

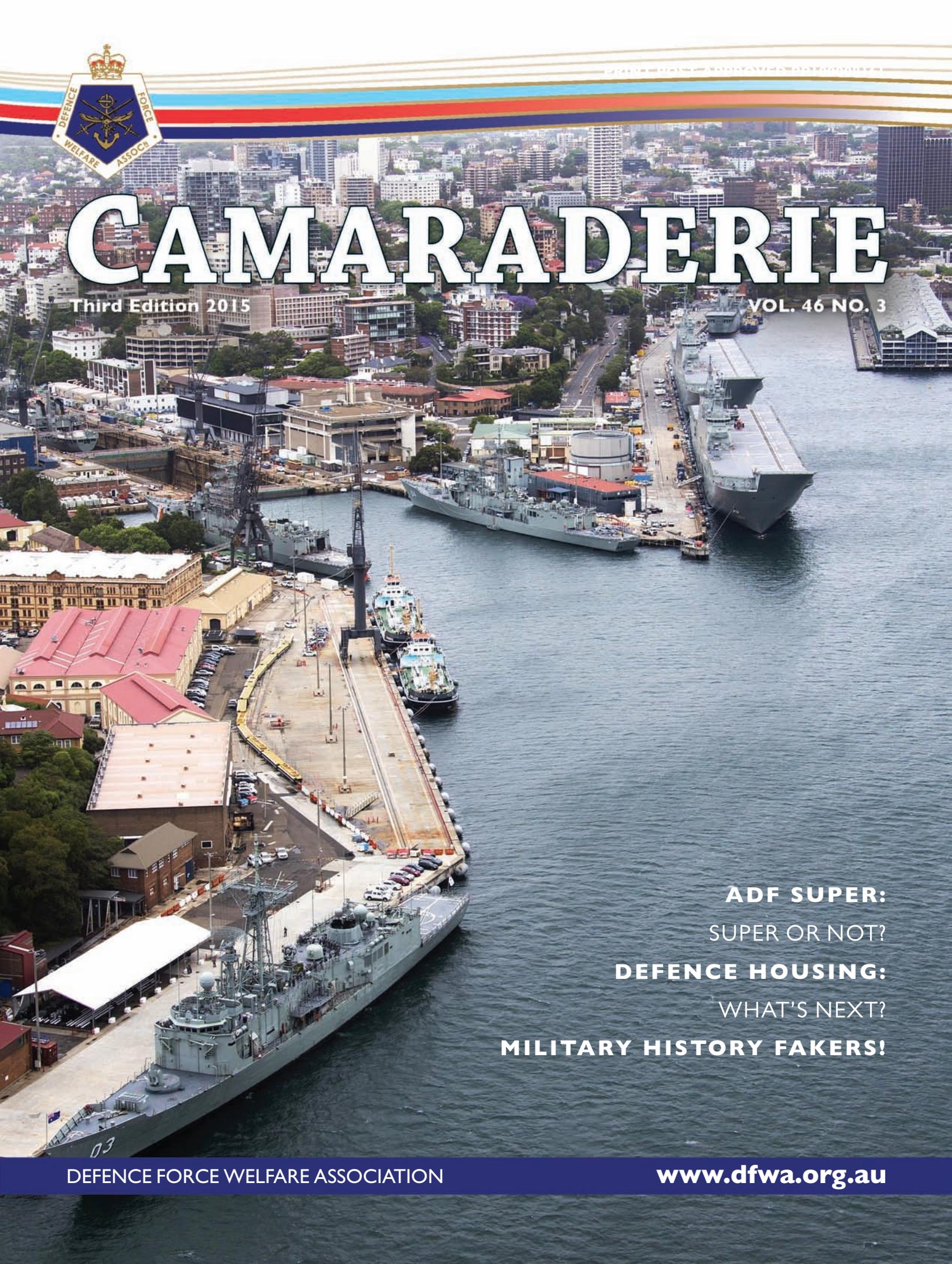


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# CAMARADERIE

Third Edition 2015

VOL. 46 NO. 3



**ADF SUPER:**

SUPER OR NOT?

**DEFENCE HOUSING:**

WHAT'S NEXT?

**MILITARY HISTORY FAKERS!**

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# THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 46. No. 3 Third Edition 2015



PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ADF AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959

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**Please do not contact the Editor or National Office for membership enquiries etc. Branch contact details are at page 4, and in Branch News at the end of this magazine. If unsure, please then contact the National Office.**

*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 2 February 2016.**

**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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**Advertising:** All enquiries to the editor.

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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Finding articles to publish in *Camaraderie* can sometimes be difficult and I encourage readers to feel free to contact me with suggestions - or better still, submit articles! With that request out of the way, I wish readers a happy Christmas and a healthy and happy 2016.

Les Bienkiewicz

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## FRONT COVER

*HMA Ships alongside at Fleet Base East, Garden Island, Sydney. Photo Courtesy of Defence Media.*

*Photo courtesy of Defence Media*

# DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA (ph 08 93834055) - [wabranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:wabranch@dfwa.org.au)

Members of the Association are members of a State Branch of their choosing.

Members from Tasmania are normally managed by Victoria Branch, and members in the Northern Territory are normally managed by Queensland Branch.

Members with membership queries including change of address, or seeking advocacy advice, should contact their respective Branch. Full Branch details, including contact details, can be found on our website [www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au) and in the Branch Reports at the end of this magazine.

If in any doubt, contact the National Office.

## DFWA 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.

The Trustees are: Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross AO, MBE (Retd); Commodore Phil Mulcare (Retd) and Mr Geoffrey White.

**Applications** for a loan or grant are made via State Branches.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



In the last part of this ANZAC Centenary Year we focus on Remembrance Day and its meaning to us. The sacrifices made by so many Australians to preserve our freedoms and way of life are brought into sharp focus by the rise in radicalism in some elements of our society. The competing world views are bringing new challenges to our society and we cannot take our freedoms for granted in the way we previously could. As individuals we need to respect each other and have the

expectation that others will respect us and our viewpoints even when we disagree with each other. The cohesion of the Australian community has always relied on our respect for others, a tolerance of differing viewpoints and a commitment to equality of opportunity. We have on the other hand, no tolerance of overbearing authority and an overwhelming aversion to oppression. I believe this why we as a nation have been willing to join our allies combating totalitarian regimes in other parts of the World. But it would seem these forces of evil have now begun to infiltrate some parts of our society and we now face home grown acts of terrorism. Our servicemen and women have fought for freedom and our way of life on behalf of us all at some cost to themselves but it is up to the general community to preserve it.

There have been a number of developments impacting serving and former ADF members. Firstly the new superannuation scheme (ADF Super) and its accompanying death and disability cover (ADF Cover) have now passed through Parliament. I am pleased that the proposal for a two tiered contribution rate on salary of 15.4% for normal service and 18% while on operation service was abandoned for a single rate of 16.4% on salary and all allowances except reimbursement type allowances. This of course means an automatic increase of government contributions while on operational deployment because of the inclusion of deployment allowances on which the contribution is calculated. ADF Super features include the ability of members to choose their own fund, no compulsory contribution by the member but with the option to for additional member contributions. With the new scheme comes a potential solution for MSBS members who have reached their MBL. They will be able to transfer to the new scheme which will attract an immediate government contribution of 16.4% as well as continuing to have their "employer component" preserved in the MSBS scheme as this component is not able to be rolled over to the new scheme. MSBS members transferring to ADF Super also have the option of selecting a fund of their own choosing for their "employee component". ADF Cover will provide death and disability cover mirroring that provided under MSBS for all members of ADF Super. Our active involvement with the Government during the design of these schemes led to many improvements to the original proposals which will be of ongoing benefit to future serving members. Though as ever the devil is in the detail and we will keep a close eye on how this new scheme develops into the future. We still have many outstanding issues to address in DFRB/DFRDB and MSBS including the cessation of the use of out of date life tables for commutation, indexing of all segments of DFRDB and MSBS superannuation in the way Commonwealth Age/Service Pensions are and will continue to battle to remove these injustices.

On other topics, the Senate through its Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee is inquiring into the mental health support, evaluation and counselling services provided by Defence and DVA, and the identification and disclosure policies of the ADF in relation to mental ill-health and PTSD. We have made submissions to this inquiry and appeared before it to give testimony in support of these. This Committee also inquired into the VEA Amendment legislation to implement the "single appeal pathway". We made a submission to the Senate Committee on the proposed single pathway legislation. However when we had the opportunity to more fully examine the legislative provisions, we found a fundamental flaw which caused us to forward a supplementary submission in which we had to advise that our support for the single pathway was conditional on the removal of the inability of the AAT to award costs to veterans whose appeals were successful. We remain concerned also that the Government is too heavy handed in its use of legal and financial resources in fighting veterans claims in what is supposed to be a beneficial system supporting veterans.

I had a meeting with the new Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Stuart Robert) on the 5th Oct, and he indicated that he is formulating his approach to how he sees DVA fulfilling its responsibilities. He gave me the impression though that he will want DVA to be more focussed on the individual in its approach rather than being claim (or process) focussed but I suspect it will be a little later this year before he is settled on his approach and prepared to publicly share his thoughts.

Developing support for the proposed Military Charter/Agreement or Covenant (the actual name will emerge in time) is certainly proving difficult as we predicted but it is of such importance that we must continue. The first stage of getting recognition of the unique nature of military service took a number of years and the next step (the covenant, charter or accord- whatever name we finally give it) is taking time as well. If we fail on this, we weaken our future ability to argue for the continued support of our ADF members and veterans from the general public. As the terrorism situation deteriorates (and I have no real optimism that it will abate) the public perception of the line between the law enforcement authorities and the ADF will blur and we will run a higher risk alienating significant sections of the community thereby losing their support. I am conscious that we now have a growing number of recent arrivals from societies where the military is viewed as a state agent of oppression rather than a protector of the nation and the community.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the National Executive will meet in November and the outcomes of that meeting – including our strategic priorities for 2016 - will be reported in the next edition of Camaraderie.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.



David Jamison

# NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (June 2015 to November 2015)



jury is perhaps still out.

Has all that affected the work of the DFWA and its Alliance partners, given that the so-to-speak 'palace coup' brought with it new Ministerial appointments. Of particular interest were the changes to the portfolios of those with either Defence or veterans affairs responsibilities. While the veterans community seemed to largely welcome the appointment of the Hon Stuart Robert as the incoming Minister for Veterans' Affairs, not so welcome was the accompanying news that he was to also be yoked with being the Minister for Human Services. Rightful concern flowed unabated for a time with wide conjecture emerging that the independence of Veterans' Affairs was somehow at risk and had the potential to either lose or degrade its ability to support both veterans generally and the issues that are important to them. While always vigilant we must be, there appears no evidence that the Government or its Veterans' Affairs Minister will tinker with what arguably and largely works for the veterans' community.

Unfortunately as many readers will be aware, tinkering with what works is sometimes the trait of Governments, or at least some Government Departments. The Department of Finance is renowned in this regard. And renowned also for targeting ADF members, opposing most efforts to improve their service conditions of service. Nor is the veterans' community immune, the Department having recently opposed a fair benchmark for the Veterans' Disability Pension along with fair indexation of ADF superannuation.

Little wonder then that the Department has long aspired to sell Defence Housing Australia (DHA) to gain a one-off financial windfall, notwithstanding that DHA and its widely acclaimed Managing Director has been doing an outstanding job serving the interests of Defence families with their housing needs. Too good a job, it seems, because that success appears to have stood in the way of last year's Lazard review which called for DHA's privatisation.

How was the sell-off to be achieved? A little tinkering seemed in order – by replacing the successful Managing Director (a winner of the 2015 'National Customer Service CEO of the Year Award') with a Departmental senior bureaucrat. Can anyone possibly believe that the result of this meddling will have nothing but a detrimental affect on ADF's men and women who so very much rely on affordable and quality housing no matter to what location they are posted, particularly to the more remote areas of Australia and away from extended families and normal social support networks.

Perhaps enough on that issue but it was an important one that will remain so for ADF members for the duration of their service careers. It needed airing. And the message to the Government is clear: DFWA opposes the sale of DHA and will do so in the future

Another important issue that will remain front and centre to members is the advent of the new ADF superannuation scheme for members joining after 1 July 2016. It will replace the existing Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS). A package of three Bills passed the relevant legislation into law in both the House and the Senate on 20 August 2015. Notably, all sides of politics supported the new Scheme, including the Independents.

Now for a big thanks on two fronts. First to those who heard our call over the last six months to join either as full time or virtual members of DFWA. By joining, our voice grew louder and, dare I say, more influential when dealing with decision-makers in Parliament on conditions of service and veterans' issues. Some progress, albeit slow, to redress a number of them have already been made. Continued efforts will be on-going so subscriptions via memberships are important – please support us in that regard.

A big thanks also to our Corporate sponsors. InvoCare, Australia's largest provider of funeral services and well known for its commitment to family care and community engagement, has been our valued supporter for a number of years now. Not only has the company given us considerable financial stability when, as a Not-For-Profit Organisation, we needed it most but their offered discounts has benefited DFWA and Alliance members directly.

Now added to our Corporate sponsorship stable to better allow us to deliver tangible outcomes to our constituency members are two other companies, namely the Bradford Exchange and Storage King. A big welcome to both for so generously joining to support our cause and the work we do on behalf of all serving men and women of the ADF. And indeed on behalf of the veterans who once served as well.

The advertisements of all three companies can be viewed in the pages of this Camaraderie. In the case of the Bradford Exchange, they are producers and marketers of high quality collectable memorabilia, particularly ones that are relevant to this the ANZAC Centenary Year. Storage King is Australia's largest self-storage company. It already is a Defence contractor but is even better known for its ability to provide serving men and women with either temporary or more permanent storage solution to meet posting needs.

Finally and to perhaps make another plea to add to the membership one, your small or other donation will help immeasurably with our work on behalf of the Military family. And as always, your feedback on any issue of concern is most welcome.

*Alf Jaugietis - Executive Director*



Photo by British Army Ssgt Mark Jones MOD Crown

# MILITARY HISTORY

## fakers

*Readers will be aware that there are often media reports of persons wearing medals and claiming military service that is not found to be so. A recent article on the subject was published in The Spectator, and is reproduced below:*

Sir Christopher Lee, who died recently aged 93, knew how to play a part. One of the consummate actors of his generation, whose career spanned nearly seven decades, his versatility on stage and screen was legendary.

At first glance his military career during the second world war was similarly versatile. According to some reports and obituaries in the days after his death, Lee served in the Special Air Service (SAS), Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) and Special Operations Executive (SOE). In reality he served in none. He was attached to the SAS and SOE as an RAF liaison officer at various times between 1943 and 1945, but he did not serve in them and never, as one paper stated, 'moved behind enemy lines, destroying Luftwaffe aircraft and fields'.

When asked about his service record — which it should be pointed out was a fine one, with liaison officers performing a valuable link between the RAF and special forces — Lee didn't exactly lie, but he did lead us on, encouraging us to believe it had involved more derring-do than it actually did. Asked about his wartime exploits in an interview in 2011 he said: 'Let's just say I was in special forces and leave it at that. People can read into that what they like.'

Pressed on the subject, he replied with melodrama worthy of a Hammer film: 'We are forbidden — former, present, or future — to discuss any specific operations.' Most of these men did their bit. But at some point they decided their war records weren't dashing enough.

