



PRINT POST APPROVED PP100008161

CAMARADERIE

Third Edition 2016

VOL. 47 NO. 3



THE
FEMALE
VETERAN

FUTURE
OF ESOs

Back to
Milne Bay

2016 Census
and the ADF



HONOURING SERVICE

As Australia's largest and oldest network of funeral providers to the defence services, we are proud to partner with the DFWA to honour those that have given extraordinary service to their country.

\$500 discount for DFWA members and their families*.

With a special discount of \$500 for DFWA members and their families, and an understanding of the customs of the Australian Defence Force built from years of experience, we are a natural choice for current and former defence force personnel.

To find a location near you, contact one of the funeral providers below.



Proud Members of InvoCare

* Offer valid until December 2017. Terms and conditions apply.

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 47. No. 3 Third Edition 2016

PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ADF AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959



EDITOR

Mr Les Bienkiewicz
PO Box 4166
KINGSTON ACT 2604
P: 0411 444 248 E: editor@dfwa.org.au

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 10 February 2017.

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

Copyright: All articles and illustrations are copyright unless otherwise stated. They should not be sold or passed on to non-subscribers in any form. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from the Editor.

Liability: Although material used in Camaraderie is checked for accuracy no liability can be assumed for any losses due to the use of any material in this magazine.

Advertising: All enquiries to the editor.

This edition published by:

Defence Force Welfare Association in association with Rotary Down Under Incorporated.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I was privileged to attend the recent ACT DWG Annual Luncheon to hear the address by Ms Pat McCabe OAM, who spoke on the subject of The Female Veteran in the Contemporary World, and very pleased that I was able to reproduce it in this edition. I recommend it highly, as I do the other major article Fromelles and Pozieres, a recent address given by the Hon Brendan Nelson AO. Serving ADF members should also take note of what Cpl Cosmo has to say (page 35); your 2017 wage case (page 10); and the recent Census. (page 26). Those with interest in how the Ex-Service Community organises itself will find the articles Demography is Destiny of particular interest. Feedback from readers is always welcome. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Les Bienkiewicz

CONTENTS

	THIRD EDITION 2016
Contact Details	4
From the President's Pen	5
National Office Roundup	6
The Female Veteran in the Contemporary World	7
Attention ADF Members!	10
An Australian Military Covenant - Where to Now?	11
Letters to the Editor	14
Result of the DFWA 2016 Raffle	14
Demography is Destiny: the Case for a Consolidation of Ex-Service Organisations in Australia	15
A Response to: Demography is Destiny	17
Fromelles and Pozieres	18
Money Matters	25
Concerns About the 2016 Census & ADF Members	26
Sick of Stereotypes	27
Australian Peace Keeping Memorial Appeal	28
Welcome to the New DFWA Website	29
Cyber Security	30
Return to Milne bay	32
DFWA Shop	34
Corporal Cosmo Speaks	35
Application to Join or Renew	36
The Campaign to Restore Veterans' Disability Pensions to their Rightful Rate	37
Branch Reports	38
Donation Slip	42

FRONT COVER

An Australian Submarine and a Navy MRH-90 Taipan conducted personnel transfers at sea. These transfers allow for RAN Submariners to practice transferring personnel to rotary wing assets whilst underway. This type of exercise or "sortie" also gives RAN aircrew the opportunity to refine their skills in winching personnel onto a moving and very confined area such as a submarine's forward casing or bow.

The Multi Role Helicopter (MRH) is the Royal Australian Navy's Maritime Support Helicopter, which replaced the SK50 Seaking. The introduction of the MRH90 has greatly increased and improved capability, agility and availability to meet the RAN

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1959

Patron:	His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
President:	David Jamison
Executive Director:	Alf Jaugietis
National Treasurer:	Paul Jones
Past President:	Adrian Clunies-Ross
Vice President, Reserves	Jim Barry
Vice President, Conditions of Service:	Les Bienkiewicz
Vice President, Advocacy & Compensation:	Kerry Mellor
Vice President, Defence Widows:	Annette Sadler
Editor Camaraderie and Webmaster:	Les Bienkiewicz
Honorary Families Advisor:	Robyn Richie
Honorary Legal Advisor:	Don Malcolmson
Honorary Medical Advisor:	Mike Dowsett
Honorary Communications Advisor:	Trevor Dixon
Honorary Industrial Relations Advisor:	Marcus Peake
Honorary ADF Vocational Training Advisor:	Ken Grierson
Postal address:	PO Box 4166 KINGSTON ACT 2604
Telephone:	(02) 6265 9530 (+Answering machine)
E-mail:	national@dfwa.org.au
Website:	www.dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Monday thru Friday 0900 to 1630 hrs

BRANCH DETAILS

The Association has active Branches in:

QUEENSLAND (ph 07 32334480) - qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

ACT (ph 02 62659496) - actbranch@dfwa.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (ph 0411 137 813) - sabranch@dfwa.org.au

NEW SOUTH WALES (ph 02 83355447) - nswbranch@dfwa.org.au

VICTORIA (ph 03 92824959) - vicbranch@dfwa.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (ph 08 93834055) - 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 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



The election is now behind us and the Coalition won a total of 76 seats which has given it the slimmest of margins. The new Defence Ministerial Team comprises Senator Marise Payne as Defence Minister, Christopher Pyne as Defence Industry Minister and Dan Tehan as Defence Personnel Minister, Minister for Veteran Affairs as well as Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security. Clearly Dan Tehan's responsibilities are extensive and varied in nature. Time will tell if the Minister is able to master all of them or whether the spread is too wide for effective control by a singular minister. Since the election I have had some meetings with Minister Tehan who expresses a keenness to learn more about the issues impacting serving and former ADF members and to be a man of action on veteran and defence personnel issues. So far this current parliament has not been characterised by much legislative action although there has been some modest progress since the new parliament was sworn in; the passage of the "single appeal pathway" legislation and now the Bill to excise the military component of the SRCA to combine it with MRCA (into an act as I understand it to be termed DRCA). DVA states there will be no change to its provisions as a result. The Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2016 to give effect to DVA 2016-2017 budget measures is also being progressed through parliament. The Department has also advised it proposes establishing an "ESO Ginger Group" (previously known as OWP) which is a welcome measure.

ADSO has made a substantial submission to Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade inquiry into Suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel and has been invited to appear before the Committee to give evidence in support of its submission. The committee is due to report on this by 30 March 2017.

On 31st October I hosted a meeting of the leaders of the national ex-service organisations which included some representatives of veterans of more recent conflicts. The objective was to build a commitment for a collaborative approach to advocating the interests of our combined constituencies and to work more cooperatively to foster the interests of serving and former ADF members and their families. Sir Angus Houston addressed the gathering and gave his wholehearted support to this aim. The Minister couldn't attend but was represented by his senior staffers and also expressed his full support. I was also encouraged that the RSL Acting National President attended and is fully supportive as well. Those attending agreed some underlying principles for collaborating together and for these to be the basis for a "compact" all could sign up to. This is a major step forward in bringing a greater sense of unity to the veteran community for the benefit of all. Sir Angus has also agreed to champion the cause and preside over the steering group as we all move towards a more collaborative effort.

At 1100 hours on the 11th November, the nation stopped to honour our service men and women – some 102,000 of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. We honoured them by ourselves becoming silent: an echo of

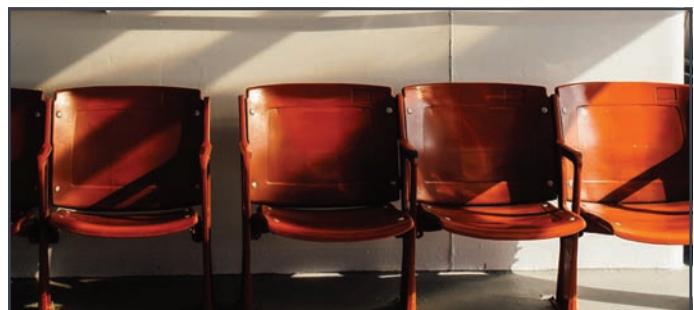
the homes made silent when they did not return. The two minutes silence we observe is a tradition born in a time when the vast majority of Australians could pause and dwell upon a name, or a face or some small precious memory.

In years past, remembrance overwhelmingly reflected personal loss - the shared silence added to other more private times when fathers, husbands, sons and friends were missed and mourned. Now thankfully it is different, a great many Australians have no personal experience of war, no way of knowing the anguish of enforced separation, or the greater grief of separations made permanent.

For that reason amongst others, it is time to renew our commitment to the ideals those men and women died for and to honour those who came back bearing the anguish and scars of war. And who even today carry the burden of a very personal war against their inner demons and physical injuries inflicted on them as they fought to keep us safe. Unfortunately society's tolerance of differing viewpoints is being severely tested by use of the provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act against those who express attitudes not acceptable to the "new reality" brigade which champions diversity, alternative life styles and the social engineering programmes now creeping into our school systems. I see this trend as an assault on our free speech which is the cornerstone of our democracy and free society. The country's freedoms have been hard won and the men and women of our defence force have and continue to pay a very heavy price for them.

2017 will be another busy year for the DFWA, and I wish you all a happy and healthy year ahead and best wishes for the Christmas season.

David Jamison



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

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

NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (June 2016 to November 2016)



Another year is coming to a close; and yet another year it was that bore witness to further churn of Ministerial portfolios and responsibilities. Last year, following the so-to-speak 'palace coup', saw changes to the portfolios of those with either Defence or veterans affairs responsibilities. This year yet another Minister is appointed to Veterans Affairs, the current incumbent not only having the added responsibility for Defence Personnel but also yoked with the burden of duties associated with being the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for both the Centenary of ANZAC and Cyber Security.

Given this potpourri of responsibilities, who could blame the men and women of the ADF, and the veterans' community as a whole, thinking that the reason why many of their concerns appear to never leave the back burner is specifically because the responsible Minister is simply spread too thinly across his numerous portfolios. Is it possible to give justice to any one of them, never mind the critically important one of Veterans Affairs?

How else to explain the perceived need for a Senate Inquiry into 'Suicide By Veterans and Ex-Service Personnel', an investigative exercise that is about to launch its first round of hearings before this edition of Camaraderie is published. The reason for it is self evident to many, and certainly self evident to the 260+ individuals and/or organisations who made submissions to the Senate Committee's Secretariat. There has been almost universal opinion, particularly in the veterans' community, that the Department of Veterans' Affairs has been burdened with a wide range of organisational, cultural and systemic failings for far too long.

That the veteran community in large part believes that the Department over time has simply lost sight of what the original legislators had in mind when drafting veterans-related Bills giving benefit to them for the service they gave to the nation, and for the injuries both in body and mind they may have sustained as a result of that service. Spending literally millions fighting veterans' claims, most of which have ultimately proved to be valid, could never have been what they intended.

Nor concomitantly intended that resulting and inevitable dispute processes would in too many cases invariably lead to depression, high levels of stress and adverse mental outcomes. Reports abound of frustrations and anger as a result of lost files, interminable medical reviews, rejected claims that seem indisputable, inconsistent decisions between one claim and a similar one, inadequate rehabilitation support, unexpected recovery of Incapacity Payments to name just a few common grievances reported to ex-service Advocates.

And how else to also explain a complete lack of progress on policies of any substance such as giving hope to the most disabled veterans in the land by restoring their loss of value in their disability payments. Many other policy initiatives have for far too long been ignored under the pretext of the need for budgetary restraint. Another is the urgent need to fix the known discriminatory provisions of the military superannuation schemes. How more discriminatory can you get than the continued

official use of 50 year-old life tables to reduce DFRDB superannuation payments.

I could go on with a litany of failings by Governments of all persuasions and by the Department of Veterans Affairs itself. On the positive side, recognition should be given to the fact that not only has the Government but so has the Department acknowledged that it has been less than Veteran-Centric in the past.

In an effort to remedy the wrongs of the past, the Department is in the process of implementing organisational reforms and culture changes via an initiative called the 'Lighthouse Project'. The intent of the initiative is to question all established processes and procedures. DFWA, along with its ADSO partners, has a key role to play in supporting and engaging actively in the changes, and helping to identify how the changes will affect compensation and welfare advocacy service provision.

In the context of positives, another has to be that the new ADF superannuation scheme is now finally in place for members joining after 1 July 2016. It replaced the existing Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS). Notably, all sides of politics supported the introduction of the new Scheme, including the Independents. DFWA was given the opportunity to contribute to its final makeup via a consultative process.

Enough for this issue. Before closing perhaps a word about our major Corporate sponsors without whom much of our work fostering the best interests and welfare of all members of the Australian Defence Force, including their families, both during or after their period of service would be so much harder. A big thanks firstly to InvoCare, Australia's largest provider of funeral services and well known for its commitment to family care and community engagement. The company has been a long-standing supporter, giving us considerable financial stability when, as a Not-For-Profit Organisation, we needed it most. Their offered discounts to DFWA and Alliance members alike has been of considerable benefit.

Thanks also to two other companies supporting our work, namely the Bradford Exchange, producers and marketers of high quality collectable memorabilia, particularly ones that have commemorated ANZAC Centenary and other military engagements in which Australia has been involved; and Storage King, Australia's largest self-storage company. It already is a Defence contractor providing serving men and women with either temporary or more permanent storage solutions to meet posting needs. The advertisements of all three companies can be viewed in the pages of this Camaraderie.

Finally and to perhaps repeat the plea I regularly make in closing. Readers of this Camaraderie please know that your small or other donation does help immeasurably with our work on behalf of the Military family. And as always, your feedback on any issue of concern at any time is most welcome.

Alf Jaugietis - Executive Director

THE female Veteran IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD



Ms Pat McCabe OAM
National President
TPI Federation of Australia

By way of introduction, I had the honour of serving in the Royal Australian Navy as a WRAN for just over 6 years. Unfortunately, this came to an end with a medical discharge and as a result of this, I have been a DVA client for almost 40 years, which includes being classified as a TPI for the past 12 years.

I appreciate the invitation to speak to you today about the "Female Veteran in the Contemporary World". I firstly must acknowledge that I am far too old to be considered a 'contemporary veteran' but I would like to try and explain to you the world that the current female Veteran find themselves.

I wish to clarify that I am generalising when using the term "Female Veteran". There are many definitions in legislation and within Departmental requirements on what a Veteran is. For simplicity, I will be using the term "Female Veteran" as a general term for all those women who served in ADF in any capacity and in any era.

The formation of specific women's services in the Navy, Army and Air Force during the Second World War created the first real opportunity for Australian women to become leaders in the military forces. The long history of the Australian servicewomen which, because of gender, has a significant lack of award and recognition.

The world today for the current serving females is a lot different to when I joined. When I joined the Navy my one and only goal was to go to Singapore. Singapore was the only posting for a Naval female member at that time outside of Australia. To my regret, three months after I joined, Gough Whitlam closed Singapore. Well that worked out well. When I joined the slogan for the Navy was – "Join the Navy and see the world". One initiative of the Whitlam Government was the introduction of 12

weeks paid leave and 40 weeks' unpaid leave for female Commonwealth employees. However, the initiative did not apply to members of the Defence Force until a later time. In 1978 servicewomen were granted equal pay and in 1979 married servicewomen became eligible for subsidised service housing, but not for removal costs. There was always that little bit of equality that was just out of reach for the female ADF members.

“ the long history of Australian servicewomen which, because of gender, has a significant lack of award and recognition... ”

The many ideals of today Forces is to make the most of their mantra which is "find the job that's right for you – your passions can become your career". They have a range of exciting roles on land, at sea and in the air. The training that is received by the Contemporary Veteran is recognised in the Civilian world and this is a great start to their lives after their time in the Services.

The Defence world today offers females a multitude of options in their Service role and this includes improved conditions of Service. The type of specialties and positions within the ADF that a female Veteran can train for has greatly improved. For example, as of January 2013 the gender restrictions were removed from ADF Combat Role Employment Categories. As a result, the ladies can now apply for any role within the ADF. This can include combat, Ship's Captain, submarines, pilots and many, many more.

The first Australian Servicewomen who had, what we call today, operational or war-like service were, of course, the Service Nurses who

Continued overpage

first became involved in the Boer War in 1898 and have been involved in every conflict since that time.

While women still fulfil traditional roles of administrators and nurses, it is not unusual to see male nurses and female doctors working together on military missions, such as when the Australian military provided support to victims of the December 2004 tsunami in Indonesia.

As a result of the Service that females have given to their country very little of this Service was acknowledged by the general public. This is markedly different to the male acknowledgement. As a result, there has never been any research or enquiries as to how those women coped and what medical issues they have when they returned. That is until the last few years.

There are currently over 10,000 women enlisted in the ADF, either as full-time or part-time members. The ratio of women to men depends on the role of a particular unit. The current percentages of women in the ADF by Service are:

- Navy – Approximately 18%;
- Army – Approximately 12%; and
- Air Force – Approximately 17%

Major changes to the status of women in the armed forces took place in Australia, as in other parts of the world, in the late 1970s and 1980s. Achievements such as equal pay and the lifting of the marriage ban for servicewomen reflected what was happening more widely for women around the country, but they were still hard fought gains.

