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CAMARADERIE

Third Edition 2018

VOL 49 NO. 3



**1918 – THE WAR
THAT CHANGED US**

**FUTURE OF
ADVOCACY**

**CHALLENGES OF
PART-TIME SERVICE**

**MILITARY SUPER
AND MBL's**

**FOCUS ON REGIONAL FORCE
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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 49. No. 3 Third 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 14 February 2019.

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 significance of November 2018, marking 100 years after the armistice of WWI, cannot be overlooked, and thus the cover page. A related article in this edition, dealing with poppies, shows that the nation's memory has not faded. Lest we Forget.

Les Bienkiewicz

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FRONT COVER

Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, AO, shows Chief of United States Naval Operations, Admiral John Richardson and Chief of the Australian Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, RAN, the display of 62,000 handcrafted red poppies on the grounds of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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SOUTH AUSTRALIA (ph 0409 557 035) - sabbranch@dfwa.org.au

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



GLASS HALF FULL

'Glass half full' is an oft used term for those individuals who maintain an optimistic view toward life and leadership. Leadership of ex-service organisations demand such a view if the issues and aspirations of the membership are to be promoted to government and the bureaucracy. Believe me it is a hard slog at times when approaches to government, individual politicians and the 'influence

peddlers' come up short in one's expectations and simply ignore the constant messages to suit political imperatives. Ignore, until an election is in the wind or a measure of support is asked for a one-off proposal. It has been that kind of year!

PHILOSOPHY

My experience across several ex-service organisations and community groups has taught me that volunteers can only do so much. Willing volunteers are a priceless asset to DFWA but demand too much and treat them as if they are hired help then the inevitable happens. While the DFWA constitution identifies roles and responsibilities I am content that priorities will be set by myself as President as I know too well that sweating the small stuff is a recipe for organisational failure. This we must never allow to occur.

COLLABORATION

When RDFWA was established in 1959 it was on its own in addressing the founding issue of the DFRB Act of 1948. Our founding fathers fought the good fight and eventually achieved success (of sorts) in the establishment of the Jess Committee and then the DFRDB Act of 1972. Times have changed as have the breadth of issues that our membership and the broad Australian Defence Community confront. To achieve a recognition of effective advocacy today it is imperative that DFWA work in collaboration with a range of other ESOs. This we are doing effectively as the lead ESO in the Alliance of Defence Services Organisations (ADSO). This is a grouping of 18 ESO that have signed an MOU to work collaboratively on the range of issues that impact on us all.

Yes, such collaboration requires compromise and a willingness to hear and heed the views of other ESOs. It is not rocket science but rather means that the ESO community ceases working in silos and comes together to achieve results we can all live with. This approach has not been the case in the recent past.

As the National Spokesman for the ADSO I am conscious of my role as President DFWA. This does impact on the strength of the voice that comes with being the lead organisation within ADSO and the bearing it has when advocating and representing at national level. I see not conflict with the two roles and seek your support in continuing with this effective collaboration.

ISSUES

During the past year DFWA/ADSO have coordinated the drafting of eight major submissions to government. These have included the Senate

Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees into, 'Inquiry into 'Suicide by Veterans and Ex-Service Personnel'; Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Digital Readiness and Other Measures) Bill; and the Draft Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Omnibus) Bill 2017. In addition, there was the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans and finally, the DVA Scoping Study to Improve Veterans' Advocacy Services. These are available on the DFWA website.

These and other submissions have been prepared by volunteers from across the country and in response to call from government and DVA for ESO input. The work of these volunteers on behalf of all members in the Australian Defence Community draws on their expertise, ability to write and put arguments together and for this we all should be thankful.

The challenge for us now is that the various studies and submissions must mean something. My stated fear is that the studies will go nowhere unless we collectively demand that DVA and the government are serious about implementation. That will be my and our challenge in the coming year.

DVA

Maj Gen L. Cosson (Retd) has been appointed Secretary DVA. She has stated that her priorities will be:

- a. Putting veterans and their families first.
- b. The unique nature of military service and understanding the impact of military service on veterans and their families, and
- c. Reflect, Remember and Respect.

The Secretary is developing these priorities into her vision for the future of DVA. I have undertaken, on your behalf, to work in partnership with her and DVA as a department. DVA is a constantly evolving organisation and we all will gain from a positive relationship with it as it develops into a 21st century department.

WRAP-UP

We all experience challenges in life but we come out on the positive side if we adopt the 'glass half full' philosophy. Sweating the small stuff in voluntary organisations has a negative impact on the good that is done and that can be done.

DFWA needs your support, your fulsome support. We have much work to do to ensure that the organisation not only lives up to the course set by our founders but to find a passage into the future.

I thank you for your support and understanding over the past year.

Take care,
Kel Ryan

Kel Ryan - National President
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NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (June to November 2018)



INTRODUCTION

Crazy to think that Australian politics could ever be compared to Italian ones of the past, where turmoil was an accepted norm. What with all of us having witnessed yet another 'palace coup' at the highest levels of Government, who would now be game to suggest that we have a steady ship of State being guided by the safe hand of those we elect to represent us in Parliament. Seems every year leading up to Christmas this National Office Roundup as part of its introduction has found the need to add to the concerns more widely expressed in the general community. Who would have predicted a Coalition Government repeating the leadership turmoils of its predecessors. There is a diversity of opinion about whether it has been for the better. The jury may perhaps be out on that for the moment but its verdict is high in the next six months or so.

More on the looming election shortly. Let me first begin by an appeal, given that it is an election year. Events of the past have irrefutably shown that all ADF members both present and past, including their families, do have a voice. When mobilised on issues of concern, decision-makers in Parliament are left with little option but to listen and take notice. No better authority could be found than what happened when the voices of the many in protest rang in the ears of the Government when, not that long ago, it offered a morale-sapping pay increase of 1.5% to ADF members, completely degraded by imposed 'productivity initiatives' that removed various leave provisions and other previously approved conditions of service.

Who stood at the parapets shoulder to shoulder with ADF members in protest against that clear injustice? It was your Association with a clear charter to 'foster the best interests and wellbeing of all members of the ADF and their families in any matter likely to affect them during or after their period of service'.

To continue our ability to uphold that charter, here is my plea. Those readers who are not members of our Association, please find reason to join. After all, it is one tangible way to show real support for the hard work it's many dedicated volunteers undertake to achieve better outcomes either in protecting the pay and conditions of the ADF men and women still serving, or vigorously fighting for pension fairness of those who once did serve.

That same plea of 'please join' I extend to those many thousands of our in-service and other Virtual members who played, by way of their collective voices, such a central role in convincing the Government to improve a pay deal that was inadequate by any measure. Joining as a full member of DFWA will ensure that our collective voice always remains a loud force to be reckoned with. A DFWA Branch in the State in which you reside, or at a Branch of your preference, will be more than willing to help.

Now to the looming election. In my last National Office Roundup I mentioned that DFWA had been reviewing its objectives upon which it is likely to campaign. Although the review is still on-going and should be finalised in the coming month, the following is representative of the key issues that we hope will capture the attention of those hoping to represent us going forward.

KEY ISSUES

- 1. PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN MILITARY COVENANT.** Both sides of politics support a Covenant. While the Government has announced the introduction of a 'Veterans Covenant' it is a work in progress until legislated. The Opposition favours a Military Covenant should they win election.
- 2. VETERANS DISABILITY PAYMENTS.** The Veterans' Disability compensation payment for TPI/SR has declined in real terms when the Above General Rate is measured against the tax adjusted minimum wage. The Above General Rate is currently 65% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. This reflects badly on the Nation's obligation to care for its Veterans.
- 3. MILITARY SUPERANNUATION - Three main issues**
 - Fair Indexation for all Military Superannuation Payments. Only DFRDB recipients over 55 are subject to Fair Indexation, in that their super is indexed to the better of CPI, PBLCI or MATWE. All recipients of military superannuation, namely MSBS and under 55 DFRDB members should be indexed in the same way, including preserved funds and the total reversionary pensions for partners of deceased military superannuation pensioners.
 - Access to Preserved Benefits - MSBS Recipients. MSBS members under preservation age and no longer serving but with preserved benefits should be given the same opportunity provided to all Australians, namely portability of their funds and an ability to roll over their full benefit into a superannuation fund of their choice.
 - DFRDB Commutation. The continued use of out of date life tables means that the amount of money deducted from each DFRB/DFRDB fortnightly pension payment to repay the lump sum far exceeds the amount that would apply if the latest life tables had been used. The Government should adopt up to date life tables in calculating commutation and fortnightly payments for DFRDB superannuants.
- 4. COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION CORPORATION (CSC)**

To be included in the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry. CSC manages super for over 700,000 public servants and ADF members. The performance and structure of the CSC warrant the same review as is presently occurring into the banking and broader superannuation industry. Yet CSC remains excluded from examination. A Senate Inquiry could be an alternative option.
- 5. THE ADSO ALLIANCE AND COLLABORATION.** To continue to strengthen and grow the Alliance from its current membership of 18 like-minded ESOs collaborating to speak with one voice. Extending the framework of collaboration is also a work in progress. 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-packaged support efforts will potentially be a thing of the past. Such defused efforts hardly ever led to satisfactory policy outcomes.

And as always, your feedback on any issue of concern is most welcome. Wishing all members, friends and readers of these pages the very best for the festive season and for a safe and happy new year.

Alf Jaugietis - Executive Director



ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

We're all Australians now: 1918 and the War that changed us

The Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson AO - Director of the Australian War Memorial
Anzac Hall, Australian War Memorial - 19 September 2018

The vision for the Australian War Memorial was articulated by its founder, Charles Bean in 1948:

Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made.

From the Gallipoli landing to Montebethra and the Armistice, from the front he had been witness to it all.

In July and August 1916 at Pozieres, he saw 23,000 Australian casualties in six weeks - 6,800 dead; five Victoria Crosses.

Almost killed twice on 31 July returning from the very front, he simply wrote:

Blackened men everywhere, torn and whole – dead for days.

A mortally wounded Australian asked of him,

“Will they remember me in Australia?”

Bean subsequently conceived and resolved that at its end he would build this, the finest museum and memorial to these men of the Australian Imperial Force and the nurses.

Over almost a quarter of a century, he would write and edit the twelve volumes of the official history. Finally, to summarise it all, he wrote this:

What these men did, nothing can alter now. The good and the bad; the

greatness and the smallness of their story; it rises, it always rises, above the mists of ages.....a monument to great hearted men and for their nation a possession forever.

Immersed in their spirit, we now pause here in the Australian War Memorial conceived in blood they shed for one another, for us and the ideals of mankind.

We are Australians.

Whether conferred by birth or by choice, we are defined less by our constitution and the machinery of a democracy given us by the British, than we are by our values and our beliefs; the way relate to one another and see our place in the world.

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

No events so deeply wounded, divided, changed and ultimately defined us than those that bring us here today.

Every nation has its story. This is our story.

At no time in history has Australia had as great an impact on international affairs as we did in 1918.

It was the year of victory.

But as with defeat, it brought tragedy – 65,000 Australian casualties, 14,664 dead.

In the blood soaked quagmire of Passchendaele in October 1917, Australia had sustained 38,000 casualties in eight weeks. Thirty five Australians were killed for every metre of ground taken.

In March 1918, the Germans took it all back in just three days.

General Erich Ludendorf, Chief of the Staff of the German armies launched Operation 'Michael' with his amassed troops on 21 March on a front south of Arras. A stunning success, the Germans were now dangerously close to the gates of Amiens and its vital rail infrastructure.

A week later, fighting at Dernancourt was desperate.

Stanley McDougall charged a second wave of Germans, single handedly killing seven men, capturing a machine gun which he turned on the attackers. Firing until out of ammunition, he charged again, bayoneting three men and an officer. Grabbing a Lewis machine gun, he attacked yet again, halting the enemy advance.

McDougall was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Days later the Australians faced the strongest attack of the entire war. Outflanked and penetrated, only a ferocious counter-attack saved the day. But the Germans were losing momentum - stretched communication lines, tired troops and unable to bring up their formidable artillery.

The Australians saw boyish British troops falling back in disorder while others, tired and depleted, bravely held on.

The Germans had to be stopped at Villers-Bretonneux.

The Australian National Memorial in France rises above a hill north of the village of Villers-Bretonneux.

From its tower, pilgrims survey the key Australian battlefields.

The town's school is named in honour of the Australian state of Victoria. The playground bears a sign exhorting children to, N'Oblions J'amaïs l'Australie (Never Forget Australia).

This is why.

On 24 April 1918, at 4.45 on a dull and misty morning, heavy German artillery fire descended onto the British held line in front of Villers-Bretonneux. British soldiers falling back warned Germans were advancing with flame-throwers and tanks.

Amiens, now a deserted and shell-damaged city, was under direct and serious threat.

The Australians resolved the enemy would not pass.

The Germans broke through to the Amiens side of the town pounded by artillery fire.

There had to be a quick and powerful counter attack.

When two German soldiers appeared bearing a white flag demanding Australian surrender, Brigadier William Glasgow barked, "Tell 'em to go to hell!"

In a pincer movement, the Australian 15th Brigade would attack on the town's north and the 13th on the south. British troops would follow through in the gap created.

Grenades and extra ammunition were issued.

At 10pm supporting artillery opened fire prematurely.

German flares lit the sky in stark, multi-coloured clusters. Heavy German artillery fire rained on the town, smashing roofs and walls as buildings erupted in fire.

Sergeant Walter Downing of the 57th battalion wrote:

.....houses burning in the town threw a sinister light....it was past midnight. Men muttered, "It's Anzac Day".....there was nothing to do but go straight forward and die hard.

And die hard they did.

Captain Robert Forsyth of the 52nd Battalion, recalled:

... An officer shouted -'Still'.....I could see a long single line of men standing motionless in either direction as far as I could see....

....as the light faded, the darkness in front started to tap, tap, tap, and bullets whistled....the line shuffled forward....rifles ready like men strolling into fern after rabbits.

The whistle of bullets became a swish and patter.....boys fell all round me... without a sound.

They went forward, many straight into the face of machine guns.

Some in the 57th Battalion began yelling, their screams heard across town above the deafening noise.

Downing wrote:

The yelling rose high and passed to the 58th and 60th Battalions. Baying like hell-hounds, they charged.

Oblivious to their losses, they attacked with bayonets and grenades backed by machine guns,

Their blood was up.

Lieutenant Clifford Sadlier of the 51st Battalion won the Victoria Cross that night and Sergeant Charlie Stokes a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Carrying bags of grenades ('bombs'), they boldly led their platoons against at least six enemy machine gun posts.

Sadlier attacked a machine-gun position alone with his revolver, shooting a German who shot him in the leg whilst surrendering.

Their grenades wreaked bloody havoc.

Stokes later confided to his youngest daughter that the morning after Villers-Bretonneux, when he saw what he had done to other human beings, he wept like a child

Days later, Downing wrote to a friend:

... the killing went on, I was mad....I had blood all over my rifle, bayonet and hands.....we had avenged Fromelles....

Years later he wrote:

The Australians killed and killed.....The evil pyre in the town flickered and showed to their killers the white faces of Germans lurking in shell holes, or flinging away their arms and trying to escape, only to be stabbed or shot down....

The Germans had been driven off. One German officer wrote:

The Australians were magnificent. Nothing seemed to stop them. When our fire was heaviest, they just disappeared in shell holes and came up as soon as it slackened.

With 1,500 Australians dead, an officer surveyed the carnage:

All about us lay the dead, pitifully boyish-looking Tommies.....among them was the equipment of....our men who had died in the recapture ... and had been buried.

On 1 June, John Monash was promoted to Lieutenant General and command of the Australian Corps.

An Anzac of Prussian descent, Jewish, brilliant, meticulous, engineer, consummate administrator, Monash would lead our nation's five divisions to a series of stunning victories.

Yet war sickened him. He had written to his wife from the mire of Passchendaele:

I am heartily sick of the whole war business. Its horror, ghastly inefficiency, impossible cruelty and misery have always appalled me....