Nonsense. Wartime members of those special forces units are not — and never have been — prevented from discussing operations. A

decorated wartime SAS officer, Roy Farran, published an account of serving in the regiment as early as 1948.

When I wrote my own history of the SAS in the second world war, I did so with the full cooperation of the regiment, which put me in touch with more than 50 wartime veterans, all more than happy to talk.

Sir Christopher wasn't the first by any means to buff up his war record. On the same day his death was announced I received an email from the SAS Regimental Association asking if I had any information on a soldier whose daughter claimed had served in the LRDG. I didn't. Nor did the association. Between us we receive a couple of dozen such inquiries each year, from relatives seeking information about the wartime exploits of a grandfather/father/uncle.

They follow the same format. In their twilight years these ageing men revealed to their relatives that they had served in the SAS during the war. Blown up Nazi airfields in North Africa, derailed trains in Occupied France, that sort of thing.

And then the old men died, and their relatives understandably wanted to know more. The SAS Regimental Association is admirably restrained in how they deal with such inquiries, particularly given the audacity of some impostors. With only a handful of genuine wartime SAS veterans alive, the phoneyes have fewer chances of being unmasked. They've done their homework, of course, read the books, watched the TV documentaries and polished their patter. One such man, now aged in

*Continued overpage*

his late nineties, has been attending association lunches for a number of years and as recently as this May was photographed at one such event.

This poses a problem for the association. When it's middle-aged men they are quick to unpick the fabrication, as was the case in 2009 when 61-year-old Roger Day was photographed at a Remembrance Day parade wearing the distinctive sand-coloured SAS beret and 17 medals. Day's undoing was to march in campaign medals stretching back to the second world war, and he was subsequently convicted of wearing 'a decoration calculated to deceive' and sentenced to 60 hours of community service.

But when it comes to challenging an old man in the last years of his life, the attitude of the SAS Regimental Association is 'What's the point?' Allow them their fantasies because somewhere buried deep among the stories will normally be a burning sense of shame.

Why do men create such fantasies? Most did actually do their bit in the war; they are genuine members of the 'Greatest Generation', but at some point in their lives they decided their war record wasn't quite great enough. So they embellish it, and what is more dashing than the Special Air Service with its 'Who Dares Wins' motto?

A few years ago I travelled across England to visit an old man who had served in the wartime SAS. Or so I'd been told by his family in a lengthy email. In fact he had been in North Africa in 1942 but in the RAF, a member of a maintenance crew whose valuable role it was to salvage crashed aircraft from the desert. At some point he probably encountered the SAS, and decades later he decided he'd been one of them. Yet while he could reel off places in Libya where the SAS had been active, he could name neither his squadron commander nor his sergeant. Not long into our conversation he knew that I knew he was making it

all up (this was later confirmed by the regimental association) but nothing was actually said. He offered me some tea, we made small talk for a few minutes, and then I left.

Claiming to have fought in the wartime SAS is a relatively new phenomenon. Prior to 1980 it was the LRDG who were bothered by bullshitters. The 1958 film *Sea of Sand*, starring Dickie Attenborough, earned the unit worldwide recognition, as did a slew of books and a Hollywood TV series of the 1960s, *Rat Patrol*, loosely based on their wartime exploits in North Africa.

Men frequently claimed to have served with the LRDG, such as a Mr Falls, owner of a garden nursery in Leeds who, in an interview with the *Sunday Times* in October 1971, explained how his knowledge of exotic plants was acquired during his special forces service. As the unit's newsletter explained in 1972, they had no record of Falls so they'd dropped him a friendly line. Be delighted to enrol you into the association if you would send details of your service record. No such details were sent.

It was the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege that changed things. The SAS, who so spectacularly ended the siege in South Kensington by abseiling down the building in front of the world's television cameras, became the most famous regiment in the world and the target for men saddled with unfulfilled dreams.

Sir Christopher Lee had a 'good war', to use the vernacular of the time. But it would have been honourable of him to clarify exactly what it was he did. Unfortunately the actor in him couldn't resist hamming it up. Does it matter? Yes, because his life was already rich in accomplishment and he'd acquired enough fame without having to win still more through the daring actions of others.

## PROPOSED BATTLEFIELD TOURS

### NORTHERN SUBURBS VETERANS SUPPORT CENTRE INC.

The Northern Suburbs Veterans Support Centre Inc. (NSVSC) is a West Australian not for-profit registered public benevolent charity providing support to Veterans, Serving and Ex-Serving Members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. It is also in the process of raising funds for a purpose built centre that will provide:

- Counselling for Veterans;
- Welfare and Pension Assistance;
- Meditation, Relaxation and Stress Management Training;
- Drop-In Centre for Veterans, Wives/Partners of Veterans etc.
- Post Service Employment Assistance; and
- Other activities to enhance the well-being of the Veteran and ADF Community.

As part of its fund-raising program the NSVSC will be conducting four Western Front Battlefield Tours per year (1916 – 1918) the proceeds of which will be used in full to assist in the building of the new centre. These

tours will be restricted to 24 persons per tour and are inclusive of land content, all meals and accommodation as well as transport in 5 Star fully air-conditioned VIP Coaches and will utilise the services of expert military historians. The tours will start and finish in London and will cover the major battlefields in Western Europe in which Australian troops participated. The cost of each tour is expected to be around \$4000.00 per person however this will depend on final numbers.

We are currently seeking Expressions of Interest from Veterans and Members, Ex-Members of the ADF and their families who would like to retrace the steps of those soldiers that created the ANZAC Spirit and Legend. The first tour will be in April 2016 culminating in the Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux before returning to London on 26th April 2016.

This is a once in a lifetime experience so register your interest now by contacting Arthur Ventham on 08 – 9305 9015 or [admin@nsvsc.org.au](mailto:admin@nsvsc.org.au) to attend a free information session and morning tea.

## ATTENTION ADF MEMBERS!

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR TRANSITION and some steps to assist with DVA claims

One of the most important issues facing members discharging from is the submission of any claims on DVA for health care and compensation.

Probably the most important thing to remember is you should NOT make any claims without the assistance of an Advocate, available from your nearest Ex Service Organisation such as DFVA. You can put in a claim on DVA yourself but the process is complex so before you consider putting in a claim consider finding a pensions officer of advocate from your friendly Ex Service Organisation to assist you. These services are free. Some lawyers will also help, but at a cost

That said, here are a few steps to help with your claims:



1. Get a treating specialist to provide advice (Psych, Ortho's etc).
2. Get a confirmed diagnosis before putting in your claim.
3. Ensure your injury/ Illness meets the relevant SOP if you are MRCA/VEA. (if you don't understand what this means .. ask your Advocate !!)
4. Know which legislation you are covered by MRCA / SRCA / VEA (again, check this with an Advocate, not DVA).
5. Ensure you get a copy of your Medical records - copy them during your discharge process or FOI them before you lodge your first DVA claim.
6. Do not assume anything - work on facts. Your Advocate will help.
7. If your illness / injury is preventing you from working get a medical certificate and request incapacity payments from DVA if you are under SRCA / MRCA (but note that the injury / illness must first be accepted by DVA).
8. If have a psych or cancer illness, DVA can, in many cases, provide non-liability health care. Again see your Advocate for the forms (don't assume DVA know you are struggling!)
9. Remember that anything you claim must be able to be linked to service under the relevant Act. If you are under more than one Act (rule of thumb if you joined before July 2004) you are probably covered under at least 2 Acts. Again ... seek advice from an Advocate !
10. If you are suffering financial hardship, don't depend on DVA to quickly resolve your claim, that rarely happens. Don't be reticent to reach out for assistance, for example most ESOs have funds available to assist you this.
11. REMEMBER ..... It is you claim, your life, your future so be proactive and do your research, keep informed, know what is happening, keep copies of your dealings with DVA, ESOs, Advocates and anyone else who is involved (Centrelink, Comsuper etc.). If things do go pear shaped a paper trail is very important, ask for everything in writing or email.

Our thanks to Rod Thompson, APPVA National Entitlements Officer, for this brief

# We Will Remember Them



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## Lest We Forget Men's Lapel Pin

A beautiful bloom which symbolises the fragility of life, the poppy also sows the seeds of remembrance across the world. Growing wild and free amongst the graves of the fallen in Flanders Fields, these same poppies now inspire a classic gentleman's accessory as an elegant tribute to those who sacrificed all so that we may enjoy freedom today.

The "Flanders Field Poppy Pin" features a magnificently detailed poppy bloom, accented by vibrant red enamel. Hand-applied layers of 18K gold impart a rich bearing to the design which holds a glittering black Swarovski crystals at its centre. The words 'Lest We Forget' shine ever prouder in more 18K gold set within a graceful black enamel banner.

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## Lest We Forget Pendant

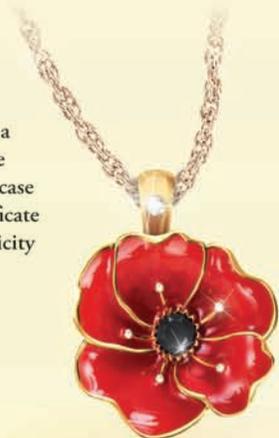
An elegant symbol of life's fragility, the poppy makes a fitting tribute to those who laid down their lives in service of our great nation. Now you can honour those who served with the "In Flanders Fields Poppy Pendant", a tasteful fine jewellery exclusive from The Bradford Exchange. This stunning treasure is inspired by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's epic poem "In Flanders Fields" and features 18K gold-plated accents to create a truly opulent look. Six radiant Swarovski crystals rest in the centre of each bloom which is hand-enamelled in red to capture the lifelike vibrancy of the poppy. The Pendant is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity and a custom-gift box as a beautiful finishing touch.

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## ACT Defence Widows AWM CEREMONY

The ACT Defence Widows Group recently laid a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on Thursday 29 October.

The DWG wreath was laid by Judy Rule (see photo above) and the deceased veteran being honoured on the day was Colin Douglas Simper. The ceremony was flawless and very moving and the AWM staff made everyone feel very welcome and special. The 23 members of the DWG

were the only VIPs for the day and the DWG was featured in the introduction by the Master of Ceremonies.

A special feature of the ceremony was the large number of school children in attendance, and their wonderful behaviour during the moving ceremony. The Last Post Ceremony is a daily event at the AWM and if you are visiting Canberra, is a must to attend!

## RESULT OF THE DFWA 2015 RAFFLE

Thank you to all those who participated in the 2015 Raffle. The raffle was drawn in Victoria Barracks Sydney on Thursday 22 October 2015 by Michael Stuart-Watt in the presence of Ralph Derbidge and Alan Hind.

FIRST PRIZE: Travel to the value of \$4,000.00 plus \$500 spending money  
**Mr B J Keenihan, MORPHETTVALE SA 5162 - (Ticket No: 6979)**

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000.00  
**Mr A Wilkinson, GOWRIE ACT 2904 - (Ticket No: 18113)**

THIRD PRIZE: \$500.00  
**Ms Glenis Ilian, WAAIA VIC 3637 - (Ticket No: 27002)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr Ross Lindsay, CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560 - (Ticket No: 63500)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr Jim Kirkham, KIRRAWEE NSW 2232 - (Ticket No: 76644)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr Ian Young, STRATHPINE QLD 4500 - (Ticket No: 36249)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr Brian Hammond, KARRINYUP WA 6018 - (Ticket No: 48748)**



# FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH MILITARY SERVICE

(as at 15 October 2015)

One difficulty the ADF community has when dealing with Members of Parliament is their often lack of understanding of the unique nature of military service. The number of MPs with military service or direct interest is limited... the list below, developed to the best of our knowledge, is provided for your information.

## MEMBERS (MPs)

### QUEENSLAND

#### **Stuart Robert (LPA - Fadden Qld)** **Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Human Services**

Army officer 1988-99. Deployed to Bougainville 1998 with the Peace Monitoring.

#### **Mal Brough (LPA - Fisher QLD) Special Minister of State & Minister for Defence Materiel and Science**

Military service Army Officer 1979-87 Infantry. First Speech.

#### **Warren Entsch (LPA - Leichhardt QLD)** RAAF 1969-78.

#### **Andrew Laming (LPA - Bonner QLD)** University of Queensland Regiment 1984-86.

#### **Jane Prentice (LPA - Ryan QLD)** Has no military experience but her son is a recent ADFA RMC Graduate. Her electorate includes Enoggera Army Base

#### **Bernie Ripoll (ALP - Oxley QLD)** Apprentice aircraft electrician, RAAF 1983-84.

#### **Wyatt Roy (LPA - Longman QLD)** No military service but a very strong supporter of the ADF and veteran's community in his electorate (probably has the largest military retirement population in Australia).

#### **Bruce Scott (NAT - Maranoa QLD)** No military Service but was Past Minister for Veterans' Affairs from 11.3.96 to 26.11.01 and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence from 21.10.98 to 26.11.01.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### **Alex Hawke (LPA - Cowper NSW)** Officer, Australian Army Reserve, Royal Australian Armoured Corps; Lieutenant, 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers, Parramatta 1995-2000.

#### **Barnaby Joyce (NAT - New England NSW)** Royal Queensland Regiment 1995-2003.

#### **Michael McCormack (NAT - Riverina NSW)**

No military experience but a very supportive member for veterans' matters. His electorate is based on Wagga Wagga: RTB, RAAF and Naval Apprentice Schools.

### VICTORIA

#### **Bruce Billson (LPA - Dunkley VIC)** No military experience. A past Coalition DVA Minister.

#### **Michael Danby (ALP - Melbourne Ports VIC)** Reservist - Officer Cadet Training 1980-82.

#### **Alan Griffen (ALP - Bruce VIC)** No military experience. Past DVA Minister 2007-2010 and Minister for Defence Personal 2010.

#### **Bill Shorten (ALP - Maribyrnong VIC)** **Leader of the Opposition** Australian Army Reserve 1985-86.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### **Dr Dennis Jensen (LPA - Tangney WA)** Defence Scientist

#### **Luke Simpkins (LPA - Cowan WA)** RMC Graduate. Officer, Royal Australian Corps of Military Police 1989-2002. Prior to RMC was a Federal policeman and post RACMP a Security Consultant

#### **Andrew Hastie (LPA Canning WA)** Army 2002 - 2015. Captain SAS Regiment. Operational Service Afghanistan. First speech in Parliament

### TASMANIA

#### **Andrew Wilkie (IND - Dennison TAS)** Cadet, Royal Military College of Australia, Duntroon 1980-84. Infantry Officer, Australian Army 1984-2001.

#### **Andrew Nickolic AM CSC (LPA - Bass TAS)** Australian Regular Army 1979-2010 Infantry 3 RAR and extensive military experience

## SENATORS

### QUEENSLAND

#### **Joe Ludwig (ALP - QLD)** 49 Royal Queensland Regiment (Reserve). 2nd Lieutenant 5/11 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery (Reserve). Queensland University Regiment (Reserve).

#### **James McGrath (LP - QLD) Assistant Minister to the PM** No military background but is a strong advocate for the Military Covenant/Accord. His defence policy advisor is Graeme Mickelberg, an ex RAR Infantry Officer.

### VICTORIA

#### **Mitch Fifield (LPA - VIC)** Reservist, 12 Psych Unit, Australian Army Psychology Corps 1985-87.

#### **Michael Ronaldson (LPA - VIC)** No military service but past Minister for Veterans' Affairs. 2013-2015

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### **Chris Back (LPA - WA)** RAAF Queensland University Squadron 1968-71.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### **David Fawcett (LPA - SA)** Army officer 1982-2004 Defence and aviation consultant 2008-10 and Experimental test pilot. Commanding Officer, RAAF Aircraft Research and Development Unit, Edinburgh, SA.