In today's Military Service the females think that it is really strange that women were asked to leave the Service if you married, or even worse, if you became pregnant. Thankfully things have improved for the Female Veteran of today.

With this new found equality just about every role in the ADF gives the contemporary female veteran the opportunity to lead. Obviously, the more experience that is gained progressing through the ranks, and the more opportunities that is experienced will ensure the ability to lead and manage people. This is why there are many women in the leadership roles of today's ADF. We recently had a Rear Admiral who was appointed as Commander Joint Health & Surgeon General of the Defence Force in 2011. The Rear Admiral retired in 2015 and we now currently have another female in that position. We have had a female Captains of Naval Ships. In 1998 the RAN became the fourth Navy in the world to permit women to serve on-board submarines. Another area of progress is the story of a Major General who is now within DVA. So you can see that there are many achievements that these servicewomen have gained and there are many achievements that other Servicewomen have also gained but I would be here all day if I tried to list them. All Servicewomen of all eras should be congratulated on their wonderful achievements.

If I may, I will be making some references to Dr Samantha Crompvoets's research into the Australian Servicewomen and Female Veterans which was completed in 2012. This is one of the few Australian studies to address health issues facing contemporary female veterans which identified significant barriers to accessing existing support services. This

study also identified gaps in knowledge that affect health and wellbeing. Such gaps can include perceptions of –

- a. a lack of an authentic veteran identity (seen by self and others to be a legitimate veteran); or
- b. a lack of trust or confidence in DVA or the ADF funded services; or
- c. a lack of understanding of gender-specific issues such as maternal separation and parenting, or
- d. a lack of understanding of reproductive health and military sexual trauma, or
- e. indeed, all of these.

Unfortunately, these are only some of the issues that the young female veterans have to deal with today. The Female Veteran of today are not like the older female veteran, especially of the WWI and WWII era, who mostly did not talk about their war-time experiences or medical issues. They just seem to try and get on with their life as best they could and in the main they succeeded. Whereas the female veteran of today knows that there are services out there but at the same time they don't know where or what they are. The other major difference with today's female veteran is that they can communicate with one another more completely via Facebook or emails or any other electronic means.

“ ... the female veteran of today knows that there are services out there but at the same time they dont know where or what they are ... ”

Dr Crompvoets noted that in parallel with the ADF's expanding roles for women, there has been a move away from gender-specific physical performance standards to "fitness for task" assessments. The physiological, biomechanical and health impacts of soldiery have a different impact on female and male bodies, and condition and training requirements therefore differ. Female soldiers are at risk of developing osteoporosis and stress fractures more readily than the male veteran. Military load carriage (this is the backpack load) requirements are significant (ranging between 40kg and 60kg in Afghanistan for example). Such loads can result in increased rates of musculoskeletal injury in all Veterans and, in women, pelvic floor instability, contributing to long-term incontinence as well as sexual dysfunction. Women who have had 1 or more children are also at an increased risk. The risk of musculoskeletal injuries, pelvic floor dysfunction, urinary incontinence and sexual dysfunction also increases when attempting to march alongside a male. The male stride, length and frequency, is markedly different to the female stride. This can be exacerbated by inadequately fitted equipment such as body armour.

Therefore, some of the issues that the young contemporary veteran has to contend with include things such as, it is sad to say, that

- I. It is not just the bus driver who refuses to recognise the Gold Card for a concession ticket because he believes she is too young to have a Gold Card.

2. It is not just the gynaecologist who won't accept the Gold Card at all.
3. It is not just the urologist that will not accept any condition is Service related even if she does have a Gold Card.
4. It is not just the psychiatrist who would not see a Contemporary Female Veteran because females don't get PTSD. Only men get it.
5. It is not just the members of the public who tell you that you are wearing your medals on the wrong side and that your father's medals should be on the other side.
6. It is not just trying to find someone to look after the kids. I should explain that one. VVCS is an extremely good option for many servicemen and women. But of course there is another problem that the men don't have in this. The men go to their psych on their own and then come home when they are ready to. The female has to try and find someone to mind the kids in order to go to a psych appointment. If they can't find someone to mind the children, then they have to take them with her to the appointment. As a general rule the mother would leave that appointment much more of a wreck than when she went in. But to be fair we need to thank the Government because in the latest budget they have provided funding for 2 years to develop and evaluate a pilot program for the children of current and former serving members of the ADF, along the same lines as Kookaburra Kids – which is basically a Kids Camp.
7. It is not just the ESO, on seeing a new member put in her date of birth on the application form, snatched the form away from her and called her a liar. Why was she a liar? Because she was a Navy Lieutenant in uniform with medal bars and he stated that she was too young to have that many medals. Therefore, she is a liar.
8. It is not just DVA who denied a Contemporary Female Veteran a disability compensation decision because they did not recognise her sexual assault actually happened. This denial occurred even though she had a letter of apology from the Chief of Defence Force. The letter of apology from the CDF was ignored. DVA has finally accepted that there are some non-liability conditions that they should provide a Non-Liability White Card. This enables all Veterans to attend medical appointments for the following conditions –
 - Cancer (Malignant Neoplasm)
 - Pulmonary Tuberculosis
 - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
 - Depressive disorder
 - Anxiety disorder
 - Alcohol Use Disorder; and
 - Substance Use Disorder

This does not mean that the government accepts liability for the condition, or in other words they won't pay compensation for these conditions. That is a totally different process. A Veteran can apply for compensation through a different process but at the same time their medical costs are being attended to.

The reason they did this was that, as a result of research conducted by DVA it was found that psychological disorders amounted to 30% of claimed conditions. It is interesting to note that the same research showed that musculoskeletal conditions were 33% of claimed conditions. Should these musculoskeletal conditions also have a non-liability white card?

Initially there were criteria on access to this non-liability card. The initial limitation was that it would only be for those who served after 1974 and for more than 3 years. The latest budget announcement was that the non-liability white card is now available to any person who served for any length of time during any era which was good news but we do need to see the fine print. This extension of coverage is limited to the Mental health conditions only. Again, why were the cancer and TB conditions not given this extension. If a serviceman or women gets cancer and served in 1948 or 1968 or 1972 surely they lived in the same circumstances as the serviceman or women who served in 1974.

“ ... musculoskeletal conditions were 33% of claimed conditions. Should these ... also have a non-liability white card ? ”

But I digress.

It is a documented fact that female veterans do have the same issues as their male counterpart as a result of having served in a war zone or a war-like or peacekeeping deployment but why is it this hard to get the gender specific issues recognised?

It was noted in an article by Sean Piccoll that there are 5 main issues facing the Female Veterans when they return home. They are –

1. Invisibility – feeling isolated, unacknowledged and invisible in a civilian society that either can't fathom what they've been through, or discounts their military experience as somehow less challenging than that of male veterans.
2. Falling through the cracks – their sense of female invisibility can persist even in the institutions created to help the military population.
3. Self-isolation – women will sometimes place themselves beyond the reach of help largely because of a lack of knowledge of benefits and services that are available to them.
4. Unemployment – with the recently discharged female veterans they currently have above the jobless rate of male veterans.
5. Parenting – female veterans are likely to be single parents
6. I would add another to this list and that is domestic violence. Whether it is the male or the female, or both, who are the instigators of domestic violence, can you tell me where the female veteran, with children, can go to gain support for such a situation? Research is currently being held on homelessness of the male veteran but do we know how many of the female veterans, with or without children, are also homeless.

Dr Crompoets noted that veterans and ex-serving personnel access a complex set of health services from

- a. the Federal Government,
- b. DVA,
- c. Medicare,

Continued overpage

- d.** State and Territory health systems,
- e.** services of private providers; and
- f.** a range of non-government organisations.

Dr Crompoets notes there is a 'clear need for integration of care to ensure equity and access for all members of the veteran community'. I support Dr Crompoets on this issue. The maze of providers that a Contemporary Veteran (male or female) needs to navigate is extraordinary and quite unbelievable.

Since 1998 DVA has held a Men's Peer Health Program on a regular basis. They also produce a magazine that is delivered (either by mail or electronically) on a regular basis and has been available to the male DVA clients since June 2002.

For quite a number of years it was felt that DVA needed a Women's Peer Health Program or something similar. This year the Government, as part of their election promise, has finally made an allocation of funding for a Female Forum. I am thankful that this has occurred. This Forum is now in its early stages of being set up and is being helped along with the assistance of DVA.

It is sad to say that when DVA was approached to hold a Women's Forum the response from the gentlemen from DVA was that the Consultative Forums were to be reviewed at the end of 2016 and a report would be available about mid 2017. This was extremely disappointing as the women who needed assistance could not wait that

long. With the assistance of the War Widows Guild and the Women's Veteran Network (which is a younger female veteran's Facebook page) and now having DVA behind the concept, it is now feasible that the Women's Forum will be up and running before the end of this year. It should be stressed that this Women's Forum is not, as some men think, to exclude men but rather to focus on women's issues that have not yet been acknowledged.

Another of the major inconveniences is that many of the Female Contemporary Veterans have children and they can't just drop things and go to Canberra for a meeting such as the Women's Forum – as the men have done for years. It is hoped, with the help of the War Widow's Guild and the Women Veterans Network, that this can be managed successfully. We would like to see a female forum whereby it can be explained to both the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Government just what the gender specific issues are and hopefully obtain results that will actually assist the younger Contemporary Female Veteran.

In closing, the Contemporary Female Veteran today is merely seeking recognition, acknowledgement and empathy for their Service to the Nation and the issues that they have.

Thank you for listening.

If you have any questions I would be happy to attempt to answer them for you.

ATTENTION ADF MEMBERS!

- YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LAST PAYRISE UNDER THE CURRENT ADF WORKPLACE REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENT

As Cpl Cosmo reports on page 35, ADF members should know that pay rises under the current ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) for 2014-2017 have been paid, and that a new WRA is in the process of being considered. This means there are no further pay increases "in the pipeline" until a new ADF Workplace Arrangement is decided by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT), who will consider positions put by the Commonwealth and the ADF. For more information on the operation of the DFRT, go to www.dfrt.gov.au

The Tribunal will also listen to the position put by the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA). As an independent third party in the DFRT process, working outside of the Defence bureaucracy, we can directly represent your views.

When the 2011 - 2014 WRA was decided in 2011, the DFRT accepted the position of the ADF and the Commonwealth and approved the new salary arrangements. At that time, the DFWA

informed the DFRT of the feedback provided by ADF members which indicated the offer was not supported by a majority of ADF members and of the implications of imposing an unsatisfactory outcome.

In coming to its decision, the DFRT recommended that the ADF and Commonwealth explore the possibilities of an alternate method and process for considering and determining future wage arrangements.

The DFWA had considerable success in forcing an improvement in the Government's offer in the 2014 WRA case . see the DFWA website for details.

**ADF Members should keep up to date on the WRA by checking the DFWA website.
Should you wish to contact DFWA about the WRA, send an email to wra@dfwa.org.au**

AN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY COVENANT

where to now?

By Marcus Fielding

The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) and Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) advocate for the formulation of a 'Military Covenant' in Australia. The original idea for such a thing was inspired by the UK experience, so it is worth reviewing where the UK project has gotten in order to assess the potential likelihood and utility of a similar covenant in Australia.

The UK Armed Forces Covenant

The term 'Military Covenant' or 'Armed Forces Covenant' was first introduced into British public life in 2000 when the British Army published a booklet titled 'Soldiering – the Military Covenant' setting out the obligations on the soldier to make personal sacrifices in the service of the nation, and stated that the armed forces must be sustained by the nation. The introduction of the document stated that:

"Soldiers will be called upon to make personal sacrifices – including the ultimate sacrifice – in the service of the Nation. In putting the needs of the Nation and the Army before their own, they forego some of the rights enjoyed by those outside the Armed Forces.

In return, British soldiers must always be able to expect fair treatment, to be valued and respected as individuals, and that they (and their families) will be sustained and rewarded by commensurate terms and conditions of service. In the same way the unique nature of military land operations means that the Army differs from all other institutions, and must be sustained and provided for accordingly by the Nation.

This mutual obligation forms the Military Covenant between the Nation, the Army and each individual soldier; an unbreakable common bond of identity, loyalty and responsibility which has sustained the Army throughout its history. It has perhaps its greatest manifestation in the annual commemoration of Armistice Day, when the Nation keeps covenant with those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in action."

A Military Covenant was strongly promoted by General Sir Richard Dannatt, who was Chief of the General Staff between 2006 and 2009. The existence of government obligations to the armed forces and its members was acknowledged by the Prime Minister Tony Blair during a keynote lecture on Defence given on 12 January 2007 when he stated that the covenant needed to be renewed, and that "it will mean increased expenditure on equipment, personnel and the conditions of our armed forces, not in the short run but for the long term."

In September 2007 The Royal British Legion launched a campaign which accused the Government of failing to meet its commitments under the Covenant. Responding to the Royal British Legion's campaign, the Secretary of State for Health announced in November 2007 that armed forces veterans would get priority treatment on the National Health Service, and those injured would be treated immediately in hospital rather than go through normal waiting lists. Prescription charges would also be waived.

In opposition David Cameron then established a Military Covenant Commission. Its report heavily influenced the Cameron government's thinking and on 25 June 2010 Prime Minister Cameron announced plans to enshrine the Military Covenant in law. The term 'covenant' implies some form of legal guarantee or contract and would potentially have allowed British servicemen and servicewomen to sue the State for 'breaches' of the Military Covenant.

In 2011, after considerable debate, the UK government decided that there was no need to make the Covenant law, proposing instead to produce an annual report to parliament. The Armed Forces Act was subsequently amended to include the requirement for the Secretary of State for Defence to present an 'Armed Forces Covenant' report annually to Parliament.

The UK Government describes the Armed Forces Covenant as "an agreement between the armed forces community, the nation and the government. It encapsulates the moral obligation to those who serve, have served, their families and the bereaved. The covenant's twin underlying principles are that members of the armed forces community should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services; and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most such as the injured or the bereaved."

The UK Government does not have a Department (Ministry) of Veterans Affairs like Australia, but it does have an agency – Veterans UK – as part of the UK Ministry of Defence. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans is responsible for veteran's issues including the Armed Forces Covenant.

The UK Government has supported the Armed Forces Covenant with £170 million of funding since 2011 and the establishment of a

Continued overpage

Covenant Fund to which it contributes £10 million per annum. The initiative has also enhanced cooperation and coordination between veterans, ex-service organisations, government agencies, communities and corporations.¹

The 2015 Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report includes a front piece that proclaims:

*"The Armed Forces Covenant
An Enduring Covenant Between
The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government
– and –
All those who serve or have served in the
Armed Forces of the Crown
And their Families"*

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution.

This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant."

These words are laudatory but notably they are not part of the Armed Forces Act legislation. It would seem that the political process has ensured that there is some 'wriggle room' regarding the word 'obligation' and any prospect of legal action against the State.

In summary, the perception of veterans being disadvantaged relative to the general population drove the development of the Armed Forces Covenant, and while efforts to enshrine a 'contract' in legislation failed, the spirit and intent of mutual obligations has witnessed the formation of a renewed effort within the UK Ministry of Defence to better coordinate and harmonise government and non-government efforts to support defence personnel and veterans.

The fact that Veterans UK is a part of the UK Ministry of Defence may be another factor that makes it easier for the UK Government to manage serving members becoming former serving members. And

the fact that the Armed Forces Covenant did not become law has probably allowed more parties to become involved and in the long run provide a better outcome for veterans. It remains to be seen how much institutional funding, energy and momentum the Armed Forces Covenant initiative retains over time.

A Potential Australian Military Covenant

The DFWA has been the lead advocate for an 'Australian Military Covenant'. The main driver has been a perception that veterans are not receiving a 'fair go' relative to other members of the government or the general population. Unlike the UK where this perception was originally driven by access to health services the Australian case has been driven by financial reasons – primarily with compensation, pensions and superannuation. This has driven discussion to focus on the 'uniqueness' of military service compared to other vocations.

The DFWA argues that:

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

The DFWA states that the concept of an Australian Military Covenant flows from an understanding of this uniqueness and the objective is to set out the mutual obligations between the nation and its servicemen and servicewomen. The DFWA believes it will help promote greater awareness and understanding within the general community of the demands placed on ADF members, as well as the community's expectations of the ethos and standards demanded of them. It would also place on public record the nation's enduring 'obligations' to those who serve and have served in the ADF.

Like the UK experience, the likelihood of any document titled a Military Covenant being incorporated into legislation in Australia is low. The Defence Act and the various acts pertaining to veterans are unlikely to be amended with any words like 'covenant' or 'obligation' that could be interpreted as some form of contractual arrangement.²

Additionally, unlike the UK, because the Australian Government has since 1976 maintained a 2,000 person strong separate Department of Veterans Affairs charged with the responsibility of delivering government programs for war veterans, members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants, the need for an Australian Military Covenant will likely be contested.

In recognition of this, the DFWA accepts that "the vehicle (covenant) to achieve these objectives may not be a formal covenant as such,

but in pursuing our aims in supporting the serving and former members of the ADF, the DFWA along with its ADSO partners has come to the conclusion that there is a real need to place on public record, the nation's enduring obligations to its service personnel and in turn their obligations to the Nation in some sort of balanced statement.”

