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CAMARADERIE

Third Edition 2019

VOL. 50 NO. 3

**A PERSONAL
VIEW OF PTSD
AND THE ADF**

**WOMEN
IN COMBAT**

Investment Decisions

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

www.dfwa.org.au

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 50. No. 3 Third Edition 2019



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 13 February 2020.

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

It's amazing how quick the years go - I have been editor now since 2006, and before that my late wife was editor for 4 years. Whilst happy to continue I am conscious that we all have a use by date, that there are always better ways of doing things, so if anyone wishes to volunteer to take over the role of Editor, drop me a line at editor@dfwa.org.au and lets discuss.

Les Bienkiewicz

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FRONT COVER

Royal Australian Air Force Leading Aircraftman Lachlan Walsh sets charges to dispose of World War Two ordnance during Operation Render Safe 2019. Operation Render Safe 2019 is a joint Australian and New Zealand Defence Force effort working with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, disposing of unexploded and abandoned Second World War explosives.

Photo courtesy of Defence Media

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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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



In the May 2019 edition of Camaraderie, I wrote:

“The DFWA in many ways continues to be defined by the events and the issues that prompted its establishment. DFRB, superannuation, housing and pay and remuneration are issues that continue to occupy our ageing membership. Do they resonate however in the more complex environment we are currently faced with? Are they priority issues for the veterans of today?”

We are increasingly being defined and isolated by our past! We i.e. DFWA is not alone in this isolation as the traditional ESOs formed in another time are failing to attract the attention and support of the veterans of today. Why is that?”

In the 1920s and 1930s many veteran groupings appeared prompted by regional, service and even political interests. In the end it was the RSL and Legacy that achieved both political and public acceptance.

The traditional ESOs, of which DFWA is a prominent member, are being isolated in the complicated veteran environment of today. Yet our structures and ascendancy in many ways reflect another time in the history of veteran care in Australia. Contemporary veterans are seemingly shunning the traditional veteran organisations, yet are failing to organise in a coherent, structured manner. The use of social media has enabled the ‘establishment’ of an unknown number of ‘ESO’s’ seeking to address the needs of recent veterans... but is this a workable arrangement?

I see the present situation confronting veteran care as similar to that of the 1920s. We are in a disorganised space, proud of our history yet uncertain of our future. We are facing the dynamism of expectations of a new generation of veterans (and a redefinition of the term veteran); the impact of social media; the presence of a DVA that is struggling; and the recent absence of continuity of ministerial representation.

So there is no doubt that DFWA, as are most traditional ESOs, facing an uncertain future. Where does DFWA, with a proud history of 60 years of veteran representation, go from here? What are our options?

The easy option is keep on going the way we are – Option A. But is there an Option B ?

Managing Change

Sheryl Sandberg, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Facebook, and Wharton Professor of Psychology Adam Grant wrote, ‘Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resistance and Finding Joy. While it was written in the shadow of her husband’s tragic death it was intended as an antidote in, “managing her grief and moving forward”. Sandberg’s concern was that her resilience was limited and her grief immeasurable and such would have lasting impacts on both her

and her children.

Grant advised that individuals have no set amount of resilience so the question then that each of us need face is how to become more resilient? They write that resilience is like a muscle, it can be built-up. Life is never perfect. It does not always go according plan. There are always other options, other avenues available in confronting the future.

DFWA – The Option B

Just as individuals are able to build their resilience and to move forward organisations can build their future if they are prepared to reinvent themselves. If an organisation remains mute, denies it has a problem, accepts declining membership while complacently acknowledging the many issues confronting the veteran community then it must accept its fate. Clinging to Option A is never a successful choice when the world around is constantly changing.

DFWA’s Option B demands:

- a. Acceptance that our traditional model of operating and representing is no longer viable,
- b. That the organisation restructures as a national organisation,
- c. We refocus on our strengths such as the identification of and the enunciation of strategic issues and their representation at the national level, and
- d. We acknowledge that as an organisation we simply cannot accept that our best days are behind us.

DFWA is blessed with a history of meaningful involvement in veteran care over the past 60 years. However, it is not our past successes that should be our focus and cause for confidence, it is our continuing contribution that counts.

To quote Sheryl Sandberg again, “We all live some form of Option B so let us all kick the s*** out of it”.

Kel Ryan

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NATIONAL OFFICE ROUNDUP (June 2019 –November 2019)



Over a ten-year period and often in these pages of Camaraderie, readers will have noted that DFWA has relentlessly campaigned for the 'Unique Nature of Military Service' to be formal recognition by way of a Military or Veterans' Covenant that is simple and unambiguous. That campaign finally met with a glimmer of success when on Thursday 14 February 2019 the Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019 was tabled in the House. Introducing the Bill, better known as the Veterans' Covenant Legislation, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs

stated that it 'acknowledges veterans and their families for making the sacrifices they had made while serving in the Australian Defence Force'.

Having passed through the Senate with an agreed amendment that all veterans' compensation claims be actioned within 90 days, the Bill passed into law on Tuesday 22 October 2019. But the Bill's passing, though widely acclaimed, isn't without some residual controversy surrounding the introduction of a Veterans' Pin and a Veterans' Card with perceived benefits. Unfortunately less attention has been applied to the corner stone of the Bill, namely that it enshrines 'the Unique Nature of Military Service'.

That has led to some misunderstanding about the Bill's value, and led also for some veterans to question 'why the Bill at all'. In many respects, a great shame because clearly lost in the fog of such views is the undeniable reality that, without the 'unique nature of military service' being legislated, the concept would likely always be questioned by groups equating ADF service with employment in the emergency services/first responders sectors of the community. While there are aspects in common between service in the ADF and service in those important sectors, there are also fundamental demands placed on military personnel that makes ADF service unique.

One unique aspect of ADF service is the requirement for individuals to surrender their basic human rights under Article 3 of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Australia is a signatory. Surrender of them is not demanded of any other Australian occupation.

Secondly, ADF personnel are required when ordered and without question to take up arms defending Australia from its enemies using lethal force at the risk their lives and well-being. Failure by ADF personnel to comply with rightful orders or to act dishonorably in the face of the enemy makes them liable to severe sanctions – this is a unique aspect of military service.

The concept of an Australian Veterans' Covenant flows from an understanding of this uniqueness, and the necessary objective that there should be a set out the mutual obligations between the Nation and its servicemen and servicewomen. It must result in promoting greater awareness and understanding within the general community of the demands placed on ADF members. Community's expectations of the ethos and standards demanded of them must, as a result, be enhanced. A Covenant places on public record in the parliamentary sphere, the Nation's enduring obligations to its service personnel and in turn their obligations to the Nation in a balanced way.

Until Veterans' Covenant Legislation was passed, there was no consolidated record of either set of responsibilities; there was only a reliance on the sympathies of some Government MPs and Senators, and on the sympathies of some in the media to promote the well being of service personnel. In an increasingly multi-cultural society, the public's support for those who serve or once served cannot be taken for granted. There was a need for a foundational document such as a Covenant that is simple and straightforward from which community support into the future could be developed and maintained. It is cause for celebration that such a Covenant now exists.

Of course, the Veterans' Covenant is not the only dominant issue that has gained recent prominence. Numerous inquiries, not the least of which was the 2016 Senate Foreign Affairs,

Defence and Trade References Committee inquiry into veterans' suicides seems to have quelled passions for yet another inquiry, this time a Royal Commission one. That is notwithstanding that most recommendations from previous inquiries are yet to be implemented. The call for a Royal Commission gained high media attention when The Daily Telegraph added its substantial voice by way of its 'Save Our Heroes Summit' on Wednesday 6 November.

All that is notwithstanding the already unanimously agreed support for a new Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan on veterans' mental health and wellbeing, including suicide prevention. As the Prime Minister himself attended the 'Save Our Heroes Summit', it appears that he has taken upon himself the decision as to whether a Royal Commission into veterans' suicides alone is one to be pursued, or whether an inquiry should encompass all suicides in the general community of which there are purportedly several thousand per annum. A decision by the Prime Minister is pending.

Before closing, I would like to once again remind the readership of Camaraderie that membership subscriptions coupled with generous donations are virtually the only sources of income to keep our Association functioning on your behalf. Our voice can only remain strong among decision makers if we have a strong membership base. Thus a plea. If you are a member, please consider encouraging someone you know to join. If you are not a member, please consider joining anyway. A membership application form is in this magazine for your convenience. To all 'Virtual Members', please think about becoming a full time member soon. You will be helping us in a meaningful way to continue our work unabated going into the future.

Finally before closing, I would like to again acknowledge the very generous and valued support that The Bradford Exchange provides to DFWA. If ever after high quality collectable memorabilia for personal use or as a gift that marks commemorative occasions, please head to the company's web site to fossick through what they have for ready delivery. Their advertisement can be viewed in the pages of this Camaraderie.

Alf Jaugietis - Executive Director



WOMEN IN COMBAT

AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

Heather MacDonald The Wall Street Journal January 14, 2019

The military is watering down fitness standards because most female recruits can't meet them. The Obama-era policy of integrating women into ground combat units is a misguided social experiment that threatens military readiness and wastes resources in the service of a political agenda. The next defense secretary should end it.

In September 2015 the Marine Corps released a study comparing the performance of gender integrated and male-only infantry units in simulated combat. The all-male teams greatly outperformed the integrated teams, whether on shooting, surmounting obstacles or evacuating casualties. Female Marines were injured at more than six times the rate of men during preliminary training—unsurprising, since men's higher testosterone levels produce stronger bones and muscles. Even the fittest women (which the study participants were) must work at maximal physical capacity when carrying a 100-pound pack or repeatedly loading heavy shells into a cannon.

Ignoring the Marine study, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter opened all combat roles to women in December 2015. Rather than requiring new female combat recruits to meet the same physical standards as men, the military began crafting "gender neutral" standards in the hope that more women would qualify. Previously, women had been admitted to noncombat specialties under lower strength and endurance requirements.

Only two women have passed the Marine Corps' fabled infantry-officer training course out of the three dozen who have tried. Most wash out in the combat endurance test, administered on day one. Participants hike miles while carrying combat loads of 80 pounds or more, climb 20-foot ropes multiple times, and scale an 8-foot barrier. The purpose of the test

is to ensure that officers can hump their own equipment and still arrive at a battleground mentally and physically capable of leading troops. Most female aspirants couldn't pass the test, so the Marines changed it from a pass/fail requirement to an unscored exercise with no bearing on the

“ Lowering physical requirements risks reducing the American military's lethality. ”

candidate's ultimate evaluation. The weapons-company hike during the IOC is now "gender neutral," meaning that officers can hand their pack to a buddy if they get tired, rather than carrying it for the course's full 10 miles.

Lowering these physical requirements risks reducing the American military's lethality. A more serious effect of sex integration has become taboo to mention: the inevitable introduction of eros into combat units. Putting young, hormonally charged men and women into stressful close quarters for extended periods guarantees sexual liaisons, rivalries and breakups, all of which undermine the bonding essential to a unified fighting force.

A Marine commander who served in Afghanistan described to me how the arrival of an all-female team tasked with reaching out to local women affected discipline on his forward operating base. Until that point, rigorous

discipline had been the norm. But when four women—three service members and a translator—arrived, the post’s atmosphere changed overnight from a “stern, business-like place to that of an eighth-grade dance.” The officer walked into a common room one day to find the women clustered in the center. They were surrounded by eager male Marines, one of whom was doing a handstand.