### TASMANIA

#### **Peter Whish - Wilson (AG - TAS)** Royal Australian Army 1986-89. (Australian Regular Army?)

#### **Jacqui Lambie (PUP - TAS).** Australian Army for 11 years - Military Policewoman (Cpl).

## THE VETERANS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME

### AND THE MILITARY REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION ACT EDUCATION AND TRAINING SCHEME (MRCAETS)

VCES and MRCAETS provide financial assistance, student support services, guidance and counselling for eligible children to help them achieve their full potential in full-time education or career training. The schemes cater for children undertaking primary, secondary and tertiary study and are normally provided only for full-time study within Australia.

In each State there is a Veterans' Children Education Board (VCEB) and a Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education & Training Board (MRCETB) responsible for assisting with the administration of the Education Schemes. Board members serve in an honorary capacity and include respected members of the community experienced in matters relating to the welfare and education of children. The Board oversees each student's progress and provides educational guidance and counselling where necessary.

Under the VCES, an eligible child is someone who is:

- under 16; or
- between 16 and 25, undertaking full-time education; and
- the child of a veteran or a present or past member of the Australian Defence Force who is receiving (or was receiving prior to their death) a disability pension:
- at the special rate (commonly known as T&PI);
- at the extreme disablement adjustment (EDA) rate;
- at an increased rate because of multiple amputations, or multiple amputations and blindness; or
- the child of a veteran or a present or past member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) whose death was war or defence caused; or
- the child of a veteran who was an Australian prisoner-of-war and is now deceased.

If a student, whose deceased veteran parent had operational service but whose death was not war or defence caused, has also lost their other parent, they are also an eligible child. This loss may be through death or where the surviving parent is not maintaining them.

A student who is the child of a Vietnam veteran (or who is or has been dependent on a Vietnam veteran) but who does not qualify under any of the above criteria may be eligible in certain circumstances.

Who is a child of a veteran, member or former member under the VCES? A child of a veteran, member of the Forces or member of a Peacekeeping Force can be:

- a biological son or daughter or an adopted son or daughter of the veteran or member; or
- a child who is wholly or substantially dependent on the veteran or



member, including, but not limited to:

- a child who by law the veteran or member is liable to maintain; or
- a child who is in the care of the veteran or member and for whom the veteran or member is legally responsible for day-to-day care, welfare and development; or
- a child who is wholly or substantially in the veteran or member's care.

Under the MRCAETS, an eligible child is someone who is:

- under 16 years old; or
- between the ages of 16 and 25, undertaking full-time education and who is not ordinarily engaged in full-time work on his or her own account; and
- has been compensated as an eligible young person under the MRCA for the death of a deceased member of the ADF; or
- is the dependant of a member or former member who is eligible for the Special Rate Disability Pension safety net payment (SRDP); or
- is the dependant of a member who has satisfied the criteria for eligibility for SRDP at some point in their life; or
- is the dependant of a member or former member who is eligible for maximum permanent impairment compensation under the MRCA (assessed at 80 or more impairment points).

For more information on the Education Schemes please go to [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) or contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs, on telephone 13 32 54 or, for non-metropolitan callers, 1800 555 254.

# SUPER THAT'S NOT SO SUPER



## A Retired Veteran's Perspective

*Editor's Note: DFWA recently submitted a response to the Army Newspaper regarding what it believed was inadequate policy advice provided to a correspondent who raised valid concerns about MSBS portability and indexation. Rather disappointingly, Army News elected not to print DFWA's response. However DFWA was not alone on this matter, as Peter Thornton, a well-respected independent commentator on such matters, had also penned a more detailed response, which Camaraderie is pleased to publish here:*

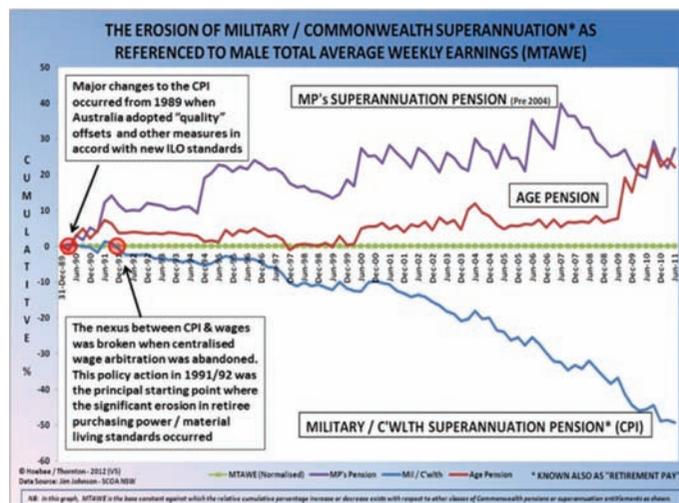
Recently, Army News published a response from the Director General of People, Policy and Employment Conditions (DG-PPEC) to a letter that raised specific concerns about inadequate indexation and the lack of portability of preserved benefits under the Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS).<sup>i</sup>

Suffice to say, DG-PPEC's response failed to address the correspondent's specific concerns, but in reply, it did not prove to be such a ringing endorsement of the Government's new 2017 ADF Accumulation Superannuation Scheme, as it implied that the current MSBS scheme is more 'beneficial' by comparison. But perhaps this comes as no surprise, because the CDF himself expressed a similar view in Senate Estimates earlier this year, where he suggested that it was unlikely that many within MSBS would take up the Government's new arrangement.

Read into this what you may, but just like the botched ADF pay deal of 2014 and the simmering discontent about the new management of the Defence Housing Authority, this new ADF Super Scheme appears to be yet another financial imposition thrust upon the ADF with little or no consultation or general acceptance by those who will be directly affected.<sup>ii</sup>

Whilst the DG-PPEC's advice about the beneficial nature of MSBS has some merit, his assertion about indexation increases never being equal to zero is unfounded, because as recent history clearly shows, retirees have in fact been subjected to a number of zero rate increases overtime - namely in July of 2007 and again in 2009 – but then one could hardly call a 0.1% increase in July of 2012 an effective rate increase either.

Whilst these specific examples only reflect one adjustment within a biannual arrangement, they nevertheless help to expose the true nature of a bureaucratically manipulated CPI. For more than two decades now the CPI has ceased to be an effective measure to protect and maintain the purchasing power of retirement incomes and other Government

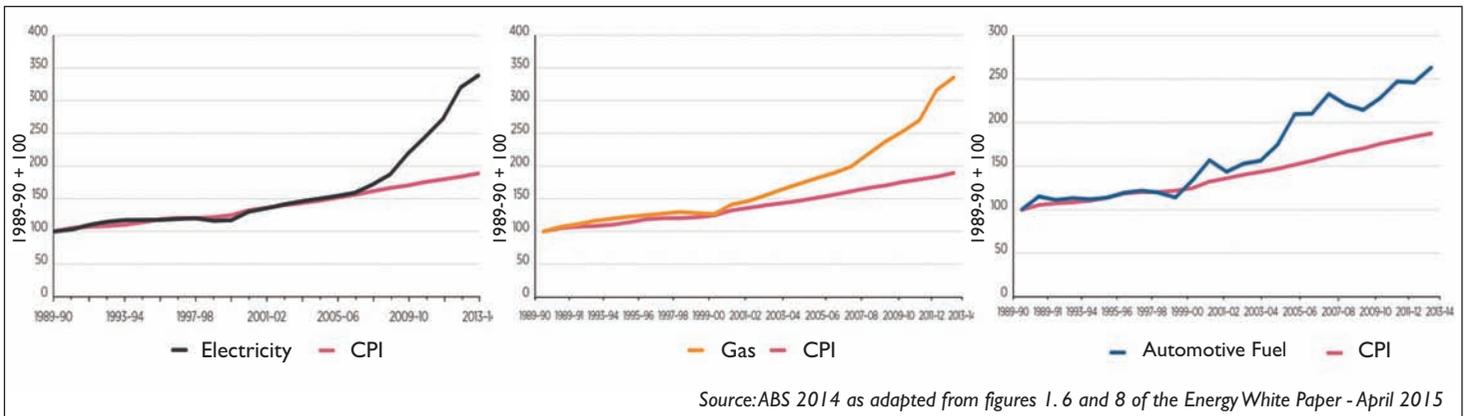


payments tied to it.<sup>iii</sup> This remains a fundamental issue that that the Defence Force Welfare Association and others continue to prosecute in support of a "fair go" for Defence superannuation.

Whilst inflationary components remain important in any indexation mechanism, the failure of the CPI as a sole indexation measure is further exposed by the significant divergence that exists between the index itself and the sustained upward price trajectories of some essential items like gas, electricity and automotive fuels – regular items of expenditure that are not easily subjected to the manipulative vagaries of 'product substitutions' and 'quality offsets'.

Notwithstanding some of its shortcomings, the MSBS scheme, which is a hybrid accumulation and defined benefit scheme, was originally designed and introduced as 'beneficial' legislation. This is not to say, however, that the MSBS is 'generous', as the conversion factor that often underpins such claims is typically applied against a relatively diminished lump sum, which reflects poor growth due to inadequate indexation whilst being held notionally in preservation.

However, given the dynamics that surround the 'Unique Nature of Military Service', there is a firm belief that the current MSBS scheme should have been retained but remediated in order to address some of its identified shortcomings:- i.e. to enhance the indexation arrangements of the employer component (both in preservation and



in benefit payment) so that it is in keeping with arrangements that are now in place for DFRDB; and to also introduce portability upon exit, where nominated. The abolition of Maximum Benefit Limits is also a key issue.

Disappointingly, a travesty now prevails because such a critically important issue affecting the ADF was not subject to an open and public consultation process, and unlike the introduction of the MSBS and the DFRDB before it, this new scheme has been ushered in with no explicit undertaking for it to be 'beneficial'. This should serve as a warning to many as this tenuous cost cutting exercise surely finds its origin in the 'Yes Minister' story boards of the 2007 Podger Review and the 2014 Commission of Audit – ideologically-driven proceedings and findings that were undoubtedly underpinned by the political and bureaucratic axiom that ...“You never have a Review, unless you know the outcome”.

Whilst some might relish the opportunity to take the employer's upfront contributions and run, the new accumulation scheme may prove to be less than beneficial to the bulk of ADF personnel over time, because in the first instance, it does not maintain the same incremental levels of employer contributions that currently exist for the MSBS and because it does not provide for a fully indexed defined benefit income stream, upon reaching the retirement age of 55+ years.

Unfortunately, and without a fight, the Parliament has just seemingly acquiesced to the Government's political whim here because invariably it has been progressively hoodwinked over time into believing that Defined Benefit schemes, which have been in existence in one form or another for nearly 100 years, are now supposedly unaffordable.

Such flawed thinking surely stems from poor policy advice that presents bogus and unsubstantiated assumptions, reflecting in part ridiculous political statements citing life expectancies of 120 – 150 years, and where only the fire and brimstone side of the Commonwealth's superannuation balance sheet is presented for policy consideration.

In the main, policy makers have not been fully apprised of how contributions, held both physically and/or notionally within Consolidated Revenue, have been quarantined and used by a succession of Governments over time to add considerably to Australia's productive capacity, whilst all the while, only had to meet superannuation obligations on an 'emerging cost basis' when benefits fall due.

Such beneficial outcomes for the Commonwealth should have been formally recognised and recorded on the national account for prosperity, so that such outcomes could have been in turn extended equitably to all ADF and Commonwealth retirees, through the proper indexation of their retirement benefits, as was originally intended by the Parliament - a matter that even the Parliament itself found lacking in a 2001 Senate Review.<sup>iv</sup>

With long term projected deficits, the Commonwealth will now have to find the negotiated 16.4% employer's contribution for the new scheme and any associated interest loadings up front, whilst all the while subjecting ADF personnel to an uncertain future of increased financial risk, where in the main, most personnel will be ill-equipped and/or unable to effectively manage such risk in the long durations and absences when they are training for war, or in war itself.<sup>v</sup>

Only time will tell if future generations will be prepared to continue to sacrifice their human rights, their liberties, and potentially their lives, given a clearer perspective of the ever diminishing conditions of service that now face the ADF.

#### About the Author

Peter Thornton is a retired member of the Defence Force and the Commonwealth Public Service. Peter provides independent analysis and commentary on matters relating to Commonwealth / Military Superannuation and Veterans' compensation issues also; research that also helps to underpin some of the advocacy and representational activities of national peak bodies. Peter has tertiary qualifications in economics, engineering and management.

- i 'Super Explained', Army News, Ed 3162, 8 Oct 2015, pg. 19. Army News is available on the Department of Defence website.
- ii The Government's new legislation also applies detrimental and consequential amendments to other Military schemes also. e.g. DFRDB will be permanently closed to former DFRDB members who may wish to re-join the ADF after 1 July 2016.
- iii The New Start Allowance is one such payment that has diminished over time by CPI only indexation.
- iv 'A 'Reasonable and Secure' Retirement? - The benefit design of Commonwealth public sector and defence force unfunded superannuation funds and schemes', Senate Select Committee On Superannuation and Financial Services, April 2001
- v It is bewildering as to why the Commonwealth would transfer such risk to ADF personnel, when it could have instead improved upon MSBS as a beneficial scheme whilst amortising cost and risk through the Future Fund.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **ADF EQUITY PLEASE !**

Dear Editor,

The Prime Minister's speech on 5 November 2015 at the Economic & Social Outlook Conference: Rebuilding Foundations for Reform, presents a perfect platform from which to reinvigorate and reinforce our arguments in support of equity for members of the ADF community.

I trust that ESOs, including our own, will take the opportunity presented by the PM's emphasis on fairness, especially in economic opportunities prosperity and equity, to continue their unrelenting and strong advocacy for improved pay and conditions of service for ADF members and their families, and in the campaign for fair and equitable treatment and fair retirement benefits for all former ADF members. e all know that much remains to be done.

I believe that gaining and maintaining the initiative in these things is our best strategy for supporting those who "... lack the [statutory] job protections enjoyed by other public servants [and other Australian 'employees']" ( John Wilson, Canberra Times, 6 October 2015). Eternal vigilance and courageous action is a small price for us to pay to protect and defend the ADF family.

*Bert Hoebee*  
Life Member, DFWA

### **EDITOR'S REPLY**

*Thank you Bert for your continuing lobbying for the causes we are pursuing. It is important that individuals also pressure for change – whether it by direct representation to their local Member; letters to the editor in newspapers; etc. DFWA and others can't do it all themselves. You can be assured that in our lobbying – for example in our frequent meetings with Ministers and others - we push hard for the very issues you pursue.*

---

### **DEFENCE PAY**

Dear Editor,

I could not help but think upon reading this latest push by the militant CFMEU, the latest hard fought ADF pay agreement which provided our ADF Members a pay increase which barely, if at all, kept level with the cost of living.

Compare that with this arbitrary decree by the union for a 20% pay increase with no productivity increase, but productivity decrease in the form of the right to walk off the job for up to four hours per shift without penalty.

I'm reasonably certain that an Army/Navy/Airforce carpenter would accept with alacrity a pay scale of \$148,481 - rising to \$179,000 pa.