The difficulty here is that the “nation’s enduring obligations to its service personnel” are defined by the Australian Government acting on behalf of the Australian people. Placing a Military Covenant into the public domain might at best might stimulate some public pressure onto politicians for certain legislative and funding changes, but this process already happens - largely through the better researched and argued advocacy work of organisations like the DFWA. Assuming that a statement of 200 words is even read by the public, it is unlikely that phrases such as “individuals surrender their basic human rights under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” will be understood by your average civilian or motivate them to lobby their local Federal member.

Following the DFWA’s lead, Queensland Liberal National Party Senator James McGrath launched a nation-wide petition calling for the establishment of an Australian Defence Covenant in 2015. At the time of writing, however, the petition’s website was no longer available and there is no public information available on the status of the petition. I fear that the petition didn’t attract much attention or support.

On balance, there seems little to be gained from a Military Covenant being put into the Australian public domain. The Departments of Defence and Veterans Affairs are responsible for these issues and the public simply expects the Government to do the best it can given

competing priorities. Representative ex-service organisations should simply continue to lobby and advocate the Government and opposition for changes to existing legislation and funding priorities. As complex and time consuming as this is, it is the basis of our democratic process; any ‘simply worded’ Military Covenant is unlikely to circumvent that process.

The emphasis must remain on broadly-supported and well-resourced ex-service organisations working together to make well-researched arguments to the Government for consideration. I believe it is in our collective interest for the Department of Defence and Department of Veterans Affairs to remain, but there is clearly a case to be made that both need to perform better in their duty of care to current and former servicemen and servicewomen.

If anything, the DFWA and ADSO might seek to reword its draft ‘Military Covenant’ to provide a ‘manifesto’ to focus the collective efforts of its member ex-service organisations.

¹ A ‘snapshot’ of the Armed Forces Covenant’s activity in 2015 is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/493909/20160120-AFCAR_KeyFacts_v2.pdf

A more detailed Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2015 is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491590/20160112-afc_ar__2015_ver_12_web_ver2.pdf

² Although interestingly, in 2014 the Chief of Army promulgated ‘A Contract with Australia’ which mentions nothing of any reciprocal ‘obligations’ from the State to servicemen or women. Available at: <http://www.army.gov.au/Our-people/Our-contract-with-Australia>

David Jamison, National President of DFWA, responds:

Marcus in my mind is too pessimistic about the possibility of an “Australian Military Covenant” being established. During the last election campaign we had firm assurances from the Australian Labor Party that if elected it would enact a Covenant. The Government is seems to be warming to it with the Minister making more positive comment about the prospect. Within the Liberal Party and some elements of the Government there are moves to initiate the next step with the suggestion to set up a reference group of stakeholders to formulate some appropriate wording and plan the way ahead. At least one State has a “Veterans Charter” others are being actively encouraged to consider one. The Townsville City Council is developing a Defence Community Policy with a covenant as part of that policy. The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) strongly advocates the adoption of a Covenant and its leadership is convinced of the need for such an instrument.

The need for a “ covenant” or in others words a “manifesto” is never more obvious with the dichotomy between the words of our politicians and their actions or in deed lack of action on many issues facing our serving and former ADF members and their families laid bare for all to see. Such a document would provide a reference point against which legislation could be referred in much the same way as the UN Covenants Australia has signed up to. There is no benchmark against which to judge the treatment meted out to veterans in particular, by governments. The general public has an inflated idea of the range and level of support government gives its service people and veterans and we need some way to be able to publicly measure government support against its responsibilities. A Covenant would provide the basis for this. A well worded statement of principle encased in a Covenant would allow for leadership at the highest government level to help industry to understand the ethos, qualities and expertise of our servicemen and women and encourage companies to employ them on their merits after separation or indeed with the ADF’s emerging flexible working arrangements whilst they remained members of the ADF. Surely a win-win for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the recent article on Australian Service in North Russia and much appreciated the research obviously put into it (Service in North Russia, Vol 47 No 2).

I am writing to you about possibly further Australian service. I was at Duntroon from 1951 to 1954 and the junior college staff included soldiers in various capacities. Some of them were recruited into the Army for service at Duntroon when the college moved from Victoria Barracks Paddington to its current site in Canberra. One was corporal who came from Fyshwick farm and was the college bugler. As far as I know he did not serve overseas or with units other than RMC.

One of the Duntroon staff I got to know a little was a gardener and a corporal. By then he would have been in his 50s.

He had World War I ribbons and wore wings. Whether they were British Army or Australian Army wings I do not know. Amongst his ribbons he had some foreign decorations. I asked him about a particular ribbon and he said it was the Russian Order of Saint Anne that he received when he was serving with the Allied forces who were fighting for the restoration of the monarchy after the end of WWI.

Patrick Gowans

Dear Editor,

Your last edition arrived the day after the Permanent Court of Arbitration's decision on the dispute between China and the Philippines; so it took me a moment to really appreciate that the question mark at the end of your cover "War in the South China Sea", thankfully, wasn't an exclamation mark.

Alistair Pope's article on 'the coming war' was insightful and timely. I wonder whether 'we' are prepared to fight to defend the 'global rules based order'.

As ever, it is important to understand your (potential) enemy as well as yourself and I also wonder how well 'the West' understands the Chinese psyche.

We live in interesting times...

Regards,
Marcus Fielding

RESULT OF THE DFWA 2016 RAFFLE

FIRST PRIZE: Travel to the value of \$5,000.00 plus \$500 spending money

Mr Gary Taylor, BUDERIM QLD 4556 - (Ticket No: 34181)

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000.00

Mr Norm Geschke, OAKLEIGH VIC 3166 - (Ticket No: 19158)

THIRD PRIZE: \$500.00

Mr Tom McDonald, BOMADERRY NSW 2541 - (Ticket No: 51088)

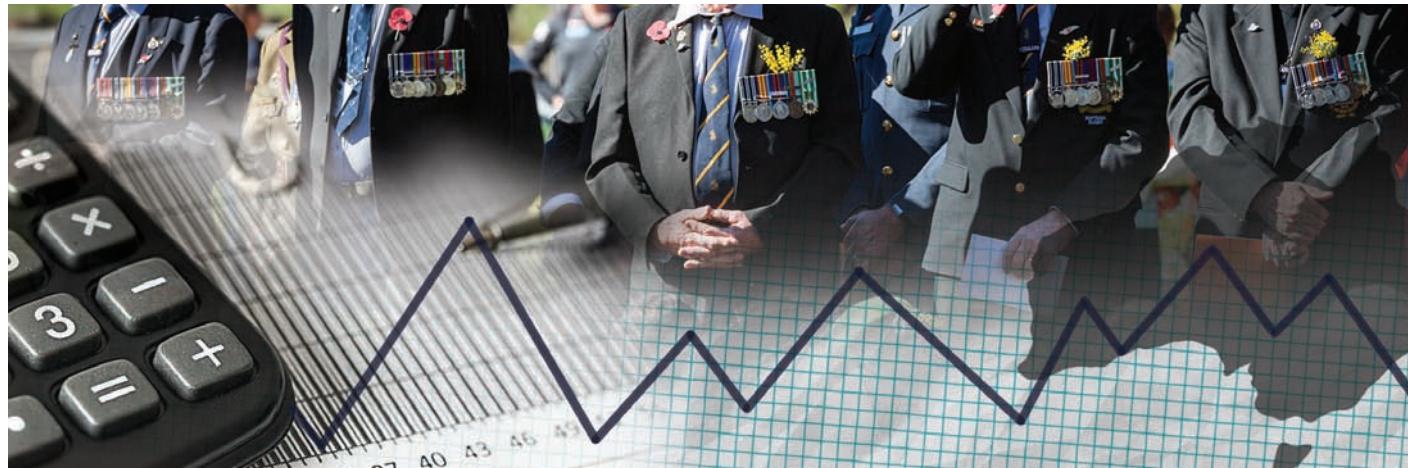
CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr Bill Dean, CHAPMAN ACT 2611 - (Ticket No: 11466)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr John Lowis, REDCLIFF QLD 4020 - (Ticket No: 32917)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr Jim Anderson, WONGAWALLAN QLD 4210 - (Ticket No: 60860)**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: Voucher to the value of \$150.00 - **Mr W R Wilson, LATHLAIN WA 6100 - (Ticket No: 43429)**





DEMOGRAPHY IS DESTINY: the case for a consolidation of Ex-Service Organisations in Australia

By Marcus Fielding

It is difficult to accurately determine the number of ex-Australian Defence Force service people in Australia. Often, the number of DVA 'clients' is taken as being the ex-service person demographic, but many ex-service persons are not DVA clients. When the Australian Defence Medal (which recognises military service since 3 September 1945) was introduced in 2006 it was estimated that up to one million current and ex-serving personnel were eligible for the award.¹ But since then only 307,000 Australian Defence Medals have been issued.

The ADF historically discharges between 7 and 11% of its workforce each year and given the historical strengths of the ADF (full-time and part-time) since 1945 I estimate that some six to eight hundred thousand people have passed through the ranks over the last seventy years. But at the same time, a number of ex-service persons pass away each year – particularly, at present, the World War II and Korean War generations.

Taken together, and in the absence of a census question, I estimate that the current number of ex-service persons in Australia is presently eight to nine hundred thousand. The number of ex-service persons has been decreasing for some time, but, unless the ADF significantly increases or decreases in size, is expected to taper off at about 500,000 – a significant constituency that represents about 2% of the Australian population.

The median age of ex-service persons is also decreasing, resulting in an increasing demand for transition and employment support, and a shift in the type of health, welfare and social services required – partly due to an increasing proportion of women.

From Australia's earliest days following European settlement groups and organisations have formed to assist ex-service persons and their families. The large number of service persons returning from World War I increased the demand for ex-service organisations and many organisations such as the Returned and Services Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) and Legacy began in this period. Some of these ex-service organisations operated until World War II and many received a boost in their membership numbers from that generation of ex-service persons.

After the war in South Vietnam the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVA) was formed, and more recently organisations such as Soldier On and Mates4Mates. As a new form of advocacy group a 'Veterans Party' was formed leading up to the 2016 federal election and candidates contested a number of seats.²

Service in the Australian Defence Force places unique demands those who serve and their families – both during and after service. The shared experience of that service creates a special bond that often lasts for the remainder of the serviceperson's life and often

Continued overpage

down through subsequent generations. That bond centres on the willingness to make sacrifices (physical, mental, financial, social and sometimes ethical) on behalf of Australia. Indeed, the strength of the bonds between ex-servicepersons and their families is demonstrated by the significant number and variety of ex-service organisations that have existed and that exist today.

Yet despite a steady decrease in the number of ex-service people in Australia the number of ex-service organisations (ESO) is increasing.³

A recent study identified over two hundred ESO; many with multiple sub-groups and physical sub-branches, but several newer ESO that exist only in the virtual domain. Many of the newer ESO focus on niche areas of support.

In the commercial market place competition and consumer choice is a good thing, but I believe in the ESO community this growth in organisations is actually doing more harm than good. I think this way for five reasons.

Reason 1 - While the ex-service person community is not homogenous in its needs or wants, it is increasingly difficult for ex-service persons and their families to identify which ESO or ESOs they should contact and seek support from. Ex-service persons and their families with multiple needs often have to deal with multiple ESO for different types of support.

Reason 2 - It is increasingly difficult for the ESO 'community' to communicate common and consistent messages to governments and the public. Conversely, it is increasingly difficult for governments to communicate and coordinate with the ESO community.

Reason 3 - There are a decreasing number of ex-service persons with a commensurate decrease in potential ESO income from membership fees. The age of ex-service personnel is decreasing with a commensurate decrease in the availability of volunteers.

Reason 4 - It is unlikely that governments will increase the amount and type of support provided to ex-service persons so it is up to the community of ex-service persons to optimise the organisation of and resources available to the ESO community.

Reason 5 - There is considerable duplication of services offered by ESOs and inefficiencies from multiple governance and administration overheads.

To overcome these five issues I believe that the ESO community needs to be 'consolidated' - and the only people that will do that is the community of ex-service persons.

Such consolidation could occur simply through natural 'market forces' where some organisations wither and wind-up and others

continue to exist or grow; but this approach would play out over several decades. A worse case outcome might be that the ESO community becomes even more fragmented than it presently is.

A more proactive approach would better address the five issues but, as ever, organisations cannot be forced to do something they don't want to. The motive for change has to come from within organisations; but luckily, as ex-service persons we are better placed than some to accept the need to achieve a greater purpose over organisational self-interest – at least I hope so...

“ ... despite a steady decrease in the number of ex service people in Australia, the number of ex-service organizations (ESOs) is increasing ... ”

Proactive consolidation could be led by one of the larger and more established ESOs; not as series of hostile take-overs, but more like the Roman Empire which incorporated local customs and norms in order to grow the community of Roman citizens.

The process might begin with the articulation of a common vision and a pledge by organisations to strive towards that, followed by a combination of collaborative ventures, resource sharing, bilateral and multi-lateral memoranda of understanding and agreement, the development of common service delivery models and ultimately the merger of organisations. This process would need to be progressively coordinated with governments to ensure that overlaps and gaps in services are managed.

Consolidation could occur along both functional and geographic lines. One example is that Legacy and other ESO utilises RSL sub-branches for its events and activities. Another is the creation of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (as a virtual organisation utilising the resources of the Defence Force Welfare Association) to consolidate the collective advocacy function of a growing number of ESO.

Who will lead the change?

¹ The Australian Service Medal recognises current and former Australian Defence Force personnel who completed an initial enlistment period, or four years' service. It was established on 20 March 2006; however, it recognises qualifying service of current and former Australian Defence Force Regular and Reserve personnel, including National Servicemen, who have served since 3 September 1945.

² <http://www.advp.org.au/>

³ For the purpose of this paper an Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) includes member based organisations of primarily ex-service persons with the sole purpose of supporting veterans and/or their families, organisations with the sole purpose of supporting veterans and/or their families without a membership base of ex-service persons, unit/ship associations, social media (or virtual) groups, trusts with the sole purpose supporting veterans and/or their families, and veteran specific charities. Some ESO operate across more than one of these areas.

A RESPONSE TO:

DEMOGRAPHY IS DESTINY: the case for a consolidation of Ex-Service Organisations in Australia

By Kel Ryan

In 1930 the National President of the RSL, Gilbert Dyett, denied a request from the leaders of several smaller ex-service organisations (ESOs) that they accompany him in a delegation to the Prime Minister. The issue of concern was proposed cuts to the war pensions, which had been proposed by the Scullin Labor Government because of the challenging economic times. Some changes in the pension payments did occur but they were not as severe as originally proposed. Earlier Dyett contended successfully with the Nationalist Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, and forced his government to address the issues of the returning veterans of WWI.

There are two points here that resonate with the call by Marcus Fielding for a leader to step forward and lead the charge to consolidate the Australian Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs).

Captain Gilbert Dyett (later Sir Gilbert) was a strong determined leader of the RSL and, at the time, the one individual able to identify the needs of the veterans, articulate them to government and negotiate a successful outcome. Unlike now there were few other ESOs and those that did exist were representative of smaller sections of the veteran community. These included, the 'widowed mothers, blinded, tubular and limbless' veterans'. These organisations looked to Dyett because of his obvious non-political attitude, his success in dealing with governments of all political persuasion, and undoubtedly determined advocacy skills.

The contrast with the position today is stark. The RSL, for a variety of reasons, is struggling to gain traction with those involved in the political process. It is also failing to gain the attention and the membership of the present generation of ex-service personnel. Also, it is now vying for the attention of ex-service personnel in a more competitive environment than in the 1930s. Today, as Fielding correctly points out ESO options are many and these are generally well led by articulate and determined men and women who are protective of their memberships needs.

Fielding's call is opportune and warrants serious consideration by all in the ESO community, indeed by all in the broad Australian Defence Community (ADC). His background information tells the story clearly and dramatically, and the figures cannot be denied. He is correct also when he says that too many ESOs are doing more harm than good. What is to be done in this changed environment?

The easy questions to be addressed are "What" and "Why" something

has to be done to prepare for the future representation of the members of the ADC. The challenge however is to address the "How" before the "Who" is identified. The Australian ESO environment is a crowded space with many organisations seeking to address the same issues of the same decreasing number of ex-service personnel. We are our own worst enemy as the saying goes.

What is to be done?

If the aim is to achieve a common voice on the myriad of issues that beset the ADC then a coming together of the various ESOs should be a given. The formation of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) has proven to be a good first step as it draws together 15 plus 'major' ESOs. However it has experienced setbacks because of a lack of agreement on priorities which in turn has impacted negatively on the message. Also the RSL, for its own reasons, continues to remain detached from this common approach. Why this is so is a question for that organisation to answer. At the same time ADSO has refused to be drawn on calls to be identified with a particular political philosophy but rather it has taken a firm non-political stance. Over the years the RSL has had to counter the constant charge that it is affiliated with or is too close to the conservative side of politics. Identification with a political philosophy should never be an option as Dyett proved in the demanding days of the 1920s and 1930s.

