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CAMARADERIE

Second Edition 2018

VOL. 49 NO. 2

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



Vol. 49. No. 2 Second Edition 2018

PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ADF AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

Material for inclusion in the next edition should reach the Editor at the above address, ideally as a MSWord document attached to an email, no later than Thursday 1 November 2018.

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

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

The DFWA has continued to do much "behind the scenes" on a range of important issues affecting serving and past members of the ADF and their families, and I commend the National Office report that details our recent works. That said, our good works will count for naught if the Association doesn't grow .. please make an effort to get more to join ! in the meantime, I trust you enjoy this edition

Les Bienkiewicz

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FRONT COVER

Flight Lieutenant Rosie Callery, of the Royal Air Force, is currently deployed on exchange program Long Look, in Australia, a four month visit. The exchange officer, from RAF Marham, has been embedded into No. 1 Security Forces Squadron, RAAF Base Williamtown. Long Look has been a military exchange event, conducted annually since 1976. It epitomises the close working relationship that the UK Armed Forces has with Australian Defence Forces. Flight Lieutenant Callery will focus her learning on Military Working Dogs and the training of RAAF Security Forces during the exchange

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

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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); Trevor Goodhew and Kerry Mellor.

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

NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (February 2018 to June 2018)



INTRODUCTION

The period since the last edition of Camaraderie has been marked by yet more political turmoil with three MPs now having held the Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel portfolios in the last six months. Ministerial stability in the portfolios so critical to the Defence and ex service communities seems somehow never a priority for the Government, albeit the current and newly appointed (wef 5 March 2018) incumbent, the Hon Darren Chester MP, is thankfully no 'newby' to Defence-related portfolios having previously been a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence and then an Assistant Minister for Defence. In that regard he has been able to hit the so-to-speak road running. The veterans community in particular thus welcomes his appointment.

And welcomes also the newly appointed Secretary for Veterans' Affairs, Ms Liz Cosson, who in her own right is a veteran, having served in the ADF for more than 30 years, and who is more than familiar with veterans issues, having served for some time in the Department itself as the Chief Operating Officer and its Deputy Secretary. In that capacity she led DVA's long-anticipated reform process aimed at much improving levels of service delivery. Her announced priorities in the next 12 months are to successfully implement the reforms in train as quickly as possible, and to engage with younger veterans assisting them to more easily transition from military service to civilian life, a process which in the past left many to their own devices.

Proposed Australian Military Covenant

Some proof that Minister Chester and Secretary Cosson are outcomes and results driven is evidenced by their early agreement to meet with and listen to what DFWA, RSL National and the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations have jointly long-advocated, namely the need for an Australian Military Covenant. It is a concept that flows from the now widely accepted principle of the unique nature of service in the ADF, compared to service in any other vocational endeavour, including the emergency service and/or first responder professions.

In short, 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 of their lives and well-being. Moreover, failure by ADF personnel to comply with such legitimate orders or to act dishonourably in the face of the enemy makes them liable to severe criminal sanctions; this is very much a unique aspect of military service.

The consequence of these truisms is that of a need to place on the public record an instrument designed to articulate what has thus far been the largely unwritten mutual obligations between the Nation and

the members of the ADF. The Nation's obligations not only to its in-service personnel but also to the men and women who once served, including to each of their families.

Having listened to the case for a Military Covenant and strongly reaffirmed the 'Unique Nature of Military Service' being the basis for it, the Minister agreed to move forward with it as a concept, asking the new DVA Secretary and Kel Ryan, DFWA's National President and the National Spokesman of ADSO, to work together to devise an implementation plan and craft an appropriate set of words to make it happen, all by 11 November 2018.

DFWA congratulates the Government for deciding with conviction the worth of a document that will unquestionably be enduring and of great benefit to future generations of men and women electing to serve the nation in the ADF.

KEY ISSUES

Collaboration

As an indication of how far the notion of 'collaboration' between major ESOs on key issues has progressed, DFWA National President was joined at the proposed Military Covenant meeting with the Minister by the National President RSL himself. He fully endorsed what was being proposed and openly spoke in support.

Arguably, the strength of the combined voices of DFWA/ADSO and the RSL speaking as a single voice played an influential part in convincing the Government to proceed with the Covenant initiative. The initiative that included political and general public acceptance of the concept of the 'Unique Nature of Military Service' has been an almost decade-long corner stone part of DFWA's strategic aspiration championed by its long-serving immediate past National President, David Jamison. The 'light at the end of a long tunnel' is a welcome sight. David is due high praise for his persistence sometime in the face of unwarranted resistance.

The efforts of DFWA/ADSO/RSL and some sections of the wider ESO community to collaborate and work together are not only being lauded by all sides of politics but is recognised as a strength by the DVA, senior levels within the ADF, and by such organisations as the Defence Ombudsman and even CSC. As an example of the esteem DFWA and the 'Collaborative Initiative' is held at Government levels, a quote from the DVA Minister himself in a letter following the ESO community's rise to his challenge to speak with one voice is warranted. It goes as follows:

"I am pleased to see that my challenge has resonated with the defence community and I applaud the steps taken by the various ex-service organisations (ESOs) across Australia who are now forming the ESO collaborative initiative as described in your response"

Built on a series of 'Compacts' that have been signed by 22 ESOs, including Legacy Australia and RSL National, a national ESO collaborative framework is in the process of being put into place. That framework will undoubtedly better place ESOs to support serving and former ADF members and their families than has ever been the case

before. Disjointed and penny-packeted support efforts will potentially be a thing of the past. Such defused efforts hardly ever led to satisfactory policy outcomes.

The ADSO Alliance

Many in the ESO community may already be aware of the good news that ADSO was mightily strengthened in its voice when two Associations recently joined its ranks, namely:

- The Women Veterans Network Australia (WVNA); and
- The Combat Support Association (CSA).

A big welcome is extended to both Associations adding quality value to that one voice.

Some may know but many will not that, with high disappointment, the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) somehow found a reason to break away from years of effort by the ESO community to pull together in a collaborative framework. It withdrew from ADSO in a letter on 14 May 2018 – a copy is widely available for scrutiny.

Interalia, one reason VVAA gave in that letter was that it did not want to be *'seen to support projects and areas of concern to veterans of other conflicts or current serving members that in fact we have no opinion on, or a different opinion'*.

Seriously!!!! That VVAA's actions are a disappointment would be an understatement, made more so by their reasoning that also includes the claimed notion that *'ADSO by its name and perceived objectives is a defence service focused organisation whereas the VVAA is a veteran and ex-service focused organisation'*.

Wrong on all accounts. ADSO's objectives are very much veterans centric, albeit a number of associations such as the RARC, NAA, RAAFA, SASA and RAACC do connect with those still serving in uniform. DFWA's objectives since inception include fostering the best interests and wellbeing of all members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in any matter likely to affect them both during and after their period of service.

The key principles of ADSO signed by all involved when joining are as follows:

- Work together collaboratively for the benefit of the Defence, ex-service and veteran communities; and
- Participate in the Alliance openly and in a spirit of understanding, trust and cooperation.

Banking and Finance Sector Royal Commission

Following the call by DFWA on 12 Dec 17 to include CSC in the Terms of Reference of the Banking Royal Commission, a joint ADSO/RSL Media Statement was issued on 11 Jan 18 calling for CSC's inclusion as well. In the event, those calls fell on deaf ears. The Government's position was that *'CSC was not only already well-regulated but also subject to greater scrutiny and accountability than other funds by Acts of Parliament, and through oversight by a Senate Estimates process'*.

In other words, there was 'nothing to see'. Needless to say, the 'nothing to see' and 'well regulated' excuses were applied to the Banking and

Finance sectors as well before the Government's hand was forced to hold the Royal Commission.

Of course, events and emerging evidence have proved that the Government's confidence in both the banking and finance sectors was at best misplaced. Who could now in hindsight possibly believe that CSC has been so effectively well-regulated that it need not be put under at least the same scrutiny in the same way as the rest of the Financial Institutions, including those predominantly involved in managing superannuation funds.

Against that backdrop, pressure mounted from among many veterans' quarters that another joint RSL/ADSO effort should be made to yet again call on the Government to reconsider its position on CSC. Instead of a Press Statement, the thinking among the National leadership group that makes up the better part of the veterans' community, was that a joint RSL/ADSO Open Letter to the Prime Minister himself was the way to go.

Such a joint Open Letter to the Prime Minister was dispatched on 16 June 2018. It was signed by RSL's National President, Robert Dick, and ADSO's National Spokesman, Kel Ryan, on behalf of its 18-member ESOs. The wording was unanimously endorsed by each of the National leaders themselves. A meeting with the Prime Minister has been requested and is pending as of the time of writing this National Office Roundup.

Productivity Commission Inquiry

DFWA QLD Branch have taken the lead with work in progress to draft a DFWA submission by the due date 13 July 2018. Coupled with that effort, ADSO formed a Steering Group to develop an Alliance response to the Inquiry as well. That Group has already produced an Issues Paper and a draft submission that is being circulated for comment.

ADSO's member Associations have also been encouraged to prepare individual submission if their knowledge, capabilities and/or resources allow. Even those early submissions are not the end of the matter. The Commission will continue to accept inputs into 2019 after it releases a draft report in December 2018. The final report is not due until mid-2019. There is a lot of water to flow under the so-to-speak bridge from now until then.

Senate Inquiries 2017 – 2018

The number of Senate Inquiries over the last 12 months has been unprecedented. These inquiries have stretched the resources of DFWA National Office to draft responses, coordinate inputs, and to finally make submissions. Except for the Submission to the FADT Committee's Inquiry into the Defence Report 2017 -18 (which was an entirely DFWA response) most others were joint ones under ADSO's flag.

The following is a summary of the Submissions made:

- a. Submission - Senate FADT Committee's Inquiry into 'Suicide by Veterans and Ex-Service Personnel'.
- b. Submission - Senate FADT Committee's Inquiry into Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Digital Readiness and Other Measures) Bill 2016.
- c. Submission - Senate FADT Committee's Inquiry into Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment (Defence Force) Bill 2016.

- d. Ministerial - Treasury Laws Amendment (Fair and Sustainable Superannuation) Act 2016.
- e. Submission - Senate FADT Committee's Inquiry into the Draft Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Omnibus) Bill 2017.
- f. Ministerial - Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2017.
- g. Ministerial - Royal Commission into Banking and Superannuation – CSC Inclusion.
- h. Submission - ANAO) audit to examine whether the Department of Veterans' Affairs is efficiently delivering services to veterans and their dependents.
- i. Submission - Productivity Commission Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans.

Each Submission represents a collaborative effort and is the result of exhaustive analysis, drafting and redrafting using the experience of the ADSO membership group. It was and continues to be achieved on a 'shoe string' and often at the behest of DVA and the Government of the day. The experience has been hard won, often over decades, by men and women who seek no remuneration but the knowledge that they are responding to the needs of fellow veterans and their families.

DFWA's National Executive Meeting (NATEX)

The mid-year National Executive meeting of DFWA was held in Canberra on 4/5 June 2018. Other than general governance matters the meeting focused on reviewing the Association's objectives and strategies. Although the outcomes will be published in due course, in brief, there was general consensus that paying far greater attention to the needs of younger veterans than had been the case in the past was the way into the future.

During the course of the meeting two excellent presentations were given. One by the Manager ADTP Implementation NSW/ACT/WA, Ian Thompson, who gave a detailed overview about emerging Advocacy challenges and the growing demand for improved professionalism. The other was by DFWA's VP Far North Queensland, Ray Martin, who gave the meeting an insight into the Oasis Townsville Community concept that provides a service for all current serving members and their families to transition into the Townsville Community and to improve the general health and wellbeing of the ex-ADF Community.

National Office Operation

National Office continues to operate Monday to Friday 0830 to 1700.

Acting as the Secretariat of ADSO assisting the National Spokesman of the Alliance remains a major part of the day-to-day operations. The Alliance now numbers 18 members (less VVAA who recently withdrew). The key members make up the majority within the ESORT Roundtable.

Sponsorships

The Bradford Exchange remains as the single major sponsor. Thanks to that valued and generous sponsorship DFWA is able to at least keep its head above the so-to-speak plimsol line in its efforts to foster the best interests and wellbeing of all members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in any matter likely to affect them during or after their period of service. A Bradford Exchange advertisement is in the pages of this magazine. Please support our sponsor if their memorabilia products are of interest to you.

Prince Harry

Our National President wrote to the Governor General requesting consideration of an address to the ADSO leadership and other ESO leaders while he is in Australia. This request was prompted by his address to a gathering of British veteran leaders. The address resonated as the audience could have been a gathering of ADSO and other Australian ESO leaders.