It would appear to me that on the surface, ambient claims such as this should be utilised to the fullest when the next round of ADF pay negotiations commence.

*Tony Horsington*

### **EDITOR'S REPLY**

*Oh that we could really negotiate a deal on ADF pay! The present process means that it's always a done deal made behind closed doors. DFWA is working to have the agreed case provision deleted from the Defence Act and bring the bargaining process out into the open where we could truly provide that independent voice for our servicemen and women. In the meantime we are doing all we can to ensure the opinions of ADF personnel are made public and conveyed to the decision makers so they can't be ignored. The last WRA case showed we have made some traction on this as the ADF and DFRT acknowledged and a better outcome was achieved.*

## THE UNIQUE NATURE OF MILITARY SERVICE, SO WHAT!

Dear Editor,

As one who was a doubter for the need for a Defence Covenant, I am now committed and I offer my main reasons for changing my view.

Until recently I was generally satisfied with the Government recognition of the unique nature of military service until a number of recent events.

The first has been the attempts by the Public Service Commissioner to impose on the ADF so called efficiency dividends, which have no place in a Defence Force whose sole purpose is to prepare for and conduct operations, and whose members are on duty 24 hours a day, place their lives on the line, have no access to overtime, penalty rates or a trade union.

The second was the initial offer of 15.4% Government contribution to the new Superannuation scheme which was identical to that provided to the CPS.

The third is the DFRT process, whereby the Public Service Commissioner seems to set pay rates for the CDF to agree to.

So now I believe that Governments are paying lip service to the unique nature of military service and the troops need something more to protect them. Perhaps this is a Covenant, or at least it seems so to me. No matter what, having a Covenant in place cannot do any harm !

Hori Howard  
Major General (Retd).  
RAR Association.

## EDITOR'S REPLY

Some time ago the DFWA set out to describe what made service in the Australian Defence Force a unique occupation. The discussion around service in the ADF had become clouded by a range of views describing the characteristics of military service many of which could also be attributed to employment in the various police and emergency services.

More recently we have supported the need for a formal Covenant (see previous editions of *Camaraderie*). It is our task to understand what the Covenant is and to discuss the implications with as many other veterans and members of the community as we can. The more the Covenant is understood and talked about, the greater the likelihood that it will be adopted.

The proposed Australian Military Accord is an instrument designed to articulate the, to date, largely unwritten mutual obligations between the Nation and the members of the ADF. It will 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 its ADF members.

The ADSO National Leaders believe the enactment of such a covenant will both honour and give expression to an appreciation of the role our service men and women have played and are playing in Australia's history as an independent nation.

Queensland Liberal National Party Senator James McGrath, in consultation with Defence ex-service organisations, has launched a nation-wide petition calling for the establishment of an Australian Defence Force Covenant to more formally recognise and articulate the valued contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families make and have made to our nation. The link to the online petition is <http://www.defencecovenant.com/>

## BUTTERWORTH AND THE MALASIAN EMERGENCY

Dear Editor,

The excellent 'Personal recollection Butterworth Air Base and the Malayan Emergency' (Second Edition 2015) sadly, but understandably, appears to downplay the serious communist threat that is known as the second Malaysian insurgency, or the 1968-1989 Communist insurgency. To quote, '... and then in the 1970's some further aggression occurred from terrorists infiltrating from safe havens in Thailand.'

During the late 1960s and into the next decade the nations of S.E. Asia were battling internal communist inspired insurgencies. When Britain announced it would withdraw its forces in S.E. Asia in the early 1970s Australia agreed to station two Mirage squadrons at Butterworth as a deterrent to external aggression against Malaysia and Singapore while they built their defence capacity.

On 1 April 1971 responsibility for Butterworth security transferred from the RAF Regiment to Malaysian military police. Documents obtained from the Australian National Archives reveal that senior Australian Defence officials held real concerns regarding the ability of the Malaysians to provide adequate security. This was a sensitive issue. The proposed solution was to provide a permanently deployed infantry company from

the ANZUK force in Singapore placed under the command of the OC RAAF Butterworth.

On 2 Mar 1972 the Secretary, Department of Defence wrote to the Secretary, Department of Air, in the lead up to a meeting with the Minister regarding Butterworth security. To quote: 'Malaysian reluctance having been overcome, the ANZUK force will now provide one infantry company on rotation through Butterworth on a full-time basis, ostensibly for training, flag-showing and a change of scene. The presence of this company will provide the Commander with a ready-reaction force which he can use inter alia to supplement elements available to him under the joint Malaysian-RAAF Plan, but short of an actual overt breach of security the Commander cannot use these troops for guard of other security duties.'

Then, on 11 Jan 1973 the Australian Defence Committee considered the implications of the impending withdrawal of the Australian Battalion in Singapore, including security requirements.

For Butterworth it recommended: 'When the Australian battalion is withdrawn, the requirement for a company for security duties at Butterworth will be met by providing the unit, on rotation, from Australia. This could be presented publicly as being for training purposes.'

*Continued page 31*



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## REPLACEMENT MEDALS POLICY

Prior to 2003 lost, stolen or destroyed medals could only be replaced directly to the individual who earned them.

In 2003, this policy was extended, allowing replacement when deceased individuals' service awards were lost in specified natural disasters. In December 2014, the Hon Darren Chester MP Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence agreed to a revision of this policy, which now allows for the medals of deceased individuals to be replaced in the following circumstance:

- Replacement medals will only be issued to the holder of the deceased individual's medal/s. The medals cannot be replaced in the circumstances where an individual has died and the medals cannot be found.
- The loss, damage or destruction of the medals occurs in circumstances beyond the control of the holder of the medals: for example as a result of a house fire or theft.
- The loss, damage or destruction occurred after 1 December 1974.

Defence can only replace medals it is authorised to issue. As such, it cannot replace honours or decorations that were issued under the Imperial or Australian honours system, such as meritorious and gallantry awards, or foreign awards. However, replicas of these awards may be purchased from a commercial medals dealer.

Medals replaced by Defence will be engraved with the initial 'D' to denote 'duplicate' unless the damaged original medals are recovered and returned to Defence.

To apply for replacement medals, claimants may complete the online application form, which is available on the Defence Honours and Awards website at:  
[www.defence.gov.au/medals/content/applications.asp](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/content/applications.asp)



Alternatively, the application form can be downloaded from the website to be completed and then returned to:  
 Directorate of Honours and Awards CP2-L, Department of Defence  
 PO Box 7952 Canberra BC ACT 2610

Claimants are to include with their application form a statutory declaration describing the circumstances of the loss or damage. Additional evidence such as police or insurance reports, and any evidence showing proof of the claimant's relationship to the original recipient would also be useful in assessing eligibility.

The revised replacement medals policy does not affect currently serving or former members of the ADF who are still living. Defence will replace the medals for living recipients except when they have been sold, gifted or otherwise supplied to another person.

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# VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT

## (2015 Budget Measures) Bill 2015

The Association recently made two submissions to the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2015 Budget Measures) Bill 2015, in particular the proposal for a single appeals pathway for DVA claims.

We advised that the legislation comes at a time when the Department is considering a range of proposals to simplify its processes and to assist Ex-Service Organisations to provide more effective help to veterans and ex-service personnel. Initiatives include the review of advocacy training for ex-service volunteers (the blueprint for which has been accepted in principle recently by the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) members and the trial of an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process (which have the potential to make significant improvements to the support of those needing support from DVA). The trial of an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process will allow the use of modern and effective dispute resolution processes, improved case management powers and administrative procedures which have the potential to bring more responsiveness and timeliness to the Department's support for veterans and ex-service personnel.

Although DFVA strongly supports the streamlined single appeal pathway, on fully analysing the wording of the legislation and we found a flaw that was in our eyes, so serious that we made our continued support for the single pathway contingent on its removal. The flaw was the provision prohibiting the AAT from awarding costs in favour of the veteran when an appeal before that body was successful. With that flaw eliminated, we believe the single path set out in the Bill, along with the firm and enduring assurance given by the Minister that every adverse decision by the Commission that is the subject of an application to the Veterans Review Board will be reviewed by the Commission before the VRB process begins, will adequately safeguard veterans' rights and interests and that in the adoption of an alternative dispute resolution process veterans' interests will be further protected.

The Government has a role and responsibility to ensure that laws are fair and that administrative and legal processes are as simple as possible so that, in our case, veterans and ex-service personnel are not disadvantaged in challenging Departmental decisions. This, together with providing financial support for Legal Aid and other non-government welfare agencies to provide advice and assistance to veterans and ex-service personnel disputing a decision is a core responsibility of Government. However, we believe there is a failure to meet this obligation and we have a continuing serious concern about the inequality of access to legal resources between the Department and individual veterans or ex-service personnel when a decision is being challenged.

If as part of the process for reconsideration of a decision when an appeal

is made to the VRB, the Department seeks legal advice to reach its decision and again finds against the veteran ex-service person, it would seem only fair that it offers to fund legal assistance to the veteran/ex-service person to help him/her to better prepare the appeal. If an appeal to the AAT is made then equity demands that public funding be provided to the veteran to enable proper preparation and conduct of the appeal before the tribunal.

*“...we have a continuing serious concern about the inequality of access to legal resources between the Department and individual veterans or ex-service personnel when a decision is being challenged.”*

In expressing this concern, the Association is mindful that the legislation is meant to be beneficial in its application and seen to be so. In addition the Association has two further concerns as follows:

1. Departmental processes need to be more transparent; and
2. Many ESO advocacy services are having difficulty keeping up with the current workload. Moreover, the volunteer pool is aging and diminishing.

It thus stands to reason that additional funding must be allocated to allow ESOs to employ paid advocates where volunteers are not available. In implementing this legislation we believe the Government must take steps to ensure that adequate legal aid funding is provided to cover legal and medical report-related cost for veterans and ex-service personnel disputing Departmental decisions. The legislation should allow the ability for full costs to be awarded should the matter proceed to the AAT.

#### UPDATE:

In our continuing discussions with the Minister, we have stressed that the bottom line is that everyone wants the single path, but they don't want to lose the current process where if you are claiming through the MRCA and go to the AAT you can claim costs if you win. This is a fair criticism.

We are hopeful that Schedule 2 will be amended to allow for costs to be awarded at the AAT if the claimant wins through a MRCA appeal, although this may be conditional on all information being presented at the VRB. If, for whatever reason, new information is introduced at the AAT that was not put to the VRB, we would expect the AAT to remit the case back to the VRB for reconsideration. If the VRB, in the light of the new information, still finds against the veteran, we expect the path to the AAT still to be open to the veteran.

We are hopeful that the Minister will outline in parliament that there will be an internal review of a MRCA case (the same as a section 31 VEA review) prior to a case moving to the VRB.



## Honorary Life Membership

On 15 June 2015 the DFWA awarded Honorary Life Membership Mr Michael Bryce AE, the previous Patron of the Association, for his long standing support to the Association.

Pictured is the Qld Branch President Rob Shortridge, Mr Bryce and DFWA President David Jamison.

## BOOK REVIEW

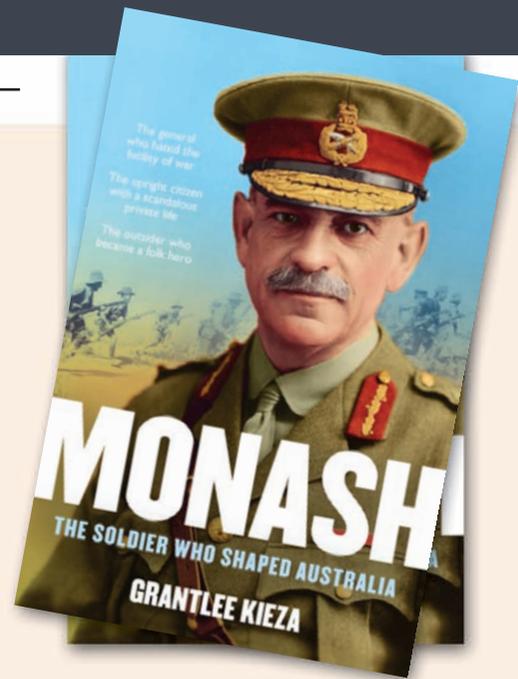
- **MONASH - THE SOLDIER WHO SHAPED AUSTRALIA** by Grantlee Kieza

ABC Books; 2015; 720 pp.; ISBN 9780733333538 (hardback); RRP \$39.99

Grantlee Kieza's biography on John Monash comes on the heels of Roland Perry's 2014 biography and Tim Fisher's 2014 quasi-biography. This year has also seen the reprinting of Monash's 1920 *The Australian Victories in France in 1918* and a refreshed collection of his war letters. The bright and colourful cover of Kieza's book immediately catches the eye and looks like something new and different – sadly, it isn't.

Kieza's *Monash* is a good quality biography but it does not include any new information or insightful judgements about the man other than the blurb material about 'unconventional', 'amazing' and 'emblematic of an egalitarian spirit.' It is disappointing that as time goes on biographies tend to become more polarised - the person was either a genius/saint or an absolute bastard; Monash is no exception. To argue these days that John Monash wasn't the greatest soldier who ever lived almost invites vilification as being 'un-Australian'. As ever, reality is often less black and white. But when Monash died, 300,000 Australians attended his funeral in Melbourne. This, if nothing else, is testament to how well he was regarded at the time. It would be difficult to image a similar number turning out today.

*Monash* is a lengthy biography with 630 pages of text arranged into 32 chapters and an epilogue. Of the 32 chapters the first 12 (totalling 210 pages) deal with Monash's life before the war and the last two (totalling 55 pages) deal with his 12 years of life after the war; so the bulk of the book (18 chapters and 362 pages), not unsurprisingly, deal with his wartime experiences. *Monash* is well researched and Kieza makes extensive use of quotes. There are a significant number of endnotes as well as a comprehensive bibliography. There are no maps but the book does include a good number of photographs.



The most different thing about *Monash* is that it is a biography written in the present tense. I am told that this technique is a method to make historical events livelier and perhaps more engaging, but I'm not convinced that it works for a biography. The technique may work in autobiography or memoir perhaps, but the reader of *Monash* would be very aware that World War I occurred a century ago. Additionally, Kieza doesn't follow a strict chronological sequence, so while dates jump around the present tense remains in place. This gives rise to some confusion regarding the flow of events – at least in my mind.

Kieza is a prizewinning writer for *The Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* newspapers in Brisbane and has previously written for Sydney's *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *The Australian*, covering assignments in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. He is a Walkley Award finalist and the author of the bestselling biography *Bert Hinkler: The Most Daring Man in the World*. *Monash* is his tenth book.

If you have not read a biography about John Monash before – and the present tense technique doesn't grate – then *Monash* is recommended.  
 Marcus Fielding

# James Cook University and Army reach agreement over education

James Cook University will become part of the Army Tertiary Education Program, enabling Australian Defence Force personnel's Royal Military College studies to count toward a business degree at the university.

Commander of the 3rd Brigade, Brigadier Roger Noble, said the Australian Army made education a priority and said the arrangement would benefit applicants from around Australia and those on deployment.

"It is not just Townsville, so when they get posted or they move away they can continue to study online."

Brigadier Noble said the business degree was a good fit for the army, and he expected the agreement would expand to include other disciplines in future. "I think it is an immediate fit because the army is a big business," he said.

James Cook University and Lavarack Barracks were both officially opened on July 29, 1966, with Prime Minister Holt in attendance.