In the United Kingdom the 'Confederation of Service Charities' (COBSEO) (<https://www.cobseo.org.uk/about-us/>) was formed in 1984 and now, "represents the whole Serving and Veterans Community" and "Membership is open to Charities (ESOs) who promote and further the welfare and general interests of the Armed Forces Community". There are over 200 member charities in COBSEO including the major ones such as The Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and the Sailors, Soldiers and Air Force Association (SSAFA). Each member charity retains the right to pursue particular issues but COBSEO promotes the broader issues that impact the entire Armed Forces Community. Yes there are tensions within and between the various member charities and with COBSEO itself but there is a degree of good will and cooperation when presenting common issues. It has taken 30 plus years of constant effort for COBSEO to achieve a high level of acceptance from government and the charities. Is such a model the way forward for the Australian ESO community?

The How

Not one Australian ESO can today claim to be the arbiter of choice for the men and women who have served in the ADF or for their

Continued page 24

FROMELLES AND POZIERES



ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson AO - Director of the Australian War Memorial - 20 July 2016

"in Australia, they will be proud of this"

You don't realise what you're learning when you're learning it.

He was witness to it all.

We are most shaped and transformed in quiet, unexpected moments of revelation.

Over a quarter of a century he would write and edit the twelve volumes of the official history.

The power is in the story.

At its end he wrote:

Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free.

What these men did, nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story....it rises, it always rises... above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men and for their nation – a possession forever.

Sung often, seldom do we pause to consider its meaning.

The paradox is that what is most important to us we tend to take for granted, including the political, economic and religious freedoms given us as Australians.

The great 19th century English philosopher, John Stuart Mill concluded two essential pre-conditions for a nation to exist and be sustained. The first was that a people would want to be governed as one, as a single nation.

With a sense of awkward humility, abiding reverence, infused with overwhelming pride, 55,000 Australians paused at the Australian War Memorial in the pre-dawn darkness of Anzac Day this year.

And so it was over a generation and a half in the late 19th century, our forebears finally resolved we would become a nation. The legal architecture for the Commonwealth of Australia was born in 1901. Two years later we gazetted a flag.

We came to the cenotaphs, memorials and places of commemoration throughout the nation and overseas - free and confident heirs to a legacy born of idealism, forged in self-sacrifice and passed now to our generation.

Mill's essential second precondition was that people are bound by a 'common fellow feeling', deeply rooted in language, literature and history.

We gathered in renewed commitment to one another, our nation and the ideals of mankind.

This continent has millennia of rich indigenous history and then, the devastating impact upon it of the arrival of the first fleet in 1788. But from it and the pioneers who joined them through the 19th century, origins of the Australia we have become.

Charles Bean was Australia's First World War historian.

But it was not until the cataclysm that unfolded in late 1914 and everything that followed at home and abroad, that we got our 'story'.

He landed at Gallipoli with the troops on the 25th of April and stayed with them at the front through the entire war. It was said of Bean that no one risked death more often than him.

We were 4.5 million people in 1914, overwhelmingly supportive of the 'mother country' in the 'Great War'.

One million men were of an age that could volunteer. From a nation that twice said 'no' to conscription, 417,000 did.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders only four to five generations after the arrival of the First Fleet, living in a desperately unequal Australia, enlisted to fight for the young nation that had taken so much from them. In the AIF, they found equality.

We sent 330,000 overseas in an Australian uniform with an Australian flag.

A series of largely catastrophic military battles ensued until the stunning leadership of General Sir John Monash of the Australian Corps in 1918.

Australia was never more divided than we were during the First World War, principally but not only around the conscription referenda. Whether Tasmanians or Queenslanders, people looked to the federal government for answers to increasingly unanswerable questions.

We emerged four years later, victorious - but inconsolably mourning 62,000 dead. Another 60,000 would die within a decade of returning to Australia.

With deeply embittered public discourse and facing privations beyond the comprehension of our generation, we remained true to our democratic principles.

We emerged Australians.

Every nation has its story. This is our story.

The most tragic and heroic chapter to our story unfolded 100 years ago this month at Fromelles and the small French village of Pozieres.

THE AIF'S ARRIVAL IN FRANCE

As two weary AIF Divisions withdrew from Gallipoli to Egypt, leaving 8,700 dead, recruitment was surging in Australia. Regrouping, the AIF expanded to four Divisions, unaware the worst was yet to come.

The inexperienced AIF was ill-prepared for the Imperial German Army. Less than a third of its troops had fought on Gallipoli.

France was now Germany's western border.

With two years on the Western Front, the battle hardened Germans were better trained and equipped. Germany's complex of trenches, fortified villages and belts of barbed wire marked no man's land strategically covered with machine-guns and German artillery.

Troops of IANZAC Corps arrived in March 1916, into the relatively quiet "nursery" sector near Armentières on the Franco-Belgian border.

They learned the routine and rigours of trench warfare and new weapons - the Mills bomb (hand grenade), Lewis light machine-gun, and the Stokes trench mortar.

They made forays into no man's land, fighting patrols and short, violent trench raids to kill and capture German troops and intelligence.

Disparate units gained cohesion and vital combat experience before the looming battles.

By June's end, 600 Australians were dead and Private William Jackson had been awarded the first Victoria Cross to a member of the AIF in France.

Then all hell broke loose.

On the 1st of July, 80 battalions of the British and French armies went 'over the top' in the Somme Valley. They advanced into heavy, enfilading machine-gun fire, brutally finding the week-long artillery bombardment had inflicted little damage on German defences.

At that first day's end, British forces had suffered 60,000 casualties, almost 20,000 dead in Britain's greatest military disaster - ever.

Australia's would follow 18 days later.

FROMELLES

In mid-July as the Australian divisions of I ANZAC moved south to support the British offensive raging on the Somme, the Germans erected a sign:

'ADVANCE AUSTRALIA – IF YOU CAN'

Australian and New Zealand troops of II ANZAC Corps arrived from Egypt in June. Just two weeks in the "nursery" sector, they were committed to a British attack against heavily fortified German positions near the village of Fromelles. The 'plan' was to stop German reserves moving into the main Somme battlefield.

It was a disaster.

The front of the attack was 4 kilometres. They would advance across 80 to 400 metres of open ground in broad daylight under direct observation from waiting German lines. German defences included 700 concrete blockhouses and a strong redoubt, known as 'Sugarloaf' overlooking most of the allied advance.

Major Geoffrey Gordon McCrae of Hawthorn, Victoria wrote his last letter home before leading the 60th battalion:

"Today I lead my battalion in an assault on the German lines and I pray God that I may come through alright and bring honour to our name. If not I will at least have laid down my life for you and my country, which is the greatest privilege one can ask for. Farewell dear people, the hour approacheth."

The seven-hour artillery bombardment on the German trenches failed miserably. It ended at 6 pm on 19 July 1916. Assaulting troops of the Australian 5th Division and British 61st Division "hopped the bags" to attack across no man's land.

Lumping scaling ladders, picks, shovels, rifles and bags of grenades, they

ran into a fusillade of withering machine-gun fire.

Private Walter 'Jimmy' Downing of the 57th battalion described the 15th Brigade's carnage:

Hundreds were mowed down in the flicker of an eyelid, like great rows of teeth knocked from a comb....men were cut in two by streams of bulletsswishing in a flat lattice of death... there were gaps in the line...wide ones, small ones. Survivors spread across the front and kept the line straight. There was no hesitation, no recoil, no dropping of the unwounded into shell holes.

McCrae's 60th Battalion was annihilated crossing open ground in full view of German machine-gunner.

Carrying parties followed the initial assault with sandbags and ammunition into withering machine gun fire. Blood stained water filled ditches and craters in no man's land were filled with the dead, dying, wounded and terrified - others struggled past, pushing on.

Australians of the 8th and 14th Brigades captured enemy positions and penetrated deep into German defences. But without flanking support under fierce German counter-attacks, they were forced to withdraw under brutal fire early in the morning.

By dawn on the 20th of July, Australian trenches were teeming with wounded and dying.

Geoffrey McCrae was killed leading his men. He was 26 years old.

Of the 886 officers and men of the 60th battalion who went into the attack with him, only 1 officer and 106 men answered the Roll Call after the attack.

Victorians of the 15th Brigade suffered mightily in their assault on the German Sugar Loaf. Their commanding officer, Brigadier Harold "Pompey Elliott" – a much loved and respected veteran of the Boer War and Gallipoli, had vented opposition before the attack.

Lieutenant John Schroder was in brigade headquarters with 'Pompey' when his 15th went 'over the top':

Pompey got tired of sitting in advanced brigade headquarters, and took me up the line with him.....it was impossible to walk far without falling over dead men....there must have been dozens of German machine guns operating....Pompey never thought of ducking, but went on right along the line. A word for a wounded man here, a pat of approbation to a bleary-eyed digger there - he missed nobody. He never spoke a word all the way back....but went straight inside, put his head in his hands, and sobbed his heart out.

Bean described Pompey Elliott as 'speechless with grief', tears streaming down his face as he shook hands with returning survivors.

In less than 24 hours, Australia suffered 5,533 casualties - 1,917 dead; 3,146 wounded; 470 taken prisoner – our nation's worst day ever.

Bean absorbed the tragic aftermath:

One man was seen on July 20th with the skin shot from his forehead and hanging over his eyes (or shot out eyes) near the German wire. He was walking about with his hands outstretched, going in a circle and then would flop down again. The Germans did not fire at him. This man was walking about for two or three days in this way. The Germans let him walk but noticed where he fell and searched all no man's land between him and our lines with machine-guns After three days they blew him to pieces with a bomb".

Sergeant Alexander Ross of the 57th Battalion reveals the Australian character, volunteering to recover wounded from no man's land. Captain Hugh Knyvett was with him (*Over there with the Australians*, published 1918):

We found a man on the German barbed wire...so badly wounded that when we tried to pick him up, one by the shoulders and the other by the feet; it almost seemed that we would pull him apart.

Blood was gushing from his mouth, where he had bitten through lips and tongue, so that he might not jeopardize, by groaning, the chances of some other man who was less badly wounded than he.

He begged us to put him out of his misery, but we were determined we would get him his chance, though we did not expect him to live.

But the sergeant threw himself down on the ground and made of his body a human sledge.

Others joined us, and we put the wounded man on his back and dragged them thus across two hundred yards of No Man's Land, through the broken barbed wire and shell-torn ground, where every few inches there was a piece of jagged shell, and in and out of the shell-holes.

So anxious were we to get to safety that we did not notice the condition of the man underneath until we got into our trenches; then it was hard to see which was worst wounded of the two.

The sergeant had his hands, face, and body torn to ribbons, and we had never guessed it, for never once did he ask us to "go slow" or "wait a bit."

Such is the stuff that men are made of.

Realising the significance of Fromelles to our young nation, Charles Bean returned to walk over the ground on the day of the Armistice to think, reflect and record:

We found the old no man's land simply full of our dead. The skulls and bones and torn uniforms were lying about everywhere.

He described Fromelles as:

One of the bravest and most hopeless assaults ever undertaken by the AIF

On this site today at 'VC Corner', is the only Australian cemetery without

headstones and epitaphs. A stone wall sits in the middle of the former no man's land inscribed with the names of 1,299 Australians with no known grave. Two mass graves nearby contain the remains of 410 unidentified Australians, casualties of muddled planning and reckless decision making.

POZIERES

The Australian 1st Division marched through the town of Albert, unsettled by the gilded Virgin dangling above the square. On their long march to the small village of Pozieres, they were unaware of Haig's disastrous first day on the Somme.

Sergeant Ben Champion wrote of moving from the eerie quiet of Albert into Sausage Valley, marching on to Pozieres:

.....we realised at last that we were at war.... litter of all kinds. We came to an area with the sickly smell of dead bodies...half buried men, mules and horses came into view. Here was war wastage properly. Germans and British mixed together, lying in all positions and there wasn't a man but thought more seriously of what was ahead.

Ahead for the Australians over the next six weeks were 24,000 casualties – 6,800 dead, five Victoria Crosses.

Just after midnight on 23 July 1916, the Australian 1st Division attacked the village of Pozieres.

British and Australian artillery had pounded the German defences for days before the attack. In capturing Pozieres, the Australians occupied a position that dominated the ridgeline helping neighbouring British units to take the high ground towards Thiepval.

However, the capture of Pozieres cruelly exposed troops of I ANZAC by pushing a significant bulge into German territory. German commanders turned the guns of an entire army corps onto the Australians along with an intense three sided artillery bombardment.

Pozieres was rendered brick dust.

Private Archie Barwick of the 1st Battalion described 24 July:

All day long the ground rocked & swayed backwards and forwards from the concussion men were driven stark staring mad and more than one of them rushed from the trench over towards the Germans. Any amount of them could be seen crying.... sobbing like children, their nerves completely gone.

Bean simply wrote:

The shelling at Pozieres did not merely probe the character and nerve; it laid them stark naked as no other experience of the AIF ever did.

When the 1st Division was relieved after three days fighting, it had suffered 5,285 casualties.

Australians repeatedly attacked the surrounding German defences. On



28 July troops of the 2nd Division unsuccessfully attacked the formidable OG ("old German") lines to the east of the village under a massive German artillery bombardment – another 3,500 Australians killed or wounded.

On the 31st of July, Charles Bean narrowly missed death getting to the front:

Everywhere were blackened men, torn and whole – dead for days.

Lieutenant John 'Alec' Raws had been a correspondent for The Argus on enlistment. He abhorred the 'absurdity of war' but felt a duty to serve. Then self-described as a man who could not 'tread upon a worm', he documented the suffering and courage of his men of the 23rd battalion who would dig the new front line for the 2 August assault:

Our battalion ... had to march three miles, under shellfire, go out into no Man's Land in front of the German trenches, and dig a narrow trench to be used to jump off in another assault.

I was posted to bring up the rear and prevent straggling. We went in single file along narrow communication trenches....shelled all the way up, but got absolute hell when passing through a particularly heavy curtain of fire which the enemy was playing on the ruined village of Pozieres ...

...our line was held up. I went up....and found that we had been cut off, about half of us, from the rest of the battalion, and were lost. I would gladly have shot myself, for I had not the slightest idea where our lines or the enemy's were.... shells were coming at us from three directions.

...we lay down terror-stricken along a bank. The shelling was awful. I took a long drink of neat whisky and went up and down the bank trying to find a man who could tell where we were.

Eventually I found one. He led me along a broken track and we found a trench; he said he was sure it led to our lines, so we went back and got the men.

It was hard to make them move, they were so badly broken. We eventually found our way to the right spot, out in No Man's Land.

Our leader was shot before we arrived, and the strain had sent two other officers mad.

I and another new officer (Lieutenant Short) took charge and dug the

trench. We were being shot at all the time and I knew that if we did not finish the job before daylight, a new assault planned for the next night would fail.

It was awful, but we had to drive the men by every possible means and dig ourselves.

The wounded and killed had to be thrown on one side - I refused to let any sound man help a wounded man: the men had to dig ...

....an officer of another unit, who was hopelessly rattled, ordered us to go. The trench was not finished. I insisted on the men staying, saying that any man who stopped digging would be shot.

We dug on and finished amid a tornado of bursting shells. All the time the enemy flares were making the whole area as light as day.

I was buried twice, thrown down several times - buried with dead and dying.

The ground was covered with bodies in all stages of decay and mutilation, and I would, after struggling free from the earth, pick up a body by me to try to lift him out with me, and find him to be a decayed corpse.

....The horror was indescribable.

In the dim misty light of dawn I collected about 50 men and sent them off, mad with terror, on the right track....two brave fellows stayed behind and helped me with the only unburied wounded man we could find.

...I met another of our men, who was certain that his cobber was lying wounded in that barrage of fire.

I would have given my immortal soul to get out of it, but I simply had to go back with him...

We spent two hours in that devastated village searching for wounded - but all were dead. The sights I saw during that search, and the smell, can never be exceeded by anything.....

Aghast, Bean wrote of Pozieres:



The men are simply turned in there as into some ghastly mincing machine.

On 4 August attacking the same lines, the ridge was finally captured. The 4th Division relieved the 2nd and fought off determined German counter-attacks.

Private 'Harry' Hartnett of the 2nd Battalion ended his letter home to Tumblong:

If you have seen a battlefield, you would never forget. It is a cruel sight to witness, but we have upheld the honour of Australia and the ground we hold which was captured at such a cost.....we are proud of our victory, although we mourn the loss of many a brave comrade...they died for their country, and who could die a nobler death

The Australians held their ground under continued German artillery fire.

Bean concluded:

In those 45 days, Australians had launched 19 attacks...they knew their constant advance during a time of deadlock would compare with any other achievement on the Somme

And it did.

Once positions east of Pozières were secured, the focus moved north towards Mouquet Farm.

Australian troops from 1st, 2nd, and 4th Divisions rotated in and out of the line for second and third tours, launching a series of piecemeal attacks that failed to capture and hold the German defences.

When finally relieved by the Canadians on 3 September, more Australians had been lost in eight weeks of fighting in France than eight months on Gallipoli.