In their March offensive, the Germans had captured the village of Hamel. Allied command wanted it back.

Monash was given the job - straighten the front line south of the Somme River.

Unaware of this, Prime Minister Billy Hughes turned up two days before the battle to address the troops, stirring their emotions.

Private Walter Adcock said:

The very word 'Australian' tingled in the men's veins...

For the first time in history, Australia would fight with the Americans and under the command of an Australian general.

Monash chose the 4th of July – American Independence Day.

Embracing combined arms tactics of coordinated infantry, aircraft, artillery and tanks, Monash chaired a four hour pre-battle briefing with his officers. Twelve battle-depleted Australian battalions and 1,000 Americans from the 33rd division supported by 60 tanks, dozens of aircraft and 600 artillery guns, attacked at 3.10 am across a 6.5 kilometre front to a depth of 2.5 kilometres.

Monash planned victory in 90 minutes. It was done in 93 minutes.

A war winning combination had finally been found – a corps commander of genius, Australian infantry, tanks, artillery and aircraft.

One of two Victoria Crosses awarded at Hamel was to Private Harry Dalzeil.

At Pear Trench, a revolver in each hand, Dalzeil rushed a machine gun, capturing it and the entire crew. Severely wounded, he twice ran over open ground under heavy fire to secure ammunition:

....I dashed at seven Germans with my revolvers. One German bloodhound wounded me in the hand, but I soon had him on the ground.

I lunged at him with my German dagger, catching him right over the heart. His dying cry upset me and I shivered.

Ignoring orders for medical treatment, Dalzeil kept lobbing grenades under heavy machine gun fire until he collapsed. His skull shattered and brain exposed by a sniper bullet, he was laid with the dead. A mate later noticed he was breathing.

But Dalzeil's strongest, proudest recollection was this:

.....in No Man's Land a little German boy in tin hat and grey uniform - about 14 years old, came to me cryingtwo Yanks came at him with fixed bayonets.

Stop! I cried, raising my two empty revolvers...don't move or I'll blow your bloody heads off!

I told them to take him back to the Captain. On passing the dressing station, I saw a German soldier with his foot blown away, the two Yanks and little Fritz conversing together.

One of the Yanks came over and said, "This German soldier wants to talk to you".

"Comrade", he said, "you have saved my son".....and he shook my hand.

With 800 Australians and Americans laying together in death, one Australian officer bestowed the highest praise:

United States troops are now classified as diggers.

Days after Hamel, French Prime Minister, Georges Clemenceau arrived to address Monash's men:

When the Australians came to France the French people expected a great deal of you. We knew you would fight a real fight. But we did not know from the very beginning you would astonish the whole continent....I shall say to my countrymen: "I have seen the Australians. I have looked in their faces. I know

these men...will fight alongside of us again, until the cause for which we are all fighting is safe for us and our children.

French General, Charles Mangin launched a stunning attack on the Germans on 18 July in the second battle of Marne.

With 23 French and American divisions under his command, supported by 500 tanks, he struck a savage blow 9 kilometres into German lines.

Nicknamed 'the butcher' for his sociopathic indifference to casualties, Mangin's actions that day were described by Bean as "the turning point of the Great War.....one of the most formidable spearheads ever struck".

Mangin shocked German high command. Hindenburg and Ludendorff wavered.

But the greatest blow against the Germans would be struck on the 8th of August. Claimed as a 'British' victory, it was delivered by the Australians and the Canadians.

Amiens lent its name to the decisive German defeat by the British Fourth Army and the French First Army on 8 August 1918.

General Erich Ludendorff described it as:
...the black day of the German army....the worst experience I had.

The twin objectives were to break the German lines and to protect Amiens.

Guns silently registered their targets.

Into the attack were brought 430 British tanks concealed by masking aircraft noise.

Monash addressed his troops on the evening of 7 August:
For the first time in the history of this corps, all five Australian Divisions will tomorrow engage in the largest and most important battle operation ever undertaken by the Corps.....supported by exceptionally powerful artillery, tanks and aeroplanes on a scale never previously attempted.

Thick fog blanketed the battlefield when massed British guns brought down the creeping barrage at 4.20 a.m.

Sergeant Walter ('Jimmy') Downing of the 57th Battalion wrote:
.....the whole world flared behind us.....a titanic pandemonium of ten thousand guns.We shouted to each other, but we couldn't hear our own voices, buried beneath colossal ranges of sound....

... Then a rattling of machine-guns told us that the lads in front were at grips with the enemy...

... We hurried forward.....as bullets zipped among us...

Three hours later, German trenches were overrun and by mid-afternoon, the Australians had taken their objectives.

Gunner Helmore reported from deep into enemy territory:
Entering Fritz's land with mixed feelings....abandoned gun positions, corpses

littered about, blankets strewn everywhere....we could not repress a shudder at the gruesome sights we saw.

German trenches ploughed up by shells and a few still shapes in grey uniforms told the tale of our big barrage.....no barbed wire; no support or reserve trenches, just a small shallow front line...very different from German defences at Passchendaele.

Aircraft co-ordinated with ground forces and engaged multiple dogfights. The Roye road was strewn with hundreds of downed aircraft and derelict tanks.

George Maxwell found a group of dead Canadian machine gunners unwounded, killed by concussion from a high explosive shell:
Some were in a crouching posture, as if tending their guns.They looked as if they were still alive, some resembled wax figures.

One....was caught in the act of lighting his pipe, his hands still cupped...and there he knelt, stone dead

The Australians pushed on – catching hundreds of Germans in the Morcourt Valley, with enemy still firing into their flank and rear.

Private Edward Lynch, 45th Battalion wrote:
....passing the old enemy trench behind us....we see a broken machine gun emplacement with five 3rd Division men lying dead....bullet riddled, as they gamely rushed the enemy gun.

In shell holes are rifles left by the wounded men, so we know the Fritz gun reaped a heavy toll before it was silenced.

At the gun position we notice broad tracks of a tank....two enemy gunners lie dead just yards from the gun which is squashed flat, driven into the dust by...a tank....

Flattened alongside the gun is a grey clothed heap of gory pulp.....a few hours ago the living body of a Fritz gunner.

On the ridge overlooking Morcourt, A Company with its left flank exposed saw Germans preparing to escape the Australian advance.

Reduced to half strength, they boldly attacked the village.

With flanking support, Captain Norman Wilson led his men into the village from the south headed by one tank, machine guns and a six pounder in rapid action.

The vigorous German defence was quickly defeated in ferocious fighting. Wilson was awarded the Military Cross.

The German Army suffered 27,000 casualties at Amiens, the Australians captured 8,000 prisoners.

Among the 450 guns captured was the 11-inch German gun mounted on a railway platform, which had been shelling Amiens from Harbonnières. Its barrel is displayed here at the Australian War Memorial, a powerful reminder of brutal, industrialised killing.

Three days after the Amiens offensive launched, Field Marshal Douglas Haigh met the Australian divisional commanders at Villers-Bretonneux.

According to Colonel Thomas Blamey, Monash's chief of staff, Haigh thanked them. Then, tears rolling down his cheeks:

You do not know what the Australians and Canadians have done for the British Empire in these days

Blamey described a long, "dramatic" pause, and they left.

King George V arrived at Amiens the next day and Knighted Monash - the first battlefield knighthood in 100 years.

Monash pushed the Australian Corps on, either side of the Somme River to Péronne.

Overlooked by the fortified hill of Mont St Quentin, the enemy stood strong.

Anxious to strike before the oncoming winter, Monash hardly paused.

With well learned infantry tactics, the 2nd Division boldly attacked Mont St Quentin. The 5th Division set against Péronne.

Close frantic fighting with bombs, bayonets and machine-guns ensued.

Badly wounded, Lieutenant Harold Williams was evacuated to a casualty clearing station at Daours and paid tribute to unsung heroes:

That these nurses worked their long hours among such surroundings without collapsing, spoke volumes for their will-power and sense of duty.

The place reeked with the odours of blood, antiseptic dressings, and unwashed bodies.

They saw soldiers in their most pitiful state – wounded, blood-stained, dirty... ..reeking of blood and filth.....incredible that a woman could....retain her sanity.

Mont St Quentin was taken on 1 September, regarded by some as the most brilliant achievement of the AIF.

Eight Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians in the capture of Péronne Mont St Quentin; the greatest number for any single Australian operation.

Monash's battle-weary Australians pushed on from Péronne, fighting their way beyond Hargicourt to where they stood overlooking the Hindenburg Line.

It was a race against the approaching winter to break through the Hindenburg Line, a wide fortified zone of machine-guns, artillery, barbed wire, trenches, and tunnels.

Monash kept attacking but his men were reaching an exhausted breaking point when an American corps was offered.

In his climactic attack on 29 September against the Hindenburg Line, Monash commanded more Americans than Australians.

Supported by a British division, the Germans were forced to withdraw. Over the next week the Australians fought their last battles around a string of defended villages.

The Australian capture of Montbrehain on 5 October was their last battle, these exhausted diggers ending their war victorious.

The Victoria Cross was awarded to Lieutenant Joe Maxwell who wrote:

....We began to reflect that it was merely a matter of time when we would all be killed....of the three hundred who left Australia in B Company not half a dozen remained.....I was utterly sick of the war...

Captain Ellis, the 5th Division historian watched them leave the battlefield for the last time:

Troops more fatigued had rarely been seen....and yet, by sheer determination, they overcame the weakness of the body and marched back in excellent order.....

....their strained, pallid faces revealed what they had passed through.....

.....numerous transport units along the road respectfully, in silence pulled their vehicles to one side so that the war-worn men might not have an extra step to march.

It was the mute and eloquent testimony of brave men to heroes.

A world away in Palestine, victory finally came on 31 October when the Turks signed an armistice.

On 25 September at Semakh on the Sea of Galilee, the 4th Light Horse Brigade had fought a Turkish garrison fortified by German machine gunners. Capturing 365 prisoners, the 11th Light Horse Regiment included 30 Aboriginal light horsemen, from the Queensland mission stations.

The Australian Light Horse rode into the ancient city of Damascus on 1 October.

The official historian, Henry Gullet wrote of them:

They rode, very dusty and unshaved, their big hats battered and drooping, through....the oldest city in the world, with the same easy, casual bearing, and the same self-confidence that are the distinctive characteristics of their country tracks at home.

On the western front, the Guns finally fell silent with the Armistice on 11 November.

Charles Bean chose not to celebrate.

Instead, he drove to Fromelles where he witnessed Australia's worst day ever in July 1916 - 5,533 Australian casualties and 1,917 dead.

In silence he walked the battlefield, to reflect and be with the men who had dreamt of this day they would never see, but for which they had given their lives:

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

Bean later wrote:

It is over. The enormous effort of the men – yes, and women and children... is finished.... Australia will settle down to carve out her new and splendid future.... we are free to be happy again.

Sixty thousand Australians bought us this happiness with their lives.

Reaction to the Armistice in Australia was joyous and prolonged.

We emerged victorious, but inconsolably mourning 62,000 dead.

The nation would live with another 60,000 who would die over the following decade.

Private Richard Williams had fought on the Somme and Passchendaele. The end of his war was a taste of things to come.

Just hours from Fremantle on the morning of the Armistice, he killed himself by jumping off the ship. He had told Chaplain Wilson Smith that "he would rather do anything than go back to Australia".

For many of the 160,000 returning veterans, another war was about to begin.

One soldier said:

*The war will never let you go, you know.
It will come back at all sorts of times.*

You finish up enlisting twice – once for the war, and once for the nightmares.

Of Australia's 272,000 veterans, 170,000 suffered wounds or illnesses.

As marble, stone and bronze memorials were erected as 'substitute graves' of ennobled memory, the nation was deeply divided, more so than at any time in our history.

Ongoing bitter divisions frequently manifest in violence.

Conscription, religion and politics polarised us.

Enlisted men were politically endorsed, regarded as superior Australians to the 'shirkers'.

Carrying a crippling war debt, repatriation costs approached a fifth of all government outlays.

Divorce rates had doubled and many men returned broken, embittered and violent. Families found themselves as carers for damaged, traumatised sons and husbands aged well beyond their years.

A single word, "Pozieres" or "Passchendaele" uttered in a hushed tone

denoted inconsolable grief or an unspeakable domestic environment.

Yet in the decade that followed, culminating in the Great Depression, we remained true to our young, brittle democracy.

It was possibly our greatest achievement.

John Monash's leadership of the Australian Corps to its stunning victories in 1918 laid the foundation for a no less significant post war legacy.

Monash was the most widely respected Australian.

Veterans regarded him as their natural spokesman, an outsider, unpretentious not of the establishment - honest, decent and intelligent.

In his leadership of everything from the Melbourne Anzac Day parade to Rotary and the Australian Association for the advancement of Science, he was a pillar of the democracy for which so much had been given.

His repudiation of the right wing movement exhorting him to lead an insurrection against the government during the Great Depression spoke truth to his beliefs and vision for a modern Australia:

The only hope for Australia is in the ballot box and an educated electorate. He believed in the liberating, egalitarian principles in democracy.

He knew that what would most protect us from ideas deeply rooted in ignorance and forged on an anvil of prejudice, is – education.

At the heart of the Australian War Memorial is the Hall of Memory within which since 1993 has been interred the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier.

Above him stand silent sentinels, fifteen stained glass windows depicting a serviceman and nurse from the First World War.

At the base of each is a single word.

Charles Bean and John Treloar, a veteran of Gallipoli and France and the Memorial's longest serving director, asked themselves a very important question.

"What are the essential personal, social and battle qualities we saw in these men and women?"

They probed the basis of character.

'Character' derives from the Greek word meaning the impression left in wax by a stone seal ring. The Greeks called it 'the stamp of personality'.

Informed by worthwhile intrinsic virtues, character transcends everything else in life – rank, power, money, influence, looks and intellect.

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

Young Australians seeking values for the world they want need look no further than these.

Years after he had made his diary entry for 24 August 1916 at Moquet Farm, Charles Bean reflected on the events that had inspired his words that evening.

His much loved cousin, 2nd Lt Lionel 'Leo' Butler had been buried that day. Bean had written:

As we placed his coffin in the ground, six more or less close friends standing nearby, a labourer leaning on his scythe and a French woman dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief, I could not help but feel if it was all worthwhile.

Was there anything in this war to justify such sacrifices?

Pondering back, Bean asked himself:

What was so special about the Australians?

He answered it thus:

The answer lay in the mettle of the men themselves. To be the kind of man that would give way when his mates were trusting to his firmness...to live the rest of his life haunted by the knowledge that he lacked the grit to carry it through, this was the prospect with which these men could not live..

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

Bean realised he had observed, absorbed and recorded the first revelation of an emerging Australian character. Henry Lawson had called it mateship.

Wherever they fought, they were sustained by belief in their worth and in one another, whether, as Bean observed, "their own death or the destruction of the world would come".

It is a spirit that binds us, irrespective of the adversities we face.

We emerged with a greater belief in ourselves and a deeper understanding of what it means to be, an Australian.

This place reminds us of the truths by which we live. Not the building, artefacts or relics displayed, but the stories of the men and women who stand behind them.

It challenges every Australian every day to ask if we continue to be people worthy of such sacrifices.

Just two lives described by Bean that 'bought our freedom to be happy again'.

Harry Thorpe was a Brabawoolong man from the Tyers Lake Mission, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.

In February 1916 he left his wife Julia and son Reginald and travelled to Sale. Denying his Aboriginality, he enlisted into the 7th Battalion. Wounded at Pozieres and again at Bullecourt, in the hellhole of Broodseinde in 1917, he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery, "inspiring his men while clearing German dugouts and pillboxes".

In Monash's August offensive he was found in open ground with a gunshot wound to the abdomen on 9 August, dying the same day.

On 10 September 1918, this was published in the Melbourne Argus:

*They laid our hero down to rest
in the flag with a southern cross.
And we mourn him as one of the best.
For his death was Australia's loss.*

Your loving wife Julia and son Reginald

In 1924, Mrs Elizabeth Hart sat in her kitchen at the back of her home in 4 Park Street, Middle Park Melbourne.