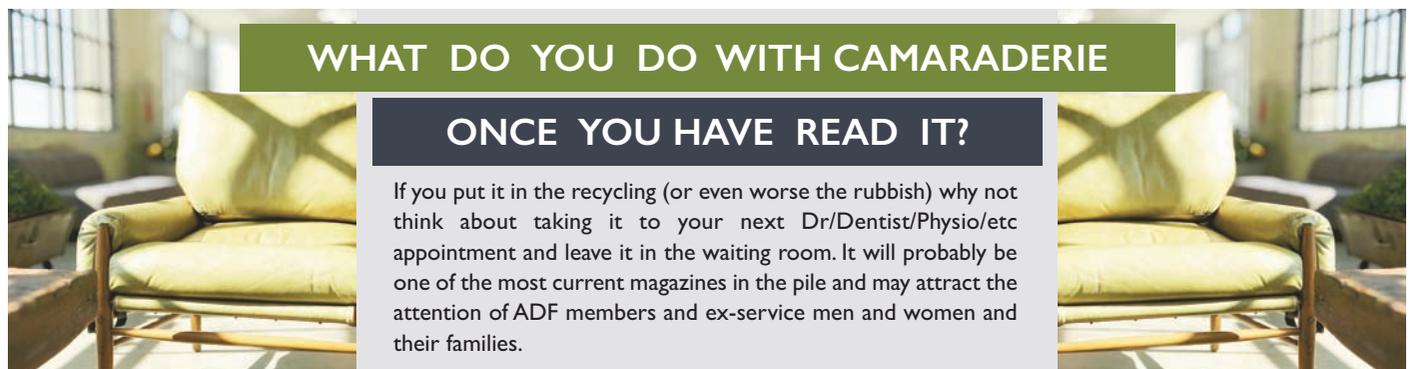
If such an address could be organised, we saw it as providing an impetus for collaboration across the ESO organisations. See, "*Heads Together | Prince Harry's speech at the Veterans' Mental Health Conference 2018*" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD_rWhFXt30

Memberships and Donations

DFWA's life blood is dependent on its members. Membership numbers are unfortunately trending downwards. Thus I repeat my plea from other times. Those readers who are not members are encouraged to join. It is one tangible way to show real support for the hard work the Association's many dedicated volunteers undertake to achieve better outcomes for the ADF men and women still serving, or vigorously fighting for pension fairness of those who once served.

That plea also extended to those many thousands of our in-service Virtual members to join either as soon as you are able, now or soon after you enter your transition period to leave the service.

Alf Jaugietis - Executive Director



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.

WHY DOES THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION CORPORATION

ESCAPE ROYAL COMMISSION SCRUTINY ?



Editor's Note: Members will recall that in the last edition of Camaraderie we provided some detail on this matter. Since then, much lobbying has occurred and a number of related legal cases have progressed. The matter is now moving fast and updates will be provided on our website. In the meantime, the following information is provided.

The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) is the fund manager for both the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS).

The Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission into Financial Services specifically excludes only ONE financial organisation from scrutiny – the CSC !

It is reasonable to ask why the Government doesn't want CSC Executives to be held accountable before the Royal Commission in the same way as other financial organisation executives

What is the Government trying to keep hidden from the Australian people?

Superannuation law requires CSC to act in the best interests of fund members. For example, it must act in good faith; there must be no conflict of interest; it must not act for its own benefit or the benefit of a third party without the informed consent of the member.

The CSC has failed its fiduciary duty as evidenced by the revelations

below that expose the truth about CSC's policies and practices – organisational behaviour that is responsible for causing further harm to many veterans who have suffered injuries from their service to the Nation.

In cases where veterans are compulsorily discharged from the Defence Force for medical reasons, CSC administers Invalidation payments paid to Veterans under the provisions of their superannuation fund.

This group includes our most vulnerable veterans who have been forced to leave the ADF and then face the stress of transitioning to civilian life whilst trying to cope with their injuries.

In such circumstances, the stresses on family life can and do lead to relationship breakdowns and Family Court proceedings that further compound the veteran's mental wellbeing

These injured veterans live with the uncertainty of a reassessment and possible total loss of invalidity payments for the remainder of their lives or until age 55 years (depending on which super scheme the member belongs to).

This means the payments they receive can and do go up and down by large amounts. Similar civilian scheme benefits can only be reviewed for about 2 years and are then permanent.

Under the Family Law Regulations, Invalidation payments in other schemes, are excluded from Family Court income calculations whilst they remain subject to assessment. However, CSC deliberately reports the nature of veteran invalidity payments to the Family Court as if they were permanent. This results in large financial losses for affected veterans.

CSC also misreports the Invalidity Payments to the Australian Tax Office causing these veterans to face massive increases in their tax liability.

So much for CSC acting in the members' interests.

One veteran recently won a Federal Court case against CSC for acting unlawfully. CSC however ignored the Federal Court Ruling and continued to misrepresent veteran invalidity payments for many members.

Other veterans have also taken legal action against CSC for similar reasons. As a direct result of veteran legal action, CSC then decided to formalise their rip - off practices by working with Government to introduce retrospective laws that made their previous unlawful actions, lawful.

Meanwhile, the Government steadfastly refuses to allow CSC to be included in the Royal Commission, denying veterans the same opportunity available to other Australians to have their grievances independently investigated.

There have been many complaints to MPs and Senators about CSC, and both the RSL and ADSO have called for CSC to be included in the Royal Commission. The Government argues that it is unnecessary because CSC faces more scrutiny than other funds – this is demonstrably untrue, at least for the protection of members' interests.

CSC has reported to Parliament that all members' complaints (including the military superannuation schemes) have been resolved – this is also demonstrably untrue.

The documented failures of CSC to act in the best interests of its members is similar to some of the unethical behaviours and cultural indifference of other financial organisations that the Royal Commission has exposed.

Is this why the Government is determined to protect CSC from Royal Commission scrutiny?

Further information on this matter, including the updates on current court cases relating to this matter, can be found on the DFVA website.

A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The ADSO and RSL recently wrote a joint letter direct to the Prime Minister, stating:

The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations and the Returned & Services League of Australia, on behalf of 230,000 serving and former Australian Defence Force men and women, and their families, whose superannuation is managed by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) cordially pose you the question:

“Why is the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation excluded from the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry”?

CSC is the only significant superannuation entity in Australia to avoid examination with the Government claiming that it is “not only already well-regulated but is also subject to greater scrutiny and accountability than other funds by Acts of Parliament, by the Australian National Audit Office, and through oversight by a Senate Estimates process”.

Those very same ‘well-regulated’ claims were initially made as arguments against holding a Banking Royal Commission. What has transpired at recent Commission hearings starkly exposed the inability of established regulators to deal with misconduct. No misconduct is necessarily implied against CSC but what possible confidence could anyone now have that the very same or similar inability to properly scrutinise should not apply to CSC’s regulators as well.

Simply put, the veterans’ community is not convinced of assurances that CSC is as well oversighted and regulated as has been the claim thus far. As an example, if CSC always acts in the best interests of its members, what could have driven legal proceedings, self-funded by disabled individual ex-service personnel as recently as last week, seeking redress for claimed unfairness and injustices.

The Royal Commission’s Terms of Reference say: “All Australians have the right to be treated honestly and fairly in their dealings with... superannuation.... providers.”

The Defence Family of 230,000 service men and women, serving and retired, and those they leave behind, are also Australians. Why is their superannuation provider excluded from Royal Commission scrutiny? Why deny the Defence Family an equal voice in making submissions to the Royal Commission?

We urge you to include the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation in the Royal Commission’s Terms of Reference without further delay. Fairness demands nothing less!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

There is often criticism in the media of “generous” Defined Benefit superannuation schemes enjoyed in some of the older government schemes. This would include DFRDB and MSBS. A further criticism is that payments of these pensions come at taxpayers’ expense.

It is interesting to note that:

- Members of DFRDB and MSBS have to contribute either 5.5% or 5% of their gross salary to their scheme which is effectively 8% of their net salary. This is paid to consolidated revenue and is not invested in any fund. In effect, the members have been giving a no interest loan to the government (and the taxpayer) for years.
- Other Employers have had to make real contributions to their employees superannuation fund and members are taxed on the contributions. The government/employer/taxpayer makes no real contribution to DFRDB and MSBS. The contributions are “notional”.
- For members covered under MSBS, when they leave the ADF their employer benefit is notionally calculated and notionally indexed to CPI and they can not get access to their employer benefit until they reach preservation age (generally 55 or older), effectively another low interest loan to the government as they do not have to find any actual money until well after a member has transitioned. Any other Australian has the opportunity of accessing the employer benefit and transferring it to another complying superannuation fund when they leave an employer.
- Because the government did not make real contributions to the

superannuation funds the schemes are deemed as non-taxed and when payments are eventually made to veterans, they are subject to tax at their marginal tax rate with a 10% discount for those over 60. All Australians with 'accumulation superannuation funds' get their pension tax free.

Looks like the government has been “double-dipping” at the expense of veterans.

Regards
John Lewis

Dear Editor,

I was going through the latest issue and noticed the article on page 16 re the resolution of the Incapacity payment offsets.

I wish to point out that the incapacity payments are income based and do not have any offsetting rules that apply to it.

It is the Permanent Impairment (compensation) that the article was referring to and this does have offsetting rules that apply.

The way MRCA 2004 have called the payments is confusing. Fancy calling income payment incapacity payments and compensation for injury or disease permanent impairment. The confusion this has caused through out the veteran community is unbelievable.

Regards,
Bill Wiltshire
Advocate

INTRODUCING 'WINNIE' OUR PTSD SERVICE DOG

Thanks to NSW Correctional Services and Leanne Kyle of the Defence Bank Foundation for the invitation to attend the graduation ceremony

Recently Michael Stuart-Watt, President of the NSW Branch and Executive Member John Kane travelled to Bathurst Correctional Centre to witness the graduation of four PTSD Service Dogs, one of which was 'Winnie', a Labrador Cross, sponsored by NSW Branch at a cost of \$7,500.

'Winnie' was part of the Defence Community Dog Program (DCD), an initiative of Defence Bank Foundation (DFB). She came from Labrador Rescue in Canberra where she was found with her brother wandering the streets. They were at the pound for some time before Lab Rescue took them in and ultimately Winnie's foster family drove her over from Canberra to Bathurst at their own expense for PTSD Assistance Dog training.

A specially selected inmate serving time at the Bathurst Correctional Centre Honour House, under the supervision and direction of the professional dog trainer, Steve Austin, undertook 'Winnie's' special training designed to meet the more complex needs of veterans, particularly those suffering from (high-end) anxiety and PTSD.

For those inmates participating in socialising the dogs it can cover a period of 6-10 months, flexibility is the key.

Today, in partnership with Bathurst City Council, inmates take the dogs to various venues (RSL clubs, cafes, retirement villages and shopping malls) to familiarise the animals with the public and condition them to different environments. The dog is then re-trained and gains confidence with regard to the commands of its trainer. Of course, all this familiarisation occurs under the gaze of dedicated correctional officers and professional DCD Dog trainers. As a benefit of this program the inmate wins with greater confidence; the dog wins with its impressive behaviour, responsiveness and awareness and the community wins because they gain an insight into the value of inmate transition to society.

In the end it is a win, win, win plus, more importantly, a BIG win for the veteran, in our case, ex-RAAFie David from Tasmania, who became the proud recipient of 'Winnie'! David had applied for a dog through Defence Community Dogs and met all the criteria including an



endorsement from his Medical Team. His situation, requirements and personality were assessed by the Veteran liaison group and he was matched with 'Winnie'.

What had 'Winnie' learnt? She was trained to be still, help calm her veteran, could activate traffic light 'wait' buttons, remove washing from a washing machine/dryer, provide back-coverage at ATMs and learnt to sit quietly in public places like trains, busses, and cafes. We might not acknowledge such skills/behaviour readily, but for the veteran it means much more than companionship, it allows them to get out of the house again by making them feel safe, experience less anxiety and regain lost confidence in public.

When the time came for David to farewell his fellow veterans, after a week of dog-familiarisation, they returned to southern Tasmania via road and then onto the Spirit of Tasmania, a cabin upgrade awaited! 'Winnie' had facilitated an upgrade for David because of her status as a PTSD Assistance dog in-training. Winnie and David are expected to sit their final assessments in a few months so that Winnie becomes a qualified and recognised Assistance Dog.

Go 'Winnie' and congratulations to the Defence Bank Foundation and the Corrective Services NSW personnel at Bathurst for an incredibly satisfying program. Finally, at a modest cost of \$7,500 from the DFVA NSW Branch, a big 'Winnie Win' and a re-life for a rescue dog!

DID YOU KNOW?

DO YOU HAVE A DVA WHITE CARD AND ALSO PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE ?

If so, you may be entitled to a reduction in your Private Health insurance premium. In the case of Defence Health, one member writer was immediately given a reduction of \$15.50 a month in the Top Cover premium. Maybe other Private Health insurance companies offer the same. To apply to Defence Health, contact them directly with details of your DVA White Card (phone 1800 335425 or info@defencehealth.com.au).

VETERANS' ADVOCACY & SUPPORT SERVICES SCOPING STUDY

The Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study is an independent study investigating how veterans and their families are assisted to access entitlements and services.

The DVA wants to hear from:

- people who've looked for help with accessing entitlements and services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - veterans' advocates and pension and welfare officers with ex-service organisations
 - lawyers and health or other professionals who work with veterans, and
 - anyone with an interest in veterans' issues.

Share your experiences and your ideas for improving services for veterans and their families and be a part of shaping the future of veterans' advocacy.

MAKE A SUBMISSION

Submissions are being accepted until 31 July 2018

There is a discussion paper and questionnaires to assist you in preparing a submission.

To make a submission see:
www.dva.gov.au/advocacystudy



Pictured showing the drawing of tickets: L to R: Ralph Derbidge, Raffle Co-ordinator; Alan Hind, NSW Branch Secretary; and Ralph Hannaford, NSW Branch Treasurer.

