999) and Organising an Army (1989). He currently writes about Asia-Pacific military, intelligence and security affairs, and is very well qualified to write this book.

In addition to being a historical record, Blaxland contends that the Army has adapted and been successful over this period, and puts forward five reasons why; including individual and collective training, regimental or corps identities, ties with close allies and regional partners, as well as links with society. These themes are teased out regularly throughout the book to demonstrate prowess but equally Blaxland identifies several issues which could have been perhaps better dealt.

He shows how the Army grew in capability and confidence to play leading roles in East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, and to contribute to combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Blaxland usefully addresses the international, national and tactical levels of activity in his account. He has organised the book into four parts covering from Vietnam to the eve of the East Timor intervention (1972-1999); land force operations in East Timor and Solomon Islands; the Middle East area of operations; and Asia-Pacific engagement and adaptation at home.

At a time when the Australian Army's decade of continuous operations is drawing to an end, and as the 'Asian Century' gathers pace, the



Army's strategic role is once again the subject of some debate. Many foresee some parallels from the era following the end of the Vietnam War – reduced budgets and a greater political reluctance to deploy forces overseas. But at the same time, there is significant capital investment being made into air and naval platforms including the two Landing Helicopter Docks. The role of the Army in a 'maritime strategy' is a topic currently engaging the minds of Army's highest echelons.

My sense is that Australia has an enduring interest and will continue to support a rules based global order and will contribute to a range of endeavours that seek to realise a more just and peaceful world. The broad range of military operations and activities conducted between 1972 and 2007 demonstrate this.

The book includes a large number of photographs, a comprehensive list of abbreviations, several clear maps and an appendix listing the operations undertaken in the period, as well as the meticulous notes and references that you would expect from a seasoned writer.

Horner assesses that "until the official histories appear, Blaxland's book is likely to remain the most thorough, all-embracing account of the Army's recent activities." And the official history of the Australian Defence Force's activities from the East Timor intervention in 1999 has not yet been commissioned. In years to come Blaxland would be well qualified and positioned to lead this effort.

The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the evolution of Australia's military land forces since 1972.

Cambridge University Press, 2013; 434 pp.; ISBN 9781107043657 (hardback); RRP \$59.95

THE DFWA POLICY AGENDA

WHAT IS IT WE ARE LOBBYING FOR YOU?



Editor's Note:

The Association's recent success in gaining fair indexation for some military superannuants shows that persistent, sensible and firm lobbying over time can produce results! There remains much to be achieved, and the Association is currently pursuing the following agenda:

ADF serving and former members expect that the conditions under which they enlist and serve will be honoured. Serving ADF members expect that there will be no reduction of benefits, and that Government's clear obligation to servicemen and women will be met. There is a growing understanding that over time, successive Governments have fallen well short of meeting their responsibility to the individual members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants.

In this context the 2014-2015 Budget has changed the landscape and potentially made it more difficult for us to seek resolution of a number of issues about which the serving and ex-serving communities have been seeking a resolution.

We understand the budgetary challenges confronting the Government, but never the less are in no doubt that there are opportunities for the Government to fund the fixes required. Additionally we are confident from our consultations across the political spectrum, that positive actions to achieve these would have the support of the Opposition, the Australian Greens, Palmer United Party and independent Senators & MPs.

THE FOUR DFWA PRIORITY ISSUES

1. Military Superannuation

There are a number of issues that we believe need to be addressed both in ensuring fairness and equity in the proposed replacement scheme announced as part of the budget and in the existing MSBS scheme which are still outstanding.

a. ADF Super

Under the proposed new arrangements, the employer contribution paid by the Commonwealth will be 15.4 per cent, which will be increased to 18 per cent during periods of deployment on warlike service. There will be no requirement for ADF members to contribute to their superannuation under the new arrangements. This will provide greater flexibility for individuals in how they manage their finances at various

stages of their working life. The Government states that in recognition that military service can be a dangerous undertaking it will maintain statutory cover for death and invalidity and that these will be the same as those under the current MSBS scheme. It is planned that ADF Super will be established and managed by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation.

DFWA Position

We have no philosophical objection to an accumulation scheme for ADF members and there appear to be a number of benefits to members that overcome some of our concerns with the existing MSBS scheme, particularly the ability for members entitlements to be invested in the market rather than held as notional funds adjusted for inflation as is the current situation for MSBS members with a preserved employer entitlement. The projected portability provision is also welcomed.

Death & Invalidity Entitlements.

We welcome the assurances given during the discussions between the National President DFWA and the Assistant Defence Minister that the intended death & invalidity provisions will result in no detriment to any future members, surviving spouses and dependent children compared to those applying in current schemes.

To provide a basis for such assurances the suggestion is that the following scenarios be processed under both current and projected schemes, for the purposes of illustration on 'real-life' situations:

- LEUT – Age 23 - Single - 4.5 years service - Pay Grade 4 - death in non-ADF accident.
- SGT – Age 30 - Married two children aged 10 yrs and 8 years – 11 years service – Pay Grade 6 – rendered paraplegic, discharged with invalidity – then dies 18 months later – non-ADF accident.
- WOFF – Age 38 – Married two children aged 16 yrs and 18 yrs both in schooling – 17 years service – Pay Grade 8 – death in ADF service on operations.
- LTCOL – Age 42 years – Married – three children aged 14 yrs, 16 yrs 18 yrs all in schooling – 19 years service – Pay Grade 10 – death natural causes at home.

Employer Contribution. We do have a number of concerns with

projected percentage “employer” contribution of 15.4% of salary;

- i. Notwithstanding the projected increase during periods of deployment on warlike operations we believe that the base percentage does not take adequate account of the overall uniqueness and demands of service in the ADF. Neither does it recognise the significant shifting of risk from the Commonwealth as employer to the individual ADF member especially as the proposal does not include any guarantee of a base rate of return. We believe the rate (which is the same for the public service scheme) needs to be increased.
- ii. The previous review of Military Superannuation (Podger) recommended adoption of an accumulation scheme but with significantly better employer contributions of;
 - for the first 6 years, 16%;
 - for the next 9 years, 23%; and
 - thereafter, 28%.

These levels of rates better recognise the uniqueness of service in the ADF, the shift of risk from the “employer” to the “employee” as well as providing a retention incentive for ADF members, particularly those in the more highly skilled and technical areas where the training investment return becomes a factor providing defence capability in the most cost effective manner. However we recognise that they were benchmarked against the notional rates applying to the MSBS scheme. In the interests of incorporating appropriate superannuation provisions as part of a fair and just “employment” package they may need testing to ensure the employer contributions are designed to provide levels retirement income for former ADF members at least consistent with those now applying, as well as recognising the significant shifting of risk from the Commonwealth to the individual.

- iii. Having a differential rate for periods of deployment on warlike service will have significant administrative difficulties bearing in mind the often fluid nature of these deployments with a number of deployments being reclassified from hazardous to warlike etc over the last number of years. How would retrospectivity issues be managed?
- iv. The percentage should be applied to the individual's total salary not the base salary rate.

As well these concerns we seek an assurance that all reserve service including that not presently covered in the provisions for MSBS be included in the coverage of ADF Super.

Regulation for the existing military schemes is purely within the Financial Division of the Department of Defence which provides policy advice to the Minister of Defence and makes decisions on outcomes for ADF Members. Governance of civilian Superannuation in Australia is under the Superannuation Industry Supervision (SIS) Act and the Superannuation (Resolution of Complaints) Act. There is no indication of the Governance and Regulation arrangements for ADF Super. We would prefer the oversight arrangements for ADF Super to be in line with those covering other industry schemes.

b. MSBS - Indexation

It could be expected that a significant number of long serving ADF members will remain members of this scheme so the issue of the indexation rate remains for these ADF personnel along with existing MSBS members drawing their entitlement as a superannuation pension. Successive governments have maintained a long standing “employment” promise to maintain the relative value of the superannuation pension so that (as outlined in the previous edition of the MSBS book) “the \$1 in 2011 will be equivalent to \$1 in 2028”.