Another Marine officer, who was stationed on a Navy ship after 9/11, told me that a female officer had regular trysts with an enlisted sailor in the engine room. Marine Cpl. Remedios Cruz, one of the first women to join the infantry, was discharged late last year after admitting to a sexual relationship with a male subordinate. Army Sgt. First Class Chase Usher was relieved of his leadership position for a consensual relationship with a female soldier that began almost immediately after she arrived at his newly gender-integrated unit in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Long before infantry integration became a feminist imperative, evidence was clear that a coed military was a sexually active one. In 1988, then-Navy Secretary Jim Webb, reported that of the unmarried enlisted Navy and Air Force women stationed in Iceland, half were pregnant.

President Trump’s first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, had seemed a good candidate for reversing the integration of women in combat units. A retired Marine general, Mr. Mattis had previously addressed the incompatibility of ethos and military discipline. New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand challenged him about these politically incorrect views during his confirmation hearings, but he left enough wiggle room to preserve his options.

Unfortunately, Mr. Trump chose to ban transgender people from serving

in the military rather than tackling gender integration. Mr. Trump cited the cost to taxpayers of sex-reassignment surgery for soldiers, but those costs are minute compared with the future medical bills for women’s combat-battered bodies. And women pose a far greater challenge to combat unit cohesion than do transgender troops, because of their numbers and the nature of sexual attraction.

The argument for putting women into combat roles has always been non-military: Combat experience qualifies soldiers for high-ranking Pentagon jobs.

But war isn’t about promoting equality. Its objective is to break the enemy’s will through precise lethal engagement, with the lowest possible loss of American life. The claim that female combat soldiers will perform as lethally as men over an extended deployment entails a denial of biological reality as great as the one underlying the transgender crusade.

Female engineers and others did return fire when attacked in Iraq and Afghanistan. But performing well in incident-related combat is a far cry from serving in a dedicated ground-combat unit, with its months of punishing physical demands. The incoming Pentagon chief can expect an aggressive grilling on gender integration from the Senate Armed Services Committee. He should promise to resolve the claim that, when it comes to combat, there are no significant physical differences between men and women. He could do it by pitting an all female infantry unit against an all-male unit and seeing how they measure up.

Heather Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith fellow at the Manhattan Institute, contributing editor at City Journal, and the author of the bestselling War on Cops and The Diversity Delusion (available now).

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 Doctor/ 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.



INTRODUCING THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERANS' COVENANT

A DFVA INSPIRED INITIATIVE



The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant was announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Darren Chester MP, on 27 October 2018.

This legislation, providing better recognition of the unique nature of military service and further acknowledging the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families, has now passed Parliament.

The Covenant encourages Australians to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families. The Covenant includes an Oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day. The Veteran Card, a new Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin underpin the Covenant

WHAT IS THE VETERAN CARD

The Veteran Card is a re-design of the DVA Health Cards (Gold, White and Orange). There is no change to DVA services and entitlements. Veterans who still hold DVA Health Cards can continue to use them as they do now. The primary purpose of the Veteran Card continues to be providing health services to veterans. The use of the Veteran Card to access business offers via APOD will be an extra benefit for card holders.

WHAT IS THE LAPEL PIN?

The Lapel Pin is a circular copper pin (20mm in diameter x 1.5mm thick) plated in 24ct gold and nickel-silver, and red and blue in colour incorporating the ADF tri-service emblem. There will be two versions of the Lapel Pin – one for Veterans, and one for Reservists. The Reservist Pin will be provided to reservists who only have reserve service.



Why is there a different Lapel Pin for Veterans and Reservists? The initial proposal was to only provide a Lapel Pin to those with permanent service with the Australian Defence Force. Following consultation, the Minister requested that a pin also be provided for reservists.

WHAT IS THE OATH?

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people recognising the valuable contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families make and have made for our country. • The Oath can be read aloud at commemorative events as a sign of respect and support.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE COVENANT

ALL current DVA Health Card holders (Gold, White, or Orange) will be issued with a Veteran Card when their current card expires or as part of the card replacement program whichever occurs first.

ELIGIBILITY NOTES:

Permanent ADF. Includes serving / ex-serving / national service member of the Permanent Forces of the ADF with one day's permanent service. This group will also include those entitled to:

- treatment for an accepted service related injury or condition; and/or
- o Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) for mental health conditions, cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis.

Reservist with CFTS. A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces who has rendered a period of Continuous Full Time Service (CFTS). These members are treated the same as 'Permanent ADF'.

Reservist with NLHC-MH eligibility. A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces without CFTS, but entitled to access Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) for mental health conditions due to their service with Border Protection, Disaster relief, and/or Involvement in a serious servicelated training accident.

Reservist with accepted condition. A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces not recognised in the "Reservist with CFTS" but has an accepted service related condition.

Reservist. A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces not recognised in the "Reservist with CFTS", "Reservist with accepted

condition" or "Reservists with NLHC eligibility" categories.

DVA Health Card Holders not above. A client who currently holds or becomes eligible for a DVA Health Card for an accepted service related injury/condition, NLHC eligibility, or other treatment entitlements such as: War Widow/ers; Orphans and Eligible Young People; British and Commonwealth Allied (BCAL) veterans eligible under the VEA and MRCA; Australian Federal Police (AFP) eligible under the VEA; Allied veterans with a Health card to facilitate treatment in Australia on behalf of an Allied country; BCAL WW2 veterans with an Orange card who have access to subsidised RPBS pharmaceuticals; British Nuclear Testing (BNT) civilians; Civilians eligible for veteran-like entitlements

Dependant. Clients who may receive payments or services due to their dependant relationship with a Veteran and who do not have an entitlement to treatment (DVA Health Card), e.g. Partner Service Pension, education payments, etc.

Other Clients not included in the above categories.

ARE NATIONAL SERVICE PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE?

National Service men and women who have served one day of continuous full-time service in the ADF will be eligible for the Veteran Card, Veteran Lapel Pin and Oath. People who served under both the 1951-1959 and the 1964-1972 schemes who were required to render periods of CFTS are also eligible.

ARE ALLIED VETERANS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible British and Commonwealth Allied (BCAL) WW2 veterans have access to subsidised RPBS pharmaceuticals, receive a DVA Orange Veteran Card (Pharmaceutical). Allied veterans eligible for treatment in Australia on behalf of their Allied country, receive a DVA White Veteran Card to facilitate delivery and funding of treatment on behalf of their country. Allied veterans not eligible for treatment in Australia on behalf of their Allied country, are not eligible for a DVA White Veteran Card.

WHY ARE NON-VETERANS GETTING A VETERAN CARD (E.G. WAR WIDOWS, DEPENDANTS OF VETERANS)?

ALL DVA Health Card holders (Gold, White, or Orange) will be issued with a Veteran Card. DVA clients include Veterans and non-Veterans. Non-Veterans with treatment entitlements who are eligible for a DVA Health Card include: War Widow/ers; Orphans and Eligible Young People; British and Commonwealth Allied (BCAL) veterans, eligible under the VEA and MRCA; Australian Federal Police (AFP) eligible under the VEA; Allied veterans with a Health card to facilitate treatment in Australia on behalf of an Allied country; BCAL WW2 veterans with an Orange card who have access to subsidised RPBS pharmaceuticals; British Nuclear Testing (BNT) civilians; Civilians eligible for veteran-like entitlements.

ARE AFP OFFICERS WITH OVERSEAS SERVICE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COVENANT?

Under the Covenant, Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers are not eligible. However, an AFP officer may be eligible for disability compensation and treatment for injuries related to specific peacekeeping service covered under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA). Where a claim is accepted, a Veteran Card will be issued for the treatment of the condition.

ARE ALL VETERAN CARD HOLDERS ELIGIBLE FOR NON LIABILITY HEALTH CARE (NLHC) FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT?

Any member of ADF with at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS) is eligible for DVA funded mental health treatment under NLHC arrangements. Veteran Card eligibility has a set of criteria, and NLHC mental health eligibility has a different set of criteria so not all Veteran Card holders are eligible for NLHC mental health treatment. This is particularly relevant for reservists.

A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces who has rendered a period of Continuous Full Time Service (CFTS), is treated the same as 'Permanent ADF' and is eligible for a Veteran Card and access to mental health treatment under NLHC arrangements. A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces without CFTS, may be entitled to access NLHC for mental health treatment due to their service with Border Protection, Disaster Relief, and/or involvement in a serious-related training accident, and is eligible for a Veteran Card and access to mental health treatment under NLHC arrangements. A member / ex-member of the Reserve forces not eligible for NLHC for mental health treatment but has an accepted service related condition, is eligible for a Veteran Card.

ARE DECEASED VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR THE LAPEL PIN AND OATH?

Eligible veterans and reservists who were alive at the time of the Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison's announcement on 27 October 2018 are eligible to receive the Lapel Pin and Oath posthumously. A nominated representative or family member can apply on behalf of a deceased veteran or reservist. • For more information call 1800VETERAN (1800 838 372).

APPLYING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERANS' COVENANT (including Veteran Card, Lapel Pin, and Oath)

WHY DO I HAVE TO APPLY FOR THE COVENANT? THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS US ALL / WHY DOESN'T DVA JUST SEND THEM TO ALL VETERANS?

There are a couple of reasons DVA are asking veterans to apply. Based on demographic projections, we estimate that there are currently 631,800 living veterans. Of these, only 183,655 are DVA clients. For the remaining 450,000+ veterans any information that the Department of Defence may have will be in paper records and likely to be out of date and not usable. Secondly, DVA understand that not all veterans and reservists want a Lapel Pin or Oath for many reasons. DVA want to avoid causing any distress so we chose to send out only to veterans and reservists who tell us they want to receive them.

HOW DO VETERANS APPLY FOR THE COVENANT?

To apply for the Covenant go to DVA's online application MyService (dva.gov.au/myservice). MyService can be accessed on any device (personal computer, iPad, tablet, mobile phone) that you can access the internet on.

If veterans are having problems with applying using MyService, they can call 1800VETERAN (1800 838 372) or visit your nearest Veterans' Access Network office.

DVA CLIENTS WITH A DVA HEALTH CARD

DVA veteran and reservist clients who currently hold a DVA Health Card

can request a Lapel Pin and a copy of the Oath using MyService (dva.gov.au/my-service) and click on the 'Veteran Covenant' tile. If eligible, a Lapel Pin and a copy of the Oath will be sent to the client in the mail. Clients will automatically receive a new look Veteran Card as part of the card replacement program, which is scheduled to occur next year. Clients will notice that they can see a digital version of the redesigned Veteran Card in their MyService Account. • Existing DVA Health Card holders are able to use their existing card (both physical and the new look digital card) as they do now with no changes to their DVA services and entitlements. Wherever a client sees "Veteran Card" they can correctly assume that they can use their DVA Health Card for the same benefits and offers.

DVA CLIENTS WHO DON'T HAVE A DVA HEALTH CARD

To use MyService, existing DVA clients will need to have a myGov account and a linking code provided by DVA. To get a linking code, clients can phone 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). DVA veteran clients can request a Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and a copy of the Oath using MyService (dva.gov.au/my-service) and click on the 'Veteran Covenant' tile.

VETERANS WHO ARE NOT YET CLIENTS OF DVA

Applicants who are not yet clients of DVA can apply using DVA's MyService portal (dva.gov.au/MyService). When registering for online DVA services on MyService, clients will be redirected to myGov.

If clients already have a myGov account, they can log in to myGov and link to DVA. • Once clients have registered for MyService, they can apply for the Covenant by clicking on the 'Veteran Covenant' tile. If applicants are unable to go online, or need help with their application, they can phone DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or visit our Veterans' Access Network.

WHAT IS A "PMKEYS NUMBER"?

A PMKeyS number is the personnel identifier used by Department of Defence from the late 1990's for serving members. If you served prior to 2000, it is unlikely that you were issued with a PMKeyS number and will need to provide your service number.

HOW DO VETERANS PROVIDE PROOF OF SERVICE WHEN APPLYING FOR THE COVENANT?