RESULT OF THE DFVA 2018 RAFFLE

(NSW, VIC, ACT, SA, QLD & WA BRANCHES)

FIRST PRIZE: Travel to the value of \$5,000.00 plus \$500 spending money
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551
(Ticket No: 34490)

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000.00
Mr Allan Edwards
REVESBY NSW 2212
(Ticket No: 47494)

THIRD PRIZE: \$500.00
Mr M B Doulis
WHITTLESEA VIC 3757
(Ticket No: 22337)

CONSOLATION PRIZES: \$150.00
Mr B Bryce
KALEEN ACT 2617
(Ticket No: 11661)
Mr K A Gibson
BLAIRGOWRIE VIC 3902
(Ticket No: 20363)
Mr A K Austin
MOUNT CLAREMONT WA 6010
(Ticket No 38504)
Mr John King
SINGLETON NSW 2330
(Ticket No. 52413)



THE LONG HILL HOME:

A Poem by Sergeant Tom Birnie, 2RAR, 1971

by LtCol Alistair Pope, psc (Retired)

War Poets & Bush Balladeers

There are many fine war poets and I particularly like reading those writing about WWI. Curiously, in equal measure I enjoy reading both the war jingoists such as Rupert Brooke and Jessie Pope and the dark, stark realism of Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, Robert Graves and Rudyard Kipling. Kipling was very much an enthusiastic supporter of the war and the 'greatness of the British Empire', at least until his only son was killed at the Battle of Loos in his very first action.

Rupert Brooke was always an 'Empirist' and enthusiastic warrior probably because he never experienced a battle. However, his poem, 'The Soldier' contains the memorable sentiment:

*'If I should die, think only this of me
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England.'*

Brooke ironically got his 'wish' as he died either of sunstroke, or more likely of septicaemia from an infected mosquito bite on a hospital ship off the Greek Island of Skyros, where he remains buried. His death on 23rd April 1915 came just two days before the bloody Gallipoli landings in which many more staked out their corner of a foreign field for Australia.

Robert Graves (I, Claudius, Goodbye to All That, and much more), Wilfred Owen, (who was killed just seven days before the war ended) and Siegfried Sassoon recorded in their poetry the horrors and ugliness of war. Sassoon went from being a reluctant supporter of the war, but willing to do his duty, to being very anti-war to such an extent he came close to being tried for treason! Yet, somewhat paradoxically Sassoon displayed such outstanding courage in battle it appeared he wanted to be killed. Instead, he was an invincible super hero who survived every suicidal encounter, killed many Germans and was awarded a Military Cross.

Australia has a long history of producing Bush Balladeers and War Poets, with even our most infamous war criminal, Lt. Harry 'Breaker' Morant penning some enjoyable bush poetry. Probably his most poignant poem were the bitter lines he wrote before his own forthcoming execution, a poem that was published in The Bulletin after the event.

Today, retired Brigadier George Mansford, a soldier of 41 years infantry service is probably our leading balladeer. His poems capture the essence of the soldier's lot in the modern world. Two stanzas from his 'Casualties of War' encapsulate the reality of the effect war has not only on soldiers, but also on their families.

Casualties of War

*'In the bloody arena, the fight at dawn was won
Alas, in the red stained snow; a fallen husband and son
Satellites and modern tech spread the word as never before
Thus in a world far away came a dreaded knock on the door.
Politicians heard the news and ensured their eyes were wet
Made appropriate noises and vowed they would never forget
To a weeping mother and sedated widow as the media looked on
A final hug, a smile, hurried words of comfort then were gone.'*



Sergeant Tom Birnie, D Company, 2RAR
First Tour of Duty, 1967 - 1968

A War Poem by 18161 Sergeant Tom Birnie

I attended a 'Blinds Demolition Course' at Wallangarra on the border of Queensland and New South Wales in the wintry July of 1969. Who knew that anywhere in sunny Queensland could be that bitterly cold? It was a small course of just half a dozen enthusiasts keen to learn about how to blow things up that were supposed to go bang, but had failed to perform as advertised. It would be our job to rectify that failure to perform.

The course involved both classroom theory and the fun side of extensive practice. To speed things along we were paired off to work in teams. My partner was Sergeant Tom Birnie, an Irishman from Belfast with a keen sense of humour and a competent, confident approach that made every task look easy. It was an enjoyable professional course with a lot of satisfyingly loud noises and new experiences. On completing the final tests everyone on the course was certified to destroy malfunctioning ordnance. We celebrated with a few beers and pies and

returned to our units. Tom went back to tropical Townsville and I returned to Brisbane. We did not meet again.

Sergeant Birnie had already served one tour with D Company, 2RAR in 1967-68 (during which he was wounded). He was now scheduled for a second tour in 1970-71 as one of the 'old hands' providing operational experience to the battalion.

In the short time that I knew him I was unaware that Tom was a War Poet. It was therefore a surprise when in July 2017 I found the following poem in the book of the history of that second tour. Tom had written it on 13th February 1971, nine months into his one-year of operational service with 2RAR in Phuoc Tuy Province.

His words capture the weariness and strain of infantry operations in a war zone and his longing for the tour to end so that he can be home again with his family and friends. His view of the insincerity of politicians was true in 1971 and probably even more so today:

THE LONG HILL HOME

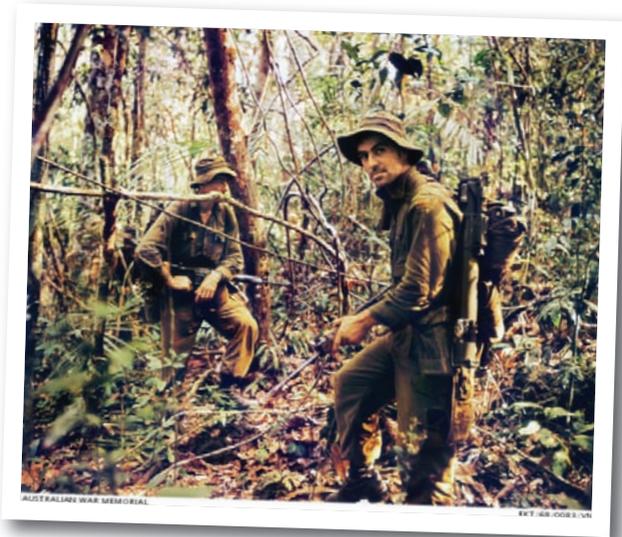
*I think of the long hill home –
Laid in the jungle's thick brown loam,
Youthful lips long ceased to moan,
Shattered and tattered and so alone –
Never to walk the long hill home.
One of many, before and to come,
His life's blood joined with the others to run
In a torrent of red to unsated seas
Empires are built on the bones of these
Never to walk the long hill home
What care they for their country's fate
They who neither love nor hate?
Their bones are white, these posthumous great,
White as the Empire builder's plate
Never to walk the long hill home
Their epitaph by quirk of fate
Stands dumb in country town and state:
The unknown soldier! His gift was great,
Unknown they lived, unknown they died
Never to walk the long hill home
I stand atop the long hill home
With wife and son, we three alone;
And far away in the jungle's mould
The bones of my youth lie stiff and cold
Never to walk the long hill home.*

On the morning of 24th March 1971 Sergeant Tom Birnie was shot by a sentry as he re-entered his platoon area. The sentry was not expecting the patrol to return from that direction and mistook Birnie for an approaching enemy. The sentry fired, severely wounded him.

Sergeant Birnie died of his wounds at 1st Australian Field Hospital in the early hours of 25th March 1971.

He never did walk the long hill home to his wife and son.

Lest We Forget



Patrolling near Bien Hoa, 1967 -1968

Bibliography & References

The Anzac Battalion: Second Tour; 1970-1971 – The operational history of 2RAR in Viet Nam

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/02/technology/02gameside.html>
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/654215>

18161 Sergeant Thomas Birnie, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Age 31, from Townsville QLD. Known as Bernie, he did two tours of Vietnam with 2RAR, 1967-68, during which he was wounded, and again in 1970-71. He died on 25th March after being shot on the previous morning by a sentry while re-entering his own platoon area.

In the photographs from the first tour, Sergeant Tom Birnie and his partner are patrolling away from their base at Phuoc Tuy and in the vicinity of the border area between Bien Hoa and Long Khanh provinces. They were patrolling as part of Operation Coburg, which sought to protect the Bien Hoa and Long Binh bases from communist Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army attacks that intelligence reports predicted would occur at the time of the Buddhist Lunar New Year, called Tet.

Rupert Brooke -
<http://tlf.dlr.det.nsw.edu.au/learningobjects/Content/R11167/object/r9420.html>

Rupert Brooke https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rupert_Brooke
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Soldier_\(poem\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Soldier_(poem))

The Soldier

*'If I should die, think only this of me
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England.'*

MEFLOQUINE

(1) - INQUIRY WIN IN DRUG TRIAL WAR

IT'S a minor victory in a battle with a long way yet to run, but a Senate inquiry into Australian Malarial Institute-conducted drug trials is welcome news.

A significant number of those who participated in those trials were Townsville based when they deployed to Bougainville, and then East Timor.

The drugs involved were mefloquine and tafenoquine, the former approved for use, the latter even now not cleared for general use by appropriate authorities.

Those responsible for approving and conducting the trials insist they were appropriately conducted while denying the evidence that many participants have suffered lasting effects.

Those who claim they were adversely affected have battled military and medical bureaucracies for years claiming their physical and mental ailments are consequences of the trial.

Sadly, too many are dead, often at their own hands, as they reached a point where they could no longer cope with their conditions and official rejection of their claims.

One of those was my younger brother and only sibling, John, who died aged just 50 in 2004 after a fall.

He had been given both drugs, though his medical history - including ciguatera poisoning - should have excluded him from taking either of them.

A number of people have been relentless in their quest for an official inquiry into the effects these drugs have had.

Former Major Stuart McCarthy, who was also given both, has long called for a royal commission but is relieved a Senate inquiry now has bipartisan political support. He has paid a huge personal price with his career, marriage - not to mention the toll on his health. He has been the driving force co-ordinating all those who believe in the cause, both here and internationally, including former US Army doctor Remington Nevin.

Associate Professor Jane Casperson-Quinn is another who has been relentless assisting the Quinoline Veterans and Families Association, the support group established by her and Stuart McCarthy.

A professor in biomedical sciences at Charles Sturt University, she has been dismissed by the medical fraternity because her expertise lies in animal neurology. They have misjudged both her academic expertise and her determination.



Stuart McCarthy

Her husband was given Lariam, the trade name for mefloquine when deployed to Africa with the British Army.

The adverse consequences of Lariam, including common symptoms, can easily be found by a simple internet search using the brand name.

Professor Quinn's husband took his own life after experiencing these known symptoms.

It is a personal battle for her.

The Bulletin has also played a role as successive editors were convinced Townsville's military and veteran community was living a catastrophe.

It also facilitated a public forum for affected veterans to air their concerns.

Local politicians, including Cathy O'Toole have lent their support until Opposition veterans' affairs spokeswoman Amanda Rishworth yesterday announced Labor's initiative for a Senate inquiry.

No one should underestimate the medical fraternity's determination to undermine the inquiry to protect its own, nor the military hierarchy's propensity to do likewise. However there are now enough people who are convinced there is a legitimate case to answer.

Bring it on.

(2) - DVA INFORMATION PAPER

DVA has released an information paper on mefloquine, developed as a result of concern among some current and former serving members about the use of mefloquine in the ADF and potential health impacts. The information paper serves to build awareness of the information and support that is available, and how to access it.

Go to the DVA website and search for mefloquine, or go direct to the link at <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/medical-services-and-conditions/mefloquine-information>

DFWA Congratulates!!

- **Commander Richard William USHER RAN (Retd).. President of the DFWA WA Branch,** award of Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the general division for service to the welfare of veterans.
- **Annette Sadler, Convener of the DFWA Defence Widows Group,** award of DFWA Honorary Life Membership for her services to Defence Widows. (below)



Vice President DFWA Kerry Mellor presenting Annette Sadler with her DFWA Honorary Life Membership

- **Michael Stuart -Watt, President of the DFWA NSW Branch,** for the recent media article (right) outlining his work and achievements.

Wing Commander Michael Stuart-Watt follows in dad's footsteps

Danielle Jarvis, Penrith Press

20 April 2018



Wing Commander Michael Stuart-Watt

FOR Glenbrook-based Wing Commander Michael Stuart-Watt the debt of gratitude to the Anzacs is close to home.

The Northmead resident was adopted as a baby by a WWII RAF air gunner veteran and his wife, a former member of the Greek Resistance.

"I was a baby when they adopted me," Mr Stuart-Watt said.

"My adopted father was in the Royal Air Force (British). He was an air gunner on a RAF bomber. He emigrated to Australia after the war and joined the Royal Australian Air Force. He did have a lot of influence on my career choice.

"The main factor was he was a WWII veteran".

His adopted father Bill met his adopted mother Mary in Greece in 1944 during WWII. "He was rescued by my adopted mother," Mr Stuart-Watt said. "She was part of the Greek resistance. He and his crew bailed out of their bomber over Greece and landed in the sea.

"They (Greek resistance) took them ashore and looked after and hid them from the Nazis. "That's how the two came together." The stories his father and mother shared as he grew up and influenced his decision to join the service.



To Mr Stuart-Watt Anzac is about reflecting on the values we have in the community

"I felt I had to acknowledge what they had done and the best way for me to do that was to actually join an arm of the service like the Royal Australian Airforce." Mr Stuart-Watt joined the Army Reserves at 16 years of age and served part-time for five years. "That gave me a taste for the military on a part-time basis. Then I joined the air force on a permanent basis in 1981 when I was about 22."

While he has never served on the battlefield, he has enabled others to do so. "I cover their behind," Mr Stuart-Watt said. "I step into their roles." He has covered one man for 12 months and another for six months while they were deployed to war-stricken countries such as Afghanistan.

As a 60-year-old Wing Commander at the Operational Headquarters Air Command he now decides how the Australian Air Force Reserve is organised and oversees the reservists' integration into the Air Force.