DFWA Position

We continue to believe the percentage adjustment incorporating the CPI, PBLCI with reference to the MATWE is the fairest way to meet this obligation and should apply to all components of Military superannuation pensions (DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS) including preserved funds and the total reversionary pension for partners of deceased military superannuation pensioners. In light of the projected closure of MSBS and the provision made in the Future Fund to meet the government liability for Commonwealth superannuation, we believe this is an affordable and just action for the Government to take.

c. MSBS - Access to employer benefits

This continues to impose a significant financial shortfall on members of MSBS who leave the service after a short time and do not have access to the employer benefit to roll over to an approved superannuation fund of their choosing.

DFWA Position

The question of MSBS members no longer serving but with “preserved employer” funds needs to be addressed and decision justified. Will they be given the opportunity to roll over their benefit into an accredited superannuation fund of their choice? We believe they should. From the Commonwealth's perspective it will be a short term expense for a long term saving but for the individuals concerned it would represent a very welcome opportunity to earn necessary additional equity in their retirement savings.

d. MSBS - Maximum Benefits Limits (MRLs)

The previous review (RMSA) recommended that MSBS MBLs be abolished. This particular provision has an adverse impact on our longest serving and potentially most valuable ADF members and needs to be abolished as previously recommended. To make matters worse the levels for the public service scheme have been adjusted but not those for MSBS members.

DFWA Position

We continue to seek the abolition of MBLs for continuing contributing members of MSBS.

e. DFRDB - Commutation

The continued use of out of date life tables means that the amount of money deducted from each DFRB/DFRDB fortnightly pension payment to repay the lump sum far exceeds the amount that would apply if the latest life tables had been used.

DFWA Position

We believe that the Government should immediately adopt up to date life

Continued overpage

tables in calculating commutation and fortnightly payments for all new DFRDB superannuants and rectify the injustices associated with the application of inappropriate life tables over the life of these schemes.

f. DFRDB - Indexation

In recognising the unsuitability of using the CPI in its present form to fulfil the “employer” stated obligation to maintain the relative value (or purchasing power) of the DFRDB superannuation pension, the Government in its recent “fair Indexation” Bill excluded the under 55 years superannuants but more particularly the under 55’s on invalidity superannuation pensions. On a number of occasions the government spokesman has acknowledged the need to take action to include those DFRDB superannuants on invalidity superannuation in the new indexation arrangements.

DFWA Position

We want the Government to adjust the Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2014 to include superannuants under 55 but in particular we want priority given to those on DFRDB invalidity superannuation pensions.

2. Veterans Disability Pension

Adjustment of Rates

The Government on a number of occasions has stated that it understands the impact of rising costs of living and the importance of ensuring that entitlements do not erode in value. It has continued to state that it is committed to making sure that our disabled war veterans have their pensions adjusted to take account of “not just of the cost of living but also the standard of living”.

The proposed budgetary changes to the indexing of Age/Service and Veteran Disability Pensions (VDP) will undermine this previously explicitly stated position. While we understand the Government imperative to bring its spending under control, we wish to strongly state our objection to this measure being applied to the VDP.

This pension is compensation for the impact of ADF service on individuals’ physical and mental health as well as economic loss and the inability to earn a living wage for our most disabled veterans. The value of this pension has been and will potentially be further degraded by a number of factors;

- a. The government’s lack of action to fully restore the loss of relative value suffered between VDP and the Age/Service Pensions when the latter payments were re-referenced from 25% to 27.7% of MTAW, resulting in a cumulative deficit to the VDP of \$130 per fortnight;
- b. Their exclusion (despite ministerial level assurances by the then Treasurer (Wayne Swan) from the one off increase made to other Commonwealth Pensions in the 2009 budget which flowed from the “Harmer Review”. and
- c. The projected budget provision to again index it solely by the CPI. The impact of these past political decisions will continue to be most keenly felt by our most disabled veterans under the statutory retirement age. Members and their families bear an unfair burden because of the impact of their service in the ADF.

DFWA Position

The value of the SRDP has varied against wage related benchmarks over many years. It has been subject to determined campaigns by veteran organizations to restore levels, increase its monetary value and set a benchmark against which its value is maintained. This situation has had a continuing adverse impact on relations and perceptions between the veteran community and governments of both persuasions that still exist. It can be argued also that it has had an overall adverse impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of our most disabled veterans. DFWA maintains that the economic loss component of VDP compensation for pensions above the ‘General Rate’ (i.e. TPI/SRDP and Intermediate Rate) is inadequate. ADSO advocates for the economic loss component of these pensions to be tied to the minimum wage (100% for TPI/SRDP) and 50% for Intermediate Rate).

We believe this position is defensible because as compensation, the replacement income of these pensions should be referenced to the Australian community’s minimum wage standard to protect the living standards of our most disabled Veterans.

As well, the EDA and general rates VDP indexation arrangements as they now exist should be maintained.

3. Integrated People & Health Support Systems

Health support and a smooth transition from Service life to post-Service life is regarded as critical aspects in the maintenance of the well being of serving and former ADF members and their families. Recently there have been many concerns expressed by ADF members and health professionals that support (especially health services) standards have degraded and that positive action is needed to ensure appropriate levels of service are restored and that ADF members’ confidence in the support provided is also restored.

DFWA Position

The Government conduct a thorough review in conjunction with selected ESOs who are stakeholders in the transition process to ensure that this process is comprehensively managed to ensure that deficiencies in the following processes have been eliminated:

- a. The outsourced health support arrangements;
 - i. provide appropriate range of quality and timely services to ADF members; and
 - ii. have the support of the medical professional associations.
- b. Appropriate invalidity and other financial entitlements are in place to ensure discharging personnel can access these without delay. Not all ADF Personnel are being advised that they can obtain financial advice up to \$2,500 under MRCA and \$1400, under SRCA concerning monetary offsetting factors associated with entitlements. DFWA sees this as a responsibility of the DVA On Base Advisory Service.
- c. Members records of service be more comprehensive and include full details of postings and particularly deployments to operational zones, overseas and to remote localities.
- d. Any adverse service related medical conditions identified during the member’s service have been fully identified and adequately

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- recorded in ADF service documents.
- e. Appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programs have been instituted and will continue without interruption.
 - f. Servicemen and women are offered comprehensive relevant financial advice, vocational support, and family assistance to ensure a smooth transition from the Service.
 - g. Vocational Education Scheme (CES). With the deregulation of University fees, there is a greater possibility that University fees will rise for our kids and that the VCES will not be indexed to meet this cost increase. Will the Government provide special concession for the children of Veterans in receipt of Special Rate of Pension this will also affect those on full Incapacity payments under SRCA and the Special Rate Disability Pension under MRCA?
 - h. Servicemen and women are provided with comprehensive advice on how they may access medical and other support services including those provided by ESOs, post separation when the need arises. We are concerned there is insufficient emphasis placed on the need for discharging members separating from the defence force to seek advice from ESOs regarding ongoing entitlements and services available for them and their families.
 - i. Provision of timely follow-up by the Services to ensure that any residual issues are quickly resolved. And

In addition, DFVA believes that all members on the SRDP should be entitled to the benefits of the Veterans' Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme not just those with "qualifying service".

4. A Proposed Australian Military Accord

Some time ago the Association produced a paper that set out to describe what made the demands of service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) "unique" when compared with the requirements of other careers in the Australian workforce. Subsequent public discussion on the question of uniqueness of ADF service has become clouded by a range of views and to an extent side-tracked by other interest groups that have tried to equate ADF service with employment in the Police and emergency services organisations. While there are aspects in common between service in the ADF and service in the police and emergency services, there are also fundamental demands placed on Military personnel that makes ADF service unique from that required of police and emergency services personnel.

The first unique aspect of ADF service is the requirement for individuals to surrender their basic human rights under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 to which Australia is a signatory. Surrender of this basic human right is not demanded of any other Australian occupation. Secondly, ADF personnel are required when ordered, and without question, to take up arms and defend Australia from its enemies using lethal force at the risk their lives and well being. Moreover, failure by ADF personnel to comply with such orders or to act dishonourably in the face of the enemy makes them liable to severe criminal sanctions – again, this is a unique aspect of military service.