Her task was to pen the words for her son's grave that she would never see at the Guards cemetery, Lesboeufs France.

Ian Donald Hart had been a draper at Myer, Melbourne in late June 1915 when the Gallipoli casualty lists were published. Enlisted into the 60th Battalion, he survived Fromelles but was killed on 27 November 1916. He was thirty years old.

She wrote:

*I GAVE MY SON
HE GAVE HIS ALL, HIS LIFE
FOR AUSTRALIA
AND EMPIRE*

The individual sacrifice of these men and of those who loved them; their devotion to duty and to our country is but two of thousands that gave us what we have and made us who we are.

62,000 hand knitted poppies, woven as repositories of love for every one of them will soon sweep across the grounds of this place, the Australian War Memorial.

They remind us that we are Australians.

We are young, and we are free.

Lest we forget.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was very impressed with the latest edition of Camaraderie. The broad range of veteran's issues being addressed - as relayed in Alf Jaugietis' roundup article - is a tremendous reflection on the DFWA. Keep up the good work!

Regards,
Marcus Fielding



DFWA SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION OF VETERANS.

Editor's Notes:

1. The DFWA submission to this Inquiry is some 81 pages and is available in full (with links) on the DFWA website. The summary below is provided for the information of Camaraderie readers.

2. See also "Veteran's Advocacy - A Vision for the Future" in this edition.

INTRODUCTION

Concern over Veteran suicide prompted the inquiry by the Senate DFAT References Committee which produced the report, The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans. The report recognised the adverse effect that dealing with an apparently remote and non-empathetic bureaucracy had on some vulnerable Veterans with mental health problems and at risk of suicide.

One recommendation of the report was that DVA review staff training to ensure understanding of military service and health issues and in how to interact with Veterans with mental health issues. The report also registered concern regarding the use of temporary and short-term contract staff with little understanding of the Veteran. It is noted that DVA is attempting to change the culture in DVA to be more understanding of the Unique Nature of Military Service and its impact on Veterans, and generally improve efficiency and effectiveness through its Veteran-Centric Reform (VCR).

Another recommendation of the Senate Report resulted in this Productivity Commission Inquiry addressing efficiency and effectiveness of rehabilitation and compensation service and service delivery to Veterans.

It is of concern to DFWA that in the Issues Paper, the Uniqueness of Military Service which shapes the Veteran culture is given lip-service, that Veteran rehabilitation and compensation is treated as "welfare" and that ADF members are regarded as "workers". It is also of concern that the efficiency and effectiveness thrust seems focussed on practices in and service delivery by non-veteran oriented organisations. The thrust of the questions in the Issues Paper seem to point in the direction indicated by The Department of Finance (DoF) May 2016 "Functional and Efficiency Review of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)" which recommended that service delivery functions be either outsourced or transferred to other agencies. It is pointed out that such agencies would have less understanding of Veteran culture than DVA which is, at least, trying to address this issue. This lack of understanding is recognised as one of the causes of tragic instances which was the genesis of this Report in the first place.

Should the Productivity Commission Report recommend outsourcing, with delivery of services by other agencies selected by regular competitive tender and consequently subject to periodic change, it will

need to address certain challenges that will arise. How will these organisations acquire and maintain an understanding of the military ethos, culture and values and how a Veteran-Centric service delivery model will be maintained. It will need to answer the question of how this will be achieved when DVA has difficulty in achieving this with its own staff and organisation, contracted in staff, some outsourced services already. The means of doing this and the governance mechanisms to assure this, will need to be addressed and costed.

THE DFWA SUBMISSION

DFWA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Issues Paper released by the Productivity Commission Inquiry on Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans. We have had input into and fully support the submission by the ADSO. In making this submission, DFWA has sought input from our state and territory branches and has taken the opportunity to address issues of particular concern to DFWA and to expand on some issues raised in the ADSO submission.

This submission is in three parts.

- Part 1. Executive Summary.
- Part 2. General Response to the Issues Paper.
- Part 3. Responses to the Specific Questions Raised in the Issues Paper.

PART 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DFWA has chosen to make the submission to the Issues Paper in two Parts because some statements made in the introductory sections of the Issues Paper and some of the wording of Questions raised some concerns.

A major concern is that the Issues Paper gives superficial treatment of the Unique Nature of Military Service and its enduring effect on Veterans. DFWA considers that the superficial treatment indicates a lack of understanding of this by the Productivity Commission similar to the lack of understanding shown in some instances to Veterans by remote bureaucrats. Throughout the Issues Paper, there is a definite focus on efficiency, value for money, etc. at the expense of effectiveness. Comparisons with other service delivery organisations are invited to identify best practices, i.e., what processes the other agencies use to deliver superficially similar services efficiently to a general clientele, but forgetting the Veteran unique needs. This lack of understanding of the Veteran and insistence on following the organisation's processes was a contributing factor to tragic instances that lead to this Inquiry in the first place. Accordingly, in Part 2 of the response, DFWA has attempted to explain the impacts of the Unique Nature of Military

Continued page 18



EDITOR'S NOTE: Shown are several photos of the 51 FNQR Colour Party at the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux (VB) in France earlier this year. 51 Bn AIF lost 389 men in just two days of fighting, 24/25 April 1918, to recapture the village of VB. 51 Bn AIF, now 51 FNQR, is the only battalion remaining on the ORBAT that fought at VB.

LIFE IN THE REGIONAL FORCE SURVEILLANCE UNITS

By WO2 Daniel Sharpe

Across the top end of our great nation sit three very unique units, the Regional Force Surveillance Units, 51 Far North Queensland Regiment, NORFORCE and Pilbara Regiment. Throughout my career I have had the privilege of serving in a variety of units but none proved as challenging and engaging as serving within one of the surveillance units. These units have offered a number of unique challenges and rewards that simply cannot be found elsewhere and in the regular Army. Yet these units still remain largely unknown to the defence families when it comes time to consider posting options.

So what makes these units so special? Some argue that it is the rich cultural experiences that are evident in the remote outstations and the individual characters that exist within the units themselves. While yet others argue that it is the beauty of working in remote areas that most Australians would only dream of visiting. Or perhaps it is the operational focus that the units have with their constant involvement in Border Protection Operations, OP RESOLUTE.

All of these factors make up the unique life found in the Regional Force Surveillance Units, coupled with having to navigate the diverse cultural and geographical landscape that is remote Australia. It is this diverse landscape that places a special burden on any defence member and their family.

The first and most daunting challenge is adjusting to life in a remote locality. This takes most families a little while to get used too, as what used to be simple suddenly becomes a challenge and a minor logistical exercise. Often there is a mix-match of expectation versus reality in this regard. For many years these postings have been viewed as a respite from regular Army life style when the truth is vastly different. The serving member can usually expect to spend 1 – 2 weeks away from home per month due to the nature of working in remote areas coupled with the current operational tempo. The offset is that when you are home you have the opportunity to spend extra time with your family whether it is lunch overlooking the ocean or family catch ups on the barracks where children can utilise the play equipment and partners can catch up over morning tea and coffee.

Another planning point is that the lack of amenities will mean that minor medical and dental mishaps may result in a flight to your nearest regional

capital city. Veterinary care and specialist care usually consists of a Fly in Fly out specialists who come in on a semi regular basis. The Royal Doctor Flying Service however operates in all of these regions and goes a long way to mitigating what would otherwise be a massive obstacle and burden on any family. This is a very important planning point for those who are thinking of having children whilst in one of these locations, but not necessarily a deterrent.

Defence Housing Australia and Defence Community Organisation still offer services and engage as much as possible with the families in the remote areas. This engagement allows families to access the normal support available to defence families in more metropolitan areas through the aid of modern technology.

These issues are outweighed by the personal rewards that come from living in these unique communities. Firstly it is the ability to see parts of the country that most Australians only dream about. In the outposts you will have access to some of the most remote areas that are rarely visited unless you have access to local knowledge. Be it cultural sites or out of the way camping grounds.

Second is the community, they are very tight knit, caring and every experience you share with the local community will help you bond with them. Communities are often a thrive of activity that once the surface is broken it is hard not to get swept up in it, whether assisting with the local schools and mothers groups to more active involvement in fitness groups. For the serving member they will find that Army plays a significant role within the community that you will not get exposure to in a regular unit.

When our son was born on Thursday Island my wife and I got to experience firsthand just how close these communities can be. When you come to the remote areas you do more than just take a position within the unit but rather join a very tight community of both defence members, other government agencies and an indigenous population.

The best thing any family can do on receipt of a posting order is to engage with the families already in location, do some homework and prepare themselves for what will be an extremely memorable and rewarding experience.



Meeting the challenges for Part-Time Personnel to Serve

By Major General Stephen Porter, AM - Commander 2nd Division

Over the last four years the Army has come to consider the force as One, a highly trained, professional and integrated force of 45,000 personnel comprising some 30,000 full time and 15,000 part time soldiers “focussed on delivering capability outcomes, rather than dogmatic adherence to a particular process to develop and deliver that capability”¹. One Force, embracing different pathways to capability, living the organisations values, culture and doctrine, being individually competent and prepared, collectively trained at specified levels that stretch and challenge, with defined readiness that demands commitment, with a clear understanding of the differences in the approach to capability generation, while recognising and embracing the value that each component brings to capability. Through this approach Army delivers from entirety of its capability and “gains from a broadening of our skills base, attracting a range of generalist and specialist experience to our modern force”².

Through the Plan Beersheba capability outputs, this integration has transitioned the part time force into a tactical and operational component rather than a strategic or “classic” Reserve, waiting for a call up, with the promise of integration not fulfilled. The part time component is no longer on the bench, it is not a “Reserve” but rather additional capacity adding significantly to Army capability as individuals and collectively trained organisations in a deliberate, planned, equipped, resourced and sustainable manner.

“The commitment of all our people is the same: to serve our nation in peace and war, as duty requires”³. The only difference being their employment flexibility and time available in training, but the dedication, commitment to serve and deliver capability is a very real focus. These two differences between full time and part time service disappear on operations.

So in my description of the force, I have removed the terms “Regular”

and “Reserve” as I believe they divide us, and are not useful terms going forward into the next decade. They do not align with the concepts outlined in Army in Motion and Accelerated Warfare⁴. One Army comprising full time, part time and casual personnel has a correlation to industry, where modern workforces have a mix of full time, part time and casual personnel, not segregated into components and all adding to the organisation as a valued team member.

Describing the force as full time and part time has another benefit. It provides context to the total workforce model, which has been considered by many as a good theoretical construct but difficult to understand and implement. And whilst not pure in application, I certainly view and describe the model as SERCAT 7 & 6 full time, SERCAT 5 and 4 part time and SERCAT 3 and 2 casual with the ability to move between the SERCATs.

Let me return to the theme of the conference, in my view the underlying challenge to part time service is to balance the four interdependent components of a part time soldier’s life: the individual, the Army, their family and their employer.

In considering the individual, it is my observation that people serve in the part time force for the experience, the challenge, the opportunities and the ability to grow as individuals. Their continuing service is dependant on the value proposition of the organisation, and the value it places on individual commitment, as service is a competition with the other components for spare time. If the individual does not feel valued, resources and equipment promised are and not provided, and opportunities talked about are not delivered, then no amount of other incentives will entice the individual to remain. That said, I do believe we could explore incentives for service along the lines of family support, tax breaks for employers who support part time soldiers and discounts on HECS and dependant of years of service and ongoing commitment.

One Army and the Beersheba capability outputs has provided the experience, the challenge, the opportunities, the integration and the sustainable resources that professional part time personnel demand to feel appreciated. The contribution of part time individuals and collective capability currently centred on the Battle Group is highly valued, integrated training is embraced and strengthening, training levels are stretched challenging individuals and teams, commitment is being rewarded and the opportunities for deployment are real. We have commenced this journey but more effort is required to ensure policy settings and capability development and basis of provisioning is for the entire force. In time this will come but I believe it will take to the middle of the next decade to achieve a truly Total Force.

The two areas I think more focus is required is families, employers and industry more broadly. I would be the first to acknowledge that through Transformation in support of delivering One Army, we have generally not communicated effectively with families and employers. We have challenged the parading models, altered the commitment and stretched the training targets, but I would contend that we had to get to this stage of the Transformation to understand the future nature of part time service. Through this we have a better understanding of the commitment and the implications for families and employers.

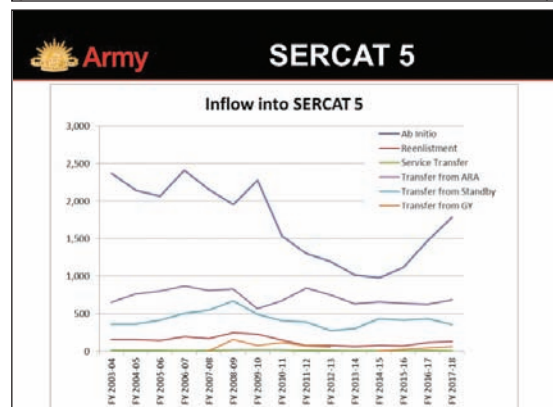
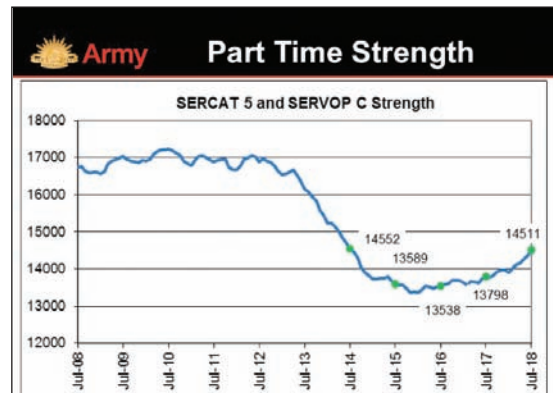
In the employer space we are working with the Defence Employer Support Council to develop a strategy to build a constructive partnership with employers and industry, where together we develop and grow individuals for success in both organisations. In regard to families I know the leadership teams in the units are significant engaged with families of soldiers and improving their understanding of part time service.

Let me now turn to the Transformation of the Part Time force as an update for this conference. As I noted previously, Transformation is primarily focused on guaranteeing the delivery of sustainable part time capability to enable the transition to a total force and ensure the Army continues to deliver the capability required of us by Government. Transformation requires a multi layered approach addressing a number of interdependent issues simultaneously. Transformation is an Army problem to solve not just an issue for the part time component, with the part time leadership driving the process. The issues that I believe require addressing to generate a sustainable part time capability are outlined below.

Valued service + leadership and management + cultural change + relevant policy + finance and resources + structure aligned to capability and demography + recruiting and transfer + individual training and training delivery + skills recognition and transfer + collective training + professional military education + tactical and technical competency + parading model and commitment + unit tempo + retention + communications with stakeholders + modernisation + sustainability + relationship with employers + relationship with broader industry + relationship with families = Consistent Capability Output (BG and Additional capabilities @ specified Training Levels and standards for Stability and Security Operations).

From a broad perspective, Part Time strength has been stabilised and is increasing, Part Time Strength graph. With a significant amount of work

between Defence Force Recruiting and Army, recruiting has increased, SERCAT 5 graph, barriers to entry are being removed and the times between enquiry and enlistment are gradually reducing.

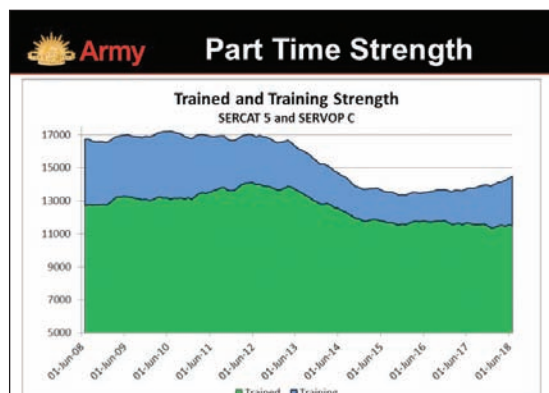


Training separation rates are decreasing from a high of 45% in 2014-15 to just below 15% in 2018, Training Separation Rate graph. The Formation of 8 Brigade as the Centre of Excellence for training delivery, providing the management and leadership to the training pipeline is having the desired effect. Course panels are being maximised and training completion times are shortening.