Mr Stuart-Watt encouraged people to remember what the diggers fought for: freedom and the duty to each other. "To me Anzac is really about reflecting on the values we have in the community — to look after ourselves and the community.

"We see it honoured in the proud display by the defence servicemen and women who deploy overseas and put their lives on the line."

DID YOU
KNOW?



GST ON A CAR OR CAR PARTS - FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Editor's Note. A DFWA member recently provided us with the following article. Please note that we are unable to confirm any member's entitlements.

If you are an eligible disabled veteran buying or leasing a car, or purchasing car parts GST-free, you can complete this declaration form from the DVA and present it to your car or car parts supplier.

• Factsheet DP79 - Supply of Cars or Car Parts GST-free

What is the purpose of a Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemption on motor cars and parts?

The entitlement to purchase new or used motor cars, or car parts, GST-free, is intended to assist eligible veterans with their personal transportation. This scheme is administered by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

For the purposes of the scheme, a 'car' is defined as a motor vehicle (other than a motorcycle or similar vehicle) designed to carry a load less than one tonne and fewer than nine passengers. The exemption from the GST does not extend to motorcycles (however, see Chapter 6.11 Special Assistance).

Who is eligible for the GST exemption?

Eligible persons are those who served in the Australian Defence Force or in any other armed force of Her Majesty (for example, A British or a New Zealand veteran, and as a result of that service:

- have lost a leg or both arms, or
- have had a leg, or both arms, rendered permanently and completely useless, or
- receive a disability pension at the special ([Totally and:] Permanently Incapacitated) rate but are not Temporarily Totally Incapacitated in accordance with the VEA,
- receive (or are eligible to receive) a Special Rate Disability Pension under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004.

The veteran must intend to use the car for their personal transportation:

- for at least two years, or
- until the car is no longer reasonably capable of being used for the purpose for which cars of that kind are ordinarily used, or
- until a time determined appropriate by the Commissioner of Taxation in special circumstances. (Following a decision by the Tax Commissioner, eligible disabled veterans will meet the requirements if they intend to use the car for their personal transportation for 40,000 kilometres from the date of purchase.)

Documents to be completed

To purchase a GST exempt car or car parts, the eligible veteran should complete a 'Declaration for an exemption of GST on a car or car parts - disabled veterans' and present it to the motor trader at the time of purchase. The form is retained by the motor dealer. The veteran also needs to provide the motor dealer, as evidence of eligibility:

- a Gold Card embossed TPI, or
- any other official document (such as a certificate from DVA) that shows the veteran is entitled to make the declaration.

The eligible veteran does not pay the GST to the motor dealer.

Car registration concessions

Veterans who are eligible for a car GST exemption may also be eligible for registration concessions and should check this with their relevant state government.

Stamp duty exemption on motor cars

Veterans in receipt of special rate pension or disability pension at the 100% rate or above may be exempt from stamp duty on the purchase of a new or second hand car. This should be checked for each state.

Continued bottom of page 30



ROBE TO RECOVERY

In 2015 a Robe local Jacqui Bateman asked the question "How could the Robe community show their support and appreciation for Australia's contemporary veterans and their families?" This simple question started a dialogue between Jacqui and a contemporary veteran Justin Brown which led to the development of a community based and operated veteran respite program now known as Robe to Recovery (RTR).

Always one to put her deeds where her heart is Jacqui kicked off the program with the provision of her own B&B accommodation for the use of veterans and their families four times a year. This simple step gave veterans and their families the opportunity to get away and take time out in to relax in a supportive community which offered more than just a place to dump your luggage. To make the latter a reality Jacqui enlisted the aid of fellow members the Robe Traders Association (a grouping of Robe businesses owners whose aim is operate for the benefit of the Robe community). The Traders response was fast and efficient with the provision of Welcome baskets packed with vouchers, gifts, goods and services from the local area. These were backed up by cards and personal notes welcoming the veteran and their family and acknowledging their service and sacrifice.

“ Robe to Recovery is more than just a program for veterans; important as that is; it is an opportunity for a town to stand proud and show a real community spirit. ”

RTR quickly became a true community program, and the first veterans to visit were overwhelmed by the nature of their welcome and the quality of their time in Robe. The first veterans to visit expected nothing more than a short stay but were completely overwhelmed by the reception they received and humbled by the outward show of support from complete strangers.

There are now some 20 different accommodation sites and most of the business community in Robe offering goods and services to veterans and their families ensuring that their time in our lovely little

seaside town is both enjoyable and memorable. The local RSL Sub-Branch actively supports RTR with transport for veterans (if required) and through oversight of a Sub-Branch managed RTR account enabling Jacqui and her support team to remain at arm's length whilst still ensuring that there is governance and due diligence of their finances. Such is the level of community awareness and support that when Jacqui was faced with something of a dilemma when asked if RTR could accept a needy veteran who could only make the journey over the Australia Day long weekend, could she ask someone to forego a peak booking or would she have to say "Sorry we just can't help". Serendipity to the rescue – as Jacqui contemplated her position - she was contacted by a local widow with the offer of part of her home whenever needed.

The result of this was the provision of a break away for a veteran who had been struggling for a number of years. The time he spent in Robe and the welcome he received has had a marked impact to the extent that he is now looking to undertake a training course and strike off down a new pathway.

Robe to Recovery is more than just a program for veterans; important as that is; it is an opportunity for a town to stand proud and show a real community spirit.

The healing value of this program cannot be understated, not only for the veteran but also for their partner or family. Reintegration into family life and the community can be difficult following deployments and this was the perfect environment for those who were struggling as a result of their service.

We are enormously proud of the RTR program and we hope that other communities will adopt it themselves in a show of support for those who sacrifice so much and put their own lives and family time ahead of our own so that we may enjoy this wonderful country and everything it has to offer.

We thank Australia's serving men and women, past and present, for the selfless work they do to protect our borders and keep us safe. The community of Robe welcomes all who serve and through the Robe to Recovery program offer their support for those who need it.

THE UNIQUE NATURE OF MILITARY SERVICE

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

The discussion centered around the concept of The Unique Nature of Military Service ...A concept that is now widely recognised and understood but nevertheless warrants review.

The community's general understanding of the uniqueness of service in the ADF had been blurred to the point where military service was being equated with employment in the police and emergency services.

The object of the concept was to clarify what the crucial element making service in the ADF unique was. The following expands on this idea ...

Australia is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations – 1948), Article 3 states: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

But ADF men and women do not. Their 'life, liberty and security of person' is in the hands of the State. That's unique. No other calling, occupation or profession – including police and emergency services – is required to surrender these rights, although some do so voluntarily.

Uniquely, Military law may require an ADF member to kill other human beings, to order another ADF member to kill, to order other ADF members to take an action with a high probability they may be severely wounded or killed and may themselves be ordered to take an action with a high probability of being killed or wounded. Severe custodial penalties apply for non-compliance.

In day to day ADF life, minor infringements such as using insulting language or unauthorised absence may result in up to 12 months incarceration. ADF people have no right by trial by jury. A unique military justice system applies, including Defence magistrates and military courts.

Industrial law does not apply to ADF men and women. Legally, ADF people are members. They are not employees. ADF members surrender 'employee' rights including pay and conditions negotiations. They have no union. Remuneration is an arrangement, not an agreement.

“ Support for serving and former ADF men and women must be as unique as their service is unique. It is inappropriate, indeed dangerous, to attempt 'normalising' support to community standards. ”

Consequently, the ADF's culture is unique. Team needs take priority over individual needs and rights. Total trust in other team members is essential because the consequences are so dire. A person who only looks after themselves, inconsiderate of other team members, is an anathema.

Pride in achieving individual skills that are valuable to the team is rewarding in itself. And the team, the ADF, reciprocates by providing subsidised sustenance, shelter and health care – as well as most administration – even though the member has little choice over what is provided.

This military culture becomes ingrained. That is partly why some veterans refuse to seek support, not wanting to give up or to be a burden to others. Pride is important but it can be misplaced. And 'welfare' is a pejorative word, no matter how many experts claim otherwise. Needing 'welfare' is seen as an indication of failure or weakness, so self-harm rates for those discharged are higher than for those still serving. No longer part of the 'team', no longer valued, no mutual support.

Support for serving and former ADF men and women must be as unique as their service is unique. It is inappropriate, indeed dangerous, to attempt 'normalising' support to community standards.

Military Service is fundamentally unique. The reciprocal obligation this places on the State is as inescapable as it is enduring.



SHOCK REVELATIONS



RIP OFFS REVEALED



PM says the Royal Commission will focus on "any conduct, practices, behaviour or business activity that falls below community standards" and "the use of superannuation that is otherwise not in the best interest of members".

The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) manages military superannuation funds and is -

the only significant super fund manger to be excluded from Royal Commission scrutiny.

For several years, military veterans have been subjected to CSC conduct and practices that are NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MEMBERS - this is no different to many of the revelations already uncovered by the Royal Commission.

So, why are these veterans being denied the same opportunity as other Australians to have their concerns heard at the Royal Commission?

Come on Prime Minister, remove the gag and let veterans have their say.

Mike von Berg MC, OAM 0411 87 0055
National Chairman RAR Corporation and
ADSO National Spokesman

www.adso.org.au

John Lowis 0439192574
DFWA QLD President



MONEY MATTERS

FAMILY BUDGETS



In recent articles in MONEY MATTERS, you may remember that I have discussed “personal budgets”. Today, I would like to extend “personal budgets” further, to encompass “family budgets”.

In the last few Editions of Camaraderie I have made recommendations as to how to establish what your current personal budget is. Therefore by now, you should clearly know how you spend and save your money.

Just as you have set personal goals for what you earn, we can also set family goals.

Some family goals may be to:

- (a) buy a family home, or
- (b) a car, or
- (c) have a vacation or
- (d) save for education costs for the children.

Preparing to buy a family home

- (i) saving for a home deposit – to install a sense of ownership with this effort, one should decide what type and location of property your family plan to buy. This would entail going to “open house” exhibitions, and looking at real estate sites on-line.
- (ii) also establish from your Bank, what requirements they have in relation to the value of your contribution to a mortgage.
- (iii) you should also obtain quotes from a couple of other financial institutions, so that you can compare what is on offer “out there”

Whatever the family goal may be, write it down and place the list in an area where it can be seen every day.

As an example, if the family needs to save \$25,000 within 12 months, in “round figures”, this means saving \$480 per week. The progress of savings could be recorded via a “bar chart” or a “line graph”. Family members, on a rotational basis, could be assigned the task of recording the progress of savings. Family discussions could be held as to what current expenses could be curtailed to assist in achieving “savings goals”, e.g.... does a regular “take away coffee” HAVE to take precedence over contributions to the family savings target?

One of the financial matters that has always concerned me is the number of people who place holiday costs, or purchase items via a credit card, and are not able to grasp the fact that their holiday or purchase has cost them up to 20% more via a credit card, than if they had saved the money for those purchases, and used their own funds rather than borrowed money on their credit card.

The ideal way to use a credit card, is to pay off the balance, 100% before the due date, so that you are NOT paying any interest. If you do NOT pay off all the debt on your credit card, before the due date, you are wasting your money by paying high rates of interest on the credit card debt.

So in an ideal “financial world”, “pay yourself first” via a saving schedule of at least 10% of your gross income, and THEN use that “nest egg” to pay for the required item.

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.

THE DFWA TRUST FUND

What is it and can you help?

The DFWA Trust Fund exists to provide “last resort” assistance to members, former members and families of the ADF experiencing temporary financial distress. It can provide loans or grants in urgent cases where other means of temporary relief are not accessible.

The Fund has in the past provided assistance that has been the difference between the solution of an acute problem and family break-up, homelessness, near-penury, or other disastrous outcomes for individuals and families.

In the past two years there has been an increase in applications to the Fund, resulting in an increase in approvals of assistance. Each application is thoroughly assessed by the Trustees, both to satisfy themselves of facts of the applicants’ circumstances, and to conserve the available funds.

The Fund is legally prevented from earning income from sources other than interest-bearing deposits or donations. It is not free to increase itself from investments or other business activities. In this era of low interest rates, the interest paid on the fund’s deposits is insufficient to prevent a slow decline in the available capital, in the face of the increased demand for help. Without replenishment, the Fund, in short, is going out of business.

DFWA members, and any other persons who support the very



real contribution the Fund has made, and continues to make, to the welfare of some of our most unfortunate comrades, who, in great distress, find no relief without our help, are asked to consider donating to the Fund, and/or making some provision for it in their Will.

Your generosity will be remembered not only by those your compassion has helped to rescue from their plight, but also by the Association where your name will be recorded, and in whose history you will have an especially honoured place.

The ABN of the DFWA Relief Fund is: 71 100 360 056

Donations to the Fund are tax deductible

A GUIDE TO DEAL WITH DEPRESSION BEFORE/DURING/AFTER ADDICTION REHAB



Dr. Keenan's guide to dealing with depression before/during/after addiction rehab is certainly worth a look... please go to the following website:

<https://www.inpatientdrugrehab.org/depression/>

*Katherine Clarke
Media Relations
Patient Advocacy Group*



TRANSITION/RETIREMENT:

Considerations/Philosophies

Author's Preamble: *In 1967 I was in the RAAF, serving at Butterworth Air Base, Penang. There I met and married a serving RAF nurse. We had five children under six years of age; one born in Penang, one in England, two in Australia and our last in Papua New Guinea. We all now have University degrees. We have had a wonderful, fabulous fifty years. I served a total of 20 years and am a DFRDB recipient.*

I then worked in a number of places around Australia and 'retired' three years ago. I have had four careers. A military career, a private enterprise career, a government career and now my 'golden' career with my wife, children and grandchildren.