The concept of an Australian military accord or covenant flows from an understanding of this uniqueness and the objective is to set out the mutual obligations between the Nation and its servicemen and servicewomen. DFVA believes it will help promote greater awareness and understanding

within the general community of the demands placed on ADF members, as well as the community's expectations of the ethos and standards demanded of them. It would also place on public record the Nation's enduring obligations to those who serve and have served in the ADF. It may be that the vehicle (covenant) to achieve these objectives may not be a formal covenant as such, but in pursuing our aims in supporting the serving and former members of the ADF, DFVA along with its ADSO partners has come to the conclusion that there is a real need to place on public record, the Nation's enduring obligations to its service personnel and in turn their obligations to the Nation in some sort of balanced statement.

At the moment there is no consolidated record of either set of responsibilities and we rely on government advertising and sympathetic media stories to promote the well being of our service personnel to the general community. In our increasingly multi-cultural society, we cannot take the public's support for our service community for granted and despite the exploits of our current ADF members in conflicts such as Afghanistan which should make us incredibly proud of them, there needs to be a foundational document that is simple and straightforward from which we can develop and maintain community support into the future.

We believe this or a similar set of words should be up front in the public arena and should be what recruits to the ADF sign up to on enlistment.

The ADSO leaders have accepted a leadership role in promoting this concept and recognise there is a requirement to explain and promote an understanding of it within the Defence Community, the parliament and the wider Australian community. The imperative to do this is driven by a number of factors:

- The increasingly multi cultural nature of our society with growing numbers of recent immigrants coming from societies and countries where military forces are more identified with oppression of the population than with maintaining the safety and security of the population;
- The need for the ADF to reflect the makeup of the community with attendant need to source recruits from more diverse ethnic backgrounds; and
- To provide a more widely understood platform to retain community support for the men and women of the ADF and counter the ongoing (but probably inevitable) negative press reports of abuse within the ADF itself.

OTHER MAJOR ISSUES

5. ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement 2014 – 2015

Remuneration of ADF members should take account of the uniqueness of military service, the skill levels required, as well as representing fair recompense for the value of the work carried out by ADF individuals at various rank levels. With the federal budget under more pressure, members of the ADF will be called on to provide further "productivity" improvements building on those achieved in the "Strategic reform Program" that were acknowledged as coming from initiatives from ADF personnel. We suggest a fair outcome will recognise the efforts of ADF

Continued page 33

MONEYMATTERS

THE FEDERAL
BUDGET

DOOM AND GLOOM OR A WAKE UP CALL??

If you have not read the DFWA Impact Analysis of Key Budget issues, please do so. The publication addresses most of the situations that will affect members of the Military family, clearly explaining the various proposals.

<http://www.dfwa.org.au/press-room/press-releases/budget-2014-2015>

I also encourage readers to refer to the Budget summary, as released by the Government at <http://budget2014.liberal.org.au/> and also the Labor Party response at <http://www.alp.org.au/>

These three links cover most aspects of the proposed Budget. This article will briefly comment on why I believe the Government needs to reign in its borrowing and spending. It will also refer to three areas, as announced by the Prime Minister - pensions, health and education.

You will note the words "proposed Budget" throughout the article, as undoubtedly it will be a moveable feast, as the Government attempts to guide it through the Senate.

I also encourage you to read the "Op-ed" entitled "A Fair Go" by the Opposition Leader, Mr Shorten, on the Labor Party link <http://www.alp.org.au/>

THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2014

Over the years, I have found that there will be as many opinions on a particular topic, as there are people involved. This is certainly the case in relation to the recent Federal Budget announcement.

The Government's approach is based on the belief that governments, like families, need to live within their means. Mr Hockey has said on many occasions that "The days of borrow and spend must come to an end."

In the weeks following the Budget announcement, the public has been subjected to much editorial comment in the Press; many radio and TV interviews; and opinions on Social Media sites. For you, this may have resulted in greater confusion, not knowing which report to believe, and finding that your specific concerns were not being addressed. Many people are convinced they will be worse off. If that is so, I'm not sure anything much will change their mind, except perhaps in the fullness of time.

The Government believes that the condition of the Nation's finances, as

inherited from Labor, are unsustainable, and it is attempting to begin to rectify the situation. Some of the changes that the Government is proposing, are cuts in welfare payments, a greater number of Public Service redundancies than had already been proposed by Labor, and additional charges for medical attention. These changes are not popular.

Mr Shorten has told his caucus that Australians are "white hot angry" at the Abbott government's budget and it is up to Labor to defend low and middle income earners.

The summation by the Journalist Paul Sheehan is that "We now have a leader willing to sacrifice his career for the good of the economy. We have an opposition leader willing to sacrifice the economy for the good of his career."

Perhaps you are an avid follower of politics, or just listen to the occasional 'sound byte' in relation to all the Parties, or maybe you are not interested at all.

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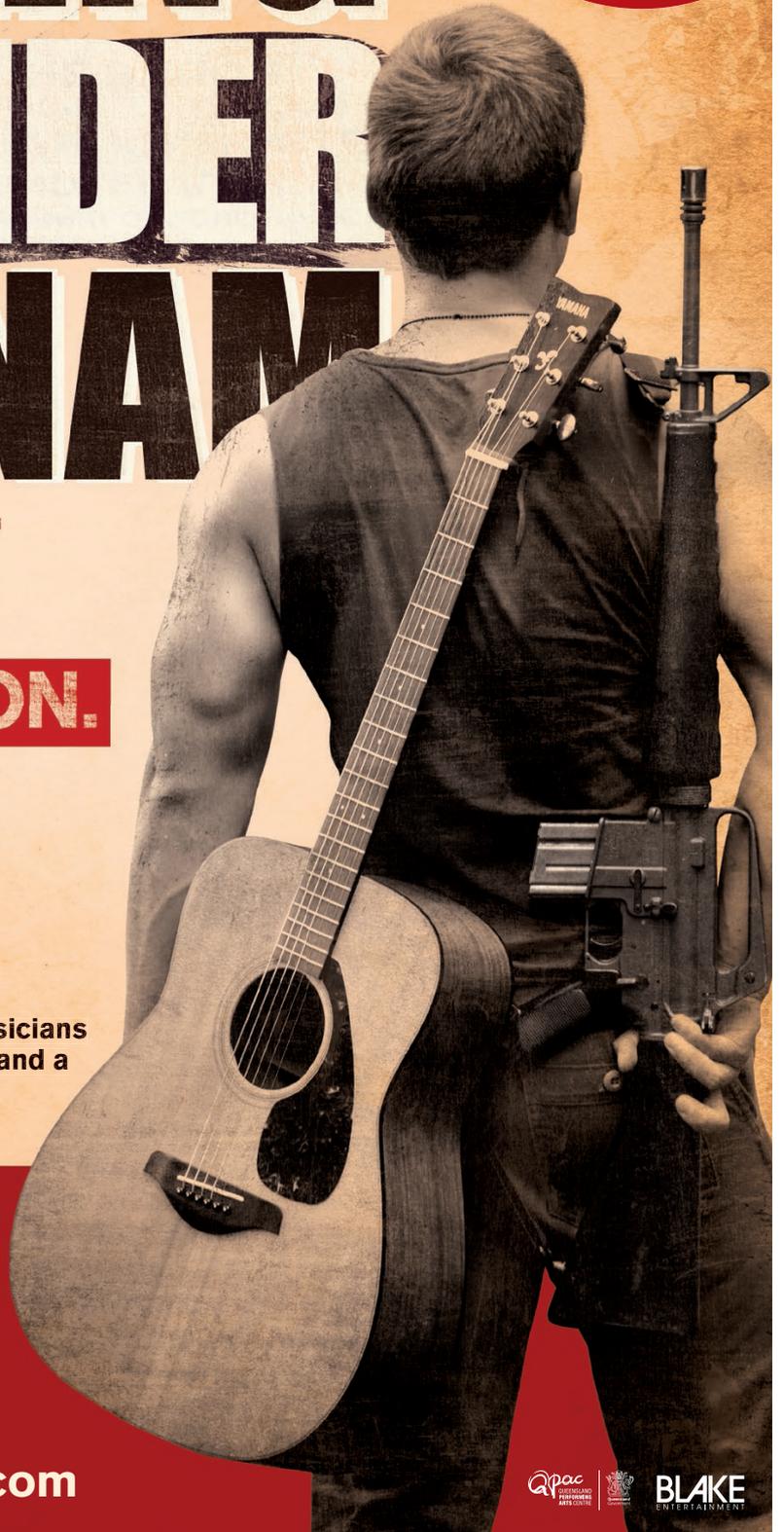
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BLAKE
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ADF CAPABILITY THROUGH FLEXIBILITY

This is the title of the upcoming Defence Reserves Association annual Conference which will be held in Canberra, ACT, for the first time on Saturday 23 August 2014.