For online Covenant application to proceed we need veterans to provide proof of service to determine eligibility for either the Veteran Lapel Pin or Reservist Lapel Pin. Veterans can provide any one of the following:

- PMKeyS number (if they have the PMKeyS number there is no requirements for additional Proof of Service) OR
- Service Number (along with best estimate of Date of enlistment and Date of discharge) and Military Payslip or Discharge Signal or Service ID Card or any other document that identifies your previous service.

Note that DVA doesn't currently have access to this information from Department of Defence. If the applicant cannot find one of these documents they will need to request documentation from the Department of Defence.

WHY ARE CURRENT DVA CLIENTS BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF SERVICE WHEN APPLYING FOR THE COVENANT?

The Covenant has different Lapel Pins for veterans and reservists. In some

cases, DVA may not hold sufficient information electronically to determine whether clients are a veteran or reservist. Therefore some applicants will be required to upload proof of service documentation.

How can veterans without access to the internet apply for the Covenant? If applicants are unable to go online, or need further assistance with their application, they can phone the DVA general enquiries phone number on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or visit our Veterans' Access Network.

CAN A NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE APPLY FOR THE COVENANT ON BEHALF OF A CLIENT?

Applying for the Covenant / Request for Recognition is considered as a new type of claim so the existing conditions for Nominated Representatives and Powers of Attorney apply in the same way as they do with other claims:

- If the Nominated Representative has the authority to act on behalf of the client, they can apply on the client's behalf.
- If the Nominated Representative has the authority only to enquire on behalf of the client, they can't apply on the client's behalf (unless there is clear consent from the client allowing the rep to apply on this particular occasion – see the following question).

CAN AN ADVOCATE, ESO REPRESENTATIVE OR FAMILY MEMBER APPLY FOR THE COVENANT ON BEHALF OF A CLIENT?

Advocates, ESO reps or family members will be able to apply on behalf of a client where they have the clear authority or consent of the client to do so and the usual POI requirements are met for the client. For example, an Advocate/ESO rep/family member calls DVA on behalf of an elderly client and the client is with the Advocate. We can speak with the client to seek their oral consent for the Advocate to act on their behalf for this claim. The Advocate sits with the client to provide support in responding to questions. Normal POI requirements apply.

WHY ARE CLIENTS BEING TOLD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT WHILE REGISTERING FOR A VETERAN CARD?

Access to free mental health treatment is a government initiative and available to all veterans and eligible reservists if they ever need it. This means that clients are able to access DVA-funded treatment for any mental health condition without having to link the condition to your service in the ADF.

A CLIENT APPLIED FOR THE VETERAN CARD AND RECEIVED INFORMATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH NONLIABILITY HEALTH CARE (NLHC). WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Eligibility for the Veteran Card under the Covenant also entitles clients to DVA funded mental health treatment under NLHC arrangements without the requirement to link the mental health condition to their service. Eligible clients can access DVA-funded mental health treatment should they ever need to.

WHY IS DVA ASKING CLIENTS TO PROVIDE BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS WHILE APPLYING FOR A VETERAN CARD?

When applying for a Veteran Card, DVA will check to see if the client is eligible to receive the veteran supplement. The veteran supplement is a fortnightly amount paid to some veterans, war widow/ers and orphans to reduce their out of pocket expenses when paying the maximum

concessional pharmaceutical co-payment. If the client is eligible, they will receive the fortnightly supplement amount to their nominated bank account. If clients are not comfortable providing their bank details as part of this process, they can skip this step.

WHEN WILL CLIENTS RECEIVE THEIR VETERAN CARD?

EXISTING CLIENT WITH A DVA HEALTH CARD. Clients will automatically receive the new-look Veteran Card as part of the card replacement program. Upon registration in MyService, clients will gain access to a digital version of their Veteran Card.

EXISTING CLIENT DOESN'T HAVE A DVA HEALTH CARD. Clients will receive their Veteran Card in the mail usually in about two to three weeks from the date of request.

CLIENTS WHO ARE NEW TO DVA. Clients will receive your Veteran Card in the mail usually in about two to three weeks from the date of request.

WHEN WILL VETERANS BE ABLE TO USE THE CARD?

Successful new Veteran Card applicants can commence using the digital card displayed in the MyService portal as their Veteran Card until the physical card arrives via mail. Existing DVA Health Card holders can commence using either their digital Veteran Card, OR continue using their existing DVA Health Card. Health providers and participating businesses will recognise both the current DVA Health Cards and the new Veteran Cards.

WHEN WILL CLIENTS RECEIVE THEIR LAPEL PIN AND OATH?

The Veteran Recognition Bill has now passed Parliament and Lapel Pins and the Oath can now be posted. DVA are working with our distributor to get these to you as quickly as we can.

Additional benefits now available to veterans

WHEN WILL BUSINESSES START OFFERING DISCOUNTS OR CONCESSIONS TO VETERAN CARD HOLDERS?

Veteran Card holders can access concessions and business offers now. Discounts and concessions will be at the discretion of the participating businesses or organisations. There is no obligation for a business or organisation to offer discounts or concessions.

HOW DO VETERANS ACCESS THESE OFFERS? WHERE DO THEY FIND THEM?

DVA is working with Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) – an Australian-owned organisation which was founded by Veteran families, for Veteran families – to make it easy for businesses and organisations to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. APOD provides a closed membership site where Veteran Card holders can search by location, category or keyword, to redeem business offers online (using a web link or discount code) or in-store.

WHAT BENEFITS ARE BUSINESSES OFFERING?

Businesses include retailers, travel and tourism operators, accommodation and car hire, entertainment, hospitality, restaurants, and service and trade industries ranging from gym memberships to automotive mechanics and legal. Offers are generally discounts on goods, gift cards and services. Some offers are seasonal or for a set period.

Percentage discounts, for example, range from 2.5 per cent through to 30 per cent on selected items – each business has different offers available. Some of these discounts are comparable to or less than what the broader Australian public can receive – should businesses be offering more if they're truly supportive of veterans?

The Minister has encouraged each and every business to show their support for the Covenant and get behind this initiative – ultimately, supporting the Covenant and the unique nature of military service is the most important step in recognition. The benefit offered is a matter for each individual business and understandably can be based on any number of factors.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER REWARD AND LOYALTY PROGRAMS ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE WIDER PUBLIC?

Veterans don't need to spend money to qualify for rewards or acquire loyalty points. APOD is an Australian-owned organisation which was founded by Veteran families, for Veteran families and is already in close alignment with the principles of the Covenant.

APOD has over 400 businesses committed to supporting veterans. APOD already has a digital platform in place, making it easier for businesses and organisations to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. APOD will continue to onboard businesses as they commit to supporting the Covenant.

WILL FAMILY MEMBERS BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THESE BENEFITS?

Arrangements are in place for all Veteran Card holders to have free access to the full suite of offers. When a DVA Health Card or Veteran Card holder logs in to the APOD platform, either from a PC or through a mobile device, they are able to search and select particular offers for validation. APOD also provides an option for Defence families to use the platform, however, as this is outside the Veteran Card program, there are membership fees.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE CARD HOLDERS WHO DON'T OR CAN'T USE THE INTERNET OR A SMARTPHONE – HOW CAN THEY GET DISCOUNTS IF SEEING THE VETERAN CARD ISN'T ENOUGH?

Veteran Card holders seeking to redeem a particular offer can phone DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or visit the Veterans' Access Network and DVA staff will help with the process and provide a particular offer redemption code or voucher.

THE COVENANT WAS ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER 2018 – WHY HAS IT TAKEN SO LONG TO MAKE THESE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS?

Legislation providing better recognition of the unique nature of military service and further acknowledging the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families has now passed Parliament. During that period, DVA has been working closely with a range of businesses on how to make more benefits available to veterans. The majority of Australian businesses have moved to online offerings and our focus has been on working out how veterans can access those businesses. This is one of the key reasons DVA are working with APOD: it is a tried and tested online platform that can validate the entire range of offers available to Veteran Card holders.



Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people recognising the valuable contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families make and have made for our country. It can be read aloud at commemorative events as a sign of respect and support.



The Veteran Card helps Australians, including businesses, organisations, community groups and service providers to identify veterans and offer respect to them and their family.

The Lapel Pin provides the opportunity for veterans to be easily identified when not wearing their medals or uniforms.



Visit recognition.dva.gov.au for more information on how to apply for and support the Covenant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

A non-military friend of mine has proposed an interesting idea for the next Anzac Day: the one-off wearing of orange armbands as a mark of respect for Tim Fisher and all those who may have been affected by Agent Orange. This was my thinking:

Orange arm-bands as a reminder of the devastation caused by the unforeseen use of warfare agents affecting the well-being of our defence personnel. Orange to represent the devastation of Agent Orange, in particular; which Tim Fischer ardently campaigned for the recognition caused by dioxin use.

Others impacted by "unforeseen" warfare agents include the more recent use of depleted uranium; and the chemicals used in WWI.

The intent is not to glorify war, but to bring attention that there are members in our communities that suffer the consequences of representing us, in the battlefield. Those afflicted did not choose to be harmed but were, in the course of acting in our interests. We ought to be reminded of this, ongoing harm, and that none suffer in isolation or without due compassion, and as a nation we are reminded that war has unforeseen consequences that are born by those that we send to protect us.

In addition the use of such weapons upon the non-combatant civilians that experience disproportionate long-term suffering without hope of appropriate medical care, should be considered with due compassion; from those that choose to use devastating and arguably foreseeable weapons.

This is what the orange arm-band should represent.

Yours sincerely
Alistair Pope

EDITORS NOTE: From little things, big things grow... lets see if this suggestion gets any traction.

Dear Editor,

I was intrigued and you might say delighted, to see a photo of ADF Kings Cup rowers on the cover of the last edition of Camaraderie. As an old, in fact, and in a colloquial sense, rower, it caught my eye big time. Then as I read that it was the ADF crew, I was baffled, until it dawned on me that that was nearly sixty years ago. So, quite a lot must have changed, even in our remarkably diverse ADF.

I had no idea that any ADF unit had been rowing competitively since my Junior Recruit crews, back in the early sixties, took out a couple of minor WA State championships, but that is more than a lifetime ago. Then I read on to see that the crew was competing in the King's Cup (upon which my own old crew's name is engraved), and that was a new ballgame entirely.

That trophy used to be awarded to the winner of what was essentially the championship of the Australian States. So, something else must trigger its award these days if the ADF is competing.

Can you shine some light on this ?

Ken Railton

EDITORS REPLY

I think we may have our Kings Cups mixed up !

2019 marks the centenary of the King's Cup, which was last contested at the Royal Henley Peace Regatta of 1919, with Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America competing.

The King's Cup was held from 3 to 7 July 2019 at the Royal Henley Regatta in the UK.

The King's Cup for the first time allowed mixed-gender, with crews from Germany and the Netherlands competing. Unfortunately Australia was defeated in the semi final by Germany, who were then defeated by the USA in the final.



A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON PTSD/SUICIDE BY SERVING AND EX DEFENCE MEMBERS

Robert Clark
23rd. Intake Army Apprentice
(1968 – 1988)

ISSUE

Defence members have acquired PTSD and other mental health conditions, including suicide as a result of their service to the nation. The emphasis of this discussion is about members who have borne the brunt of direct face to face combat since the invasion of Iraq in 2003 through to the present day.

A second issue that requires addressing is to answer the question. Why is it that more Defence members have died from suicide either whilst serving or post service than have been killed by enemy combatants? Iraqi Insurgents, ISIS and Taliban? Service life and its culture appears on face value to be killing more of the troops than the enemy.

Third. Government and the ADF plan for an exit strategy before entering a conflict. The same philosophy should apply for the troops that have to do the killing and dying, by giving them an honorable exit strategy from the service.