Many years ago when serving in Sydney, I joined the DFWA. While I read 'Camaraderie', it was only on retirement that I become an active member of the Queensland Branch of the Association. A more dedicated bunch of men and women I have never met.

So, with this history I feel I could write some observations after attending six or so Transition Seminars as a member of one of the ESOs and other organisations that are invited to attend by the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

My own 'resettlement seminar' was about thirty-three years ago - and the take home messages - both then and now, could be crystallised as follows.

Considerations

- Consider your long-term happiness and contentment with yourself, your next-of-kin, family and friends.
- Consider your current financial planning at Transition; and for your long-time future.

- Consider your long-term happiness and contentment with your future employment/s.
- Consider who and what are important to you in 5, or 20, or 40 years' time.
- Consider your plans for a healthy, happy, content and comfortable retirement.

Philosophies

The greater majority of people long for successful, long-term human relationships. And the harder we try, the luckier we get.

The main problem is the fact we are all human.

Desires, wants, hormonal urges, illegal drugs, envy, money, alcohol, instant gratification, spontaneous indulgence, etc are all potential entrapments complicating long-term happiness and contentment with your next-of-kin/family. Avoid those ills like the plague!

Start financial planning early, as relying on the Government to support you in your retirement is folly. You plan to save for your house, cars, holidays; why wouldn't you begin planning early for retirement? On starting your first fulltime job, set a yearly saving goal – and ensure it is isolated from all other monies – of say \$250 a month, compounding at say 5%, and you have \$38,821.00 after 10 years.

Early financial planning with a good advisor enables you to take advantage of the wonders of compound interest. It will mean that in retirement living, your accommodation will be sorted and you will not retire with a mortgage debt. The monies you have saved for retirement will dictate the realism of your retirement life!

Meaningful employment for the majority of people is necessary for successful, long-term human relationships. Few people love 'going-to-work-every-day' until the day they retire. But the harder we try in our job, the luckier we get! Remember, your military career may be only your first or second career. You might well have two, three, or more enjoyable careers still ahead of you.

During your working life you will have other interests (if you haven't, find some now!) but in retirement the time you can put into these will be expanded. "Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain." Volunteer work can be very satisfying and it does not have to be related to past employment (e.g. Meals on Wheels, National Seniors, Scouts, Girl Guides etc). Make a 'Retirement Plan' early on in your life.

In retirement, you have earned your right to long-term happiness, contentment and enjoyment with family and friends. This can be

achieved through travel, writing a personal memoir, recreation, hobbies, etc. The average person has about twenty years of retirement. Interestingly, but not surprisingly, research shows that men and women do and like different things and goals in retirement.

And also, do keep yourself mentally, medically and dentally fit by keeping up to date with your health requirements!

As we age and our friends become fewer, ensure you do not become socially isolated. Come to peace with yourself and become a fuller human being. Look for people who are involved in something because it is worth doing; not just because it pays well. In retirement, take time to make yourself available to the world that is waiting for you.

Pat Jackman
michaeljackman@iinet.net.au

The Long Hill Home *Continued from page 14*

This sonnet encompasses the memoirs of a deceased soldier who declares his patriotism to his homeland by declaring that his sacrifice will be the eternal ownership of England of a small portion of land upon which he died.

SIEGFRIED SASSOON, CBE, MC -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siegfried_Sassoon

Sassoon soon became horrified by the realities of war, and the tone of his writing changed completely: where his early poems exhibit a Romantic, dilettantish sweetness, his war poetry moves to an increasingly discordant music, intended to convey the ugly truths of the trenches to an audience

Sassoon went over alone with bombs in daylight, under covering fire from a couple of rifles, and scared away the occupants. A pointless feat, since instead of signalling for reinforcements, he sat down in the German trench and began reading a book of poems which he had brought with him.

Deepening depression at the horror and misery the soldiers were forced to endure produced in Sassoon a paradoxically manic courage, and he was nicknamed "Mad Jack" by his men for his near-suicidal exploits. On 27 July 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross.

ROBERT GRAVES -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Graves

RUDYARD KIPLING -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudyard_Kipling#Death_of_son

"Kipling's son John was killed in action at the Battle of Loos in September 1915, at the age of just 18. John had tried twice to enlist but was rejected. His father had been lifelong friends with Lord

Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British Army, and colonel of the Irish Guards. At Rudyard's request, John was accepted into the Irish Guards.

John Kipling was sent to Loos two days into the battle in a reinforcement contingent. He was last seen stumbling through the mud blindly, with a possible facial injury.

Kipling was emotionally devastated by the death of his son."

BRIGADIER GEORGE MANSFORD -

http://iivvpa.net/mansford_g/index.php

CASUALTIES OF WAR poem.

MILITARY HUMOUR An oldie but a goodie??

Three men are sitting stiffly, side by side, on a long commercial flight. After they're airborne and the plane has levelled off, the man in the window seat abruptly says, distinctly and confidently, in a loud voice, "Admiral, Royal Navy, retired. Married, two sons, both surgeons."

After a few minutes the man in the aisle seat states through a tight lipped smile, "Admiral, Fleet Air Arm, retired. Married, two sons, both Judges."

After some thought, the fellow in the centre seat decides to introduce himself. With a twinkle in his eye he proclaims, "Master Gunnery Sergeant, Royal Navy, retired. Never married, two sons, both Admirals."

Corporal Cosmo



cosmo@dfwa.org.au

Welcome to the end of another financial year.

It's been over two years since the Treasurer announced changes to superannuation on 3 May 2016. This article will address how two of the changes, which commenced on 1 July 2017 might impact ADF members who belong to defined benefit superannuation schemes (MSBS and DFRDB).

When you receive your 2018 Defence Payment Summary (Group Certificate), keen observers will notice, for the first time, an amount in the box to the right of, Reportable Employer Superannuation Contributions.

Until 30 June 2017, members of Defined Benefit schemes (MSBS & DFRDB), did not have Employer Superannuation Contributions reported to the Australian Tax Office (ATO). Check your previous Payment Summaries yourself on PMKeyS!

For members who joined the ADF on or after 1 July 2016, when ADF Super commenced and MSBS ceased to accept new entrants, the amount of Reportable Employer Superannuation Contributions is exactly what Defence has contributed to your ADF Super account, which should equal 16.4% of your (superannuable¹) salary.

For contributors who belong to the MSBS, (and those left in DFRDB and still serving), the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) will use a formula based on what is known as the Division 293 Tax Liability^{2,3}, to calculate your notional Employer Contribution and report that amount to the ATO.

Astoundingly, if you have reached your Pension Maximum Benefit Limit (PMBL) in the MSBS and no longer receive any Employer Contribution from Defence, the CSC will still calculate the full value of your notional Employer Contributions and report it to the ATO.

The significance of the CSC reporting a notional employer contribution to the ATO is that it reduces your Concessional Contribution Cap of \$25,000.

For example:

If you're on a salary of \$100,000, CSC will report your Notional Employer Contributions of \$12,690 to the ATO, reducing the available \$25,000 CCC by over 50%.

If you're a contributing member of the MSBS or DFRDB, you can visit the MilitarySuper or DFRDB website and use the online Concessional contribution cap estimator to estimate by how much your CCC will be reduced.

Consequently, if you were in a position to squirrel away more money into your super, you would only be able to contribute \$12,310 at

the concession tax rate of 15%.

It happens that a colleague of mine who had reached her Maximum Benefit Limit (MBL) was concerned that the CSC was intent on reporting the full value of her notional Employer Contribution to the ATO, even though she does not receive any Employer Contribution – notional or actual – as an MBL Member in the MSBS.

Despite having identified several references, one of which is Income Tax Assessment Regulation 292-170.04, which says that a member of a defined contribution fund who is an on-hold member⁴, the amount of Employer Contributions to be reported (to the ATO) is to be zero, the CSC response is that their 'understanding' of the legislation is that it does not apply to the MSBS.

As previously reported in this column, the Australian Government Actuary has published a report⁵ containing errors of fact and outdated assumptions, for use by CSC to inform their members that even though they receive zero Employer Contributions from Defence once they become an MBL member, they are still considered an 'accruing member' of the scheme.

The flawed report remains available on the MilitarySuper website despite the inaccuracies being brought to the attention of the CSC.

Should you, dear reader, find that you are being financially penalised on account of CSC's 'understanding' of the rules for reporting your Employer Contributions to the ATO, it may be to your benefit to seek independent financial counsel from a qualified adviser or tax consultant. There is also the option of approaching the ATO to request a Private Ruling on what amount should be reported, if you're not receiving any Employer Contributions.

Write to Corporal Cosmo. Would you like to know more about a condition of service, your pay or superannuation? Drop me a line at cosmo@dfwa.org.au and I'll do my best to get you an answer.

Remember: Corporal Cosmo's comments are their own, reflecting their opinions only.

¹ Superannuable salary = salary + superannuable allowances, including Service Allowance (see, Pay and Conditions Manual. Search 'superannuation').

² Division 293 Tax was introduced by the Federal Government on 1 July 2012 to reduce tax concessions of individuals earning more than \$300,000 from 30% to 15% for taxed superannuation schemes.

³ From 1 July 2017 onwards the Division 293 Tax threshold was lowered to \$250,000

⁴ The member was an on-hold member of the fund if: (a) the member had a benefit entitlement in the fund, but no employer-provided benefits accrued to the member;

⁵ Division 293 New Entrant Contribution Rate for the Employer Defined Benefit Component of MSBS, 29 July 2014.

<https://militarysuper.gov.au/storage/rep-mb-comsuper-div-293-msbs.PDF>

FEAR DRIVE MY FEET:

PETER RYAN'S WAR IN NEW GUINEA IN WW2

by LtCol Alistair Pope, psc (Retired)

Prescript

I first read Peter Ryan's book, 'Fear Drive My Feet' while serving on secondment from the Australian Army to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) in the mid-1970's. This was thirty years after the end of the fighting in New Guinea and the last of the veterans that Peter would have known were finally retiring.

Many years later I bought my second copy of his memoir and found it as fascinating and evocative of the sights, scenes and smells of PNG, just as I had the first time. Although Peter lived just a few kilometres from me I could not think of a good reason to knock on his door, introduce myself and shake his hand. When I did find an intermediary it was too late as Peter was in terminal decline and was not receiving visiting strangers. Peter died less than three months later on 23rd December 2015. I felt I had lost an opportunity to meet a real soldier, a true Australian character and an admirable man.

Preparation and Planning ...

On completing his basic training 18-year-old Private Peter Ryan was promoted to Warrant Officer and posted to Port Moresby to join 'M Force' of the Australian Intelligence Bureau (AIB) an intelligence gathering operation comprised of remarkable individuals operating alone or in pairs deep inside Japanese controlled territory. They were spread throughout the mountains overlooking the main Japanese base at Lae in northern New Guinea and at various strategic points along the coast. One possible flaw in the plan to send Peter was that he had never been to either Papua or New Guinea (the two parts of what is now Papua New Guinea were separate administrative areas in those days). His main qualification for the job was that his father had taught him to speak some Pidgin English ("Tok Pisin") while growing up in Australia!

In 1942 Australia's Defences were in a parlous state: most of New Guinea had been lost to the invading Japanese and few combat ready Australian units were available to stop either an amphibious landing on the south coast (as happened at Milne Bay) or a land invasion of Port Moresby over the Owen Stanley Ranges along the Kokoda Track. Knowledge of Japanese dispositions, capabilities and preparations for further operations were of vital importance if the available troops were to be deployed effectively.

After a short induction briefing, Peter was sent forward to work with the legendary figure of Jock McLeod who was operating alone in the mountains behind Lae. However, there were a few problems with this deskbound plan: Peter was despatched with insufficient rations for the journey, was issued with a damaged rifle and a pistol with only ten rounds. It was clear the military hierarchy did not expect him to survive, so there was little point in wasting valuable scarce resources. Yet these were minor failings compared to the real issues. The Army did

not provide their operatives with a radio with which to communicate information obtained, so it took days for a courier to report to the nearest forward base. He was not given a map or a compass by which to navigate with which to find an unknown destination as nobody actually knew where Jock was. To help him, Peter was 'supported' by a native police-boy who knew nothing of the country into which they were venturing. There was also some natural concern about the patrolling activities of the 13,000 Japanese soldiers spread around various bases in his proposed area of operations. With a plan like that, what could go wrong?

With the optimism of callow youth, Peter set off to find the forward Australian Commando camp, cross the massive Markham River, then search the immense Huon Peninsula for the elusive Jock.

Fortunately, there is an amazing 'bush telegraph' between the mountain villages with information on everything being passed by travellers on every conceivable subject, particularly the movement of strangers. Having found Kirkland's Camp, Peter stocked up on supplies and trade goods, crossed the Markham River and set out into the unknown. Two days later he entered the village of Bivoro and found Les Williams resting while he recovered from a malarial fever. Once Les was well enough they moved deeper into the mountains to locate Jock at a village called Gain. Here they received the news that Ian Downs, a Coastwatcher reconnoitring amphibious landing beaches on the North Coast had been betrayed and injured crossing a river and had only just escaped after several very close calls. Ian refused to leave and stayed in the mountains. Also, they found that Jock was no longer at Gain but had moved a further four days walk away. The chase continued with two more failures to meet before Peter finally caught up with his leader. After such a long chase they parted the next day as Jock was intending to cross the formidable 12,000 foot high (3,900m) Surawaged Ranges to reconnoitre the North Coast and needed all their supplies.