DRA has traditionally always held its conferences on Defence bases/establishments, predominately Army, but also RAAF and Navy in recent years. Try as we might we couldn't find a standalone Canberra Defence establishment that could provide accommodation, lecture theatre and conference dinner facilities during August; so, because we wanted to meet in the national capitol we have gone commercial!

The Conference will be held at the Mercure Hotel, corner of Ainslie and Limestone Avenues, Braddon, ACT from 9.00am to 6.00pm. It is a tri-service all ranks Conference and those interested in attending can access information, the Conference Program and Registration form on the website: dra.org.au

The theme of the Conference is to discuss enhancing ADF capability through the utilisation of Reservists, either individually or in teams, integrated or standalone. There are two seminal pieces of work that will facilitate this happening – Plan BEERSHEBA for Army and Plan SUAKIN for all three Services.

Plan BEERSHEBA is now in the implementation phase wherein the three Regular Brigades are transitioning from their former specialist roles to becoming multi-role "like" brigades, suitable for a wider range of roles; to provide more flexibility and allow for rotation on operations.

Concomitant with the above Regular Force transition the six Reserve Brigades within 2 Division are now adopting the Regular three year Force Generational Cycle of Reaching, Ready and Reset, wherein two Reserve Brigades will provide a high readiness Battle Group to augment one of the Regular Brigades. 2015 will see the first real test of this Plan on a major exercise, or indeed if required, a deployment. In other words, the Chief of Army's Total Force concept! To underline this shift for Reservists, the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) can order the deployment of Reservists on operations without seeking Department of Finance approval as previously required.

Plan SUAKIN on the other hand will provide the ultimate in flexibility for the ADF's two components, Regular/Permanent Forces and Reserve Forces, in that it will allow individuals to

transition between defined Service Categories (SERCATS). Originally developed to improve/harmonise Reserve Conditions of Service with their permanent counterparts, the Plan now facilitates total work force integration.

Seven SERCATS have been identified from Defence APS at No.1 through to permanent personnel at No.7. Two new SERCATS are envisaged: SERCAT 5 – non-permanent part-time and SERCAT 6 – permanent part-time. The former equates to continuous full-time service (CFTS) for Reservists, albeit by a simpler process, while the latter is a key "driver" of the Plan that will allow permanent personnel in specialist or critical establishment positions to transfer to part-time service, thereby retaining their skill sets.

The good news is that Phase 2 of Plan SUAKIN has been approved via the Chiefs of Services Committee (COSC) and the Secretary and the CDF Advisory Committee (SCAC). Phase 1 was implemented by the Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESD) under the VCDF and Phase 2 will be implemented by the Defence People Group (DPG) headed by AVM Tony Needham and the Director General Project SUAKIN is BRIG Simon Gould WEF 1 Jul 14.

Major presentations will be delivered on these two plans.

We have been fortunate over recent years to have two Politicians who are friends of Reserve Forces present at our conferences; the then Senator, and last year as "Citizen", David Feeney who successfully transferred to the Lower House at the last Federal Election; and, Stuart Robert MP providing a strong voice for the Opposition. Obviously their roles are now reversed and we are delighted they will be presenting at this year's Conference and responding to our Open Forum's facilitator Neil James of the Australia Defence Association.

In fact at the last Conference at HMAS Stirling, just before the Federal Election, both gentlemen agreed on a range of long standing issues being addressed by the DRA.

The first issue was our concern re elements of a Determination under the Employer Support Payment Scheme (ESPS) wherein there was a Sunset Clause to close the program at 30 Jun 14 and possible discrimination in choosing self employed Reservists (SER) who may be seen to be "double dipping". Subsequently the

Continued overpage



ADF MEMBERS

YOUR NEW SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

HOW SUPER WILL IT BE ?

The Government has advised it intends to introduce a new military superannuation scheme for members of the Australian Defence Force on 1 July 2016, and that it wants to receive advice from the DFWA on it. Regular meetings between the Government and the DFWA will be held over the next year as the scheme is developed.

Although no draft legislation has been released and thus the detail is not yet known, the new scheme:

- will be an accumulation scheme that will allow members to choose which superannuation fund they belong to and allow members to transfer accumulated benefits to a new fund when they leave the ADF; and
- will be compulsory for all new entrants from 1 July 2016 that date. Existing serving MSBS members may transfer their member and ancillary benefits to the new scheme if they wish. However, serving DFRDB members will not be able to join the new scheme.

The Association seeks ADF members' views so that we can effectively lobby on your behalf, armed with YOUR views.

If you have any views on the new scheme, please drop the DFWA a note at adfsuper@dfwa.org.au.

Also, keep an eye on our website for regular updates on this important matter at www.dfwa.org.au/adf-superannuation

Continued from previous page

ADF CAPABILITY THROUGH FLEXIBILITY

Sunset Clause has been removed; the Service Chiefs have agreed to the Funding of same and see it as critical to obtaining specialist skills/trades.

The second issue was the long awaited amendments to the Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001. The Garde Review was completed in 2008 and accepted by Defence in 2009; however it has languished on the legislation priority list since then. The main amendments were to make education as a "protected" activity or service; in fact "un-protected" service is likely to be removed; and, the strengthening of anti discrimination clauses including the introduction of civil penalties. This glacial progress will be overcome, hopefully in the Winter Session of Parliament.

The third issue is the huge delay in eligibility for Reservists to access the Defence House Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS). The Act is ambiguous in that it is an "open" eight years compared to four years for Permanent personnel. The policy,

managed by Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) state that they should be "consecutive" years, while the Act clearly meant "cumulative" years. Solving this issue is more problematic, for though "our" two politicians have agreed, the "bean counters" see it as a cost saving! The DRA will stay on this issue as it clearly is unfair and discriminatory.

Returning to the Canberra Conference; our Strategic Review last year was very well received and will again be presented, along with our Report Card from the Directors' General Reserves of the three Services and also the Surgeon General Reserves of our "fourth service", Defence Health.

All in all a very full programme!

This Article was written by Jim Barry, our Vice President-Reserves, in his capacity as Immediate Past President of the Defence Reserves Association.

BOOK REVIEW

• KUAMUT

Part of the Untold Story of Confrontation in 1964 - by Ken Park

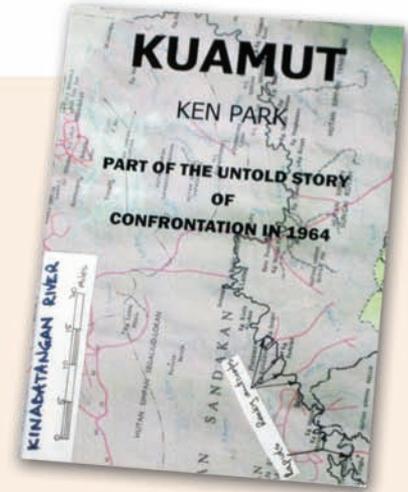
“Confrontation” was Indonesia’s aggressive response to the creation of the Federation of Malaysia.

KUAMUT describes Australia’s initial response when asked to help. That response was 7th Field Squadron RAE.

Confrontation was the forgotten war; forgotten well before the troops even came home.

“When we returned home there was no hero’s welcome from a grateful nation, no ticker-tape parade. There were no conscripts at that time and the anti-war movement had not yet been born. We had fortunately suffered no deaths and had inflicted no casualties on the enemy, encountered no IEDs and PTSD was not yet a recognised diagnosis. No wonder the media and politicians showed complete indifference.”