At the opening of the army barracks, Mr Holt remarked that Townsville was fortunate to have Australia's first university in the tropics and an "outstanding military establishment".

"It is said the pen is mightier than the sword and I suppose that argument still continues," Mr Holt said at the time.



James Cook University deputy vice chancellor Professor Robyn McGuiggan and Commander of the 3rd Brigade, Brigadier Roger Noble, shake on a new agreement

"Well, Townsville has both, and Australia needs both." Brigadier Noble said Mr Holt's hopes for the university and army base and how they could interact and facilitate growth in the region had been visionary.

"He clearly understood that putting a major army base and a major educational facility in the north would help grow Townsville," he said. "I would hope the relationship goes beyond just formal courses and study, so what should happen here is we should be part of the dialogue that goes on in the community."

**VALE**

**LTCOL GERARD NELSON BA GRAD DIP I. R. (RETD)  
30 MARCH 1948 – 14 JULY 2015**

Honorary Industrial Relations Advocate, Defence Force Welfare Association  
Royal Australian Infantry Corps  
Headquarters 1st Division  
Headquarters Australian Defence Force Canberra

A generous and caring friend, and close colleague who worked hard to foster the best interests and welfare of all members of the Australian Defence Force in any matters likely to affect them during or after their period of service.

Gerard is sorely missed.



# Not All Thieves Are Stupid !

## 1. LONG-TERM PARKING

Some people left their car in the long-term parking. While away, someone broke into the car. Using the information on the cars registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home in Pebble Beach and robbed it.

So I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave any registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener.

This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

## 2. GPS

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans.

Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it... Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

## 3. MOBILE PHONES

I never thought of this... This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her mobile phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her husband, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, he says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn.

The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson:

A. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your



contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, sweetheart, Dad, Mum, etc...

B. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.

C. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

## 4. PURSE IN THE GROCERY CART SCAM

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached something off a shelf...

Wait till you read the WHOLE story! Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had, not called her.

By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it.

# The Jacobites

# IN IRELAND

1688 - 1691

## Introduction

The final Jacobite Rebellion of 1745-46 is celebrated throughout the English speaking world as one of the most romantic (if bloody) episodes in British history. But Culloden was the endgame, the last bright flame in a lost cause that unsettled the British Isles for almost sixty years and has left traces that still affects its political life today.

This is the story of the fall of the House of Stuart and their attempts to gain control of Ireland.

## The Restoration and Fall of the House of Stuart, 1685 - 1689

With the execution of Charles I in February 1649, Britain became a Puritan commonwealth and republic under the iron grip of Oliver Cromwell. But by 1658, the foreign policies, economic mismanagement and "grayness" of the Puritans had many of those who had advocated the abolition of the Monarchy openly supporting its restoration. Through their xenophobic policies Britain was becoming isolated from Continental trade and was economically regressing. The circumstances for the restoration of the monarchy were ripe and in May 1660, Charles II returned to London in triumph. The Stuart's were back on the throne.

Charles II proved to be an effective monarch in tumultuous and difficult times. In his 25 years on the throne he won over the Parliament in a way his father never could and he ended his life as absolute a ruler in the mould of Elizabeth I, a century before. In February 1685, Charles died and was succeeded by his Catholic brother, James II. Almost immediately the Duke of Monmouth, a bastard son of Charles II and his mistress, Lucy Walter, landed at Lyme Regis in the west of England and began his ill-fated rebellion to claim his throne. The rising was crushed at Sedgemoor less than one month later. Monmouth was captured and executed, a political blunder which was to strongly contribute to the fall of James. That so minor a player as Monmouth could contribute so much of consequence to the great affairs of state is one of those vagaries of fate and history that could not have been predicted.

James had all the fears of his brother Charles, but none of the commonsense to deal with the affairs of governing a complex and diverse nation. On ascending the throne he immediately launched on a collision course with Parliament, the Church of England and the powerful nobility. Like his father, he entertained no view but his own, would brook no resistance to his will and surrounded himself only with those who agreed with him. Despite this he probably could have ruled until he died as he had no male heir and the next two claimants in the line of succession were both strong Protestants. Those unhappy with James' rule could wait.

The birth of an heir to James in June 1688 precipitated the plotting against the King. There was no doubt that in the plotters minds the boy would be brought up a strict catholic and the catholic dynasty would be perpetuated. This was intolerable to many rich and powerful people in England. The Whig leaders resolved to take action and invited William of Orange to England to overthrow the unpopular James. William accepted and on 5th November 1688 he landed at Torbay at the head of a small Army of seasoned Dutch troops. James vacillated, his wife and son fled to France, Churchill defected (when James refused to seek battle because of a bleeding nose!), his daughter deserted him and he found himself detained by Dutch troops without a fight. With the clear connivance of William, the back door of the house in which James was detained was left unguarded and he escaped to France. As was soon to be formally proclaimed with the ascension of William to the throne, the irresolute, feckless and as it turned out, last Stuart King had effectively abdicated.

## The Opening Gambits

The divisive and incompetent rule of James II had left England economically, politically and religiously bereft. There was little cohesion or direction in the kingdom and their new ruler, William, was neither known to the people nor popular among them. He was an unknown foreigner with at best the apathy of the people for support.

In exile, James continued to exhibit the bad judgement that had cost him his throne in the first place. To win it back he petitioned the enemies of his subjects, the French, to provide him with an army to re-conquer Britain. He refused to give any assurances to his Protestant supporters over the religion of the heir to the throne, his son, thus dampening their potential support. Thirdly, James blindly refused to negotiate with William as he saw such concessions as a sign of weakness. Finally, his lack of vigour and poor strategic leadership left his loyal supporters uncoordinated and without direction. This resulted in the first uprising.

## The Irish War – 1689 - 1691

The lack of co-ordination by the Jacobites over the whole period of their entire sixty-year campaign means that it is possible to deal with the Irish War as a separate entity. In the event, the Irish episode lasted for a short period before the country was subdued as a viable supporter of the Stuart Cause. After 1691 Ireland took no active part in the later uprisings, though it did supply soldiers and manpower against William and his successors in every field of battle, except in Ireland.

James landed in Ireland in early 1689, at the head of a powerful French

army, provided by Louis IV. Independently in Scotland, John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount of Dundee raised the flag for James. Dundee raided those who supported William, all the while trying to increase the size of his Army by calling out the fractious Highland levies and Dundee soon found himself unable to sustain a large army retaining only 2,000 soldiers and dragoons with which to continue his private war.

Hearing of the reduction in Dundee's army General Hugh MacKay, commanding the Government forces of 4,000 or more set off in pursuit, precipitating the only real battle of this first Scottish Jacobite rising. As MacKay advanced through the narrow Pass of Killecrankie on 27th July 1689 the skyline filled and the Highlanders charged down the hill and crashed through MacKay's defensive line like paper. MacKay brought the news of his own defeat. However, this battle effectively ended the Scottish uprising as Dundee, who led the charge was killed at the moment of victory, possibly by one of his own men in revenge for an incident some years before. With Dundee's death the first Jacobite army soon faded away until it was finally dispersed at Cromdale on the River Spey on 1st May 1690.

Unfortunately there appears to have been little thought given to events in Scotland and throughout the Irish campaign the two Jacobite armies remained completely uncoordinated with no strategic link or purpose. In Ireland, James's supporters reported a favorable military situation to him with several counties already under Jacobite control and limited opposition to them in the others. Tyrconnel mapped out a campaign to quickly conquer the rest of Ireland, particularly in the North, before William could land and oppose them. However, even James saw that his supporters were so divided that their advantage was threatened by their own disunity as they appeared to be more interested in selfish local issues than the cause of restoring James to his throne. Despite this disunity, James entered Dublin in March 1689 and set up Court.

Meanwhile the Jacobite Army set about reducing the remaining opposition in the north. Two quick victories at Dromore and Clady in March 1689 seemed to indicate that the end was in sight for the Williamites and Ireland would soon be theirs. However, Jacobite luck and poor management changed the course of events. The stronghold of Derry was negotiating to surrender when James advanced on to a hill for a look at the town. The people of Derry saw this as an attempted treachery and, instead of surrendering, immediately rose in arms. The town closed its gates and a siege began. Although there was little serious fighting, what should have been a bloodless victory was now a siege that sapped the resources of the Jacobites. Indeed, sallies by the besieged Derrymen killed two senior Jacobite commanders and lowered the morale of the besiegers. Finally, on 28th July 1689 a relieving force sailed up the Foyle to the city and raised the siege. James simple mistake, which prevented the bloodless surrender of Derry, had let the Williamites retain a bridgehead. As a result, a political and military victory was lost and the Jacobite fortunes began to wane.

The situation remained unchanged for the remainder of 1689, despite the landing of 20,000 of William's men at Belfast in August. Both sides went into winter quarters.

## The Battle of the Boyne – 1st July 1690

With the opening of the campaigning season in 1690 the Jacobite position rapidly deteriorated. All of Ulster in the north was lost and William himself landed at Carrickfergus on the 14th June 1690. On 24th June he slowly marched south until he reached the River Boyne on the 30th June, where the Jacobite forces were drawn up awaiting him.

The Battle of the Boyne is probably the most important battle in Irish history, eclipsing even the significance of Clontarf in an earlier era. Its repercussions continue to be felt in Northern Ireland today with regular riots and violence during the annual "marching season" of the "Orangemen" in the first two weeks of July. At the River Boyne the battle that settled which dynasty would rule over Ireland for the next 230 years was fought.

The Jacobites held the superior position but the recent series of defeats, when so close to complete victory, had sapped their morale. They were also outnumbered 3:2, had less artillery and were commanded by the poorer of two mediocre generals. The defeat of the Jacobites was by no means certain, but by bad luck, a faulty deployment and incompetence of James, which was marginally greater than that of William secured their own demise.

At 4.00am on the morning of 1st July, the right wing of William's forces under the command of Meinhart Schomberg advanced towards the bridge over the Boyne at Slane, a few miles up the river from the main forces. Schomberg clearly had the intention of turning the left flank of the Jacobite Army. Surprisingly, James had neither destroyed the bridge at Slane, nor had he posted a strong force to defend it. When the move was discovered a force of Dragoons under the command of Sir Neill O'Neill was dispatched to deal with the threat. O'Neill was killed almost immediately on contact and his forces routed, although they did fight bravely for an hour. Schomberg's advance continued toward Rosmaree and the flank of the Jacobite Army. However, the move of Schomberg should not have been the success it was becoming. In detaching over 20% of his force from the battlefield in a wide flanking manoeuvre, William had created a gap into which James could have thrust his own forces and rolled up the exposed centre and left wing of William's army. Instead, the Jacobites simply faced Schomberg's forces as if they were their main concern. The remainder of the armies therefore retained parity on the main field.

At 10.00am William's centre advanced across the Boyne. After only one volley the defenders fled and within an hour over 10,000 of William's soldiers were south of the Boyne. The Jacobites at last fought well, particularly Berwick's cavalry, but they could not dislodge the growing numbers in their midst. William's forces now also advanced east around the right flank of the Jacobites, while Schomberg and Douglas joined up at noon. The Jacobite army now faced the very real threat of being trapped and annihilated. A race for defile at Duleek ensued with the Jacobites narrowly winning and holding the exit open. Through this gap and out of the trap filed the French and Irish battalions in good order, with only an ineffectual pursuit by some of William's cavalry barely slowing their march. For a battle of such far-reaching consequences casualties were relatively light with James losses put at 1,500 and William's less certain at 1,000 – 2,000.

James had retreated in good order, his defeated army intact. The news was not all bad as the French had just won two naval victories at Beachy Head and Fleurus giving them command of the seas. James' position in Ireland was difficult, but not untenable as the French still supported him and more troops could soon be sent to reinforce him as they now had command of the seas. However, James made up his mind to leave Ireland, apparently on the belief (without any evidence to support it) that the French would send him directly to England at the head of a large Army. After only one night in Dublin he left for Kinsale where a French frigate awaited which took him to Brest. To this day the descendants of the Anglo and Irish families who supported the Stuart dynasty remain unforgiving of this desertion.

The defeat on the Boyne and the seeming flight of their king caused panic and despair among the Jacobite garrisons in the east of Ireland. Drogheda, Wexford, Kilkenny, Clonmel, Duncannon and Waterford all surrendered without a fight. Only at Athlone did Sir Richard Grace successfully resist the attacks of Douglas until short of ammunition and supplies the siege was lifted and Douglas withdrew.

### **The Siege of Limerick – 7th – 30th August 1690**

With James gone, William set about reducing the Jacobite garrisons and strongholds in the east. With only Athlone, Cork, Kinsale and Limerick remaining in Jacobite hands the end seemed assured. William elected to attack Limerick as this was both the strongest stronghold and was pivotal to the communications between the other centres. Its capture would split the Jacobite forces. On arrival before the defences William offered reasonable terms for an honourable surrender, but these were firmly rejected by Boissleau. Tyrconnel, who remained in overall command of the Jacobite forces, had become melancholy and ineffective. Into this void Patrick Sarsfield (later the Earl of Lucan) began to assert himself. Limerick was holding out, but the siege train with the heavy guns to batter its walls was on its way from Dublin and this would signal the end. Berwick proposed a cavalry raid on the train by Sarsfield, and this was accepted. With 500 men Sarsfield set out and successfully destroyed the siege artillery en route, returning safely despite the vigorous efforts of William's cavalry to trap him. With a mere regiment of cavalry Sarsfield had changed the outcome of a siege involving perhaps 30,000 men. Despite the loss of his equipment and without any real preparation William assaulted Limerick and was repulsed with over 1,500 casualties.

Defeated, William raised the siege and returned to England to deal with other more pressing matters. But the Jacobite position was lost in the long term. William left the Dutch General Ginkel in charge but also sent one of the greatest generals of this martial era, the Duke of Marlborough with 6,000 men to Ireland. Marlborough captured Cork and its garrison in three days and moved on to Kinsale. The first of the two forts surrendered on 3rd October after a short fight and the garrison of Fort Charles was allowed to withdraw to Limerick on 15th October. The season was now closed, but Marlborough had achieved more in 23 days than William's generals in a year.

### **The Battle of Aughrim – 12th July 1691**

Louis XIV sent a new commander, Lieutenant General de Saint Ruth to take charge in 1691, but he sent no reinforcements although some

of the best Irish regiments were now serving him on the Continent. An effective campaign by the Williamites would see the Jacobite resistance ended. Saint Ruth was no great general for as Ginkel's forces arrived on the Leinster bank he failed to adequately protect the single ford across the river. When the ford was forced Saint Ruth was reduced to the role of spectator in his own defeat.

Despite this dismal performance and his failure to offer any resistance at other defensible points as he withdrew, Saint Ruth sought the opportunity to meet Ginkel in open battle. The field he chose for the largest battle ever fought on Irish soil was at Aughrim on Sunday, 12th July 1691.

The two armies faced each other across a mist-enshrouded bog until late afternoon, when it finally cleared and the battle could begin. Ginkel's right wing advanced again and again without gaining any appreciable advantage and at great cost. However, his left wing did manage to take the bridge over the Tristaun Stream and push back the defending infantry. Despite this threat the advantage lay with the Jacobite defenders who had two regiments of cavalry nearby under the command of the redoubtable Sarsfield. However, rather than send a courier with a message to Sarsfield to counterattack the cavalry beginning to roll up his left wing, Saint Ruth rode towards the danger spot himself swearing that he would win the day and "hunt the Saxon all the way to Dublin". Almost immediately he was struck and killed by a cannon ball at extreme range. The infamous "Jacobite luck" had once more intervened. Nobody took charge to replace Saint Ruth, the counterattack never took place and Sarsfield knew nothing of the danger until the stragglers began to stream rearward through his position. By then it was too late.