Peter returned to the forward base, replenished his supplies and retraced his steps into the barely known mountains, this time with a handwritten map. Having reached the friendly Wain country Peter moved about from village to village gathering news and information about the Japanese activities. Apart from trading such valuable commodities as newspaper (for the natives to make much-coveted cigarettes from local tobacco), salt and razor blades, one of Peter's tasks was to dispense rudimentary medical aid to cure tropical diseases such as hideous ulcers caused by yaws, hookworm and assorted wounds. This aid would ensure a steady flow of assistance and information.

This was a passive way of gathering information, but Peter was also active. On one occasion, with two police-boys, he penetrated right to the edge of the Japanese Base at Lae and interviewed Chinese internees about

Japanese operations. He escaped back to his mountain lair before the Japanese found out. When they did, they were so angry that they posted a reward for his capture of two cases of meat and £5 (about \$50 in today's currency). Naturally, his fellow spies sardonically threatened to turn him over for the reward by saying a case of meat was worth more than him. Unfortunately, the valuable intelligence he had obtained on hidden targets would take 3-4 days to reach the air force Command Centre at Port Moresby as the Army hierarchy still refused to give them a radio!

Peter had now spent more than a year in the mountain villages, from which he could often observe Japanese activities at their main base at Lae and at their airfield at Nadzab. There were about a dozen of these intrepid 'explorers' crisscrossing the mountain tracks, carefully observing, but avoiding the increasingly active Japanese patrols intruding deep into the mountains. Some of the New Guinean clansmen were coming to the conclusion that the Japanese were here to stay and that it was time to change allegiances. This increased the level of danger of betrayal. On one occasion, Peter and his patrol partner, Captain Les Howlett were traversing a high mountain track when shots from a Japanese patrol on another track several hundred feet below interrupted their journey. They reported the incident and that the enemy were heading for the operational area of Harry Lumb, another lone operator in the Kaiapit area. Harry was a long-term resident of New Guinea that Peter had met just a few weeks before as Lumb was passing through on his way to Kaiapit.

As movement between villages was becoming very difficult, information was harder to obtain and their operational value was diminishing. The situation was resolved when a message was received that the experienced Harry Lumb had been betrayed by the natives in the village of Ofofragen and killed by a Japanese patrol. Although this was the same Japanese patrol Peter and Les had reported, Harry had apparently not been warned of its presence by the AIB! Their orders were now to evade and escape by whatever means and route they thought best. No support was available. They were on their own nearly 200km from safety in an unfriendly and dangerous environment increasingly crisscrossed by strong Japanese patrols.

Having weighed their options, Les, Peter, their police-boys and carriers took the longest route to go around the most likely occupied areas. This would require crossing two 3,500m+ mountain ranges, the Surawaged and the Finisterre Ranges. Just crossing both of these would be an outstanding achievement, but then they still had to pass through more Japanese controlled territory before finally crossing the mighty Markham River. The journey was the most difficult they ever made in a country in which the minimum average track is rated as 'difficult'. Finally, they cleared the mountains and entered the village of Ewok on a tributary river of the Markham.

At Ewok, they paid off the carriers by giving them most of their remaining gear as Peter, Les and their police boys were on the last long leg of their run to safety. Peter was now barefoot and wearing the few rags that remained of his rotted uniform. At Ewok the news was bad as it appeared that Japanese patrols were everywhere, but their exact locations were uncertain. The decision was made to move as fast as possible before news of their presence reached their enemies. This resulted in a 28-hour forced march by day and night that took them under half way to their destination of Chisavang Village and the last short stop before the Markham River crossing. Here they discovered that another lone 'escapee' from the north coast, the wounded Captain Basil Fairfax-Ross had passed through only

two days before. The next morning their party set off for Chisavang.

At Chisavang they became suspicious of the natives' recalcitrant behaviour but after a short reconnaissance they moved into the village. They were met with a burst of machine gun and rifle fire. Captain Howlett was shot and wounded. With bullets clipping the grass around him, Peter jumped into a stream, losing his Owen gun and most of his shirt before escaping into the long Kunai grass on the far side. He did not go far, but dived into a stinking pig-wallow and buried himself in the mud up to his nose. He heard the voices of the Japanese and the squelch of their boots as they hunted for him. He lay there for another half an hour then he heard natives calling out that the Japanese had left. Fortunately he ignored them as he soon heard Japanese voices. He waited until nightfall before moving off barefoot in the direction of the Markham River. Despite his best efforts he could not reach the Markham in the darkness, but spent another mosquito infested night in the bush. At noon the next day he finally crossed the Markham and reached the forward Australian outpost at Kirklands Camp.

In one of those instances of black humour, when the ragged and nearly naked Peter reached Bulolo the quartermaster refused to issue him with a new uniform because he had lost his paybook! It required the intervention of a senior officer to countermand the rigidities of the bureaucratic mind.

A Better Way of War ...

One would think that this is where Peter Ryan's war should have ended, but there was more to do. Peter was given an assignment of observing an undefended 32km stretch of the Markham between two new airfields constructed by American Army engineers. Just as he was about to set out an American, Tex Frazier, asked if he could come along. Peter reluctantly agreed, but it was a decision that produced amazing results. As usual, the Australian Army could not spare a radio, so reports still had to be sent back by courier. Tex found this bewildering, so he had the natives cut a short airstrip out of the bush then returned to Bulolo where he obtained a Piper Cub and flew back to their base. Peter remained for several more months assisting with the organisation of native carriers and helping Tex build further airstrips. Although he had no more close encounters, Peter saw much of the death and destruction of war as the Australians and Americans advanced, often leaving their dead foes unburied as there was no time to stop for such niceties. Eventually, the tropical diseases, fevers and their effects on his wasted body caught up on him and Peter was evacuated to Port Moresby and then to Australia. At 20-years old his war was over.

WO2 Peter Ryan was awarded the Military Medal (MM) and was Mentioned in Despatches (MiD).

Epilogue

The war went on and the natural order returned. In February 1944, Tuya, the native from Chivasing Village who had betrayed and then murdered the wounded Captain Les Howlett was publically executed by hanging at Lae.

Peter never forgot the natives who had helped him survive his private war and often returned to PNG to meet and support them. He raised money for schools (and has one named after him).

Continued bottom page 38

THE bush HAT

Hats in Vietnam are fashion - even high fashion if you take odour into account.

There are elegant models with softly drooped brims, models with jauntily cocked brims, new and old, battered and pampered... Every man wears his hat in a manner just slightly different to the next, expressing his own personality.

How a soldier moulds and wears his hat in Vietnam is about the only way he can express himself when the most pressing fashion problem he is ever likely to face is which set of his wardrobe of jungle greens will he wear that day.

The "in" hat is known officially as "hats utility, jungle green." The Diggers know it variously as the giggle hat, hats ridiculous, or simply, the bush hat. Made of cotton twill and dyed that familiar green, it was introduced in 1954 to replace the slouch hat on operations. Its floppy design is to break up the outline of the head, helping camouflage the wearer, and a secondary purpose is to provide protection from the weather. Army regulations lay down that the hat will be worn at all times outdoors in the war theatre, and that it will not be cut, starched or shaped so as not to defeat its purpose.

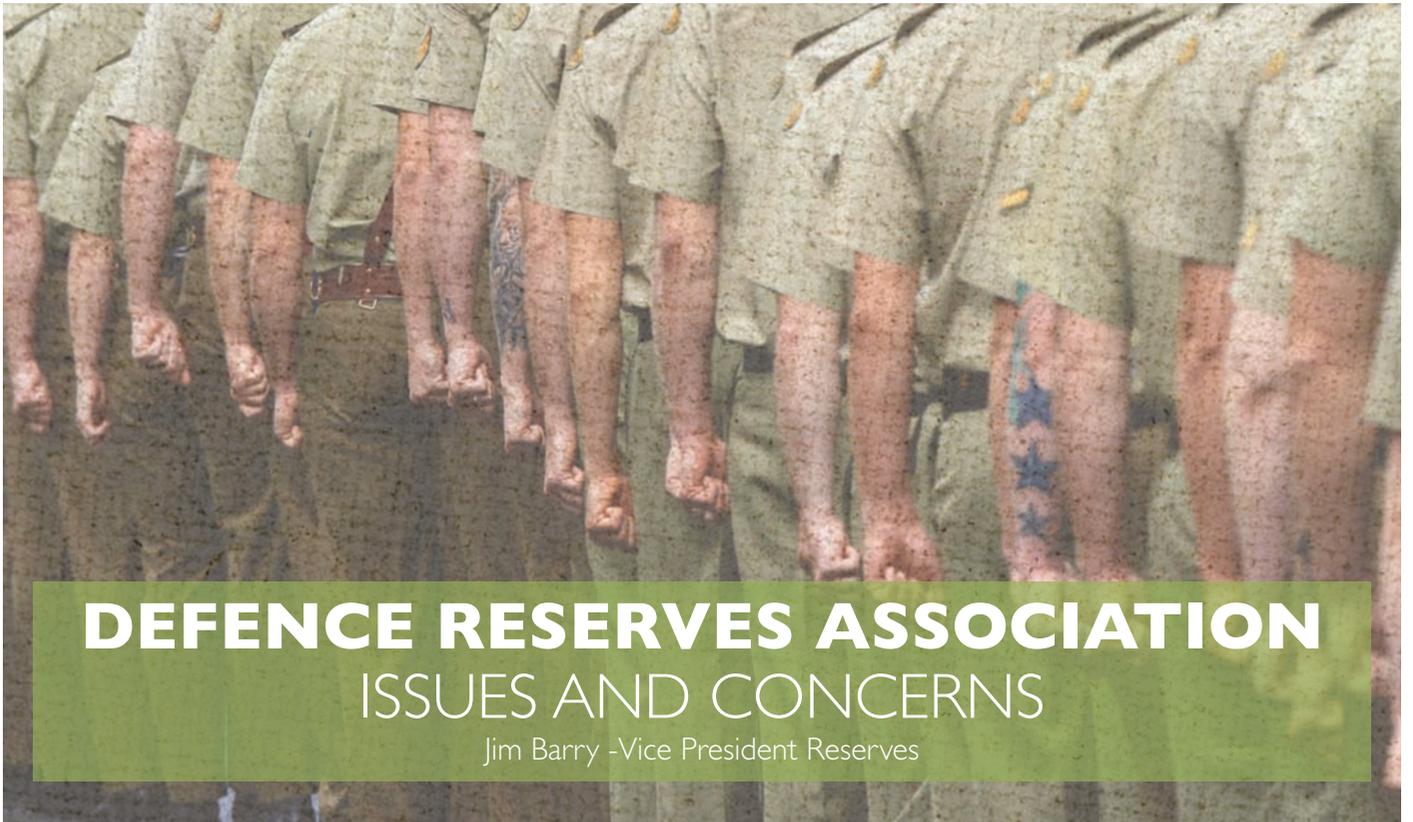
But the Digger, being a Digger...The floppy hat has many uses besides the obvious. The little pockets around the band can carry pens, tin openers, cigarettes and so on making it as useful as a roof-rack on a car. Soaked in water, it is the perfect built on air cooler.

Then again the Digger can pull it off his thatchwork and use it as a sweatcloth to wipe his face. In a pinch it is a reasonable towel. It even has its uses at night. Stuffed with a sweatcloth the little floppy hat is a good pillow, or it can be used to hold the contents of pants pockets so they won't stick in.

And even when the Digger returns home to Australia his companion of many miles in the Vietnam jungle is not forgotten - it has just taken on the new role of a fishing hat. A tried and trusty warrior, sporting a 15-year-old model, has the final say. "One of their saving graces," he swears, "is that you look as stupid as the next man. No man can look intelligent in a rag hat..."

Kel Ryan





DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Jim Barry -Vice President Reserves

I had the pleasure of attending the recent DFWA Executive Meeting, 4/5 June 2018 in Canberra where I presented my report on some of the historical and current issues affecting Reservists, the Defence Reserve Association (DRA) and its allied organisations.

A summary of the key issues is:

DVA's 'Round Table' - ESORT:

DRA National is now a member of the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) in its own right, having had Branch representatives for some time on five of the eight State Deputy Commissioner Consultative Forums (DCCFs). Membership of ESORT has enabled the DRA to raise major issues affecting Reservists. Whilst we have a "total ADF", regrettably some policy initiatives in relation to treatment of veterans ignore Reservists.

We have already noticed a significant change by DVA and politicians from our National point of view in the treatment of Reservists.

A challenge for DRA State Branches is to work closely with those Ex-Service organisations that have skilled and accredited advocates in dealing with claims and queries from individual Reservists.

Reviews of DVA:

The DRA is working closely with the DWFA on responses to the Australian National Audit Office that is undertaking a performance

audit on the efficiency of DVA's service delivery to veterans and the Productivity Commission's review of the legislative framework and administrative processes within DVA with the object of simplifying the system. Both reviews should lead to significant improvements in the way DVA deals with veterans' issues.

Non Liability Health Care for Reservists:

DRA welcomed the Government initiative announced in the 2017/18 budget to provide non-liability health care to any ADF member who has had one day's full time service, as well as to Reservists who have had any period of continuous full time service (CFTS). Obtaining a 'White Card' for Reservists who have CFTS to access treatment for a number of mental health conditions is a very positive move, but ignores all those Reservists who have no CFTS, many of whom have lengthy service. Apparently, these Reservists do not suffer from any mental health issues!