SITUATION

It is an accepted fact the ADF's job is to apply extreme physical force, resulting in death, disability and destruction of property resulting in both friend and foe becoming victims. This is done for the purpose of achieving the political objectives as determined by the Government. The combat soldier along with all members of the ADF sign a blank cheque to the Government with the potential consequence of loss of life or suffering physical and mental injury. In

return it is the moral and legal responsibility of the Government and the nation to honour this sacrifice and do all in its power to relieve the burden of these consequences for the individual and their families.

The only way to come to grips with the perceived problem is to actually know what is going on, this is done with hard data. You cannot solve a problem if you don't fully understand what is occurring. I have seen media reports that it is all too hard or cannot be done to collect data on combat soldiers after they discharge from the Army. I would say this to you that every death and cause of death in Australia is recorded, it is a case of data matching serving and ex-combat veterans against the State death records. This data matching will not pick up those members who are suffering PTSD or those that remain silent about their health issue. But by cross matching with DVA files and or Medicare against combat veteran's nominal roles it would show the numbers being treated for PTSD.

The causes of PTSD are well documented, and the severity and longevity of the affliction are a function of the amount of exposure to traumatic incidents. The exposure to trauma is the persecutor of PTSD by either the application of violence, victim of the violence or a witness to the violence. Other degrees of mental stress can occur through second and third tiers of exposure to traumatic incidents. PTSD is known to be accentuated through accumulative exposure to traumatic incidents. Thus if you look at 2017 suicide of two sergeants one must question how many operational tours these men have had and what have they been exposed to during those tours?

These two men were highly skilled at their profession, dedicated, tough and loyal soldiers. What took them over the edge and how do we identify where that edge is and prevent it occurring into the future is required?

PTSD will be more pronounced in persons that have integrity, honour and a conscience, persons that have high levels of pathological and narcissistic traits tend not to suffer PTSD as they are only concerned about themselves and the exercise of power over others. Some view the troops as only a commodity to be traded and used to achieve the required result. This trait could be good in a military leader as they will be daring and willing to take risks with other person's lives, to achieve an advantage on the battle field. The welfare of the individual soldier has a low priority, when compared to military success during combat. The creed of the combat soldier is that they will win against any challenge, which is good in war. The Government and Defence must recognize this and buffer, then support the troops through the combat action and post action phases, there is a need for the Government to give a return of service.

In comparison to mainstream Army and combat soldiers are highly paid and highly skilled at what they do. When it comes time to hang up the boots these soldiers who are highly skilled at what they do are basically unemployable or have minimal transferable skills for employment options in the civilian world. Thus once in the system there is an economic imperative to remain as a combat soldier. This in itself creates further problems by increasing the amount of exposure to traumatic incidents through repeat deployments and an aging workforce that can get past their prime. Simply sacking or discharging a member as their efficiency declines leads to further problems of alienation from their peers, loss of career, financial distress. The perceived decline in efficiency can also be based not on actual job performance but personality clashes. This leads to a sense of betrayal by the hierarchy and Government. A feeling that I gave everything for the job and end up with nothing. This perceived or actual act of betrayal can be the tipping point that puts the person suffering in silence with PTSD over the edge.

The families of PTSD sufferers are also victims of war exposure by their loved one, through family violence, inability to cope with relationships, anger, mood swings and financial distress. When the sufferer is considered no longer fit to be combat soldier or even in to remain in the Army, they can be forced out of their job with a psychological discharge and then placed on to a DVA pension which can result in the family becoming homeless, if the family unit can stay together.

There is great financial rewards for a combat soldier if they pass the

aptitude and physical requirements when compared to the mainstream soldier. In later years these same incentives can then work against the soldier when they have determined it is time to hang up the boots. If they find a new career within the Army or move onto civilian life they will most likely be subject to a substantial financial loss and possibly unemployment. The financial incentive to stay even if the member knows it's time to move on compounds the PTSD crisis.

The question to be answered is "How to address the issue of career progression without great loss of financial stability". I am of the belief that if the ADF trains a person to be a warrior, particularly in the prime years of the soldier's life, then the ADF/Government now has an obligation to retrain those warriors back into a peaceful productive civilian occupation. If they are taken to the edge then they

must be brought back onto stable ground before being released from the services and into the general public. If this approach is not taken then a greater hidden cost to the community has and is developing.

When retired General Cantwell went public about his PTSD and how it affected his life, he encouraged all service personnel to put their hands up if they believed they suffer from PTSD. These are fine sentiments but do not face the practicality of life as a combat soldier. The reality is that Gen. Cantwell had reached

his career ceiling in the ADF and by admitting he was a PTSD sufferer his career would come to an end but this would not be at a significant financial detriment to him. If a combat OR or NCO puts their hand up to say they are suffering from PTSD they will either be transferred out of their unit or be given a psychological discharge. It is a career and emotional destroying move, I perceive this option is used by some Commanding Officers in combat units as means to deal with members suffering from PTSD and removes the management burden from the unit.

Based on antidotal evidence one would have to ask the question. Why is it that OR's and NCO's appear to be ones taking their own lives when commissioned officers do not to the same degree? Is it because commissioned officers are not directly subject to the shooting and killing that goes with warfare? They are not in direct harm's way. What is difference, is it training, or is it a better support network with their peers, or total less time on deployments and constant states of readiness, is it due to promotional rotations out of combat units which gives them a psychological break from the tempo of operations? All these questions need to be answered.

It is time to look at what help there is for the soldier in regard to mental health and PTSD. The ADF provides resilience training and strategies for the soldiers to learn how to cope with combat. There



“ ...if the ADF trains a person to be a warrior, particularly in the prime years of the soldier's life, then the ADF/Government now has an obligation to retrain those warriors back into a peaceful productive civilian occupation. ”

is also psychological support and debriefings of the soldiers upon return from deployments. It is obvious that this effort is not having the desired effect, soldiers and ex-soldiers are still taking their own lives due to service related conditions. As mentioned above if a soldier puts up their hand to say they are not coping can you help me, immediately the soldier would be taken off current duties, and if lucky they would be posted to a non-combat unit. If they are unlucky they will be put up for a medical board and given a psychological discharged, placing them at the hands of DVA who are struggling to dealing with the claims in a timely manner. Either way there is a great financially punitive action taken against them. Thus the PTSD suffers in silence to the point in time that the load can no longer be born and they have a full blown mental health crisis or they take their own life. Wives should not have to ring the unit and say that my husband has lost it what are you going to do about it. Thus the current systems and programs are not working. Once a soldier or ex-soldier has gone over the edge and crashes onto the rocks they come with in the orbit of DVA and other health officials. By this time the soldier is usually out of work, possibly penniless, homeless and suffering repeat bouts of mental health crisis and going through the revolving door of State based health systems. The soldier has lost his reason for being, his peer support group, his career, financial stability, possibly his family and self-worth. By this time the damage is done and if they can recover it is a very long and costly road to travel. No soldier should be released from the Army unless they are deemed fit and or a financial and medical support structure is put in place before they discharge. It is also proposed that specific medical facilities/units like the old repatriation hospitals of the past be established so that the soldiers suffering PTSD and other ailments are ensconced with peers as this will provide a beneficial environment for recovery. How can a PTSD suffer converse and open up to civilians about their war experiences, particularly if the trauma incidents are still considered secret? It is a well-known fact that returning soldiers do not talk with the general public about their war experiences, they have nothing in common with the civilian. This is why in the earlier days the RSL was so strong, it was a meeting place of the brethren who had shared traumatic experiences.

I have read about a program whereby the Commonwealth funds a training institution to provide training positions for soldiers mobilizing back into civilian life. I have a concern with this type of program with its design because usually this type of program provides jobs and profits for the training institution and little goes to the soldier. It does not hit the target.

During and after the First and Second World War the Government and the AIF realized the need for preparing the soldiers for peacetime and helping them into productive rewarding civilian careers. This was done through basic educational qualifications (HSC), trade training and in some cases tertiary training. In my time I saw the back end of this during the Vietnam War. The Army had an Education Corp that fulfilled this role along with trade schools. As a cost saving measure the Education Corp was disbanded many years ago. As said earlier if we train soldiers for war then we have an obligation to bring them back from the point of the spear and train them for peace. The purpose is also to train them to a trade or profession that would give them same level or equivalence to the

pay structure they had as a combat soldier. I would also propose that the member if so desired would remain a member of the ADF whilst retraining. This would provide the environment and peer support to allow the soldier to slowly detune from military service and become an effective part of civilian society. It is a recommendation that a trade/education unit be reestablish. For those that wish to enter retraining for civilian life they should be posted to a holding unit or the education unit and whilst there conduct their studies. This should be without financial detriment after leaving their primary unit. The time frame allowed in training should be formalized through a points system based on the following criteria. How long the person has been in the Army, how many operational tours they have had, how much time has been spent in high readiness state, have they suffered any form of physical or mental wound, how much time they have spent doing service training (one for one basis), do they have any recognizable civilian qualifications which can be built upon, their age at time of enlistment and age when departing. Defence trade training establishments should also become part of this process so that they are not only training new recruits for the Army but also the older warriors for civilian life. This would also have benefit of the wise being able to pass on their knowledge. For those that do not want to remain in uniform but want to take up the offer of retraining they should be funded for their selected study and be given a bursary to assist with living costs whilst training takes place. When they finish or they pull out so the bursary stops.

The third option is those soldiers that just decide to go it alone and want no further involvement with the ADF.

CONCLUSION

A full statistical analysis is to be conducted of those serving and those up to 12 months post discharge targeting combat soldiers members and ex members to determine the numbers of persons suffering from PTSD, and the number that have suicided and why.

OR's and NCO's as with officers should be regularly rotated in and out of Combat Units to break the tempo of operations and give their mind and body recovery time to heal in a low threat environment. These rotations should not be at financial or promotional detriment.

Soldiers suffering from PTSD who voluntarily make a health report about the matter should not be summarily dismissed from the Army, but given treatment and time to recover before a final decision is made about their service career. This should be without financial detriment. If they are deemed no longer fit for employment then meaningful retraining program is to be undertaken.

Troops should not be treated as a disposable commodity that can be easily replaced, but treated with respect and dignity for the work they have done on behalf of the Nation and Government.

An All Hours Support Line is provided by Defence as part of the ADF Mental Health Strategy, and is a 24-7 service for ADF members and their families to access mental health advice and referral.
Phone 1800 628 036 or +61 2 9425 3878 outside Australia

DEFENCE HOUSING AUSTRALIA - UPDATE

In the last edition we advised that the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) is undertaking an audit to assess whether Defence Housing Australia (DHA) administers its functions efficiently and effectively, and in accordance with the Government Business Enterprise guidelines.