The pressure on the Brigade will increase in the short term as the current improvement in numbers occurs in the force in training, Part Time Strength

Continued overpage



graph. The Brigade supported by the Division will focus on delivery of this training over the next 24 months.

The individual training curriculum is being realigned and I am very pleased with the progress of modernising training delivery in the All Corps area. Into 2019 and 2020, the modernisation of Corps specific training will be a focus: streamlining curriculum, removing duplication resulting in wasted training time and effort, and where practicable transferring learning on line. The development of the Cove by TRADOC has provided an opportunity to improve access to professional military education. This will be supported into the future with the consolidation of the Brigade professional military education sites into a single Division site in FORCENET.

In the collective training area the delivery of the Battle Group and other specified capabilities is a clear demonstration of part time collective capability achievement. The training relationship between the Brigades of the Division and the Combat Brigades is proving highly effective and a real strength of Plan Beersheba. Into 2019 there will be an opportunity to strengthen the relationships with the enabling Brigades: 6th Brigade, 16th Aviation Brigade and 17th Combat Service Support Brigade.

In the resource area the disciplined implementation of the Cost Model,

linked to the individual and collective training schedules is providing financial stability. There is always work to complete in ensuring the retention of trained individuals, but I believe the challenges, opportunity and resources are in place to make the case for personnel to continue to serve.

Into 2019 we need to focus on opportunities to demonstrate the Total Workforce Model in action with increased success in the transfer of SERCAT 7 and 6 (Full Time) to SERCAT 5 and 4 (Part Time). Additionally, we need to explore opportunities for SERCAT 3 personnel to return to service especially in support of 8 Brigade. If these personnel have two weeks or a month to give then an instructor position would be a great way of serving from SERCAT 3 and contribution to part time capability.

In conclusion, One Army and Total Force is a reality but we have only commenced the journey. Transformation is delivering on the promise of a more capable and sustainable part time component but we need to stay the course. It is such a complex problem with solutions to one part of the problem set having second order impacts for the other parts of the problem, that Transformation itself must be subject to analysis and alteration. Army in Motion and Accelerated Warfare will increasingly require a broader and more specialised commitment from part time personnel in addition to the highly successful collective capability delivered at present. I believe we have the value proposition for Part Time service, the commitment to deliver capability, the challenges and opportunities just about right, but we need to strengthen our relationships and understanding with our employers, industry and our families, who allow us to utilise our spare time in Army service.

Footnotes

¹ Australian Army Reserve transformation - A total force – Address by Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, to the Royal United Services Institute (VIC), 27 Jul 17

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Chief of Army LTGEN R Burr concept for Army going forward into the next decade

DFWA SUBMISSION *Continued from page 14*

Service in more detail to assist in the Productivity Commission's understanding and to make the point that for services and service delivery to Veterans to be effective, the Productivity Commission must take account of the Veteran culture, ethos, values and ways of thinking.

Another concern is that the complexity of legislation affecting the Veteran has focussed almost exclusively on DVA related legislation, the three Acts. These are undoubtedly important, cause the greatest number of problems for Veterans as a whole and need to be addressed. However, the provision of military superannuation services by CSC has not been addressed. There are complex problems related to Disability Benefit compensation payments and for Transition. These problems affect CSC, DVA and ADF. For the Veteran, the problems are

even more complex and can involve the Australian Taxation Office and the Family Court. While not as many Veterans are affected by these complexities, the Veterans who are affected are those being medically discharged, i.e., the group of Veterans which will include all those most vulnerable and at most risk – the ones featured in the first sentence of the Issues Paper. Again, this issue is addressed in Part 2 of the DFWA response.

In Part 3, we respond to most of the questions, often referring back to our response in Part 2. A summary of the main suggestions, conclusions and recommendations from Parts 2 and 3 are cross referenced to the source paragraph or question in Part 2 or Part 3.

SUPER DISCRIMINATION

By Bert Hoebee

All ADF personnel and veterans on MSBS, like I am, are probably well aware that our retirement income is indexed at CPI only, whereas since mid-2014 those aged over 55 on DFRB or DFRDB have had theirs indexed differently. That strikes me as both unfair and discriminatory. Those of us who have been retired for a while will know the effect this has on their purchasing power; and it is up to us to do something about it, before those who follow us face the same situation when they retire. I have written to our Parliamentary leaders in the terms below, and encourage all of you to take similar action, with your local Member and Senators, and if you are up to it, relevant Ministers and the Media. Without us being heard, we run the risk of no action being taken to protect our modest retirement. DFWA and ADSO are also campaigning for a "Fair Go" in this.

Letter to Parliamentary Leaders Military Covenant: Finally a 'Fair Go'?

I am addressing this message to all sides of the political divide, as it is high time for the Parliament to take a multi-partisan approach to resolve a serious inequity in the treatment of military superannuation for veterans. The politicking over military super needs to cease. No more delay in fixing this inequity can be justified.

This affects those in one of the two categories of now-closed schemes (1), namely the Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS). Like DFRDB, MSBS was designed so that its retirement income streams would be indexed appropriately to maintain a recipient's purchasing power (2). The factor by which this occurred was through a biannual adjustment by the CPI, with the legislative intent that the super income would generally keep up with retired military families' cost of living. This was a 'condition of service' to which Service people themselves compulsorily contributed.

It is well known that changes to how CPI is calculated have since resulted in a steady erosion of the value of military super. In recognition of this, in 2014, the Parliament amended the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDB) [and DFRB] Act, thereby rightly changing the indexation factor so that superannuation retirement incomes under these schemes would be adjusted appropriately, in a similar way to those of age and services pensions (3).

What was known as the "Fair Indexation" Act applying to DFRDB was explicitly promised to be a 'first step' (4). However, MSBS superannuation remains subject to a substandard CPI factor that no longer reflects real cost of living movements. The Australian Human Rights Commission (5) has agreed that this differential treatment between members of the schemes may be discriminatory. It also places MSBS superannuants and their families at the serious disadvantage of having the purchasing power of their retirement incomes spiral ever downwards. Is this really a "Fair Go"?

I understand that in this year of the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice, the Parliament may be considering instituting a "Military Covenant". This occasion is surely the ideal time to put this discrimination and unjust disadvantage behind us – by way of a non-partisan agreement that the Parliament shall resolve immediately to index MSBS superannuation payments in exactly the same way that DFRB/DFRDB retirement income streams are now appropriately adjusted.

The Centenary of Armistice commemoration presents an opportunity for the Parliament to take this 'second step'. It could be achieved easily by drawing upon the Future Fund (6), and would treat this cohort of deserving veterans with the same respect and dignity that the Parliament showed to DFRDB recipients in 2014.

A positive reply and an undertaking from you all to take action, will go a long way towards building trust and respect with military veterans. Better still, a joint Media Statement by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, giving a cast iron guarantee that this second step will now be taken, would admirably reflect the motives behind the "Military Covenant". I look forward to that!

Notes:

1. DFRB/DFRDB: Defence Force Retirement Benefits / Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits. MSBS: Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme. A new scheme, ADF Superannuation, came into effect on 1 July 2016.
2. This was a condition of employment (Pollard Report March 1973, 1.2 (2)).
- 2.6. Ch IV, and R.4), most recently expressed as follows: "... ensuring that \$1 in 2011 will be equivalent to \$1 in 2028" (MilSuper Book 2011, 5, subpara 4). Until about 1990 the CPI was a valid index by which to achieve this – since then it has no longer been that.
3. The greater of the CPI and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (LCI) measured against a floor percentage of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).
4. In response to queries about the DFRB/DFRDB Fair Indexation Bill, on 27 March 2014, Senator Ronaldson stated:
"The Government has long recognised the unique nature of all military service. As we have also previously acknowledged, the fair indexation of DFRB and DFRDB pensions is an important first step [my emphasis] in addressing a long standing grievance of the veteran an ex-service community and the Government remains committed to considering contiguous matters within the context of the current fiscal environment."
5. In response to concerns about discrimination in the way DFRDB and MSBS superannuation pensions have been differently indexed since mid-2014, on 24 February 2016, the President of the HRC has agreed that this discrimination raises questions about Australia's adherence to human rights to equity and non-discrimination obligations in many fields, including provision of pension entitlements, to which Australia subscribes.
6. Future Fund Act (2006). A valid step that clearly reflects the Fund's legislative intent to meet unfunded [and non-discretionary] superannuation liabilities

MONEY MATTERS

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Buy or Rent?



There has been a lot of comment in the media in relation to the movement in house prices in Australia. Many regions are experiencing a downturn in property valuations.

Have you ever wondered about the costs and benefits of home ownership compared to renting?

People have various views on the topic, frequently based on their experiences as well as experiences of other people that they read or heard about.

However, no matter what anyone says, you need to do **WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**. (You should also define the word “best” in this situation.)

I am mindful of the Rent Allowances that are available through DHA, however, what are your plans for the future? How long do you plan to be in the Service? Where would you like to live when you are no longer “posted” on a regular basis?

Would the opportunity of investing in property appeal to you, either privately or via DHA? (Explore that possibility via the DHA website)

Cons in renting

- Rent costs may increase every 12 months.
- You may be asked to move after your Lease expires - involving the cost of moving.
- Usually you can't redecorate the property.
- Each State and Territory has specific regulations in relation to the “rights of tenants” - you should make yourself familiar with these.
- The property is not YOURS, you are “borrowing” it in exchange for money.

Pros in renting

- You are not responsible for maintenance, land rates, water rates, repair costs and insurance costs.
- Rent is fixed for a given period of time.
- You can move, within reason, if you do not like the location.

Cons in buying

- Hopefully you will have a deposit of at least 20% of the purchase price of the property. If your deposit is lower, you will have to

take out a “Lenders Mortgage Insurance” (Remember the article in a previous CAMARADERIE, suggesting that you save a minimum of 10% of your GROSS income, which could have built your “deposit nest egg”)

- When buying a property, you have to pay Stamp Duty and legal and conveyancing fees. (if you are a “first home buyer”, check whether you may be eligible for Stamp Duty concessions)
- You are responsible for ongoing maintenance, land rates, water rates and repair costs and insurance costs.
- House prices can decrease.
- Interest rates on home mortgages can change.

Pros in buying

- The home is YOURS - you have security
- Check whether you are eligible for the “First Home Owners Grant”
- Property value usually increases
- Your equity value in your home increases, as you pay down the loan.
- You can live in your home for as long as you like, providing security, and you are not at the “mercy” of a landlord.
- You can redecorate as much as you like (subject to council approval)
- The mortgage FORCES you to save indirectly, by paying off your loan
- When you are posted away from the location of your home, you can rent out the property.

You may have noticed when reading MONEY MATTERS, that there is always a reference to **moneysmart.gov.au** at the end of each article.

If you are considering purchasing a property, I strongly recommend that you explore all the relevant “drop down” boxes in MONEY SMART, before you sign any documents, and refer to this site in the future whenever there is potential for any change in circumstances (e.g. change in interest payments, increase or decrease in your ability to pay the mortgage)

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.

Veteran's Advocacy

A Vision for the Future

Rob Shortridge, Qld Branch

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Defence Community's (ADC) responses to the Productivity Commission's current inquiry lack a key critical element. The missing element is a longer term strategic direction.

All of the Productivity Commission's recent briefings include statements that it is looking at veteran support 10-30 years into the future. The ADC must do the same.

A major concern for the Australian Defence Community is that we perceive that each of the many current inquiries and studies is proceeding independently. We see no evidence of any overarching government policy or strategy within which these inquiries are proceeding.

Following are nine strategic for issues in the 2020 - 2050 timeframe that the ADC believes need to be addressed with the Productivity Commission and the Department of Veterans' Affairs during their current inquiries?

THE FUTURE OF DVA

Critical Issues

The critical issues from the Australian Defence Community perspective are to:

1. Ensure that veterans are not disadvantaged in any future strategic considerations.
2. Achieve 1. above by obtaining formal government recognition of the Unique Nature of Military Service through an Australian Military Covenant.
3. Ensure that the entity providing support to veterans is a single stand-alone organisation with high level Ministerial representation.
4. Recognise that veteran support is not welfare but is a reciprocal obligation by the nation to those it places in harm's way.
5. Ensure that veterans receive the highest level of support to meet their needs.

Stand-Alone Entity¹

Department of Veterans' Affairs statistics say it has some 300,000 clients. 200,000 are over age 60. Half of these – 100,000 – are over 80².

It is highly likely that the organisation supporting veterans now, Department of Veterans' Affairs, will not look like the organisation supporting veterans a decade or decades into the future, regardless of government commitments that there will always be a Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Even DVA's own statistics in their Submission #125 to the Productivity Commission Inquiry suggests their client base will reduce by a third over the next ten years.

The organisation supporting veterans must be a single stand-alone entity as there is no other organisation that can or should provide all the support provided by Department of Veterans' Affairs, Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation and Defence does. This entity does not necessarily need to be a 'Department' but it requires high level Ministerial representation. There are extant linkages between DVA and Defence and to a lesser degree Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation and each of these organisations should have a veteran focus. Support would be seriously degraded if veteran support was transferred to a combination of organisations that have no interrelationships and no veteran focus such as Human Services, NDIS and/or other Government departments.

What could this single stand-alone entity look like?

The challenge is to envision 'DVA' in 10 to 30 years' time. This demands a considered and strategic approach to the future. If it is proposed that the departments of Defence, and Veterans Affairs, along with CSC Military Superannuation, are combined, efficiencies benefitting the taxpayer will result. Additionally and importantly, the government and the Australian Defence Community will benefit from a single whole-of-government approach with Minister for Defence representation.

Placing the military superannuation responsibilities of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation under the single stand-alone entity would not be unique. Parliamentary and judicial superannuation schemes are already managed by another entity, the Department of Finance.

DVA and the military superannuation elements of Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation could be a prescribed agency similar to Capability Acquisition and Support Group.

Structure

A single DVA HQ (similar to Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, location is immaterial) with other DVA offices located on bases near their client base. This will:

- a. Provide significant savings on infrastructure and negate the need for expensive CBD office accommodation.
- b. Defence personnel could rotate through this organisation and become more familiar with post ADF support and what needs to be done both during and after service.
- c. Defence already has a national communications network and file sharing system.
- d. There may be some efficiencies in combining functions, for example both DVA and Defence (Defence Community Organisation (DCO)) have family support obligations and transition processes. Centralising these within DVA would make sense especially if there was a permanent DVA presence on bases.

Continued overpage

- e. Defence (Joint Health Command) already work closely with DVA for medical transition.
- f. With DVA offices on bases it is expected that base management would develop an appreciation of the roles of the Ex Service Organisations (ESO) and facilitate their access to personnel requiring their services. Currently base access for ESO is limited.
- g. Currently the support is being provided by three agencies. There will be savings combining them however, for this to work there must be an appropriate resource transfer without an arbitrary savings figure being nominated.

Under Minister for Defence

The organisation supporting veterans must come under the Minister for Defence. The Minister will understand the Unique Nature of Military Service and will have a vested interest in veteran wellbeing. Apart from value for veterans, the government of the day can point to a single minister with seamless recruiting-to-grave responsibilities for all military matters. Bureaucratic buck passing should reduce or vanish with concomitant savings in time and money.

It is considered preferable that veteran's issues come under the Minister of Defence and not the Department of Defence. The entity supporting veterans must have its own funding line.

Ministerial Representation

The organisations supporting veterans must have senior ministerial representation to ensure that veteran issues are raised and considered during government deliberations. A current example of this arrangement is the Minister for Defence Industry and the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group.

ADVOCATE TRAINING

Studies on Transition, the Veterans Advocacy Support Scoping Study and the DVA Veteran Centric Reform, where there are many conditions that are decision ready, may result in negating the need for advocacy support for these conditions. The question is what will advocacy look like in 10 to 30 years' time? The outcome of the current studies may mean a reduced role for ESO advocates in the future.