The right wing of the Jacobite army gave way and the centre and left crumbled and scattered in disarray. The wreck of the defeated army separated, part going to Galway and part to Limerick. The end of the Irish Jacobites was in sight.

Galway surrendered on 22nd July 1691 after which Ginkel marched straight on to tackle the much more difficult task of taking the last remaining stronghold of Limerick. The French encouraged the Irish to hold out and promised men and supplies as it suited their purposes of tying down William's soldiers throughout the winter. Tyrconnel died and Sarsfield and Wauchope wearied of waiting for French help. On 3rd October 1691 the terms of surrender for the whole of the Jacobite forces in Ireland was signed and three years of intensive struggle, which had become increasingly brutal and savage came to an end. The Jacobite cause in Ireland was at an end, though it continued to burn in Scotland for a further 55 years.

### **Conclusion**

Bad luck, bad judgement and disunity have dogged the history of the Jacobite cause, nowhere more so than in Ireland. The Jacobites could have – and should have - conquered all of Ireland before William could fight back and send help. They did not and the result was the loss of a powerful base and the support it could provide. Partly because of subsequent events relating to the abrogation of the surrender terms

*Continued page 31*



# Corporal Cosmo Reports!

## 2014 LONG TERM COSTS REPORT - MILITARY SUPER

Well the Government has released it latest Superannuation arrangements for us hard working ADF people. Which got me thinking ..how much does military Superannuation cost the Government ?

Well as it happens, the latest figures have (finally) been published on the Aust. Gov't Actuary website.  
[www.aga.gov.au/publications/mil\\_super\\_2014/downloads/Mil\\_Super\\_2014.pdf](http://www.aga.gov.au/publications/mil_super_2014/downloads/Mil_Super_2014.pdf)

Some quick highlights:

- Current value of unfunded liabilities for ADF Superannuation schemes (DFRB, DFRDB & MSBS) are \$57.5 billion as of 30 June 2014 or, 3.6% of GDP (slightly higher than the \$51.9B projected, or 3.3% of GDP).
- The effect of closing MSBS has a significant impact on projected unfunded liabilities as a percentage of GDP and are expected to fall from 3.6% to 0.9% over the 41 year projection period (2054)
- Scheme Membership Over the last three years, changes to contributor numbers were:
- DFRDB decreased by about 1,000 members to 2,686 serving contributors.
- MSBS contributing membership decreased by around 700.

The next LTCR, in three years time, will include ADF Super for the first time. The bottom line is that the introduction of the new ADF Superannuation Scheme (ADFSuper) will reduce the Government's unfunded superannuation liability by an estimated \$202.5 Billion by 2054.

I know of no new Superannuation Scheme that is better than the one it has replaced .... Do you ???

If you step back and take a look at ADF Super, it's actually a very clever piece of public policy work. The person that came up with it would have been Knighted or Damed - were Tony Abbott still the PM.

**First**, current serving members get to stay with what is perceived by many, and described by the Minister for Defence Personnel, as a 'very generous' superannuation pension. Current serving ADF members are not compelled to transfer to the new scheme that commences on 1 July 2016.

**Second**, new entrants to the ADF and serving members who choose to transfer to ADF Super will have their fortnightly employer contributions fully funded and invested as they choose.

**Third**, when an ADF Super member separates from the ADF, they may take all of their superannuation benefits with them.

**Fourth**, (and this is where the public policy/savings to the tax-payer magic really happens...), the long term costs of servicing military pensions, is drastically, significantly reduced (see the tables from the Head Government Beancounter's report in Adam's post above), by \$4.93 Billion per year - on average.

**Fifth**. It's a hidden saving!! 'Savings', like this are rare finds indeed for the Government, because Unfunded Liabilities are not recognised in the Federal Budget. I use the term 'saving' as it is really a cost avoidance from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. It's not a saving from the Defence Budget, but it certainly is (will be) a reduced cost of business for the Government.

**Sixth**. ADF Super actually looks like an increased cost (& it will be), to the Defence Budget, so the Government can spin the narrative any way they choose! (Brilliance!!)

Here's the 'savings' Vs cost again: (based on Government publications currently available)

Closure of MSBS: \$202.5 billion (over 41 years)

Intro of ADF Super: \$242 million (over 4 years)

Projected Unfunded Liabilities (MSBS remains open)<sup>1</sup>

Year ending 30 June	DFRB (\$b)	DFRDB (\$b)	MSBS (\$b)	Total (\$b)	As a percentage of GDP
2014	0.5	30.3	26.7	57.5	3.6
2015	0.5	30.6	29.3	60.4	3.6
2016	0.4	30.9	31.9	63.3	3.6
2017	0.4	31.2	34.8	66.4	3.6
2018	0.4	31.4	37.8	69.6	3.5
2019	0.4	31.6	41.0	72.9	3.5
2020	0.3	31.7	44.4	76.4	3.5
2025	0.3	31.6	64.0	95.8	3.3
2030	0.2	30.4	88.5	119.1	3.2
2035	0.1	28.1	118.8	147.0	3.0
2040	0.1	24.6	155.4	180.0	2.8
2045	0.0	20.2	198.6	218.8	2.7
2050	0.0	15.2	249.3	264.5	2.5
2055	0.0	10.3	309.4	319.7	2.4

Note: Totals may differ from the sum of DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS due to rounding.  
 1. These figures have not been adjusted to 2014 dollars.

Projected Unfunded Liabilities (MSBS closed from 1 July 2016)<sup>1</sup>

Year ending 30 June	DFRB (\$b)	DFRDB (\$b)	MSBS (\$b)	Total (\$b)	As a percentage of GDP
2014	0.5	30.3	26.7	57.5	3.6
2015	0.5	30.6	29.3	60.4	3.6
2016	0.4	30.9	31.9	63.3	3.6
2017	0.4	31.2	34.7	66.3	3.6
2018	0.4	31.4	37.6	69.4	3.5
2019	0.4	31.6	40.5	72.4	3.5
2020	0.3	31.7	43.4	75.4	3.4
2025	0.3	31.6	58.6	90.5	3.1
2030	0.2	30.4	74.1	104.7	2.8
2035	0.1	28.1	89.0	117.2	2.4
2040	0.1	24.6	101.7	126.3	2.0
2045	0.0	20.2	109.8	130.0	1.6
2050	0.0	15.2	111.3	126.5	1.2
2055	0.0	10.3	106.9	117.1	0.9

Note: Totals may differ from the sum of DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS due to rounding.  
 1. These figures have not been adjusted to 2014 dollars and do not include liabilities relating to the proposed new accumulation superannuation scheme ADF Super or the associated scheme for death and invalidity cover, ADF Cover.

(Corporal Cosmo's comments are his/her own, reflecting his/her opinions only. This article should be read as general information. It is not advice).

# BOOK REVIEW

## • STEPPING INTO A MINEFIELD

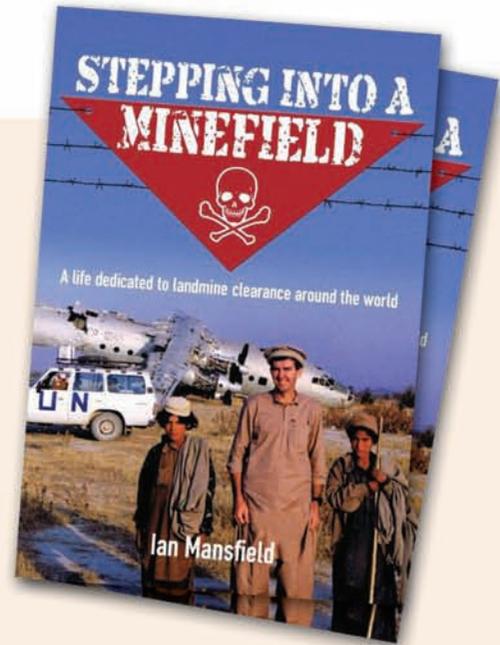
by Ian Mansfield

*I've known Ian Mansfield for well over 40 years, but reading his book has given me an insight into the man and his humanitarian, diplomatic and professional deeds, that are far more formed than I had previously thought. Reading and understanding Ian's journey has generated in me a huge respect for what he has achieved for the Australian Defence Force, Australia and the international community. Ian has been at the forefront of international endeavors to deal with the scourge of land mines and their effect on innocent populations, for over 20 years. His journey took him, and his family, to front line postings in places like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Laos and Sarajevo, before tackling the challenges of New York and beyond. His efforts saw him visit over 70 countries; many of them war torn and impoverished.*

*Ian's work is easy to read, factual and compelling. While he chronicles his own life, he gives considerable space to others he encountered upon his journey. He is mostly complimentary but he is clear in his criticism, in a non-emotive way, where he thinks this is warranted. I found his candor and balance to be refreshing. Throughout his work his strong humanitarian bent is obvious. His desire to help the innocent against the ravages of war is very clearly demonstrated by his deeds, including his decision to leave the Australian Army and to join the United Nations.*

*For me there are several facets of Ian's story that are important. Firstly, you can't avoid the fact that Ian's story is the story of the Mansfield family - Ian, Margaret and their children. Regardless of rank, all of us who have had long and successful careers understand that success can only be achieved with the strong support, understanding and forgiveness of your family. In Ian's case, Margaret and his children served with, and supported him, in some of the most challenging geographical, cultural and security environments of the late 1990s and the early 2000's. How important this was for Ian and his achievements is demonstrated in a passage from his book, recalling his time in Afghanistan and Pakistan when a close Afghan colleague accidentally drowned in the Indus River. He writes "When I got home the events of the past week caught up with me emotionally, and I hugged Margaret and cried over the loss of my good friend." He served through violent times, and the presence and support of his family helped him maintain his balance and energy.*

*A second facet of Ian's book which stands out for me is his excellent coverage of the history of Australia's military involvement in tackling the issue of land mines, and the early days of international intervention and support in this regard. He provides many insights of life in Afghanistan - from the conclusion of the Russian occupation, through self-government and to the rise of the Taliban - well before Australia's ongoing intervention since 2001. He does a similar job in describing post war Laos and other conflict locations.*



*In relating his story, Ian gives strong attribution to a small band of fellow Australians, and international individuals who served in incredibly challenging roles in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and beyond, for well over a decade. He tells the story of people who deployed with little more than their military training and wit to see them through extremely difficult and complex challenges, and he chronicles their success against the odds. His book should be compelling both to his generation and the modern generation of Australian Army engineers. Such reading will show that our success on the battlefield in Afghanistan today had its genesis in the work done by Ian, and a small band of engineer officers and SNCOs, throughout the 1990's. For the record, Ian reminds us that Australians served on mine clearance operations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique, Bosnia and Eritrea. Nearly 200 members of the Australian Army served in such roles.*

*The final facet of Ian's work I would like to highlight is the effort needed to shape policies, gain funding and make progress when dealing with the United Nations and its member states. It's not easy, and it requires real courage. Ian's recollection of his dealings with politicians, military leaders, diplomats and even royalty makes for compelling reading. It takes a person with special skills to carve a successful career in the United Nations, where positive outcomes are clearly recognizable indicators of that career. Ian Mansfield is one such person and we, and the impoverished citizens in war torn countries scourged by the presence of land mines, have much to thank him for.*

*Ian says in the last few sentences of the book that "we hope we have made a tiny impact on making the world a better place for a few people". My friend and colleague, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, wrote of Ian, "Through his personal bravery and commitment to the worthy cause of ridding the world of the scourge of mines, he helped save the lives of thousands of men, women and children". Peter has it right, Ian's book is a terrific read and he and his family have much of which they should be proud.*

Reviewed by Lieutenant General (Retd) Ken Gillespie AC DSC CSM



# MONEY MATTERS

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In the last edition of Camaraderie, Rob Shortridge, writing a “Letter to the Editor”, commented on the need for individuals to look after themselves financially. To save; to be financially informed; to decide what financial risks they are comfortable with; and to be active in managing their investments. If you missed the Letter, perhaps you should read it, as it is written by someone who has “walked the road” that he is describing.

Rob may have even read one of my favourite finance books ... “The Richest Man in Babylon” by George S. Clason, written nearly 100 years ago. The philosophies and investment principles discussed in the book, which were applied many hundreds of years ago in Babylon, are still valid today. The principle of “pay yourself first”, and living within your means is explained very clearly. Consider buying the book for yourself, or buy two, one to give as a gift to a family member or friend. They will be thankful for the rest of their life.

In this edition of Camaraderie I would like to revisit the discussion of “pay yourself first”, which I addressed in an earlier article. Is acquiring a “nest egg” important to you? Have you made a concerted effort to save a regular sum of money?

My recommendation is that you save 10% of your gross income, over and above the Superannuation contributions that you make, as well as any Mortgage payments that you are responsible for. You may also consider reflecting on the Rule of 72 which was discussed in Money Matters, in the previous Edition of Camaraderie, to enable you to calculate how long it would take you to reach a particular financial goal. One statement that is regularly reinforced for me every day, is that the longer you wait before you start saving, the more you need to save to reach a particular target. Using the 10% example, if your gross income is \$70K p.a., and you had saved 10% for the last five years, you would have approximately \$35K in your savings account. (This does not take into account, interest and tax payments) Have you achieved this? I suggest you do some calculations that are relevant to your personal situation, to highlight what you could achieve.

To assist in saving so that you can reach your goal, make arrangements with the Payroll Office for an automatic deduction every fortnight, to your “nest egg” account. If you never see the money, you won’t be tempted to spend it.

Now that we are considering building a nest egg, are you actually aware of how you utilize your income, from whatever source you receive it? As an example, what percentage do you spend on entertainment, housekeeping costs, and transport? I suggest you keep a record of your expenditure for at least a six month period. You may be surprised – negatively or positively.

The expenditure record can be kept in a notebook, with columns for various items. You should regularly write down what you spend, or, if you prefer, use a spread sheet to keep your expenditure details. As an example, I suggest you note amounts in approximate figures, e.g. groceries ... \$150; petrol ... \$60 etc. Within a couple of months you will note a strong pattern as to where you spend excessive amounts of money, and where you are cautious.

The above observations, bring me to highlight two web sites that I have always mentioned at the end of every MONEY MATTERS article. I recommend that you spend time in exploring the various “drop down” boxes.

[www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au) has a number of drop down boxes that cover relevant topics. The site is conducted under the auspices of ASIC (Australian Securities and Investments Commission). There are many calculators and recommendations to assist you in making strong financial decisions. As it is compiled by a Government organization, you can be assured that it is not attempting to sell you the “latest product”.

The other site that I strongly recommend is [www.adfconsumer.gov.au](http://www.adfconsumer.gov.au) specifically written for ADF personnel. Apart from reading articles that are of interest to you on this site, I recommend that you subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter, which always refers to topics that are relevant to all Members of the Services.

# WHERE IS DEFENCE HOUSING HEADED ?



In recent editions of Camaraderie, we alerted readers to threats to Defence Housing Australia (Camaraderie Vol 45 No3). Following the consultant's report to Government earlier this year (by Lazards, an financial advisory and asset management firm that advises on mergers, acquisitions, restructuring, capital structure and strategy .. but not Defence capability !!), the Government announced that it would not proceed with recommendations to privatise DHA 'at this time' but undertake further studies of DHA.