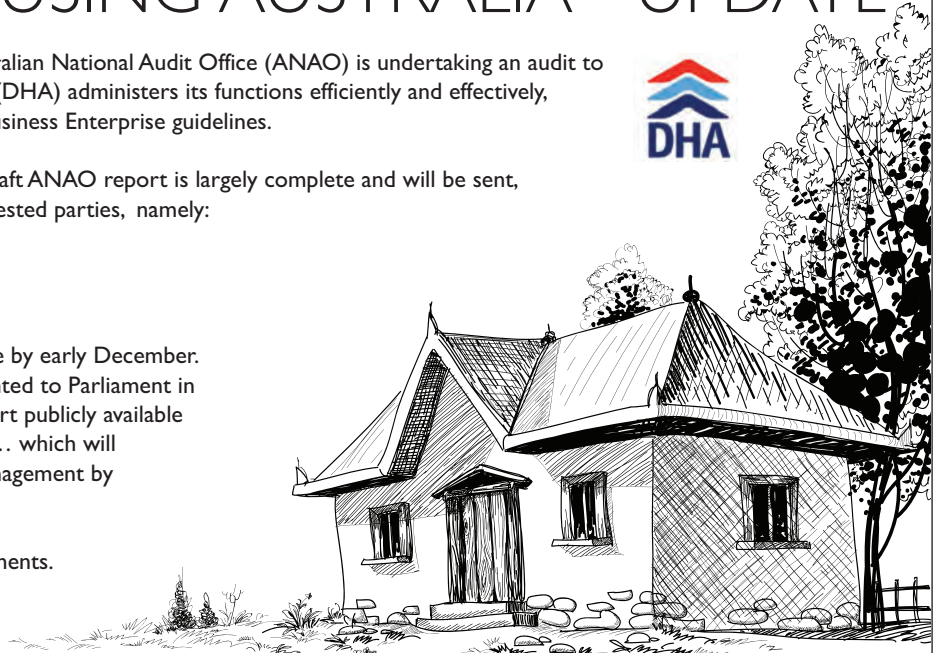


Submissions closed on 28 July 2019. The draft ANAO report is largely complete and will be sent, for comment and review, to the three interested parties, namely:

- DHA
- Department of Finance
- Department of Defence.

These reviews are expected to be complete by early December. The report will then be finalised and presented to Parliament in February 2020. The aim is to have the report publicly available before the next round of Senate Estimates... which will likely lead to a grilling of the new DHA management by the senators !

DFWA will keep a close watch on developments.



DEFENCE SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES

DEFENCE FAMILIES AUSTRALIA (www.dfw.org.au) have provided the following top tips for managing Defence life with a child with special needs.

1. Make yourself known to the school or day-care and be honest, clear and specific about the needs for your child.
2. You may be eligible for a Carers Allowance which can help financially – and potentially a health care card which can help with the cost of medications.
3. Depending on your finances consider joining the ADF Family Health Program. This has Fringe Tax Benefit implications so do your research.
4. Prior to posting, investigate doctors and hospitals in the new location. Ask on other Defence forums for recommendations. Often the Defence community has the best knowledge! If your child sees a specialist, ask them to recommend someone.
5. Connect with DSNSG, consider connecting with a support group specific to your child's condition. Other parents who have shared experiences can be a wonderful support.
6. Get your child a medical alert bracelet. This is important especially if you are leaving your child with someone they don't know.
7. If you feel like it is overwhelming and perhaps you are not coping, make sure you seek out counselling for yourself too.
8. You are the best advocate for your child. As they get older teach them gradually to advocate for themselves (where possible).

Defence Families of Australia (DFA) is the official ADF families advisory body to the Minister for Defence Personnel and CDF. It organisation sits outside of Defence systems, allowing DFA independence and impartiality to act in the best interests of ADF families. DFA operates under a Charter jointly signed by the Assistant Minister for Defence and the CDF.

Defence Families of Australia (DFA)
BP35-3-077 35 Brindabella Circuit
Canberra Airport ACT 2609
Phone 1800 100 509 | www.dfa.org.au

AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURES IN RUSSIA: 1918-1919

by LtCol Alistair Pope, psc, CM, (Retired)

The Russian Question

The defeat of the Russian armies and the fall of the Czar in 1917 was followed by the withdrawal of Russia from the Great War conflict in 1918. This caused immense consternation among the Allies as it freed up a million German soldiers who could now be transferred to the Western Front. Russia descended into anarchy with many factions, independence movements and warlords vying for central or regional power. The Allies simplistically divided this complexity into the 'Red' Bolsheviks and the 'Whites' comprising everyone else (even when they fought each other and had incompatible objectives).

In early 1918, the Allies had two main concerns; the first was that the munitions the British had supplied to the Russians would fall into the hands of either the Germans or the Bolsheviks. Their second concern was the rise of the Bolsheviks who, in the words of Winston Churchill "... should be strangled at birth". Several allied nations decided, quite rightly, that the ruthless Bolshevik revolution sweeping Russia had the potential to cause social unrest in their home countries and foment revolutions on an international scale across the world.¹ The British led solution was to send a force to North Russia to secure the munitions and also to help the White Armies there and everywhere else throughout Russia.

The Russian Adventure Begins

In March 1918, the British Government called for the creation of an all-volunteer force to secure the military stores in North Russia to prevent their capture by the revolutionary Bolsheviks. Churchill proposed that a secret Allied military mission should be sent to Murmansk and Archangel to secure these stores for the use of the anti-Soviet 'White' armies.

Secrecy, and the force being an all-volunteer one were necessary as the British government was wary of sending conscripts to Russia because of its likely adverse effect on public opinion. The British, Canadian and Anzac armies were approached for volunteers for this 'secret mission' to an undisclosed location. The USA, France and Canada also agreed to send their own contingents under British Command.

'Operation Elope'

As a contribution to the British force of 560 men to be sent to secure the munitions, 'save' the troops already in North Russia, train the 'Whites' and undertake limited offensive operations, nine Australians were accepted as part of Operation Elope. The planning and dispatch

of the troops was painfully slow, with most of the force still in England when the Armistice was signed on 11th November 1918. This led many to question the purpose of their commitment, but a clause in their signing on to 'Elope' was that they could not withdraw from the mission.

In December 1918, the White Army's 1st Arkangel Regiment refused to advance and an American company refused to move to the front. Despite these obvious signs of anarchy, Elope proceeded and by January 1919 about 6,300 British (including nine Australians), 5,300 Americans, 1,600 French, a reinforced battery of Canadian artillery and about 10,000 White Russians occupied Archangel and Murmansk. Opposing them were 27,000 soldiers of the 6th Red Army.

In January 1919, two mutinies by 160 French soldiers and the British 13th Yorkshire Regiment reduced the effectiveness of the military capabilities of the Elope contingent even further. In April 1919, the 3rd North Russian Rifle Regiment defected en masse to the Bolsheviks. The North Russian venture was rapidly becoming a fiasco.

This 'private' war by Churchill continued through the rest of the spring, despite the incompetence of the 'White' armies having become so obvious that the only realistic option was to abandon the enterprise and withdraw all Allied Forces. However, this could not be achieved before the ports became ice-free.

Chaos in the Aftermath of World War I

The end of the "Great War" brought neither peace, nor stability to the world. At least seven wars continued unabated after the November 1918 Armistice, as various factions fought to take over or replace the existing political, national and territorial structures. Add to that mix the desire of the victors to impose their will on the vanquished and the non-establishment players. Not only would the map of Europe and the Middle East be redrawn, but rewards and punishments would be meted out on a global scale in an almost feudal manner by those victors with the power to do so. Some excuse could be made if the allocations of territory and the power it brought had been made with good intentions, but in most cases the decisions were made in the best traditions of colonial Empirists looking to maximize their short term returns with no real thought given to the long term consequences.

Given the immense destruction Europe had just experienced the victorious nations collectively thought that the Bolsheviks were the most likely power to disrupt the reconstruction of nations by

fomenting revolution and adding to the existing chaos. Their actions would disrupt and slow the economic recovery that was so desperately needed. Paradoxically, the Versailles Treaty was devised with the explicit objective of bringing long-term peace to the world, but in fact did much to contribute to the chaotic opposite effect that created the rise of totalitarian ideologies.

The North Russia Relief Force (NRRF)

In April 1919 recruiting posters requested volunteers to join the NRRF. Thousands of Australian soldiers were still in England awaiting repatriation to Australia, but it was a considerable surprise when several hundred volunteered to take part in the NRRF.

In name at least, this all-volunteer contingent was supposedly designed simply to help evacuate the forces already in Murmansk and Archangel, but Churchill had more ambitious plans for an offensive campaign. Had they known the true nature of this expedition, the question arises as to whether or not so many Australians would have stepped into the unknown and yet another war. Interestingly, the answer is probably in the affirmative as many of those who volunteered had already served (and been wounded at least once) in Gallipoli and the Western Front. They were well aware of the nature of war and its dangers, but probably feared peace, the loss of their closely bonded mateship and the humdrum of civilian life more than they feared the risk of death from a Red bullet. War had become an extreme sport to many of them. There were also a number of replacements who had come of age and signed up to fight in a war, but were late arrivals and had seen no combat. Russia offered them the opportunity to rectify that perceived deficiency.

The cream of those who volunteered were accepted and about 140 Australians finally arrived in Archangel on 9th June 1919 as part of the NRRF. Five hours later a small group of them was on its way to the front, returning to base five days later having seen no action. However, the Australian operations began inauspiciously as they were called on to assist in the suppression of two White Army mutinies. Among the casualties was Captain Alan Brown, the first Australian to die in Russia, having been murdered by his own defecting Russian troops. In retaliation, the Australians raided the Bolshevik lines and killed 30+ for no loss to themselves.

The Dvina River Offensive – August 1919

The Dvina River offensive was intended to break the Red lines, throw them off balance and allow the Allies to undertake an unhindered withdrawal from Archangel. The plan was complicated, requiring a 50km flanking penetration behind enemy lines through forests and swamps. They would then attack the Reds from their rear and roll up their positions between where they were now and the British front lines about 20km to their north. For the plan to succeed it would appear to require the cooperation of the Bolsheviks to either flee, fight poorly when attacked or surrender. The first part of the plan went well despite the terrain difficulties. The surprised defenders in the first villages encountered were soon

routed, but as the force advanced north resistance stiffened until it could no longer be overcome. It was now the attacking troops who desperately needed to breakout before their supplies and ammunition ran out. The potential for a debacle was saved by the quality of individual soldiers as the shattered force broke into small groups and straggled back to their own lines. Despite this, the operation was deemed a success as it achieved its aim of discouraging the Reds from advancing on the British forward lines. The action resulted in the award of a Victoria Cross to Corporal Arthur Sullivan (for rescuing four wounded soldiers under fire)¹¹ and three DCM's to other Australians.

The Railway Offensive – August 1919

A railway ran south from Archangel to Moscow. It was essential to both sides for the movement of men and supplies. The aim of the Australian attack was to push the Reds south to give the White Army more breathing space. Although it was a White army operation the Australians led the fighting and captured several blockhouses using well-mastered techniques from their years on the Western Front. The final strongpoint was proving obstinate until Sergeant Samuel Pearse crawled forward, cut the wire and lobbed Mills Bombs through the apertures. At least one occupant survived and killed Pearse before another Australian finished the job with a Lewis gun. Several Australians were wounded and Sergeant Pearse was awarded a Victoria Cross for his valour. He was the second (and last) Australian to die in North Russia.

Now that the Red front was broken the White army moved forward. The Red's withdrew and destroyed the railway bridge over the River Yemtsa, which realistically prevented offensive action by either side into the others territory. The Australians held their rearguard position for two weeks then entrained for Archangel and their planned evacuation.

For the troops along the Dvina River it was a different matter as the Red Army had infiltrated behind their forward positions. To allow the withdrawal to proceed, these blocking positions had to be laboriously cleared out. Finally, on 26th September 1919, every unwounded Australian embarked on the Kildonan Castle, bound for England. Their North Russian adventure was over.

Here, There and Everywhere ...

Only in North Russia were Australians fighting as a formed unit as part of the NRRF. Elsewhere, in the far south and even in Siberia, individuals found themselves attached to British forces to assist the disparate White forces with training, logistics and planning.

In April 1918, British MajGen Dunsterville was tasked with forming a small force to secure the oil wells of Baku. As his force would be isolated with no relief possible, he insisted on taking with him the best officers he could find. Among those he chose was the outstandingly courageous Captain Percy Lay, MC, DCM, MM,¹² of the 8th Bn, AIF. Lay accepted the invitation and was sent to Baghdad to join Dunsterforce. Once there he mainly operated

alone in north-west Persia before being withdrawn and repatriated to Australia in March 1919.