The ADC needs to give considered attention to how they see advocacy in the future and enunciate this vision in current and future studies. Whilst the ATDP is maturing as an advocacy tool, it fails to recognise the possible outcomes of some of the current studies and their future impact.

THE THREE ACTS

What is the real problem?

Some say the Acts are OK but it is the knowledge of the acts, both in DVA and by ESO advocates, that is the issue. The development of a single or one 'Act' is problematic and potentially creates more division and more complexity within the advocates network. This is a cause for caution in the near future.

One solution may be to amend legislation(s) to allow the veteran to use the provision of the act that best suits their needs regardless of qualifying service or length of service and, in concert with this, a program rationalise the three acts into a single act over an extended period. For example take away funeral entitlements in VEA and use the more beneficial MRCA entitlements.

VETERAN STATISTICS ³

There is a need to develop a statistical database of veteran's issues which will enable the more beneficial targeting of support services.

An extract from Submission (#96) to the Productivity Commission states:

'Before one can fix a problem, one has to be able to quantify the problem. There is no database that gives valid statistics for veterans. The major issue is that most of the services provided to veterans, whilst they may be indirectly funded federally, the delivery of the service/s is the responsibility of each State, e.g Health, Education and Training, Homelessness, Incarceration, and Coroner.

The understanding that there is already a checkbox on most State and Federal Government forms asking if a person is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The recommendation is that all states place a similar box on their documentation asking if a person has served in the ADF to allow the collection of statistics and to be able to target support to veterans in the areas of greatest need. Currently the support seems to be tailored to the latest outcry in the media or social media, particularly in relation to veteran suicide and veteran homelessness.

The commission may also recommend that questions on veterans be included in the next census.'

INTEGRATION WITH OTHER SERVICES

Defence cannot afford to have stand alone systems supporting their personnel without ensuring that the systems are compatible with the systems in the wider community. As new systems are introduced, veteran needs must be considered. For example My Health is being introduced and one must wonder how that will interface with Defence electronic health records and if in fact there has been any deliberations in this area. If history is any indication integrating the two systems will be problematic at best.

A concern is of course Defence/government coordinating projects in the future; ie, if Defence is considering a new personnel system it must be able to interface with extant veteran/government support systems.

In the future there should be a system for making sure that a veteran has a seamless transfer from the military to civilian life. One way that this could happen is for ongoing education of serving personnel during their time in the ADF on what is available for post ADF support and how to access it. This would be facilitated by having that one veterans support organisation under Defence and could be further facilitated by DVA's claim numbers to be the PMKeys number.

Taking it one step further why couldn't the service number be the Medicare number, which a person has basically from birth to death? In the US the service number is the social security number.

THE ROLE OF EX SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Over the last twelve months there have been a plethora of reports, studies, AAT cases and inquiries that absolutely need input from the Ex Service Community:

- ANAO Report, Efficiency of Veteran's Service Delivery by the Department of Veterans' affairs
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation of Veterans
- Defence Report.
- Veterans Advocacy and Support Scoping Study (VASSS).
- Senate Inquiry on 'Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force.'
- Two AAT cases considering the tax treatment of disability pensions.
- Royal Commission on Banking and Superannuation.
- Development of a Australian Military Covenant.
- DVAs Transition Task Force.
- Input to and critique of DVA's ongoing Veteran Centric Reform program initiatives.
- Invitation to ESOs to have their say on the shaping of the future of the Australian War Memorial

Providing input to these reports takes time. With few exceptions (some full time employees of the RSL) the people who provide this input, comment and review are unpaid volunteers from the Australian Defence Community.

The input of the Australian Defence Community to these is considered essential and is often requested by government. To rely on one organisation such as the RSL who have the luxury of having paid employees is undesirable because for some time the RSL has been fractured and it is only one voice.

Furthermore, they may not have the unique skill sets to provide meaningful information such as medical expertise on anti malarial drugs. No individual or entity understands the Australian Defence Community in its totality.

It seems incongruous that many of these reports/inquiries are being done by highly paid professionals, with their staff, who rely on volunteers to get the information needed to produce their report. For example, a Senate Inquiry will travel around the country. All the senators and their entourage get their normal wage and are reimbursed for out of pocket expenses such as accommodation, meals and transport. But the unpaid volunteers, those with the sought after expertise, receive no reimbursement for transport or parking, a not insignificant expense in the CBD venues where most inquiries take place.

The other area where the Australian Defence Community provides significant support to Government is the work by unpaid volunteers providing advocacy services to veterans wanting to submit a claim on DVA. The need for these volunteers emerged from the complexity of the acts and processes generated by the three acts administered by DVA. The value of this volunteer service has never been really quantified but the suspicion is that it saves DVA millions of dollars.

Government also has a habit of expecting responses in very short

timeframes. If the Australian Defence Community can not or does not react then, if the outcomes and recommendations are adverse or impractical, blame is put back on the Australian Defence Community for not providing input.

The volunteers in the Australian Defence Community doing all this work for free are getting fatigued. They are being put under more and more pressure to provide input yet they are generally retired and often have other priorities in life. On top of this the additional governance imposed by government bodies further reduces the time available to the volunteers. An example of unnecessary governance is the requirement for an incorporated body to report the same information to both the State Government and the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC).

The suggestion is that the Government provide funding to ESO who have a track record of providing meaningful input to government studies reports and inquiries in a means tested manner. This would allow funding for administration and research personnel and report writers that could develop input as directed by the ESO committees. This capability could be shared, for example managed by ADSO, yet being available to the 17 ADSO partners. This funding should be managed by a stand alone organisation not related to DVA as there is potential for political interference with organisations that may not toe a party line and not all the requests are DVA related an example the invitation to comment on the future of the Australian War Memorial.

COMMERCIALISATION OF SERVICES

(See Submission #90 to the Productivity Commission Inquiry)

There is a perception that commercialisation is a panacea to DVA's ills particularly in relation to Case Management. Under commercialised case management the focus on the veteran is lost and there is a potential for a commercial 'gatekeeper' that limits veteran access direct to DVA. Commercial contractors have been known to promise the world, but after the contract is signed that is often not the case. Furthermore, when all issues are identified their costings are often more expensive and the service is less.

Take, for example the contracting out of case management. This means that a commercial organisation may then contact out to other sub-contractors such as Occupational Therapists. There will be a cost for the contractor to do that. The other risk is identifying the customer. If the person paying the bill is the customer then the veteran is left out of the loop and recommendations are often not what was discussed with the veteran. There are further complications as veterans are lumped in with all their other clients and that contractors do not understand the Unique Nature of Military Service.

It is not thought that the contractor employees will be paid any less than DVA staff, perhaps more, so it is very likely that the provision of services by DVA staff would be more effective as it cuts out the middleman.

Services such as case management are not contracted out as that has the potential to increase costs and diminish the veteran's support.

Continued overpage

COSTS

(See Submission # 79 to the Productivity Commission Inquiry)

Over time the amounts service providers can claim for treating veterans through DVA have remained static where other service providers in the same industry have had significant increases. The table below illustrates the differences and can explain why some service providers are reluctant to take on DVA clients when they can get paid considerably by others for the same service.

Organisation	Physio	OT	Psychologist	Travel
TAC	\$102.12/hr	\$178.76/hr	\$162.78/hr	\$104.58/hr
Workcover VIC	\$114.11/hr	\$121.22/hr	\$167.33/hr	\$1.84/km
NDIS	\$148.69/hr	\$179.26/hr	\$152.95/hr	
DVA	\$79.50/hr	\$115.30/hr (incl travel)	\$101.45/hr	\$0.80/km

Table 1. Fee structure⁴

What is even more frustrating from the veteran perspective is that both NDIS and DVA are federal government providers. This table shows that the veteran is not getting the level of service available to the wider Australian community from the same government.

DVA implement a program immediately for a biennial review of compensation provided to service providers in the rehabilitation industry to ensure that veterans are not being disadvantaged.

HOW IS SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED?

At the round table held 19 Jul 18 at RSL State HQ Brisbane the question was asked by Commissioner Fitzgerald:

‘What should be provided - funding to veteran to rehabilitate themselves or provide a system to support them?’

The answer to this question may result in a major shift in the way veteran support will be provided in the future and the ADC needs to consider the ramifications of each concept and be prepared to argue coherently and cogently in support of the desired system.

System to Support Veterans: A DVA-like organisation where case

management and other services are provided by DVA and the only subcontracting is to the service providers who provide a service direct to veterans.

Funding to Veteran to Rehabilitate Themselves. This is the model for NDIS. Under NDIS a plan is developed then NDIS works with the participant on how to implement the plan. Funding is made available to the participant who can choose how to attain that support. Unless the veterans personal support network has the capability of managing the funding and the interaction with the service providers, it is likely that the management will have to be subcontracted and that in itself raises some issues such as: after funds are allocated what is DVA's role? Furthermore, the organisation providing the coordination will have to be paid for their service therefore they will charge fees which through necessity will have to come from the funds allocated to the veteran for their rehabilitation thereby providing less bang for the buck.

THE FUTURE DIRECTION

Actions and recommendations in the nine areas addressed above will have a huge impact on the provision of veterans support in the 10 - 30 year timeframe that the Productivity Commission is looking at.

There is no right answer. The Australian Defence Community needs to consider the issues and present a unified approach. If it chooses not to comment, or at least consider these strategic issues, the Australian Defence Community will have only themselves to blame if untenable recommendations come from the Productivity Commission report.

Footnotes

- 1 See also P51 of the DFWA submission to the Productivity Commission #118
- 2 <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/veterans/issues/veterans-issues.pdf> Page 5 Box 2
- 3 Statistics are also covered in P33 of the DFWA Submission #118 to the Productivity Commission
- 4 <http://www.tac.vic.gov.au/providers/invoicing-and-fees/fee-schedule>
<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/providers>
<https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-and-payment/201718-price-guide.html#guide>
<https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/fee-schedules/dental-and-allied-health-fee-schedules>
- 5 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/fact-sheets-and-publications.html>



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.

WARTIME CORVETTE LOSS OFF FREMANTLE

By Vic Jeffery

On Monday, 14 June 1993, a solemn memorial and wreath-laying ceremony was conducted at sea, north-west of Rottnest Island, in a position where the corvette HMAS Wallaroo and three crew members were lost, some 50 years before.

Some 36 surviving crew members or family representatives embarked aboard the patrol boat HMAS Geraldton, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Bruce Hilliard, RAN at HMAS Stirling.

Because of wartime security, this remains even today, the little-known wartime loss of the 900-tonne HMAS Wallaroo, only 60-nautical miles off the Western Australian coast in 1943.

The 37th of the sturdy little 56 Bathurst-class corvette/minesweepers to serve in the RAN in World War Two, they were of a simple rugged design combining the capabilities of escort, patrol and minesweeping duties and were well-suited for mass production in shipyards, unaccustomed to naval shipbuilding.

Armed with a 4-inch (105mm) quick-firing gun on the forecastle, three 20mm Oerlikon guns, two .303 machine guns and four depth charge chutes, they carried a wartime complement of 85.

Fremantle-based, Wallaroo (Pendant no. J222) was built in the Sydney yards of Poole & Steele Ltd., Sydney, laid down on 24 April 1941, launched on 18 February 1942 and commissioned on 15 July 1942 and after working-up, commenced her first anti-submarine duties two months later.

In her relative short career, HMAS Wallaroo, despite her drab appearance with her wartime camouflage, had a reputation as being a "happy ship"; she was based in the bustling Port of Fremantle with her areas of operation including ploughing through the treacherous seas of the Great Australian Bight on escort duties between Adelaide and Fremantle, and between Fremantle and Geraldton.

HMAS Wallaroo also regularly conducted exercises with Fremantle-based United States navy submarines, working-up off the south-western waters of Western Australia.

Only 11 months old, HMAS Wallaroo sailed from Fremantle on that fateful day of 10 June 1943, acting as an escort to two heavily-laden American merchant ships, the John G. Whittier and the Henry Gilbert Costin.

After passing through anti-submarine nets and clearing the outer harbour, HMAS Wallaroo took the lead position of the column formed up in line ahead, steaming at 11-knots at 800 metre intervals.

The corvette's task was to escort the two merchant ships to a dispersal point 60-nautical miles northwest of Fremantle under the cover of darkness, where they would then disperse with Wallaroo returning to Fremantle.

There was a moderate westerly wind blowing with a moderate to rough sea running, as they reached the dispersal point around midnight. It was a particularly dark night; the moon was obscured by overcast skies; visibility was down to one nautical mile.

HMAS Wallaroo's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Eric S. Ross, RANR, deciding his tasking was completed, ordered the signal by lamp to disperse to the following ship, John G. Whittier, then commenced altered course to starboard to return to Fremantle.

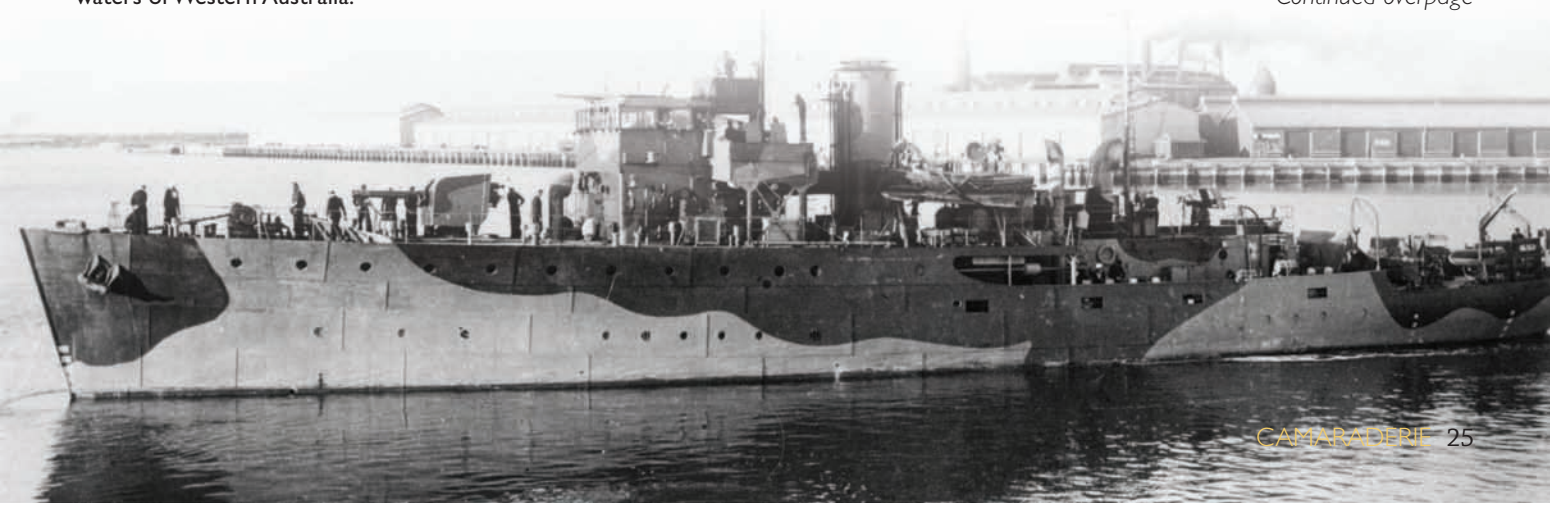
As the corvette continued her turn to starboard, out of the darkness the bow of the second ship, the 7200-tonne Henry Gilbert Costin bore down on the corvette, striking Wallaroo on her starboard side amidships with a thunderous grinding crunch.

The American ship fortunately stopped only centimetres from the Wallaroo's magazine, smashing the corvette's bridge and main sailors' mess deck.

Wallaroo's Commanding Officer was badly injured in the collision and Executive Officer Lieutenant Hill immediately took command of the stricken corvette.

After the initial confusion, many sailors, who did not know if they had been rammed or torpedoed in the pitch darkness, grappled for their life-jackets and helmets.