In 1964 Captain Ken Park led 64 young men on the construction of a military airstrip at Kuamut on the Kinabatangan River in Sabah, Borneo. Kuamut is probably one of the most inaccessible and inhospitable places on the globe. The task was completed ahead of schedule without casualties despite incredible obstacles and difficulties. The Sappers’ improvisation, initiative, perseverance, and wry humour, 50 years after Gallipoli, were yet another contribution to the Digger legend.



Park’s first book is liberally intertwined with larrikin reminiscences from the soldiers, his own accurate, frequently cynical observations and perceptive insights into military matters. These insights are well supported and put into a broader perspective in a hard-hitting Foreword by Brigadier Frank Cross.

In the rich spectrum of Australia’s military history, Kuamut was pretty small stuff:

“It is about building a small airstrip in the middle of nowhere which took only four months and had no bearing whatsoever on a long forgotten campaign.”

It is however a true story about young men doing a tough job in tough conditions. It is a fascinating, moving, living history.

Copies available from the author at franken@iinet.net.au at \$11.00 plus postage

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NSW,ACT, QLD,VIC AND WA BRANCHES)

2014 RAFFLE

[DFWA (NSW Branch) Chartistable No: CM 13501115]

It is Annual Raffle time again for the NSW,ACT, QLD,VIC and WA Branches. Tickets (at the unchanged price of \$1.00 each) will be mailed to members in late July/early August 2014, offering a range of attractive prizes.

The Raffle will close in late September 2014 and be drawn later in mid-October. Results will be published in Camaraderie.

Please support this worthy fund-raiser by selling/purchasing tickets (and/or making a donation in lieu). The proceeds help considerably to off-set the administrative costs of participating Branches.

If you do not wish to receive raffle tickets in the upcoming mailout, please advise in writing the Hon Secretary of your State branch.

RD242.10/4/14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A DFRDB RECIPIENT REFLECTS

Dear Sir,
Thanks DFVA for the good work fthe Association continues on our behalf..

As someone who is under 55 and a DFRDB recipient [was at age 38], there still remains a large number of DFRDB contributors who continue to serve, albeit in diminishing numbers. When the MSBS “horse and pony show” came to the Barracks in 1992, they put up data-projector presentations showing how much money people will get under MSBS if they changed over. Many, with the stars in their eyes did elect to change and the vast majority have regretted that decision ever since. My view was that if anything that “Cheating Keating” brought into our ADF Entitlements was not going to be good, so I chose to stick with DFRDB and thank god I did. Things would be significantly different [in the bad sense], for me financially had I gone over to MSBS.

If one was a Senior Officer who was about to retire at that time, the MSBS was a gold mine. However as time went on, the ability to access the Employee Benefit, Employer Benefit and the Productivity Benefit when one left the ADF diminished. They changed the goal posts in similar context to the changes of the Australian Superannuation Law. First the Employee Benefit had to be rolled over. A few years later came the same for the Employer Benefit and then later the Productivity Benefit all being rolled over with members discharging without a cent. Leaving the MSBS contributor with nothing and unable to access these rolled over amounts, in most cases until age 60.

The Invalidation pensions for MSBS is highly confusing, but nowhere near as beneficial as the DFRDB Invalidation pensions.

And now as MSBS members are getting older the Maximum Benefit Limit [MBL], comes in at NRA, of which there is no scope for the member to build on their nest egg, should they serve further. With the age limit for retirement looking at rising, this places a dilemma for these people who wish to continue to serve. CRA is now 60. The ALP announced a couple of Budgets ago that they were going to raise the retirement age to 67 in 2017. Now it looks like the Coalition will up this further. Access to Superannuation will undoubtedly be scrutinised with a potential gap of Compulsorily retired ADF members at age 60 not being able to access their super until some years later. What are they going to do in the meantime for income?

Being an ex-soldier, I know personally that the body does not last too long as a soldier, particularly with old injuries and degenerative conditions. A mate of mine is turning 57 this year. He is still a CPL – never wanted to go any higher. He has been in the army since he was 17. He is getting out, because he cannot keep up with the young diggers in PT, as his knees and back are stuffed from almost 40 years of service in Combat units. Thankfully



for him, he stuck with DFRDB – although he could have retired at 55, soldiering was his life, his passion and his dedication. I am surprised he has lasted this long and kept up with the young guns for decades!

I feel that we need to jointly come to an all round agreement that we need to prioritise our lobbying to ensure that those who are less fortunate are able to gain benefit if they are under 55.

1. The MSBS and DFRDB Invalidation Pensioners are proposed to be the next to be targeted for Indexation. A number of these people do not have any compensation or Veteran Entitlements as they in a number of cases were medically discharged from causes outside of service. They don't receive the DSP, or if they do it is very small [Class B]; in the majority of cases do not have a Pensioner Concession Card and if they are permanently incapacitated or disabled, their Invalidation pension cancels out any financial assistance.

2. The next priority would be to sort out the MSBS mess. The ADF was able to retain members for 20 years or more with the enticement of DFRDB pension and Commuted Lump Sum. This no longer happens. Whether or not we are able to convince Government to re-introduce the DFRDB scheme will be a difficult matter. At least force strength retention was existent and the temptation to leave versus the benefits of DFRDB kept many ADF members in the service.

3. Lastly, we get rid of the age limit and provide those who retire from the ADF in their late 30's a chance of not having their Super eroded as has been the case.

I feel we are in for some very difficult financial times ahead, but we should also not lose focus of what has eroded in terms of Military Super and veteran entitlements. The Government will need continual reminding that they owe it to these men and women who have served their country in conflict or peacetime, that parity and equity is essential to their livelihoods.

Off my soap box, this is a proposition, without all the detail, but I feel it is worth considering. We won't be successful in the next Budget, therefore, we will need to up the ante for the following Budget. One step at a time will greatly assist those who have provided long service to Australia in uniform or those who are invalidated.

Paul Copeland

STATE-SPONSORED DISCRIMINATION

Sir,

A superannuation pension that maintains its purchasing power is a long standing condition of ADF service, founded in the Parliament's establishment of military superannuation schemes in the early 1970s, and also reflected in the design and inception of MSBS. The callous casting aside of proper indexation in the early 1990s ought never to have been allowed to occur.

With the passage of the Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2014 the Parliament has gone some way towards restoring proper indexation of superannuation pensions; but only for over 55 year old DFRDB/DFRB retirees.

While excellent in itself, this action clearly fails the very test of fairness that prompted it. For those under 55 who qualify for superannuation under existing legislation, and all those who serve and have served under the current scheme – MSBS – the purchasing power of their superannuation will continue to spiral ever downwards. That does not accord with notions of a 'fair go'.

These people have done nothing different except to be born a little later, or choose to transfer to MSBS, on the same understanding about their super – that, whenever they got it, and however large or little it was – it would maintain its purchasing power. Does the Parliament really intend to neglect them while at the same time proclaiming its “unwavering commitment to support veterans and their families”?

That is unjust discrimination against ADF veterans whose “unique military service and sacrifices ... on behalf of all Australians”, are equally

recognised by the Government in all other respects? Surely this is actionable under Australia's Anti-Discrimination laws and Human Rights responsibilities!

Let us all press for the indexation gap between all DFRDB and MSBS military members and superannuants to be fully closed. Equity calls for that to be done as soon as possible. Let the Parliament know that veterans are heartily sick of the shabby treatment that they and their successors still serving in the ADF have to put up with.

Let us also challenge egregious and unhelpful media stories - often attributed to nameless 'sources' - whenever and wherever they appear. We need the community to recognise that pensions under military superannuation schemes are not social security, nor welfare like the age pension: they are an earned non-discretionary condition of service. They are most certainly not generous, though there was an underlying generosity of intent in the original design of their defined benefit aspects, founded on a clear understanding of the unique nature of military service.

We wish for nothing more than the proper dues for our ADF and military veterans, and their families. All of us have a role to protect their interests from state-sponsored discrimination and other forms of inequity. Let “them” - in whom we learnt to place our loyalty and trust - know that we expect the right thing to be done by them all. Quiescence can be our greatest enemy in this struggle, so I urge everyone to let their voices be heard, especially on behalf of those still serving.

*Bert Hoebee
2 June 2014*

MSBS IS NOT ALL GOLD !