The DRA was pleased to note that in the 2018/19 Federal budget, provision of a "White Card" for treatment of certain mental health conditions was extended to Reservist without CFTS who have been involved in "disaster relief service, border protection service or a serious service-related training accident".

This is a very small but significant step forward. The DRA is seeking advice as what is meant by "disaster relief service, border protections service and serious service-related training accident" and how does a Reservist prove that they have been involved in one of these activities.

The DRA will continue to argue that all Reservists who have not had any period of CFTS should be eligible for a “White Card” if they need treatment for mental health conditions.

One step in the right direction is the establishment by Reserve & Youth Division of a Reserves Assistance Program through a call-centre to counsel Reservists and/or their families on mental health and well-being issues.

Whilst the Federal and State Veterans Affairs Ministers have agreed to a common definition of a ‘veteran’ being “a person who is serving or has served in the ADF”, which includes all Reservists, we still have a long way to go to embrace Reservists as a truly part-time component of the ADF.

Defence Reserves Service (Protection) Act 2001 Amendments:

After some eight years in the legislative doldrums, the Act has now been amended and all Reserve service is now protected. This includes the education sector that is particularly important because of the number of tertiary students serving in the Reserves.

Superannuation for Reservists:

Superannuation for Reservists is a major issue. They are the only part-time workforce in Australia that does not receive pro rata employer-contributed superannuation.

Plan Suakin designed to better integrate and utilise Reserve personnel

capability within the ADF found that it needed to address the total ADF workforce and allow for seamless transition between “service categories’ or SERCATs as they became known. In the Plan, SERCAT 5 was designed for part-time Reservists to receive superannuation. The Plan became a Project and finally morphed into the Total Workforce Model omitting superannuation for Reservists on the way! One of the reasons was that the then ADF superannuation scheme did not allow for part-time employment. This is no longer the case with “ADF Super’. The DRA will continue to ‘fight’ for superannuation for Reservists.

DRA 2018 National Conference - Saturday 25 August 2018

The DRA 2018 National Conference will be held at the Vibe Hotel at Canberra Airport on the Saturday 25 August 2018, from 8.30am to 5.00pm, which will be followed by a tri-service all ranks formal dinner.

The Conference theme is “Meeting the Challenges for Reservists to Serve” where we will discuss crucial issues associated with meeting the challenges facing Reservists in rendering ADF service and the actions required by Government, Department of Defence and employers to enhance the availability of Reservists to serve.

Anyone interested in attending the Conference and or Dinner should contact their local DRA Branch or the Writer or dra.org.au and at url: DRA 2018 Conference webpage

(Jim Barry wrote this article in his capacity as National Immediate Past President of the Defence Reserves Association)

GST on a car or car parts - for disabled veterans Continued from page 17



Advice on vehicle taxation matters

Veterans and/or motor dealers may obtain authoritative technical advice on vehicle taxation from the Australian Taxation Office centre at Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

The centre's telephone number is (03) 9275-4322.

Again to emphasise a Veteran must meet the following conditions:

- have served in the Defence Force or in any other armed force of Her Majesty
- I was not a cadet, an officer of cadets or an instructor of cadets and I am not a ‘declared member’, and
- As a result of that service at least one of the follow applies to me:
 - I am a totally and permanently injured (TPI) veteran – section 24 of the Veteran’s Entitlements Act 1986 applies and I receive a pension under Part II of that Act.
 - I am a veteran receiving a Special Rate Disability Pension under

Part 6 of, Chapter 4 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 or I satisfy the eligibility criteria in section 199 of that Act.

- I have lost a leg or both arms
- I have had a leg or both arms rendered permanently and completely useless

More information is available at the below link or contact the ATO (03) 9275-4322.

dva.gov.au/compensation-and-support-policy-library/part-6-veterans-compensation-allowances-and-benefits/69-gst-exemption-motor-cars-and-spare-parts

The form is available online from DVA, Declaration for an exemption of GST on a car or car parts

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		\$45.00	
2. Bisley Shirt —Women's	XL, L, M, S		\$55.00	
3. DFWA Cap	xxxxx		\$15.00	
4. DFWA Lapel Badge	xxxxx		\$5.00	
5. DFWA Polo Shirt	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$36.00	
6. DFWA Cloth Badge	xxxxx		\$10.00	
7. Embroidered Patch	xxxxx		\$10.00	
8. DFWA Zip Front Jacket	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$75.00	
9. DFWA Zip Front Vest	XXL, XL, L, M, S		\$35.00	

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:/...../.....

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

Membership is on an
Financial Year basis,
ie 1 July to 30 June

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.dfw.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



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): Henry Old
 Vice President (RAAF): Alan Hind
 Vice President (Army): TBA
 Treasurer: Ralph Hannaford
 Membership Sec.: Henry Old
 IT Advisor: John Kane
 Location: Victoria Barracks Building 96 Locked Bag 7005, LIVERPOOL NSW 18711
 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	SHOALHAVEN Mr Christopher Clifford 6 Platypus Avenue, SANCTUARY POINT NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4443 7725
HUNTER VALLEY David Winkelmann AFC PO Box 467, MAYFIELD NSW 2304 Ph: (02) 4968 3811	Mr Kevin C Buchanan 12 The Triangle, CULBURRA BEACH NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4447 2461

A report of NSW Branch activities to NSW Branch members is provided 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 March 2018:

Major P Gibbons, and Mr A P Parren

VALE

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

Lady H Daly, Captain P G Duncan LVO RAN (Rtd), Mr R A Eisenhuth, Captain J A Gardner, LTCOLA J Goding, Mr I D Gunton, Mr T M Hoare, Miss J K Holdgate, Mrs E Hoskins, Mr N J Hutt, Mr S L Napper, Mr M A Naudi, Mr H M Pieremont, Mrs P M Rouse, Mr G P Worth BEM.

ACT BRANCH

President: Les Bienkiewicz
 Vice President: Trevor Goodhew
 Secretary: Gerard Gough
 Treasurer: Paul Jones
 Convener DWG: Vacant
 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.

MEMBERS' LUNCH

A "meet and greet" for members to meet other members and the Committee will be held on Wednesday 29 August at the Southern Cross Club Jamison. Further information is provided in the insert CAPITAL CHIT CHAT.

AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 at The Burns Club Kambah, commencing at 1900hr. All members are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend!

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Mr Ian Thompson, Mr John Force (from WA Branch) and WgCmdr Ken Stone (Retd).

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President: John Lewis
 Exec Vice President: Robert Shortridge
 Vice President: Pat Jackman
 VP – Far North Qld: Ray Martin
 VP – Sunshine Coast: Win Fowles
 Secretary: Deborah Keir
 Treasurer: Walter Buldo
 Postal Address: Victoria Barracks Brisbane ENOGGERA QLD 4051
 Telephone: (07) 3233 4480
 E-mail: qldbranch@dfwa.org.au
 Office Hours: Tue – Wed: 1000 to 1400 hrs
 Fridays: 0900 to 1100 hrs

A more detailed Report for Qld Based Members is contained in the "Hotline" Insert.

Our routine services for current and former ADF members and their

families include attendance at the ADF Transition Seminars held at Enoggera Army Barracks in March, July and October each year, advocacy support for DVA claims, conduct of Poppy Services and organising briefing sessions on DFWA lobbying activities for our members, serving ADF and ESOs. We also are represented at various veteran and ESO forums and commemorative events.

ATDP

At DVA request, we co-ordinated a meeting of ESO reps dissatisfied with the ATDP implementation. Regional Management attended. DVA Qld passed our concerns upwards and has now arranged a further meeting in July with Mr Roger Greene, currently the chair of the Capability Framework Management Group and a member of the Strategic Governance Board (SGB).

HOSPITAL VETERAN LIAISON OFFICERS

Earlier this year we discovered that DVA contracts with private hospitals, require the contractor to appoint Veteran Liaison Officers to advise any veteran in-patients of the availability of DVA services. Pat Jackman, our VP South East investigated further and found:

- The actual tasks undertaken by VLOs was vague and varied from hospital to hospital.
- While some hospitals had place for Veterans to request a VLO visit on Admission Forms, not all did.
- Few were proactive in contacting ESO and some reluctant to release veteran details for ESO to visit.
- VLOs only advised on DVA services and nothing about other Veteran help.
- There was no requirement for public hospitals serving DVA clients to appoint a VLO.

Pat has taken on the task to develop a DFWA veteran hospital kit, containing Camaraderie, Information Pack and other items which may assist veterans hospitalised. It is envisaged these would assist VLOs in becoming more aware of support available to veterans and families other than just DVA services.

INCARCERATED VETERANS AND FAMILIES

In dealing with homeless issues, Veteran incarceration in prisons and psychiatric institutions has been raised along with the absence of statistics. However, it is suspected veterans may be over-represented. In any event, it became clear that services were needed both for the incarcerated and their families, while incarcerated and transitioning out of prison. Wayne Douglas is taking a lead on this project, utilising organisations already with experience in this area, with an intention to allow for ESO Advocates and Welfare Officers to assist. We see our role as assisting in establishing a support network with other ESO, to co-ordinate this effort and have contacted other ESO inviting participation. Our first query regarding providing support to a Veteran was received today from RSL Qld.

MILITARY SUPERANNUATION APPEALS.

We have been providing support to Veterans who have been appealing against the actions of CSC and the ATO related to the tax treatment of Invalidity Benefits paid through DFRDB and MSBS. There will be similar issues with ADF Super and ADF Cover in the future. The

appeals have been in the Federal Court and in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The basic issue is that the way CSC report the nature of Invalidity Benefits to the ATO and the Family Court, the payments are treated as if they are lifetime pensions. They are not as they are subject to review and can be assessed downwards to nothing. Such reviews can occur up to age 55 years for MSBS and ADF Cover, and for life for DFRDB. CSC information sheets make this quite clear. There is further information regarding CSC not acting in ADF members' best interests, elsewhere in the magazine.

BRIEFING SESSIONS

We will be holding a briefing session on this for currently serving ADF members, our members, other ESO and all Invalidity Benefit payees in mid-July and will be promoting this in the July Transition Seminar, targeting those who are up for medical discharge.

We will also be holding a briefing before the by-election in Longman (12-15% veteran population).

LEGAL DUCK AND WEAVE

I shall close with a little account of ATO ducking and weaving at the AAT hearings.

Duck and Weave 1.

ATO argued that recipients of Invalidity Benefits were no longer members of MSBS once in receipt of the payments. As their notional Employer Benefit funds were forfeited (effectively zero) and they could not contribute, they had no membership.

Duck and Weave 2.

Another argument was that while veterans may be reviewed downwards and no longer receive a payment, the pension, eg a Class A, still existed for a lifetime regardless. The veteran just did not qualify for it. It was likened to some welfare payments ceased when a recipient went overseas. The Welfare Benefit still existed, it was just the a person ceased to qualify for it and it could be reinstated when certain conditions (return to Australia) were met, as could Invalidity Benefit payments.

The battle continues...

John Lewis - President DFWAQ.



COPIES OF CAMARADERIE

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron	His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia
President	Lee Bowes
Deputy President	Vacant
Immediate Past President	John Wilson
Senior Vice-President	Laurie Lewis
Secretary	David Lyas
Treasurer	Ian Smith
Vice President (Navy)	Alexander Ward
Vice President (Army)	Paul (Tich) Tyson
Vice President (Air Force)	Vacant
Vice President Welfare	David Everett
Honorary Auditor	John D Thornton FAICD FAIM FCPA
Convenor Women Veterans	TBA
Membership Officer	Peter Jackman
Contact:	0432 379 278 or email sapresident@dfwa.org.au

We have two new members, Alexander Ward and David Everett. Alex is a Barrister and is also a member of the RAN Reserve. He holds the rank of LTCDR. David is a Viet Nam veteran nasho, and spent most of his working life in banking and business. He has also been involved in veteran activities holding senior positions. We welcome them both. We are still missing a VP RAAF but this is looking promising and we have requested a female to fill this position.

LIAISON

We attend the DVA Deputy Commissioners forums.

Have attended various Military ceremonies and Government meetings along with 2 cocktail evenings with the Governor of SA. I have also spoken with Boeing at RAAF Base Edinburgh regarding a donation, this is pending.

We also met with Tony Dell from the Stand Tall organisation. He was in Adelaide and met with various organisations regarding his group and what they are doing for PTSD. Tony is a veteran and suffers from the illness. For those who follow cricket Tony represented Australia in cricket and was a fast bowler. Stand Tall is well known on the east coast and he would like to have the same coverage in SA and WA. Their group forms a caravan from Brisbane to Melbourne and along the way is joined by the various police and emergency services and some military elements. In Melbourne they have a dinner and meeting. We will liaise with with the 3 services when and if Tony decides to go ahead.

Our membership remains steady, ANZAC day always promises a flood and we can only hope. We have also addressed questions regarding the Productivity Commission study.

Lee Bowes - President

VICTORIA BRANCH

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Victorian Branch AGM was held in Melbourne of 24 May. Eighteen members attended and 47 members provided proxies for voting by the meeting Chairman.

The Committee was re-elected without change for a further year. At the AGM the following motions were endorsed for submitting the National Executive meeting in Canberra on 4 / 5 June:

MOTION 1 - That whenever National Office receives an Ordinary or Life or Associate membership application, National Office is to:

- advise the relevant State / Territory Branch (based on the address details provided by the applicant) of receipt of the application;
- provide a copy of the application to the relevant State / Territory Branch;
- remit any membership subscription monies received from the applicant to the relevant State / Territory Branch.

MOTION 2 - That the membership application form currently included in Camaraderie be replaced with the membership application form currently available on the DFWA website.