Continued overpage



The US merchant ship Henry Gilbert Costin had sustained only minor damage and unaware of the gaping hole in the doomed HMAS Wallaroo, reversed course and steamed back to Fremantle, berthing at 1005 the following morning with two extra sailors, both from Wallaroo, who somehow climbed aboard during the collision.

Aboard Wallaroo, emergency lighting was hastily rigged and Lieutenant Hill attempted to steam Wallaroo astern before the sea conditions worsened. He did manage to turn the stricken ship using its engines, stern to sea. On-board pumps were started, but were of little value, as they were sucking up a tremendous amount of debris.

Many acts of heroism were recorded amongst the commendable calm after the collision.

Two West Australians, Leading Telegraphist Jack Mahney and Telegraphist Ernie Dedman, remained in the wireless room in knee-deep water sending out messages until the wireless apparatus broke down. Even then, not long before the ship was abandoned, Mahney tried to get an emergency set working.

The weather deteriorated further, then several hours later in the early morning around 0700, two large waves flooded the upper deck, crashing through the gaping gash in the stricken ship's hull.

This was to be Wallaroo's death knell, as it was obvious the gutsy little corvette had finally lost the battle against the unforgiving sea; the order to 'abandon ship' was given.

Crew members managed to leave their ship without further casualties; the last two men to leave the Wallaroo were the dazed Commanding Officer aided by the First Lieutenant.

Ten minutes after the 'abandon ship' pipe had been sounded, the proud Wallaroo slowly capsized to starboard, slipping below the dark waters of

the Indian Ocean, in what was described as resembling a 'bubbling cauldron', the ship's boilers exploding with a dull thud, as it made its final plunge.

A sister-ship, HMAS Dubbo, was quickly crash-sailed from Fremantle to pick up survivors, along with United States Catalina flying boats from Patrol Wing Ten based at Crawley Bay on Perth's Swan River, joining the search.

A Catalina found the survivors spread over a 16-mile radius, dropped three rubber rafts and directed HMAS Dubbo to the area strewn with oil and debris, where she arrived at 0930 and began to pick up survivors from the heavy seas.

There were three casualties, two killed in the collision and one lost overboard. The sailors, Acting Able Seamen Joseph Clarke and Davis Cowen as well as Motor Mechanic George Garraty, were lost from an incident that could have easily sustained much heavier losses in the circumstances.

HMAS Dubbo had all the Wallaroo survivors aboard and back in Fremantle, berthing at Victoria Quay at 1625 – less than 24 hours after HMAS Wallaroo had sailed for the last time.

HMAS Wallaroo was the first RAN corvette to be lost on escort duties, but not the last. A sister ship, HMAS Geelong, suffered the same fate on 18 October 1944, when some 30-nautical miles off Langemak Bay, New Guinea, the American tanker York cut off her stern in a night-time collision. Fortunately, there was no loss of life in this sinking.

Footnote: Early in 1994, a pennant and plaque from the remaining Wallaroo survivors, bearing a message of thanks for their rescuers' support and courage, were presented to the President of the Dubbo RSL Memorial Club, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the rescue of the Wallaroo survivors.

Defence Widows Group at the *last post ceremony*

Since 2011, when the ACT DWG celebrated its 30th anniversary and held its first commemorative service, the last Thursday in October has become its annual date set aside for commemoration.

In 2015 this event changed to become participation in the War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony so on Thursday October 25 2018 members of the DWG took part for the fourth time in this very moving ceremony. This year, as in the previous two years, the DWG sponsored a family member of one of its widows to be the featured person at the ceremony. This person is one whose name is listed on the War Memorial's Roll of Honour.

Lt. Harry Hingst served in Malaya in the Second World War and was killed in action on 27 January 1942 during the Japanese advance through

Malaya to Singapore. He was 26 years of age and is buried at Kranje War Cemetery in Singapore. Harry Hingst was the uncle of Robin Mahood a long time member of the DWG, and it was very satisfying to have members of Robin's family, many from interstate, be present at the ceremony. A wreath was laid on behalf of the DWG by Robin Mahood. Annette Sadler and Joy Easter both laid personal bouquets.



Corporal Cosmo



cosmo@dfwa.org.au

ADF MEMBERS – PLANNING FOR YOUR EARLY DEMISE

In this issue, CPL Cosmo highlights the importance of having a plan in place in the unlikely event of an early death, and what is in the Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN).

This year I've attended funerals of friends and family taken in the prime of their life. As it often does, being reminded of our mortality causes many emotions and thoughts. One thought in particular that I want to focus on in this issue is how can we prepare now to put a few things in place to make the bereavement process a little smoother for our loved ones?

Having a current Will

Having a Will is an obvious first step when commencing to get your personal affairs in order. Make sure it is current by revisiting your Will soon after personal circumstances change. This may include, for example, when personal circumstances of other people listed in your will change. Ensure you discuss your intentions with those that will be affected by your will.

Write it down

In addition to having a Will, have a personal plan – even if it's just an electronic note on your phone (like I've started), that can be accessed by your significant other in what would certainly be a difficult time. This is your note, so you can include anything you want. If you want to be buried in a wicker coffin or a coffin in the colours of your footy team, write it down. Have you ever thought, "I'd like that song to be played at my funeral"? Then put it in your plan.

Make your plan easy for your family to find by giving it an obvious title. I call mine, "Upon my Death".

Defence Casualty Manual (DCM)

On 15 Oct 18 the DCM replaced the Defence Casualty and Bereavement Support Manual. The DCM is a little known but very useful resource and has its origins from a serving spouse following the loss of a RAAF aircraft (B707) in 1991. Kay Ellis worked tirelessly for much-needed changes in the way the Australian Defence Force handles the deaths of its personnel, spurred by the tragic loss of her husband Tim.

It's important to know that in the event of the death of a serving member, their nominated next of kin (NOK), will be contacted by the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) and that a senior officer, usually from the same service as the deceased member, will be appointed to walk/help the family through administrative details. Support to families of deceased members is known as Case Management in the DCM.

Defence conducts training and education in Mortuary Affairs. If you're a manager or supervisor in the ADF, it might be worth looking into

the Level 1 e-Learning course that is available online via 'CAMPUS' (Course ID: 00006968).

Financial Support

The Defence Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN) is widely regarded as the most difficult Commonwealth document to read. Don't allow this to put you off because there is a range of measures, (that are part of your conditions of service), in place to support Defence families. These measures include; Bereavement Payment, Funeral Costs and Payment for financial or legal advice. See Chapter 11 of PACMAN to learn about ADF-related compensation.

If your family occupies a Service Residence (SR) the PACMAN also provides policy and guidance regarding time frames for when a deceased member's family must vacate the SR (six months), however, this may be extended at the discretion of the CDF. A deceased member's family will also receive a Defence removal to a location of their choosing.

Group Life Insurance

Like myself, many members when they began serving in the ADF may have been 'signed-up' to a low cost insurance scheme following a brief or presentation during initial training. For a contribution of a few, or even one dollar per fortnight, your NOK would receive \$15,000 upon your death. A couple that come to mind are the Australian Public Service and Benevolent Society (previously known as 'Vic & Tas'), and Service Welfare Trust Funds e.g. RAAF Welfare Trust Fund. If you have life insurance policies or are a member of these type of schemes, don't forget to inform your NOK so that they are aware of what they should be claiming should you die. It's easy to forget about these small nest eggs!

Military Pensions – Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC)

Before your family signs anything, they should obtain financial advice. It's a stark reality but the first thing that needs to be done is provide CSC with a copy of the death certificate. The senior officer (Case Manager) and/or DCO will most likely assist your family with this. If you're not familiar with the type of payments, (reversionary pension or lump sum), that your nominated NOK are eligible to receive from CSC, you should review 'death benefits' in the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) of your relevant superannuation scheme. How benefits from CSC are accepted will depend on a range of personal circumstances and financial goals, so it's in your family's best interest to use the assistance available (via PACMAN) to engage a professional with a thorough knowledge of how CSC pensions and benefits work.

Continued bottom of page 28

Buttons for Poppies

Iulia Wishart

In 2011 I started researching my grandfather's Prisoner of War years in Stalag 18A. In 2013 I was lucky enough to attend a weekend in Wolfsburg with 120 of us being relatives of PoWs. En route home, I visited ANZAC Cove with my brother, and that is where I received the link to the 5000 Poppy project launched by Lynn Berry and Margaret Knight.

In the beginning we were unsure whether we would get 5000 made for a visual display of Respect and Remembrance for Federation Square in Melbourne to mark 100 years since the first ANZAC landing. To cut a long story short, in Feb 2015 Lynn announced she had 250,000, and we should go home and "paint our own town red". So I do intend to do more than that and to paint North Qld red, as well as contribute poppies to other installations around Australia!

I have managed to start a little group of fellow poppy makers in Cairns. As I crochet a poppy, I wonder which soldier, sailor or pilot this one represents, and make them all slightly different. I would like to keep the group going for a long time yet. Poppies are sewn onto 2'sq shade cloth panels, and take about 80 to 100 poppies.

There are different colours for the centre of a poppy. Yellow being for indigenous, white being for nurses, and purple being for animals. I used my late Father's naval buttons for the centre for poppy brooches I made for my family. I asked my mother to keep her eye open for any other Armed Forces buttons among her friends, as the cost of buying them was too prohibitive.

I cannot believe the response we have had. I cannot thank contributors enough. My mother has had the excitement of opening the parcels, and I have had the excitement of looking them up in "Buttons of the Defence Forces In Australia" by J.K.Cossum.

On a recent trip back to Canberra, I had made 17 brooches, each with a contributor's personal button in the centre. I posted these on the way to the airport on Sunday afternoon... 17 random envelopes to 17 different places. Nine days later, I was at work in Cairns, when a lady, who I was helping, let slip some medical terminology in her conversation. I asked her where she had trained, and she told me this had been in Canberra. I told her I had been there last week, and it had been -5 degrees, and she looked at me and told me a lovely lady in Canberra had made her a poppy brooch, which she had received in Cooktown last Thursday. Canberra, Cairns, Cooktown. In 9 days!! What are the chances?

So if there ever there was an omen to keep going, this is IT. We put Christmas decorations up once a year, so surely we can put up banners of respect and remembrance to all Australian Defence Personnel twice a year.....ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Finally, we also have been able to send poppies to the current Australian War Memorial Poppy installation of 62,000 poppies (see front cover of this magazine) commemorating all those Australians who gave their lives in WWI.

CAN YOU HELP WITH UNUSED ADF BUTTONS ?

If you have any unwanted ADF buttons, they would be gratefully accepted in order to carry on this work. Please send them to:

Buttons
Unit 22 / 26 Archibald Street
Lyneham ACT 2602



Corporal Cosmo Continued from page 27

Department of Veteran's Affairs

If you've served your country in uniform, DVA has a number of benefits and payments in place to assist your family. DVA also hosts a useful resource on their website, Planning Ahead Kit, which may be completed and kept handy until needed. (<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/publications/health-publications/planning-ahead-kit>).

Conclusion

You can significantly reduce the level of stress that your family and loved ones endure in the event of your premature death by doing a little bit of reading and preparation. They will appreciate you for this as they are going through a difficult time. Once you have a plan in place discuss it and review it every so often. Most importantly, if you're a

serving member, ensure your Nominated Beneficiary on PMKeyS reflects your intentions (Will) as this will be the person/people that your pension/lump-sum goes to in the event of your death.

Have a happy and safe Christmas,
- CPL Cosmo.

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.

MILITARY SUPER

- THE FACTS ABOUT

PENSION MAXIMUM BENEFIT LIMITS



Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) administers the MilitarySuper scheme and one topic that often gets raised by members of the scheme is the Pension Maximum Benefit Limit, or MBL.

CSC has provided the following article, which answers some of the most common questions in relation to the MBL.

What is the Pension Maximum Benefit Limit (MBL)?

MilitarySuper rules provide limits to contributions which can be made relative to a member's Pension MBL or Lump Sum MBL. The higher limit is the Pension MBL and the lower limit is the Lump Sum MBL.

Once you reach the Lower Lump Sum MBL you can choose whether or not to continue to contribute to MilitarySuper. Should you reach the higher Pension MBL you may continue to make ancillary contributions but you must cease making personal contributions, i.e. those contributions of between 5% and 10% of your salary for superannuation purposes which are being deducted from your salary and paid into MilitarySuper. If this occurs CSC will notify you and arrange to cease your contributions immediately.

If you require further information in relation to the Lump Sum MBL you can refer to the Lump Sum Maximum Benefit Limits factsheet, which can be found on the CSC website:

<https://www.csc.gov.au/Members/Advice-and-resources/Factsheets-and-publications/>

Basic Pension MBL Rule

Under MilitarySuper rules, you must cease making personal contributions after you have been notified that your total benefit equals or exceeds your Pension MBL.

How will you know if you have reached the Pension MBL?

CSC notifies you when your total benefit (employer benefit plus your member benefit) reaches your Pension MBL and the date your member contributions, and productivity contributions paid by Defence, will cease. Once you have been notified that you have reached your Pension MBL, you are regarded as an MBL member. Regardless of any future changes that may occur during the rest of your current period of service, you cannot recommence paying member contributions, and your employer cannot recommence paying productivity contributions.

The Pension MBL is determined using the table on the right.

Employer benefit

Your employer benefit will continue to grow with any increases in your Final Average Salary (FAS) and future MBL table increases.

What are your contribution options once you reach the Pension MBL?

You can continue, or commence, paying ancillary contributions for yourself or on behalf of your spouse after reaching your Pension MBL. For more information regarding these ancillary contributions, and resulting ancillary benefits, please see the relevant factsheets available on the CSC website:

<https://www.csc.gov.au/Members/Advice-and-resources/Factsheets-and-publications/>

What if you retired on invalidity grounds from the Australian Defence Force?

Special rules apply when calculating your employer benefit if you have achieved your Pension or Lump Sum MBL and are retired on invalidity grounds. If you are in this situation, please contact MilitarySuper on 1300 006 727.

What if you have completed more than one period of service?

A Pension MBL only relates to the period of service that you are undertaking at that time. A new Pension MBL applies for each period of service that you have. If you discharge and re-enlist at a later date, a new Pension MBL would apply for that period, regardless of whether or not you had attained your Pension MBL during a previous period of service.

Family Law and Pension MBLs

The Pension MBL relates to your overall benefit for the period of service that you are undertaking at that time, regardless of the fact that you may have had your member and employer benefits reduced as a result of Family Law/Property Settlement.

It is important that you are aware that there is also a lower limit called a Lump Sum MBL. More information about the Lump Sum MBL can be found in a fact sheet on the CSC website:

<https://www.csc.gov.au/Members/Advice-and-resources/Factsheets-and-publications/>

Maximum Benefit Limits 2018–19		
Final Average Salary (FAS)	Lump Sum MBL	Pension MBL
Less than \$75,000	\$600,000	\$750,000
\$75,000 to \$119,760	8 times FAS	10 times FAS
\$119,761 to \$222,160	\$239,520 plus 6 times FAS	\$359,280 plus 7 times FAS
Greater than \$222,160	\$906,000 plus 3 times FAS	\$1,025,760 plus 4 times FAS

Note: The dollar amounts shown are those applying for the 2018–19 financial year and are indexed each year with the increase in Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE).