Dear Editor,

Several recent newspaper articles discussed the Commission of Audit recommendation to close the Military Superannuation Benefit Scheme (MSBS) to new entrants. Each of those articles either implied or were quite explicit in suggesting that the scheme was 'generous'. Even the Commission itself seemed to be of that view.

That is simply not so. Far from being generous, the scheme has flaws that have proven to be very costly to members in their efforts to plan their retirements. The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) has prepared an easy to understand flyer which not only highlights these flaws but also compares the military scheme to a typical industry commercial one.

One of the major flaws is that the Government withholds the Employer Component until the serviceman/woman reaches Preservation Age (55). Whilst preserved, the notional employer contribution component of a member's account is only indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A young man or woman who joins the ADF, serves for say 10 years and then resigns, cannot withdraw their Employer Contribution and roll it into a super fund of their choice like most other workers in the nation. When this serving member finally gets access to their Employer Component they are likely to find its value could be as much as \$360,000 less than what they could have earned by rolling it over into private superannuation fund (that is even based on the Government's own figures).

Why is this so? Because Australian superannuation funds have returned on average around twice CPI over the long term, which means that upon maturity, the purchasing power of an MSBS preserved benefit has significantly eroded because MSBS members do not benefit fully from long term market conditions enjoyed by most other Australians.

As at 30 June 2013, there were approximately 92,000 military folk with preserved benefits. What do we want to rectify the injustice? Two key things:

- MSBS pensions and preserved benefits to be Indexed in the same way and at the same frequency as the age pensions; and
- MSBS members with preserved benefits to be given the choice and permitted to roll their entire benefit into a complying superannuation fund of their choice on leaving the ADF.

Coupled with the forgoing, we also want Maximum Benefit Limit (MBLs) abolished for those on MSBS. The 2007 Report of the Review of Military Superannuation actually recommended it but nothing eventually happened. What does this mean in practice? It means there is a limit after which neither the member nor the employer (ADF) is permitted to pay into MSBS.

*Alf Jaugietis
Executive Director
Defence Force Welfare Association*

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MONEYMATTERS



Perhaps you are concerned for the long term future of 'our Nation', or "what's in it for me?", or somewhere in between.

Most readers use a Credit Card. In an ideal world, one should always pay off the Card in full, each month before the due date, so that one does not have to pay the high rate of interest to the Bank who has provided you the credit. Do you know that some people have used a second Credit Card to pay off the first? "Unbelievable", one could say. I agree!! Where does this type of activity end? One either has to make a concerted effort not to continue using Credit, and endeavour to repay the Credit Card debt as quickly as possible, to get rid of the interest payments, or continue borrowing and increase the debt liability. I ask again, where does this end?

I use this illustration to highlight the fact that I believe our Nation is currently participating in a similar activity. Australia is paying one billion dollars, or \$1,000 million every month, to cover the interest bill on the debt that it inherited. This money is being borrowed. I must agree with the Government in their belief that this is unsustainable.

The Prime Minister has stated that "Through the Budget the government delivered an economic action strategy that will put Australia's finances back on a sustainable footing, strengthen the economy and reduce Labor's debt by almost \$300 billion over the next decade." Note the operative words - "next decade" - not tomorrow, or next week ... next decade. This will be a long, slow process, but one that cannot be ignored and pushed aside.

PENSIONS

The Government has stated that Centrelink Pensions will not change during this term of Parliament. They will continue to increase, as they have done before, twice a year. After the next election, in 2017, it is proposed to increase the pensions by CPI rather than wage indexation. If, as is currently beginning to occur, wage indexation declines, I believe that transferring proposed pension increases to CPI indexation, is a more favourable long-term outcome for pensioners.

Pensioners should also benefit when the "carbon tax" is abolished.

Labor had already proposed that the retirement age should be lifted to 67 in July 2023. The Government has now proposed to lift the retirement age to 70 in July 2035. May I suggest there will be much "water under the bridge" between now and 2035.

There are also proposed changes to welfare benefits for young people, however they are intended to encourage recipients to "earn or learn."

HEALTH

The Government has noted that Federal assistance to the States for public hospitals will increase by more than 9 per cent every year for the next three years and by more than 6 per cent in the fourth year (a 40 per cent

increase over the next four years, or more than a \$5 billion a year increase in spending on hospitals.)

As far as the co-payment in relation to visiting a Medical Practitioner, the Government will retain the strong safety net, for people who need it.

We are a Nation of 23 million people, of whom 8.6 million are Concession Card Holders in relation to their health care.

EDUCATION

The Government proposes to increase funding to schools each and every year. Over the next four years, funding will increase by 34% or \$4.6 billion, which the Government says is \$1.2 billion more than Labor planned to spend over the same period of time.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Treasury Secretary Dr Martin Parkinson said the Federal Government had made tough but necessary choices in its Budget, and States should as well.

"Fiscal drag will pull someone on average earnings, average full-time earnings, into the 37 per cent tax bracket from 2015-16. Moreover, it will increase the average tax rate faced by that taxpayer from 23 per cent to 28 per cent by 2023-24," he said.

Dr Parkinson says the Budget is designed not only to return the Commonwealth to surplus but also to leave scope for income tax cuts to offset the effect of that bracket creep.

Is there any easy way of convincing the public that co-payments for doctors' visits are not unreasonable, or that middle class welfare is not sustainable, or reassuring recipients of the Age Pension that the pension will still rise and not be cut?

If a person is convinced they're worse off, I'm not sure anything much will change their mind, except perhaps in the fullness of time.

TAURUS

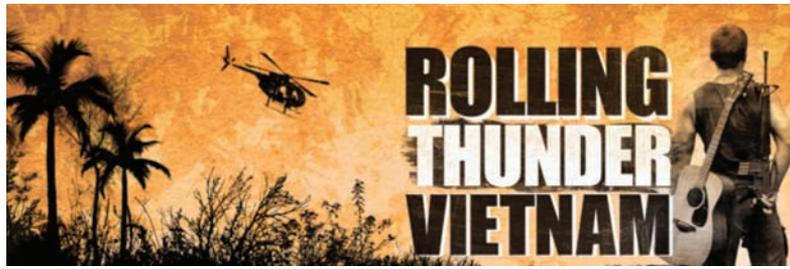
This article is published purely for information which we believe is accurate and reliable, but no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given. Any advice is general advice, and not personal advice, nor a recommendation to invest.

THE BEST LINE I'VE HEARD IN AGES...

... came from Chris Adams during an interview on Radio Station 4BC with the National President of the DFWA, David Jamison:

"It's bizarre that we have to have a Defence Force Welfare Association."

think about it



An Epic Concert Drama Not to be Missed

The powerful new Australian concert drama 'Rolling Thunder Vietnam' will have its world premiere in Brisbane on 14 August 2014 ahead of a national tour.

The making of a homegrown show set in the Vietnam War era has been a passionate, deeply inquiring and challenging process. For the close-knit creative team and cast it has been a labour of love, and a journey that has been inspiring, raw, emotional and confronting.

The stories at the heart of Rolling Thunder Vietnam are drawn from the real-life experiences of young soldiers serving in Vietnam. The characters speak of faith, courage, struggle and loss. Their predicament throws up all kinds of questions about allegiance, duty, morality and sacrifice. The stories are as relevant today as they were during what was the world's first televised war.

The late '60s was a period of enormous social and political change. It was

a time when leaders were cut down in their prime and when the world appeared to be spinning out of control. It was also an era of awakening when songwriters and artists put store in the transformative and liberating power of music.

As such, Rolling Thunder Vietnam – Songs That Defined A Generation affirms the restless, vulnerable and searching spirit of youth by bringing to the stage a new generation of young musical talent under the musical director of the acclaimed Chong Lim (The John Farnham Band, Dancing With The Stars). The cast features the popular young performer Wes Carr and introduces Tom Oliver, Kimberley Hodgson, Matt Pearce, Will Ewing and Vanessa Krummenacher in what promises to be an evocative and stirring production.

The premiere Australian season of Rolling Thunder Vietnam is supported by DFWA, Mates4Mates, Stand Tall for PTS and Soldier On.