Today the site of the windmill the Germans had concreted into their strong point is inscribed with Bean's words:

The ruin of the Pozieres Windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured on August 4th by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefield of the war.

Pozieres, Bean wrote, is more deeply sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth

It was in the depths of the bloody fighting at Pozieres that a mortally wounded Australian asked of Bean, "Will they remember me in Australia?"

Having conceived and resolved to build the finest Memorial to these men of the AIF and nurses, he wrote:

Many a man lying out there at Pozieres and in the low scrub at Gallipoli, with his poor tired senses barely working through the fever of his brain, has thought in his last moments...well, well...it's over.

CAMARADERIE

But in Australia - they will be proud of this.

And we are. We are damned proud.

On Sunday night the 21th of August, ten letters a metre high will be projected onto the horizontal concrete beam immediately below the dome above the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial.

They will form one name – MARGETTS I.S.

His name, along with almost 62,000 Australians who gave their lives for us is being projected on thirty occasions for thirty seconds through the centenary of the First World War.

It is being projected for two reasons.

Firstly, it is tempting, human beings that we are, to settle for headlines - broad brushstrokes of our history. Our comfortable lives breed easy indifference to individual sacrifices made in our name and devotion to duty.

As Dame Mary Gilmore wrote ('These Following Men'):

*They are not dead; not even broken.
Only their dust has gone back home to the earth;
For they, the essential they, shall have rebirth
Whenever a word of them is spoken.*

Secondly, it is to remind us that we are Australians. In the end there are some truths by which we live – and they are worth fighting to defend; politically, diplomatically and at times – militarily.

We are Australians not only or so much because we have a constitution and the machinery of a democracy given us by the British.

We are defined by our values and our beliefs, the way we relate to one another and see our place in the world.

We are shaped by our heroes and villains, triumphs and failures; the way as a people we have faced adversity and how we will face the inevitable adversities coming and respond to emerging horizons.

We are bound by Mill's 'common fellow feeling', what Arthur Schlesinger described as, common 'historic purpose'.

This is our history. But it has much more to do with our future.

As the world moves from one age to another; as the tectonic plates shift with the re-emergence of China and we face a generational struggle against resurgent totalitarianism in the form of Islamic extremism, we must be clear about who we are and in what we believe.

Ivor Margetts was born in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1891 to Stephen and Charlotte. A teacher, Ivor was well-known throughout Tasmania as a footballer and 'thorough sportsman'.

He left the Hutchins School in Hobart to enlist in August 1914. His 12th

battalion was amongst the first ashore at the Gallipoli landing.

Promoted to captain, he described one narrow escape in which every officer in his company was killed or wounded, his own uniform riddled with bullet holes.

The night before the attack on Pozieres, Margetts explained the plan to his men, ending - "Remember lads, it is not hard to die."



Ivor Margetts

On the 24th of July, Ivor Margetts was in the Pozieres village marking places for trenches to be dug. Later leading his men to the new forward positions under fire, he was struck in the chest with a shell fragment and died within minutes. He was 24 years old.

Wounded himself, Private G.A McKenzie a stretcher-bearer and a fellow Hobartian, wrote to Margetts' father:

I stayed with him to the end when he said, "McKenzie – if you get through this stink lad - which I hope to God ...you do, let my people know how I got hit - and died thinking of them".

He caught my hand and passed away

....I got him buried and put a cross over his grave...I was all through the Gallipoli muck with your son... I am only a private myself....but there was never a better Officer living than Capt. Margetts.....any one of us would have gave their life for to save his little toe.

McKenzie told the Red Cross:

The men loved him. I cried like a kid when I found he was dead...I think he went because he was too good for the beastliness of war.

Margetts' grave survived the battle, but not the war. We have a photograph – a desolate, small white cross on a moonscape.

Interred within the Hall of Memory since 1993, is the Unknown Australian Soldier; sprinkled with soil from the Pozieres windmill. Silent sentinels above him are fifteen stained glass windows, each a depiction of a serviceman and nurse of the First World War.

At the base of each window is a single word.

Charles Bean pondered the qualities, the values seen in these men and women, essential not just for victory in battle, but for depth and breadth of character.

Character derives from the Greek word meaning the impression left in wax by a stone seal ring.

Transcending money, rank, power, influence or talent – is character. It is informed by worthwhile, intrinsic virtues.

Those fifteen values are:

RESOURCE CANDOUR DEVOTION CURIOSITY
INDEPENDENCE COMRADESHIP ANCESTRY PATRIOTISM
CHIVALRY LOYALTY COOLNESS CONTROL
AUDACITY ENDURANCE DECISION

A century after Fromelles and Pozieres, to young Australians – your search for belonging, meaning and values for the world you want - ends here.

Bean concluded that what made the Australian ‘digger’ so special, “lay in the mettle of the men themselves”.

To be the kind of man who would give way when his mates were trusting to his firmness....to live the rest of his life haunted by the knowledge that he hadlacked the grit to carry it through - was the prospect these men could not face.

Life was very dear, but life was not worth living unless they could be true to their idea of Australian manhood.

A century later, SAS Sergeant ‘S’ reflecting on the battle of Tizak in Afghanistan said:

To fail would be worse than death.

To let down your mates in combat....would be worse than death.

...that's it – that's the essence.

You don't let your mates down.

That is the essence.

The most fragile yet powerful of human emotions is hope - belief in a better future, a better world.

Hope is sustained most by reaching out in support of one another – “mates who go over together” and even when gripped with fear as was Alec Raws at Pozieres, don’t let one another down.

Their spirit is here in these commemorations.

Amidst the horror, it is not about war.

It is about love and friendship.

Love of family, love of country.

We honour lives devoted not to themselves - but to us; and their last moments to one another.

They gave us greater belief in ourselves and a deeper understanding of what it means to be Australian.

Their ultimate legacy is that a life of value is one spent in the service of others, irrespective of the cost.

Like them, what we need most is one another.

After the bloodbath at Fromelles, Sergeant Simon Fraser spent three backbreaking days bringing in the wounded from no man’s land.

A lone voice pleaded through the fog, “Don’t forget me cobber”.

He didn’t.

We won’t.

We never will.

We are Australians.

We did advance, and we will.

We are young, and we are free.

Readers may also like to watch the address on <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-20/national-press-club:-brendan-nelson/7645656>

DEMOGRAPHY IS DESTINY: RESPONSE Continued from page 17

issues. Some have acceptance within specific areas of interest, or because of particular conflicts. Others seek to be all things to all men and women and, frankly, more often than not fail. All ESOs however share common goals if their constitutions or charters are to be believed. Marcus Fielding correctly states what should be evident to all of us in calling for a common vision and collaboration as the start point to a model for the future.

Experience tells me that the journey to “a consolidation of ESOs in Australia” will be challenging but it is one that must be started. The present generation and those coming after them deserve to have the same points of contacts, the same support networks and systems that were available in the past. For all the faults of the past systems that were fought for by the likes of Dyett they did satisfy the needs of those times.

Those coming after us deserve to have a credible, articulate and perceptive voice that is representative of their ever changing needs. This will only be achieved if we now consolidate the voice of the ADC and its constituent ESOs. Marcus Fielding has made a positive contribution to an issue whose time has come.

The “Who” to lead the change must be found if the future needs of the ADC are to be met.

Kel Ryan is a Life Member of the RSL. He has held executive positions in the RSL, RAR Association, 5 RAR Association, chaired the Queensland Forum of ESOs and is currently Vice President FNQ of the DFWA. He is completing a PhD addressing the question; “Pathways for the advocacy of the issues of the Australian Defence Community in the 21st century”. Contact is kel.ryan45@gmail.com or kelvyn.ryan@my.jcu.edu.com



MONEYMATTERS



Many readers would be familiar with Term Deposits, which provide a steady, known, income stream, for an agreed period of time. Since the “Financial Crisis”, which occurred between 2007 – 09, the capital in a Term Deposit is “Government Guaranteed” for whatever dollar amount you invest, up to a value of \$250,000 per bank, building society or credit union. These financial organisations are known as Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions or ADI's. The \$250,000 cap applies per person and per ADI.

Readers may not be aware of another form of investment which often provides greater returns and more flexibility. This investment is known as a “Hybrid Security”. However, hybrids do not provide a “Government Guarantee”, and have other positive and negative features.

Hybrids are available via the ASX (Australian Stockmarket), so you must have a Share Account if you wish to invest in them.

Hybrids can be split into three groups

- (i) Convertible debt securities
- (ii) Preference shares
- (iii) Capital notes

Hybrids are issued by banks, retailers and other companies who want to raise money for a particular purpose. These organisations could borrow the money for their requirements, but instead of doing so, they utilise hybrids as a method of raising the required funds.

Hybrids are traded on the ASX. The terms and conditions of hybrids vary depending on who issues them.

Due to the listing on the ASX, investments in hybrids can be partially sold if funds are required, with the balance remaining in your Portfolio, continuing to earn the regular income. (e.g. If you invested \$10,000 in a hybrid, and needed \$2,000 immediately, you can ask your Stockbroker to sell \$2,000 worth of the hybrid, leaving the \$8,000 in your Portfolio).

This type of flexibility is not available via a term deposit. If you hold a \$10,000 term deposit, and urgently need \$2,000, you would have to “break” the term deposit in full, and probably receive a very low, if any, interest payment, for the period that you had held the term deposit. After “breaking” the term deposit, you would withdraw the \$2,000, and begin a new term deposit with the \$8,000 balance. Your new term deposit would be subject to the existing rates at the time of the re-investment. This may be higher or lower than your original term deposit, depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time.

Investors choose to invest in hybrids for a number of reasons.

- (i) They may be keen to receive a defined, regular income for a pre-determined time frame.
- (ii) They would be aware that income from hybrids is frequently higher than interest paid on bonds.
- (iii) They may want to diversify their portfolio risk.

Some of the features of hybrids can be compared to shares and bonds, in other words interest payments being made by hybrids can be compared to dividend payments received from shares.

Hybrids are usually offered for a fixed term, much the same as bonds, however, some hybrids may be converted to shares.

Hybrids can be sold on Market, at any time, in the same way as shares.

Hybrid issuers may, at their discretion, redeem the hybrid before maturity date, by repaying the principal, or converting the hybrid to shares.

If the issuer of the hybrid becomes insolvent, an investor will only be repaid after lenders, creditors and bondholders are repaid.

As I noted earlier, investing in hybrids is more risky than term deposits, fixed interest investments and bonds. Some risks are:

- Market price volatility,
- Liquidity, and
- Interest rate risk.

When considering an investment in a Hybrid security, you should understand that the investment is not the equivalent of a bank account or bond, and there is a risk that you may lose some or all of your investment.

Virtually all investments carry a degree of risk. Usually, the higher the rate of return, the higher the potential risk.

The purpose of this article is to bring Hybrids to your attention, so that you can make an informed decision as to whether it is an investment that you want to participate in. Before you proceed, please visit and understand the information available via the link to the ASX, followed by the sub-heading “Hybrids”. The link that is always mentioned at the end of MONEY MATTERS, to www.moneysmart.gov.au is also recommended. As a final recommendation, please discuss these investments with your Stockbroker or Financial Advisor, as to their suitability for you.

Continued page 42

CONCERNS ABOUT THE 2016 CENSUS & ADF MEMBERS

ADF members may not be aware of concerns many have raised over privacy issues relating to ADF members with the recent Census.

The following correspondence between the National President of the DFWA and Ministers:

Dear Minister,

Further to our conversation last night, I wish to flag a real concern for the wellbeing of our ADF personnel and their families.

We understand in previous census's it was not compulsory for people to include personal details such as names and addresses. We have just found out that for the first time in this year's census that provision of these details is compulsory and the ABS will hold records of Australian's names and addresses for four years rather than the 18 months under the previous arrangements. It is understood before this census names and addresses were only collected to ensure everyone completed the census and then were destroyed. The general public were led to believe that these details would not be used for any other purpose and were not passed on to other agencies but were deleted. Now it would seem they will be stored and we understand made into unique identifiers. Again we understand there have been at least 14 privacy breaches by the ABS since 2013 and this state of affairs renders assurances of data protection by that agency somewhat hollow.

In this age of increasing threats of domestic terrorist activities, our specific concern is for the safety and security of ADF members and their families especially in respect of those with protected identity status. We believe immediate action to protect these individuals from disclosing their personal details must be taken and I ask for your assurance that the Government will act to prevent the ABS from collecting these details at least from this restricted range of personnel in the current census.

David

The Minister then responded:

Dear Mr Jamison,

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 August 2016 to the Minister for Defence Personnel, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, regarding privacy and the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. It has been forwarded to me as I have portfolio responsibility for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

In response to your questions regarding the ABS's legislation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975 and the Census and Statistics Act 1905 empower the ABS to undertake the collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of statistics and related information. The ABS is required to collect name and a number of addresses (e.g. usual residence, address on Census night, workplace address) in the Census, as specified in the Census and Statistics (Census) Regulation 2015. The ABS has collected name and addresses in every Census, back to 1911.

Names and addresses will be stored separately both from each other and from the Census response data on different servers. These servers are subject to role-based access control where the same individual will not have access to that information at the same time.

Under the Census and Statistics Act 1905, all information provided in the Census remains strictly confidential to the ABS and can never be released in an identifiable form, whether to a court, tribunal, or other agency.

The ABS has advised that:

- Senior ABS Officials met with Senior Defence Officials in April 2016, including the Associate Director of Department of Defence, to discuss Census plans and procedures, and ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for current members of the defence forces;
- The Australian Statistician wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs in advance of an Ex Service Organisation Roundtable that was held on Wednesday 10th August in order to provide information to members about the privacy and security of Census information; and
- The General Manager of the Census program has also spoken directly with the Executive Director of your organisation, Mr Alf Jaugietis about these issues.

I have also been informed that the ABS has discussed the protection of an individual's anonymity where they either hold positions that require anonymity and/or find themselves in circumstances where this is critical to personal safety with a number of agencies. I am informed that the agencies responsible are satisfied with the ABS's approach.

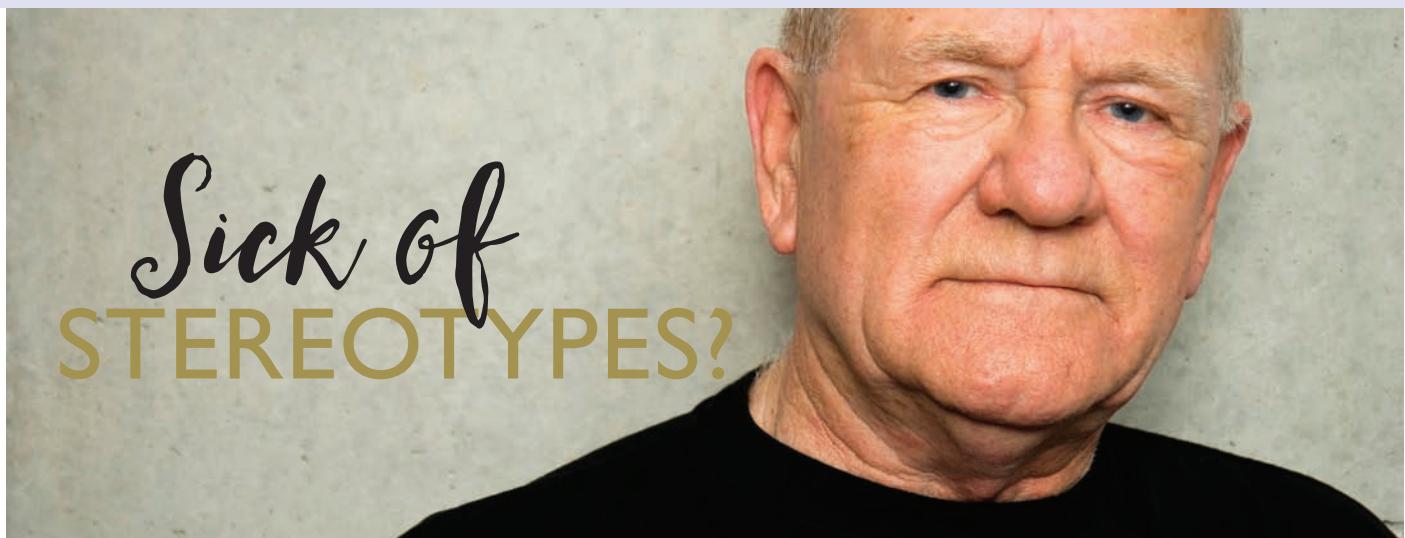
I trust this information is of assistance to you and I would like to pass on my thanks for your support of the 2016 Census.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL McCORMACK
Minister for Small Business

Sick of STEREOTYPES?



Are you as sick of military stereotypes as your scribe?

We are put in labelled boxes by the media and by many in the wider world because we are or once were members of the ADF. But when you think about it, ADF membership is about the only thing we all have one hundred percent in common.

Because of ADF recruiting standards, we probably enjoy certain characteristics at a higher level than the national average. Physical fitness and education levels come immediately to mind because ADF requirements are well above the minimum levels acceptable in the wider community. But does this extend to all our collective characteristics? I think not.