Another Australian in Dunsterforce was Captain Stanley Savige,^{iv} who provided outstanding leadership in the Caucasus where, with a tiny force of only eight men, he delayed a pursuing force of several hundred Turkish soldiers' intent on destroying 80,000 Assyrian Christian refugees. For this action in facilitating their escape he was awarded his DSO.

When Dunsterforce was disbanded in October 1918, another of its Australian members, Captain Ernest Latchford^v volunteered to join the British Military Mission in Siberia as a Training Officer! He was accepted and sailed for his point of entry in Vladivostok. Latchford travelled on the spur line of the trans-Siberian Railway through Harbin in China to reach his operational area in Siberia. Latchford thoroughly enjoyed his year in Russia by immersing himself in his work with the White's and in understanding the local culture. Despite recognising the autocratic callousness of the White officers as a failing, he gained their respect. Although he wanted to stay longer, the Mission was withdrawn in October 1919 (by which time Latchford declared he had had enough of eating caviar).

He served on in the Army and Latchford Barracks, which housed the Army Apprentices School at Bonegilla, Victoria was named after

him. The barracks is now the headquarters of the Army Logistic Training Centre.

Perhaps another dozen Australians and Australian immigrants of Russian, Ukrainian, Polish and Baltic extraction may have participated in the Russian Civil War in some way, though not while wearing an Australian uniform.

Medals & Awards^{vi}

One of the reasons the North Russian venture remains so prominent in our history is because of the number of awards that were shared by less than 150 participants. No aspersion is cast that any of the medals awarded were not earned. The real question that should be raised is how several hundred thousand Australians who participated in two world wars and a dozen other conflicts, with more than 80,000 killed could be awarded only 64 VC's in WW1 and 20 in WW2 reaching an overall total of 98 today? 50,000 served in Vietnam, 506 were killed, yet the four Victoria Crosses awarded in that conflict went to only one unit, and none to anyone in an infantry battalion.

In North Russia, only two Australians died (with about a dozen wounded), yet the members of Elope and the NRRF received two Victoria Crosses, eight DCM's, nine MM's and six known Russian awards. A unique achievement indeed.

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-

ⁱ The plans of the Comintern to foment global revolution are described in detail in References 2 & 3.

ⁱⁱ Sullivan would not have received a VC had he been part of an Australian unit as it had been decreed that Australian VC's would only be awarded for aggressive actions against the enemy!

ⁱⁱⁱ See Reference 4 & 5 for Captain Percy Lay.

^{iv} See Reference 6 for Captain Stanley Savige.

^v See Reference 7 & 8 for Captain Ernest Latchford.

^{vi} See Reference 9 for Australian Victoria Cross Awards.

Corporal Cosmo



GREETINGS FELLOW ADF MEMBERS

Lets focus on some current conditions of service matters affecting ADF members and their families.

2019 has seen a couple of significant improvements in conditions of service for ADF members, namely;

1. A reduction in the minimum number of days that must be taken when applying for long service leave and,
2. Doubling of paid parental leave – from two weeks to four weeks.

You can read more about the changes to long service leave (LSL) in the article I wrote in the previous edition of Camaraderie.

The increase in paid parental leave from 14 calendar days (two weeks) to 28 calendar days (four weeks) took effect from 14 November 2019. ADF members will still be able to take parental leave at full or half pay.

From 14 November 2019, paid parental leave may be taken in any of the following ways:

- a. One 28 consecutive day period at full pay;
- b. Two 14 consecutive day periods at full pay;
- c. One 56 consecutive day period at half pay;
- d. Two 28 consecutive day periods at half pay;
- e. One 14 consecutive day period at full pay and one 28 consecutive day period at half pay.

ADF members may apply for paid parental leave if they meet the following conditions:

- a. They are on continuous full-time service;
- b. They become the parent of, or take full parental responsibility for, a newborn or adopted dependant child;
- c. They are not entitled to paid maternity leave.

Paid parental leave must be taken within 66 weeks of the birth or adoption of the member's child and paid parental leave must not be granted for periods of fewer than 14 days.

For comprehensive details about paid parental and all types of leave, ADF members should consult the ADF Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN).

More recently in October, all ADF members received an Email from CDF – General Angus Campbell – asking members to consider their total remuneration package (salary, allowances and conditions of service), and express their views and innovative ideas to improve the ADF remuneration package by email: adf.employmentoffer@defence.gov.au

I have Emailed the good General airing my concerns about the impotent system currently in place for determining ADF pay increases. I encourage you to Email CDF with what concerns you as you wade through the PACMAN or ready yourself (and your family) for your next posting.

As I write, the final 2% pay increase of the current ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement 2017-2020 has taken effect. This means that the laborious process of faux consultation will commence in the first half of 2020, dragging time-poor serving members away from their primary tasks to provide them information about a process that they have zero control over and of more concern, are not permitted to cast their vote in support – or otherwise – for any proposed salary increase.

As a member of a nationalised armed force I understand and accept the reasons behind not being permitted to vote for proposed pay increases – we are servants of the crown and do not enjoy the industrial rights afforded to other Australian 'employees'.

However, I do take issue with the concocted and convoluted process that doesn't guarantee any increase to ADF pay. Government and the ADF need to develop a framework that immunises proposed pay increases from political influence. The farce that developed following the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) Decision for the 2014-2017 Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) must not be repeated.

For those new to the ADF, in November 2014, the DFRT approved a pre-arranged agreement between the Commonwealth and the ADF by 'awarding' a 1.5% annual salary increase (4.5% over three years). An increase of 1.5% was widely perceived by ADF members, their families, the media and the wider Australian community as, effectively a pay cut. These murmurings scared the political horses and Mr. Abbott (then PM) and his Defence Ministers sprung into action by joining the condemnation and lobbied the DFRT to revisit the award. In April the following year, (eight pay periods later), the DFRT announced that ADF members would receive a further 0.5% increase, bringing the annual pay increase up to 2% annually.

However this came at a cost to ADF members and their families as the increase wasn't backdated to the original decision of November 2014.

There is no other workforce in Australia that is not permitted industrial representation and that is subject to the political machinations of the day. This is an unacceptable way to treat the ADF!

ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangements are a tough nut to crack. The WRA of 2014-17 illustrates how the DFRT's hands are tied when it comes to arbitrating ADF pay increases. This is due to a technicality in the relevant legislation that restricts the DFRT to either approving or rejecting the agreed pay case that is brought before it jointly by the Commonwealth and the ADF. It is not an adversarial process.

Moving toward a possible solution, I propose that either:

1. Responsibility for determining ADF pay increases be withdrawn from the DFRT and transferred to the Remuneration Tribunal; or

continued overpage

2. Responsibility for determining salary increases for CDF and Service Chiefs be transferred to the DFRT.

It may come as a surprise to some that the agency that determines salary increases for ADF members does not determine salary adjustments for the CDF and Service Chiefs.

My proposal simplifies wage-setting and salary increases by linking the performance of the ADF with the performance of the CDF – which when you think about it, are inextricably linked – if the ADF is doing a good job; the CDF is doing a good job, and vice-versa.

This is how salary adjustments work for the CDF and Service Chiefs at the moment, according to a Remuneration Tribunal report dated 2011¹. Direct reports of the CDF, (Service Chiefs, et-al), receive a percentage of the CDF's remuneration package.

I'm not suggesting it would be a simple process to implement a similar framework for the 'workers' of the ADF whose pay is set by the DFRT. However, with sufficient political will - and that's all it would take – anything can be accomplished.

Were ADF members' salary increases linked to salary increases for the

CDF, the existing framework supporting ADF pay cases – 'consultation', information sessions and Town Hall meetings, as well as the 200+ page pay case that is meticulously constructed by the well-meaning and hard-working people in Defence People Group and elsewhere – could be abolished saving thousands of hours of staff work and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Implementing a new framework such as the one I've described above would also save the DFRT from the embarrassment it sustained following political interference after the 2014-17 WRA Decision.

Finally, this method of delivering salary increases to ADF members will provide certainty to ADF members and their families, who play a significant role in supporting them.

I look forward to CDF's response to my innovative suggestion.

Travel safely, enjoy time with your family and friends over this Christmas break and look after your mates.

See you in 2020.

Corporal Cosmo.

¹ Review of the Office of Secretary report part II

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

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MEET 'JESSIE'

Jessie, the second PTSD Defence Community dog sponsored by DFWA NSW Branch has completed her training and graduated from the Bathurst Correctional Facility. Winnie, our first sponsored companion dog, was also at the graduation with her owner, David.

Jessie is a two year old, almost pure white, Labrador who has now been paired with Tony, an ex-RAAF veteran from Adelaide. She was lucky enough to have a Labrador Rescue family looking after her before she came to the Bathurst Correctional Centre. Here, under expert guidance, inmates train abandoned and mistreated dogs to help support injured and ill Australian Defence Force (ADF) members.



Since her graduation Jessie is settling in well with her new owner and both are enjoying the time with their new best friend and continuing their training.

COMPANION THERAPY DOGS TRAINED TO SUPPORT PTSD SUFFERERS.

This specialist program rescues dogs from pounds and shelters. The animals are then cared for and intensively trained under expert supervision by offenders at the Bathurst Correctional Centre to become Companion Therapy Dogs for ADF veterans who are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

This is a program that is giving rescue dogs a second chance, an inmate a second chance and a veteran a second chance. It is a program saving lives in so many ways and all of the dogs are provided to veterans at NO cost to the veteran. This would not be possible without the support of Associations such as ours.

Congratulations TO OUR NEW SERVICE WARRANT OFFICERS !



Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC, congratulates Warrant Officer of the Air Force (WOFF-AF) Fiona Grasby OAM, on her appointment as the ninth WOFF-AF, during the changeover ceremony held at Russell Offices, Canberra

Air Force Warrant Officer Fiona Grasby OAM and Navy Warrant Officer Deb Butterworth OAM both ascend to the Australian Defence Force's most senior role for a warrant officer, known as the 'service warrant officer', as it is held by only one individual for each service at a time.

The RAAF recently conducted a changeover ceremony for Grasby, who takes over from Robert Swanwick and becomes the ninth Warrant Officer of the Air Force (WOFF-AF).

Later, the RAN will do the same for Butterworth, who will take over from Gary Wight AM and becomes the ninth Warrant Officer of the Navy (WO-N).

No women have ever held these senior roles before. The roles themselves are relatively recent creations, starting only in 1993, compared with the longevity of the organisations themselves. The Navy

is 108 years old; the Air Force is 98 years old and preparing for its centenary in 2021.

Along with the Army's equivalent, Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army (RSM-A), the roles have a unique function inside the ADF. They are responsible for representing to the chief of their respective service the solicited and unsolicited views, concerns, and opinions of the sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen, which affect their service as a whole. They assist in the overall maintenance of discipline and morale of warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and other ranks. They advise the chiefs on a broad range of needs and effectiveness of the Divisional System, personnel, and many other aspects of the ADF, and are often assigned to reviews and inquiries.

The current RSM-A, Warrant Officer Grant McFarlane OAM, will be extended in his appointment until July 2022

MONEY MATTERS

INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHIES TO CONSIDER

Investors who participate in the Stock Market are aware of the fact that they become part owners of the business in which they buy shares. As a part owner, the value of their investment increases or decreases according to the Stock Markets' perception of the value of the Company that they have invested in. On the other hand, serious disasters that may concern the whole world (9/11 New York City), affect ALL Markets world wide, not just individual Companies.

The Stock Market is constantly affected by world, national and local events. These events could be natural or man-made disasters, politics, and economical change. Therefore, one should pay attention to world, national and local events, and make relevant adjustments to one's Portfolio in consultation with your Advisor.