More details at the web site: rollingthundervietnam.com

Continued from page 24

THE DFWA POLICY AGENDA

members in achieving efficiencies under the "Strategic Reform Program" and retain real value over the course of the arrangement. We believe in formulating its position to take to the DFRT, the Commonwealth should make reference to the movements in the Employee Living Cost Index as a basis to consider salary levels for the course of the new arrangement.

6. Jet Fuel & Chemical Exposure

We are concerned to ensure that a future study to encompass the Army (& other ADF) petroleum operators/handlers and maintenance workers emerge from the present Jet Fuel Exposure Study which concentrates on F111 maintenance operations. So we are supporting the call for an extension of the investigation into the petroleum operator and maintenance work related fuel and chemical exposure of ADF members in the course of their duties.

7. Military Court of Australia (MCA)

Whilst legislation to provide for the Court to be established has been delayed, we continue to strongly oppose the provisions of the Bill which would provide for the trial of serious service offences in the MCA by judge or federal magistrate alone. The right to a trial by jury is the right of every Australian citizen, conferred by s.80 of the Constitution and members of the ADF are citizens of Australia and are no less entitled to receive fair treatment in the justice system simply because of the nature of their profession. In our view no real or substantial reason which can withstand close scrutiny has been given by the Government for the proposed withdrawal of this right and we have sought to have the bill redrafted to provide that trials in the MCA should be before a judge/federal magistrate and a military jury. To date the Government has not responded to our submission.

8. Unfair Balance of Legal Resources at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Veterans, when appealing to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal against the rejection of a claim for compensation (or the Department is appealing against the acceptance of one) are entitled to Legal Aid funding. This funding covers the preparation of the case, one medical report, the appearance of the author of the medical report at the Tribunal to defend it, and a barrister to argue the case before the Tribunal for one day. But more and more cases are not conforming to these limits. More and more cases are lasting two, three and four days and require more than one medical report. However Departmental legal representatives do not operate within these limits and can take as many days as they like. Neither are they limited in the number of medical reports they commission nor the number of medical specialist appearances at the Tribunal hearing. To make matters worse, the best qualified doctors are reluctant to provide reports for veterans because Legal Aid funding does not cover their usual fees. They have no such reluctance to provide reports for the Department which pays the higher fees.

To make matters even worse, many law firms simply refuse to take on veterans' cases citing inadequacy of remuneration but exercise no such reluctance in working for the Department which pays higher fees. In the interest of fairness, the Department of Veteran Affairs must restrict itself to employing similar legal resources to those available to the veteran and observe the Model Litigant Rules.

In this proposal we are suggesting a rebalancing of financial resources allocation rather than advocating additional funding to cover this proposal.

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION TO JOIN OR RENEW



To Honorary Secretary, DFWA Branch (send to address on Contacts page)

Please enroll me / renew* my membership in the DFWA (* delete as appropriate)

Rank/Title Family Name

Given Names Post Nominals

Address

State Postcode DOB / / 19

Preferred telephone Email

PLEASE MARK THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY TO YOU:

Serving Past Member RAN Army RAAF

Married Widower Single Spouse

MY SUPERANNUATION FUND: MSBS DFRDB DFRB

PAYMENT:

\$ is my annual / 5 year / life subscription / tax deductible donation to the Association's

Branch or National Welfare Fund (delete as appropriate):

Enclosed as a cheque or money order.

On / / 20 I made a Electronic Funds Transfer to my nominated Branch, in accordance with the instructions found on the DFWA website (www.dfw.org.au)

Signature Date: / / 20

from 1 Jan 2013

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	FEES
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force	\$40.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above	\$20.00
FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP	
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force	\$170.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above	\$85.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force under 60 years of age	\$560.00
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force over 60 years of age	\$400.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above, under 60 years of age	\$300.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above, over 60 years of age	\$200.00



BRANCH REPORTS Around Australia

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NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

A more detailed report of NSW Branch activities is provided to NSW Branch members in the insert NATTER.

NEW MEMBERS

Your President and Committee offer a warm welcome to the DFWA family to the following new members who have joined the DFWA NSW Branch since 19 March 2014.

SGT M Adby, CAPT N K Bramwell, AB C Bryant-Smith, PTE A Carter, WGCDR T P Chalke, Mr D Court, LS C Cox, LEUT MT Cramp, Mrs B Cunynghame, SGT W J Currin, Mr J Ekin, LCPL K N Hewett, Mrs E Hill JP, WO I P J Huhse, CPL T J Jackson, SIG M J A Maldeen, AB E Kemp, WOFF P Kennedy, SGT P Looker, AD D R MacPherson, Mr D Maroney, Mr J McGrath-Volay, POMT F Morley, PTE J Pedersen, Mrs F Robson, LST Russell, CAPT K Sims, Mr A Smith, LEUT D Vale, LCDR A Van de Beek, LCDR V Vorobieff, CHAP (GPCAPT) M Willis, LS A S Wood.

VALE

It is with regret that the death of the following members is advised:

Mr K H Bodel, LCDR C L Cunynghame, Mr B J Fregon, WO I R C Hartmann Mr I E Heesom, Mr W W Humphries, Mrs L M Manners, Mr L R McCulloch, PRIN CHAP (BRIG) D H Percival AM, Colonel A D Watt OBE

ACT BRANCH

A more detailed report of ACT Branch activities is provided to ACT Branch members in the insert CAPITAL CHIT CHAT.

VALE

Mrs Jean Heweston and Mrs Jean Pearson

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Mr Bill Blair, LEUT Fiona Simmonds and Mr Neil Snudden.

AGM

The 2014 AGM will be held at the Burns Club, Kambah on Tuesday 14 October 2014 commencing at 1030.

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

These are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Burns Club, Kambah, commencing at 1030. They are always open to members, many of whom will stay and have a meal in the Club Dining Room. However, to assist with administration an email to actbranch@dfwa.org.au would be appreciated.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

PRESIDENTS REPORT

After the Government passing the Fair Indexation Bill the tempo of Qld Branch Executive activities in support of National Office and ADSO objectives eased. Internally, our

programme of making contact with each one of our Qld Branch members is continuing. This achieves the dual purposes of refreshing our database with current information and providing reassurance to our members that they matter to us and that we are here for them if required. The office continues to be staffed 3 days a week to meet the demand for admin support and increasing apparel orders, particularly from interstate members.

DFWA Qld Branch continue to be represented on the Queensland Forum of Ex Service Organisations (QFE), the DVA sponsored Queensland Consultation Forum and the State Government sponsored Queensland Veterans Advisory Council. We also participated in another ADF Transition Seminar with an information stand, which was well received. While the RSL seems to have a monopoly on actually presenting to the ADF Transition Seminars, other ESO have indicated an interest in joining us at our information stand to provide their information to the attendees at the seminars. We also provided hospital visits and poppy ceremonies at funeral services when requested.

With the May budget, our workload again increased, primarily responding to queries from concerned Queensland members on the reported impact of budget announcements. Many of the concerns were unfounded and resulted from misreporting in the news media or inadequate explanation of the Government's intent. For example, it wasn't made clear that DVA card holders would not be required to pay the medicare co-payment, and that the proposed CPI indexation arrangements for age/service pensions did not apply to the recently won change to indexation for DFRB/DFRDB pensions. The proposed new ADF super scheme is another matter that has already begun to occupy National Office attention and we are supporting work in that important area as well as other ongoing ADSO objectives.

Rob Shortridge
President
DFWA Qld Inc

VICTORIA BRANCH

After 10 years of outstanding, highly competent and dedicated service as Branch Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer, Peter Newman has resigned, effective immediately, from these positions for health reasons. His resignation has been accepted with deep regret and reluctance. However, Peter will assist the new Secretary/Treasurer, Stephen Grainger, to settle into these positions, making the transition as smooth as possible, and will provide mentoring advice to us all in the forthcoming months. While undoubtedly Peter's exceptional competence, knowledge, experience and acumen combined with his caring and cheery approach to all matters will be sorely missed, we are exceedingly fortunate that someone like Stephen Grainger has offered to fill the positions, as well as to progressively train as an advocate. Further comments on both Peter and Stephen are in the enclosed Branch Supplement.