Serving and former ADF people obviously are not in one box as far as age and gender are concerned but the media and by extension many members of the public seem to believe we are all blokey types who only vote for conservative parties and who spend all our waking hours downing beers at the local RSL.

I'm sure we experience different individual attitudes, voting preferences, marital and family circumstances, wealth, education and sporting pursuits, religious beliefs (or non-belief), spending patterns, health, personal preferences, social interests and more. Clones we are not.

Here are a few stereotype claims made to me, a long-retired ADF member, often by folk who I believed would know better.

"You must be a monarchist"

No I'm not. I favour an Australian republic in principle and have said so publicly on many occasions. But I'm in no hurry. The present system serves us well and we need to adopt a republic's trappings at our own pace. And do it properly.

I'm sure retired Major General Mike Keating bristles far more than do I at the monarchist label. He once headed the Australian Republican Movement, which is as far from the military stereotype as one can get.

And I'm equally sure the views of military individuals range from ultra pro-monarchy to ultra pro-republic and all shades in between. Just like the wider community.

"You must not want women in the Army"

Yes I do. And I did something about it while still in uniform as well as afterwards despite my "old white male" stereotype label. I'm happy to stand on my non-stereotypical public record.

Other "old white males" took similar action although, as with the monarchy/republic issue, the range of individual military opinion would be wide. Just like in the wider community.

(It's true that the stereotype label "old white male" can rankle. The label is pejorative. But I'm comforted by the fact it is used by folk who value emotion rather than reason, abuse rather than courtesy, distraction rather than fact.)

"You people never vote Labor"

Yes we do. It's true that voting booth data from military areas show we collectively vote "conservative" more often than "progressive" but it's far from a done deal, as the 2007 election results particularly demonstrate. Military people are as conscious of the issues affecting them as is any other demographic, a fact all political parties ignore at their peril.

The rise of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) in the last decade demonstrates that military people can be politically aware without being party political, which is less of a fine line than ADSO's detractors may want to claim.

Better policies lead to more military votes, regardless of party. Just like the wider community.

And, again just like the wider community, some military people may be rusted-on followers of one party and one party only. But do all military people only vote "conservative"? Nope. Another stereotype busted.

(I should add, albeit anecdotally, that I served with two outstanding military individuals who later went in very different political directions. One became a state Labor MP, the other a senior Liberal staffer. And another ex-military acquaintance stood as a left wing Greens candidate while yet another stood as a right wing Australian Liberty Alliance candidate. Who said military people were political clones?)

Continued overpage

"You are all anti-change"

No we're not. Innovation and change are fundamental to battlefield success, as Australia's military history amply demonstrates. Change is essential.

But knee jerk change is less than unwise. Unlike (say) the business community, military success or failure is not measured by greater or smaller profits but by fewer or greater casualties and, ultimately, by retention or loss of sovereignty. National existential issues demand reason when introducing change to the military. And reason requires time.

Reason is often mistaken for resistance by shallow critics, although the defence community does not help its cause when it delays change for

irrational reasons. Defending indefensible procurement decisions is a case in point. So is delay in addressing bullying, sexual harassment and military suicides.

But while rational change is essential, knee jerk change is never good when the nation's existence is at stake.

Are you as sick of stereotypes as I am? Then do something about it. Be heard, but be rational when doing so. Please.

Win Fowles

*Vice President for the Sunshine Coast
Defence Force Welfare Association (Qld) Inc
winfowles@bigpond.com*

APPEAL FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING MEMORIAL

Over the last decade a voluntary group of Australian peacekeeping veterans and organisations have been working, under the banner of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP), on a vision to construct a national memorial to commemorate Australian Peacekeeping - past, present and future. Construction has started and the goal is almost in sight.

This Memorial will commemorate the wonderful contribution made "in the service of peace" by over 90,000 Australian peacekeepers – military, police and civilian – in more than 60 United Nations and other international peacekeeping missions since 1947.

Thanks to grants from the Australian Government supplemented by generous donations from Australian companies, veteran organisations and individuals, the project has now raised 75% of the funds necessary to realise the national memorial as it was originally envisaged following the national design competition.

All design and documentation has been completed and a prototype programme undertaken to identify and eliminate any construction problems. Furthermore, all materials that had long acquisition times have been purchased and are now held in storage by the construction contractor.

Following approval by the Federal Government and the National Capital Authority, initial construction of the Memorial has commenced at the approved site on Anzac Parade, Canberra. This Stage includes the site platform and courtyard, including insignia and inscriptions, and the installation of the memorial beam on which all Australian peacekeeping missions will be shown.

The two black monoliths separated by a "golden" lit passageway depicting the role of peacekeepers keeping belligerents apart will then be installed as soon as the remaining \$1.1m needed to complete this construction has been raised. If those funds can be raised by early 2017 there will be a seamless continuation of construction that will ensure that the complete memorial is ready for its dedication on 14th September 2017, the 70th anniversary of the first Australian peacekeepers to leave home to participate in the world's first peacekeeping mission.

We seek your generous support to raise the additional funds needed to complete the total vision. This project has Designated Gift Recipient (DGR) Status so all donations are tax deductible.



HELP US BUILD THIS

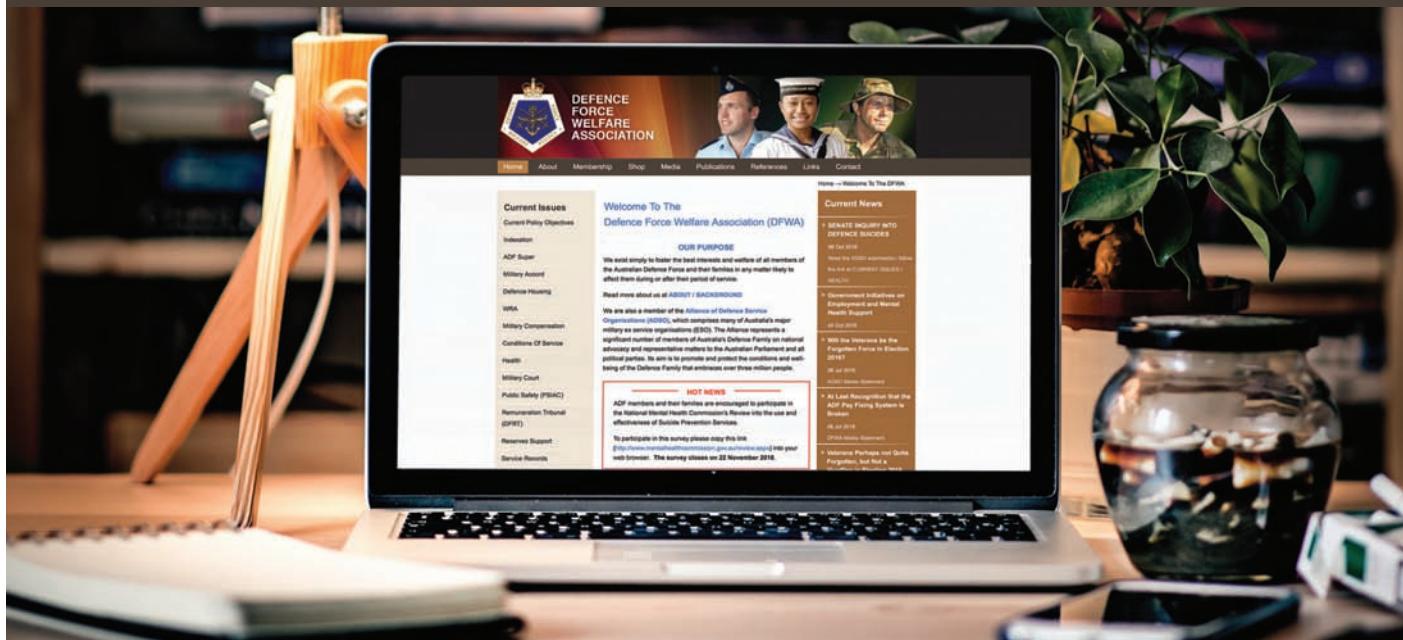
www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

Major General Tim Ford AO (Ret'd) Ph:0408029295 E: chairman@peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

Donate to: BSB 815-000,
Account Number 246687

WELCOME TO THE NEW DFWA WEBSITE

and its associated National Membership Database



Members who visit our website (www.dfwa.org.au) will have noticed that we have a new website up and running we hope you like it. Our aim is to provide members with a one stop shop for all issues relating to the work of the Association – whether it be current matters we are working on, or old matters that still provide a valuable research and information resource.

More importantly, we will update the site as new issues or news occurs.

As part of this process, the Association has also embarked on developing a centralised membership database for all Branches except WA. WA Branch will continue to manage its Branch membership data using their existing stand-alone system.

Stage I is now complete and then new website is up and running. All pages have been updated, links checked and information updated. Associated with the new website is a facility for new members to join the Association, and for members to pay annual fees. Members are also provided with the option of downloading "hard copy" membership application forms if they prefer.

With respect to the centralised membership database, Branches are now able to securely access and manage their membership data via the website including:

- Add, Review or Edit member records.
- Recording subscription payments.
- Creating an Invoice (for subscriptions).
- Producing mailing labels/lists.

Individual Branches will continue to manage their members' data and remain responsible for internal Branch communication, subscription management, distribution of Camaraderie and distribution of Raffle tickets, etc.

Stage 2 – 2017: Member's ability to access to their membership information

Stage 2 will further tidy up the website but more importantly, provide additional functionality to the centralised membership database by opening it up to individual members so they can access their own data via the website. This will mean that any member with an Internet connection and email account will be able to log on to their own DFWA membership record for the purpose of updating their records, checking their subscription status and so on.

This stage will initially involve allocating a user name and temporary

Continued overpage



SECURITY

DVA staff were recently reminded to be aware of cyber security via an email to highlight the dangers of spam and scam emails. Several new scam e-mails have recently been received. While these are not specifically targeting the serving or ex-service communities, the message is equally important to us all, and no doubt readers will find what follows familiar.

Of all the things that cyber criminals can do to innocent people via the Internet, one of the most common — and effective — ways of compromising someone's computer or smart phone with malicious software (malware) is to send a realistic looking email that contains a link to a compromised website. That website then uses vulnerabilities that exist in all browsers to load malware onto your computer or device. The most effective defence against this is to never click on links in emails that you don't trust. And even if you *do* trust them, don't click on them. If you know the organisation who sent the link, then go to your browser and type in their website; if it's current it should be easy to find from the front page.

This information helps protect DVA's network and its data, and it also helps protect you and your family on your home computer.

DVA recently received (as did the Editor) a clever scam claiming to involve a refund on a Telstra phone account, and it included a Telstra "Email Bill" complete with accurate button images, text and images. However, if the reader had clicked on any of the links, their Internet browser would have taken them to a website in Brazil. The Brazilian website would probably have attempted to load malicious software (malware) onto their computer.

The lesson here is to be wary of links in emails because this isn't the only example DVA staff members have received recently.



A screenshot of the email scam

To check if a link in an email might be going somewhere inappropriate, move your mouse pointer over the button image or link in the email (but don't click) and Outlook will show you the link address (see example image above). If the address doesn't look like what you would expect then don't click. But if you make a mistake, the Department has very solid protections in place to detect and prevent malware infections. You may not be so well protected at home.

Even if the link looks correct, we still recommend you don't click. Instead, type in the company's address in your browser and navigate to the correct location, or use your favourite search engine. It's not as convenient as just clicking the email link, but malware authors count on our laziness.

A little inconvenience provides a LOT of protection.

THE NEW DFWA WEBSITE *Continued from previous page*



password to each member and advising this to individual members via email. If you haven't advised your Branch of your email address and wish to access your membership account electronically, please advise your email address to your Branch as soon as possible.

Current planning has Stage 2 being implemented early in 2017. Once in place you will be contacted by email with a temporary password and invited to access your membership record, allocate your own password, etc.

Any questions or suggestions? Please contact the webmaster at webmaster@dfwa.org.au

PERFECT GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS



Salute a legendary icon of the skies... LANCASTER BOMBER Exclusive Masterpiece Clock

Hand-crafted Avro Lancaster Bomber sculpture with bronze-tone finish

Showcasing the 617 Squadron motto 'Après Moi, Le Déluge'

Clock and thermometer inspired by the Lancaster's authentic cockpit instruments



Expertly hand-painted for precision detail
MEASURES
25cm WIDE
16cm HIGH
15cm DEEP



For quickest delivery, order online:
www.bradford.com.au/lwf
or call 1300 725 103
Quoting promotion code: 89566

In 1942, the ground-breaking Lancaster Bomber entered into RAF service, making military history as it confirmed its battle-ready status. Symbolising the combined hopes of the Allied nations, this spectacular aircraft delivered a record 608,612 tons of bombs during its remarkable 156,000 sorties, proving itself to be one of the most successful night bombers of WWII! Now you can celebrate the landmark 70th anniversary of a true icon of the skies with the perfect tribute – the Lancaster Bomber Masterpiece Clock is a collectable unique to The Bradford Exchange.

Mastercrafted by hand for authentic detail...

- Market-first sculpture honouring the fearless Lancaster pilot Guy Gibson's iconic aircraft, flown during his command of the famed 617 Squadron.
- Authentically mastercrafted with a gleaming bronze-tone finish – reminiscent of stunning museum-quality treasures.
- Mounted on a richly grained and polished wooden base with a precision Quartz movement clock and indoor thermometer – both inspired by authentic instruments from the Lancaster's cockpit!
- Clock face inscribed with the stirring 617 Squadron motto of 'Après Moi, Le Déluge' (After Me, The Flood) – a striking reminder of the bomber's contribution to the acclaimed 'Dam Busters' raids.
- Featuring the symbolic laurel wreath of victory, in addition to a brilliant brass-like plaque proudly commemorating the Lancaster's service with the RAF!

Astounding quality and unique design – order yours today!

This anniversary edition is a one-of-a-kind celebration of an iconic aircraft and a legendary pilot. Arriving with a Certificate of Authenticity, this fine masterpiece is yours for just three interest-free instalments of only \$49.99 – that's \$149.97, plus \$14.99 postage and handling, backed by our famous 365-day guarantee. You need pay nothing now. To reserve your edition, simply complete and return the coupon or go online today at www.bradford.com.au/lwf

©2016 The Bradford Exchange Ltd. A.B.N. 13 003 159 617

426-B3949.01

Includes a fascinating FREE FACT CARD!



PAY NOTHING NOW

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

Please Respond Promptly

YES! Please reserve the "70th Anniversary Lancaster Bomber Clock" for me as described in this advertisement. I understand I need pay nothing now.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reserve yours today. 3 easy options:

1. MAIL no stamp required, to:
The Bradford Exchange, Reply Paid 86369
Parramatta NSW 2124

or 2. PHONE: Toll-Free 1300 725 103
8am-5pm E.S.T Mon – Fri

or 3. ONLINE at www.bradford.com.au/lwf
quoting promotion code: **89566**

For Christmas delivery, order online or call before 5pm 18th December 2016 (major cities and Eastern Seaboard) or 14th December for other areas. If responding by mail, we must receive this coupon by 9th December 2016 and your first instalment by 16th December 2016. *Express Delivery for Christmas delivery available up to 21st December 2016 on phone orders only for an additional flat fee of \$10 – call 1300 725 103. All sales subject to product availability and reservation acceptance. Credit criteria may apply. Our privacy policy is available online at www.bradford.com.au. From time to time, we may allow carefully screened companies to contact you. If you would prefer not to receive such offers, please tick this box. □

RETURN TO MILNE BAY

By Hilton Lenard

They landed on the night of 25 August 1942 and quickly established a beachhead at the insignificant village of Wahuhuba, on the northern shore of Milne Bay. Within hours they had constructed a sandbag jetty and commenced the unloading of the main body and equipment.

By the end of the next night, 2,400 mostly commando troops from the Japanese Navy Marines, supported by two small Japanese Type 95 Ha-Go jungle tanks, commenced their revenge for the naval loss at the Battle of the Coral Sea, just three months earlier. Their intelligence directed they were to destroy the one or two conscript battalions of Australian infantry, defending the remote and isolated Bay. Their task, they thought, was a simple walk in the dark, something the Japanese were well trained and experienced.

Within fourteen days over 600 Japanese were confirmed dead, killed in extremely bloody fighting with the Australians, and over 500 wounded with just 10 captured by the Australians. It quickly developed into a 'take no prisoners' by both sides. Over the following months many more Japanese bodies were located around the dense jungle battle sights and floating in the Bay and its estuaries. The remaining exhausted and starving Japanese troops, they landed with only two-days rations, less their tanks left destroyed in the jungle, were extracted by their naval resources on the evening of 7 September. Australian losses were 161 killed and 535 wounded. None of the Australians captured survived.

Victory came at Milne Bay just as the Australians were forced to withdrawal from Isurava, on the Kokoda Trail. News of Milne Bay resinated throughout allied nations around the world. It had not been that easy walk in the dark. The Japanese were, for the very first time in an amphibious battle, defeated on land of their own choosing!



Why is such a desperate yet well-executed and significant defensive battle at such a critical moment of WW2, so little known?