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this application and forward it to your nearest DFWA Branch (see details below)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Rank Family Name

Given Names Post Nominals

Address

..... State Postcode

Contact Telephone Year of Birth

Email

I AM: ☐ Serving ☐ Retired ☐ Navy ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Allied
☐ Spouse of ADF member ☐ Widow/Widower of former ADF Member ☐ N/A

PAYMENT: ☐ I have made a direct deposit to the Branch (see bank account details below)
☐ I enclose \$..... as my Annual / Life Membership subscription (mail to your Branch address below)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$40.00	LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$560.00
SPOUSES, WIDOWS and WIDOWERS of FORMER ADF MEMBERS:			
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$20.00	LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$300.00

DFWA NSW BRANCH, Bldg 96, Victoria Barracks Paddington. Locked Bag 7005, Liverpool, NSW 1871
(T) 02 8335 5447 (E) nswbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 642-170 Acct 100003491

DFWA QUEENSLAND BRANCH, Victoria Barracks Brisbane, Enoggera QLD 4051
(T) 07 3233 4480 (E) qldbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 124-185 Acct 10480398
(Queensland Branch also administers NT membership)

DFWA VICTORIA BRANCH, Victoria Barracks Melbourne (H Block), 256 - 310 St Kilda Road, Southbank VIC 3006
(T) 03 9282 4959 (E) vicbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 833-205 Acct 20700279
(Victoria Branch also administers TAS membership)

DFWA WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta Community House, Karrakatta WA 6010
(T) 08 9383 4055 (E) wabbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 066-192 Acct 10378174

DFWA ACT BRANCH, PO Box 2272, Canberra ACT 2601
(T) 02 6265 9496 (E) actbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 032-713 Acct 770220

DFWA SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH, PO Box 711, Littlehampton SA 5250
(T) 0409 577 035 (E) sabbranch@dfwa.org.au BANK DEPOSIT TO: BSB 833-205 Acct 20374231

In addition to individual membership, **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS** and **CORPORATE** Subscriptions are available by contacting DFWA NATIONAL at national@dfwa.org.au Phone 02-62659530



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
 Secretary: Alan Hind
 Membership Sec.: Henry Old
 IT Advisor: John Kane
 Location: Victoria Barracks Building 96 Locked Bag 7005, LIVERPOOL NSW 1871
 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 August 2018.

Mrs S M Hoare and Mrs Maggie Watson.

VALE

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

Mr B E Spender BEM and LTCOL C S Watson OAM (Rtd)

ACT BRANCH

President:	Les Bienkiewicz
Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Paul Jones
Convener DWG:	Vacant
Membership Manager:	Trevor Goodhew
Postal Address:	GPO Box 2272 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email:	actbranch@dfwa.org.au
Telephone:	(02) 6265 9496 (answering service only)

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

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Mrs D Scobie, Mr A McCormack and Maj B Jones.

VALE

With deep sadness we note the passing of Mrs Dorothy Harrison, Mr Peter Ainslie, Mr Robert Whitten, AVM Douglas Hurditch, BRIG Jeffrey Shelton and GPCAPT K Stevens

AGM

The 2018 AGM was held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 at The Burns Club Kambah. The report presented by the President is shown below.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT to the DFWA ACT AGM - 9 OCTOBER 2018

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for your attendance this evening. Your attendance and the holding of this AGM is an important governance activity for the Association to ensure it is managed in a proper manner. To that end I note this AGM was advertised by way of a notice in The Canberra Times on 15 September 2018, as well as on our website, in Camaraderie and finally by a recent direct email to members.

The Branch Committee met formally six times in the FY year.. and was also able to work "out of session" when necessary with the use of email communication. I wish to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to Committee members for their support and the effort they put into the work of the Association.

Your Treasurer Paul Jones has prepared audited reports for your information. You will see that we again have a small surplus. As I have advised in the past, but is necessary to repeat, that whilst we have a healthy capital balance your Committee will not squander it. All expenditures are backed up by Committee approvals and regular reporting to the Committee. Paul is here tonight and I invite you to raise any questions you may have when his report is formally tabled.

Trevor Goodhew, your Membership Registrar, has worked hard managing all our membership issues.

During the past year due to ill health Trevor has had to relinquish most of his extensive volunteer works in the ACT ESO community, but has agreed to continue in his capacity as membership officer, and I am extremely grateful.

Our four pension, welfare and advocacy officers – Hilton Leonard, Kerry Mellor, Annette Sadler and Keith Russell - have again assisted dozens of individuals, some requiring just some quick advice, others requiring many hours of personal assistance. Between them, they have some 60 active cases “on their books”. Your Branch supports them in numerous ways, such as funding their attendance at training courses, out of pocket expenses etc, as is noted in the financial reports.

As advised in my last report, the new training and registration arrangements being imposed on our advocates by the DVA will adversely impact on the number of advocates the DFWA and all other Ex Service Organisations in the coming years. In the case of the ACT DFWA, our advocates will be ramping down their works in the coming year or two, for that reason as well as for personal health and other issues.

Our acting Defence Widows Group convenor – Christine Lamb – has provided a written report which will be tabled at this meeting. The hard work, dedication and commitment of Christine and her Committee warrant our special thanks. Christine graciously stepped into the shoes of Annette Sadler who has relinquished her work with the DWG and advocacy due to ill health. I was pleased that Annette’s efforts were recently recognised by the award of Honorary Life Membership of the DFWA.

Your Hon Secretary, Gerard Gough, warrants special mention for doing the myriad of secretariat and representational events in support of the Branch. Regretfully for us, Gerard is about to be posted and as a result we will soon be losing his services as our Hon Secretary. I pass to Gerard our special thanks for the dedication he has shown to the Branch and am delighted he has agreed to keep involved with supporting the Association on a national level. Thank you again Gerard and we hope to see you back in the ACT sometime in the future !

Ladies and Gentlemen before concluding my formal report to you, I wish to make two points:

- Firstly, that it is my contention that the DFWA as whole operates on two levels – and this needs to be clearly understood by our membership. On the national level the significant behind the scenes lobbying activities are fundamental to achieving the aims of the Association. These activities are well reported in the DFWA’s magazine Camaraderie and on our website. I specifically mention to the various well researched and detailed submissions to Government and other bodies as an example of this. At the local level, Branches support more “hands on” operations to its members, and this is well reflected in the ACT Branch in the operations of our advocates and the work of the DWG.
- Secondly, my concerns for the future. We are finding it difficult at both the Branch and National level to find new members, and no more so than finding new Branch Committee members. This situation is shared not just by DFWA Branches but by most ESOs,

nationwide. So how the next 5 years or so pan out for the DFWA as a whole, I am not sure. For the Branch, I have taken the decision to reduce the number of formal Committee meetings to four a year, and do more of our routine work out of session, primarily by email communication, in order to reduce the workload of our Committee members.

In closing, I wish to repeat the thanks and the passing our best wishes to our outgoing Committee members Annette Sadler, Trevor Goodhew and Gerard Gough. Thank you for the hard work and dedication to the DFWA.

Les Bienkiewicz

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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

AGM AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS

The AGM was held on 28 Sep 2018. The Reports were presented and are available from the DFWAQ Office.

In summary:

- Financial Revenue was from the raffle, donations, membership fees and BEST Grant and was approximately \$39,328. We finished the FY17/18 with a surplus of approx. \$12,124 and Assets of approx. \$127,147. This is a reduction due to the write-off of a bad debt of approx. \$48,359 relating to legal fees for a Veteran.
- Membership numbers over the last three years were 639, 655 and now 656, of which 287 are non-paying Life Members or Associates. 215 were in arrears as at 30 June. The outgoing President thanked the Committee for their support in the previous year which was as usual very busy. The list is shown above. In addition your committee consists of the following Committee/Support Members:
 - Sharyn Hughes (Admin).
 - Harry Mee (Welfare).
 - Pearl Mee (Welfare).
 - Clem Russell (Advocacy).
 - Communications (Deb Keir).
 - IT and Projects (Chris Lowis).

PRESIDENTS REPORT

DFWAQ committee and helpers have been very active in assisting in National activities as well as providing support to current and former ADF members and their families in Qld.

OUR DEALINGS AT POLITICAL LEVEL

DFWAQ has assisted National Office and ADSO in some submissions to

numerous studies, made separate DFVAQ submissions and attended various consultative meetings with study/inquiry teams. Key ones are listed below:

Productivity Commission (PC) Inquiry. We had significant input into the ADSO submission and managed the DFVA National submission. Advocate Clem Russell, Exec VP Rob Shortridge and President John Lewis attended some PC workshops in Brisbane. Rob is also preparing a more “strategic” submission, looking at 20 year ahead vision of veteran support. It is anticipated that this will be forwarded under DFVA National banner. The draft PC report is due in December 2018, public consultations in early 2019 with a final report to government mid-2019.

Veteran Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study (VASSSS). DFVAQ made a written submission. There was considerable overlap with Productivity Commission Inquiry. This study is specifically looking at introducing a centralised, salaried Advocacy service replacing the current ESO voluntary system. Advocate Clem Russell and John Lewis attended a follow-up meeting with the study leader, Robert Cornall as result of our submission.

Lobbying Activities with Politicians and Media.

Since July, DFVAQ has met with several MPs and Qld Senators, spoken with the Minister for Veteran Affairs, the ex and new PM, the Leader of the Opposition and had a lengthy meeting in our office at Victoria Barracks with the Shadow Minister for Veteran Affairs Amanda Rishworth. For the latter, we were joined by a number of other ESO (old and new) in show of unity. We had wide-ranging open discussion after briefing on:

- Australian Military Covenant – which DFVA – ADSO have been lobbying for years, now supported by all parties.
- Queensland Veteran Charter – The Qld government delivers services to Veterans and how we see the Charter supporting delivery of services to veterans and fitting in with the Covenant.
- Federal and State Elections – Advised we will be publishing a policy scorecard for Federal Election as we did for the Longman By-election and the last Qld State Election, where Labor won 3 Townsville seats from the LNP. We had a full frank discussion on Veteran matters, including areas where we did not see eye to eye.
- Future Vision of Veteran Support. Covered a synopsis of Rob Shortridge’s draft paper on Veteran support in next 20 years.
- CSC and Royal Commission. Brief discussion as ALP now support DFVA case.
- AAT Hearings – Veterans Vs ATO. We provided an update and discussed follow-up issues that ALP had to decide on, e.g., If it goes to High Court and Veterans win:
 - It could cost the government up to \$1b in backdating – what is ALP position on retrospective legislation to avoid paying.
 - What was ALP position on Family Court impacts where ex-partners (mainly but not all, mothers) could receive less in family court splitting?

VP Sunshine Coast. Win Fowles met regularly with local state and federal MPs and opposing candidates, as well as lobbying visiting Ministers, including the PM. He raised specific issues including the Military Covenant, mefloquine trial and superannuation issues and provided specific support in word-smithing letters to our elected representatives and media releases and for use by DFVA National. For the Federal by-election in Longman he gained the attention of the PM at one meeting, contacted all parties and organised

the DFVA Briefing on Bribie Island.

VP NQ. Ray Martin has been very busy in his day-to-day work in Townsville as Project Manager for Operation Compass, the ADF member and family suicide prevention project based in Townsville. He is also double-hatted with DFVA and the younger Veteran group “Veteran Clawback” campaigning on social media and lobbying MPs, Minister and Shadows regarding the numerous military superannuation issues and the mefloquine trial. In June, he briefed the DFVA National Executive on Operation Compass, the Oasis Centre being established in Townsville and on use of social media.

Demonstration - Royal Commission into Financial Entities. DFVA along with ADSO members and RSL have been conducting a campaign for CSC to be included in the Royal Commission. DFVAQ teamed with some younger Veteran groups to hold a demonstration promoting the common cause outside the Royal Commission hearing in Brisbane. Our VP NQ, Ray Martin has also been part of the Veteran Clawback younger Veterans’ social media campaign for the Royal Commission.

QLD POLITICS

Queensland Veterans’ Charter. Unfortunately, the Qld State Charter for Veterans seems to have stalled in the bureaucratic process. The version provided to the government via Queensland Veterans Advisory Council (QVAC), was completely ignored by the bureaucrats who came up with some words which meant nothing. This was rejected by QVAC and sent back for re-consideration. At this stage it is reasonable to wait to see what is happening with the Australian Military Covenant before progressing to far on a State Charter.

Contacts. The LNP announced state Veteran policies early in the FY, including creation of a Minister of Veteran Affairs position. VP NQ Ray Martin attended the Townsville announcement and John Lewis attended the Brisbane announcement. VP Rob Shortridge had several discussions with Jenny Howard (Assistant Minister Assisting the Premier) who had responsibility for veteran issues before the election. The President had a meeting with the Qld Attorney General on the State Charter and other issues where the Qld government delivered services to veterans.

Qld Election Scorecard. We produced a Red, Green, Amber (RAG) chart, scoring each of the political parties’ responses regarding Veteran policies being presented to the voters at the Qld Election. These were sent to all DFVAQ members, all other ESOs, RSL sub-branches in the State and our serving ADF “virtual” members posted to Qld. It is noted that voting was very close in the three Townsville electorates, which eventually went to the ALP.

Keeping Political Promises. I reported last year that the lobbying with the Premier to appoint a state Minister for Veteran Affairs had been rejected by the government. However, when election time came around, the ALP announced it would appoint the Premier as Minister for Veteran Affairs, thereby equalling the LNP policy. The ALP also published several other Veteran-friendly policies, including clear support for the Oasis Centre in Townsville and transport concessions. On election, the ALP government delivered on all promises almost immediately. Full marks for that. It was disappointing that the promise to appoint the Premier as Minister for Veteran Affairs was fudged in the first week by the appointment of Jenny Howard (MP for Ipswich) as an Assistant Minister for Veteran Affairs, but no minister

or the staff support that full ministerial level would provide. This merely continues the previous arrangement except that Jenny now has the formal title, but still no dedicated staff, except those appointed only for the 100 year WWI Commemorative activities. It is hoped these staff will continue after November 2018.

OUR BRANCH ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING CURRENT AND FORMER ADF MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

Welfare. Harry Mee assisted by Pearl has continued with welfare support, hospital visits and Poppy Services. There is an increasing demand for Poppy Services, most of which are for non-DFWA members. The Funeral Directors are referring families to DFWA. There have been calls on our Education Trust Fund and we have provided assistance with children education costs of a serving member and his family posted from Brisbane to Wodonga.

Advocacy. Clem Russell, Wally Buldo and John Lewis have continued to provide Advocacy and Pension Officer support throughout the year for VEA, MRCA and SRCA/DRCA veterans and widows. Note that this includes serving members as well.

ESO and Member Forums. We held Information Briefings at Bribie Is and Victoria Barracks to coincide with the Longman Federal by-election brought about by the constitutional dual citizenship fiasco. Bribie Island is part of the Longman electorate. Topics included:

- Australian Military Covenant, an update and the belated interest of DVA, ADF and the government.
- DFRDB Update, essentially the work of Jim Hislop and Herb Ellercock.
- Mefloquine, explaining why we wanted an Inquiry and the Issues.
- Current Veteran Issues, including:
- Volunteer ESO being swamped by numerous government studies which are uncoordinated and overlapping.
- Why CSC should be included in the Royal Commission into financial entities; and
- Current Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) Cases, presented by Cleary Hoare our honorary solicitors. This was the main topic.

My thanks to Win Fowles (VP Sunshine Coast) for organising the briefing at the Bribie Island Hotel and to all committee members who assisted there and at the briefing held in Victoria Barracks and also to Brad Campbell from Veteran Clawback and Peter Burns from ComSuper- Military Entitlements, who provided support on the Q and A session on some intricacies of Invalidity Benefits, taxation and Family Law. Special thanks to Daniel Paratore, our keynote speaker on AAT. Daniel, who is representing two of the three Veteran cases, gained a law degree before entering the Army. He deployed as 2RAR Platoon Commander to Afghanistan in 2012.

AAT Cases. We continue to support Veterans challenges regarding tax treatment of DFRDB and MSBS Invalidity Benefits. Daniel Paratore from our Honorary Solicitors (Cleary Hoare) spoke on progress of AAT cases at our two forums. Legal Costs are covered by Test Case Litigation Funding. We are grateful to Cleary Hoare in representing two of the three cases as the government provided funding is "bare bones".

Advocacy Training and Development Programme (ATDP). DFWAQ initiated a workshop and follow-up meeting through the DVA Queensland Consultative Forum (QCF). DFWAQ had misgivings about the

implementation of the new ATDP which replaced the previous training. While the ATDP intent to improve and maintain advocate standards, significant difficulties have arisen, increasing overheads and deterring volunteers. There is also uncertainty of its future as there are proposals made to the Productivity Commission and VASSSS to form a salaried Advocacy service. Clem Russell and I attended both, including direct feedback from the ATDP Team. While some issues appear to be addressed and, whatever misgivings, the end result is that ATDP is the only game in town (at present) and in spite of difficulties, we have to make do. Wally Buldo who has been our main Advocate (Level 3) for many years has decided to continue and is undertaking the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Process, however this has been fraught with administrative stuff-ups and delays. Clem Russell (Level 4) who has been providing advocacy support for many years with the RAR Association and has been helping us for last two years, is continuing.