Rest on your arms reverse you may have thought ?? NO ! In late October we were alerted to a possible change of senior management at DHA, with the Department of Finance obviously agitating for change. We then heard of the sudden appointment of a Department of Finance Deputy Secretary as Managing Director DHA, replacing Mr Peter Howman (who, coincidentally on his last day in office, was awarded Customer Service CEO of the Year at the Customer Service Institute of Australia (CSIA) Australian Service Excellence Awards).

So our fears remain extant .... In short, that the Department of Finance, no friend of the ADF, aims to siphon off capital and operating funds to give the Government a one-off financial windfall and in the process emasculate DHA, to the detriment of Australian Defence Force families”.

We have known for a long time that Finance has been targeting ADF members and veterans, opposing efforts at every turn to improve the service conditions of ADF members. Even recently Finance fiercely opposed claims for fair indexation of ADF superannuation and adoption of a fair benchmark for the Veterans' Disability Pension.

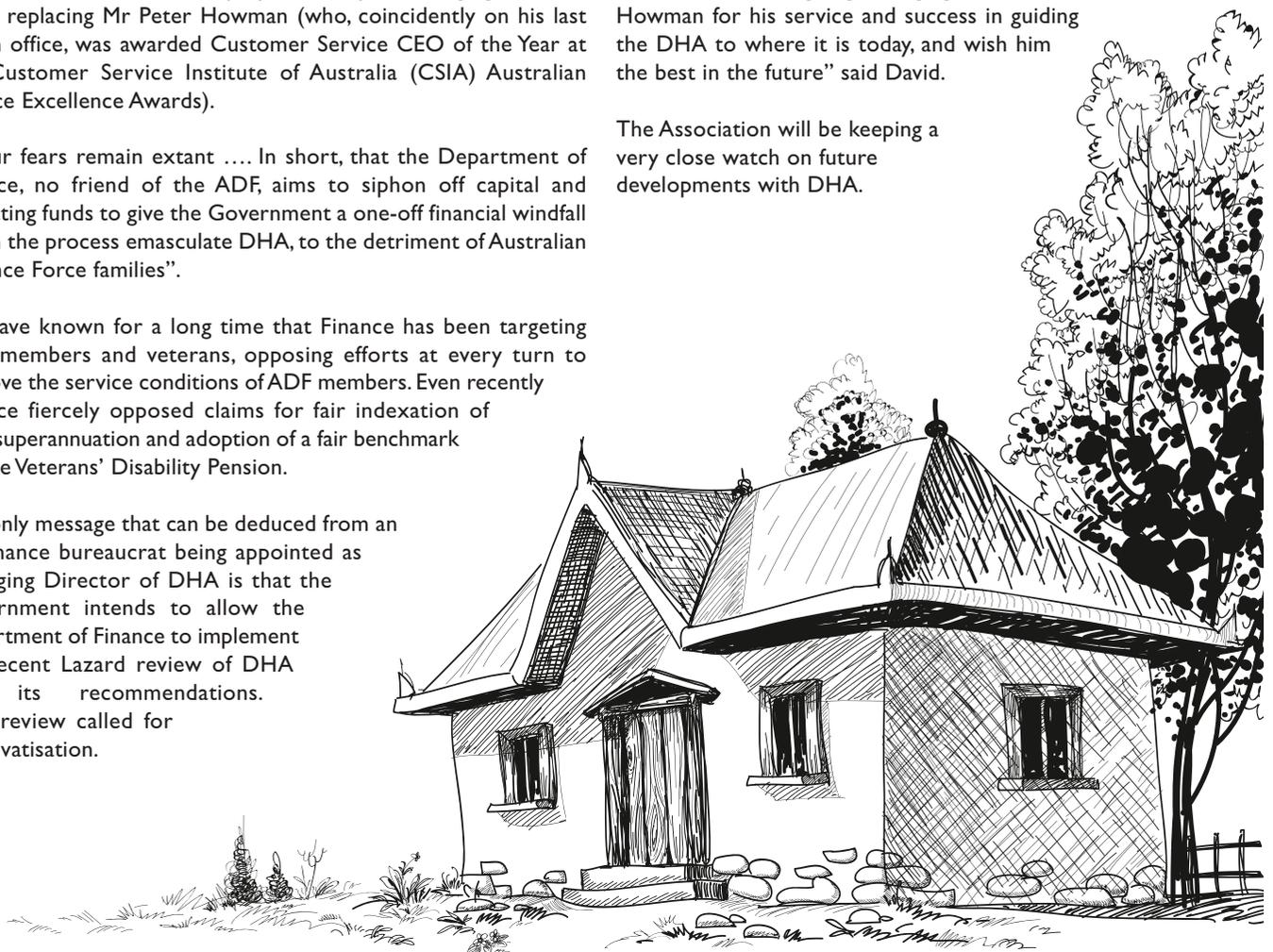
The only message that can be deduced from an ex-Finance bureaucrat being appointed as Managing Director of DHA is that the Government intends to allow the Department of Finance to implement the recent Lazard review of DHA and its recommendations. That review called for its privatisation.

This clearly flies in the face of good public policy when the present arrangements provide good housing for ADF families at little or no ongoing cost to the budget. It even pays an annual dividend to Finance thus offsetting the Defence Budget.

In expressing the Association's concerns, DFWA National President David Jamison has stated that “Not only would such a move be detrimental to Australia's defence capability, it would be detrimental to the ADF, whose personnel rely on having affordable and quality housing especially in the more remote areas away from their family and social support networks. That is something Defence understands but Finance refuses to accept”.

“We thank the outgoing Managing Director Peter Howman for his service and success in guiding the DHA to where it is today, and wish him the best in the future” said David.

The Association will be keeping a very close watch on future developments with DHA.



## The Jacobites IN IRELAND 1688 - 1691

*Continued from page 17*

and the unjust legal subjugation of the catholic population, Ireland remains in a 300 year old time capsule. The different components of the population remain alienated. There are no viable remaining claimants to the Jacobite throne, the world has moved on, Eire is an independent country and Ulster has democratically elected to remain part of the UK. Yet the Boyne and the feuds from that period continue to be part of the fabric of Irish life today, long after the rest of the world regards them as a curiosity of history.

### Bibliography

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*This Sceptred Isle: 55BC – 1901 – Christopher Lee, Penguin and BBC Books (1998), Cat No. 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4, Chapters 29 – 34*

Internet website: <http://www.grandorange.org.uk>

### Authors Profile

*Alistair Pope is a retired Lieutenant Colonel who retains a keen interest in military matters and military history. A National Serviceman he graduated as an officer from OTU, Scheyville in 1967 and served in various postings in Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. He is a frequent contributor of book reviews and the occasional article. He is self-employed as an accredited PRINCE2 Trainer and project management consultant.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Continued from page 17*

Initially the communists worked carefully to re-establish their presence and underground networks in the Peninsula. An outbreak of violence erupted in 1974 following a split in their ranks as the factions sought to outdo each other. By the end of 1975 there had been attacks on military and police installations throughout the Peninsular, including rocket attacks on the military air base at Kuala Lumpur and the formerly named Minden Barracks on Penang.

Documents sourced from the National Archives report increased security measures at Butterworth including tightened entry control, aircraft dispersal for a period, and the use of the Australian infantry Company on piquet duty and standing patrols. Reference is also made to a period of tension and CO Base Squadron reports for the period Dec 75 to Sept 78 show the Ground Defence Operation Centre was regularly activated to cover possible ground threats.

At the time Butterworth was strategically important to Malaysia's effort against the communists. It was the largest of the four air bases in West Malaysia, close to their strongholds, and Australia made a significant contribution to the running of the Base. In 1976 Group Captain J.R. MacNeil, Defence Advisor, Kuala Lumpur, advised that any significant reduction of the RAAF presence would either seriously affect the operational ability of the Air Base or require a large diversion of Malaysian Air Force resources from other bases. Whatever action was taken would be to the advantage of the communists.

Although violence peaked in 1975 and the Communist's 8th Assault Unit was driven from its base in the Kulim area in 1978, it was only in the early 1980s that the Government forces gained the ascendancy according to the book 'The Malaysian Army's Battle Against Communist Insurgency in Peninsular Malaysia 1968-1989' published by the Malaysian Department of Defence. It was not until December 1989 that the Malaysian Government signed a peace accord with the communists that peace came to the Nation.

Despite an abundance of evidence that Australian forces at Butterworth and, for that matter, other places in Peninsular Malaysia, incurred danger from the hostile forces of the enemy their service remains classified as peacetime service.

Yours Sincerely  
Ken Marsh

### GRAHAM PRICE RESPONDS:

*I am pleased with the letter from Ken Marsh because he brings up further activities that not many (except for service, administrative and certain media people involved) are aware of. I can understand why someone might consider my article a downplay, but again it was but a personal recollection of the Malayan Emergency 1948-1960 and as such did not expressly deal with later conflicts, apart from the 70s insurrection of which I was fully aware of. Curious to say, I was in Malaya during 1974-78 on various occasions as a civilian and there was little hint from local communities as to what Ken has revealed.*

*Of course it was definitely going on in the background, certainly not to be denied. It is to Ken's great credit that he has carried out this research and put it forward. If it is at all possible, I would look forward to other writers giving their personal recollections of these conflicts in SE Asia 1970s-1990s for publication in Camaraderie. The old saying 'politics is a far country' is also adaptable to wars and insurrections - it is mostly hidden from the public and soon becomes stale news if ever revealed.*

# 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](http://www.dfw.org.au))

Signature ..... Date: ..... / ..... / 20 .....

*from 1 Jan 2013*

IF RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP PLEASE  
 NOTE PAYMENTS WILL NEED TO REFLECT  
 THE CHANGE TO FINANCIAL YEAR INSTEAD  
 OF CALENDAR YEAR MEMBERSHIP.  
 PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BRANCH  
 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	FEE
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force	\$40.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above	\$20.00
FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP	FEE
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force	\$170.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above	\$85.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	FEE
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



# DFWA SHOP

**Your Details:**

Title ..... Initials ..... Surname .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone No. .... Email: .....

Send your order to: **DFWA QLD INC**  
Victoria Barracks Brisbane  
ENOGGERA QLD 4051



1 & 2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

**NEW**

	Item	Size	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
1	Bisley Blue Shirt - Men's	XL, L M, S		\$39.95	
2	Bisley Blue Shirt —Women's	XL, L, M, S		\$50.00	
3	DFWA Cap with embroidered badge	xxxxx		\$15.00	
4	DFWA Lapel Badge	xxxxx		\$5.00	
5	DFWA Polo Shirt (JB's Wear)	XXL XL, L M, S		\$30.00	
6	DFWA Satchel	xxxxx		\$5.00	
7	DFWA Cloth Pocket Badge with pins	xxxxx		\$10.00	
8	Embroidered DFWA Patch	xxxxx		\$10.00	
9	DFWA Zip Front Jacket with embroidered badge	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$69.00	
10	DFWA Zip Front Vest with embroidered badge	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$29.00	

Notes:

1. Please note that Bisley shirts are generally one size larger than most other brands.
2. All prices include postage.

**Total Due:** \$

**Payment:** Internet Banking/Direct Debit: Bank of QLD BSB 124 076 Account: 10 480 398

OR Enclose Cheque/Money Order: \$..... Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....



# BRANCH REPORTS Around Australia

## NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Patron: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)  
 Vice Patrons: Fleet Commander, Forces Commander, Air Commander  
 President: Michael Stuart-Watt  
 Vice Presidents: Robert Enos (N) Barry Wright (A) Alan Hind (AF)  
 Secretary: Alan Hind  
 Treasurer: Ralph Hannaford  
 Location: Victoria Barracks  
 Oxford Street, PADDINGTON NSW 2021  
 Telephone: (02) 8335 5447 (4 lines) + Voice Mail  
 Email: nswbranch@dfwa.org.au

### CONTACT GROUPS IN NSW

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 David Winkelmann AFC  
 PO Box 467, MAYFIELD NSW  
 2304  
 Ph: (02) 4968 3811

Jim A Treadwell AFC, OAM  
 5 Olearia Court, WARABROOK  
 NSW 2304  
 Ph: (02) 4960 3549

**SHOALHAVEN**  
 Mr Christopher Clifford  
 6 Platypus Avenue,  
 SANCTUARY POINT NSW  
 2540  
 Ph: (02) 4443 7725

Mr Kevin C Buchanan  
 12 The Triangle, CULBURRA  
 BEACH NSW 2540  
 Ph: (02) 4447 2461

A 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 NSW Branch since July 2015.

WOI R Atwell, CPL P A Bateson, CPL S P Berg, Mr N Bori, WOI G J Forrest, WOI P Fudge, Major H E Green, AB M L Hardy, LCDR P Hayes OAM, Mr A Johnson MBE, Major L T Jones, SGT D M Moore, CAPT Peake CSC, CHAPLAIN B Phillips, SGT M Stewart, Mrs E Thompson, SQNLDR N C Thompson.

### VALE

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

Mr G C P Abdo, Mrs N C Carr, Mrs B L Creighton, LTCOL C H Gray Mr D W James, CMDR J N King RAN (Rtd), Mr R A Lee, Mr J F May OAM, Mrs A M Pedersen, Major K R Shaw, CDRE J A Shearing (Rtd), GPCAPT J N Thompson, Mr J H Timmins, Mrs E R Weight, Mr R J E Weightman, Mr F P Winters.

## ACT BRANCH

President: Les Bienkiewicz  
 Vice President: Berry Jaugietis  
 Secretary: Gerard Gough  
 Treasurer: Paul Jones  
 Convener DWG: Annette Sadler  
 Postal Address: GPO Box 2272 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
 Email: actbranch@dfwa.org.au  
 Telephone: (02) 6265 9496 (answering service only)

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

### 2015 AGM

The 2015 AGM was recently held and the report presented by the President is contained in the Branch insert to this edition. Thank you to those who attended the meeting.

### VALE

With regret the deaths of the following members is advised:

Mr Bryan Easter, MAJ James Henderson, COL Clarence Hockley, Mr Anthony Thornton, COL Donald Goldsmith, and Mr Desmond Owens.

### NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Mrs Denise Bird, Mrs Iris Hockley, FSGT Russell Saint, Mrs Noreen Watch, Mrs Joy Easter, MAJ Craig Sheehan, MAJ Clinton Schwarz, WGCADR Andrew Bannister, Mrs Jan MacDonald and Dr Kathryn Spurling.

### LOST CONTACT

We have lost contact with the following members, would anyone knowing their mailing address or whereabouts please advise the membership secretary or ask the person to contact the ACT Branch:

Mr R Bateson, Mrs M Doust, LTCOL F Follard, LTCOL B Hodge, WGCMDR C Huggan, Mrs D Lilley, Mrs J Meakin, CAPT K Pickard, Mrs E Richardson and Mr P Roberts.



## COPIES OF CAMARADERIE

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?

## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President:	Robert Shortridge
Exec Vice President:	John Lewis
VP – North Qld	Kel Ryan
VP – Sunshine Coast	Win Fowles
Secretary:	Rod Brittan
Treasurer:	Walter Buldo
Postal Address:	Victoria Barracks Brisbane ENOGGERA QLD 4051
Telephone:	(07) 3233 4480
E-mail:	qldbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Friday 0900 to 1200 hrs

A more detailed report is provided in the QLD Branch insert.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The DFVA Qld Branch Inc AGM was held in September and the committee has been re-elected.