Milne Bay is horseshoe shaped at the extreme eastern tip of mainland PNG. At around 60 kilometres in length and 20 wide, it is a natural deep-water harbour. The Owen Stanley Ranges, the spine of the entire New Guinea island, drops down to peaks of just 1,000 meters on the north edge of that horseshoe, with a spur running around the west and southern

The landing place of the Japanese on the north shore of Milne Bay. Delta Company of 61st Battalion was responsible for this eastern flank of the defensive position. The most eastern platoon was centred on the furthermost visible land and another platoon just behind the photographer. These platoons took the brunt of the initial landing and fought their way back to No 3 strip in a fighting withdrawal lasting six days.



sides of the Bay. Despite its idyllic tropical appearance, in 1942 it was a tropical hellhole. The sun seldom penetrated through the extensive clouds. It rained nearly all the time with 5-6 metres of rain annually falling on the surrounding ranges then flowing through many creeks into the Bay. Malaria caused far greater casualties to the Australians than any enemy. There was no infrastructure, just a few muddy narrow tracks following the northern shoreline, with frequent deep and dangerous creek crossings. Additional walking-only tracks radiate up into the surrounding small mountain villages. No industry, just native villages and several copra and cattle plantations. Nothing existed to support the ensuing short but bloody battle, other than water!

The significance of Milne Bay was not the turf or even the harbour. It was the location in August 1942 of a single airstrip carved out of a very wet and muddy jungle.

Fighter and bomber aircraft flying from Milne Bay could cover the entire Solomon Sea, from Japanese controlled Lae north-east to Rabaul, a major Japanese supply base for the assault of Port Moresby over the Kokoda Trail. The Japanese forces were, at that time, just about overlooking Port Moresby. The airfield provided fighter and bomber domination to the southeast towards the USA Marine campaign at Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands). Aircraft stationed at the Bay also covered the Coral Sea. Whoever controlled the airfield at Milne Bay, controlled the naval and airspace approaches to north eastern Australia.

US Engineers, using strips of interlocking steel forming large matting for parking and taxing areas and the actual airstrip, had hastily constructed Number 1 Strip. The steel matting could be laid direct on the muddy ground surface thereby spreading the load of aircraft over a large area to prevent bogging. Number 2 and 3 strips were still under construction. The 7th Infantry Brigade was initially deployed to defended the Bay with headquarters near the small government administrative centre of Gili Gili,

at the head of the Bay. It comprised 25th Battalion held in reserve and the 61st Battalion at No 3 strip with B and D companies in platoon defensive positions spread along the northern shoreline of the Bay. Army Headquarters Melbourne intercepted enemy signals indicating Japanese intention to invade Milne Bay. 18th Infantry Brigade of the 7th AIF Division, back from the successful Middle East Syrian campaign, was hastily rushed to the hellhole. Comprising 2/9th, 2/10th and 2/12th AIF Battalions, they landed in small craft from the transports as there was limited port facilities, and immediately took up in-depth positions behind the two CMF Battalions, with the Brigade HQ at No 1 Strip.

The force Commander, Major General Cyril "Silent" Clowes, a brilliant Artillery commander from the Great War and WW2, also had at his disposal 75 and 76 Squadrons of Australian Kittyhawk fighters, commanded by Group Captain William Garing DFC, a daring and brave fighter pilot. For the first time the fighters were used in the direct support of Australian infantry. So effective was their use, the Australians dominated the daylight hours.

The manual for close air support of infantry by the RAAF, was subsequently based on their operations at Milne Bay. But the nights belong to the Japanese

61 Battalion took the brunt of the Japanese assault, with the initial landing occurring between the two extreme eastern platoon positions of Delta Company. The Companies commenced a bloody fighting withdrawal through the stinking mud, rain and mosquitos, fighting for every creek crossing and defensive position. The 2/12 Battalions deployed to support the decimated 61 Battalion troops and over the next nights both Battalions continued the delaying defensive battle back towards the not yet finished No 3 strip. The strip provided a cleared defensive line through the thick jungle. The party of American Engineers manned a machine post the encirclement of the withdrawing Australians, a usual Japanese tactic. So critical was this stage of the battle, the Kittyhawks were flown back to Moresby each night, so not to be destroyed on the ground by infiltration in the dark. But the two RAAF Squadrons continued their intensive ground support during all daylight hours, landing frequently at No 1 strip to refuel, re-arm and undertake urgent repairs during the day. Their ground staff worked around the clock to keep the machines flying.

On the night of 28 August the Japanese assault on No 3 strip failed. It was touch and go for most of the night, but the Australian infantry line held the south-eastern side of the great scar through the jungle. The 2/9 Battalion broke out of the main defensive position around Strip 3. And pushed the enemy, now exhausted, low on ammunition and out of food, back along the costal strip. The Japanese had advanced just 14 kilometres before withdrawing and the final Japanese evacuation on the night of 7 September 1942.

It was during the Australian advance that the dreadful atrocities against the natives and the captured Australian troops became clear. Both soldiers and natives had been disembowelled, decapitated, used for repeated bayonet practice and native women rapped, mutilated and then bayoneted.

A captured Japanese 50 mm mountain gun mounted in the Battle for Milne Bay Memorial Park, located on the eastern end on the Number 3 strip. It marks the site where the Japanese advance was finally halted and the Australians forced the Japanese back to their landing place at the village of Wahuhuba and out of Milne Bay and the eastern end on New Guinea.



Why did the Japanese Naval forces fail at Milne Bay? Their intelligence had not been updated from the initial force of one or two conscript Australian infantry battalions. The RAAF had clearly prevented any effective aerial reconnaissance of the battleground. So the Japanese were outnumbered from the start. But there is a twist to the story. Over the Owen Stanley Range along the northern shoreline is Goodenough Bay and within, Goodenough Island. The Japanese landed a battalion plus force with considerable stores and support on the Island with barges for mobility. The intention of this force is not clear. Two opinions exist. One is that they were to attack over the narrow section of the Owen Stanley Range to a point west of No 3 strip. If successfully undertaken, the battle for No 3 Strip may have had a different outcome. The cable decoding at AHQ Melbourne, supports this proposal. The second theory is they were to proceed in their barges along the inside north coast of the Bay in support of the main force attacking on ground along that route. Again an assault landing somewhere near Gili Gili at the head of the Bay and behind No 3 Strip defensive line may have had an affect on the battle outcome. This defies the normal Japanese tactic of wide encirclement. But both theories remain conjecture. The RAAF located and destroyed the barges and much of the stores. Natives on Goodenough subsequently reported a 'large fish' swallowing the Japanese from the Island after the battle. What they saw were the Japanese submarines sent to extract the defeated force.



The north west corner of Milne Bay today from the administrative centre of Gili Gili and No 3 airstrip to the rear of the photographer and the cruise ship tied up at Alotau, now the capital of Milne Bay Province. The rugged 3,000 foot Owen Stanley range is just to the north or left of the photo.

Major (Retd) Hilton Lenard's interest of the Milne Bay campaign developed during his first visit in 1980, while seconded to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force as the PNGDF Director of Manpower. Returning in June 2016 on a P&O cruise, he re-examined the ground of this little known but vital Australian military operation.

DFWA SHOP

If you wish to place an order for any of the DFWA Shop items, please complete the order form details below and send your order to the address shown.



Men's Bisley Shirt

A high quality collared shirt with embroidered DFWA badge. Light blue colour and available in long or short sleeve. Size range XL, L, M, S.

\$45.00 including postage



Women's Bisley Shirt

A high quality collared shirt with embroidered DFWA badge. Light blue colour and available in long or short sleeve. Size range XL, L, M, S.

\$55.00 including postage



DFWA Polo Shirt (JB's Wear)

Smart looking polo shirt in Navy blue with gold trim and embroidered DFWA badge. Size range XXL, XL, L, M, S.

\$36.00 including postage



Zip Front Jacket

Navy blue with DFWA embroidered badge. Size range XXL, XL, L, M, S.

\$75.00 including postage



Zip Front Vest

Navy blue with DFWA embroidered badge. Size range XXL, XL, L, M, S.

\$35.00 including postage



DFWA Metal Lapel Badge

Attractive enamel finish with single pin attachment.

\$5.00 including postage



DFWA Cloth Pocket Badge

with three attachment pins.

\$10.00 including postage



DFWA Embroidered Cloth Patch

On a navy blue background.

\$10.00 including postage



DFWA Cap

Navy blue with DFWA embroidered badge.

\$15.00 including postage

DFWA Shop Order Form

ITEM	SIZE	QTY/SIZE	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1. Bisley Shirt - Men's	XL, L M, S		\$39.95	
2. Bisley Shirt — Women's	XL, L, M, S		\$50.00	
3. DFWA Cap	xxxxx		\$15.00	
4. DFWA Lapel Badge	xxxxx		\$5.00	
5. DFWA Polo Shirt	XXL XL, L M, S		\$30.00	
6. DFWA Cloth Badge	xxxxx		\$10.00	
7. Embroidered Patch	xxxxx		\$10.00	
8. DFWA Zip Front Jacket	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$69.00	
9. DFWA Zip Front Vest	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$29.00	
TOTAL DUE \$				

Notes:

1. Please note that Bisley shirts are generally one size larger than most other brands.
2. All prices include postage.
3. Please specify the size required (where applicable) in the quantity column

Please enter your contact and payment details below and send your completed order form to:

**DFWA QLD INC,
Victoria Barracks Brisbane, Enoggera QLD 4051**

Or email your order and payment details to:

qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

YOUR DETAILS:

Title Initial Surname

Address

..... State

Postcode Phone

Email

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Internet Banking/Direct Debit:

Bank of QLD BSB 124 076 Account No: 10 480 398

Or enclose Cheque/Money Order: \$

Signature:

Date: / /



Corporal Cosmo Speaks

Final Pay Increase – current WRA

As I write, the final 2% increase commences (3 November 2016) for members covered by the 2014-2017 Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA 2014-17). This means, 2017 should see the commencement of negotiations between the CDF – representing ADF members – and the Commonwealth – representing the Government, for the next pay deal.

Future Pay Increase – future WRA

So what can we look forward to this time next year?

In the military, we're all about lessons learned, (or is that 'lessons learnt'? I never know which one...) Well, what have we learned from the last two WRAs?

In 2009, CDF asked for 'feedback' on the proposed offer. 65% of 26,000 ADF members did not support the offer, but we were 'awarded' the pay deal anyhow. We didn't get to offer 'feedback' on the 2014-17 WRA, so I guess the lesson learnt was, don't ask if you don't want to know the answer...

In the current WRA case, under the Abbott-led Government, we had a number of service conditions removed for a below-inflation pay 'offer'. Then the ADF pay deal was kicked around like the proverbial 'political football' before the Government relinquished by reinstating the conditions of service and adding a small percentage to the original 'offer'. Finally, the Minister for Defence (Mr Andrews) stood before the TV cameras and announced:

This decision provides certainty to ADF personnel and their families, who play such a significant role in supporting them.

In reality, despite what the Minister said in March 2015, we know there is no certainty in how salary increases for ADF members, subject to the WRA, are decided.

When elected representatives choose to personally intervene and essentially overrule the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal, it seems to my small mind that the process is broken. How can it be repaired? Should it be repaired?

CDF is in a very difficult position when it comes to representing

his workforce before the DFRT due to legislative constraints, (see section 58KD of the Defence Act). Perhaps 2017 could be the first time in many years that a combined position (between the CDF and the Commonwealth), is not agreed upon prior to requesting a hearing before the Tribunal?

Productivity increases = salary increases

We are often told that any salary increase is contingent upon increases in productivity. What would you give up for a salary increase?

A little-known benefit (to the taxpayer), of the introduction of a new superannuation scheme for those joining the ADF post 1 July 2016 (ADF Super), is the forecast reduction in projected unfunded liabilities associated with defined-benefit superannuation schemes.

An unfunded liability is essentially an I-O-U or promise from the Government to make a payment to an individual in the future. In this case, a fortnightly military pension payment, or lump sum, when eligible to receive it.

Through the closure of MSBS, the Australian Government Actuary has forecast that the cost of meeting those unfunded liability obligations will be reduced by \$202 billion over the next 40 years. (see: http://aga.gov.au/publications/mil_super_2014/downloads/Mil_Super_2014.pdf)

Averaged out, that's a saving to the Government of more than \$5 billion per year. More than enough to fund a salary increase for one of the hardest working outfits in Australia.

If you have an idea or opinion about how the next pay deal should be done, drop me a line or get in touch with the DFWA.

Carpet cleaning charges

Recently, having received his posting order, a colleague was getting his pre-removal affairs in order and noticed a fee of about \$75 that will be charged when they vacate their Service Residence.

Many of you will be familiar with the fee. The fee is a charge for cleaning carpeted stairs.

Continued page 37

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 Retired Navy Army Air Force Allied

Spouse of ADF member Widow/Widower of former ADF Member N/A

MY SUPERANNUATION FUND: ADFSUPER MSBS DFRDB DFRB

PAYMENT:

\$ is my annual / 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.dfwa.org.au)

Signature Date: / / 20

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	FEES
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force	\$40.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above	\$20.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	
Serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force	\$560.00
Spouses, widows and widowers of the above	\$300.00

The member didn't dispute the charge – of course it is reasonable to charge extra to clean carpet on stairs, it takes more time and effort.

The issue is that the additional carpet cleaning charge is not mentioned or documented in any agreement or publication. Which raises the question, how does Toll/DHA legally recover money from an individual for a cost that isn't in any way identified – until you receive an email when moving out?

The fee isn't detailed on the DHA tenancy agreement or Defence's Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN).

I'm sure if a civilian property manager tried to spring a \$75 fee on you when it wasn't previously agreed upon, there wouldn't be much chance of it being paid.

I'm not saying that the carpet cleaning fee for stairs has to be removed, but how about having everything above board and specifically listing it on the DHA Tenant Acknowledgement Form?

Better still; why not treat carpet cleaning the same way as the Water Contribution fee? Every occupant of a Service Residence is charged the Water Contribution charge. Why not increase the carpet cleaning fee, currently about \$290, to \$300 and eliminate the \$75 fee for carpeted stairs?

Remember:

Corporal Cosmo's comments are his/her own, reflecting his/her opinions only.



THE CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE VETERANS' DISABILITY PENSIONS TO THEIR RIGHTFUL RATE

In 2007 the TPI Federation achieved, after a 10-year battle, a campaign result that enabled a structural adjustment to the full TPI payment with a payment of \$50 plus a subsequent payment of \$20. The Government also allowed for the General Rate (GR) component indexation to be equal to the Above General Rate i.e. the General Rate indexation was based on CPI and the Above General Rate (AGR) was based on 25% of MTAWE (Male Total Average Weekly Earnings). The 2007 decision enabled the whole TPI payment to utilise 25% of MTAWE as the indexation base.

In 2009 the Government commissioned the Harmer Review. It addressed three key terms of reference:

- a. the appropriate levels of income support and allowances;
- b. the frequency of payments; and
- c. the structure and payment of concessions or other entitlements.

The Harmer Review was only ever an income support review. This also included the indexation methodology.

The result of the Harmer Review enabled the aged pension to use the poverty line as a base level. A structural payment was made to those on income support payments to bring it into line with the new age pension base level. At the same time the Harmer Review



decided that 25% of MTAWE was not a fair indexation method and it did not maintain the purchasing power that the aged pension required. As a result, the indexation was increased to 27.7% of MTAWE as a base level.

All recipients of all income support payments, including all DVA disability recipients, received this increase in the MTAWE indexation level.

In 2015 the TPI Federation requested that the Above General Rate be based on a community wage standard. To date there has not been a relation with any form of community wage standard for the Above General Rate even though it is an Income Replacement Compensation. MRCA recipients have the choice of receiving 75% of their discharge wage all the while the TPI compensation is currently only receiving 65% of the tax adjusted minimum wage. Ask yourself – is this sufficient?

The TPI Federation believes that the full tax-adjusted minimum wage is a bare minimum that a Veteran should receive as compensation for economic loss. The Government has an undeniable duty to their Veterans and should be aligning the economic loss component of this compensation payment to at least the tax-adjusted minimum wage.



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 President (Navy)	Ralph Deridge MBE
Vice President (RAAF)	Alan Hind
Vice President (Army)	TBA
Hon Auditor	Alan Williams CPA
Membership Sec.	John Kane
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

CENTRAL WEST
Anthony (Tony) Horsington
45 Dalton Street
PARKES NSW 2870
Mobile: 0412 299 331

HUNTER VALLEY
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 May 2016.

Mrs L Bornholm, Mr N Butler, PO G J Copeland, WO2 J C Dunningham, Mr W A Fuller, LAC Y S Gahlain, SQNLDR D Gaudry, Mr S Hogan, LS S Keating, PO D Ledger, Mrs B J Morrison, Mrs L F Oldfield, WGCDR C M Phelan, CPL R Smart, AB S Weigh, Mr J Youd.

VALE

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

CMDR R D Clarke, Mr G J Clunes, Miss Marie Cunningham, Mr D W Donkin MBE, SQNLDR J R Doohan, LTCOL R D Hamlyn, Mr J S Hogg, Mr N McMaster, GPCAPT M J Moore DFC, Mr D J Quick, GPCAPT CW Rowland, LTCOL W J Robson, Mrs M Le M Scrivenor, Mrs P T Sharpe, Mrs B Snow, Mr W H Sullivan.