The Stock Market is constantly looking for economic growth, which usually results in more profits for (e.g.) Company "A". These profits may then provide stronger dividends to shareholders of Company "A". The strength in these dividends may encourage more people to invest in Company "A".

Remember, for every buyer there has to be a seller. Therefore, if there is greater strength on the buy side, than the sell side, the share price may be pushed up, as eventually sellers are tempted to offer their shares as the bids to buy increase in strength. Therefore the cycle continues.

Not all Companies pay a strong dividend. However, despite the lack of a strong dividend, the capital value of a Company may increase, as investors see potential value in the product or service that a Company provides.

If you are contemplating investing in the Stock Market, or already own shares, you may want to look over your Portfolio, or a recommended Portfolio from your Advisor, with the following points in mind.

However, the comments below are NOT to take the place of your personal Advisor. They are to be taken as a guide to highlight issues that you may not have considered, and therefore should discuss with your Advisor to obtain their point of view based on YOUR requirements. Also remember, requirements change over time, so you must remain vigilant to ensure your Portfolio is in a position to provide what you would like it to.

- (i) What are you (the Investor) attempting to achieve?
- (ii) Are the Investments for income or capital gains, or a combination of both?
- (iii) If income ... then, provided there is an "ever increasing dividend", there is little reason to be concerned about the



fluctuations in the Market price of shares (easier said, than done). As (in the current climate), earnings of Companies, and therefore dividends, are under pressure, is "our" Company in the top quartile of returns for Companies in the same Sector? If not, why not?

- (iv) If capital gains ... then one should set a target ... e.g. consider selling shares when they are (say) 20% above purchase price, conversely, sell the shares, if they drop below (say) 10% of purchase price. If one makes a decision "not to sell" ... then at least one is aware of the capital movements in the stock. (However, if the stock we are looking at, is a "core Portfolio" stock, we should just remain conscious of the price movements.)
- (v) Have approx.. 8 – 10% of a Portfolio in a particular stock ... when Market price increases above this level, consider taking some profits. If the decision is made, not to take profits, then again, one is aware of the capital increase.
- (vi) Work towards having approx.. 10 – 15 Companies in your Portfolio ... in organizations that you understand, and that do not have convoluted layers of management.
- (vii) Whenever you consider a particular stock that you have in your Portfolio, the immediate subconscious question should be, "Would I buy this stock today, based on what I currently know about the Company?" ... if the answer is "No", then you need to justify to yourself as to why you are holding the stock, and if you can't, then it should be sold.
- (viii) One should constantly be alert to Market announcements, both general, and specific to your stock holdings.

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We greatly value and appreciate the commitment and loyal service of our veterans, serving members of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and cadets.

As a way of saying thanks, CSC is providing every single Defence Force veteran, serving member and current cadet with a **complimentary pass** to the **Australian National Maritime Museum.**

If you're a Defence Force veteran, a serving member, or a current cadet just show the Museum's front of house team your valid ADF ID card, a DVA-issued card, service medals, or arrive in uniform and you'll receive free entry to the Museum.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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 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)
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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 062-220 Acct 10266228

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 573, Stirling SA 5152
(T) 0409 577 035 (E) sabranch@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: TBA
 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): Richard Healy
 Treasurer: Ralph Hannaford
 Secretary: Alan Hind
 Assistant Secretary: Richard Healy
 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	MAYFIELD Mr Kevin C Buchanan 12 The Triangle, CULBURRA BEACH NSW 2540 Ph: (02) 4447 2461

A report to 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 recently joined the NSW Branch:

LST Dalli, MAJGEN R Ford AO (Retd) Mr E Haslehurst, Mr C J Manjarres-Wahlberg, Nelson Bay RSL Sub-Branch.

VALE

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

Mrs Daphne I Tongue

ACT BRANCH

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

As advised in the last edition, the ACT Branch Committee recently, but reluctantly, agreed to consider un-incorporating the ACT Branch due to falling membership and lack of Committee membership. This would involve the un-incorporation of the Branch as a registered Association in the ACT, and free the Branch from formal reporting and governance requirements. Member's interests, and compliance with the branch Constitution, will be paramount in any decision made.

Ongoing advice on this matter will be advised in future editions of Camaraderie, by direct communication with members and on the DFWA website, on the ACT Branch page.

The matter was raised at the AGM and Committee meetings held on 11 November. The Branch Presidents report to the AGM is copied below:

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 19 October 2019, as well as on our website, in Camaraderie and finally by a direct email to members.

The Branch Committee met formally four times in the FY year but of course was also able to work "out of session" when necessary with the use of email communication. Importantly, many of the Committee members – our advocates, our treasurer, Membership Officer, DWG members etc had a continual flow of work during the year, in many cases on almost a daily basis. I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to all 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. 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, continues to work hard in managing all our membership issues and your four pension, welfare and

advocacy officers – Hilton Lenard, Kerry Mellor, Annette Sadler and Keith Russell - have again assisted dozens of individuals. As I advised in my last report, our advocates will be ramping down their works in the coming year or two.

Our 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.

I now come to the significant matter of the future. In the last Camaraderie I published a special note to members regarding the decision of the Committee to investigate options for closing the Branch due to falling membership and difficulty in filling Committee positions. My note was emailed to members and also posted on the DFWA website.

The process will continue in the coming months and whatever decision is taken, it will be in accordance with the Branch Constitution and members will be given the opportunity to voice their views. My personal view is that amalgamation with another larger Branch – ideally NSW – would ensure the interests of members are maintained as it would allow for an ACT Chapter to be established (and thus allow ACT based operations to continue); be a relatively easy process to implement; and ensure members continue to be members of an incorporated Branch of the DFWA.

Your incoming Committee will make its decision on this matter shortly, and members will be informed and be given the opportunity to comment. Significantly, our Constitution requires members be given the opportunity to vote on any proposal to close, with a two month notice of voting required. If all goes well, a closure date of 30 June 2020 is therefore attainable.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Les Bienkiewicz
11 November 2019

MEMBERSHIP

The Branch currently has 418 members. A warm welcome to AVM Donald Tidd, Mrs Suzanne Wood, CMDR Colin Fitzgerald, Vern Gallagher and Mrs Patricia Towing.

VALE

With deep sadness we note the passing of LCDR Anthony Bennett, AIRCDRE William Wade and Steve Sanderson. In past years Steve provided significant pro bono I.T. assistance to the DFWA and his passing is noted with much regret and sincere gratitude for his support. Rest in Peace Steve.

DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019.

The Group has had another successful year and continue to meet bi-monthly with a small committee of five meeting informally prior to those meetings to decide on recommendations to be put to the members. Attendance at the bi-monthly meetings has dropped however, in many cases due to age and health issues.

The Canberra Times continues to be monitored for service deaths but as

many people now do not have listed telephone numbers we increasingly are sending information packages to the newly bereaved through funeral directors. This lack of personal contact, when many are grateful to speak with an empathetic person, is resulting in fewer ladies joining the Group.

We have held four informal lunches this year – two on each side of the city. The lunches have been well attended and friendly and loose coin collections at these lunches raised \$475 for Kookaburra Kids. We are most grateful that the DFWA committee kindly agreed to meet this dollar for dollar and a cheque for \$950 has been forwarded to Kookaburra Kids.

The Autobiography Group continues to flourish and usually meets each month to exchange ideas and hear of progress being made. Eight of our members attended the Honouring Women United by Defence Service dinner at Parliament House in August and I laid the DWG wreath at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial prior to the dinner. Our Annual Spring Lunch was held at the Yowani Country Club in September and we were delighted to have our new Patron, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, as our Guest Speaker. Mrs Hurley shared with us glimpses of her life story from meeting her husband to her current role as wife of the Governor General. Mrs Hurley also sang her own composition 'Defence Widows'. We were so pleased to have fifteen members of the Australian Military Wives Choir further entertain us with a bracket of songs. It was gratifying to have as other guests Ms Liz Cosson (Secretary, DVA), representatives of the three service chiefs and Warrant Officers from the Army and Air Force. My thanks go to Kerry Mellor (Vice President, Advocacy and Compensation) for representing Les Bienkiewicz so ably and to Paul Jones (ACT and National Treasurer) and Alf Jaugietis (Executive Director) for attending.

Each year we are fortunate to be able to participate in a Last Post Ceremony at the AWM. This year Pte Allen Powell, an uncle of a stalwart DWG member, Dawn Laing, was featured. Dawn's family attendees included two of Pte Powell's grandchildren – grandson and his partner had travelled from Queensland, and the others from Sydney. It was a very special occasion for the relatives to meet and share stories of what they knew of Pte Powell, who is buried in Kanchanaburie War Cemetery in Thailand. The family members have all expressed so much emotional gratitude that they had this opportunity and a rare participation by the Federation Guard was an added bonus to this ceremony.



Dawn Laing and her son Bill laying a wreath in memory of Dawn's uncle, Private Allen Powell.

On behalf of the DWG I thank the DFWA Committee for their support during the year.
Christine Lamb
Convenor

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

President:	John Lowis
Exec Vice President:	Robert Shortridge
VP – South Queensland:	Pat Jackman
VP – Sunshine Coast:	Win Fowles
VP – Townsville:	Ray Martin
VP- Cairns:	John Wilson
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Walter Buldo
Membership:	Vacant (Walter Buldo acting)
Communications Officer:	Deb Keir
Administration Officer:	Sharyn Hughes
IT/Project Officer:	Chris Lowis
Advocates:	Wally Buldo, Clem Russell
Welfare/Funerals:	Harry Mee, Pearl Mee
Hon Solicitors:	Cleary Hoare
Office Address:	RUSI Building, Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace, BRISBANE.
Postal Address:	Victoria Barracks Brisbane ENOGGERA QLD 4051
Telephone:	(07) 3233 4480
E-mail:	qldbranch@dfwa.org.au
Office Hours:	Tue – Wed: 1000 to 1400 hrs Fridays: 0900 to 1100 hrs

MANAGEMENT

Office Bearers. The AGM was held on 4 Oct. The existing Officer Bearers agreed to continue in current positions. The Secretary position is still vacant. This is causing significant administrative problems.

Qld Re-Organisation. The AGM endorsed the Committee plan for re-organisation and the following motions were passed.

- a. That the AGM endorses the DFVAQ plan for DFVAQ to be wound up with the surplus assets from DFVA (Qld Incorporated) to be transferred to DFVA (Incorporated) in accordance with DFVAQ Constitution Clause 31, when the DFVAQ Management Committee decides that:
 - i. The new governance arrangements for continuing support and management of existing Queensland members are satisfactory; and
 - ii. That arrangements for the management of surplus assets to support Queensland operations in accordance with either a Memorandum of Understanding with National Executive of DFVA (Incorporated), a Trust or other mechanism as decided by DFVAQ Management Committee are satisfactory
- b. That DFVAQ be wound up when the conditions of RESOLUTION I are met and at a date time to be decided by the DFVAQ Committee at a formal meeting of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership as at AGM is 504, including Life Members.

FUNDING

We are waiting advice regarding our grant request to the Anzac Trust Fund to re-coup the written off loan amount of approx. \$50k related to veteran legal fees. BEST Grant this year dropped approx. \$10k from \$13k even though the workload in advocacy and welfare remained the same. This will result in changes in allocation of funds and may impact Qld support to National.

SUPPORT TO VETERANS AND VETERAN FAMILIES

Advocacy Support. We continue to provide Advocacy support. Wally Buldo, our Treasurer, provides Level 2/3 support, seeing clients at Victoria Barracks and from home. Advocate Clem Russell double hats with RAR Association with us and operates from Enoggera Barracks.