MOTION 3 - The donation form as contained in Camaraderie and in the DFWA website be amended to allow the donor to indicate whether the donor wishes the donation to be allocated to the National Office or the Relief Fund or the donor's relevant State / Territory Branch and, if it is the latter, National Office establish and implement a procedure to advise the relevant State / Territory Branch of the donation, the donor's details and remit the donation to the relevant State / Territory Branch.

MOTION 4 - That article 21 of the DFWA National Constitution (Complete Revision 1 February 2012) be amended to read:

"21. Membership Reports

At the completion of each quarter ending March, June, September and December in each year, Branches are to forward to the National Office, and copy to each other Branch, a statement setting out their Branch membership, listing the number in each category of membership as well as total Branch membership, and any changes in each membership category during the quarter."

Or in the event there is no change to the article 21

“20 (f) Subscriptions

Branches are to forward to the National Office by 31 July each year an amount equal to a proportion, as determined by the most recent resolution of an AGM on the matter, of the total membership fees of all classes received during the preceding financial year.

MOTION 5 - That National Office establishes a Risk Management Register that complies with the Australian risk management standard ASNZ 31000:2009 and, as a minimum, documents the following:

- d. Financial risks
- e. Compliance risks
- f. Reputational risks
- g. Work health and safety risks
- h. Risks rated for likelihood and consequence
- i. Current controls in place for each risk
- j. What residual risk remains
- k. What treatment is in place for each residual risk
- l. Who the risk owner is
- m. How often the risk is to be reviewed

MOTION 6 - That the National Executive establish a subcommittee under article 32 of the DFWA National Constitution (Complete Revision 1 February 2012) with the subcommittee to consist of the following National Executive members and to have the following functions and to convene to perform these functions in the following manner:

- n. Subcommittee membership
 - 1) National President (Subcommittee Chair)
 - 2) Deputy National President
 - 3) Presidents of each State / Territory Branch
 - 4) National Executive Director (Subcommittee Secretary)
- o. Subcommittee functions
 - 1) Oversight and direction of National Office functions
 - 2) Review of DFWA National Risk Register
 - 3) Determine what action is to be taken to address any new emerging risks
 - 4) Confirm the status and treatment of any residual risks
- p. Frequency and manner of subcommittee meetings
 - 1) As a minimum the Subcommittee will convene quarterly
 - 2) Meetings will be by teleconference or other virtual means (such as Skype) as arranged by National Office

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST AGM

DFWA (Vic) has participated in the following activities since the last AGM:

- May 2017 – Transition Taskforce Online Survey
- June 2017 – DFWA National Executive meeting
- June 2017 – Annual Information Statement to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission
- October 2017 – DVA Deputy Commissioner's ESO Consultative Forum
- November 2017 – DFWA National Executive meeting and DFWA National AGM reports for inclusion in Camaraderie's first and second editions for 2017 and the first edition for 2018.

- November 2017 -Victorian Veterans Round Table
- November 2017 – Letter to Ballarat City Council regarding the POW Interpretive/ Story Centre
- November 2017 – SWAC sponsorship and prize presentation
- February 2018 – response to ATDP paper “Future of Advocacy”
- February 2018 – Response to DFWA National President regarding proposed posthumous award of Field Marshall rank to General Sir John Monash
- March 2018 – DFWA Raffle
- March 2018 – DFWA Annual Statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria
- April 2018 – RSL Victorian President's ANZAC reception
- April 2018 – Input to National Office in regard to the ALP's Veterans Employment Policy
- April 2018 – Response to DFWA National President regarding “The definition of welfare” in the context of DFWA's activities
- May 2018 – DVA post budget brief and Deputy Commissioner's ESO Consultative Forum
- May 2018 – DFWA (Vic) Member Survey

DFWA (VIC) - STATUS

While the Branch remains financial our main resource, membership, continues to decline. This is a factor of the age profile of the majority of members and our continued inability to attract new members from both those currently serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force and those who have recently transitioned to civilian life.

Unless we are able to reverse this trend I anticipate that the Branch will have to give serious consideration to its continuance in about four to five years from now. This situation is not unique to the Victorian Branch as similar circumstances are enlivened in our fellow State / Territory Branches and throughout the ESO community.

I welcome any ideas and suggestions on how we may reverse our memberships' downward trend.

I would also like to take the opportunity to highlight the work of our Treasurer in reconciling our membership database over the last 12 months; in tenaciously following up on membership fees; and for his suggestion to implement an annual membership gift voucher to be randomly draw from the pool of all financial members.

At the November meeting the committee committed to surveying the Victorian membership in order to understand what activities members believed the Branch should be giving priority too. The survey was dispatched to members in the first two weeks of this month and I anticipate being able to provide members with the survey's outcomes by late June / early July. We will also be advising DFWA National and our fellow State / Territory Branches of the survey outcomes.

MEMBER SURVEY

At the November 2017 Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that a member survey would be developed in order to gain our members views on how they felt about the work being undertaken on their behalf by the Committee; where members felt the Committee should be giving priority to; and what means of communication members felt best served their needs.

Commencing in May survey forms, along with a stamped self addressed envelope in which members can return their completed survey forms, were dispatched to members in the Post. Almost 500 survey forms were mailed and, at the time of writing this Branch report, almost 200 completed surveys had been received back in to the office.

This is an excellent result and the information and feedback provided by members will be invaluable in shaping the future work of the Executive Committee and the Association.

Once all the returned surveys are tabulated the results will be advised to the Victorian members and also to our fellow State/ territory Branches and to DFWA National.

Stephen Turner - President

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Patron:	The Honourable Kim C Beazley AC
President:	Richard Usher OAM
Vice President:	Max Ball
Secretary:	Allan Austin
Treasurer:	Lou Halvorson
Convenor DWG:	Shirly Mooney OAM
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:	wbranch@dfwa.org.au
Location:	Karrakatta Community House Matapau Road Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010

A more detailed report will be provided to WA Branch members in the Branch newsletter, 'The Western Front', which will be posted to members in August.

NEW MEMBERS

The President and Committee offer a warm welcome to Mr Jayson Dawson and Mr Geoff Wilson.

VALE

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Mr Colin Elston and Mrs Olive Taylor.

BRANCH SOCIAL OUTING

The Branch had a successful social outing to the SAS Historical Collection at Swanbourne on 23rd May followed by lunch at Clancy's Fish Bar in City Beach.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - A FRIENDLY REMINDER

A friendly reminder that annual membership subscriptions fell due on 1st July 2018. Please note that the subscription year is now aligned with the financial year. Invoices were sent out recently to

those members who pay annually.

DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP (WA BRANCH)

The Defence Widows Group meets regularly at DVA offices every second month for morning tea. New members welcome – please contact Shirly Mooney on 08 9447 2339.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday 5th September. AGM at RAAFA Bull Creek commencing at 2pm and a guest speaker will give a short presentation. Refreshments will be served on completion .
- Thursday 13th December. Christmas lunch at RAAFA Bull Creek

No 250 RAAF ADVANCED PILOTS' COURSE

CDF, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC presented the Flying Brevets (Wings) to graduates of No 250 RAAF Advanced Pilots' Course. SBLT Thomas Snow RAN won the DFWA Award for air navigation, four other awards plus the dux award - a record total of six awards out of eight available.



SBLT Thomas Snow accompanies ACM Mark Binskin after inspecting the No 250 RAAF Advanced Pilots' Course graduation parade at RAAF Base Pearce.



Some of the Branch members at the SAS Historical Collection at Swanbourne.

The final bizarre twist came during one of his visits 41 years after the end of his war and was recorded in one of his weekly newspaper columns. On one of his visits to PNG he noticed a group of Japanese dining at another table conversing in Pidgin English. He introduced himself as he guessed they were Japanese war veterans. He told them of his war in the mountains. They explained they were members of a signals platoon whose job it was to intercept the calls from these spies and send patrols to their location to eliminate them. One mentioned a particularly elusive call sign who always successfully evaded them. Peter replied "Em mi tasol!" The former enemies roared with laughter and as old soldiers do, they shared many a whiskey together as they reminisced about a brutal war now firmly in their pasts.

The character of Peter Ryan was forged in the horrors, degradation and losses of war but he survived and lived a life. He was a product of an Australia that used-to-be. He was self-reliant, principled, trustworthy, willing to sacrifice everything and the embodiment of the best of the Australians' of his era. Australia has changed and there are few like him today, yet there is no doubt we will need his kind again.

Bibliography & References

Fear Drive My Feet – by Peter Ryan, MM, MiD, Published by Duffy & Snellgrove and distributed by Pan MacMillan. First published in 1959 (Reprinted 2001, 2002)
 ISBN 1 875989 87 0
 Australia's War Crimes Trials 1945 - 51 – by Georgina Fitzpatrick, Tim McCormack & Narelle Morris, Published by Brill Nijhoff, The Netherlands
 Library of Congress Control Number: 2016946380, ISBN 978 90 04 29204 8.
 Page 343 describes the execution by hanging of Tuya in February 1944. Tuya was the native from Chivasing Village who had betrayed Captain

Les Howlett and Peter Ryan to the Japanese. After months of living behind Japanese lines they were just hours from the safety of an Australian forward base when Howlett was ambushed and killed while Ryan barely survived and escaped after a harrowing chase. Howlett, Leslie (Les) Frederick. The Tasmanian teacher, born 13th December 1923, who the Public Service Inspector thought "has a good physique, gives impression of sternness and would be strict disciplinarian and is a good sound and reliable type", was appointed a Cadet as of 22nd February 1936. Howlett enlisted on 22nd January 1940. Captain Howlett was attached to the Far Eastern Liaison Office (FELO), a military propaganda and field intelligence unit established in June 1942 ultimately responsible to the Commander-in-Chief, South West Pacific area (Douglas Macarthur), when he joined Peter Ryan on a patrol into the Wain country. Howlett was injured in a Japanese ambush at Chivasing village in the Markham Valley on 21st June 1943 and subsequently shot through the head by the native Tuya, who was assisting the Japanese. Tuya was tried for murder and executed in February 1944. <https://www.pngaa.net/Library/BioNotes.htm>
 Peter Ryan: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Ryan_\(columnist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Ryan_(columnist))
 Peter Ryan: Obituary:- <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/ryan-peter-25437>
 The New Guinea Campaign: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Guinea_campaign
 Ian Downs: The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles NGVR, 1939-1943 by Ian Downs, Catalogue No. 9781875150038
<https://www.bookdepository.com/New-Guinea-Volunteer-Rifles-NGVR>
 Further articles on Coastwatchers and behind the lines operations can be found in Decision Games magazines:
 Strategy & Tactics No. 285: Coastwatchers: Saving the Pacific (Colin Rice)
 World at War No.44: Pacific Backwaters: Coastwatcher Ruby Olive Boys (Paul B.Vanni)



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If you work for the Australian Defence Force it pays to learn what you can claim at tax time



To claim a deduction for work-related expenses

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it.*

You can only claim the work-related part of expenses. You can't claim a deduction for any part of the expense that relates to personal use.

*You can use the ATO app myDeductions tool to keep track of your expenses and receipts throughout the year.

Car expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a deduction when you:
 - drive between separate jobs on the same day
 - drive to and from an alternate workplace for the same employer on the same day – eg if you are required to travel from your normal Army base to another military base to attend a fitness assessment.

- ✗ **You generally can't claim** the cost of trips between home and work, even if you live a long way from your usual workplace or have to work outside normal business hours – eg a military exercise held over the weekend.

There are limited circumstances where you can claim the cost of trips between home and work, such as where you carry bulky tools or equipment for work – eg if you are required to take your field equipment pack from your base to home (and back) to prepare for an overseas deployment. The cost of these trips is deductible only if:

- your employer requires you to transport the equipment for work
- the equipment was essential to earning your income
- there was no secure area to store the equipment at the work location, and
- the equipment is bulky – at least 20kg or cumbersome to transport.

If you claim car expenses, you need to keep a logbook to determine the work-related percentage, or be able to demonstrate to the ATO a reasonable calculation if you use the cents per kilometre method to claim.

Fitness expenses



- ✓ **You can only claim** the cost of fitness expenses if your job requires you to maintain a fitness well above the ADF general standard, eg if you are a physical training instructor with the Australian Special Forces.
- ✗ **You can't claim** a deduction for the cost of gym fees to maintain your personal fitness.

Home office expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a percentage of the running costs of your home office if you have to work from home, including depreciation of office equipment, work-related phone calls and internet access charges, and electricity for heating, cooling and lighting costs.

If you are required to purchase equipment for your work and it costs more than \$300, you can claim a deduction for this cost spread over a number of years (depreciation).

If you keep a diary of your home office usage, you can calculate your claim quickly using the ATO's home office expenses calculator.

- ✗ **You generally can't claim** the cost of rates, mortgage interest, rent and insurance.

Self-education expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a deduction for self-education expenses if your course relates directly to your current job or to the next likely promotion as planned by the ADF.
- ✗ **You can't claim** a deduction if your study or seminar is only related in a general way or is designed to help you get a new job, eg to enable you to move to a job outside of the ADF.

Other common deductible work-related expenses



- ✓ As long as the expense relates to your employment, **you can claim** a deduction for the work-related portion of the cost of:
 - technical or professional publications
 - compulsory mess subscriptions
 - union and professional association fees.
- ✗ **You can't claim** a deduction for the cost of:
 - attending social functions, even though these may be compulsory
 - haircuts, grooming, weight loss programs or supplies, even though the ADF has specific regulations.



This is a general summary only. For more information, go to ato.gov.au/occupations



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