Transition Seminars. VP SE Qld, Pat Jackman has the lead on Transition and local ADF liaison. We continued to attend seminars. The character of these seminars changed this year. With pressure on, the seminars seemed more compressed than before. ADF members had little time to visit stands and the "ESO" presentation was done by a video rather than by an ESO representative. There were fewer visitors to stands and other stall holders started to close down earlier than usual. There seemed to be general disinterest and fading away of ADF attendees. For November, 2018 Seminar, we were advised it has been reduced to one day and will be held at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre. There has been no consultation between Defence and the ESO community on these changes and information requested was not forthcoming. We decided not to man a stall, but Pat attended to make an assessment regarding future involvement. Pat reported that the new format appeared successful. With power available, we shall be able to use interactive media to engage attendees, so there is a fair bit of work ahead to get ready for the first seminar in 2019.

Veteran Liaison Officers (Hospitals.) During the year it was discovered that DVA contracted private hospitals are required to have appointed Veteran Liaison Officers who are to assist any veteran admitted with accessing DVA services. However the duties are unclear; i.e., difficult to get details from DVA, except confirmation, they have nothing to do with informing about ESO services. There is no requirement for VLOs in state hospitals. We consider that there appears to be some gaps in both areas and better co-ordination between DVA, ESO and hospitals, could provide a better service to ex ADF members and families. VP Pat Jackman has taken the lead on this issue to pursue it with DVA and QVAC as necessary. We are looking at possibilities of providing VLO with "Veteran Packs" they can issue, as well as a VLO Information Pack to assist in their work.

Incarcerated Veterans and their Families. Veterans Incarcerated. DFWAQ is examining the situation concerning support to incarcerated Veterans and their families. Anecdotal evidence and experience overseas indicates that there may be a significant problem. In any event, incarceration creates difficulties for families and for veterans including continuity of mental health care, cessation of some financial support to name a couple. VP SE Qld, Pat Jackman is meeting with organisations experienced in this area to establish needs and if DFWAQ can assist.

Last of HOTLINE. The Committee decided that we will no longer produce the separate Queensland HOTLINE newsletter which was distributed with Camaraderie. Instead, types of items which once were produced in

HOTLINE will be included in a Qld section in Camaraderie (like this). I particularly acknowledge the work of Ray Gibson who is dropping out of Committee work. Apart from being Editor of HOTLINE for many years, Ray has served as our VP, our Fair Go Campaign LO, producer of numerous Veteran campaign posters and provider of wise counsel to me personally, especially when I was about to do something stupid. For the latter, he was often overworked.

ADMINISTRATION

IT Support.

During the year we had several difficulties with our office server system and maintenance arrangements. As a result, we decided to our IT support, including our current Telstra Wi-Fi arrangements. Chris Lowis established a DFVAQ account with Google which provides 24/7 support, storage for all our files and DFVAQ email addresses for committee members as required. Data was transferred to the new system. The transition to the new system proceeded smoothly and is working better than the previous system. The new capability allows scope for expansion and provides new services. Concerns about data security have been allayed as the new service is more secure than the old and is used by government departments, universities and business. The Telstra Wi-Fi service is being replaced by dedicated a DFVAQ landline installation authorised by Defence. The changes will result in overall savings in IT maintenance and Telstra charges at the same time improving services.

Our Office.

I would especially like to acknowledge the work of Sharyn Hughes, who has been the mainstay of our IT and administration for over 10 years, of breaking in new Committee Members, documenting procedures, digitising paper records and generally keeping the admin on the straight and level. Our office is regularly open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and (for Committee Meetings and morning tea) Fridays. Committee Member Sharyn Hughes and Deb Keir, our Secretary, have manned the Office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, regularly supported by our Treasurer and Advocate, Wally Buldo on Wednesdays. This involves considerable time and travel by all. Now that our paper records have been digitised and are accessible remotely by a reliable IT service, the need to keep existing Office opening hours will need to be reviewed in the next year.

It is useful to remind ourselves that Defence provides DFVA with Office facilities, including a telephone on the Defence exchange, power and light. This is a considerable benefit and can be traced back to our origins where RDFVA was formed to give serving members a voice to government on superannuation and other personnel issues. Maintaining this physical presence is important.

RESTRUCTURE OF QLD BRANCH

DFVA paying membership is declining and is getting on in years. We are having difficulties filling committee positions. This is a common feature of many ESOs and makes continuing very difficult for an aging and smaller group. Wally is in his 80s for example. The Constitution makes provision for closure. We want to address this in a properly managed manner and we are commencing preparations while we have the committee capacity to do this.

The aim will be to transfer most administrative functions to National Office, eg finance management, including Trust Fund, member management, mail-

outs of Camaraderie etc but retain the office (physical presence) in Victoria Barracks and continue to support direct operations such as advocacy, transition, welfare and local lobbying for as long as possible. That is, most of the activities mentioned earlier in this report will continue from the DFVA office. The supporting administrative functions – which are replicated elsewhere will be done elsewhere. This will free local people resources to concentrate of delivering services rather than administration. There are many issues to be sorted out. Member service will be maintained, and probably improved. Membership subscriptions will continue the same as for all DFVA members.

We will be communicating with all Qld members in near future to provide more detail of intentions and progress and notice as required by the Constitution.

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

Our AGM was held on the 19 of Oct and we just had numbers to proceed. All the committee was re-elected so we will battle on. Membership continues to be a problem.

I attended a DVA discussion run by Professor Mark Creamer regarding the Mafloquine/Tafenoquine inquiry. This was attended by serving and ex members along with ESO's and the general public. After much discussion it was established that firstly there will have to be a medical term e.g. Mafloquine syndrome or some other name. This would give the Medical people something to work on that is specific to the illness. At present it is a hit and miss situation regarding treatment. It was regarded the DVA was on the front foot in trying to deal with this matter.

The Jamie Larcome Center which is SA's Centre of Excellence regarding PTSD and other mental issues continues to excel. At present there is a waiting list for entry. I was told that of the veterans attending 50/50 were of Viet Nam and other veterans. Of that number some were there for respite the others for treatment. The SA Government is in the process of re-opening The Repat Hospital after it was closed by the previous Government. At this time it had not decided on exactly what the hospital will cater for. As of 30 Oct 20 beds were opened for the overflow from the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

During the last elections our committee put a number of questions to the

major parties regarding serving veterans and their families. We asked if they would consider establishing a Veterans Hub. We have been told by Mr. Rob Manton, Veterans SA, that this could happen in 2019 and be located at the Torrens Parade Ground. No details were discussed as to what form it will take but we envisage that it will be a one stop shop for serving and ex members and their families to get advice.

We are still in the process of preparing a submission to DVA to recognize the importance of strength and fitness training in the overall treatment of veterans with various conditions. Over the last 12 months there has been a number of Health Professionals pushing this cart. We have spoken to these people and they are going to help us with this. At present DVA will not pay for Gym membership. Our push is for a whole of life approach to treatment that involves diet, strength training and Psychiatric intervention. The latest report suggested that this could also help in the treatment of Alzheimer's. It said that by doing Sudoku all the time only made you better at Sudoku. They would be better in a gym counting the repetitions of strength training.

It will be my push this year to try and get some women into our committee. Women are now sent to most areas our Defence Force deploys. They need not to be a serving member just the wife/partner or the wife/partner of an ex veteran. We also realize that there may be children involved and if so they come to the meeting also. The concept of the old style meeting must change and the addition of a Crèche in the room has come.

I have tried to contact through e-mail the Treasurer, Minister O'Dwyer and my local Minister Nicole Flint 3 times, regarding having the Commonwealth Superannuation Commission referred to the Banking Royal Commission. At this time I have not received any correspondence from any of them.

VALE

With deep sadness we note the passing of Mr Graham Rohrsheim

Lee Bowes - President

VICTORIA BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

The Victorian Branch remains active with all Committee positions filled and Executive Committee meetings occurring as required by the Branch Constitution. Membership remains under pressure. The Branch remains financially sound.

Over the last twelve months the Branch has contributed to a number of State and Federal Government initiated inquiries. The Branch has continued to support the work of the Victorian Veterans Council, the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital's Story Writing and Art Competition (SWAC) and veterans DVA claims through the work of the Melbourne Veterans & Services Centre advocates.

MEMBERSHIP

In November 2017 the Victorian Branch had 471 financial members of which 231 were annual members and 240 were life members. As at 01 November 2018 there were 456 financial members of which 234 are annual members and 222 are life members.

Membership is the majority risk facing the Branch as membership fees underpin the Branch's future financial viability.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Financial situation of the Branch remains sound with all expenses currently being met. The Executive Committee decided not to seek a BEST grant this year as DVA policy now links these grants directly to the number of advocates an ESO has on staff and the amount of claims these advocates process. The Branch is co-located with the Melbourne Veterans & Services Support Centre whose advocates undertake any claims that members may seek assistance with.

The Branch was successful in its grant application to the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund which is administered by the Victorian Veterans Council and the Minister for Veterans. The proceeds from this grant are put towards the production and distribution of the Victorian Branch supplement which accompanies the Camaraderie magazine.

Member Survey

In May 2018 the Executive Committee forwarded a Member survey to every Victorian financial member. The purpose of the survey was to understand member views on what activities and issues the Branch Executive Committee should be giving priority to. The survey was very successful with over 44 percent of members responding. The survey results were provided to members in the July 2018 Branch Supplement. The survey results were also forwarded to DFVA National and all DFVA Branches.

NATEX JUNE 2018

The Victorian Branch submitted six motions to the June 2018 NATEX covering the following issues:

1. National Office's procedure for advising the relevant State / Territory Branch (based on the address details provided by the applicant) of the receipt of an Ordinary or Life or Associate membership application
2. Revision to the membership application form included in Camaraderie
3. Revision to the donor form contained in Camaraderie and on the DFVA website.
4. A revision to article 21 of DFVA National Constitution concerning Membership Reports.
5. The need for National Office to establish a Risk Management Register.
6. The need for an executive management sub-committee to provide more regular oversight of National Office activities.

NATEX agreed all motions with the exception of the one concerning Article 21 which NATEX directed should be put to the next DFWA National AGM. Of the other agreed motions, action is yet to be taken in regard to numbers 3 and 6.

DFWA NATIONAL AGM AND NATEX NOVEMBER 2018

The Victorian Branch has submitted one motion to NATEX November 2018. The motion proposes that a 10 percent discount on future Annual and Life membership subscriptions be offered to any DFWA member who can evidence that they are in receipt of a TPI pension. The catalyst for this motion was message from a long standing Victorian Branch member who is also a TPI.

The Branch has also worked closely with the Western Australian Branch in developing and seconding a number of motions to improve the administration and governance of the national organisation.

DFWA VIC ACTIVITIES

During the last twelve months the Branch has been involved in the following:

- 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
- December 2017 - DFWA (Vic) Executive Committee meeting
- 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
- February 2018 - DFWA (Vic) Executive Committee meeting
- 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
- May 2018 – DFWA (Vic) AGM
- June 2018 – NATEX
- June 2018 – Opening of RSL Victorian Branch State Conference
- July 2018 – DVA Deputy Commissioner's ESO Consultative Forum
- August 2018 – DFWA (Vic) Executive Committee meeting
- August 2018 – Productivity Commission Veterans Support roundtable
- August 2018 - DVA Scoping Study into a sustainable veterans advocacy system
- September 2018 - DVA Deputy Commissioner's ESO Consultative Forum
- September 2018 - Guest speaker at the Partners of Veterans Australia (Victorian Branch) AGM

DFWA RAFFLE 2018

The annual national raffle which is organised through the good offices of the DFWA NSW Branch continues to be an important source of funds for supporting Branch activities. Raffle revenue was down somewhat on previous years. Victorian members were successful in winning third and consolation prizes.

DIARY DATES

The last Branch Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for 15 November 2018.

Stephen Turner
Commander RAN (Rtd)
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
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:	wabbranch@dfwa.org.au
Location:	Karrakatta Community House Matapau Road Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA WA 6010

A more detailed report will be provided to WA Members in the Branch newsletter 'The Western Front', which will be posted to members with their copy of Camaraderie.

NEW MEMBER

The President and Committee offer a warm welcome to Mr Nick Russon.

BRANCH AGM

The AGM was held on 5th September. While the Branch remains financially secure (although there is some dwindling of income) our membership continues to decline. This is mainly a factor of an aging membership and our continued inability to attract new members from the ADF and from those who have recently transitioned into civilian life. Our situation is not unique - other Branches of DFWA report a similar membership decline as do many other ESOs.

The Committee was re-elected but there are now two vacant places in the Branch Committee which ideally should be filled. The Committee meets every second month at Irwin Barracks and in-between some work is conducted by email. If you are interested in spending a few hours every second month, please contact either Allan Austin or myself.

Gp Capt Mike Galvin, a retired Flight Surgeon and Emergency Physician, who has an interest in WWI history was the guest speaker. Whilst researching 16 Bn POWs taken by the German Army on 11 April 1917 at Bullecourt, Mike Galvin discovered a photograph of a memorial erected

over the grave of Pte William Malthouse, a member of the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force (ANMEF) in the cemetery attached to Gustrow POW camp. This raised the question of how an Australian serviceman could have been both a member of the ANMEF and a POW, when it is known that all German resistance in German New Guinea totally collapsed in September 1914. Mike answered that question by talking about the operations of the commerce raider Wolf. Apparently, William Malthouse had been captured by the Wolf during its rampage in the Pacific, held as a POW and transported back to Germany. Pte Malthouse died in December 1918 but his wife and family were not informed of his death until March 1919.

WA DEFENCE WIDOW'S GROUP

Over many years Shirly Mooney has led and supported a small group of widows admirably. Alas, it appears that time has caught up and the group has dwindled in number and those left are not as agile as once upon a time. Earlier this year the Committee reluctantly agreed to Shirly's request to disband the group. Notwithstanding the ladies will keep in touch with each other on a social basis and of course they will always be welcome to participate in WA Branch activities.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The 2018 annual Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 13th December at RAAFA Bull Creek. If you have not already responded to the invitation (that was recently mailed to WA members), please contact Allan Austin asap.

MEDICAL SERVICE DOGS

WA Branch has become a sponsor of several Medical Service Dogs being trained by Whiskey's Wish Inc. Currently seven dogs are in various stages of training in WA, part of a much larger program Australia-wide where a total of 107 dogs are in training. Veterans with PTSD or other medical conditions can apply to enter the program. If approved, the veteran will be given a dog and then commence training, which can take two or three years. Recently, the WA Branch President Richard Usher and Secretary Allan Austin met with two WA recipients, Lynda Zapelli and her dog 'Khan', and Sandy Waters and her six-month old puppy 'Jack Tar'. The dogs are trained by professional dog training company "Clever Creatures" and Khan has just passed an assessment which will qualify him for the next step - to wear an 'In-Training Service Jacket'. This means that Khan

will now be able to escort Lynda in public and on public transport etc. WA Branch is particularly proud to be able to offer tangible support to these seven veterans, four ex-Army, two ex-Navy and one ex-Air Force.



Pictured L-R: Sandy Waters with 'Jack Tar', WA President Richard Usher and Lynda Zapelli with 'Khan'

Defence Force Welfare Association

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

DONATION

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

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

Rank/Title Name

Address

State Postcode Phone

Alternatively, make an electronic deposit as follows:

Account Name: Defence Force Welfare Association

BSB: 803 205

Account Number: 20656807

A receipt will be sent to you on request.

You can also make a credit card donation:

Go to dfwa.org.au/donate-or-sponsor and follow the link. A receipt will of course be issued !



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:

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Victoria Barracks Brisbane, Enoggera QLD 4051

Or email your order and payment details to:

qldbranch@dfwa.org.au

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



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