AAT Cases. A decision is expected from AAT in Brisbane regarding taxation of DFRDB/MSBS Invalidation Benefits in February 2020. As it is a "Presidential Sitting" the decision will establish Case Law precedent for other Veterans. Whatever the result, it is likely to be appealed. A related issue concerns the DFRDB veteran who had a retrospective medical discharge after originally discharging with a DFRDB commutation. He was subsequently taxed twice on the commutation amount. This looks like being resolved ahead of the main case, in the veteran's favour with ATO seeming to agree although CSC is resistant. However, we will not count chickens until it is officially resolved.

Retrospective Changes to the Law. During the AAT cases, a fatal flaw in the ATO defence against the veterans appeal was discovered. Literally, the ATO admitted that, as the law stood they had been applying tax law wrongly. Consequently, they sought an adjournment to consider the impacts. In spite of the Judge's warning, The ATO went away and had the regulations changed retrospectively. The Minister claimed in the House that there had been public consultation regarding the change. The record shows there was no public consultation – even the ATO legal team stated in court that they knew nothing of the change until it was announced 3 days before the AAT resumed. This was pointed out to all parties but was not deemed important enough to feature in the election. We did have a side effect of the ABC 7-30 Report featuring our solicitor and the two veterans we are supporting presenting the case. This no doubt influenced the ATO in one area of the AAT appeals concerning double taxation.

Transition Seminars. We have manned stands at 3 Seminars this year and will continue to do so as the response from ADF members and partners has been more encouraging than in the past. Having sat through some presentations, the information provided is very vanilla, assumes everything works automatically and does not really address problem areas and where to turn if things go wrong. There are a lot of areas where focus is on jobs availability with emergency services and state and local government. There are a lot of organisations chasing limited spaces for stands. I attended a short time only and two people-initiated discussions on volunteering. This is an untapped source. We really need to address the DFVA "offering".

QVAC. VP Rob Shortridge continues to be involved with QVAC and its input into the creation of a State Government Office of Veteran Affairs, within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. While there are several veteran focussed initiatives at state level, most of the work appears unco-ordinated across departments.

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

Qld ended up doing the main effort of the DFVA submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Rehabilitation and Compensation of Veterans. VP Rob Shortridge and Pres John L, attending group briefings (about 4), having several 1 on 1 briefings with the Commissioners, attending and presenting to the public hearings

and developing responses to the almost thousand page working paper and final report. After all the public hearings, DFWA was requested to attend a further 1 to 1 workshop with the Commissioners and staff to provide further input into their considerations. The DFWA submission was regarded as one that attempted to address strategic long term issues and not just focus of individual inequities.

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
Secretary	David Lyas OAM
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	Trish Matthews
Membership Officer	Vacant
Contact:	0432 379 278 or email sapresident@dfwa.org.au

FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

This quarter started off much the same way as the last. We are still trying to increase membership and after the AGM on 25 October, we not only increased our membership by one for the quarter but we have 2 new members on the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the committee Squadron Leader Robyn Evans as our new VP RAAF and Tony Harding, as our Membership Officer and also an ex RAAF member, currently like Robyn serving in a Reserve capacity.

Our Secretary, David Lyas, and I recently attended a Defence Transition Seminar at the Adelaide Oval and it was quite successful. We are attending another Seminar in late October. We also managed to recruit another member to our branch at the last one.

I attended the NATEX earlier this year and the National President tabled his report and agenda for his vision of the future of the DFWA. Our branch has been very busy in two main areas this year, health and welfare. Our Secretary has also been very involved in the establishment of a wellness centre at the old Daw Park Repatriation Hospital.

Committee member David Everitt and I have been working very hard on a project that is now generating interest nationally and this is in the areas of fitness and diet and David has also been involved in a huge housing project where he and staff from the Jamie Larcombe Centre, the mental health precinct in Adelaide have been successful in getting permanent housing for a number of homeless veterans.

David Everitt and I have also had discussions with a member from the Dept of Correctional Services regarding the issue of younger veterans being incarcerated in the state's criminal system.

In association with Flinders University, a large grant was secured from DVA

(and our sincerest thanks to them for the grant) to formalise the benefits to veterans and their families of a managed physical exercise program on mental and social health. This involves research and collating existing research findings of the holistic health benefits of exercise for veterans and families. As this is targeted at younger veterans, a comparison to both middle aged and older veteran cohorts can measure the benefits to the individual and potentially cost savings benefits for DVA.

DFWA-SA is supporting the veteran community through the Jamie Larcombe Centre. Recently the executive of our branch conducted one of our regular meetings there to fully understand the status of events and operations that the conduct in supporting veterans and their families. We were addressed by the StatVeterans Coordinator at the JLC and the Chair from the Friends of Veterans Association charity based at the JLC where they provided an update and insight into their current and future programs that will assist vets and families cope with the difficulties of transitioning into civilian life

DFWA-SA is also involved with attendees at a presentation by recognised national thought leader Mr Robert Lippiatt on the transition process with a series of webinars that is currently being provided by Australian Services Care Network – New Zealand (ASCN-NZ) which is providing an update on global research from world leading researchers from Canada, New Zealand, the US and the United Kingdom. The information gained from this feedback will help the veteran community understand the needs as related to veterans and families through the transition process.

Earlier this year our Secretary, David Lyas OAM was asked to participate in a forum regarding the rejuvenation of the Daw Park Repatriation Hospital. After approval to represent the DFWA-SA, David attended a number of meetings, at the Plympton Veterans Centre, 2 local MP's offices and at the JLC. The consortium of ESO's started with 8 to discuss the project and Federal funding and at the last meeting there were 15 ESO's represented. These represent nearly every large nationally recognised ESO's.

The consortium meetings are being chaired by retired LTCOL Bill Denny AMBM and Plympton Veteran Centre Advocate Bill Hignett, with the outcomes at this stage looking very favourable. The Federal Government has committed a large amount of money to the project and it is now getting under way with designs being submitted. It is envisioned that the project will be complete some time in 2020.

DFWA-SA is also getting technical, with the establishment of a closed Face book page for SA members to catch up with all the latest news from the National Executive and our own committee. It is also a cost saving exercise as there will be many documents that will be posted to the site, saving on some postal expenses. For those SA members who do not have access to FB, the tried and true method of snail mail will continue. SA members are able to log onto the site by going into the search bar at the top of the FB page and type in the following 'Defence Force Welfare Association – SA' then request to become a member. The moderator will then accept the member's request.

That's all from South Australia.

Regards to All
Lee Bowes - President

VICTORIA BRANCH

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

DFWA (VIC) BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On 14 August 2019 the Branch Executive Committee met. Main items considered at the meeting were the continuing decline in membership; the Branch's input to the DFWA National response to the Productivity Commission's report; the advice from Government House that the Governor of Victoria's term in office has been extended and therefore the Governor will continue as Patron of the Branch; and that the Branch is becoming increasingly aware of an emerging category of veterans and widows who have not made contact with any Ex Service Organisations and may therefore not be receiving adequate support.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 6 November 2019 the Victorian Branch had 429 financial members of which 201 are Annual members; 211 are Life Members with the remainder being made up of Honorary Life Members; Honorary Members; Associations; and Associate Members.

VALE

The following Victorian Branch members have passed away or become known to have passed away since Camaraderie was last published:

LTCOL J. Williams, WGCDCR R Starkie, Mr P Cerda-Pavia, Mr R Atkins, Mrs R Campbell, Mrs T Walsh, Mrs J Marsden, Mr K Pearson.

On behalf of the membership of the Victorian Branch, the Executive Committee offer their sincere condolences to the families and friends of the members above.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Branch's finances continue to remain in a sound position.

DIARY DATES

The remaining Branch Executive Committee meeting for 2019 is scheduled for Wednesday 11 December at the Mail Exchange Hotel, corner Bourke and Spencer Streets, Melbourne.

DFWA (Vic) members are most welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings. Those wishing to attend are requested to contact the Branch Secretary (Greg Powell) at least five business days prior to the meeting in order to ensure sufficient copies of the relevant

meeting documents are available for all attendees.

*Stephen Turner - Commander RAN (Rtd)
President, DFWA (Vic)*

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:	wabranch@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 their members with their copy of Camaraderie.

DONATIONS

Many members have made a donation to Branch funds during the year, and these are very much appreciated – thank you. Without your support, we just could not carry out the massive amount of work that we do undertake, and donations allow us a great deal of flexibility. Please remember, donations to DFWA WA are tax deductible – if you want a receipt, please advise and we'll issue one to you.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Branch welcomes Gary Whitby who has recently joined DFWA. We note that LtCol Terry Turner has transferred to NSW Branch.

VALE

It is with deep sadness we note the passing of Barbara Edwards.

AGM

The AGM took place at RAAFA Bull Creek on Wednesday 4th September. The Committee were re-elected as follows: President - Richard Usher, Vice President - Max Ball, Treasurer - Lou Halvorson, Secretary - Allan Austin, Advocate - Mark Wainwright, and Committee members – Shirly Mooney, Steve Lucks, Neville Clark, Allen Long, Clive Greenhill and Pam Seymour. Two Committee positions remain open.

ADVOCATE NEWS

Recently Mark Wainwright has announced that he wishes to retire from his regular advocacy work. Mark has been a tower of strength during the TIP days and recently under ADTP, and has helped hundreds of clients complete their claims with DVA. Bouts of ill health did not stop Mark, and we are indebted to him for his tireless work. Unfortunately, after the New Year people wanting the services of an advocate will be advised to go to the RSL, RAAFA Bull Creek or to Legacy.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In 2020 the Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at the Karrakatta Community House at Irwin Barracks. Members are welcome to attend but please advise the Secretary before hand to ensure a pass can be arranged at the gate

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday 12th December in the temporary canteen facilities at RAAFA Bull Creek. The area is restricted to 60 people, so our apologies to those who missed out. Next year we'll be in the brand-new dining area, and numbers will not be an issue.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Invoices were recently posted to those members who pay their membership fees annually last June. Thank you to those who have renewed their membership, but two members have paid by EFT without identifying themselves – one via Westpac Bank and one via the Bendigo Bank. Please let us know if you think you are one of these two people.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

If you have recently got or updated your email address, don't forget to let our office know to keep our records correct. We occasionally send out notices via email. WA Branch email address is: wabranch@dfwa.org.au

ANY SPARE ADF BADGES ETC

DFWA has received the following request - if any member can assist, please contact David directly:

I am a retired English Police Officer, who collects badges, patches, pins, challenge coins, etc, depicting the emblems, seals, crests, Coat of Arms, logos, etc, of Military Organisations / Associations / Veterans Associations, related groups and their constituent parts, Districts, Chapters, Posts, Auxiliary, Honor Guard etc. I was wondering, if at all possible and that you had such an item that one might be sent to me.

If this is possible could it please be sent to address at right, thankyou.:

David Whitworth,
Flat 208,
4 Currer Street,
Little Germany,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire,
England, UK,
BD1 5BA.



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
Your donation will go towards the daily operating costs of the Association.
Tick here if you wish your donation to be allocated to the DFWA Relief Trust Fund

Rank/Title Name

Address

State Postcode Phone

Alternatively, make an electronic deposit as follows:

Account Name: Defence Force Welfare Association BSB: 833 205 Account Number: 20656807 A receipt will be sent 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 !





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"What's been happening?"

"How long has that
been the case?"

"I'm ready to listen
if you want to talk."

Yes, I'm fine.

But your gut says
they're not:

"It's just that you don't seem
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"I'm always here if
you want to chat."

"Is there someone else
you'd rather talk to?"

Listen with an open mind

Encourage action and offer support:

"How can I help?"

"What would help take the pressure off?"

"What do you enjoy doing? Making time for that can really help."

"Have you thought about seeing a professional?"

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"Let's chat again next week."

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