We are continuing to support the Young Diggers Dog Squad with donations or by assisting by fostering dogs. The Dog Squad needs people who are able to provide temporary foster care if, for example, the digger with the dog needs to go to hospital. The program is Australia wide and anyone interested in helping should go to the Dog Squad page and look under Dog Squad applications. <http://www.youngdiggers.com.au/dogs>.

There is ongoing frustration created by Defence not coming clean on the future of Victoria Barracks. We keep hearing that it is scheduled for closure, however, when written confirmation is requested it is never forthcoming, hence no real planning can begin. From the Queensland Government's perspective, it is an important part of Queensland's heritage and they share the frustrations.

The DFVA Qld Branch Inc Pensions Welfare and advocacy capability is slowly growing as we are putting interested members through the TIP training.

DFVA was invited to a meeting with the new DVA Minister Stuart Robert on the Sunshine Coast. It was attended by our VP Sunshine coast, Win Fowles. Unfortunately, the meeting was relatively brief and it was more information gathering for the Minister but at least DFVA had a seat at the meeting and some issues important to the ESO were raised.

We continue to attend the Transition Seminars and we now give the ESO presentation to each alternate seminar, sharing it with the RSL. We are getting very positive feedback from seminar attendees.

We are also actively supporting the development of an ADF Military Covenant by increasing awareness of the issue among our members. I continue to represent the DFVA on the Queensland Forum of Ex-Service Organisations (QFE), DVA's Queensland Veterans Advisory Council (QVAC), Anzac Day Commemoration Committee (ADCC), which incidentally is in its 100th year) and the State Government, Queensland Veteran's Advisory Committee (QVAC).

*Rob Shortridge*  
President, DFVA Qld Inc

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

President	John Wilson
Deputy President	Paul Mulraney
Senior Vice-President	Laurie Lewis
Secretary	Maria Barclay
Treasurer	Ian Smith
Vice President (Navy)	TBA
Vice President (Army)	TBA
Vice President (Air Force)	Lee Bowes
Honorary Auditor	John D Thornton FAICD FAIM FCPA
Convenor Women Veterans	TBA
Membership Officer	Peter Jackman
Contact:	0409577035 or email sabranch@dfwa.org.au

### INTRODUCTION

Twelve months on from our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September 2014 I can report that our Branch's finances are sound, our membership is stable, our identity in the South Australian Defence community is established, we have excellent sponsorship and we are acknowledged by our DFVA President and National Office as an effective branch of the DFVA national structure.

On the negative side we have yet to achieve adequate numbers of new members, particularly among the serving and recently-serving members of the ADF. This is our most critical issue and something on which we must place added emphasis in the next few years.

Since my last report to you I have been appointed as a member of the SA Veterans' Advisory Council. As a member of the VAC I will do my best to represent the interests of veterans generally and DFVA/ADSO members in particular.

### FINANCIAL POSITION

We have now reached a minimum critical financial position to ensure that the branch can operate effectively into the future. The DFVA is heavily reliant on members' subscriptions and donations and, with an ageing membership roll, we need to increase the membership base and look to other areas for income. Given the nature of operations, most expense is administrative, but, to date, some of that expenditure for the SA Branch (e.g. cost of attending the National Executive meeting (NATEX) twice per year) has been absorbed by some members of the committee. They must be compensated in future for all expenditure on our behalf.

I am extremely grateful for the generous donations made by a number of members. Thank you for your support and strong vote of confidence in the work of our Association.

I should also acknowledge the hard work and commitment made by Ian D Smith, our Treasurer. I also wish to acknowledge the fine gesture of our Honorary Auditor, John D Thornton FAICD FAIM FCPA, who stepped forward in response to our request. Thank you both for your enthusiasm and commitment on our behalf.

### SPONSORSHIP

The SA Branch is indeed fortunate to have as its major sponsor Blackwell

Funerals. I have been humbled and delighted at the generous and enthusiastic support promised by Jason Maher, General Manager - South Australia & Tasmania, Funeral Division, InvoCare and Dr. Joseph Morelli, Regional Manager, Blackwell Funerals. The commitment of Blackwell Funerals to our Branch is significant:

1. Provision of meeting function facilities at Blackwell Funerals' locations in Adelaide;
2. Provision of catering at DFWA (SA Branch) functions;
3. Availability of bar facilities at functions; and
4. Provision of DFWA signs.

Blackwell Funerals has also paid a donation of \$1000.00 towards the purchase of a computer, printer and associated equipment essential to running Branch operations.

The quality of the support provided by our sponsor was on show for those who attended the Branch Annual General Meeting on Friday 16 November 2015 at Blackwell Funerals, Torrensville. The service and hospitality provided by Neville Edwards and his team was outstanding. They looked after everything and their support is much appreciated. Thank you Blackwell Funerals.

To emphasize their commitment to the DFWA (SA Branch) Blackwell Funerals has made a Special Offer to DFWA members and their families - at <http://www.blackwellfunerals.com.au/dfwa>. Brief details of the offer are provided at the conclusion of this report.

On your behalf, I express sincere appreciation to Jason, Joe, Neville and the team at Blackwell Funerals for their very real and generous sponsorship.

#### TRANSFORMING SA HEALTH

The SA Government's Transforming Health program (refer website at <http://transforminghealth.sa.gov.au/>) continues to foster considerable debate in the Defence community, particularly concerning the future of the 'Repat' at Daw Park and the building of a new Mental Health Care Treatment Centre of Excellence to replace Ward 17. Transforming Health proposes much more than just veterans' health and a replacement facility for Ward 17, but it was the sudden and unexpected announcement in January 2015 that the 'Repat' at Daw Park was to be closed, that created considerable concern for many veterans. I made representations on behalf of the Branch and participated in several discussions regarding what was proposed, including as Chairperson of the SA Defence Consultative Group. I am now satisfied that we have made our position clear. Our task now is to hold the government to account so that promises match actions.

To keep informed about SA Health's proposals I suggest that members each monitor the Veterans' Health Services section of the SA Health website at <http://transforminghealth.sa.gov.au/veterans/>. While the Minister for Health and his department have shown a reluctance to provide full and timely information on the detail of their proposals, at least the website contains some useful information

#### ISSUES

##### ADEQUACY OF TPI AND SERVICE PENSION PAYMENTS

In accordance with our charter, the DFWA will continue to press with the

federal government and the responsible ministers the adequacy of TPI and Service Pension payments to our most deserving veterans. At SA Branch level, I will be taking this matter to the Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC) to seek state government intervention on your behalf. While the federal government sets the rates of payment and state and federal governments set the rates of taxes, levies and tax thresholds, veterans in receipt of TPI and Service Pension payments will continue to be squeezed. I will be working with one of our ADSO partners, the TPI Federation, to raise this matter in the SA Defence Consultative Group.

#### RECRUITMENT

Re-generation of the membership remains the highest priority for the SA Branch. An ageing membership not only limits our ability to represent the younger serving and ex-serving members but also limits our ability to create a younger, more vital executive. The current committee has done a great job over the past twelve months, but we need additional members to share the workload.

I ask all members to contact other veterans and members of the ADF and urge them to join the DFWA (SA Branch) – their professional association:

- If you know someone who has left the services – urge them to join.
- If you know someone who knows someone who has left the services – urge them to pass the message on.
- If you know someone who is a serving member, tell them about the work of the DFWA and why it's important that they join the DFWA – their professional association.
- If you meet someone in uniform, ask them if they are a member of DFWA. The more we publicise the Association to serving members the more likely they are to consider joining.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members: Katie Jugowitz, Peter Lee, Louis Bocchino, James O'Hanlon, Gordon Brown, and SQNLDR David Woerner (transferred in from QLD Branch)

#### DONATIONS

Donations from the following members are gratefully acknowledged: R Brightwell, Anne Healey, Pat McCullough, Alf Tucker, Len Skinner and Philip Clark

#### THE YEAR AHEAD

Apart from regenerating the membership, I want us to focus on the following issues in 2016:

- Transforming SA Health. Our focus will be on ensuring that work on the new Mental Health Treatment Centre of Excellence to replace Ward 17 is commenced as soon as possible and that the state government's promise of \$15m for the centre is used to best effect. We will also be monitoring the other aspects of the Transforming Health program to ensure the government promises on veterans' health services are fulfilled.
- Adequacy of TPI and Service Pensions. We are seeking for disabled veterans to be able to live with dignity and self-esteem by having the SR/TPI Compensation increased to 100% of the average weekly wage. It is currently at a low 43%. This has fallen from 80% to 43% over 65 years. We also will be seeking restoration of parity of the structural

increase that other pensions received in 2009. Disabled veterans and their families have been denied \$3300.00 per/year from that date after the Labor government failed to match the increases in other parents.

- Defence Sponsored Child Care Facilities in SA. We have made a submission to the VAC seeking an urgent review by Defence of the lack of sponsored child care facilities for ADF personnel posted in SA. We will be following this issue as a matter of urgency. Sponsored child care centres are provided in all other states and the ACT. ADF parents have priority access to these centres. We want to ensure that ADF parents in SA have the same opportunity.
- The ADF Covenant. In the coming year we will contribute to the awareness of the ADF Covenant and its adoption by the government.

## THANK YOU

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation for the work and dedication of our committee members over the past year. Most of us have either our own health problems and/or we are caring for a partner. Despite these difficulties, as warriors do, the committee members have got the job done.

I also wish to thank all members who have supported the Branch by payment of subscriptions, generous donations and purchasing raffle tickets. Your support is very much appreciated.

I want to salute the dedication and commitment of our colleagues and the many other DFVA members who do unsung work for RSL Clubs, veterans' and community bodies. It is through their efforts that the DFVA has become the most effective professional association for serving and ex-serving members of the ADF.

Best wishes for Christmas and a happy, healthy 2016.

## VICTORIA BRANCH

Patron:	The Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC Governor of Victoria
President:	Ted Radford
Vice President Navy:	Stephen Turner
Vice President Army:	John James
Vice President Air Force:	John McCrystal
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stephen Grainger
Location:	Victoria Barracks Melbourne (H Block) 256-310 St Kilda Road SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
Telephone:	(03) 9282 4959 (+Answering Service)
Facsimile:	(03) 9282 7089
Email:	vicbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Tue and Thur 0900 to 1500 hrs

A more detailed report is provided to Vic Branch members in the Branch insert.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron:	Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO
Vice Patrons:	Maritime Commander Western Region Army Commander Western Region Air Commander RAAF Base Pearce
President:	Richard Usher
Vice President:	Max Ball
Secretary:	Clive Greenhill
Treasurer:	Lou Halvorson
Convenor DWG:	Shirly Mooney
Postal Address:	Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010
Telephone:	(08) 9383 4055 (Answering Machine A/H)
Office Hours:	Mon, Wed and Thur 1000 to 1400 hrs
Email:	wabranch@dfwa.org.au
Location:	Karrakatta Community House Matapau Road Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010

A more detailed report is provided to WA Branch members in the Branch newsletter.

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to: Able Seaman Paul Taylor, Flying Officer Cameron Brunton and Mr Jay Devereux.

## LOST CONTACT

We appear to have lost contact with Mr J Watts (last known address was in Calista). Any help in tracing him would be greatly appreciated.

## VALE

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Mr Eric Watts and Leut Fred Lawrence RAN Rtd.

## HOMELESS VETERANS

WA Branch has recently sponsored Jay Devereux in his outreach work with homeless veterans. He regularly patrols the streets of Perth at night looking for veterans who are either homeless or at risk of being homeless. Mr Peter King (Deputy Commissioner DVA for Western Australia) has been on patrol with Jay, and has swung DVA's support behind this initiative.

Jay frequents soup kitchens, food outlets, clothing outlets and wash houses etc where homeless people tend to congregate. Any veteran is taken off the street and provided with crisis (hotel) accommodation, food and clothing for up to 10 days. During that time, other funding is sourced to provide rental assistance etc to the veteran. Where possible, DVA becomes involved.

We know that once the southern summer ends, many homeless people gravitate north, so next winter Jay will extend his activities into the Pilbara and Kimberley areas.

## AGM

The Branch 2015 AGM was held at the RAAFA Club, Bull Creek on 2 September in the presence of 25 members. Mr David Watson resigned as

Secretary and as no nominations for that position were (then) forthcoming, the position was left vacant. All other office bearers and committee members were re-elected for a further 12 months. Subsequent to the AGM, Mr Clive Greenhill offered to become Branch Secretary – he was formally elected to the position at the October Committee meeting.

A memorable highlight of the AGM was the keynote address by Captain Wayne Gardiner who is the curator of the Army Museum in Fremantle, and it's Assistant Manager. Wayne gave a fascinating account of the origins and success of the museum and its collection. Pride of place in the collection is three Victoria Crosses. The museum, established in 1977, is located in the historic Artillery Barracks.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Due to the change in DFWA's subscription year, please pay particular attention to the subscription renewal invoice enclosed with this copy of Camaraderie.

**DONATIONS**

The Branch has received many donations, including a few extra dollars that have been added to the raffle money. Donations are particularly gratefully received, and they do go a long way in helping the smooth functioning of the Branch and our advocacy work. Thank you very much.

**INVOCCARE ADVERTISEMENT**

Recently a number of us took part in a photo-shoot conducted by InvoCare so hopefully a new corporate advertisement will feature 'ordinary diggers' funerals. InvoCare is headed by Purslowe Funerals in WA but eight funeral companies operate under their banner in this State.

**DWG**

The DWG ladies have recently taken on a program to knit 'skull caps' and special scarves to be worn by Australian troops under their helmets during cold winter nights in the Middle East. To date 20 have been completed.

During August 2015 Shirly Mooney travelled to Kuching, Borneo with a group of Australian Veterans to raise a Monument to Australian veterans killed in Borneo. On arrival at The Heroes Park she was asked to lay a wreath on behalf of all Widows' of Australian Servicemen.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Branch will hold our annual Christmas lunch on Thursday 10 December. The three WA Service Chiefs, Deputy Commissioner DVA and representatives from InvoCare have been invited.



The local member for the WA Branch office in Karrakatta is Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. She asked if she could present us with our DVA Funding Grant, and of course, we agreed. Seen here (L-R) Lou Halvorson, Richard Usher, Julie Bishop, Max Ball and Robert Potts.



# 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.



## DONATION

To The National Office, DFWA PO Box 4166, KINGSTON, ACT 2604

Please accept my donation of \$ ..... to the Defence Force Welfare Association

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Address .....

State ..... Postcode ..... Phone .....



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Perth  
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FUNERALS  
guardianfunerals.com.au  
Sydney  
1300 662 172

  
**BLACKWELL**  
FUNERALS  
blackwellfunerals.com.au  
Adelaide  
1300 662 172

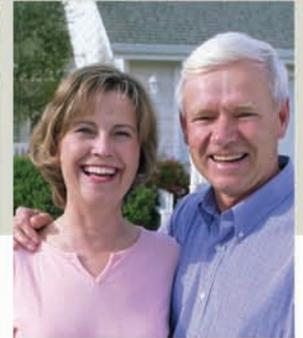
  
**GEORGE HARTNETT**  
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Brisbane  
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\* Offer valid until December 2017. Terms and conditions apply.

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**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**