Peter's departure highlights the Branch's desperate need for younger volunteers to not only help run the Branch but also to undergo welfare, pension and advocacy training to assist serving and ex-serving ADF members with their DVA claims and entitlements.

However, despite having to work through our share of difficult issues, the Branch continues to operate effectively.

PASSING PARADE

GPCAPT J. R. Bartrum, AM; Mrs N. E. Williams (Nee: Rosson); LTCOL E.P. Haddad;

NEW MEMBERS

Mr J. Salmond; Mr S. Grainger;

TRANSFERS OUT

FLLT J. Van Vogelpoel. To Queensland Branch.

DONATIONS

CAPT K. Swadling; Mr J. Espie; LTCOL B.F.B. Dance; Mrs J. Dent; Mr B.A. Reeves; WGCDR D.G. Croucher; MAJGEN J.C. Hughes, AO, DSO, MC; Mr M.D. Carson;

BRANCH SUPPLEMENT

Members are reminded that the enclosed Branch Supplement includes items of local interest and possibly some more current issues.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to Mr C Day and Mr A Ellis

RESIGNATIONS

The Committee has regretfully accepted the resignations of Mrs G Frazer and Mrs N B Larkin.

LOST CONTACT

We appear to have lost contact with Mrs M G Kerby. Any help in assisting us to re-establish contact with Mrs Kerby would be gratefully appreciated.

VALE

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Mr R S Black, Mr J Chalmers, and Mr B G Keeley.

ADVOCACY

Regretfully Mark Wainwright has advised that he must 'retire' as an active advocate at the end of the year. Mark is our resident F111 deseal/reseal project advocate. In his capacity as a pension officer/advocate Mark has worked tirelessly to support his clients and mentor new pension officers. Thank you Mark for your dedication as an advocate and sound advice as a mentor; you will be sorely missed.

New Welfare/Pension Officer: Steve Lucks has taken the plunge and completed his first TIP training course. Welcome Steve.

The Figures. During the period Jan - the end of May 2014 our advocates and pension/welfare officers expended a total of 138 support hours and travelled 962 kms supporting clients. These figures are unusually low due to the unforeseen non-availability for protracted periods of three of our officers. Nevertheless, while support supply was down, support demand remained high.

AGM

The WA Branch AGM will be held on Wednesday 3rd September 2014 at the RAAFA Bull Creek, starting at 2pm. Further important information is contained in the branch newsletter (The Western Front) enclosed with this edition of Camaraderie.

BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year, our Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 11th December at the RAAFA Bull Creek. Please make a diary note.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - A FRIENDLY REMINDER

A friendly reminder, to those members who have not yet paid their 2014 membership subscriptions, that annual membership subscriptions fell due on 1st January 2014.

DWSG (WA BRANCH) -

Report by S Mooney (Convenor DWSG WA)

We are a happy group and enjoy each other's company. Over the years we have become film critics, and authorities on Local and Federal Government issues and just know how to fix the budget - although some of our suggestions are a little radical!

Recently, three of our members supported a PTSD public awareness activity by helping to man an information stand in the Perth CBD. We are also hoping to be able to contribute to the 'Poppies In The Sand' project - commemorating the departure of the ANZAC contingent from King George Sound on November 1st 1914.



**WHAT DO YOU DO WITH
CAMARADERIE ONCE YOU
HAVE READ IT?**

If you put it in the recycling (or even worse the rubbish) why not think about taking it to your next Dr/Dentist/Physio/etc appointment and leave it in the waiting room. It will probably be one of the most current magazines in the pile and may attract the attention of other veterans or ex-service people.

Defence Force Welfare Association

The Association does much work on your behalf - from lobbying Government to improve conditions to assistance to individuals. We cannot do it without financial and human resources. Your tax deductible donation will help us continue our good work: if you are able to help us financially, please detach the form below and send it along with your tax deductible donation. A receipt will be issued to you.

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BOOK REVIEW by Marcus Fielding

• ANZAC'S LONG SHADOW

The Cost of our National Obsession

- by James Brown

Some readers will cringe, some will cheer, some will think and many will do all three in reaction to Anzac's Long Shadow. Whatever the reaction James Brown should be commended for producing this short and hard-hitting book. Not only does he question Australia's national obsession with Anzac, but in the process he analyses how it has come about and why it is an issue that we should be concerned about.

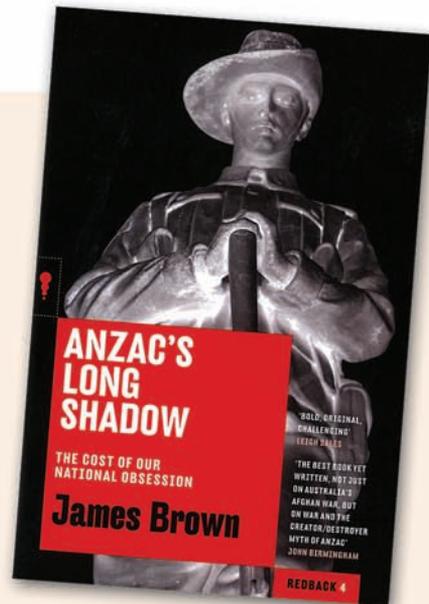
Brown is a former Australian Army officer, who commanded a cavalry troop in Southern Iraq, served in the Australian taskforce headquarters in Baghdad, and was attached to Special Forces in Afghanistan. Today, he is the Military Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy. He also chairs the NSW Government's Contemporary Veterans Forum.

Brown argues that a century after the World War, Australia is expending too much time, money and emotion on the Anzac legend; that Anzac is being 'bottled, stamped and sold'. He is concerned that this 'festival of the dead' is at the expense of our current serving men and women.

Australian governments are planning to spend more than \$325 million on commemoration of World War I in the coming years. As government spending is being increasingly scrutinised, he asks the question: why do Australians seem to be more interested in the soldiers of a hundred years ago than those fighting for them today?

In exploring this central issue Brown examines a range of contemporary issues and poses some challenging and at times confronting questions. Have Australians been fooled into thinking that Australian soldiers are so good they don't die? Does Australia have a lower tolerance for casualties than Canada? Has our understanding of military history been split along party lines? Is there an 'arms race' for commemoration in Australia? Does Australia's obsession with dead soldiers shape our understanding of modern war? Is the ADF's current approach to the media creating a widening chasm of understanding between the military and Australian society?

Anzac's Long Shadow reads like an extended editorial piece. No subject is spared from his criticism – Australian culture, the government, the ADF, ex-service organisations, the media – all cop flak. Brown does a good job of exposing some myths and contemplating paradoxes. "Veterans are trapped in a martial Madonna/whore complex. On the one hand they are heroic warriors; on the other they are deeply flawed individuals", is one example.



Another is that the VB Raise a Glass campaign runs parallel to efforts within the ADF to reduce binge drinking habits. A third is that "maybe, a century later, we have not truly owned the defeat at Anzac Cove?" Often though, at the end of the process, the question "OK, good point...so what do we do now" hangs uncomfortably. At least the discussion and debate might now begin.

I'm not convinced that every issue he identifies and comments on is directly related to the Anzac myth and in some parts the book feels like a broadside against the ADF and the Australian Government. In some instances his perspectives are polarised but the connections are made and the overall picture he paints is one of concern for the state and health of the military in Australian society – particularly as the ADF concludes over a decade of deployments and the Anzac Centenary commences.

Anzac's Long Shadow is a must read for anyone who has served in the ADF - if for no other reason than to reflect on their service and personal experiences. But Brown's main target is the politicians and generals that have the power and resources to address some of the issues he raises.

The publication of this book on the eve of the much vaunted Anzac Centenary is controversial but may not slow the 'Anzac spirit' train that seems to have already left the station. The probability of any public figure risking ridicule and going against the flow in 2014 and 2015 is sadly low.

There is a chance, however, that the coming Anzac 'binge' will - like a hangover after a party - convince us to make some changes. It is at this point - sometime in 2016 I suspect - that I hope James Brown's book will be dusted off and itself remembered. Adroit political manoeuvring might cleverly leverage the Anzac Centenary for the actual benefit of contemporary veterans.

Red Back, 2014; 160 pp.; ISBN 9781863956390 (softcover); RRP \$19.99



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