ACT BRANCH

President:	Les Bienkiewicz
Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Gerard Gough
Treasurer:	Paul Jones
Convenor 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.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members Mrs Norma Beard and Mrs June McCluskey

VALE

It is with regret that the death of the following members is advised: Mrs Margaret Goyne, Mrs Ailsa Hickey, CMDR Jane Greenslade, COL Richard McCluskey, Mrs Noreen Watch, Mrs Marjorie Sharp, Mrs Endree Hay, Mrs Patricia Cooper, Mrs Gwen Gabel, Mrs Shirley Burrage, Mrs Katie Smith, MAJ Phillip Perman OAM, CDRE Daryl Fox AM.

VALE - MRS LORELLE MOORE. We regret to advise that Mrs Lorelle Moore OAM, the first President of the ACT Defence Widows Support Group, sadly passed away recently, just two days before her 100th birthday. An obituary will be published in the next edition of Camaraderie.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 4th October 2016, at The Burns Club, Kambah. Reports presented to the meeting can be found on the DFWA website (<http://www.dfwा.org.au/branches/act>).

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President:	John Lewis
Exec Vice President:	Robert Shortridge
Vice President	Pat Jackman
VP – Far North Qld	Kel Ryan
VP – Sunshine Coast	Win Fowles
Secretary:	Rod Brittain
Treasurer:	Walter Buldo
Postal Address:	Victoria Barracks Brisbane ENOGERA QLD 4051
Telephone:	(07) 3233 4480
E-mail:	qldbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Tue – Wed: 1000 to 1400 hrs

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

AGM

Our AGM was held in September resulting in one new Committee Member and two other members swapping responsibilities. John Lewis is now President and Rob Shortridge is Executive Vice President. Welcome to Pat Jackman, an Army fang farrier from way back, who is a new Vice President. Thankfully, all other Committee Members agreed to stay on.

REGIONAL BRIEFINGS

Following on from our well-received regional briefing in Toowoomba, we held a meeting at Nerang RSL and Services Club for our Gold Coast region members and representatives of other ESOs. There was good attendance from other ESOs. The Chaplain from Canungra and 4 other ADF members from the Land Warfare Centre and the WO/NCO Academy also attended. The RSL provided the venue gratis. We provided an update on superannuation, the ADF Pay saga, the Defence Force Covenant, DVA issues, Mefloquine, Service Records and the FOI issue and ADSO (Ted Chitham assisting). There were useful discussions before, during and after the presentation. While attendance by DFWA members from the Gold Coast was disappointing, the briefings have drawn favourable response from ADF and other ESOs and has raised DFWA profile. Several had not heard of DFWA.

Our Cairns-based FNQ VP, Kel Ryan took a quick trip down the road to Townsville to provide welfare support and to man a stand at the RAAF Air Show. This was combined with a DFWA briefing at the Townsville RSL as well as meeting the press and liaising with other ESOs. It certainly raised our profile and highlighted the need for a recognisable presence of DFWA in Townsville. The Townsville Council has established a Townsville Defence Community Reference Group with ESOs, ADF and local community representatives. As Kel pointed out, Townsville is a bit more than a little trip down the road from Cairns (400K one way) and a DFWA VP in Townsville would be a helpful start, especially with the large ADF presence and an increasing number of support requests.

We will continue with regional meetings in the New Year with one on the Sunshine Coast.

ADF TRANSITION SEMINARS

We continue to have a stand at the Transition Seminars (Resettlement in old words) and do the presentation on Ex-Service Organisations in turn with other ESO. About 200 attendees with the bulk serving less than 12 years. While we have to use the existing dated PowerPoint presentation, our words differ from the approved script and continue to change.

We started attending the seminars about three years ago with aim of raising our profile and gaining members, however our focus has actually morphed into something else. This is a result of greater interaction with the younger generation of serving members and spouses. There is a real need to be able to provide advice to those who are being med discharged, are fighting a med discharge or

wondering whether to declare a disability that puts them at risk of a med discharge which may or may not preclude returning to full-time duty, service on the Reserve and on top of that might be facing divorce and child support issues. The ATO, ComSuper, Child Support, Centrelink, DVA and the ADF get involved and the only place all of these issues come together and where options can be developed is with the member contemplating or facing discharge and a new life.

REPRESENTATIONAL

We are represented at the following fora:

Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council (QVAC) under Department of Premier and State (DPS).

The ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee, chaired by the Premier, founded in January 1916, and responsible for the Brisbane Dawn Service, Remembrance Day and the Students Anzac Commemorative Service as well as assisting with the main Brisbane ANZAC Service, Also under DPS.

Queensland Consultative Forum run by DVA. (QCF) providing regular updates and discussions on DVA support.

Queensland Forum of Ex-Service Organisations (QFE) with representatives from ADF, DVA and ESO and generally hosted by RSL Qld aiming to get greater co-operation amongst ESO.

DFWA (Qld) was officially represented at the main ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony Services in Brisbane. Office bearers also attended other services and gave addresses to schools, churches, aged care homes and a lodge around ANZAC Day as well as conducting Poppy Services throughout the year.

On 22 April 2016 a project of the Canon Garland Memorial Society finally came to fruition with the dedication of a memorial at St Mary's Church, Kangaroo Point and its gifting to the people of Queensland. DFWA was represented along with other ESO and high level representation from the ADF, and all levels of government. Canon Garland was the inaugural Secretary of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee. The memorial was a fitting tribute to the man they have called "The Architect of ANZAC Day".

MILITARY COVENANT.

We presented a paper proposing a Queensland Veterans' Charter to the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council and achieved support for the concept. A proposal is to be developed and submitted to the Premier. It is to be hoped that a Military/Defence Covenant/Charter/Accord (?) starts to get traction at Federal level among the ESOs. It should be at least the one thing all ESO could endorse.

John Lewis - President DFWAQ.

Continued overpage

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron	His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia
President	Vacant
Deputy President	Vacant
Immediate Past President	John Wilson
Senior Vice-President	Laurie Lewis
Secretary	Maria Barclay
Treasurer	Ian Smith
Vice President (Navy)	TBA
Vice President (Army)	Paul (Tich) Tyson
Vice President (Air Force)	Lee Bowes
Honorary Auditor	John D Thornton FAICD FAIM FCPA
Convenor Women Veterans	TBA
Membership Officer	Peter Jackman
Contact:	0411 137 813 or email sabranch@dfwa.org.au

INTRODUCTION

The heavy lifting to re-establish the South Australian Branch is largely complete. We are financially sound, membership is steadily increasing and the Branch is now acknowledged in the national DFWA structure as well as SA state ex-service organisations. The draft Constitution is almost complete to enable the Committee to seek incorporation of the Branch in South Australia. The opportunity is now here for the SA Branch to consolidate, to focus on re-generation and build on the work done by the original committee.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Given the two years since our re-establishment the financial position of the SA Branch is sound and represents a solid base for the future. Support for the DFWA Raffle has been good and net proceeds have boosted our bank balance.

The Committee is 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.

SPONSORSHIP

Once again sincere thanks to our Branch major sponsor, Blackwell Funerals. Your Committee is very grateful for the generous and enthusiastic support provided by Jason Maher, General Manager - South Australia & Tasmania, Funeral Division, InvoCare and Steve Gregory, Regional Manager, SA, Torrensville Branch. The commitment of Blackwell Funerals to our Branch is significant and greatly appreciated.

ANZAC CENTENARY MEMORIAL GARDEN WALK

The Anzac Centenary Memorial Garden Walk in Kintore Avenue, Adelaide has won awards for design and continues to attract tremendous community interest. For those DFWA (SA) members who have not yet seen the Anzac Centenary Memorial Garden Walk, do so as soon as you can. It is a truly remarkable monument and an outstanding achievement for the SA veteran community. If you're visiting from interstate, don't miss seeing this brilliant acknowledgement to those who have served and who continue to serve.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (SA)

Your Branch President spoke recently with the new Deputy Commissioner for DVA for South Australia, Ms Janice Silby. Janice brings a fresh mind to veterans' affairs but is very keen to speak with and to hear from serving and

ex-serving members of the ADF about their concerns. We welcome Janice to her new and challenging role and offer her the support and cooperation of SA Branch members.

DFWA MEMBERSHIP – REMEMBER, THINGS HAVE CHANGED!

Members are reminded that from 1 July 2016, your membership changed to a Financial Year basis – i.e., 1 July to 30 June. If you haven't renewed your subscription, please attend to it as soon as possible. Our infant branch finances need to be built up to a satisfactory level.

ILLNESS OR DEATH AFFECTING MEMBERSHIP

The welfare of members and their families is our primary concern. To ensure that the Membership Officer, Peter Jackman and members of the Committee are able to monitor the welfare of all of our Branch members, please ensure that a family member or close friend has access to contact details to advise us in the event of your illness, injury or, in the worst case, death. Notifications can be sent to the Branch at sabranch@dfwa.org.au, or by contacting a member of the Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Branch AGM was held at Blackwell Funeral, Torrensville on Friday 21 October 2016. Sincere thanks to National President David Jamison AM who travelled to Adelaide to brief members attending and to share the excellent luncheon provided by our sponsors, Blackwell Funerals. Thank you David. Attendance by members was disappointing but we were able to welcome important guests, CMDR Pat O'Brien ADC RAN, CO NHQ SA, CPO Kara Williams RAN, Bandmaster, LTCOL Bernie White, CO 16 Air Land Regiment and WO1 Jock Lindsay Group WO, Air Warfare Centre RAAF Edinburgh. Thank you to those ADF members who made time out of their busy schedule to attend our AGM. We were also very pleased to welcome Stephen Phillips, DFWA SA member from Robe. Stephen kindly volunteered to be a caretaker for Branch business in the SE of the state.

The most important issue to arise from the AGM is that the positions of President and Deputy President are now vacant. Our President John Wilson has had to stand down due to ill health and there was no nomination for the positions of President or Deputy President. Efforts are presently underway to find replacements. Please give this your utmost consideration. Without these two appointments (and we haven't had an effective Deputy President for the past three years) the future of our Branch is uncertain. The work to re-establish the Branch has been done but we need an effective Committee to move on.

Thanks to Maria Barclay, Ian Smith, Laurie Lewis, Lee Bowes and Peter Jackman who re-nominated for their positions. Thanks also to Paul Tyson who nominated as Vice-President Army.

NEW DFWA WEBSITE

Peter Jackman, Membership Officer, reported on the launch of the new DFWA website. Peter's work in managing the Branch aspects of the new website and Membership Roll has been outstanding and much appreciated. If you haven't looked at it yet, the website is very impressive. Peter will be making announcements about registering on the Members' Roll.

THANK YOU

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation for the work and dedication of our committee members during 2016. Most of us have either our own health problems and/or we are caring for a partner. Despite these difficulties, the Committee has generally achieved good results.

Thank you for the opportunity to be President of the South Australian Branch for the past three years. I will follow the efforts of the Branch over the next year and into the future.

Best wishes for Christmas and a happy, healthy 2017.

John Wilson, Immediate Past President

VICTORIA BRANCH

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

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

ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Victoria Branch continues to struggle to attract new members to both our Committee and general membership. To put it mildly, we are struggling to survive. Greg Powell has settled in very well as our new Secretary/Treasurer since taking over in July, and, as always, has been a tower of strength. However, what has become increasingly apparent is that Greg and I cannot continue to run the Branch by ourselves, being overwhelmed by day-to-day detail. Fortunately, our ex Sec/Treas, Peter Newman has continued to come in, on an ad-hoc basis, when free and well enough health wise but, being well into his eighties, the time he is able to give will become increasingly limited. Brian Broadribb comes down from Ballarat most Thursdays but, unfortunately, cannot commit to anything major because of his 'home-town' Legacy duties and as chairman of the Ballarat ESO Council.

Without a membership officer on our committee, in particular to be available at transition seminars, the chance of finding new younger members is extremely difficult. However, unless we do, the Branch will cease to exist as an entity, handing all to National Office, who have their own problems administration wise, no longer having an assistant to aid the Executive Director.

THE SORRY SAGA OF HEARING AIDS

In submissions and correspondence to DVA, DFWA has highlighted the implications which can flow from not properly treating veteran hearing impairment. Specifically, there is mounting and compelling evidence that untreated or inadequately treated hearing deficits significantly increases the risk of social withdrawal and isolation leading to anxiety, depression and early onset dementia. Furthermore, recent evidence tells us that those clients who choose Top-Up devices wear their hearing aids for significantly longer periods than those who have basic level aids. This has the potential, therefore, to have a very positive impact on social inclusion and the

debilitating illnesses of depression, anxiety and PTSD. With research also indicating that people with hearing difficulties experience a significant increase in hospitalization, the economic burden of providing access to only basic level rather than quality hearing devices is indisputable.

As put forward in our DFWA Submission on Funding of Hearing Aids to the Hearing Services Working Group meeting on 4Nov16, it follows axiomatically that providing early intervention and access to quality mid-range hearing devices for veterans would be an excellent mid to long term investment for Government and DVA because of the potential to markedly reduce DVA's health care costs and significantly improve veteran mental health and wellbeing, recognising the initial cost penalty would be only a few hundred dollars.

Regrettably, the hearing aid saga indicates the DVA culture remains budget and process oriented rather than being veteran centric, meaning, *inter alia*: that the three Acts impacting veterans are not being interpreted favourably; and all action seems to lack open, frank and constructive thought, being adversarial and dismissive in nature.

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:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Lou Halvorsen
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 *The Western Front*.

LOST CONTACT

The Branch has lost contact with the following (last known town/suburb in brackets): Mr F Carlson (Lynwood), Mr J Watts (Calista), Mr Brad Brown (Mosman Park), Maj L Daniels (Mirrabooka), Mr Alan Goodacre (Joondanna), Mr K Leppard (Canning Vale), Mr F J Reynolds (High Wycombe), Mr JM Reynolds (Bull Creek), Ms D Watters (Bullsbrook), Mrs Jakki Hemsworth (Halls Head), Mr J Farrell (Boyup Brook), and Mrs AF Bennett (Booragoon). Please advise the DFWA WA Branch office if you know the whereabouts of these people.

BRANCH AGM

The Branch AGM, held at RAAFA Bull Creek in September, was well attended. Mr Andrew Pittaway gave a fascinating talk on his volunteer work identifying remains of Australian soldiers from the First World War who are

buried under 'Unknown Soldier Headstones'. To date he is responsible for identifying 15 previously unknown soldiers who have now been successfully named. Andrew is an Archivist and Historian with the Fremantle Council, but he has a deep interest in Australian Military History.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

Congratulations to Mr Bill Wilson who won one of the consolation prizes in this year's draw. My thanks go to all members who supported this year's raffle, and also to those members who included a donation with their raffle money. Donations are very gratefully received and do support the amazing work that DFWA does in assisting not only those who serve and have served our country, but also their families.

SECRETARY

The position of Secretary remains open. Recently Allan Austin offered to man the office once a week and do various tasks, so with his help, the secretarial role will not be an onerous one at all. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact the President.

DWG WA BRANCH

The DWG meets regularly at the DVA offices every second month. They are currently preparing for their Christmas morning tea on Monday 12 December.

POWER OUTAGE AT DFWA OFFICE

Due to major electrical upgrade work within Irwin Barracks, unfortunately all power has been switched off to our office from Monday 8th November until mid December. This means no telephone etc. Notification about the power outage came too late to inform members.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office in Karrakatta will be closed from Thursday 15th December and reopen on Monday 23rd January 2017. The answering machine in the office will be checked from time to time. For urgent matters, please email wabranch@dfwa.org.au and your request will be seen within a short period of time.

MONEY MATTERS *Continued from page 25*

USEFUL WEB SITES

www.moneysmart.gov.au – Calculators and tips from ASIC and the Australian Government, to help you make better financial decisions.
www.adfconsumer.gov.au – I suggest you subscribe to the free Monthly Newsletter

TAURUS

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



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

Rank/Title Name

Address

State Postcode Phone

Alternatively, make an electronic deposit as follows:

Account Name: Defence Force Welfare Association

BSB: 803 205

Account Number: 20656807

A receipt will be sent to you on request.

MAKE YOUR FUTURE SUPER



For 40 years, Defence Bank has provided products to help our members build a secure future. We offer a range of super and pension options from:

- > Zero fees on all RSA products
- > A range of investment choices
- > Tax-free Pensions available
- > Free financial consultations and advice
- > View all accounts in Online Banking



1800 033 139 (8am to 8pm AEST weekdays)



defencebank.com.au/superfuture



Defence Bank

1



MONTH'S STORAGE FREE



15% OFF PACKING MATERIALS

DFWA & ADF MEMBERS & FAMILY ONLY. OFFER ENDS 30TH NOVEMBER 2017. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SEE IN STORE FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF OUR DFWA & ADF

1800 100 700
STORAGEKING.COM.AU
SIMPLE STORAGE SOLUTIONS

